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While teachers are one of our nation's most critical professions, it is often very difficult to attract highly skilled and marketable college students and graduates because of a profound lack of competitive salaries and the burden of student loans. In addition to the loan forgiveness and alternative certification stipends, the legislation will allow states to use up to \$1.3 billion originally designated in a lump sum to hire more teachers to instead allow the states to use that money more creatively in programs to attract the kind of quality teachers they need but cannot afford. Using innovative tools already tested by many states, such as signing bonuses, loan forgiveness, payment of certification costs, and income tax credits, states will be able to once again make teaching an attractive and competitive career for our brightest college graduates. Additionally, the legislation does not limit states to these tools, but allows them to receive grants to continue testing other innovative and new programs for the same purposes.

There are two parts to the bill:

Part I is a competitive grant program for States to enable them to run their own innovative quality teacher recruitment, retention and retraining programs. Part II is a loan forgiveness and alternative certification scholarship program to entice individuals with strong academic backgrounds into teaching.

The State grant program will help States focus on recruitment, retention and retraining in the way that best serves the individual State. Some states may decide to offer a teacher signing bonus program like the widely publicized and very successful program in Massachusetts. Other states may choose to institute teacher testing and merit pay, or to award performance bonuses to outstanding teachers. The program is very flexible, yet the State must be accountable for improving the quality of teachers in that State.

States who participate must submit a plan for how they intend to use funds under the program and how they expect teacher quality to increase as a result, including the expected increase in the number of teachers who majored in the academic subject in which they teach, and the number of teachers who received alternative certification, if the funds are used for recruitment activities. If the funds are used for retention or retraining, the State must focus on how the program will decrease teacher attrition and increase the effectiveness of existing teachers.

States must also report at the end of the three-year grant on how the program increased teacher quality and increased the number of teachers with academic majors in the subjects in

which they teach and the number of teachers that received alternative certification and/or how the program decreased teacher attrition and increased the effectiveness of existing teachers.

The loan forgiveness provision is different than loan forgiveness already in current law in that it targets a different population: students in college or graduate school today who are excelling in an academic subject. The purpose is to attract students into teaching who might not otherwise choose to pursue a teaching career and who are majoring in an academic subject.

Any eligible student may take advantage of the loan forgiveness and deferral. An eligible student has majored in a core academic subject with at least a 3.0 GPA and has not been a fulltime teacher previously. Loan payments are deferred for as long as the student is obtaining alternative certification or teaching in a public school.

The federal government would actually forgive:

35% of all federally subsidized or guaranteed loans after the first two years that an eligible student teaches;

For the next two years, an additional 30% is forgiven;

After 6 years, an additional 20% is forgiven; and

After 8 years, the remaining 15% of the loan obligation is eliminated.

The premise is that teaching is or will soon be like other professions where there is at least some degree of transience. In fact, recent studies show that most new teachers leave within four years. But these studies also show that new teachers are most effective in the first few years of teaching. This bill would attract new students, and different kinds of students, into teaching by offering significant loan repayment.

Alternative certification stipends will provide a seamless transition for a student from school into teaching. The bill provides stipends to students who have received their academic degrees from a college or university in order to obtain certification through alternative means. Students who have received assistance under the loan forgiveness section get first priority, but any student who has received a bachelor's or advanced degree in a core academic subject with a GPA of at least 3.0 and who has never taught full-time in a public school is eligible.

Students would receive the lesser of \$5,000 or the costs of the alternative certification program, in exchange for agreeing to teach in a public school for 2 years.

There is also a small amount of money available to the Department of Education for the purposes of notifying eligible students of the loan forgiveness and alternative certification stipend programs and contracting with outside groups of broaden public awareness of the program, including to advertise it in various media formats.

A Million Quality Teachers is a good complement to the Teacher Empower-

ment Act contained in the ESEA proposal voted out of the HELP Committee by a 10-8 vote. The Teacher Empowerment Act (TEA) directs federal funds to local education agencies for professional development, recruitment and class size reduction, while A Million Quality Teachers directs federal funds to states for statewide initiatives like the very successful Massachusetts teacher signing bonus program. A Million Quality Teachers also addresses the pressing need for more highly-qualified teachers in light of the teacher shortage by providing appropriate incentives to top students in order to entice them into the teaching profession.

The job of every new generation is to meet civilization's new problems, improve its new opportunities, and explore its ever-expanding horizons, creating dreams not just for themselves, but for all who come after. Our job—the job of the current generation—is to help them do just that. Learning is the future. Education is the key. I think it's time we embarked upon a national effort to bring up to a standard demanded by the challenge, and improving teacher quality is the first step. I hope that my colleagues will concur.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 71

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 71, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish a presumption of service-connection for certain veterans with Hepatitis C, and for other purposes.

C. 135

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 135, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the deduction for the health insurance costs of self-employed individuals, and for other purposes.

S. 546

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 546, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for 100 percent of the health insurance costs of self-employed individuals.

S. 660

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 660, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under part B of the medicare program of medical nutrition therapy services furnished by registered dietitians and nutrition professionals.

S. 763

At the request of Mr. THURMOND, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr.

LUGAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 763, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to increase the minimum Survivor Benefit Plan basic annuity for surviving spouses age 62 and older, and for other purposes.

S. 818

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM), and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) were added as cosponsors of S. 818, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a study of the mortality and adverse outcome rates of medicare patients related to the provision of anesthesia services.

S. 890

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. KOHL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 890, a bill to facilitate the naturalization of aliens who served with special guerrilla units or irregular forces in Laos.

S. 931

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 931, a bill to provide for the protection of the flag of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1036

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAUX) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1036, a bill to amend parts A and D of title IV of the Social Security Act to give States the option to pass through directly to a family receiving assistance under the temporary assistance to needy families program all child support collected by the State and the option to disregard any child support that the family receives in determining a family's eligibility for, or amount of, assistance under that program.

S. 1180

At the request of Mr. LOTT, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1180, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, to reauthorize and make improvements to that Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1215

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1215, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish headstones or markers for marked graves of, or to otherwise commemorate, certain individuals.

S. 1364

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) were added as cosponsors of S. 1364, a bill to amend title IV of the Social Security Act to increase public awareness regarding the benefits of lasting and

stable marriages and community involvement in the promotion of marriage and fatherhood issues, to provide greater flexibility in the Welfare-to-Work grant program for long-term welfare recipients and low income custodial and noncustodial parents, and for other purposes.

S. 1510

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1510, a bill to revise the laws of the United States appertaining to United States cruise vessels, and for other purposes.

S. 1539

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1539, a bill to provide for the acquisition, construction, and improvement of child care facilities or equipment, and for other purposes.

S. 1619

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. ASHCROFT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1619, a bill to amend the Trade Act of 1974 to provide for periodic revision of retaliation lists or other remedial action implemented under section 306 of such Act.

S. 1690

At the request of Mr. MACK, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1690, a bill to require the United States to take action to provide bilateral debt relief, and improve the provision of multilateral debt relief, in order to give a fresh start to poor countries.

S. 1762

At the request of Mr. COVERDELL, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1762, a bill to amend the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to provide cost share assistance for the rehabilitation of structural measures constructed as part of water resources projects previously funded by the Secretary under such Act or related laws.

S. 1800

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1800, a bill to amend the Food Stamp Act of 1977 to improve on-site inspections of State food stamp programs, to provide grants to develop community partnerships and innovative outreach strategies for food stamp and related programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1805

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE), and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of S. 1805, a bill to restore food stamp benefits for aliens, to provide States with flexi-

bility in administering the food stamp vehicle allowance, to index the excess shelter expense deduction to inflation, to authorize additional appropriations to purchase and make available additional commodities under the emergency food assistance program, and for other purposes.

S. 1855

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1855, a bill to establish age limitations for airmen.

S. 1941

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1941, a bill to amend the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act of 1974 to authorize the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide assistance to fire departments and fire prevention organizations for the purpose of protecting the public and fire-fighting personnel against fire and fire-related hazards.

S. 1977

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1977, a bill to review, reform, and terminate unnecessary and inequitable Federal subsidies.

S. 1997

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1997, a bill to simplify Federal oil and gas revenue distributions, and for other purposes.

S. 2003

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. SARBANES) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2003, a bill to restore health care coverage to retired members of the uniformed services.

S. 2032

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2032, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to address the issue of mother-to-child transmission of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) in Africa, Asia, and Latin America.

S. 2061

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2061, a bill to establish a crime prevention and computer education initiative.

S. 2068

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING), and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) were added as cosponsors of S. 2068, a bill to prohibit

the Federal Communications Commission from establishing rules authorizing the operation of new, low power FM radio stations.

S. 2231

At the request of Mr. COVERDELL, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2231, a bill to provide for the placement at the Lincoln Memorial of a plaque commemorating the speech of Martin Luther King, Jr., known as the "I Have A Dream" speech.

S. 2232

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2232, a bill to promote primary and secondary health promotion and disease prevention services and activities among the elderly, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to add preventive benefits, and for other purpose.

S. 2235

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2235, a bill to amend the Public Health Act to revise the performance standards and certification process for organ procurement organizations.

S. 2262

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2262, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to institute a Federal fuels tax holiday.

S. 2265

At the request of Mrs. HUTCHISON, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. NICKLES), the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU), and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. DOMENICI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2265, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to preserve marginal domestic oil and natural gas well production, and for other purposes.

S. CON. RES. 60

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 60, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a commemorative postage stamp should be issued in honor of the U.S.S. *Wisconsin* and all those who served aboard her.

S. CON. RES. 96

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 96, concurrent resolution recognizing and honoring members of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (AHEPA) who are being awarded the AHEPA Medal for Military Service in the Armed Forces of the United States.

S. RES. 271

At the request of Mr. WELLSTONE, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON) and the Senator from

Florida (Mr. MACK) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 271, a resolution regarding the human rights situation in the People's Republic of China.

S. RES. 276

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 276, a resolution to express the sense of the Senate that the conferees on the Violent and Repeat Juvenile Offender Accountability and Rehabilitation Act should submit the conference report on the bill before April 20, 2000, and include the gun safety amendments passed by the Senate.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE THE FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE ACT

LUGAR (AND OTHERS) AMENDMENT NO. 2887

Mr. LUGAR (for himself, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. KERREY, and Mr. GRAMS) proposed an amendment to the bill (S. 2251) to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to improve crop insurance coverage, to provide agriculture producers with choices to manage risk, and for other purposes; as follows:)

On page 2, strike the table of contents and insert the following:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—CROP INSURANCE COVERAGE

Sec. 101. Quality adjustment.

Sec. 102. Prevented planting.

Sec. 103. Payment of portion of premium by Corporation.

Sec. 104. Assigned yields.

Sec. 105. Multiyear disaster actual production history adjustment.

Sec. 106. Noninsured crop disaster assistance program.

Sec. 107. Crop insurance coverage for rice.

TITLE II—RESEARCH AND PILOT PROGRAMS

Sec. 201. Research and pilot programs.

Sec. 202. Research and development contracting authority.

Sec. 203. Choice of risk management options.

Sec. 204. Risk management innovation and competition pilot program.

Sec. 205. Education and research.

Sec. 206. Conforming amendments.

TITLE III—ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 301. Board of Directors of Corporation.

Sec. 302. Good farming practices.

Sec. 303. Sanctions for program noncompliance and fraud.

Sec. 304. Oversight of agents and loss adjusters.

Sec. 305. Adequate coverage for States.

Sec. 306. Records and reporting.

Sec. 307. Fees for plans of insurance.

Sec. 308. Limitation on double insurance.

Sec. 309. Specialty crops.

Sec. 310. Federal Crop Insurance Improvement Commission.

Sec. 311. Highly erodible land and wetland conservation.

Sec. 312. Projected loss ratio.

Sec. 313. Compliance with State licensing requirements.

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 401. Improved risk management education.

Sec. 402. Sense of the Senate regarding the Federal crop insurance program.

TITLE V—EFFECTIVE DATES; TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY

Sec. 501. Effective dates.

Sec. 502. Termination of authority.

On page 7, strike lines 13 through 15 and insert the following:

"(F) CROP YEARS.—This paragraph shall apply to each of the 2001 through 2004 crop years."

On page 10, line 2, strike "or greater than 75 percent" and insert "75, 80, or 85 percent".

On page 13, line 5, strike "or greater than".

On page 13, strike lines 20 through 22 and insert the following:

"(F) In the case of additional coverage equal to 80 percent of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at 100 percent of the expected market price, or a comparable coverage for a plan of insurance that is not based on yield, the amount shall be equal to the sum of—

"(i) 38 percent of the amount of the premium established for coverage at 80 percent of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at 100 percent of the expected market price under subsection (d)(2)(D)(i); and

"(ii) the amount of operating and administrative expenses determined under subsection (d)(2)(D)(ii).

"(G) In the case of additional coverage equal to 85 percent of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at 100 percent of the expected market price, or a comparable coverage for a plan of insurance that is not based on yield, the amount shall be equal to the sum of—

"(i) 28 percent of the amount of the premium established for coverage at 85 percent of the recorded or appraised average yield indemnified at 100 percent of the expected market price under subsection (d)(2)(D)(i); and

"(ii) the amount of operating and administrative expenses determined under subsection (d)(2)(D)(ii).

"(H) Subparagraphs (A) through (G) shall apply to each of fiscal years 2001 through 2004."

On page 23, after line 25, add the following:

SEC. 107. CROP INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR RICE.

Section 508(a) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508(a)) (as amended by section 102(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(8) SPECIAL PROVISIONS FOR RICE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, beginning with the 2001 crop of rice, the Corporation shall offer plans of insurance, including prevented planting coverage and replanting coverage, under this title that cover losses of rice resulting from failure of irrigation water supplies due to drought and saltwater intrusion."

On page 25, line 13, strike "and".

On page 25, line 15, strike the period at the end and insert a semicolon.

On page 25, between lines 15 and 16, insert the following:

"(H) subject to paragraph (7), after October 1, 2000, salmon; and

"(I) subject to paragraph (7), after October 1, 2000, loss of or damage to trees or fruit affected by plum pox virus (commonly known as 'sharka'), including quarantined trees or fruit.

On page 27, line 2, strike "\$20,000,000" and insert "\$10,000,000".

On page 27, line 4, strike "\$40,000,000" and insert "\$30,000,000".

On page 27, line 6, strike "\$60,000,000" and insert "\$50,000,000".

On page 27, line 8, strike "\$80,000,000" and insert "\$60,000,000".

On page 27, line 10, insert "(3)(H)," after "(3)(G)."