

chemistry score, and they don't get in. So I think we need to expand the number of people who come into medical school, and we ought to be open to qualities that are proven to further medical success, frankly. So I am concerned about that.

The interesting development I have discovered that goes to the question of our Federal dollars and how we are supporting medical education is indicated by this chart. It deals with the number of loans certified for U.S. residents who are attending foreign schools. In general, whether you are going for a semester abroad to Italy or Brazil or England or wherever, this shows that during the 1993-1994 academic year, there were under 4,600 loans, and ten years later there were over 13,000 loans. That might make one think this is a good thing, that more Americans are taking a semester abroad, as is common in a lot of schools. They encourage students to take a semester abroad, and it is an enriching experience—maybe even a year abroad. One might think that is what that issue deals with. But let's show what is happening here.

Look at this chart. Of the 13,000 students who attend foreign schools, about 9,000 of those are attending foreign medical schools. About 75 percent of the total study abroad loan volume of 2003, or about \$170 million—and I am sure that number has gone up—is now for loans to students who attend foreign medical schools. That is a rather shocking number and a dramatic number. It comes from a GAO report, dated July of 2003. That is a matter I would call attention to.

What about these loans? Are these people attending top Paris medical schools or what? Look at them in terms of the volume of loans, first. Let's look at No. 1, the No. 1 school in the world where students receive U.S. Federal loan money is a medical school in Dominica. They only have one medical school on that island in the Caribbean, and they receive \$35 million in loan volume, with 1,700-plus students receiving loans to go to that school.

The next one in volume is Grenada. Remember during President Reagan's presidency, when we had an invasion of Grenada, where we had American medical students and their safety was of great concern to us when that invasion took place. Grenada has one medical school. It gets \$30 million and has 1,500 students attending.

The third country to receive Federal loan money for medical school is Mexico. They have 11 schools and they get \$27 million. England is fourth. They have 182 schools in England, but they only get \$25 million in student loans, and they have quite an advanced medical program there.

The next school on the list—the next country is the Dominican Republic, another island school. The Dominican Republic has six schools, and they receive \$20 million in student loans each year. The next one is St. Maarten, another

Caribbean island, \$16 million. Next is Canada. We would think that would be up there at the top, would we not? Canada, our neighbor. Canada has 108 schools and they get only \$15 million. The next one is another island school in the Caribbean, St. Kitts, they have two schools and they get \$14 million.

I think that begins to show the problem we are dealing with. I would suggest we need to take some real interest in it.

So I have offered an amendment that would deal with it. I send my amendment to the desk, as modified, and ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WEBB). The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: The Senator from Alabama [Mr. SESSIONS] proposes an amendment numbered 2374.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows: (Purpose: To amend the provisions of the Higher Education Act of 1965 regarding graduate medical schools located outside of the United States)

At the end of title I, add the following:

SEC. 114. FOREIGN MEDICAL SCHOOLS.

(a) PERCENTAGE PASS RATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 102(a)(2)(A)(i)(I)(bb) (20 U.S.C. 1002(a)(2)(A)(i)(I)(bb)) is amended by striking “60” and inserting “75”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on July 1, 2010.

(b) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(A) complete a study that shall examine American students receiving Federal financial aid to attend graduate medical schools located outside of the United States; and

(B) submit to Congress a report setting forth the conclusions of the study.

(2) CONTENTS.—The study conducted under this subsection shall include the following:

(A) The amount of Federal student financial aid dollars that are being spent on graduate medical schools located outside of the United States every year, and the percentage of overall student aid such amount represents.

(B) The percentage of students of such medical schools who pass the examinations administered by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates the first time.

(C) The percentage of students of such medical schools who pass the examinations administered by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates after taking such examinations multiple times, disaggregated by how many times the students had to take the examinations to pass.

(D) The percentage of recent graduates of such medical schools practicing medicine in the United States, and a description of where the students are practicing and what types of medicine the students are practicing.

(E) The rate of graduates of such medical schools who lose malpractice lawsuits or have the graduates' medical licenses revoked, as compared to graduates of graduate medical schools located in the United States.

(F) Recommendations regarding the percentage passing rate of the examinations ad-

ministered by the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates that the United States should require of graduate medical schools located outside of the United States for Federal financial aid purposes.

Mr. SESSIONS. So to briefly summarize what the amendment does, it attempts to deal with this issue in a balanced but effective way. It seeks to protect taxpayers' dollars from subsidizing foreign medical schools that are failing to show positive results, and we have a way to determine which ones are showing results. Currently, in order to qualify for student financial aid, we have a rule in effect. That rule is that the foreign medical school must show 60 percent of its graduates pass the Educational Commission for Foreign Medical Graduates' Examination. This is a test you have to take after you graduate to become licensed to practice medicine in the United States. So, currently, that rule is 60 percent. This amendment would raise the bar from 60 to 75 percent, to be implemented in 2 years' time. It would give them 2 years to prepare for this.

I believe it is a reasonable change because approximately 90 percent of U.S. medical school graduates pass medical licensing examinations on their first attempt. That is a big difference. It is indisputable that the test failure rate is indicative of the quality of the instruction that one receives at a school.

During the next 2 years, prior to implementation of the new 75-percent standard, the amendment also requires the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study on the amount of Federal aid going to offshore medical schools, the percentage of foreign medical graduates who pass the examination on the first try or after multiple attempts, the percentage of recent foreign medical school graduates practicing medicine in the United States, and a description of where and what type of medicine they are practicing and asking for recommendations for the examination passage rate the United States should require of foreign medical schools who wish to qualify so that they can receive U.S. Federal student aid.

I am also modifying the amendment by adding a portion of the study to examine the rate of malpractice lawsuits and of lost or revoked medical licenses from graduates of foreign medical schools as compared to graduates of U.S. medical schools.

Now, the study we have, the GAO report, would involve this. It would examine what is happening with students of foreign medical schools after they leave in order to determine how effective the schools are. While many of these schools likely do a pretty good job, and some I think do, there is no way to know for sure, as they are not licensed or accredited by any American entity.

Many foreign medical schools do not use cadavers—do not use cadavers—but instead have students perform procedures that would be done, preferably on