

passport, or border crossing identification card.

S. 1225

At the request of Mr. HUTCHINSON, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma [Mr. NICKLES] was added as a cosponsor of S. 1225, a bill to terminate the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

S. 1283

At the request of Mr. BUMPERS, the names of the Senator from Hawaii [Mr. AKAKA], the Senator from Michigan [Mr. ABRAHAM], the Senator from Virginia [Mr. ROBB], and the Senator from West Virginia [Mr. ROCKEFELLER] were added as cosponsors of S. 1283, a bill to award Congressional gold medals to Jean Brown Trickey, Carlotta Walls LaNier, Melba Patillo Beals, Terrence Roberts, Gloria Ray Karlmark, Thelma Mothershed Wair, Ernest Green, Elizabeth Eckford, and Jefferson Thomas, commonly referred collectively as the "Little Rock Nine" on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the integration of the Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas.

AMENDMENT NO. 1397

At the request of Mr. GRAMM the name of the Senator from Kansas [Mr. BROWNBACK] was added as a cosponsor of Amendment No. 1397 intended to be proposed to S. 1173, a bill to authorize funds for construction of highways, for highway safety programs, and for mass transit programs, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. BYRD the names of the Senator from Colorado [Mr. CAMPBELL], the Senator from North Dakota [Mr. CONRAD], the Senator from Idaho [Mr. CRAIG], the Senator from Ohio [Mr. GLENN], the Senator from North Carolina [Mr. HELMS], the Senator from Michigan [Mr. LEVIN], and the Senator from Idaho [Mr. KEMPTHORNE] were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1397 intended to be proposed to S. 1173, supra.

At the request of Mr. BYRD the name of the Senator from Indiana [Mr. COATS] was withdrawn as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1397 intended to be proposed to S. 1173, supra.

SENATE RESOLUTION 138—AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES FOR CONSULTANTS

Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. FORD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 138

Resolved, That section 16(b) of Senate Resolution 54, 105th Congress, agreed to February 13, 1997, is amended by striking "\$300,000" and inserting "\$400,000".

SENATE RESOLUTION 139—TO DESIGNATE NATIONAL CHILD CARE PROFESSIONAL'S DAY

Mr. JEFFORDS (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. DODD, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. WELLSTONE, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. REED, Mr. LEVIN,

and Mr. INOUE) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 139

Whereas more than 12,000,000 children under age 5, including half of all infants under age 1, in the United States, spend at least part of their day in the care of someone other than their parents;

Whereas there are millions of additional children under the age of 12 in the United States who are in some form of child care at the beginning and end of the school day as well as during school holidays and vacations;

Whereas for parents who must work, child care services that are dependable and of high quality make it easier to find and keep a job;

Whereas good child care helps parents reach and maintain economic self-sufficiency;

Whereas a solid partnership between parents and loving, trained child care professionals is essential to ensure the quality of child care, whether that care is provided in the home of the child, in a family child care setting, with relatives, or in a child care center;

Whereas the availability of child care that is reliable, convenient, and affordable is essential to maintaining and expanding the workforce of the United States and is vital for a parent making a successful transition from welfare to work;

Whereas for the millions of children in the care of someone other than their parents, child care provides the foundation upon which their future education will be built, and such care provides the basis on which the future workforce of the United States will be formed;

Whereas poor compensation and limited opportunities for professional training and education contribute to high staff turnover among child care providers, which disrupts the creation of the strong provider-child relationships that are critical to the healthy development of children;

Whereas the quality of child care has decisive and long-lasting effects on how children develop socially, emotionally, and academically, and how the children cope with stress;

Whereas studies indicate that children who require child care services do better in child care settings with trained, licensed, and accredited child care professionals; and

Whereas a national day of recognition for child care professionals will help people in the United States understand and appreciate the role of child care for working families, will highlight the importance of the parent-provider partnership, will provide opportunities to showcase skilled, nurturing providers and quality child care settings, and will energize more capable people to become child care professionals: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates April 24, 1998, as "National Child Care Professional's Day". The Senate requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

Mr. JEFFORDS. Mr. President, I rise today to submit a Senate resolution to designate the fourth Friday in April, April 24, 1998, as National Child Care Professional's Day.

For the more than 12 million children under the age of five—including half of all infants under 1 year of age—who spend at least part of their day being cared for by someone other than their parents—it is important that we recognize the skills and dedication of the child care providers who take care of

them. Child care professionals take care of our Nation's children in homes and centers throughout the country. They assume this responsibility for little pay, long hours, and few, if any benefits beyond the hugs and smiles of the children for which they care.

As the public dialog on child care moves to the forefront, we must keep in mind the people who are caring for our children, while their mothers and fathers work. If we want to move child care from babysitting to early childhood education we have to concentrate much of our efforts on professional development for child care providers. And we have to support efforts to make child care a valued profession—one that attracts the best and brightest and pays enough to keep them caring for our children.

Since 1990, the costs of child care have risen about 6 percent annually. This is almost triple the annual increase in the cost of living. At the same time, there are strong indicators that the quality of child care has significantly decreased during the same period of time. Parents are paying more bet getting less.

The quality of child care in America is very troubling. A recent nationwide study found that 40-percent of the child care provided to infants in child care centers was potentially injurious. Fifteen percent of center-based child care providers for all pre-schoolers are so bad that a child's health and safety are threatened; 70-percent are mediocre—not hurting or helping children; and 15-percent actively promote a child's development. Center-based child care, the object of this study, is the most heavily regulated and frequently monitored type of child care. There are strong indications that care for children in less regulated settings, such as family-based child care and in-home care, is far worse.

Unless we are willing to provide the support and assistance that is needed to help child care providers improve the services they provide to our children, there is little real hope for enhancing the quality of child care.

Since the 1970's there has been a decline in child care teacher salaries. In 1990, teachers in child care centers earned an average of \$11,500 a year. Assistant teachers, the largest growing segment of child care professionals, were paid 10- to 20-percent less than child care teachers. The 1990 annual income of regulated family child care providers was \$10,944 which translates to about \$4 an hour. Nonregulated family child care, generally comprised of providers taking care of a smaller number of children, earned an average of \$4,275 a year—substantially less than minimum wage.

With these wages, it is easy to understand why more child care providers do not participate in professional training or attend college classes to improve their skills. The costs of applying for