I believe, in general, that it is in the best interest of the taxpayers for applicants and their proposals to be thoroughly screened, rather than blindly approved. This program, above all else, was designed to help small businesses, and I believe we should carefully review policy changes that are intended to expand a CDC's territory to make sure that the real goal—increasing access to the program for small businesses—is achieved.

The second provision gives the SBA the authority to reprogram unused funds to make up for the significant shortfall of appropriations for the 7(a) loan program. In its budget request for FY 2000, and again recently, the SBA estimated that the demand in this popular lending program would grow to a program level of $10.5 billion. Unfortunately, it was only appropriated enough to support a level of close to $9.8 billion. The Administration's estimate has proven to be more accurate than Congress anticipated, and the SBA needs additional funds to keep the program running throughout this fiscal year. This bill restores $500 million of the $700 million shortfall. I strongly support this provision and worked with Senator BOND to draft this legislation. I appreciate his cooperation and respectfully urge the appropriators in both the Senate and House to work with us.

Lastly, Mr. President, this bill also includes a technical change to the Historically Underutilized Business Zone small business contracting program (HUBZone program) administered by the SBA. The HUBZone program is designed to provide contracting opportunities in economically distressed areas of this country. One of the criteria for this program is that a small business must be located in a qualified census tract or nonmetropolitan county based on unemployment statistics from the Department of Labor and the Department of the Census.

As new data becomes available, there is a possibility that HUBZone firms would lose their eligibility, because the data could reflect that the census tract the firm is located in is technically no longer considered an economically depressed area. As ranking member of the Committee on Small Business and as a cosponsor of the original HUBZone law passed in 1997, I am concerned that when a particular area is no longer deemed HUBZone-eligible, small business owners in that area will lose the ability to bid on contracting opportunities under the program with little or no warning. This will be disruptive to the program and could discourage participation by qualified small businesses.

Because it is better policy to provide both small firms and the SBA with some sort of warning before a firm is deemed ineligible, this amendment is intended to allow a HUBZone firm located in an economically depressed area that has been redesignated by either Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) or Census data, to remain eligible under the program for three additional years. Thus the firm is put on notice that contracting opportunities under the program may not be available in the future, and the business is given time to plan for this change.

While I understand only a handful of firms were affected by a change in designated areas when new BLS data was released last year, I support the chairman's effort to ensure that no firm is taken by surprise this year. I am pleased that Senator BYRD and his staff worked together with my staff to come up with appropriate language for this amendment.

In closing, I want to thank my colleagues for supporting this bill. If, as expected, it is enacted, they will have improved the business climate and taken a few more steps to ensure that small businesses have access to capital and expanded procurement opportunities.

Mr. ALLARD. I ask unanimous consent the committee amendment be agreed to, the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statement relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee amendment, as amended, was agreed to.

The bill (H.R. 2614), as amended, was read the third time and passed.

SCHOOL GOVERNANCE CHARTER AMENDMENT ACT OF 2000

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of H.R. 4387, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4387) to provide that the School Governance Charter Amendment Act of 2000 shall take effect upon the date such Act is ratified by the voters of the District of Columbia.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ALLARD. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4387) was read the third time and passed.

THE SMITHSONIAN ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY SUBMILLIMETER ARRAY ON MAUNA KEA AT HILO, HAWAII

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Rules Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 2498, and the Senate then proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2498) to authorize the Smithsonian Institutions to plan, design, construct and equip laboratory, administrative, and support space to house base operations for the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory Submillimeter Array located on Mauna Kea at Hilo, Hawaii.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ALLARD. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 2498) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 2498

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

SECTION 1. FACILITY AUTHORIZED.

The Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution is authorized to plan, design, construct, and equip laboratory, administrative, and support space to house base operations for the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory Submillimeter Array located on Mauna Kea at Hilo, Hawaii.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution to carry out this Act, $2,000,000 for fiscal year 2001, and $2,500,000 for fiscal year 2002, which shall remain available until expended.

MAKING TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO THE STATUS OF CERTAIN LAND HELD IN TRUST FOR THE MISSISSIPPI BAND OF CHOCTAW INDIANS

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 595, S. 1967.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1967) to make technical corrections to the status of certain land held in trust for the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, to take certain land into trust for that Band, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. ALLARD. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 1967) was read the third time and passed, as follows:

S. 1967

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

SECTION 1. STATUS OF CERTAIN INDIAN LANDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

(1) all land taken in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians on or after December 23, 1944, shall be part of the Mississippi Choctaw Indian Reservation;

(2) all land held in fee by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians located within the boundaries of the State of Mississippi, as shown in the report entitled ''Report of Fee Lands owned by the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians'', dated September 28, 1999, on file in the Office of the Superintendent, Choctaw Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, is hereby declared to be held by the United States in trust for the benefit of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians; and

(3) land made part of the Mississippi Choctaw Indian Reservation after December 23, 1944, shall not be considered to be part of the ''initial reservation'' of the tribe for the purposes of section 20(b)(1)(B)(ii) of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2719(b)(1)(B)(ii)).

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to alter the application or the requirements of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) with respect to any lands held by or for the benefit of the Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians regardless of when such lands were acquired.

DESIGNATING MONDAY, JUNE 19, 2000, AS NATIONAL EAT DINNER WITH YOUR CHILDREN DAY

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to immediate consideration of S. Res. 323, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 323) designating Monday, June 19, 2000, as ''National Eat Dinner with Your Children Day.''

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the Senate resolution.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of this resolution to designate Monday, June 19, 2000 as ''National Eat Dinner with Your Children Day,'' cosponsored by Senators GRASSLEY, LEVIN, JEFFORDS, BRYAN, KENNEDY, MURRAY, MOYNIHAN, SESSIONS, DEWINE, HELMS, THURMOND, SCHUMER and INOUYE. A similar resolution has been introduced in the House of Representatives by Representatives RANGEL and MCCOLLUM.

In addition to designating June 19—the day after Father's Day—as National Eat Dinner with Your Children Day, the resolution also recognizes that eating dinner as a family is a critical step toward raising healthy, drug-free children and it encourages families to eat together as often as possible.

The idea for this resolution grew out of research by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse at Columbia University, CASA, on teen attitudes about drug use. For four years running, the CASA teen survey has highlighted the power that parents have over their children's decisions regarding drug use, showing that children and teens who routinely eat dinner with their families are far less likely to use illegal drugs, cigarettes or alcohol:

Teens who rarely eat dinner with their parents are 72 percent more likely than the average teen to use drugs, cigarettes and alcohol.

Teens that almost always eat with their families are 31 percent less likely to smoke, drink or do drugs than the average teen.

Of course, having dinner as a family is a proxy for spending time with kids. It is not the meat, potatoes and vegetables that alter a child's likelihood to use drugs, it is the everyday time spent with mom and dad—the two most important role models in most kids lives.

I do not believe that this resolution will be the silver bullet to solving this nation's drug problem. But I do feel these statistics are telling. CASA President Joe Califano talks about ''Parent Power.'' It is important that parents know the power they have over their children's decisions and the power that they have to deter kids from drinking, smoking or using drugs. For example, nearly half of teens who have never used marijuana say that it was lessons learned from their parents that helped them to say no.

Unfortunately, many parents are pessimistic about their ability to keep their kids drug-free; 45 percent say that they believe their child will use an illegal drug in the future.

This pessimism is often reinforced by news reports that indicate that while most parents say that they have talked to their kids about the dangers of drugs, only a minority of teens say that they have learned a lot from their family about the dangers of drugs. Rather than be discouraged by this apparent disconnect, I think it should teach us an important lesson: that talking to kids about drugs ought not just be a one-time conversation. It should be an ongoing discussion that includes asking children where they are going, who they are going out with, whether there will be adult supervision, etc. These lessons can also grow out of spending time with a child, helping that child to learn how to work through problems or rise above peer pressure, and parents setting a good example for kids.

Keeping up on children's lives—including knowing who their friends are and what they are doing after school—is critical. The experts tell us that some of the tell-tale signs that a child is drinking or using illicit drugs are behavior changes, change in social circle, lack of interest in hobbies and isolation from family. These changes can be subtle; picking up on them can require a watchful eye.

Eating dinner as a family will not guarantee that a child will remain drug-free. But family dinners are an important way for parents to instill their values in their children as well as remain connected with the challenges that children face and help them learn how to cope with problems without resorting to smoking, drinking or using drugs.

I sincerely hope that each one of my colleagues join me to support this resolution to send a message to parents that they can play a powerful role in shaping the decisions their kids make regarding drinking, smoking and drug use.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am submitting, along with Senators BIDEN, THURMOND, BRYAN, JEFFORDS, MOYNIHAN, HELMS, LEVIN, DEWINE, KENNEDY, SESSIONS, MURRAY, SCHUMER, and INOUYE, a bi-partisan resolution designating Monday, June 19, 2000 as ''Eat Dinner with your Children Day.'' We also join with our House colleagues Congressmen RANGEL and MCCOLLUM as they take the lead on this bipartisan issue in the House of Representatives. This resolution recognizes the benefits of eating dinner as a family, especially as a way to keep children from using illegal drugs, tobacco, and alcohol.

Last October I came to the floor seeking to increase awareness of the important roles parents play in their children's lives. A recent study by the National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse, or CASA reinforced our understanding of the importance of this role. CASA is a national resource that monitors and reports on drug abuse trends, risks, and solutions affecting all Americans. Last September they released their annual back to school survey on the attitudes of teens and parents regarding substance abuse. The survey stressed how essential it is for parents to get involved in their children's lives. The survey indicates that kids actually do listen to their parents. In fact, 42 percent of the teenagers who have never used marijuana credit their parents with the decision. Unfortunately, too many parents—45 percent—believe their teenagers' use of drugs is inevitable. In addition, 25 percent of the parents said they have little influence over their teen's substance abuse.

But the kids have got it right. Parents are critical. So are families. That is why the sponsors of this bill are happy to work with Joe Califano, the head of CASA, to help remind all of us of this simple fact.

The family unit is the backbone of this country. Solutions to our drug problems involve all of us working together. Parents and communities must be engaged and I am committed to help making that happen. Parents need to provide a strong moral context to help our young people know how to make the right choices. They need to know how to say ''no,'' that saying no is okay, that saying no to drugs is the right thing to do—not just the safe or healthier thing, but the right thing. I urge our colleagues to join us.

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motion to reconsider be laid upon