

It is also imperative to put the results of the program in context. Rarely are there statistically significant results with any educational innovations, particularly those targeted at low income students. Of the eleven recent educational innovations studied under the auspices of the Department of Education using the same rigorous testing designs, only three showed any statistically significant achievement results. The Opportunity Scholarship was one of the three. Dr. Patrick Wolf, an education specialist and the lead researcher in the IES study, testified at a recent hearing on the scholarship program that in his professional opinion the results were exceptional and warranted continued study of the program. According to Dr. Wolf, “by demonstrating statistically significant impacts overall in reading based on an experimental evaluation, the DC OSP has met a tough standard for efficacy in serving low-income inner-city students.”

Academic programs should be evaluated in terms of their impact on students' progress and achievement. In his speech before the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce earlier this year, President Obama laid down that marker as a guideline for considering which education programs should be funded. On that basis, it is clear that we should continue to fund the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program—a program that has been good for students, good for parents and even good for public and charter schools in the District. Let us do the right thing for kids in DC and reauthorize the DC Opportunity Scholarship Program.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join Senator LIEBERMAN and my Senate colleagues in introducing legislation to reauthorize the District of Columbia's pilot scholarship program for 5 more years.

This important program currently provides scholarships to 1,700 low-income children who attend 49 private schools in the District. The scholarships of up to \$7,500 help these students pay for tuition and transportation expenses to school.

However, if the program is not extended soon, children will not be able to continue their education at the schools of their choice.

This legislation would:

Extend the life of the District of Columbia's pilot scholarship program for five more years.

Increase the program's funding to \$20 million for fiscal year 2010 and as may be necessary the following four years to allow new students to participate in the program and provide a higher scholarship.

Increase the scholarship amount to \$9,000 for children in kindergarten through 8th grade, and \$11,000 for youngsters in high school—this amount is still lower than the \$15,500 cost of educating a public school student in the District and will help low-income families afford the high cost of private school tuition.

Protect low-income families whose children are already in the program from “earning out” of it by setting the maximum income level for them at 300 percent of the Federal poverty level, about \$63,000 for a family of four.

However, it maintains the current income eligibility requirement for students to enter the program of 185 percent of poverty, \$41,000 for a family of four.

It would improve evaluation by assessing students' college admission rates, school safety, and the reasons why parents choose to participate in program to better learn about its impact on children's lives and their families.

It would give priority for awarding scholarships also to students whose household includes a sibling or other child already participating in the program.

When students entered the program 5 years ago, they were performing in the bottom third on reading and math tests.

Students are now improving academically—despite the many challenges that these children face outside the classroom living in some of the District's toughest neighborhoods.

The most recent evaluation from this past April by the Education Department's Institute of Education Sciences found that although math test scores have not increased so far, there are significant gains being made in reading test scores.

Specifically, pilot program students scored 4.5 points higher in reading on the SAT-9 national standardized test with a total score of 635.4 when compared to the District's public school students' score of 630.9.

This means students are making gains in reading test scores by the equivalent of 3 months of additional schooling, and moved to the 35th percentile on the SAT-9 from the 33rd percentile where they were before entering the program.

These youngsters still have much more catching up to do, but they are improving and this is important.

I believe the results of the more comprehensive evaluation of student performance that will be released next spring are critical.

Next year's evaluation will also include important data on the program's impact on students' college enrollment and how the District's public schools are changing in response to the pilot program.

I would like to share two examples of how the program has helped to change the lives of the District's most disadvantaged youngsters and give them a chance to succeed.

Shirley-Ann Tomdio is the 8th grade Valedictorian at Sacred Heart Middle School, located in the District's neighborhood of Columbia Heights.

The scholarship allowed Shirley-Ann to attend Sacred Heart School for the past four years since 5th grade.

She will be attending Georgetown Visitation in September for high school.

She wants to go to college and become a surgeon.

Shirley-Ann said at her 8th grade graduation speech this past June:

The D.C. OSP [Opportunity Scholarship Program] is important to me because without it I wouldn't be able to receive the best education possible. It should continue so that my brother, sister, and other students get the same chance. Every child should get the chance to go to a good school.

Oscar Machado is a graduate of Archbishop Carroll High School where he was on Honor Roll.

Oscar is attending Mount Saint Mary's University in Maryland in the fall and plans to major in biology. He received three college scholarships that will cover nearly all of this tuition.

He was in the pilot program for 4 years.

At Archbishop Carroll High, he was President of the Robotics Team where he used pre-engineering skills to build robots, and also played the saxophone in the school band.

When speaking of his experience as a D.C. Opportunity Scholarship recipient Oscar said:

The scholarship was great. It gave me the opportunity to attend a school I otherwise couldn't have attended.

Oscar hopes that the same opportunity should be available to other students.

We should listen to students like Oscar and Shirley-Ann, and continue to provide this important program to the District's neediest children.

I look forward to working with my Senate colleagues to pass this legislation.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 231—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT ANY HEALTH CARE REFORM PROPOSAL SHOULD SLOW THE LONG-TERM GROWTH OF HEALTH COSTS AND REDUCE THE GROWTH RATE OF FEDERAL HEALTH CARE SPENDING

Mr. BENNETT (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. JOHANNS, Mr. COBURN, and Mr. CRAPO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 231

Whereas health care spending has risen close to 2.4 percentage points faster than gross domestic product (GDP) since 1970; and

Whereas the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services projects health care spending to be 17.6 percent of GDP in 2009 and 20.4 percent of GDP by 2018; Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) any health care reform proposal should reduce total spending on health care in the United States during the next decade to below current projections by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services; and

(2) any health care reform proposal should reduce the growth rate of Federal health care spending.

Mr. President, today I am submitting a resolution on the future of health care spending. It is both simple and straightforward. It states that health care reform shouldn't cost the Federal Government more money. As health care proposals have received their scores from the Congressional Budget Office, we have seen figures ranging from \$597 billion to over \$1 trillion. In fact, when asked point blank in a Senate Budget Committee hearing if the current reform proposals would help bend the cost-curve of health care spending in this country, CBO Director Elmendorf replied that it would worsen an already bleak budget outlook, increase deficit projections and drive the nation further into debt. It would raise, instead of lower, the cost-curve of health care spending and, simply iterated, this nation cannot afford it.

Already this year Congress has spent \$787 billion on a stimulus package with diminutive effects, passed an omnibus appropriations package and an emergency supplemental appropriations with a price tag of \$105.9 billion. We cannot continue to spend as if there is an endless supply of resources and as if this spending doesn't affect American families.

I am an advocate for health reform. I have cosponsored the Healthy Americans Act with Senator WYDEN because we need to reform our country's health care system. However, I believe we need to do it in a way that does not significantly increase the federal responsibility for health care costs.

This resolution expresses the Sense of the Senate that health care reform proposals should reduce total spending on health care in the United States during the next decade to levels below current projections by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and reduce the growth rate of Federal health care spending. Not only is this feasible, but it should be our goal. Health care reform at the expense of our economy is not reform we should support.

SENATE RESOLUTION 232—CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TILLAMOOK COUNTY CREAMERY ASSOCIATION

Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. Res. 232

Whereas the Tillamook County Creamery Association is celebrating its 100th anniversary as a world-famous, farmer-owned cooperative dedicated to producing the highest quality cheeses and other products from local dairies;

Whereas the members of the Tillamook County Creamery Association are great supporters of the local and State dairy industries and are committed stewards of the environment;

Whereas the Tillamook County Creamery Association has won hundreds of awards, including 6 awards at the 2009 Oregon Dairy Industries products contest and 6 awards at the 2008 National Milk Producers Federation annual cheese contest;

Whereas for the third year in a row, the Tillamook County Creamery Association was recognized by the Portland Business Journal as one of Oregon's "Most Admired Companies";

Whereas the Tillamook County Creamery Association has earned a reputation as one of the Nation's premier makers of cheese; and

Whereas for these reasons, the Tillamook County Creamery Association, known throughout the world for its Tillamook cheddar cheese, is an Oregon icon: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the 100th anniversary celebration of the Tillamook County Creamery Association.

SENATE RESOLUTION 233—COMMANDING RUSS MEYER ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE NATIONAL AVIATION HALL OF FAME

Mr. BROWNBACK submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 233

Whereas the leadership of Russ Meyer, former chairman and chief executive officer of Cessna Aircraft Company and a leading proponent of general aviation, has had a dramatic impact on the continued growth of the aviation industry in Kansas and throughout the United States;

Whereas Russ Meyer was one of the principal architects of the General Aviation Revitalization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-298; 108 Stat. 1552);

Whereas Russ Meyer was instrumental in the development of the "Be A Pilot Program", which has resulted in tens of thousands of new pilots and contributed more than \$200,000,000 to the United States economy through general aviation operations;

Whereas Russ Meyer was the originator of the Citation Special Olympics Airlift, in which hundreds of owners of Citation aircrafts transport athletes from around the country to the Special Olympics National Games; and

Whereas Russ Meyer will join fellow residents of Kansas Olive Beech and Walter Beech, Lloyd Stearman, Clyde Cessna, Amelia Earhart, and Joe Engle in the National Aviation Hall of Fame: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends Russ Meyer for being inducted into the National Aviation Hall of Fame;

(2) recognizes the achievements of Russ Meyer during his lifetime of service to the aviation industry; and

(3) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to Russ Meyer.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1908. Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 2997, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

SA 1909. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1908 submitted by Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 2997, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1910. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment

SA 1908 submitted by Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 2997, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1911. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1908 submitted by Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 2997, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1912. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1908 submitted by Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 2997, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1913. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1908 submitted by Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 2997, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1914. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1908 submitted by Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 2997, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1915. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1908 submitted by Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 2997, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1916. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1908 submitted by Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 2997, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1917. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1908 submitted by Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 2997, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1918. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1908 submitted by Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 2997, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1919. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1908 submitted by Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 2997, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1920. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1908 submitted by Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 2997, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1921. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1908 submitted by Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 2997, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1922. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1908 submitted by Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 2997, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1923. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1908 submitted by Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 2997, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1924. Mr. McCAIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1908 submitted by Mr. KOHL (for himself and Mr. BROWNBACK) and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 2997, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.