

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 10, 1997

MEMORANDUM TO ALL EOP PASSHOLDERS

FROM: Melinda N. Bates
Special Assistant to the President and
Director, Visitors Office

RE: 1997 Christmas Candlelight Tours

The annual White House Christmas Candlelight Tours take place this year

from 5 to 7 p.m. on: Friday, December 26
Saturday, December 27
Monday, December 29

As in the past, these tours are open to the public and to all passholders with photo hard passes.

There are no tickets nor group reservations.

The President and Mrs. Clinton asked the Visitors Office to extend passholder head-of-line privileges for these tours. Please note that these tours are identical to the Holiday Tours for Passholders on Sunday, December 14th, except **photos are not permitted** inside during the Candlelight Tours.

All visitors form a line at the Visitor Entrance on East Executive Avenue. The passholder line will run north on East Executive to Pennsylvania Avenue. Passholder hours are 5:30 until 7 p.m., each day. The wait may be long, and the weather will probably be cold, so **please encourage your guests to dress appropriately.**

We hope you and your guests enjoy this final holiday event.

The Honorable Floyd D. Spence
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-6035

which is closely modeled on a proposal included in the President's "Educational Excellence for All Children Act of 1999."

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This responds to your request for the views of the Department of Defense on H.R. 2344, 106th Congress, a bill ~~to~~ provide funds to assist high-poverty school districts meet their teaching needs." If enacted the bill would be called the "Transition to Teaching Act."

The Department of Defense ^{strongly} supports the legislation.

H.R. 2344 would authorize the Secretary of Education to use \$18 million of the appropriations of each of fiscal years 2000 through 2005 to support teacher recruitment programs including the Troops to Teachers program. Under section 4, the Secretary of Education would provide funds to the Department of Defense for continuing and enhancing the Troops to Teachers program as part of a larger initiative to recruit new teachers for the Nation's schools.

This legislation would authorize the Department of Defense to continue to administer the Troops to Teachers program. That program has assisted more than 3,000 former members of the Armed Forces to transition to second careers in public education. H.R. 2344 would continue the authority for stipends so that the Department of Defense can provide the cost of up to \$5,000 per participant for certification for employment as an elementary and secondary school teacher.

The Office of Management and Budget advises that, from the standpoint of the Administration's program, there is no objection to the presentation of this report for the consideration of the committee.

Sincerely,

Wouldn't we want to say that enactment of H.R. 2344 would be in accord with the program of the President?

Judith A. Miller

cc:

The Honorable Ike Skelton
Ranking Democrat

While I strongly support H.R. 2344, I believe that, for the sake of flexibility, the authorization of appropriations should be revised to authorize "such sums" for fiscal years 2001 through 2005.