

designed to answer specific questions about drugs, devices, new therapies, or new ways of using known treatments.

“(iii) Any scholarship or other support for medical students, residents, or fellows selected by a national, regional, or specialty medical or other professional association to attend a significant educational, scientific, or policy-making conference of the association.”.

By Mrs. HUTCHISON (for herself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 949. A bill to establish a commission to assess the military facility structure of the United States overseas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Mr. President, today Senator FEINSTEIN and I are introducing the “Overseas Military Facility Structure Review Act” to establish a congressional panel to conduct a detailed study of U.S. military facilities overseas. This bill creates a bipartisan congressional commission charged with undertaking an objective and thorough review of our overseas basing structure. The commission will consider a host of criteria to determine whether our overseas bases are prepared to meet our needs in the 21st Century. The commission will be comprised of national security and foreign affairs experts who will present their findings to the 2005 domestic Base Realignment and Closure, BRAC, Commission, providing a comprehensive analysis of our worldwide base and force structure.

We believe it is important to determine our overseas basing requirements, assess training constraints, and provide recommendations on future realignments. As a result, we are proposing legislation that would create a congressional Overseas Basing Commission to review our basing strategy to ensure that it is consistent with both our short- and long-term national security objectives. We believe the time is right to move forward with a more structured approach to reviewing these overseas bases.

Such a review is timely. The 2005 BRAC is just around the corner and some in the Pentagon have suggested it could result in the closure of nearly one out of every four domestic bases. Before we close stateside military bases, we must first analyze our overseas infrastructure. If we reduce our overseas presence, we need stateside bases to station returning troops. It is senseless to close bases on U.S. soil in 2005 only to determine a few years later that we made a costly, irrevocable mistake. A painful lesson we learned in the last rounds of closures.

Though our military force structure has decreased since the Cold War, the responsibilities placed upon our service members have significantly increased. While operational effectiveness is paramount, it would be irresponsible to build on an inefficient, obsolete overseas base structure, as we face new strategic threats in the 21st century, taking valuable dollars needed elsewhere.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 122—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PRESIDENT SHOULD DESIGNATE MAY 1, 2003 AS “NATIONAL CHILD CARE WORTHY WAGE DAY”

Mr. CORZINE (for himself, Mr. DODD, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. KERRY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. KENNEDY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 122

Whereas approximately 14,000,000 children are in out-of-home care during part or all of the day so that their parents may work;

Whereas the average salary of early childhood educators is \$16,000 per year, and only one third of these educators have health insurance and even fewer have a pension plan;

Whereas low wages make it difficult to attract qualified individuals to the early childhood education profession and impair the quality of child care and other early childhood education programs, which is directly linked to the quality of early childhood educators;

Whereas the turnover rate of early childhood educators is approximately 30 percent per year because low wages and a lack of benefits make it difficult to retain high quality educators;

Whereas research has demonstrated that young children require caring relationships and a consistent presence in their lives for their positive development;

Whereas the compensation of early childhood educators must be commensurate with the important job of helping the young children of the United States develop the social, emotional, physical, and intellectual skills they need to be ready for school;

Whereas the cost of adequate compensation for early childhood educators cannot be funded by further burdening parents with higher child care fees, but requires instead public as well as private resources to ensure that quality care and education is accessible for all families; and

Whereas the Center for the Child Care Workforce and other early childhood education organizations recognize May 1st as National Child Care Worthy Wage Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF NATIONAL CHILD CARE WORTHY WAGE DAY.

(a) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the sense of the Senate that the President should designate May 1, 2003, as “National Child Care Worthy Wage Day”.

(b) PROCLAMATION.—The Senate requests the President to issue a proclamation—

(1) designating May 1, 2003, as “National Child Care Worthy Wage Day”; and

(2) calling on the people of the United States to observe “National Child Care Worthy Wage Day” by—

(A) honoring early childhood educators and programs in their communities; and

(B) working together to resolve the early childhood educator compensation crisis.

Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I rise today to submit, along with Senators DODD, DURBIN, FEINGOLD, KENNEDY, KERRY and MURRAY, a resolution supporting national Child Care Worthy Wage Day. It is my hope that it will bring attention to early childhood education and the importance of attracting and retaining qualified childcare workers.

Every day, approximately 13 million children are cared for outside the home so that their parents can work. This figure includes 6 million of our Nation's infants and toddlers. Children begin to learn at birth, and the quality of care they receive will affect them for the rest of their lives. Early childcare affects language development, math skills, social behavior, and general readiness for school. Experienced childcare workers can identify children who have development or emotional problems and provide the care they need to take on life's challenges. Through the creative use of play, structured activities and individual attention, childcare workers help young children learn about the world around them and how to interact with others. They also teach the skills children will need to be ready to read and to learn when they go to school.

Unfortunately, despite the importance of their work, the committed individuals who nurture and teach our Nation's young children are undervalued. The average salary of a childcare worker is about \$15,000 annually. In 1998, the middle 50 percent of childcare workers and pre-school teachers earned between \$5.82 and \$8.13 an hour, according to the Department of Labor. The lowest 10 percent of childcare workers were paid an hourly rate of \$5.49 or less. Only one third of our Nation's childcare workers have health insurance and even fewer have pension plans. This grossly inadequate level of wages and benefits for childcare staff has led to difficulties in attracting and retaining high quality caretakers and educators. As a result, the turnover rate for childcare providers is 30 percent a year. This high turnover rate interrupts consistent and stable relationships that children need to have with their caregivers.

If we want our children cared for by qualified providers with higher degrees and more training, we will have to make sure they are adequately compensated. Otherwise, we will continue to lose early childhood educators with BA degrees to kindergarten and first grade, losing some of our best teachers of young children from the early years of learning.

In order to bring attention to childcare workers, I am sponsoring a resolution that would designate May 1 as National Child Care Worthy Wage Day. On May 1 each year, childcare providers and other early childhood professionals nationwide conduct public awareness and education efforts highlighting the importance of good early childhood education.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in recognizing the importance of the work and professionalism that childcare workers provide and the need to increase their compensation accordingly. The Nation's childcare workforce, the families who depend on them, and the children they care for, deserve our support.