

comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1408

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1408 intended to be proposed to S. 744, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1207. A bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1207

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Cameras in the Courtroom Act”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO TITLE 28.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 45 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

“§ 678. Televising Supreme Court proceedings

“The Supreme Court shall permit television coverage of all open sessions of the Court unless the Court decides, by a vote of the majority of justices, that allowing such coverage in a particular case would constitute a violation of the due process rights of 1 or more of the parties before the Court.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The chapter analysis for chapter 45 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

“678. Televising Supreme Court proceedings.”.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. COBURN, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. LEE, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 1210. A bill to allow a State to submit a declaration of intent to the Secretary of Education to combine certain funds to improve the academic achievement of students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1210

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS; PURPOSE; DEFINITIONS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Academic Partnerships Lead Us to Success Act” or the “A PLUS Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents; purpose; definitions.
- Sec. 2. Declaration of intent.
- Sec. 3. Transparency for results of public education.
- Sec. 4. Maintenance of funding levels spent by states on education.
- Sec. 5. Administrative expenses.
- Sec. 6. Equitable participation of private schools.

(c) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this Act are as follows:

- (1) To give States and local communities maximum flexibility to determine how to improve academic achievement and implement education reforms.
- (2) To reduce the administrative costs and compliance burden of Federal education programs in order to focus Federal resources on improving academic achievement.
- (3) To ensure that States and communities are accountable to the public for advancing the academic achievement of all students, especially disadvantaged children.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided, the terms used in this Act have the meanings given the terms in section 9101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801 et seq.).

(2) OTHER TERMS.—In this Act:

(A) ACCOUNTABILITY.—The term “accountability” means that public schools are answerable to parents and other taxpayers for the use of public funds and shall report student progress to parents and taxpayers regularly.

(B) DECLARATION OF INTENT.—The term “declaration of intent” means a decision by a State, as determined by State Authorizing Officials or by referendum, to assume full management responsibility for the expenditure of Federal funds for certain eligible programs for the purpose of advancing, on a more comprehensive and effective basis, the educational policy of such State.

(C) STATE.—The term “State” has the meaning given such term in section 1122(e) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6332(e)).

(D) STATE AUTHORIZING OFFICIALS.—The term “State Authorizing Officials” means the State officials who shall authorize the submission of a declaration of intent, and any amendments thereto, on behalf of the State. Such officials shall include not less than 2 of the following:

- (i) The governor of the State.
- (ii) The highest elected education official of the State, if any.
- (iii) The legislature of the State.

(E) STATE DESIGNATED OFFICER.—The term “State Designated Officer” means the person designated by the State Authorizing Officials to submit to the Secretary, on behalf of the State, a declaration of intent, and any amendments thereto, and to function as the point-of-contact for the State for the Secretary and others relating to any responsibilities arising under this Act.

SEC. 2. DECLARATION OF INTENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each State is authorized to submit to the Secretary a declaration of intent permitting the State to receive Federal funds on a consolidated basis to manage the expenditure of such funds to advance the educational policy of the State.

(b) PROGRAMS ELIGIBLE FOR CONSOLIDATION AND PERMISSIBLE USE OF FUNDS.—

(1) SCOPE.—A State may choose to include within the scope of the State’s declaration of intent any program for which Congress makes funds available to the State if the program is for a purpose described in the Elementary and Education Secondary Act of

1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301). A State may not include any program funded pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1400 et seq.).

(2) USES OF FUNDS.—Funds made available to a State pursuant to a declaration of intent under this Act shall be used for any educational purpose permitted by State law of the State submitting a declaration of intent.

(c) CONTENTS OF DECLARATION.—Each declaration of intent shall contain—

- (1) a list of eligible programs that are subject to the declaration of intent;
- (2) an assurance that the submission of the declaration of intent has been authorized by the State Authorizing Officials, specifying the identity of the State Designated Officer;
- (3) the duration of the declaration of intent;
- (4) an assurance that the State will use fiscal control and fund accounting procedures;
- (5) an assurance that the State will meet the requirements of applicable Federal civil rights laws in carrying out the declaration of intent and in consolidating and using the funds under the declaration of intent;
- (6) an assurance that in implementing the declaration of intent the State will seek to advance educational opportunities for the disadvantaged; and
- (7) a description of the plan for maintaining direct accountability to parents and other citizens of the State.

(d) DURATION.—The duration of the declaration of intent shall not exceed 5 years.

(e) REVIEW AND RECOGNITION BY THE SECRETARY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall review the declaration of intent received from the State Designated Officer not more than 60 days after the date of receipt of such declaration, and shall recognize such declaration of intent unless the declaration of intent fails to meet the requirements under subsection (c).

(2) RECOGNITION BY OPERATION OF LAW.—If the Secretary fails to take action within the time specified in paragraph (1), the declaration of intent, as submitted, shall be deemed to be approved.

(f) AMENDMENT TO DECLARATION OF INTENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The State Authorizing Officials may direct the State Designated Officer to submit amendments to a declaration of intent that is in effect. Such amendments shall be submitted to the Secretary and considered by the Secretary in accordance with subsection (e).

(2) AMENDMENTS AUTHORIZED.—A declaration of intent that is in effect may be amended to—

(A) expand the scope of such declaration of intent to encompass additional eligible programs;

(B) reduce the scope of such declaration of intent by excluding coverage of a Federal program included in the original declaration of intent;

(C) modify the duration of such declaration of intent; or

(D) such other modifications that the State Authorizing Officials deem appropriate.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment shall specify an effective date. Such effective date shall provide adequate time to assure full compliance with Federal program requirements relating to an eligible program that has been removed from the coverage of the declaration of intent by the proposed amendment.

(4) TREATMENT OF PROGRAM FUNDS WITHDRAWN FROM DECLARATION OF INTENT.—Beginning on the effective date of an amendment executed under paragraph (2)(B), each program requirement of each program removed from the declaration of intent shall apply to

the State's use of funds made available under the program.

SEC. 3. TRANSPARENCY FOR RESULTS OF PUBLIC EDUCATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) INFORMING THE PUBLIC ABOUT ASSESSMENT AND PROFICIENCY.—Each State operating under a declaration of intent under this Act shall inform parents and the general public regarding the student achievement assessment system, demonstrating student progress relative to the State's determination of student proficiency, as described in paragraph (2), for the purpose of accountability.

(2) ASSESSMENT AND STANDARDS.—Each State operating under a declaration of intent under this Act shall establish and implement a single system of academic standards and academic assessments, including the development of student proficiency goals. Such State may apply the academic assessments and standards described under section 1111 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311) or establish and implement different academic assessments and standards.

(b) ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM.—The State shall determine and establish an accountability system to ensure accountability under this Act.

(c) REPORT ON STUDENT PROGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the effective date of the declaration of intent, and annually thereafter, a State shall disseminate widely to parents and the general public a report that describes student progress. The report shall include—

(1) student performance data disaggregated in the same manner as data are disaggregated under section 1111(b)(3)(C)(xiii) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(3)(C)(xiii)); and

(2) a description of how the State has used Federal funds to improve academic achievement, reduce achievement disparities between various student groups, and improve educational opportunities for the disadvantaged.

SEC. 4. MAINTENANCE OF FUNDING LEVELS SPENT BY STATES ON EDUCATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For each State consolidating and using funds pursuant to a declaration of intent under this Act, for each school year of the declaration of intent, the aggregate amount of funds spent by the State on elementary and secondary education shall be not less than 90 percent of the aggregate amount of funds spent by the State on elementary and secondary education for the school year that coincides with the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) EXCEPTION.—

(1) STATE WAIVER CLAIM.—The requirement of subsection (a) may be waived by the State Authorizing Officials if the State having a declaration of intent in effect makes a determination, supported by specific findings, that uncontrollable or exceptional circumstances, such as a natural disaster or extreme contraction of economic activity, preclude compliance for a specified period, which may be extended. Such determination shall be presented to the Secretary by the State Designated Officer.

(2) ACTION BY THE SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall accept the State's waiver, as described in paragraph (1), if the State has presented evidence to support such waiver. The Secretary shall review the waiver received from the State Designated Officer not more than 60 days after the date of receipt. If the Secretary fails to take action within that time frame, the waiver, as submitted, shall be deemed to be approved.

SEC. 5. ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the amount that a State with

a declaration of intent may expend for administrative expenses shall be limited to 1 percent of the aggregate amount of Federal funds made available to the State through the eligible programs included within the scope of such declaration of intent.

(b) STATES NOT CONSOLIDATING FUNDS UNDER PART A OF TITLE I.—If the declaration of intent does not include within its scope part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.), the amount spent by the State on administrative expenses shall be limited to 3 percent of the aggregate amount of Federal funds made available to the State pursuant to such declaration of intent.

SEC. 6. EQUITABLE PARTICIPATION OF PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

Each State consolidating and using funds pursuant to a declaration of intent under this Act shall provide for the participation of private school children and teachers in the activities assisted under the declaration of intent in the same manner as participation is provided to private school children and teachers under section 9501 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7881).

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. HAGAN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. TESTER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. THUNE, Mr. BEGICH, Mr. PRYOR, Mr. ENZI, and Mr. HELLER):

S. 1212. A bill to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise today to re-introduce the bipartisan Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act with my friend Senator RISCH of the great state of Idaho. We are proud to be joined by a long list of original co-sponsors including Senators BENNET, HAGAN, KLOBUCHAR, TESTER, BARRASSO, CRAPO, THUNE, BEGICH, PRYOR, ENZI, and HELLER. I thank my colleagues for joining me in this bipartisan effort.

This bill would amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to adjust certain funding limitations and provide states with greater flexibility over the use of funds available for the creation and maintenance of public shooting ranges—designated public lands where people can both safely engage in sport shooting and responsibly sharpen their marksmanship skills.

The Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act established an excise tax on sporting equipment and ammunition, which provides each state with funds for a variety of wildlife restoration and hunter education and safety programs. Pittman-Robertson funds can also be used for the development and maintenance of shooting ranges. Unfortunately, however, current restrictions in the Pittman-Robertson Act disproportionately underfund the creation and maintenance of shooting range opportunities in comparison with other programs funded by the Act. In addition, opportunities for American sportsmen and women to safely engage

in recreational shooting on public lands have significantly declined in recent years.

In an effort to reverse this trend and establish, maintain and promote safe spaces for target practice and sport shooting, this legislation would allow states to allocate a greater proportion of their federal wildlife funds for these purposes.

To be clear, the bill would not allocate any new funding, it would not raise any fees or taxes, nor would it require states to apply their allocated Pittman-Robertson funds to shooting ranges. Rather, this bill gives states the flexibility to allocate their existing Pittman-Robertson funds in the manner they deem most beneficial by reducing the amount of other matching dollars States would have to raise and permits states to “bank” Pittman-Robertson funds for 5 years so that they can save enough money to build new shooting ranges.

Hunting and recreational shooting are an integral part of the Colorado way of life. The Target Practice and Marksmanship Training Support Act is designed to promote our western way of life, acknowledging not only the need for safe places for hunters and sportsmen to responsibly practice their sport, but also the jobs and economic growth supported by sport shooters in Colorado and throughout the nation. Hunting and outdoor sports generate billions of dollars each year and support countless American jobs. In addition to the improvements this bill contains, it is my hope that the public land management agencies will continue to work with the states, sportsmen and women, recreational shooting interests, local communities, and others so that these opportunities are safe and available.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 178—HONORING THE MEN AND WOMEN OF THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION ON THE OCCASION OF THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AGENCY

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 178

Whereas the Drug Enforcement Administration (referred to in this preamble as the “DEA”) was established by an Executive Order on July 1, 1973, and given the responsibility to coordinate all activities of the Federal government directly related to the enforcement of the drug laws of the United States;

Whereas the more than 9,500 men and women of the DEA, including special agents, intelligence analysts, diversion investigators, program analysts, forensic chemists, attorneys, and administrative support staff, as well as more than 2,000 task force officers and hundreds of vetted foreign drug law enforcement officers, serve our Nation with