

maintaining the affordable tuition rates and the open-door policy that are the hallmarks of the community college system; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BOND:

S. 2886. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income certain hazard mitigation assistance; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. Res. 446. A resolution honoring former President James Earl (Jimmy) Carter on the occasion of his 80th birthday; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1784

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. TALENT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1784, a bill to eliminate the safe-harbor exception for certain packaged pseudoephedrine products used in the manufacture of methamphetamine.

S. 2395

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2395, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centenary of the bestowal of the Nobel Peace Prize on President Theodore Roosevelt, and for other purposes.

S. 2425

At the request of Mr. BYRD, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2425, a bill to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to allow for improved administration of new shipper administrative reviews.

S. 2553

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2553, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of screening ultrasound for abdominal aortic aneurysms under part B of the medicare program.

S. 2568

At the request of Mr. BIDEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2568, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the tercentenary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin, and for other purposes.

S. 2587

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2587, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to adjust the amount of payment under the physi-

cian fee schedule for drug administration services furnished to medicare beneficiaries.

S. 2613

At the request of Mr. HAGEL, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2613, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a scholarship and loan repayment program for public health preparedness workforce development to eliminate critical public health preparedness workforce shortages in Federal, State, and local public health agencies.

S. 2718

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2718, a bill to provide for programs and activities with respect to the prevention of underage drinking.

S. 2744

At the request of Mr. SUNUNU, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2744, a bill to authorize the minting and issuance of a Presidential \$1 coin series.

S. 2759

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 2759, a bill to amend title XXI of the Social Security Act to modify the rules relating to the availability and method of redistribution of unexpended SCHIP allotments, and for other purposes.

S. 2831

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2831, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to clarify that federally recognized Indian tribal governments are to be regulated under the same government employer rules and procedures that apply to Federal, State, and other local government employers with regard to the establishment and maintenance of employee benefit plans.

S. 2845

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2845, a bill to reform the intelligence community and the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, and for other purposes.

S. 2856

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2856, a bill to limit the transfer of certain Commodity Credit Corporation funds between conservation programs for technical assistance for the programs.

S. CON. RES. 78

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 78, a concurrent resolution condemning the repression of the Iranian Baha'i community and calling for the emancipation of Iranian Baha'is.

S. CON. RES. 136

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. NICKLES), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAUX) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. Con. Res. 136, a concurrent resolution honoring and memorializing the passengers and crew of United Airlines Flight 93.

S. RES. 420

At the request of Mr. PRYOR, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 420, a resolution recommending expenditures for an appropriate visitors center at Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site to commemorate the desegregation of Little Rock Central High School.

S. RES. 430

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 430, a resolution designating November 2004 as "National Runaway Prevention Month".

AMENDMENT NO. 3845

At the request of Mr. BYRD, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 3845 proposed to S. 2845, a bill to reform the intelligence community and the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3890

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3890 proposed to S. 2845, a bill to reform the intelligence community and the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3891

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3891 proposed to S. 2845, a bill to reform the intelligence community and the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3893

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3893 proposed to S.

2845, a bill to reform the intelligence community and the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 3908

At the request of Mrs. CLINTON, her name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 3908 proposed to S. 2845, a bill to reform the intelligence community and the intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. MIKULSKI (for herself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 2885. A bill to build capacity at community colleges in order to meet increased demand for community college education while maintaining the affordable tuition rates and the open-door policy that are the hallmarks of the community college system; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the "Community College Opportunity Act." Community colleges are the gateway to the future for first time students looking for an affordable college education, and for mid-career students looking to get ahead in the workplace. As college tuition at four-year colleges continues to rise, more and more students are turning to community colleges for the education they need to prepare for 21st century jobs.

Yet soon we may not be able to count on our community colleges being available to everyone. The combination of budget cuts and increased enrollments is forcing community colleges to make tough choices between raising tuition and turning students away. This important legislation will help keep the doors of our community colleges open to increasing numbers of students without sending tuition through the roof. My bill authorizes \$100 million for a competitive grant program to help community colleges serve more students. Community colleges could apply for a grant to help with the cost of constructing or renovating facilities, hiring faculty, purchasing new computers and scientific equipment, and investing in creative ways of addressing overcrowding—like distance learning.

Why is this important? Community colleges are one of the great American social inventions. I used to teach night school at Baltimore City Community College. I know firsthand the vital role they play in our communities. Their low cost, convenient location, and open door admissions policy have made them the key to the American dream for so many. Many generations of immigrants pursued the American dream by working all day and going to school at night. After World War II, the GI bill gave returning veterans a chance to get ahead by going to local junior colleges.

Now, more than ever, it's important to invest in community colleges. In the next ten years, 40 percent of new jobs will require college education. At the same time, college tuition is on the rise. Tuition at the University of Maryland is up by as much as 21 percent. That's causing many students to take a second look at community colleges because they're more affordable. They're also leaders in training workers for 21st century jobs from nurses to computer techies, and even lab techs for new industries, like biotechnology. They're playing a key role in addressing shortages in nursing and teaching. In Maryland, community colleges train 55 percent of new nurses.

Yet our community colleges are bursting at the seams. They're growing faster than 4-year colleges. Enrollment at Maryland's community colleges is expected to grow 30 percent in the next 10 years, while 4-year colleges will grow by 15 percent. Community colleges are holding classes from 7 in the morning to 10 at night, on weekends, and over the internet. In my own state of Maryland, they are starting to turn students away because there isn't enough room. As many as 2000 students were shut out of Montgomery College last year because they couldn't get into the classes they needed or they couldn't afford the cost. Last fall, Prince George's Community College had to turn away 630 prospective nursing students and 1,000 prospective education students.

It's great that so many Americans are going to community colleges. For so many Americans, community colleges are the only way to get the education they need to be competitive for 21st century jobs. Yet the rapid increase of students is threatening the very mission of community colleges. If we want a world-class workforce, we need to invest in higher education. We need to make sure we have always institutions available to everyone who wants a college degree or just a couple of courses. That means investing in our community colleges, so they can continue to be affordable, accessible, and successful at training the next generation of nurses, teachers, and techies.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2885

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAPACITY-BUILDING GRANT PROGRAM.

Title III of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1051 et seq.) is amended—

- (1) by redesignating part F as part G; and
- (2) by inserting after part E the following:

"PART F—COMMUNITY COLLEGES

"SEC. 371. COMMUNITY COLLEGE CAPACITY-BUILDING GRANT PROGRAM.

"(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts appropriated under section 399(a)(6) for a fiscal

year, the Secretary shall award grants to eligible entities, on a competitive basis, for the purpose of building capacity at community colleges to meet the increased demand for community colleges while maintaining the affordable tuition rates and the open-door policy that are the hallmarks of the community college system.

"(2) DURATION.—Grants awarded under this section shall be for a period not to exceed 3 years.

"(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) COMMUNITY COLLEGE.—The term 'community college' means a public institution of higher education (as defined in section 101(a)) whose highest degree awarded is predominantly the associate degree.

"(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible entity' means a community college, or a consortium of 2 or more community colleges, that demonstrates capacity challenges at not less than 1 of the community colleges in the eligible entity, such as—

"(A) an identified workforce shortage in the community served by the community college that will be addressed by increased enrollment at the community college;

"(B) a wait list for a class or for a degree or a certificate program;

"(C) a faculty shortage;

"(D) a significant enrollment growth;

"(E) a significant projected enrollment growth;

"(F) an increase in the student-faculty ratio;

"(G) a shortage of laboratory space or equipment;

"(H) a shortage of computer equipment and technology;

"(I) out-of-date computer equipment and technology;

"(J) a decrease in State or county funding or a related budget shortfall; or

"(K) another demonstrated capacity shortfall.

"(c) APPLICATION.—Each eligible entity desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary may reasonably require by regulation.

"(d) AWARD BASIS.—In awarding grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall take into consideration—

"(1) the relative need for assistance under this section of the community colleges;

"(2) the probable impact and overall quality of the proposed activities on the capacity problem of the community college;

"(3) providing an equitable geographic distribution of grant funds under this section throughout the United States and among urban, suburban, and rural areas of the United States; and

"(4) providing an equitable distribution among small, medium, and large community colleges.

"(e) USE OF FUNDS.—Grant funds provided under subsection (a) may be used for activities that expand community college capacity, including—

"(1) the construction, maintenance, renovation, and improvement of classroom, library, laboratory, and other instructional facilities;

"(2) the purchase, rental, or lease of scientific or laboratory equipment for educational purposes, including instructional research purposes;

"(3) the development, improvement, or expansion of technology;

"(4) preparation and professional development of faculty;

"(5) recruitment, hiring, and retention of faculty;

"(6) curriculum development and academic instruction;