

English language learners, with information about their children's schools so that they can help their children to meet the high standards we have set under NCLB.

The Local Family Information Centers also help parents to hold their local and State school officials accountable and become more involved in their children's education. This amendment would increase funding for these centers by \$13 million.

The need for increased funding for English as a Second Language ESL is evident by the growing demand for services and the lack of resources to meet that need.

Enrollment in Adult ESL has increased 105 percent over the past 10 years, yet there is a lack of programs and funding to ensure that all who desire to learn English have access to appropriate services.

Currently, community-based organizations must piece programs together with volunteer labor and facilities. The need for more targeted services is overwhelming. Demand for English-language instruction far outweighs supply, waiting lists for classes typically range from several months to years, and many States do not have the capacity to meet the demand.

The current \$70 million in funding is insufficient to meet the enormous demand for ESL services. As the labor market continues to require English-proficient labor, investing in ESL programs will strengthen the labor pool and return a more versatile productive workforce. This amendment provides an additional \$6.5 million for ESL programs.

Currently, 35 percent of Hispanics are under the age of 18. The Educational Testing Service has projected the U.S. higher education system will grow by 3.5 million additional students by 2015 and that nearly 40 percent of these new students will be Hispanic. HSIs serve the largest concentrations of the Nation's youngest and largest ethnic population.

The impending emergence of more than 100 new HSIs mostly in CA, TX, FL, NM, IL, in the next few years and the rapid growth of the Hispanic college-age population underscore urgency for immediate, major, and sustained increases in title V funding.

At a time when the current labor force is reaching retirement age in substantial numbers, Hispanics already represent one of every three new workers joining the U.S. labor force, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. By 2025, the Bureau projects that one of two new workers joining the U.S. labor force will be Hispanic. This amendment would provide an additional \$9.9 million in assistance to these great institutions.

We must do everything possible to provide every child with the best education we can. This amendment would provide small but much-needed increases to programs that can make a difference in the lives of millions of children. I urge my fellow Senators to support these greatly needed programs

by providing them with the proper resources.

This is a very worthwhile amendment. It puts resources to use where they are most needed—not just in my State but throughout this country.

The fastest growing minority population in our country is the Hispanic community. We need to ensure these young people growing up are well educated, are prepared for the challenges for the 21st century. This legislation helps greatly with that effort.

AMENDMENT NO. 2259

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, let me briefly describe one other amendment at this point. I called this amendment up yesterday, as well, amendment 2259, dealing with the Drug Assistance Program, an amendment Senator SMITH and I have worked together on to add additional funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, or ADAP.

We had an amendment voted on last night by Senator COBURN to shift funding to this function by taking funding from the Centers for Disease Control. Our amendment does not do that. Our amendment provides \$74 million in much-needed funding. It would be emergency funding for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program.

This is a very meritorious amendment. It is an amendment I hope all colleagues will support. Some Members of this body voted against the amendment of the Senator from Oklahoma in anticipation of supporting this very important amendment I am talking about now.

The AIDS Drug Assistance Program provide life-saving assistance to over 136,000 uninsured or underinsured HIV-infected individuals each year. As the number of people living with HIV/AIDS has increased, largely due to advances in HIV treatment, the importance of and demand for ADAP has grown so that, as of September 2005, a total of 2,187 individuals were on ADAP waiting lists in nine States.

As the National ADAP Monitoring Project says:

When an individual is on a waiting list, they may not have access to HIV-related medications.

We are talking about life-extending and life-saving medications. In fact, it has been reported that patients on ADAP waiting lists in West Virginia and Kentucky have passed away.

Furthermore, as of March 2005, due to funding shortfalls, 21 States have some sort of cost containment measures in place, including waiting lists, that often impede access to care. This includes increased cost-sharing, reductions in eligibility income limits, and limitations on covered treatments.

We as a Nation, are rightfully committed to providing billions of dollars of support for HIV/AIDS care and treatment services to those living with HIV in nations across the world and we should be. However, here at home, it is unforgivable that there are Americans with HIV dying because they are on waiting lists for life-saving drugs or having life-saving medications rationed to them in various forms.

A story entitled "Dying for AIDS Drugs" documents some of the stories of those who have lost ADAP coverage or are on waiting lists. As the story reads:

Margaret Nicholson, a Springfield, Oregon, homecare attendant who survives with her mother and husband on less than \$20,000 a year, lost her ADAP coverage because she couldn't afford the new co-pays; she has now gone 4 months without seeing a doctor and is scraping by on pill samples. In North Carolina, HIV doctor Aimee Wilkin says some of her waiting list patients, forced to seek medicines through drug company charity programs, have faced multiple treatment interruptions, the result of bureaucratic delays, exposing them to the risk of HIV drug resistance. In Kentucky, caseworkers are so desperate they're asking churches to pass the hat to sponsor someone's pills for a few weeks at a time.

In our great Nation, this is unacceptable and should end. This amendment, sponsored by Senator SMITH and myself, would go a long way to address the ADAP shortfall and I urge its passage.

I hope we can also have a rollcall vote on this amendment.

I ask for the yeas and nays on Senate amendment 2262 at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I also ask for a rollcall vote on Senate amendment 2259.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is in order to request that at this time.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. BINGAMAN. I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JOHN RICHARD SMOAK TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the hour of 3 o'clock having arrived, the Senate will go into executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of John Richard Smoak, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Florida.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be recognized for 2 minutes to speak on behalf of the nominee.

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

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I rise to speak on behalf of Richard Smoak,

who has been nominated by President Bush to fill a vacancy in the Northern District of Florida as a Federal district court judge.

I would like to have the record reflect Mr. Smoak is a man of great integrity, a person who will distinguish himself on the bench, as he has in every other aspect of his life.

He is from Panama City, FL, where he has practiced law in a very distinguished fashion for quite a number of years. He is one of those people who folks speak about in superlative terms. And one can understand why.

Mr. Smoak graduated from the University of Florida in 1972, with a law degree; after having gone to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, graduating in 1965. From 1965 to 1970, Mr. Smoak was an infantry officer, serving extensively in Vietnam, where he distinguished himself by receiving a Silver Star medal and a Bronze Star medal, among other military awards he received for his distinguished service to his Nation.

Mr. President, better than I, I think I should quote from among those who have known him and have practiced law with him, and those who have been in the community with him.

I will quote from Mr. Paul Anderson of Panama City, who speaks of Mr. Smoak in this fashion:

Dick Smoak is simply one of the finest lawyers and finest men I have ever had the privilege of knowing. Describing Dick requires the use of words such as integrity, character and professionalism. As a legal practitioner, Dick knows the law and applies it logically to each case he handles.

Mr. President, in addition to that, one of those things I believe I like about Mr. Smoak that speaks so highly of him is that Mr. Anderson speaks about the fact that he does not compromise his principles.

With that, Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote favorably on this nomination of Mr. Richard Smoak to serve as a Federal district court judge for the Northern District of Florida.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of John Richard Smoak for appointment to the United States District Court for the Northern District of Florida. Mr. Smoak has long served his Nation, from his highly decorated service in Vietnam to his efforts to improve the judiciary system in Florida.

He has resided and has practiced civil law for over the last 30 years in Panama City, FL. During that time, he represented a wide variety of clients from doctors to small business owners to truckdrivers to national corporations in many areas of the law. This broad experience will serve him well as a Federal judge.

Mr. Smoak is a well-regarded and highly qualified attorney. I, along with Senator MARTINEZ, believe he will make a great addition to the Federal bench and urge our colleagues to vote in support of his nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COLEMAN). Is all time yielded back?

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of John Richard Smoak, of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Florida? The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 276 Leg.]

YEAS—97

Akaka	Dole	McCain
Alexander	Domenici	McConnell
Allard	Dorgan	Mikulski
Allen	Durbin	Murkowski
Baucus	Ensign	Murray
Bayh	Enzi	Nelson (FL)
Bennett	Feingold	Nelson (NE)
Biden	Feinstein	Obama
Bingaman	Frist	Pryor
Bond	Graham	Reed
Boxer	Grassley	Reid
Brownback	Gregg	Roberts
Bunning	Hagel	Salazar
Burns	Harkin	Santorum
Burr	Hatch	Sarbanes
Byrd	Hutchison	Schumer
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sessions
Carper	Isakson	Shelby
Chafee	Jeffords	Smith
Chambliss	Johnson	Snowe
Clinton	Kennedy	Specter
Coburn	Kerry	Stabenow
Cochran	Kohl	Stevens
Coleman	Kyl	Stevens
Collins	Landrieu	Sununu
Conrad	Lautenberg	Talent
Cornyn	Leahy	Thomas
Craig	Levin	Thune
Crapo	Lieberman	Vitter
Dayton	Lincoln	Voinovich
DeMint	Lott	Warner
DeWine	Lugar	Wyden
Dodd	Martinez	

NOT VOTING—3

Corzine Inouye Rockefeller

The nomination was confirmed.

NOMINATION OF SUSAN BIEKE NELSON TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Susan Bieke Neilson, of Michigan, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this vote be 10 minutes, with a 5-minute extra.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have not yet been ordered.

Mr. SPECTER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this next vote be taken on a voice vote.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, Senator LEAHY is not on the floor; therefore, we would have to object.

Mr. LOTT. I thank the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is time yielded back? If so, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Susan Bieke Neilson to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit? The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 277 Ex.]

YEAS—97

Akaka	Dole	McCain
Alexander	Domenici	McConnell
Allard	Dorgan	Mikulski
Allen	Durbin	Murkowski
Baucus	Ensign	Murray
Bayh	Enzi	Nelson (FL)
Bennett	Feingold	Nelson (NE)
Biden	Feinstein	Obama
Bingaman	Frist	Pryor
Bond	Graham	Reed
Boxer	Grassley	Reid
Brownback	Gregg	Roberts
Bunning	Hagel	Salazar
Burns	Harkin	Santorum
Burr	Hatch	Sarbanes
Byrd	Hutchison	Schumer
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sessions
Carper	Isakson	Shelby
Chafee	Jeffords	Smith
Chambliss	Johnson	Snowe
Clinton	Kennedy	Specter
Coburn	Kerry	Stabenow
Cochran	Kohl	Stevens
Coleman	Kyl	Stevens
Collins	Landrieu	Sununu
Conrad	Lautenberg	Talent
Cornyn	Leahy	Thomas
Craig	Levin	Thune
Crapo	Lieberman	Vitter
Dayton	Lincoln	Voinovich
DeMint	Lott	Warner
DeWine	Lugar	Wyden
Dodd	Martinez	

NOT VOTING—3

Corzine Inouye Rockefeller

The nomination was confirmed. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The President is notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate returns to legislative session.