

residents, one out of every 6 low-income children, and one of every 5 babies born to low-income families.

3. Health centers truly target the health care access problem. By definition, health centers must be located in "medically underserved" communities—which simply means places where people have serious problems getting access to health care. So health centers attack the problem right at this source. Unlike other health care proposals, the REACH Initiative doesn't create problems of "crowding out" private insurance by replacing private dollars spent on health insurance with federal dollars.

4. Health centers are relatively cheap. Health centers can provide primary and preventive care for one person for less than \$1 dollar per day—about \$350 per year. Even better, health centers are able to leverage each grant dollar from the federal government into additional funding from other sources—meaning they can effectively turn one grant dollar into several dollars that can be used to address health care problems. With an extra billion dollars a year—the goal of the REACH Initiative in its fifth year—health centers could be caring for an additional 10 million people.

5. Expanding health center access would not be a government takeover of health care. New funding within the REACH Initiative. But this new funding would not go to create a huge new government bureaucracy. Instead, the REACH Initiative would invest additional funds in private organizations that have consistently proven themselves to be efficient, high-quality, and cost-effective health care providers.

To me, all of these reasons point to one logical conclusion—a need for drastically increased funding for health centers. Health centers are already helping millions of Americans get health care. But they can still help millions more—pregnant women, children, and anyone else who desperately needs care.

At the start of my remarks, I said that we were here to talk about and address the problem of health care access—but that's sort of a cold way to talk about it. So let me try again, but this time in human terms.

We're here to introduce the REACH Initiative to make sure that a young woman who has just found out she's pregnant—but who doesn't have health insurance—has a place to get prenatal care so she doesn't risk her health and her baby's health by waiting until late in the pregnancy.

We're here to introduce the REACH Initiative to make sure that a 6-year-old boy living in a heavily rural Missouri community—where there wouldn't otherwise be any health care providers at all—has a place to get regular checkups so he can stay healthy at home and in school.

We're here to make sure that a young couple without anywhere else to go has a place to get their infant daughter im-

munized to protect her from a variety of dreaded diseases.

These individuals, and millions more like them, are the reasons why we must make the goal of the REACH Initiative—doubled funding for community health centers—a reality.

SENATE RESOLUTION 261—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE REGARDING THE DETENTION OF ANDREI BABITSKY BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN RUSSIA

Mr. HELMS (for himself, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. ROTH, Mr. LOTT, and Mr. DODD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 261

Whereas Andrei Babitsky, a dedicated and professional journalist for Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty (RFE/RL) for the last 10 years, reported on the 1994–1996 and the current Russo-Chechen wars;

Whereas on December 27, 1999, the Russian Information Committee (RIC) in Chechnya accused Babitsky of "conspiracy with Chechen rebels" after he broadcast a story that shed unfavorable light on Russian military actions in Chechnya;

Whereas on January 8, 2000, Russian security agents raided Babitsky's apartment in Moscow and confiscated several items and later ordered his wife, Ludmila Babitskaya, to report to a local militia station in Moscow after she attempted to pick up photographs taken by her husband in Chechnya;

Whereas on January 18, 2000, Babitsky was reportedly detained by Russian authorities in Moscow but later reports indicated that he was not formally arrested until January 27, 2000;

Whereas on January 26, 2000, Russian presidential spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said that Babitsky "left Grozny and then disappeared" and declared that Russian security services had no idea as to his whereabouts and that "his security is not guaranteed";

Whereas on January 28, 2000, Russian media officials told RFE/RL that Babitsky would be released with apologies after having been charged with participating in "an illegal armed formation";

Whereas on February 2, 2000, Moscow officials announced that Babitsky would be transferred from Naursky district near Chechnya to Gudermes and then to Moscow where he would then be released on his own recognizance;

Whereas on February 3, 2000, Russian presidential spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said that Russian officials exchanged Babitsky for 3 Russian prisoners of war and on the same day, Vladimir Ustinov, acting Russian prosecutor general, said Babitsky had been released and had gone over to the Chechens on his own accord;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has repeatedly issued contradictory statements on the detention of Andrei Babitsky and provided neither a credible accounting of its detention of Babitsky nor any credible evidence of his well-being;

Whereas United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson stated on February 16 that Russian behavior in Chechnya and the detention of Andrei Babitsky appears to violate the Geneva conventions to which Russia is a signatory;

Whereas on February 16, 2000, Russian Human Rights Commissioner Oleg Mironov

denounced Moscow's handling of Babitsky as a violation of Russian law and international law and stated that the situation surrounding Babitsky signals "that the same thing may happen to every reporter";

Whereas the Union of Journalists in Russia declared on February 16 that the case of Andrei Babitsky is "not an isolated episode, but almost a turning point in the struggle for a press that serves society and not the authorities" and that "the threat to freedom of speech in Russia has for the first time in the last several years transformed into its open and regular suppression";

Whereas freedom of the press is both a central element of democracy as well as a catalyst for democratic reform;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has repeatedly violated the principles of freedom of the press by subjecting journalists who question or oppose its policies to censorship, intimidation, harassment, incarceration, and violence; by restricting beyond internationally accepted limits their access to information; and by issuing misleading and false information; and

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has egregiously restricted the efforts of journalists to report on the indiscriminate brutality of Russia's use of force in Chechnya: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the detention of Andrei Babitsky by the Government of the Russian Federation and the misinformation the Government of the Russian Federation has issued concerning this matter—

(A) constitute reprehensible treatment of a civilian in a conflict zone in violation of the Geneva Conventions and applicable protocols; and

(B) demonstrate the Government of the Russian Federation's intolerance toward a free and open press;

(2) the conduct of the Government of the Russian Federation leaves it responsible for the safety of Andrei Babitsky;

(3) the Government of the Russian Federation should take steps to secure the safe return of RFE/RL reporter Andrei Babitsky to his family;

(4) the Government of the Russian Federation should provide a full accounting of Mr. Babitsky's detention and the charges he may face; and

(5) the Russian authorities should immediately halt their harassment of journalists, foreign and domestic, who cover the war in Chechnya and any other event in the Russian Federation and should fully adhere to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which declares in Article 19 that "everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes the freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers".

SENATE RESOLUTION 262—ENTITLED THE "PEACEFUL RESOLUTION OF THE CONFLICT IN CHECHNYA"

Mr. WELLSTONE submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 262

Whereas the people of Chechnya are exercising the legitimate right of self-defense against the indiscriminate use of force by the Government of the Russian Federation;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has used disproportionate force in the bombings of civilian targets Chechnya

which has resulted in the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians and the displacement of well over 250,000 others;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has refused to engage in negotiations with the Chechen resistance toward a just peace and instead has charged Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov with armed mutiny and issued a warrant for his arrest;

Whereas Russian authorities deny access to regions in and around Chechnya by the international community, including officials of the United Nations, Organization for Security Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe, and maintain a virtual ban on access to Chechen civilians by media and international humanitarian organizations, including the International Federation of the Red Cross;

Whereas these restrictions severely limited the ability of these organizations to ascertain the extent of the humanitarian crisis and to provide humanitarian relief;

Whereas even limited testimony and general investigation organizations credibly report widespread looting, summary executions, detentions, denial of safe passage to fleeing civilians, torture and rape committed by Russian soldiers;

Whereas there are credible reports of specific atrocities committed by Russian soldiers in Chechnya, including the rampages in Alkhan-Yurt where 17 persons were killed in December 1999 and in the Staropromyslovsky district of Grozny where 44 persons killed in December 1999; and the rapes of Chechnya prisoners in the Chernokosovo detention camp;

Whereas these credible reports indicate clear violations of international human rights standards and law that must be investigated, and those responsible must be held accountable;

Whereas United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson proposed on February 20, 2000, the prosecution of Russian military commanders for overseeing "executions, tortures, and rapes"; and

Whereas the Senate expresses its concern over the conflict and humanitarian tragedy in Chechnya, and its desire for a peaceful resolution and durable settlement to the conflict: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Government of the Russian Federation—

(A) immediately cease its military operations in Chechnya and initiate negotiations toward a just peace with the leadership of the Chechnya Government, including President Aslan Maskhadov;

(B) allow into and around Chechnya international missions to monitor and report on the situation there and to investigate alleged atrocities and war crimes;

(C) allow international humanitarian agencies immediate full and unimpeded access to Chechen civilians, including those in refugee, detention and so called "filtration camps" or any other facility where citizens of Chechnya are detained; and

(D) investigate fully the atrocities committed in Chechnya including those alleged in Alkhan-Yurt, and Grozny, and initiate prosecutions against those officers and soldiers accused.

(2) the President of the United States of America—

(A) should promote peace negotiations between the Government of the Russian Federation and the leadership of the Chechen Government, including President Aslan Maskhadov, through third party mediation by the OSCE, United Nations or other appropriate parties;

(B) endorse the call of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights for an

investigation of alleged war crimes committed by the Russian military in Chechnya; and

(C) should take tangible to demonstrate to the Government of the Russian Federation that the United States strongly condemns its brutal conduct in Chechnya and its unwillingness to find a just political solution to the conflict in Chechnya.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

AFFORDABLE EDUCATION ACT OF 1999

MURRAY AMENDMENT NO. 2821

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill (S. 1134) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax-free expenditures from education individual retirement accounts for elementary and secondary school expenses, to increase the maximum annual amount of contributions to such accounts, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike title I and insert the following:

TITLE I—CLASS SIZE REDUCTION

SEC. 101. PROGRAMS.

Title II of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6601 et seq.) is amended—

- (1) by redesignating part E as part F;
- (2) by redesignating sections 2401 and 2401 as sections 2501 and 2502, respectively; and
- (3) by inserting after part D the following:

"PART D—CLASS SIZE REDUCTION

"SEC. 2401. GRANT PROGRAM.

"(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to reduce class size through use of fully qualified teachers.

"(b) ALLOTMENT TO STATES.—From the amount made available to carry out this part under section 2402 for a fiscal year, the Secretary—

"(1) shall make available a total of \$3,600,000 to the Secretary of the Interior (on behalf of the Bureau of Indian Affairs) and the outlying areas for activities carried out in accordance with this section; and

"(2) shall allot the remainder by providing to each State the same percentage of that remainder as the State received of the funds provided to States under section 307(a)(2) of the Department of Education Appropriations Act, 1999.

"(c) ALLOCATION TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—

"(1) ALLOCATION.—Each State that receives funds under this section shall allocate 100 percent of such funds to local educational agencies, of which—

"(A) 80 percent of such funds shall be allocated to such local educational agencies in proportion to the number of children, age 5 through 17, from families with incomes below the poverty line (as defined by the Office of Management and Budget and revised annually in accordance with section 673(2) of the Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2))) applicable to a family of the size involved, who reside in the school district served by such local educational agency for the most recent fiscal year for which satisfactory data are available, compared to the number of such children who reside in the school districts served by all the local educational agencies in the State for that fiscal year; and

"(B) 20 percent of such funds shall be allocated to such local educational agencies in

accordance with the relative enrollments of children, age 5 through 17, in public and private nonprofit elementary schools and secondary schools within the areas served by such agencies.

"(2) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1) and subsection (d)(2)(B), if the award to a local educational agency under this section is less than the starting salary for a new fully qualified teacher for a school served by that agency who is certified or licensed within the State, has a baccalaureate degree, and demonstrates the general knowledge, teaching skills, and subject matter knowledge required to teach in the content areas in which the teacher teaches, that agency may use funds made available under this section to—

"(A) help pay the salary of a full- or part-time teacher hired to reduce class size, which may be done in combination with the expenditure of other Federal, State, or local funds; or

"(B) pay for activities described in subsection (d)(2)(A)(iii) that may be related to teaching in smaller classes.

"(d) USE OF FUNDS.—

"(1) MANDATORY USES.—Each local educational agency that receives funds under this section shall use such funds to carry out effective approaches to reducing class size through use of fully qualified teachers who are certified or licensed within the State, have baccalaureate degrees, and demonstrate the general knowledge, teaching skills, and subject matter knowledge required to teach in the content areas in which the teachers teach, to improve educational achievement for both regular and special needs children, with particular consideration given to reducing class size in the early elementary grades for which some research has shown class size reduction is most effective.

"(2) PERMISSIBLE USES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Each such local educational agency may use funds made available under this section for—

"(i) recruiting (including through the use of signing bonuses, and other financial incentives), hiring, and training fully qualified regular and special education teachers (which may include hiring special education teachers to team-teach with regular teachers in classrooms that contain both children with disabilities and non-disabled children) and teachers of special needs children, who are certified or licensed within the State, have a baccalaureate degree and demonstrate the general knowledge, teaching skills, and subject matter knowledge required to teach in the content areas in which the teachers teach;

"(ii) testing new teachers for academic content knowledge, and to meet State certification or licensing requirements that are consistent with title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965; and

"(iii) providing professional development (which may include such activities as promoting retention and mentoring) for teachers, including special education teachers and teachers of special needs children, in order to meet the goal of ensuring that all teachers have the general knowledge, teaching skills, and subject matter knowledge necessary to teach effectively in the content areas in which the teachers teach, consistent with title II of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

"(B) LIMITATION ON TESTING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), a local educational agency may use not more than a total of 25 percent of the funds received by the agency under this section for activities described in clauses (ii) and (iii) of subparagraph (A).

"(ii) WAIVERS.—A local educational agency may apply to the State educational agency