

The witnesses looked at each other and said, we don't have to write you four letters—we can write you one letter because we agree.

And Senator Bennet, who was on the Committee at the time, said, if that's true, and if there's that much agreement, why don't we do what you recommend?

So we started talking with other Senators, students, college administrators, and other experts about how to simplify the FAFSA.

Simplifying the FAFSA started gaining traction.

First, the Obama Administration allowed families to fill out the FAFSA using their tax information from the previous year so they could apply to school in the fall, rather than having to wait until spring.

Second, the Trump Administration has put the FAFSA application on a phone app. I was at Sevier County High School in November and saw students zipping through the FAFSA on their iPhones.

Third, last year the Senate passed legislation Senator Murray and I introduced that allows students to answer up to 22 questions on the FAFSA with just one click and will stop requiring students to give the same information to the federal government twice. We are working with the House to see if we can make that a law this year.

The final step should be our bipartisan solution that will reduce the number of questions on the FAFSA from 108 to 15–25 questions.

In 2015, Senator Bennet and I, along with Senators Booker, Burr, King, Enzi, Warner, and Isakson, introduced bipartisan legislation that would have reduced the number of FAFSA questions to two. But after discussions with college administrators and states, we realized we needed to keep some questions or states and schools would have to create their own additional forms that students would need to fill out.

Over the last four years, we have improved that legislation and now believe we can move forward with bipartisan legislation that would reduce the FAFSA to 15–25 questions.

Here is what all of these improvements mean to the 20 million families that fill out the FAFSA every year:

One: Reduce the 108 questions to 15–25.

Two: Dramatically decrease the number of students selected for verification, because students' tax data would automatically transfer to the Department of Education which would greatly reduce the need for verification.

Three: Simplifying the form and the verification process should encourage more students to apply for federal aid, which will ensure that eligible students receive the Pell they deserve.

Four: Students can now complete the FAFSA on their iPhone.

Five: Families can now apply for federal student aid sooner because they can use information from their last year's tax return; and

Six: Students can find out as early as eighth grade how much Pell grant funding they may be eligible for.

And seven: there is a \$6 billion advantage to taxpayers—that is the amount the Department of Education estimates is issued in improper payments every year.

These are seven huge advantages and are the result of five years of hearings and work by senators, and work by both the Obama and Trump Administrations. Bipartisan discussions have produced a lot of agreement on simplifying the number of questions, so the purpose of this hearing is to learn what we need to know before taking the final step.

I also hear from students—can you make repaying student loans simpler?

A large number of Republican and Democrat senators have suggested streamlining

the nine ways to repay student loans, including Senators Warner, King, Rubio, Merkley, Burr and Baldwin.

I have proposed having just two ways to repay student loans:

One, a plan based on a borrower's income, which would never require the borrower to make payments of more than ten percent of his or her discretionary income. If a borrower wanted to pay off their loan, the other option would be a 10-year payment plan, with equal monthly payments, similar to a 10-year mortgage. And under both options, a borrower's payment would come directly from their paycheck.

This proposal would make it easier for more than 9 million borrowers annually, and any of the current 42 million borrowers with outstanding federal loan debt, to take advantage of a simpler and more affordable way to repay their loans.

And from administrators I hear—can't you do something about the administrative burden that wastes time and money that could instead be spent on students?

To help administrators overwhelmed by what the Kirwan-Zeppos report called "a jungle of red tape," I am proposing we simplify federal regulations that take time and money away from educating students.

There are other steps this Committee is considering to make college worth students' time and money, but we also have the opportunity to greatly simplify the "chilling effect" applying for federal aid has on students today.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING ED SCULLY

● Mr. COONS. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the life and service of a distinguished Delawarean, veteran of the U.S. Army for 27 years, businessman, husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and brother, Ed Scully.

I got to know Ed during my time as New Castle County executive and worked with him on a variety of issues facing the aviation industry.

Ed was known for his persistence during my time in the Senate when it came to bringing and keeping good, high-paying jobs in Delaware, and in particular, he was passionate about helping veterans in our State get jobs in the aviation industry.

After graduating from Wilmington, Delaware's Salesianum School, Ed joined the U.S. Army in February 1961. Ed was no ordinary soldier; he joined the Special Forces and earned his Green Beret. He was promoted five times during his 27 years of service and retired at the rank of lieutenant colonel. Ed received many awards and decorations, including the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star with Valor, the Purple Heart, the Joint Services Meritorious Service Medal, the Air Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Special Forces Tab, the Parachute Badge, the Senior Aviation Badge, the Vietnam Jump Wings, and the Special Forces Combat Patch.

After attending flight school, aviation became Ed's passion, and he spent the rest of his life as a military and civilian aviation expert.

After he retired from the military and returned to Delaware, he began a second career at Summit Aviation, a 500-acre airport in Middletown, DE, where he continued supporting America's men and women in uniform. Summit was an early supporter of the Delaware State Police Aviation Branch, building a hangar and providing all aircraft maintenance. To this day, Summit is a top employer of veterans in the state. Ed retired from Summit in June, 2013, after 25 years. Prior to his retirement, Summit named their new modification center after him: the Scully Modification Center. There are few people who can say that they have dedicated their lives to their country, but Ed certainly can.

Sadly, Ed passed away on December 24, 2018, and was buried in Arlington National Cemetery, but he leaves behind an indelible legacy and one he should be most proud of: his family. Ed is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 45 years, Patricia, his brothers Robert and Thomas, his daughters, Suzanne Gubich, Corynn Ciber, Kristin Stein, his son Edward Scully IV, and his grandchildren and great-grandchildren; Danielle, Cole, Kyle, Maxwell, Julia, Connor, Ashton, and Kailani.

I am grateful for Ed's service to our State and our Nation, and I hope that this tribute to his memory helps his family and friends know what an impact his life made. ●

##### THE GULLAH SOCIETY'S ANCESTRAL REBURIAL CEREMONY

● Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, today I would like to commemorate and recognize a weekend-long event happening in a place I hold very near and dear to my heart, my hometown, Charleston, SC. In 2013, 36 bodies were discovered and unearthed near Anson Street in downtown Charleston. After years of further historical, archeological and DNA analysis research, we have learned much more about the stories of these men, women, and children.

Buried between 1750 and 1800, these people of African descent—some born in Africa, others born in South Carolina—most likely were enslaved individuals who helped build the nearby port of Charleston. This weekend, 6 years after unearthing these individuals and more than 250 years after they were buried, the Gullah Society and the Charleston community are coming together to hold a naming ceremony, official release of DNA ancestry results, a reburial ceremony, and an ecumenical service.

It is the hope of the Gullah Society, a hope shared with myself and many fellow Charlestonians, that we lay these individuals to rest the proper way, as well as remember, celebrate, and honor them. While we recognize these 36 ancestral sons and daughters of South Carolina, we also will have a chance to remember all others whose graves have been lost and all others