

to ensure greater accountability by Title I schools that are low-performing. The Coverdell bill does nothing to help improve public schools that need assistance. Instead it diverts scarce resources to wealthy families in private schools, when 90 percent of the nation's students attend public schools.

Stronger accountability in the nation's education system is essential. Effective accountability measures—what business leaders call quality control—can make sure that investments in schools are used wisely and produce better results for children. Accountability is especially important in schools with high concentrations of disadvantaged students, so that all students will have the opportunity to meet high standards of achievement.

Despite concerted efforts by states, school districts, and schools, accountability provisions in title I have not been adequately implemented due to insufficient resources. In 1998, only 8 states reported that school support teams have been able to serve the majority of schools that need improvement. Less than half of the schools identified as in need of improvement in 1997-98 reported that they received additional professional development assistance or technical assistance.

We cannot afford to let low-performing public schools slip through the cracks. Schools and school districts need additional support and resources to remedy weaknesses as soon as they are identified. We should act now to make our schools more accountable for the benefit of the nation's disadvantaged students. These students have already spent too much time in low-performing schools, and they deserve better, much better. The time is now to take action to fix these schools. The nation's children deserve no less. I urge the Senate to support the Bingham amendment.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 2863

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, the amendment that is to be voted on next is one I offered which takes the \$275 million per year that is the estimated cost of this underlying bill with the tax provisions and it devotes that \$275 million to assisting States to hold local school districts accountable to upgrade standards.

It is an accountability amendment. Presently, most of the States in the country have established performance standards for their schools and their students but we have no accountability provisions that are adequate for them to meet those standards. This amendment tries to solve that. It gives the resources to the States so they can solve that. I believe it is a very good amendment and it is something we all ought to support.

I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, at the heart of my opposition to the amendment is that it strikes the edu-

cation savings account, the core of the legislation that came from the Finance Committee. It is a killer amendment.

The amendment allocates only 70 cents of every dollar to local school districts. We have been striving to get to 95 cents of every Federal dollar. The amendment not only neuters education savings accounts but it also goes to core issues about how title I funds should be distributed to help local school districts under ESEA.

This is an issue being debated at the committee's markup today. Senator JEFFORDS, chairman of the committee, opposes this amendment because he believes it violates the jurisdiction of the committee.

I move to table the amendment and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to table amendment No. 2863. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. NICKLES. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 58, nays 40, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 19 Leg.]

#### YEAS—58

Abraham	Frist	Murkowski
Allard	Gorton	Nickles
Ashcroft	Graham	Roberts
Bennett	Gramm	Roth
Biden	Grams	Santorum
Breaux	Grassley	Sessions
Brownback	Gregg	Shelby
Bunning	Hagel	Smith (NH)
Burns	Hatch	Smith (OR)
Byrd	Helms	Snowe
Campbell	Hutchinson	Specter
Cochran	Hutchison	Stevens
Collins	Inhofe	Thomas
Coverdell	Jeffords	Thompson
Craig	Kyl	Thurmond
Crapo	Lieberman	Torricelli
DeWine	Lott	Voinovich
Domenici	Lugar	Warner
Enzi	Mack	
Fitzgerald	McConnell	

#### NAYS—40

Akaka	Feingold	Lincoln
Baucus	Feinstein	Mikulski
Bayh	Harkin	Moynihan
Bingaman	Hollings	Murray
Boxer	Inouye	Reed
Bryan	Johnson	Reid
Chafee, L.	Kennedy	Robb
Cleland	Kerrey	Rockefeller
Conrad	Kerry	Sarbanes
Daschle	Kohl	Schumer
Dodd	Landrieu	Wellstone
Dorgan	Lautenberg	Wyden
Durbin	Leahy	
Edwards	Levin	

#### NOT VOTING—2

Bond McCain

The motion was agreed to.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 2864

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On the next amendment, the Graham amendment No. 2864, there are 2 minutes equally divided.

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator LINCOLN and Senator FEINSTEIN be added

as cosponsors. I have no further comments to make on behalf of this amendment. I believe both sides have agreed to accept it. I ask for a voice vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

All time has been yielded back. The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 2864.

The amendment (No. 2864) was agreed to.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

#### AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR TO JOHN CARDINAL O'CONNOR

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Banking Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3557 and the Senate now proceed to its immediate consideration under the following limitations: There be 10 minutes of debate equally divided between Senators SANTORUM and SCHUMER, and no amendments or motions be in order to the bill. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that following the use or yielding back of debate time, the bill be read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3557) to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to John Cardinal O'Connor, Archbishop of New York, in recognition of his accomplishments as a priest, a chaplain, and a humanitarian.

The Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, it is with an enormous amount of pride and respect that I rise in support of this bill. Senator SCHUMER from New York spoke on this matter earlier today. I strongly endorse and support his words of support for this resolution.

I stand with a tremendous amount of pride to speak in favor of my favorite son. John Cardinal O'Connor is a Philadelphian, someone who has left his mark not only on the country but on Pennsylvania, where he served as Bishop of Scranton—I see Senator BIDEN who is a Scrantonian—where he served a brief time—less than a year—but with distinction and, prior to that gave tremendous service to this country as a chaplain in the U.S. Navy, serving during the Korean conflict and during Vietnam.

He was appointed Chief of Chaplains of the Navy with the grade of rear admiral and served for over 25 years in the capacity of a chaplain in the military.

From that, he came into civilian life to Scranton, PA, and served there for less than a year until he was picked by Pope John Paul II to be the Archbishop of the Catholic Diocese of New York, and then shortly thereafter was elevated to the rank of cardinal in May of 1985.

He has served as Cardinal O'Connor in the Diocese of New York and, as the leader of the Diocese of New York, also as the titular head of the Catholic Church in this country. He has provided tremendous leadership on a variety of humanitarian and moral causes, always standing up for the weakest among us and shepherding his flock in an extraordinary way with great principle, dignity, and character.

It is sad that as we speak today, Cardinal O'Connor is suffering from cancer and is gravely ill. Senator SCHUMER and I worked very hard to make sure this Congressional Gold Medal would be awarded to Cardinal O'Connor so he could be aware of it during this very difficult time in his life and know that the Senate, the Congress, and certainly all of us in Washington extend our best wishes to him and want him to know how much we appreciate the tremendous outstanding service he has given to the Catholic Church and to the people in the United States of America.

Mr. President, I reserve the remainder of my time and yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GREGG). The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I will continue the remarks I made earlier about Cardinal O'Connor.

First, I thank Senator SANTORUM of Pennsylvania, as well as my colleague, Senator MOYNIHAN, and his colleague, Senator SPECTER. The four of us have worked hard on this bill.

As I mentioned earlier, Cardinal O'Connor, of course, has had a distinguished career. He has had a distinguished career as a Catholic, rising to one of the great positions of the Catholic Church in America.

He also has had a distinguished career as an American, having served for many years in the Armed Forces. He served 20 years in the Armed Forces. In 1952, he joined the ranks of the military chaplaincy. During the Korean war, he provided spiritual leadership for the Navy and Marine Corps. He was Chaplain of the Naval Academy, became Navy Chief Chaplain, and left the Armed Forces with the rank of rear admiral.

I want to say, as someone of the Jewish faith, that the cardinal has been particularly effective in moving out to the people of the Jewish community and doing a great deal to bridge the gaps—which fortunately now are relatively small and minor—between the Catholic community and the Jewish community. He went out of his way to do this, which I greatly respect.

He has always been seen doing things for the poor. He has worked hard on making working conditions better for people. He cares about the plight of the

farm workers. He is dedicated to protecting the rights of immigrants and, in fact, announced at his Labor Day mass as recently as September, his first public appearance after his surgery, a new archdiocesan program of aid to immigrants. He reached out to the poor.

His views on homosexuality are known, but he has spent time anonymously working with people with AIDS. I do not agree with his views, but I sure respect the fact that, without any fanfare, he has been able to do those things.

Of course, now he is ill, and that is one of the reasons I thank every one of my colleagues for moving this bill with alacrity because my State of New York and this entire Nation owe a debt of gratitude to Cardinal O'Connor. There is no more fitting way than presenting him with the gold medal.

For his compassion, for his strength of argument—which I agreed with many times; disagreed with sometimes—for his intelligence, and for his commitment to New York and to faith, very few would be more deserving of this medal than Cardinal O'Connor.

I again thank my colleagues. I thank this body for taking the time, in the middle of this bill, to honor the cardinal in a very fitting way. Our hopes and prayers are for his health, and our thanks are for the great job he has done for New York's Catholics, for all New Yorkers, and for all Americans.

With that, I reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from New York for his heartfelt comments.

I want to relate a small personal story. I had an opportunity, with my wife Karen, to meet and talk with the cardinal a few years ago when we were in New York. I had never had a chance to meet him, and he was someone whom I respected very much and followed his leadership. I had wanted the opportunity to meet with him.

We went by his residence and were hoping for about 5 minutes. An hour later, after a wonderful discussion of issues that I was working on and that he was interested in, and things he was working on that I was interested in, he gave me a tremendous amount of encouragement for work in public service.

He understood the importance of public service in his work as a chaplain and, obviously, in his work as the Cardinal of New York. That was, indeed, public service, also.

Senator SCHUMER mentioned many things he did outside the archdiocese and work that reached out into the community. He gave me great encouragement to continue to work, to fulfill what Catholic social teaching is, to care particularly for the poor and the most vulnerable in our society.

He gave me a lot of inspiration. He gave my wife a lot of inspiration. For

that I will always remember and always thank him, and for the blessing and the prayers that he gave me that night.

Senator SCHUMER said—and I said earlier—he is gravely ill right now. But I know, as he spends these last few days on Earth, that many of us who know him and admire him will long remember him. Certainly, the comment, "Well done, my good and faithful servant," will apply to John Cardinal O'Connor.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be able to proceed for 1 minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, as the Senator from Pennsylvania, I have known Cardinal O'Connor for a long time. I am a cosponsor of this bill. That is not the reason I stand.

I stand today to say I hope there is a lesson drawn from what is being done here. The primary cosponsor of this amendment is a man from New York of a different faith, who disagrees vehemently with the cardinal on some very important items that mean a lot to him in terms of the rights of homosexuals and the issue of choice. Yet he has come forward to acknowledge, along with his friend from Pennsylvania, that this man should be recognized for the special features he has possessed and the courage and the commitment he has shown.

I hope we all take a lesson from this. I hope we all understand that in every one of us in this country there is a lot of good—those who have strong political positions that are diametrically opposed to us—and yet we are able to see the good as well as the disagreement. I hope this is an object lesson for everyone.

I thank the Senator from New York for having the good grace to understand how we should run all of our affairs in this country. You can disagree without being disagreeable. You can have strong views and still recognize, in this instance, the saintly side of a great man.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the bill (H.R. 3557) is read the third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider is laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

#### AFFORDABLE EDUCATION ACT OF 1999—Continued

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the manager of this bill, the Senator from Georgia, has agreed that we would go out of the order we have had and allow Senator BIDEN to go forward for 10 minutes with his amendment. Following that, under the regular order that has already been agreed to, Senator WELLSTONE will be up next as part of the unanimous consent agreement. According to the unanimous consent