

Access to High Standards Act is intended to take additional steps in fostering the continued growth of advanced placement programs throughout the nation and to help ensure equal access to these programs for low-income students. This bill creates a \$25 million demonstration grant program to help states build and expand advanced placement incentive programs giving priority to districts with high concentrations of low-income students and to State programs targeting low-income students. In addition, the bill authorizes a pilot grant program for States seeking to provide advanced placement courses through Internet-based on-line curriculum to students in rural areas or areas where the lack of available advanced placement teachers make it impossible to provide traditional courses. The bill also make AP a part of other federal education programs such as the Technology for Education Act programs that I helped author in 1994. In this way, federal initiatives will be encouraged to incorporate the high standards and measurable results of the AP program.

As many of my colleagues know, college costs have risen many times faster than inflation over the last decade, making attendance more difficult for high school graduates and creating tremendous financial burdens. Advanced placement programs address this issue by giving students an opportunity to earn college credit in high school by preparing for and passing AP exams. In fact, a single AP English test score of 3 or better is worth approximately \$500 in tuition at the University of New Mexico, and the credits granted to students nationwide are worth billions each year.

By promoting AP courses, we also address the need to raise academic standards. Many states and districts are struggling to develop and implement rigorous academic standards and concrete measures of achievement—an approach that is advocated by many experts, lawmakers, and the public. By implementing high academic standards and providing standardized measures for achievement through AP programs, we can help prepare students for college. This is clearly a necessary goal. Almost 33 percent of all freshmen fail to pass to pass basic entrance exams and are required to take remedial courses. And, at least in part due to academic difficulties, over 25 percent of freshmen drop out before their second year.

In addition, expanding AP programs improve students' academic performance in college. And because the vast majority of AP teachers teach several non-AP classes as well, AP programs also have a tendency of raising schoolwide standards and achievement among the 400 new schools adopting the program each year. As Secretary Riley has said, expanded AP will "help fight the tyranny of low expectations, which tragically hold back so many of our students."

Of course, there is no single remedy or federal program that can hope to address all of the issues that public education must face in order to improve the achievement and preparation of our students. However, I believe that high college costs and low academic standards deserve our closest attention, and I am confident that expansion of advanced placement programs will help states address these issues effectively.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to incorporate the two bills I am introducing today, as well as, the education bills introduced in recent weeks into the ESEA. I believe that they will go a long way towards improving education in the United States by focusing on raising standards and ensuring accountability for teacher, school and student performance.●

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 185

At the request of Mr. ASHCROFT, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN), and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. FITZGERALD) were added as cosponsors of S. 185, a bill to establish a Chief Agricultural Negotiator in the Office of the United States Trade Representative.

S. 332

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 332, a bill to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Kyrgyzstan.

S. 446

At the request of Mrs. BOXER, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 446, a bill to provide for the permanent protection of the resources of the United States in the year 2000 and beyond.

S. 469

At the request of Mr. BREAUX, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 469, a bill to encourage the timely development of a more cost effective United States commercial space transportation industry, and for other purposes.

S. 631

At the request of Mr. DEWINE, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 631, a bill to amend the Social Security Act to eliminate the time limitation on benefits for immunosuppressive drugs under the medicare program, to provide continued entitlement for such drugs for certain individuals after medicare benefits end, and to extend certain medicare secondary payer requirements.

S. 758

At the request of Mr. ASHCROFT, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL), and the

Senator from Alaska (Mr. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 758, a bill to establish legal standards and procedures for the fair, prompt, inexpensive, and efficient resolution of personal injury claims arising out of asbestos exposure, and for other purposes.

S. 759

At the request of Mr. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. SNOWE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 759, a bill to regulate the transmission of unsolicited commercial electronic mail on the Internet, and for other purposes.

S. 1003

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1003, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide increased tax incentives for the purchase of alternative fuel and electric vehicle, and for other purposes.

S. 1085

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1085, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the treatment of bonds issued to acquire renewable resources on land subject to conservation easement.

S. 1102

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1102, a bill to guarantee the right of individuals to receive full social security benefits under title II of the Social Security Act in full with an accurate annual cost-of-living adjustment.

S. 1131

At the request of Mr. EDWARDS, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1131, a bill to promote research into, and the development of an ultimate cure for, the disease known as Fragile X.

S. 1133

At the request of Mr. GRAMS, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1133, a bill to amend the Poultry Products Inspection Act to cover birds of the order Ratitae that are raised for use as human food.

S. 1155

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CLELAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1155, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to provide for uniform food safety warning notification requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 1187

At the request of Mr. DORGAN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1187, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the bicentennial of the

Lewis and Clark Expedition, and for other purposes.

S. 1272

At the request of Mr. NICKLES, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1272, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to promote pain management and palliative care without permitting assisted suicide and euthanasia, and for other purposes.

S. 1277

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1277, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to establish a new prospective payment system for Federally-qualified health centers and rural health clinics.

S. 1315

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1315, a bill to permit the leasing of oil and gas rights on certain lands held in trust for the Navajo Nation or allotted to a member of the Navajo Nation, in any case in which there is consent from a specified percentage interest in the parcel of land under consideration for lease.

S. 1384

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. WELLSTONE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1384, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a national folic acid education program to prevent birth defects, and for other purposes.

S. 1445

At the request of Mr. KOHL, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1445, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to prevent abuse of recipients of long-term care services under the medicare and medicaid programs.

S. 1452

At the request of Mr. SHELBY, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1452, a bill to modernize the requirements under the National Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards of 1974 and to establish a balanced consensus process for the development, revision, and interpretation of Federal construction and safety standards for manufactured homes.

S. 1488

At the request of Mr. GORTON, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. ABRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 1488, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for recommendations of the Secretary of Health and Human Services regarding the placement of automatic external defibrillators in Federal buildings in order to improve survival rates

of individuals who experience cardiac arrest in such buildings, and to establish protections from civil liability arising from the emergency use of the devices.

S. 1571

At the request of Mr. JEFFORDS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1571, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for permanent eligibility of former members of the Selected Reserve for veterans housing loans.

S. 1573

At the request of Mr. LIEBERMAN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1573, a bill to provide a reliable source of funding for State, local, and Federal efforts to conserve land and water, preserve historic resources, improve environmental resources, protect fish and wildlife, and preserve open and green spaces.

S. 1590

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. CAMPBELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1590, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify the authority of the Surface Transportation Board, and for other purposes.

S. 1608

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1608, a bill to provide annual payments to the States and counties from National Forest System lands managed by the Forest Service, and the re-vested Oregon and California Railroad and reconveyed Coos Bay Wagon Road grant lands managed predominantly by the Bureau of Land Management, for use by the counties in which the lands are situated for the benefit of the public schools, roads, emergency and other public purposes; to encourage and provide new mechanism for cooperation between counties and the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to make necessary investments in Federal Lands, and reaffirm the positive connection between Federal Lands counties and Federal Lands; and for other purposes.

S. 1689

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. COVERDELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1689, a bill to require a report on the current United States policy and strategy regarding counter-narcotics assistance for Colombia, and for other purposes.

S. 1690

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1690, a bill to require the United States to take action to provide bilateral debt relief, and improve the provision of multilateral debt relief, in order to give a fresh start to poor countries.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 34

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 34, a concurrent resolution relating to the observance of "In Memory" Day.

AMENDMENT NO. 1889

At the request of Mr. NICKLES the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. HAGEL) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1889 proposed to S. 1650, an original bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes.

SENATE RESOLUTION 197—REFER-
RING S. 1698 ENTITLED "A BILL
FOR THE RELIEF OF D.W.
JACOBSON, RONALD KARKALA,
AND PAUL BJORGEN OF GRAND
RAPIDS, MINNESOTA" TO THE
CHIEF JUDGE OF THE UNITED
STATES COURT OF FEDERAL
CLAIMS FOR A REPORT THERE-
ON

Mr. GRAMS submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 197

Resolved,

SECTION 1. REFERRAL.

S. 1698 entitled "A bill for the relief of D. W. Jacobson, Ronald Karkala, and Paul Bjorgen of Grand Rapids, Minnesota" now pending in the Senate, together with all the accompanying papers, is referred to the chief judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims.

SEC. 2. PROCEEDING AND REPORT.

The chief judge shall—

(1) proceed according to the provisions of sections 1492 and 2509 of title 28, United States Code; and

(2) report back to the Senate, at the earliest practicable date, providing—

(A) such findings of fact and conclusions that are sufficient to inform the Congress of the nature, extent, and character of the claim for compensation referred to in such bill as a legal or equitable claim against the United States or a gratuity; and

(B) the amount, if any, legally or equitably due from the United States to D. W. Jacobson, Ronald Karkala, and Paul Bjorgen of Grand Rapids, Minnesota.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR,
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED
AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT
2000

LAUTENBERG AMENDMENT NO.

2267

Mr. LAUTENBERG proposed an amendment to amendment No. 1851 proposed by Mr. NICKLES to the bill (S. 1650) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human