

(1) the provisions of section 154(a) shall apply for purposes of describing consortia eligible to receive assistance under this section;

(2) each tech-prep education program assisted under this section shall meet the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), (3)(A), (3)(B), (3)(C), (3)(D), (4), (5), (6), and (7) of section 155(b), except that such paragraph (3)(B) shall be applied by striking “, and where possible and practicable, 4-year institutions of higher education through nonduplicative sequence of courses in career fields”; and

(3) in awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give special consideration to consortia submitting applications under subsection (c) that meet the requirements of paragraphs (1), (3), (4), and (5) of section 156(d), except that such paragraph (1) shall be applied by striking “or the transfer of students to 4-year institutions of higher education”.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 1999 and each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, this amendment will establish a tech-prep demonstration program that locates secondary schools on the sites of community colleges. Tech-prep is an outstanding program. I believe this amendment will enhance tech-prep activities. I ask my colleagues to support it. I know of no objection to the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 2334) was agreed to.

SECTION 367

Mr. DEWINE. Mr. President, I would like to engage in a brief colloquy with the distinguished ranking member of the Subcommittee on Employment and Training, Senator WELLSTONE, concerning the initiatives covered by section 367 of the bill. Mr. President, I strongly feel that clarifying the intent of this section will be helpful in my efforts to ensure that a very worthwhile initiative in Northeastern, Ohio receives favorable consideration by the Department of Labor.

As I understand it, section 367 authorizes the Secretary of Labor to carry out demonstration projects to develop new techniques, different approaches, and specialized methods to address communities; employment and training needs. This section also requires the community or entity to substantially contribute to their project's funding, have expertise in undertaking national demonstration projects, or have expertise in overseeing employment and training programs.

The Ohio initiative I referred to establishes an Engineering and Training Center which will provide employers, employees, students, and the underemployed access to job training services and course work germane to the region's existing manufacturing base as well as its fledgling information technology industries. For example, the Center would provide welders, who recently lost their jobs when Ford Motor Company closed its Thunderbird and Econoline plants, computer software

instruction for new computer controlled welding equipment. The Engineering and Training Center would also contain working laboratories where employees would receive custom training on the latest technology equipment.

Would the Senator agree that the establishment of such an Engineering and Training Center, whose principal focus is to provide job training to workers in a community suffering from the closure of auto and steel plants, is the type of activity section 367 encourages? And would the willingness of local foundations to provide half the cost of such an initiative satisfy the bill's substantial funding equipment?

Mr. WELLSTONE. I agree with my friend's reading of section 367. Its demonstration and pilot project section clearly is meant to encourage projects to help develop and implement techniques, approaches and methods such as those the Senator informs us are contained in the proposal from his state for an engineering and training center. I would also certainly think that local private funding of 50 percent would qualify as “a substantial portion.”

Mr. DEWINE. Would the Senator agree that a County Community College, which functions as an integral part of the county's welfare-to-work initiative, and whose President who has won national awards and is the driving force in virtually every job training initiative in the region, addresses the bill's “expertise in employment and training programs?”

Mr. WELLSTONE. I would fully expect the Department to give all due consideration to a proposal from an institution and chairman with such impressive credentials and expertise.

Mr. DEWINE. I thank the Senator.

MIGRANT AND SEASONAL FARMWORKERS

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, it has been a pleasure working with my colleague from OHIO on this bill. I appreciate his extremely hard work. I would like to confirm my understanding of a provision of the bill and ensure it is the same as the understanding of my colleague. For purposes of programs authorized under Title III of the bill, that is, the Workforce Investment Activities title, housing is considered to be an eligible supportive service. That is specified in the bill's definition section. In Section 362 of Title III, the section dealing with migrant and seasonal farmworker programs, a range of workforce investment activities are authorized, including employment and training assistance. The section then also authorizes further related assistance for eligible migrant and seasonal farmworkers, including supportive services.

For a number of years, the Labor Department has provided funding to a small number of single purpose grantees which provide an essential supportive service to farmworkers: improving their housing conditions. As S. 1186 defines supportive services to include

housing and includes supportive services as eligible workforce investment related assistance for farmworkers, it seems clear to me that the bill would allow the Secretary to continue to make grants for farmworker housing.

Mr. DEWINE. The Senator is correct. Under the bill, the Secretary would have the discretion to continue grants to improve farmworker housing.

Mr. WELLSTONE. I thank the Senator.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I would not object to the Senator from Missouri speaking in morning business for a period, I believe, of up to 10 minutes.

Mr. ASHCROFT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I have an opportunity to speak as in morning business for up to 6 minutes, until 11 o'clock.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. ASHCROFT. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. ASHCROFT pertaining to the introduction of S. 2023 and S. 2028 located in today's RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

Mr. ASHCROFT. I thank the Senator from Vermont, the Senator from Ohio, and the Senator from Georgia in allowing me to make these statements and introduce these matters. I yield the floor.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. JEFFORDS. I ask unanimous consent that I be able to proceed as in morning business for a period not exceeding 5 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TOBACCO LEGISLATION AND TEEN SMOKING

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I had hoped to be in Burlington, VT, this morning meeting with a group of high school students. They have been studying tobacco use among adults and teens and talking about the proposed tobacco settlement in their health and civics classes. I regret that I am not able to be in Vermont to talk with them.

But I do want to take this opportunity to express my support for prompt consideration of tobacco legislation. When I look around the classrooms here in D.C. with students here in D.C.—when I read in the Brent School, or when I meet students at home, as I had planned to today—I see dozens of faces alive with potential. I see those kids as the soccer and track stars. I wonder which ones enjoy science and which ones are the budding

artists. To me, each of these kids represents an unknown but a promising future.

To the tobacco industry, every single one of these kids represents nothing more than a replacement smoker. The tobacco industry's goal is to turn each of these young athletes and budding scientists into a smoker. We know now that the tobacco industry has plotted to capture the cub scout and the kindergarten market.

We have documentation that the tobacco industry has studied the behavior of children as young as 5 to determine how susceptible they are. And their scheming has worked. Every day, every week of every year, 3,000 children become addicted to cigarettes. A third of them will die early from smoking, and those who go on to raise families will endanger their children through low birthweight complications and secondhand smoke.

Vermont and other States have done much to combat teen smoking. I applaud the parents, teachers, and State health officials who have led the battle against big tobacco at the local level. It is time now for Congress to do something too.

Ever since the Attorneys General announced their proposed settlement last June, Congress has been talking to experts and debating the best approach to reduce teen smoking. But the time for talking is behind us. And time is running out. It is critical that the Senate act on tobacco legislation in the coming weeks. We cannot allow politics to stand in the way of this rare opportunity. This issue is too important and too complicated to leave to the last minute.

As chairman of the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, I have held seven hearings on the question of what tobacco policy would be best for this country. We heard from the experts that there is no silver bullet that will solve the problem of teen smoking. But that is no excuse for inactivity. Smoking kills 400,000 people a year, and it is the leading preventable cause of death in the United States. Nine out of ten smokers became addicted as teenagers.

My home State of Vermont, unfortunately, is not immune from the problem. Our teen smoking rate is higher—higher—than the national average. More than one in every three Vermont high school students are regular smokers. More than 12,000 Vermont teens currently under age 18 will die prematurely from tobacco-related disease. That is like wiping the towns of Underhill, Jericho, Richmond, and Huntington right off the map—wiping them right off the map.

Despite the best efforts of parents, educators, and health professionals around the State over the past few years, more and more teenagers are deciding to smoke. Unless we act now to help them quit, most of these kids will continue to smoke into adulthood.

I pledge to Vermonters that I will do everything I can to enact comprehen-

sive tobacco legislation this year. In February, I introduced the Prevent Addiction To Smoking Among Teens Act, the PAST Act, to enact and improve upon the public health provisions of the tobacco settlement. Last month, the Senate Commerce Committee passed comprehensive legislation which incorporated many of the public health provisions originally proposed in the PAST Act.

As tobacco legislation moves through the Senate, I will continue my fight to ensure that we keep our eyes on the goal of improving the public health and preventing kids from smoking. Congress needs to pass legislation which will prevent kids from smoking. Even though there is no silver bullet, we do know of many approaches which have proven effective, particularly when used in combination.

A national tobacco policy must give the Food and Drug Administration full authority to regulate tobacco, the Centers for Disease Control, the National Institutes of Health, and the State health departments, and others in the fight to convince high school students not to smoke, and to treat those who have decided to do so, as well as we can, to get them to stop.

We need to make teen smoking a thing of the past. I cannot think of a better graduation present for high school seniors in Vermont and around the country than to stop teenage smoking.

Mr. President, thank you very much. I yield back the balance of my time. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 1997

The Senate continued with consideration of the bill.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I commend my colleagues, Senators JEFFORDS, KENNEDY, WELLSTONE and DEWINE for their tireless efforts to bring this bipartisan bill to the Senate floor. I hope that any remaining disagreements can be worked out in Conference.

Few issues that we have a chance to debate and vote on are as critically important to the future of this country as the one before us today. The strength of our workforce is directly linked to a lifetime of quality education and training. And never have the challenges been greater. We must remain steadfast in our efforts to continue educating and training our workforce so that more of our companies can successfully adapt to the rapid developments of modern technology.

The Workforce Investment Partnership Act is the culmination of many

years of hard work. The current maze of more than 160 separate programs which are administered by 15 separate federal agencies has become unnecessarily cumbersome for both those in need of training assistance and those employers seeking to hire skilled workers. This bill streamlines these programs by giving more authority to state and local governments, but retaining crucial federal requirements in order to ensure that the most vulnerable and deserving members of our population, including disadvantaged youth and displaced workers, receive the support and training assistance they need. This focus will ensure that these individuals have a chance to share in our nation's continued economic prosperity and growth. In addition, by emphasizing results and accountability from job training programs, our workers will be better equipped with the skills they need to land high-wage and high-skilled jobs.

I know firsthand the struggle many hard-working individuals face as their company downsizes or scales back production. For many years, the Connecticut economy was dependent on defense-oriented industries. In the past few years, many qualified, highly skilled workers in Connecticut have lost their jobs as a result of military downsizing. In the last 12 months, more than 1,500 defense related jobs were lost in my state.

The Workforce Investment Partnership Act ensures that defense employees who are adversely affected by base closings and military downsizing will have access to job training and supportive services through the National Reserve Account in title III of the Job Training Partnership Act. If these workers receive access to training, they can acquire the skills needed for employment in the technology driven economy of the 21st century.

The Connecticut economy is changing. In February, a group of 120 business leaders stated that a highly educated and trained work force is the only way that Connecticut can capitalize on the promises of the new technology driven sectors such as software development, information technology and photonics. For too long, we were focused on job loss. It is now time to focus on the rebuilding of our economy and ensure that all potential employees, including former welfare recipients and displaced workers, receive the training and skills they need.

I am especially pleased that a cornerstone of the job training bill will be streamlined service delivery. The bill accomplishes this integration by building on the One-Stop system to unify the patchwork of fragmented job training and employment programs into a single, customer-friendly environment. The proposed legislation would expand the concept of universal access to services for job seekers and businesses without eligibility criteria.

Connecticut is nearing completion of implementation of its One-Stop Career