

and receive an inferior product for their money. When FPI sets its prices, it does not even attempt to match the best price available in the commercial sector; instead, it claims to have charged a "market price" whenever it can show that at least some vendors in the private sector charges as high a price. As GAO reported in August 1998, "The only limit the law imposes on FPI's price is that it may not exceed the upper end of the current market price range."

Yet, FPI appears to have had difficulty providing even this minimal protection for the taxpayer. GAO compared FPI prices for 20 representative products to private vendors' catalog or actual prices for the same or comparable products and found that for 4 of these products, FPI's price was higher than the price offered by any private vendor. Moreover, for five of the remaining products, FPI's price was at the "high end of the range" of prices offered by private vendors—ranking sixth, seventh, eighth, and ninth of the ten vendors reviewed, respectively. In other words, for almost half of the FPI products reviewed, the FPI approach appeared to be to charge the highest price possible, rather than the lowest price possible, to the Federal customer.

One example of FPI overpricing was presented in a December 19, 1997 letter that I received from a frustrated vendor. The vendor stated:

If the Air Force would purchase a completed unit as described in UNICOR's solicitation directly from a . . . manufacturer we estimate the cost will be approximately \$6,500.00. UNICOR is going to purchase a kit for \$9,259.00 and add their assembly and administrative costs to the unit. If UNICOR only adds \$1500.00 to the total cost of the unit, it will cost the Air Force \$10,759.00. This is 66 percent higher than the current market price. If the Air Force purchases 8,000 units over the next five years it will cost the taxpayers an additional \$34,072,000.00 over what it would cost if they dealt directly with a manufacturer.

A second frustrated vendor reported a similar experience to me. The vendor's letter stated:

[FPI] bid on this item and simply because [FPI] did, I was told that the award had to be given to [FPI]. [FPI] won the bid at \$45 per unit. My company bid \$22 per unit. The way I see it, the government just overspent my tax dollars to the tune of \$1,978. The total amount of my bid was less than that. Do you seriously believe that this type of procurement is cost-effective?

I lost business, and my tax dollars were misused because of unfair procurement practices mandated by federal regulations. This is a prime example, and I am certain not the only one, of how the procurement system is being misused and small businesses in this country are being excluded from competition, with the full support of federal regulations and the seeming approval of Congress. It is far past the time to curtail this 'company' known as Federal Prison Industries and require them to be competitive for the benefit of all taxpayers.

This kind of overpricing has a real and dramatic impact on the ability of the Department of Defense to purchase the products that they need to provide

for the national defense and for the welfare of our men and women in uniform. For example, the Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy testified before the House National Security Committee on July 30, 1996, and the FPI monopoly on government furniture contracts has undermined the Navy's ability to improve living conditions for its sailors. Master Chief Petty Officer John Hagan stated, and I quote:

Speaking frankly, the [FPI] product is inferior, costs more, and takes longer to procure. [FPI] has, in my opinion, exploited their special status instead of making changes which would make them more efficient and competitive. The Navy and other Services need your support to change the law and have FPI compete with [private sector] furniture manufacturers [under GSA contracts]. Without this change, we will not be serving Sailors or taxpayers in the most effective and efficient way.

Mr. President, I do not consider myself to be an enemy of Federal Prison Industries. I am a strong supporter of the idea of putting federal inmates to work. I understand that a strong prison work program not only reduces inmate idleness and prison disruption, but can also help build a work ethic, provide job skills, and enable prisoners to return to product society upon their release.

However, I believe that a prison work program must be conducted in a manner that is sensitive to the need not to unfairly eliminate the jobs of hard-working citizens who have not committed crimes. FPI will be able to achieve this result only if it diversifies its product lines and avoids the temptation to build its workforce by continuing to displace private sector jobs in its traditional lines of work. For this reason, I have been working since 1990 to try to help Federal Prison Industries to identify new markets that it can expand into without displacing private sector jobs.

Mr. President, avoiding competition is the easy way out, but it isn't the right way for FPI, it isn't the right way for the private sector workers whose jobs FPI is taking, and it isn't the right way for the taxpayer, who will continue to pay more and get less as a result of the mandatory preference for FPI goods. We need to have jobs for prisoners, but can no longer afford to allow FPI to designate those jobs it will take, and when it will take them. Competition will be better for FPI, better for the taxpayer, and better for working men and women around the country.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 13

At the request of Mr. SESSIONS, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 13, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide additional tax incentives for education.

S. 30

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from North Da-

kota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 30, a bill to provide contercyclical income loss protection to offset extreme losses resulting from severe economic and weather-related events, and for other purposes.

S. 59

At the request of Mr. THOMPSON, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH) were added as cosponsors of S. 59, a bill to provide Government-wide accounting of regulatory costs and benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 162

At the request of Mr. BREAU, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 162, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to change the determination of the 50,000-barrel refinery limitation on oil depletion deduction from a daily basis to an annual average daily basis.

S. 218

At the request of Mr. MOYNIHAN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 218, a bill to amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States to provide for equitable duty treatment for certain wool used in making suits.

S. 250

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. BUNNING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 250, a bill to establish ethical standards for Federal prosecutors, and for other purposes.

S. 296

At the request of Mr. FRIST, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN), and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 296, a bill to provide for continuation of the Federal research investment in a fiscally sustainable way, and for other purposes.

S. 322

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 322, a bill to amend title 4, United States Code, to add the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday to the list of days on which the flag should especially be displayed.

S. 385

At the request of Mr. ENZI, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 385, a bill to amend the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to further improve the safety and health of working environments, and for other purposes.

S. 443

At the request of Mr. LAUTENBERG, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. TORRICELLI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 443, A bill to regulate the sale of firearms at gun shows.

S. 459

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. ASHCROFT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 459, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the State ceiling on private activity bonds.

At the request of Mr. ROBB, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 459, supra.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON), and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. GRAMS) were added as cosponsors of S. 484, a bill to provide for the granting of refugee status in the United States to nationals of certain foreign countries in which American Vietnam War POW/MIAs or American Korean War POW/MIAs may be present, if those nationals assist in the return to the United States of those POW/MIAs alive.

S. 531

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VOINOVICH), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. ROTH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE), the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. ROBB), the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON), the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. ASHCROFT), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) were added as cosponsors of S. 531, a bill to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Rosa Parks in recognition of her contributions to the Nation.

S. 542

At the request of Mr. ABRAHAM, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) and the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) were added as cosponsors of S. 542, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the deduction for computer donations to schools and allow a tax credit for donated computers.

S. 566

At the request of Mr. LUGAR, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) and the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 566, a bill to amend the Agricultural Trade Act of 1978 to exempt agricultural commodities, livestock, and value-added products from unilateral economic sanctions, to prepare for future bilateral and multilat-

eral trade negotiations affecting United States agriculture, and for other purposes.

S. 579

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 579, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to target assistance to support the economic and political independence of the countries of the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

S. 595

At the request of Mr. DOMENICI, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS), the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) were added as cosponsors of S. 595, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a graduated response to shrinking domestic oil and gas production and surging foreign oil imports, and for other purposes.

S. 620

At the request of Mr. SARBANES, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 620, a bill to grant a Federal charter to Korean War Veterans Association, Incorporated, and for other purposes.

S. 660

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 660, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under part B of the medicare program of medical nutrition therapy services furnished by registered dietitians and nutrition professionals.

S. 675

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 675, a bill to increase market transparency in agricultural markets domestically and abroad.

S. 692

At the request of Mr. KYL, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 692, a bill to prohibit Internet gambling, and for other purposes.

S. 693

At the request of Mr. HELMS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 693, a bill to assist in the enhancement of the security of Taiwan, and for other purposes.

S. 731

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. HOLLINGS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 731, A bill to provide for substantial reductions in the price of

prescription drugs for medicare beneficiaries.

S. 755

At the request of Mr. HATCH, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Washington (Mr. GORTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 755, a bill to extend the period for compliance with certain ethical standards for Federal prosecutors.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 17

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of Senate Concurrent Resolution 17, a concurrent resolution concerning the 20th Anniversary of the Taiwan Relations Act.

SENATE RESOLUTION 22

At the request of Mr. CAMPBELL, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Resolution 22, a resolution commemorating and acknowledging the dedication and sacrifice made by the men and women who have lost their lives serving as law enforcement officers.

SENATE RESOLUTION 26

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. ASHCROFT) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 26, a resolution relating to Taiwan's Participation in the World Health Organization.

SENATE RESOLUTION 34

At the request of Mr. TORRICELLI, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CONRAD), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 34, a resolution designating the week beginning April 30, 1999, as "National Youth Fitness Week."

SENATE RESOLUTION 54

At the request of Mr. FEINGOLD, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of Senate Resolution 54, a resolution condemning the escalating violence, the gross violation of human rights and attacks against civilians, and the attempt to overthrow a democratically elected government in Sierra Leone.

AMENDMENT NO. 157

At the request of Mr. SPECTER the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE), and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 157 proposed to S. Con. Res. 20, an original concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the

United States Government for fiscal years 2000 through 2009.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED ON
MARCH 25, 1999

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE
SENATE REGARDING THE
HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN
CUBA

GRAHAM (AND MACK)
AMENDMENT NO. 245

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. MACK) proposed an amendment to the resolution (S. Res. 57) expressing the sense of the Senate regarding the human rights situation in Cuba; as follows:

On page 2, strike lines 9 and 10 and insert: "Whereas such abuses violate internationally accepted norms of conduct enshrined by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights".

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON
THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR
2000

HATCH AMENDMENT NO. 246

(Ordered to lie on the table.)

Mr. HATCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 20, supra; as follows:

In the matter proposed to be inserted by Amendment Number 167, strike the matter proposed to be inserted, and insert the following:

SEC. . SENSE OF THE SENATE ON REAUTHORIZING STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) as of December, 1998, the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program had awarded grants for the hiring or redeployment to the Nation's streets of more than 92,000 police officers and sheriffs' deputies;

(2) according to the Bureau of Justice Statistics of the United States Department of Justice, the Nation's violent crime rate declined almost 7 percent during 1997, and has fallen more than 21 percent since 1993;

(3) enhanced community policing, state enactment of truth in sentencing laws requiring violent criminals to serve at least 85 percent of their sentences, and increased reliance on new crime detection and crime solving technology have significantly contributed to this decline in the violent crime rate;

(4) the policies and priorities of recent Congresses and the Nation's governors have provided significant increases in law enforcement funding and have enacted legislative initiatives that have given federal and state prosecutors and judges the tools to detect, prosecute, and punish violent criminals;

(5) foremost among these federal funding initiatives have been the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant, the Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth in Sentencing Incentive Grant program, and the Juvenile Offender Accountability Incentive Block Grant program, which have distributed nearly \$5.7 billion in funding to State and local governments since fiscal year 1996; and

(6) The President's FY 2000 budget provides zero funding for each of the three crucial programs.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the levels in this resolution assume that—

(1) the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program, the Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant Program, the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Program, the Violent Offender Incarceration and Truth in Sentencing Incentive Grants Program, the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program, and the Byrne Memorial Grant program should be reauthorized; and

(2) the COPS Program should be reauthorized and improved in order to provide continued federal funding for the hiring, deployment, and retention of community law enforcement officers, to provide greater flexibility to state and local authorities to purchase capital equipment, and to provide greater incentives to state and local law enforcement to invest in zero tolerance and crime tracking strategies used successfully in New York City and elsewhere.

COLLINS (AND OTHERS)
AMENDMENT NO. 247

Mr. DOMENICI (for Ms. COLLINS for herself, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. REED, Mr. DODD, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) proposed an amendment to the concurrent resolution, S. Con. Res. 20, supra; as follows:

Amend section 315 to read as follows:

SEC. 315. SENSE OF THE SENATE ON NEED-BASED STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Senate finds that—

(1) public investment in higher education yields a return of several dollars for each dollar invested;

(2) higher education promotes economic opportunity for individuals, as recipients of bachelor's degrees earn an average of 75 percent per year more than those with high school diplomas and experience half as much unemployment as high school graduates;

(3) higher education promotes social opportunity, as increased education is correlated with reduced criminal activity, lessened reliance on public assistance, and increased civic participation;

(4) a more educated workforce will be essential for continued economic competitiveness in an age where the amount of information available to society will double in a matter of days rather than months or years;

(5) access to a college education has become a hallmark of American society, and is vital to upholding our belief in equality of opportunity;

(6) for a generation, the Federal Pell Grant has served as an established and effective means of providing access to higher education for students with financial need;

(7) over the past decade, Pell Grant awards have failed to keep pace with inflation, eroding their value and threatening access to higher education for the nation's neediest students;

(8) grant aid as a portion of all students financial aid has fallen significantly over the past 5 years;

(9) the nation's neediest students are now borrowing approximately as much as its wealthiest students to finance higher education; and

(10) the percentage of freshmen attending public and private 4-year institutions from families below national median income has fallen since 1981.

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that within the discretionary allocation provided to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate for function 500—

(1) the maximum amount of Federal Pell Grants should be increased by \$400;

(2) funding for the Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants Program should be increased by \$65,000,000;

(3) funding for the Federal capital contributions under the Federal Perkins Loan Program should be increased by \$35,000,000;

(4) funding for the Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnership Program should be increased by \$50,000,000;

(5) funding for the Federal Work-Study Program should be increased by \$64,000,000;

(6) funding for the Federal TRIO Programs should be increased by \$100,000,000.

MICROLOAN PROGRAM TECHNICAL
CORRECTIONS ACT OF 1999

KERRY AMENDMENT NO. 248

Mr. ENZI (for Mr. KERRY) proposed an amendment to the bill (H.R. 440) to make technical corrections to the Microloan Program; as follows:

On page 2, strikes lines 7 through 20, and insert the following:

(1) in paragraph (7), by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) ALLOCATION.—

“(i) MINIMUM ALLOCATION.—Subject to the availability of appropriations, of the total amount of new loan funds made available for award under this subsection in each fiscal year, the Administration shall make available for award in each State (including the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa) an amount equal to the sum of—

“(I) the lesser of—

“(aa) \$800,000; or

“(bb) $\frac{1}{55}$ of the total amount of new loan funds made available for award under this subsection for that fiscal year; and

“(II) any additional amount, as determined by the Administration.

“(ii) REDISTRIBUTION.—If, at the beginning of the third quarter of a fiscal year, the Administration determines that any portion of the amount made available to carry out this subsection is unlikely to be made available under clause (i) during that fiscal year, the Administration may make that portion available for award in any 1 or more States (including the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa) without regard to clause (i).”; and

AVIATION WAR RISK INSURANCE
PROGRAM

THOMPSON AMENDMENT NO. 249

Mr. ENZI (for Mr. THOMPSON) proposed an amendment to the bill (H.R. 98) to amend chapter 443 of title 49, United States Code, to extend the aviation war risk insurance program; as follows:

Strike section 2.

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to amend chapter 443 of title 49, United States Code, to extend the aviation war risk insurance program.”.