

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who yields time?

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, how much time do I have?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 1 minute 50 seconds.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I yield the remainder of my time to myself.

I have noticed over the years with my good friend from Massachusetts, that the weaker his arguments, the louder the volume. He exceeded all my expectations today.

My Democratic friends have a number of amendments that will be coming up for votes shortly. As I have pointed out this week, we will be considering the reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act this Congress. The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions has already held several hearings on the ESEA, and many more are in the works. I will oppose all amendments that are relevant to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. I will do this, not because I am callous to these issues, in fact, I've championed them, but because these amendments should be discussed in the normal committee process. I will, however, support amendments that are designed to let local educators direct more money to special education. The reauthorization of special ed occurred last year, and it is open to have more money. The amendment I introduced on behalf of Senator LOTT and others will provide local communities with a choice regarding how much they will use their share of the \$1.2 billion included in last year's omnibus appropriations bill for education.

Under our amendments, a school system may use the funds either to hire teachers or to support activities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. What fairer system can you have under the circumstances? That is all we are doing. We are saying give them an option, give the locals an option: More teachers or more money for special ed. Our amendment will permit local school officials themselves to decide whether they need more money to educate children with disabilities or whether they need funds to hire more teachers.

In Vermont, I am betting the funds will be used for IDEA. Time and again, Vermonters have made clear to me that special education funding is far and away the most pressing need of our communities. And time and again, Vermonters have pressed me to find out whether the Federal Government will honor its promise to pay 40 percent of the costs of special education. We are fortunate in Vermont to have already achieved the small class sizes which the President is trying to promote with his teacher hiring program. We do not need more. We need more money for special ed.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts has 24 seconds.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I yield back the remainder of my time.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the concurrent resolution.

Mr. KENNEDY. Is it appropriate or is it in order to ask for the yeas and nays on all of the amendments this afternoon? I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection to the Senator's request? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. KENNEDY. I ask for the yeas and nays, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second on the amendments en bloc?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered en bloc.

CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO THE UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now vote on Senate Concurrent Resolution 5.

The clerk will report the concurrent resolution.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 5) expressing congressional opposition to the unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state and urging the President to assert clearly United States opposition to such a unilateral declaration of statehood.

The Senate continued with the consideration of the concurrent resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the concurrent resolution. On this question, the yeas and nays were ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. REID. I announce that the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) is absent because of a death in the family.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 98, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 38 Leg.]

YEAS—98

Abraham	Conrad	Gregg
Akaka	Coverdell	Hagel
Allard	Craig	Harkin
Ashcroft	Crapo	Hatch
Baucus	Daschle	Helms
Bayh	DeWine	Hollings
Bennett	Dodd	Hutchinson
Biden	Domenici	Hutchison
Bingaman	Dorgan	Inhofs
Bond	Durbin	Inouye
Boxer	Edwards	Jeffords
Breaux	Enzi	Johnson
Brownback	Feingold	Kennedy
Bryan	Feinstein	Kerrey
Bunning	Fitzgerald	Kerry
Burns	Frist	Kohl
Campbell	Gorton	Kyl
Chafee	Graham	Landrieu
Cleland	Gramm	Lautenberg
Cochran	Grams	Leahy
Collins	Grassley	Levin

Lieberman	Reid	Snowe
Lincoln	Robb	Specter
Lott	Roberts	Stevens
Lugar	Rockefeller	Thomas
Mack	Roth	Thompson
McCain	Santorum	Thurmond
McConnell	Sarbanes	Torricelli
Mikulski	Schumer	Voinovich
Moynihan	Sessions	Warner
Murkowski	Shelby	Wellstone
Nickles	Smith (NH)	Wyden
Reed	Smith (OR)	

NAYS—1

Byrd

NOT VOTING—1

Murray

The concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 5) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The concurrent resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. CON. RES. 5

Whereas at the heart of the Oslo peace process lies the basic, irrevocable commitment made by Palestinian Chairman Yasir Arafat that, in his words, "all outstanding issues relating to permanent status will be resolved through negotiations";

Whereas resolving the political status of the territory controlled by the Palestinian Authority while ensuring Israel's security is one of the central issues of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict;

Whereas a declaration of statehood by the Palestinians outside the framework of negotiations would, therefore, constitute a most fundamental violation of the Oslo process;

Whereas Yasir Arafat and other Palestinian leaders have repeatedly threatened to declare unilaterally the establishment of a Palestinian state;

Whereas the unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state would introduce a dramatically destabilizing element into the Middle East, risking Israeli countermeasures, a quick descent into violence, and an end to the entire peace process; and

Whereas in light of continuing statements by Palestinian leaders, United States opposition to any unilateral Palestinian declaration of statehood should be made clear and unambiguous: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That—

(1) the final political status of the territory controlled by the Palestinian Authority can only be determined through negotiations and agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority;

(2) any attempt to establish Palestinian statehood outside the negotiating process will invoke the strongest congressional opposition; and

(3) the President should unequivocally assert United States opposition to the unilateral declaration of a Palestinian State, making clear that such a declaration would be a grievous violation of the Oslo accords and that a declared state would not be recognized by the United States.

EDUCATION FLEXIBILITY PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1999

The Senate continued with consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 60

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on amendment No. 60 offered by Senator JEFFORDS for the majority leader. There is 5 minutes of debate equally divided. Who yields time?

Mr. JEFFORDS. It is my understanding the yeas and nays have already