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[ERRATA]

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A REPORT

OF THE

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING
UNITED STATES SENATE

PURSUANT TO

S. RES. 73, SEC. 19(c), FEBRUARY 13, 1995

Resolution Authorizing a Study of the Problems of the Aged and Aging

APRIL 30, 1998.—Ordered to be printed

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STATEMENT PAGE

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ITEM 4—DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

The Office of Postsecondary Education administers programs designed to encourage participation in higher education by providing support services and financial assistance to students.

In fiscal year 1997, an estimated $43 billion was made available to students through the student financial assistance programs authorized by Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended (HEA). There are no age restrictions for participation in the Title IV programs. For example, the Pell Grant Program, our largest grant program, made an estimated 3.6 million awards in award year 1995-1996 (the most recent year for which this information is available). Approximately 6.2 percent of the awardees were over age 40.

The Federal TRIO programs fund postsecondary education outreach and student support services that encourage individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to enter and complete college. Because age is not an eligibility criterion under most of these programs, data on the age of participants are not available.

In addition to these programs, the Office of Postsecondary Education's Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) supports innovative projects, which include some projects designed to meet the needs of older Americans. In fiscal year 1997, FIPSE funded a Dissemination Project entitled *Enhanced Intergenerational Learning* at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida. In 1984 Eckard College initiated a program that drew on the experience and wisdom of high-achieving retired men and women who would serve as "Living Library Resources" to supplement other educational resources available to professors and students. Periodic evaluations by faculty and students attest to the educational value of this program, and today an Academy of Senior Professionals at Eckard College includes some 200 high achieving individuals who offer their knowledge, perspectives, and experiences to enhance the learning experience. FIPSE is supporting Eckerd College to serve as mentor to six adapter institutions throughout the country to determine if this program can be replicated on other campuses.

Because jobs in today's workplace require an increasingly higher level of knowledge and skill, it is essential that all Americans have the opportunity for further education. The Administration is including two initiatives in its proposal to reauthorize the HEA that would encourage and assist working Americans improve their wages through lifelong learning.

(1) *Learning Anytime Anyplace Partnerships:* This program has been designed to encourage and enable working Americans to increase their levels of knowledge and skills by taking ad-