

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2

To extend programs and activities under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 19, 1999

Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. GREGG, Mr. LOTT, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. MACK, and Mr. COVERDELL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To extend programs and activities under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Educational Opportu-
5 nities Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) RETURNING CONTROL TO PARENTS.—Par-
9 ents have the primary responsibility for their chil-

1 dren’s education. Parents are the first and best edu-
2 cators of their children. Congress supports proposals
3 which provide parents greater control to choose new
4 and unique opportunities to meet the educational
5 need of their children.

6 (2) SUPPORTING EXCEPTIONAL TEACHERS.—
7 Every child should have an exceptional teacher in
8 the classroom. Congress supports rewarding teachers
9 for their successful efforts. Congress also believes in
10 schools being more accountable to parents. Every
11 parent deserves to know if their child is being taught
12 by a teacher who is highly qualified.

13 (3) SAFER AND MORE SECURE.—Quality in-
14 struction and learning can only occur in a first class
15 school that is safe and orderly. No child can learn
16 when schoolyards attract random violence or class-
17 rooms are interrupted by disruptive behavior. Con-
18 gress supports proposals that give schools the tools
19 the schools need to protect teachers and students,
20 remove disruptive influences, and create a positive
21 learning atmosphere.

22 (4) DOLLARS TO THE CLASSROOM.—Congress
23 rejects a one-size-fits-all approach to education.
24 America’s rural schools often face challenges quite
25 different than their urban counterparts. Congress

1 believes that students should be the primary bene-
2 ficiaries of educational spending. Congress supports
3 the goal of ensuring that the maximum amount of
4 Federal education dollars are spent directly in the
5 classrooms. State and local communities should have
6 the freedom to tailor their education plans and re-
7 forms according to the unique educational needs of
8 their children.

9 (5) BASIC ACADEMICS.—Success in education is
10 best achieved when instruction is focused on basic
11 academics and fundamental skills. Students should
12 no longer be subjected to untried and untested edu-
13 cational theories of instruction, rather our Nation’s
14 education efforts should be geared to proven meth-
15 ods of instruction.

16 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

17 The purpose of this Act is—

18 (1) to put our Nation’s children first by creat-
19 ing first class schools because nothing is more im-
20 portant to the future of our Nation than the edu-
21 cation of its children;

22 (2) to give parents and local schools more con-
23 trol over their schools;

1 (3) to make our Nation's schools safe and se-
2 cure, and return to an emphasis on basic academic
3 and quality instruction; and

4 (4) to support those exceptional teachers who
5 make a difference in the lives of our Nation's chil-
6 dren.

7 **SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES.**

8 The authorization of appropriations for, and the du-
9 ration of, each program or activity under the Elementary
10 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301
11 et seq.) is extended through fiscal year 2004.

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