

Agenda 104 process in which we examined the various programs within our Committee's jurisdiction to determine their effectiveness. Our Committee will be working to mark up this bill throughout the month of May, and will hopefully send a bill to the floor for consideration early this summer.

We drafted this bill starting from the position that the current Federal Work Force Preparation System is fundamentally flawed and in need of reform. There are simply too many programs, too much bureaucracy, too much duplication, and too much waste of taxpayer money.

The CAREERS bill is drafted based on two overarching principles: quality and local control. For many years, I have been talking to anyone who would listen about the need to institute quality into the Federal training system. Briefly, CAREERS focuses on providing quality training services by:

Simplifying the entire system from more than 100 programs into just four that we believe should be the focus of Federal involvement in job training: adult employment and training; adult education; vocational rehabilitation; and, career education and training for youths;

Giving States and communities the maximum amount of responsibility to run their own programs;

Because we believe that education and literacy hold the key to maintaining the long-term economic competitive position of the United States, we require that these issues are a key focus of the Federal work force preparation system; and

Demanding results in the form of high standards for improvement of local training and education systems.

With regard to local control: let me be clear, we are giving States and localities more power to run Federal job training programs than they have ever had in recent history. Governors will have unprecedented power to coordinate all Work Force preparation State level activities. As a State's highest ranking elected official, a Governor is the key to the job training system in every State.

It is at the local level, however, where the most dramatic change takes place. Work force development boards led by businesses will coordinate the entire system in communities around the Nation. They will create one-stop sites to ensure coordinated access to all local work force preparation programs. They will operate programs for adult training and severely disabled adults, as well as work with schools, libraries, literacy providers, and others to ensure the entire training system works together within the community.

As you can see, this is a tremendous undertaking and truly a dramatic reform in the way the Federal Government does business in job training. The CAREERS bill also undertakes enormous reforms in the higher education arena as well by eliminating SPREs (State Postsecondary Review Entities) and privatizing the SALLIE MAE and CONNIE LEE corporations.

Our final note. We have looked carefully at other approaches that would completely turn this program over to States in a modified version of "revenue sharing." As I have said many times, I do not support revenue sharing because we have no revenue to share. What I support is outlined in this bill: four consolidated programs, additional flexibility for States

and communities, but we must continue the Federal role in demanding results in the form of broad standards and goals to ensure accountability for this important investment of taxpayer dollars.

Again, I salute the hard work of Committee members to come up with this bill, and I look forward to working with the Administration and Committee Democrats to develop a bill that truly reforms our Nation's job training system.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "CONSOLIDATED AND REFORMED EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND REHABILITATION SYSTEMS ACT" THE "CAREERS ACT"

HON. STEVE GUNDERSON

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. GUNDERSON. Mr. Speaker, at a time when the skills levels of the American workforce are more important than ever before to U.S. competitiveness, this country's programs designed to prepare its workers are seriously fragmented and duplicative. Because education and training programs have been developed independently over many years, there is no national strategy for a coherent workforce preparation and development system.

As we all know by now, the U.S. GAO has identified 163 different Federal programs, totaling \$20 billion, which offer some form of job training and/or employment assistance to youth and adults in the United States—yet over the past several years we have continued to add to this number. A major focus of any reform effort must be to eliminate unnecessary duplication and fragmentation in these systems, and at the same time, provide States and localities with the flexibility needed to build on successful existing programs and initiate change where appropriate.

Today we are introducing the Careers Act—a multi-tiered job training reform effort that: Streamlines workforce preparation programs at the Federal level through consolidation of similar programs; and provides flexibility needed by States and local areas to further reform State and local systems—building on existing successful programs, encouraging change where such change is needed, and involving the private sector at all levels in development of the system.

This proposal builds very closely on two bills that Committee Republicans introduced last Congress—H.R. 2943, the National Workforce Preparation and Development Act; and H.R. 4407, the original Careers Act. It also follows through on legislation we introduced earlier this year, H.R. 511, which pledged significant reform in this area. With the Careers Act, we are going much further with reform than anyone dreamed was possible during last Congress.

Specifically, the Careers Act consolidates well over 100 Federal education and training programs (as listed by the GAO) into 4 consolidation grants to States and local communities. The four consolidation grants include: A Youth Workforce Preparation Consolidation Grant—consolidating Vocational Education; School-to-Work; and JTPA's Summer Youth Employment, Year-Round, and Youth Fair

Chance Programs with programs would be built on a model integrating academic, vocational, and workbased learning, and enhancing State and local employer input in the design/development/delivery of programs; a Vocational Rehabilitation Consolidation Grant; an Adult Training Consolidation Grant (including programs for Disadvantaged Adults and for Dislocated Workers); and an Adult Education and Literacy Consolidation Grant (including all Adult Education and Literacy programs). The legislation will provide maximum authority to States and localities in the design and operation of their workforce preparation system; drive money to States—and down to local communities to the actual points of service delivery; require the involvement of local employers in the design and implementation of local systems—through employer-led local Workforce Development Boards; require that service delivery be provided through a one-stop delivery structure; and we even allow the Secretary of Labor and States to use a portion of their funding to establish employer loan accounts for the training of incumbent workers.

Further, the legislation privatizes 2 existing government sponsored enterprises, Sallie Mae and Connie Lee—in the spirit of reduced Federal control for programs that no longer need Government support.

There is no doubt that future U.S. competitiveness is dependent on the skill levels of our workers. In addition to global competition, technological advances and corporate realignments highlight the need to focus on worker preparation. The future of U.S. competitiveness really rests on what I describe as a "3-legged stool." We have already accomplished the construction of the 1st leg—tearing down barriers to trade through the enactment of NAFTA and GATT. We are currently working on the 2d leg—providing tax and other incentives for modernization of the workplace. Finally, the 3d leg, and probably the most difficult to strengthen and uphold, but one that is imperative to succeed, is that of investing in and strengthening the education and training of our citizenry.

I think that the Careers Act accomplishes the building and strengthening of this "3d leg". It focuses on the workforce preparation and literacy needs of youth, adults, and individuals with disabilities. I hope that we will succeed in seeing its enactment this year.

FRANKING REDUCTION ACT OF 1995

HON. BOB GOODLATTE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 11, 1995

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the Franking Reduction Act of 1995, legislation that is necessary if we are to truly reform this House. The bloated franking budget has become nothing more than a blatantly abused political advertising slush fund, and it has got to stop. My bill, which has received bipartisan support, would slash the \$31 million franking budget in half.

The past 100 days have seen the passage of several substantial in-House reforms, proving to the American people our commitment to real change. The American people are getting the message that real change is finally happening here in Washington, which is precisely