

upon society into contributors to society. Like the library and museum portion of H.R. 1720, these provisions were included in the CAREERS legislation which is stalled in the Senate. It deserves our support.

PRIVATIZING SALLIE MAE

Sallie Mae, the Student Loan Marketing Association, is a Government-sponsored enterprise, owned by private stockholders, that provides a secondary market for student loan financing. When President Clinton advanced his Direct Lending initiative, it limited Sallie Mae's traditional market, and impacted Sallie Mae stockholders.

I oppose President Clinton's direct lending plan because, over 7 years, it costs taxpayers \$1 billion more to provide the same number of student loans as private markets. And while the President has sought to have direct lending replace private markets, Congress has limited the growth of direct lending. Nevertheless, direct lending is a fact of life today. Its existence unfairly impacts the thousands of senior citizens, private pensions, and other Americans who own stock in Sallie Mae.

Allowing Sallie Mae stockholders the opportunity to vote to privatize is simply a matter of fairness. The legislation structures any privatization carefully, so taxpayers and citizens alike get their money's worth.

PARTIAL RESOLUTION OF 85-15

This legislation also contains a partial resolution of the so-called 85-15 issue. The 85-15 policy enacted by Congress has been implemented retroactively on for-profit institutions of higher learning. Such schools are made responsible for their compliance with regulations before they were published on May 1, 1994. This kind of retroactive enforcement is simply un-American.

Our bill ends retroactive, preregulatory enforcement of the 85-15 rule.

Unfortunately, H.R. 1720 does not make a further necessary reform which I support. The measure does not exclude Federal training money from the 15 percent of a for-profit school's income coming from sources other than the Higher Education Act. As we all know, Federal training programs are not authorized by the Higher Education Act. They are authorized under other legislation. But the Department of Education has been enforcing 85-15 contrary to the will and intent of Congress. I am confident we will revisit this issue.

SUPPORT OF 1720

I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 1720. It is good for libraries and museums, for our children and our seniors, for students, and for many of our excellent for-profit educational institutions. Thank you, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROBERTS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1720, the Government-Sponsored Enterprise Privatization Act of 1996. In particular, I am pleased that H.R. 1720 includes the privatization of the Student Loan Marketing Association, or Sallie Mae.

Sallie Mae has fulfilled the mission of its Federal charter. However, as a for-profit, stockholder owned company, Sallie Mae wishes to continue to operate without the support of U.S. taxpayers and without restrictions from the U.S. Government. Sallie Mae's interest in privatization clearly shows that it remains committed to continuing its strong record in providing student loan servicing for hundreds of thousands of Americans.

H.R. 1720 is an excellent example of how a properly managed Government program can use Federal resources to serve the American public and successfully make the transition to private business without Government assistance.

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. GREENE of Utah). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California [Mr. MCKEON], that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1720, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds of those having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to reorganize the Student Loan Marketing Association, to privatize the College Construction Loan Insurance Association, to amend the Museum Services Act to include provisions improving and consolidating Federal library service programs, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCKEON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1720.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

WATER DESALINATION ACT OF 1996

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 811) to authorize research into the desalinization and reclamation of water and authorize a program for States, cities, or qualifying agencies desiring to own and operate a water desalinization or reclamation facility to develop such facilities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 811

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Water Desalination Act of 1996".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act:

(1) DESALINATION OR DESALTING.—The terms "desalination" or "desalting" mean the use of any process or technique for the removal and, when feasible, adaptation to beneficial use, of organic and inorganic elements and compounds from saline or biologically impaired waters, by itself or in conjunction with other processes.

(2) SALINE WATER.—The term "saline water" means sea water, brackish water, and other mineralized or chemically impaired water.

(3) UNITED STATES.—The term "United States" means the States of the United

States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the territories and possessions of the United States.

(4) USUABLE WATER.—The term "usable water" means water of a high quality suitable for environmental enhancement, agricultural, industrial, municipal, and other beneficial consumptive or nonconsumptive uses.

(5) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF RESEARCH AND STUDIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to determine the most cost-effective and technologically efficient means by which usable water can be produced from saline water or water otherwise impaired or contaminated, the Secretary is authorized to award grants and to enter into contracts, to the extent provided in advance in appropriation Acts, to conduct, encourage, and assist in the financing of research to develop processes for converting saline water into water suitable for beneficial uses. Awards of research grants and contracts under this section shall be made on the basis of a competitive, merit-reviewed process. Research and study topics authorized by this section include—

- (1) investigating desalination processes;
- (2) ascertaining the optimum mix of investment and operating costs;
- (3) determining the best designs for different conditions of operation;
- (4) investigating methods of increasing the economic efficiency of desalination processes through dual-purpose co-facilities with other processes involving the use of water;
- (5) conducting or contracting for technical work, including the design, construction, and testing of pilot systems and test beds, to develop desalting processes and concepts;
- (6) studying methods for the recovery of byproducts resulting from desalination to offset the costs of treatment and to reduce environmental impacts from those byproducts; and
- (7) salinity modeling and toxicity analysis of brine discharges, cost reduction strategies for constructing and operating desalination facilities, and the horticultural effects of desalinated water used for irrigation.

(b) PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS AND REPORTS TO THE CONGRESS.—As soon as practicable and within three years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall recommend to Congress desalination demonstration projects or full-scale desalination projects to carry out the purposes of this Act and to further evaluate and implement the results of research and studies conducted under the authority of this section. Recommendations for projects shall be accompanied by reports on the engineering and economic feasibility of proposed projects and their environmental impacts.

(c) AUTHORITY TO ENGAGE OTHERS.—In carrying out research and studies authorized in this section, the Secretary may engage the necessary personnel, industrial or engineering firms, Federal laboratories, water resources research and technology institutes, other facilities, and educational institutions suitable to conduct investigations and studies authorized under this section.

(d) ALTERNATIVE TECHNOLOGIES.—In carrying out the purposes of this Act, the Secretary shall ensure that at least three separate technologies are evaluated and demonstrated for the purposes of accomplishing desalination.

SEC. 4. DESALINATION DEMONSTRATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In order to further demonstrate the feasibility of desalination processes investigated either independently or in research conducted pursuant to section 3,