

Whereas the early care and education industry employs more than 2,300,000 workers;

Whereas these workers indirectly add \$580,000,000,000 to the economy by enabling millions of parents to perform their own jobs;

Whereas the average salary of early care and education workers is \$18,180 per year, and only 1/3 of these workers have health insurance and even fewer have a pension plan;

Whereas the quality of early care and education programs is directly linked to the quality of early childhood educators;

Whereas the turnover rate of early childhood program staff is roughly 30 percent per year, and low wages and lack of benefits, among other factors, make it difficult to retain high quality educators who have the consistent, caring relationships with young children that are important to the children's development;

Whereas the compensation of early childhood program staff should be commensurate with the importance of the job of helping the young children of the Nation develop their social, emotional, physical, and cognitive skills, and helping them to be ready for school;

Whereas providing adequate compensation to early childhood program staff should be a priority, and resources can be allocated to improve the compensation of early childhood educators to ensure that quality care and education are accessible for all families;

Whereas additional training and education for the early care and education workforce is critical to ensuring high-quality early learning environments;

Whereas child care workers should receive compensation commensurate with such training and experience; and

Whereas the Center for the Child Care Workforce, a project of the American Federation of Teachers Educational Foundation, with support from the National Association for the Education of Young Children and other early childhood organizations, recognizes May 1 as National Child Care Worthy Wage Day; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 1, 2007, as National Child Care Worthy Wage Day; and

(2) calls on the people of the United States to observe National Child Care Worthy Wage Day by honoring early childhood care and education staff and programs in their communities.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I am proud to be submitting a resolution designating May 1, 2007, as National Child Care Worthy Wage Day. On this day, child care providers and other early childhood professionals nationwide conduct public awareness and education efforts highlighting the importance of good early childhood education for our Nation's young children. This resolution is an effort to support these initiatives and to help develop greater public awareness to our early educators and the critical work they do.

Every day, nearly 63 percent of children under the age of 5 are cared for outside their home so their parents can work. Early care and education workers, who number more than 2.3 million, make it possible for millions of parents to leave their children at day care and go to work. By enabling parents to go to work every day, our early education workers add more than \$580 billion to our economy nationwide.

The importance of early education cannot be overstated. From the day

they are born, children begin to learn, and the quality of care they receive will affect their language development, math skills, behavior, and general readiness for school. Our early educators help future leaders and workers of our Nation develop their social, emotional, physical and cognitive skills so they can be ready for school.

However, the committed individuals who nurture and teach these young children continue to be undervalued, with grossly low wages and lack of benefits. It is outrageous that the average salary of our early education staff is just a little over \$18,000 per year, that only one-third has health insurance and even fewer have pension plans.

Early childhood educators perform essential work by supporting the development of our Nation's children. Yet poor wages and benefits have made it difficult to attract and retain high-quality early childhood care takers and educators, and one-third of all early childhood educators leave their jobs every year. This is not only unfair to our child care workers, but it undermines the quality of care that our children receive.

Our early educators deserve nothing less than to be recognized and adequately compensated for the work they do. We must give our Nation's early childcare workers wages worthy of the incredible work they do every day to train and develop the future workforce of America.

The Nation's childcare workforce, and the families who depend on them, deserve our support, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 913. Mr. DORGAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, to invest in innovation and education to improve the competitiveness of the United States in the global economy; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 914. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 915. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 916. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 917. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra.

SA 918. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 919. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 920. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 921. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the

bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 922. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 923. Mr. OBAMA submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 924. Mr. OBAMA (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 925. Mr. KERRY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 926. Mr. MENENDEZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 927. Mr. KERRY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 928. Mr. DEMINT (for himself, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. ENSIGN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra.

SA 929. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra.

SA 930. Mr. DEMINT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 931. Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself and Mr. DEMINT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 932. Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself and Mr. DEMINT) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 933. Mr. DODD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 934. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 935. Mr. VOINOVICH (for himself and Mr. KOHL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 936. Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. LEAHY, and Mrs. LINCOLN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra.

SA 937. Mr. SUNUNU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 938. Mr. SUNUNU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra.

SA 939. Mr. SUNUNU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 940. Mr. KENNEDY proposed an amendment to the bill S. 761, supra.

SA 941. Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. KOHL) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 942. Mr. KOHL (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. REED, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. KERRY, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. ROBERTS, and Mr. BIDEN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 943. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 944. Mr. COLEMAN (for himself and Mr. PRYOR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 945. Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Mr. SMITH, Mr. PRYOR, and Mr. KERRY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 946. Mr. COLEMAN (for himself and Mr. PRYOR) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 947. Mr. BINGAMAN (for Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. SHELBY, and Mr. REED)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 761, supra.

SA 948. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 949. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 902 proposed by Mr. CORNYN to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 950. Mr. BAUCUS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 951. Mr. BAUCUS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 952. Mr. BAUCUS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 953. Mr. BAUCUS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 954. Mr. BAUCUS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 955. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 956. Mr. CRAPO (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 957. Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 958. Mr. DORGAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 959. Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. WEBB) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 960. Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Mr. VOINOVICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 961. Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 962. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 963. Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 964. Mr. PRYOR submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 913. Mr. DORGAN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, to invest in innovation and education to improve the competitiveness of the United States in the global economy; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ FEASIBILITY STUDY ON FREE ONLINE COLLEGE DEGREE PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall enter into a contract with the National Academy of Sciences to conduct and complete a feasibility study on creating a national, free online college degree program that would be available to all United States citizens who wish to pursue a degree in a field of strategic importance to the United States and where expertise is in demand, such as mathematics, sciences, and foreign languages. The study shall look at the need for a free college degree program as well as the feasibility of—

- (1) developing online course content;
- (2) developing sufficiently rigorous tests to determine mastery of a field of study; and
- (3) sustaining the program through private funding.

(b) **STUDY.**—The study described in subsection (a) shall also include a review of existing online education programs to determine the extent to which these programs offer a rigorous curriculum in areas like mathematics and science and the National Academy of Sciences shall make recommendations for how online degree programs can be assessed and accredited.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$500,000 for fiscal year 2008.

SA 914. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, to invest in innovation and education to improve the competitiveness of the United States in the global economy; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ H-1B VISA EMPLOYER FEE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 214(c)(9)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(9)(B)) is amended by striking “\$1,500” and inserting “\$2,000”.

(b) **USE OF ADDITIONAL FEE.**—Section 286 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1356) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(w) **GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS EDUCATION ACCOUNT.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established in the general fund of the Treasury a separate account, which shall be known as the ‘Gifted and Talented Students Education Account’. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, there shall be deposited as offsetting receipts into the account 25 percent of the fees collected under section 214(c)(9)(B).

“(2) **USE OF FEES.**—Amounts deposited into the account established under paragraph (1) shall remain available to the Secretary of Education until expended for programs and projects authorized under the Jacob K. Javits Gifted and Talented Students Education Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. 7253 et seq.).”

SA 915. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, to invest in innovation and education to improve the competitiveness of the United States in the global economy; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 120, strike lines 1 through 8, and insert the following:

(d) **PRIORITY.**—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities that—

(1) are part of a statewide strategy for increasing the availability of Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate courses in mathematics, science, and critical foreign languages, and pre-Advanced Placement or pre-International Baccalaureate courses in such subjects, in high-need schools; and

(2) make Advanced Placement math, science, and critical foreign language courses available to students who are prepared for such work not later than 9th or 10th grade.

On page 127, line 6, insert “by the grade the student is enrolled in,” after “subject.”

On page 127, line 12, insert “by the grade the student is enrolled in at the time of the examination” before the semicolon.

SA 916. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 761, to invest in innovation and education to improve the competitiveness of the United States in the global economy; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 69, strike line 21 and all that follows through line 4 on page 70, and insert the following:

“(1) **PROGRAMS AT THE NATIONAL LABORATORIES.**—The Secretary, acting through the Director, shall establish or expand programs of summer institutes at each of the National Laboratories to provide—

“(A) additional training to strengthen the mathematics and science teaching skills of teachers employed at public schools for kindergarten through grade 12, in accordance with the activities authorized under subsections (c) and (d); and

“(B) experimental learning opportunities to advanced students in middle and secondary schools to strengthen learning in mathematics and science in accordance with the activities authorized under subsection (c).”

On page 70, line 13, inserting after “grade 12,” the following: “and to provide experimental learning opportunities to advanced students in middle and secondary schools to strengthen learning in mathematics and science”.

On page 70, line 21, strike “and” at the end.

On page 70, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

“(ii) assists in providing experimental learning opportunities to advanced middle and secondary school students; and”.

On page 70, line 22, strike “(ii)” and insert “(iii)”.

On page 72, line 2, strike “and” at the end.

On page 72, line 4, strike the period and insert “; and”.

On page 72, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

“(9) in the case of a program described in subsection (b)(1)(B), create, under the guidance of experienced teachers, college faculty, and math and science professionals, experimental, hands-on opportunities for advanced middle and secondary school students that supplement coursework available in their school districts, allows them to explore science topics in depth, provides opportunities to work with scientists on current and