

child care services is central to their ability to attend college. Campus-based child care is conveniently located, available at the hours that fit students' schedules and often available at a lower cost than community-based child care centers. Student parents rate access to campus-based child care as an important factor affecting their college enrollment. Unfortunately, such services are often in very short supply, particularly for low-income parents who may find the cost of existing services prohibitive.

Moreover, in order to meet the high demand for child care created by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, States may divert funds away from programs currently providing campus-based child care services for low-income students and use the funds to provide child care to welfare recipients, because educational activities do not count as work under the act. This may leave students with less access to child care services. If we want to fulfill the goals of the welfare reform act and ensure that families are able to remain financially self-sufficient, we need to ensure that low-income parents have access to higher education and affordable and convenient child care. This is crucial given that people who receive public assistance and then complete college are far more likely to leave welfare permanently than those who do not.

There is no question that a person's earning potential increases dramatically with a college degree. According to the Census Bureau, in 1990 the average income for high school graduates was almost \$18,000. Those who had 1 to 3 years of college education, however, earned an average of \$24,000. And those who graduated from college received an average salary of \$31,000.

Higher education is crucial to getting a job in today's global job market. More than half of the new jobs that have been and will be created between 1995 and 2000 will require education beyond high school. While nearly 40 percent of American jobs are currently in low-skill occupations, only 27 percent will fall in that category by the year 2000. Over the same period, high-skill occupations will grow from 24 to 41 percent of the work force. Getting the skills necessary to meet these market demands simply requires higher and higher levels of educational achievement.

For many low-income students who are parents, the availability of campus-based child care is key to their ability to receive a higher education and thus achieve the American dream. Student parents are more likely to remain in school, and to graduate sooner and at a higher rate if they have campus-based child care. Child care services are particularly critical for older students who choose to go back to school to get their degree or to improve their skills through advanced education. This is especially important in today's economy

where people need to continuously train and retrain in order to meet the demands of high-technology jobs.

Children placed in campus-based child care also reap numerous benefits, given its very high quality. In fact, children in high-quality child care exhibit higher earnings as adults, higher rates of secondary school graduation, lower rates of teen pregnancy, and a reduced need for special education or costly social services. We also know that quality child care is cost efficient—the public saves \$7 for every \$1 invested in child care.

The bill we are introducing today will help bring the American dream within the reach of numerous American parents who need child care in order to attend college. The CAMPUS Act will amend title IV of the Higher Education Act to help provide campus-based child care to low-income parents seeking a college degree. Under the bill, the Secretary of Education will award 3-year grants to institutions of higher education to support or help establish a campus-based child care program serving the needs of low-income student parents. The Secretary will award \$60 million in grants—equal to 1 percent of total Pell grant funding—based on an application submitted by the institution, and the grant amount will be linked to the institution's Pell grant funding level.

Under the bill, Pell grant recipients will be eligible for child care, to ensure that services target low-income students. In 1995-96, there were approximately 3.6 million Pell grant recipients, and almost 17,000 Maine residents received Pell grants. Students typically qualify for Pell grants if their income is under \$30,000 per year. This bill will make a true difference in the lives of many low-income students who need child care to attend school.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation which will truly make a difference in the lives of numerous American parents who wish to attend college.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 224

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Montana [Mr. BURNS] was added as a cosponsor of S. 224, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit covered beneficiaries under the military health care system who are also entitled to Medicare to enroll in the Federal Employees Health Benefits Program, and for other purposes.

S. 496

At the request of Mr. CHAFEE, the name of the Senator from New Jersey [Mr. TORRICELLI] was added as a cosponsor of S. 496, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit against income tax to individuals who rehabilitate historic homes or who are the first purchasers of rehabilitated historic homes for use as a principal residence.

S. 1096

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Alabama [Mr. SHELBY] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1096, a bill to restructure the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes.

S. 1103

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania [Mr. SPECTER] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1103, a bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to authorize Federal participation in financing of projects to demonstrate the feasibility of deployment of magnetic levitation transportation technology, and for other purposes.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 30

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. INHOFE] and the Senator from Georgia [Mr. CLELAND] were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 30, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the Republic of China should be admitted to multilateral economic institutions, including the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR APPROPRIATIONS ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1998

GRAHAM AMENDMENT NO. 1084

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. GRAHAM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill (S. 1061) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1998, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of the bill, insert the following:

TITLE —NATIONAL COMMISSION ON PUBLIC EDUCATION FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION

SEC. 01. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The condition of our Nation's public pre-kindergarten through grade 12 school facilities play an enormous role in the educational development of our children as there is a relationship between the condition of school facilities and student achievement. In addition to their educational value, neighborhood public schools that are structurally safe and sound, and well-supported by the community can act as important civic and social institutions within our communities.

(2) The financing of public pre-kindergarten through grade 12 school construction and renovation has historically been primarily a local function. Typically, tax-exempt bond issues must be approved through a referendum reliant on local property taxes and are sold to finance capital spending. However, recent national trends indicate a decrease in bond referenda approval to pay for school construction projects. The General Accounting Office reports that 33 percent of school districts have had an average of 2 bond issues fail in the past 10 years.