

EC-5698. A communication from the Director of the Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "License Applications for Certain Items Containing Byproduct Material" (RIN3150-AF76) received on June 22, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5699. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule regarding the approval of revisions to a transportation control measure in Georgia (FRL6115-1) received on June 22, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5700. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule regarding the Iowa State Implementation Plans (FRL6113-1) received on June 22, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5701. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation Plans: Washington; Correcting Amendments" (FRL6110-7) received on June 22, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5702. A communication from the Director of the Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Recodification of Certain Tolerance Regulations" (FRL5783-6) received on June 22, 1998; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-5703. A communication from the Acting Deputy Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Coastal Services Center Coastal Change Analysis Program" (RIN0648-ZA43) received on June 22, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5704. A communication from the Director of the Minority Business Development Agency, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule regarding cost-share requirements and bonuses to operate Minority Business Development Centers (RIN0640-ZA03) received on June 22, 1998; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-5705. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Irish Potatoes Grown in Southeastern States; Increased Assessment Rate" (Docket FV98-953-1 IFR) received on June 22, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5706. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Determination of Issue Price in the Case of Certain Debt Instruments Issued for Property" (Rev. Rul. 98-33) received on June 18, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5707. A communication from the Chief of the Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Weighted Average Interest Rate Update" (Notice 98-33) received on June 22, 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-5708. A communication from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting, pur-

suant to law, the report of a rule regarding funding for rehabilitation research and training centers received on June 23, 1998; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-5709. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "A Study of Benefits for Head Start Employees"; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

EC-5710. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the Office of Inspector General for the period October 1, 1997 through March 31, 1998; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

EC-5711. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the Tribal Demonstration Program on Direct Billing For Medicare, Medicaid, and Other Third-Party Payors; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-5712. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Changes in Fees for Federal Meat Grading and Certification Services" (RIN0581-AB44) received on June 22, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5713. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Apricots Grown in Designated Counties in Washington; Revision in Container Regulations" (Docket FV98-922-1 IFR) received on June 22, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5714. A communication from the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Onions Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon; Decreased Assessment Rate" (Docket FV98-958-1 FR) received on June 22, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-5715. A communication from the Deputy Executive Director of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule regarding records and information practice received on June 22, 1998; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-496. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 61

Whereas, The attainment of United States citizenship is recognized by many legal immigrants as a key to full participation in civic life; and

Whereas, There presently exists a backlog of 700,000 naturalization applications in California awaiting processing—some for as long as two years; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Assembly and Senate of the State of California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California encourages the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the President, and the Congress of the United States to ensure that available resources are directed, and any additional funds as needed are appro-

priated, in order to eliminate, within 10 months, the current backlog in naturalization applications; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the President, and the Congress of the United States to ensure that, without harm to the integrity of the naturalization process, all future applicants for naturalization will receive a determination within six months of their date of application; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Legislature of the State of California respectfully memorializes the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the President, and the Congress of the United States to refrain from the consideration of any increase in naturalization fees until such time as the present backlog is eliminated and resources are committed to ensure that future applications will be processed within six months of their date of application; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, the President and the Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. STEVENS, from the Committee on Appropriations:

Special Report entitled "Further Revised Allocation to Subcommittees of Budget Totals for Fiscal Year 1999" (Rept. No. 105-221).

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on the Judiciary, without amendment:

H.J. Res. 54: A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing the Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

S.J. Res. 40: A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DODD, Mr. DASCHLE, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ROBB, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. GLENN, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 2209. A bill to reduce class size in the early grades and to provide for teacher quality improvement; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2210. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the requirements for the admission of non-immigrant nurses who will practice in health professional shortage areas; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ASHCROFT:

S. 2211. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for Congressional review of rules establishing or increasing

taxes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. BRYAN):

S. 2212. A bill to amend title V of the Trade Act of 1974 to include unwrought titanium as an article that may not be designated as an eligible article under the Generalized System of Preferences; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KERREY, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. GLENN, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. FORD, Mr. HELMS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. ROTH, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. SMITH of Oregon):

S. 2213. A bill to allow all States to participate in activities under the Education Flexibility Partnership Demonstration Act; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

By Mr. LOTT (for himself, Mr. COVERDELL, Mr. CRAIG, Mr. THURMOND, Mr. COATS, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. GRAMM, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. KEMPTHORNE, Mr. BURNS, Mr. CAMPBELL, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. KYL, Mr. ABRAHAM, Mr. ALLARD, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. GREGG, Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire, Mr. GRAMS, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. THOMPSON, Mr. ASHCROFT, Mr. MACK, Mr. HAGEL, Mr. D'AMATO, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. BENNETT, Mr. FRIST, Mr. HATCH, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. SESSIONS):

S. 2214. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce individual capital gains tax rates; to the Committee on Finance.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. AKAKA:

S. Res. 254. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States has enjoyed the loyalty of the United States citizens of Guam, and that the United States recognizes the centennial anniversary of the Spanish-American War as an opportune time for Congress to reaffirm its commitment to increase self-government consistent with self-determination for the people of Guam; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. D'AMATO:

S. Con. Res. 105. A concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the culpability of Slobodan Milosevic for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in the former Yugoslavia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. DODD, Mr. DASCHLE, Ms. MOSELEY-BRAUN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ROBB, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. LAUTENBERG, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. TORRICELLI, Mr. BRYAN, Mr. KERRY, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. GLENN, Mr. BINGAMAN and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 2209. A bill to reduce class size in the early grades and to provide for teacher quality improvement; to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources.

#### CLASS-SIZE REDUCTION AND TEACHER QUALITY ACT OF 1998

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, today I send to the desk legislation to help school districts hire 100,000 well-prepared teachers to combat overcrowding in our nation's classrooms. Few issues are more important to the American family than the quality of our public schools. With challenges like illiteracy, poor work and study skills, and the threat of student violence, what we need are strategies that work to produce results for all students. Increasing the number of well-qualified teachers to reduce class size is an effort that works.

The research is clear, and the research only backs up what our school communities have long known, that class size reduction improves student achievement. Unlike vouchers and tax schemes that don't provide the benefits for schools or students that they claim—class size reduction works, and it benefits all students.

Public education is important to the American people, and has been since the beginning of our nation. The public school is one of the most effective self-betterment tools in the history of this country.

But this bastion of democracy is threatened when public expectation changes, and the public school is not allowed to follow the public will. There was a time not long ago when people with a high school diploma or people who had not graduated from high school could still participate meaningfully in our economy. Those times have changed.

Americans expect public schools to educate all students to a higher standard, and expect a high school diploma to be accurate assurance that a graduate knows and can do what it takes to succeed in higher education and in today's economy. Most teachers in most classrooms do a good job—and some are clearly gifted.

But many teachers, excellent in other ways, lack the training, preparation, and know-how to teach reading in ways that reflect the best research. Many otherwise skilled teachers need help to teach today's skills with today's technology. And any teacher has a difficult time getting youngsters ready for today's world when there are more than 30 children in a classroom.

So the class size reduction bill I'm introducing today puts the funds in the hands of local school districts to train teachers in effective practices, to get uncertified teachers up to certification standards, to provide mentor teachers for teachers who need it, and to improve teacher recruiting.

Improving class size is an investment in our future that we know will pay dividends. This proposal is still building momentum in Congress. Twice now, this class size proposal has been voted on this year, and the last time it was one vote away from passage. The public is aware that efforts such as the Coverdell IRA proposal do not provide

results even for the few students they are targeted to help. Ask any parent or student, and they'll tell you class size reduction works for all students.

The President had originally talked about funding class size reduction with tobacco revenues, but class size improvement was left out of the bill that left the Commerce Committee.

With or without a tobacco bill, we can pass the class size improvement initiative and keep a balanced budget. In the President's budget request, there are still more than \$20 billion in mandatory and tax offsets we have not yet used. There are several ways to fund a class size initiative, keep a balanced budget, and provide in one action real results for all students.

Also, as I've mentioned before, this really is an issue of priorities. Yesterday, the House Appropriations Committee took a meat cleaver to social programs, such as elimination of the summer jobs for teenagers, and winter heating assistance for elderly people in harsh winter climates. This year, thanks to the tough decisions I and others here made in 1993 and other factors, we are looking at a balanced budget.

Now more than ever, the American people priorities are what matter, and they must be reflected in our funding decisions. These are their federal tax dollars we are investing, and education is a much higher priority to most Americans than the two percent of spending it currently holds.

We have been sending out and continue to send funds to communities so they can hire 100,000 police officers. The communities which have hired these officers have responded with enthusiasm. Allowing school districts to hire 100,000 teachers to school districts will do the same thing—invigorate both the local school district they affect, and the state governments who can fund class size improvement on a greater scale.

The American people want their national investments to be common sense solutions that work. They want to see national initiatives jump-start real improvements in their local school. They want better teachers, and smaller class sizes. They want to know that when their child goes to school next fall, they are going to get good answers to their perennial questions: "Who's your teacher, and how many kids are in your class?"

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 2210. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the requirements for the admission of nonimmigrant nurses who will practice in health professional shortage areas; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### NURSING RELIEF FOR DISADVANTAGED AREAS ACT OF 1998

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, Today I introduce the Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act of 1998. Today,