

Two sides of same coin

Sun-Sentinel Editorial Board

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Congress has helped the high-tech industry and the nation's economy this week by boosting the number of visas for foreign skilled workers. Too bad lawmakers are reluctant to help the service industry and some immigrants who deserve a chance to legalize their status.

The House and Senate on Tuesday passed legislation to increase the number of foreign "H1-B" visas to 195,000 a year for the next three years. This will allow companies to hire more computer programmers, engineers and other professionals from foreign countries.

Congress passed the foreign visas bill after some lawmakers gave up the fight to attach an immigrant amnesty proposal. The technology industry successfully argued that it desperately needs foreign workers to fill a critical labor shortage.

But Congress has a tougher time understanding that the service industry also needs more workers. Together with labor unions, hotel and restaurant operators and others have urged Congress to pass the Latino Immigrant and Fairness Act, which gives relief to Central Americans, Haitians and others who have lived in the United States for years.

This is not a blanket amnesty for people who have crossed U.S. borders illegally. Instead, the "fairness" bill is about bringing fairness and uniformity to immigration policies. Three groups are targeted in this legislation: immigrants who were unfairly excluded from a 1986 amnesty program, Central Americans and Haitians who are seeking parity under a 1997 law that favored Nicaraguans and Cubans, and immigrant workers who qualify for permanent status under family reunification policies but must first leave the country for up to 10 years.

Both leading presidential candidates support relief for some undocumented workers with longstanding ties to their communities. Vice President Al Gore, the Democratic standard bearer, backs amnesty for all three groups. Texas Gov. George W. Bush, the Republican contender, favors a break for one group -- immigrants who were wrongly excluded from the 1986 legislation.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who lost the presidential primary race, has added his voice to the debate.

"I hope the Senate will have the opportunity to vote on passage of the Latino and Immigration Fairness Act before the 106th Congress adjourns. It is the right thing to do, and our leaders on both sides of the aisle should find a way to bring it to a vote," said McCain last week, in the *Congressional Record*.

With time running out, Congress should take McCain's advice.

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Raul Yzaguirre, President

October 17, 2000

Hon. Orrin Hatch
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hatch:

I am writing to thank you for taking the time to meet last week, and for your continued commitment to fairness and equity, particularly for families, in the immigration process. My staff and I are looking forward to working with you, as you suggested, to reform the legal immigration system next year.

In the meantime, as we near the end of this session, I would like to reiterate NCLR's strong support of the package of legislation known as the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act (LIFA), which finally resolves the status of hundreds of thousands of immigrants who have been mistreated under our laws, and face family separation.

I understand that your office has taken the lead in discussions with your colleagues in Congress and the White House in an effort to resolve these issues. I welcome this development, and am encouraged that your staff is consulting with mine closely. I am concerned, however, that the initial proposal which your staff provided to mine falls far short of achieving the goals of protecting those whose rights were undermined under previous laws, and providing for the swift reunification of families. I have attached a detailed analysis of the proposal for your information, but would like to outline my major concerns below:

First, while we would welcome the restoration of section 377 to the Immigration and Nationality Act, the proposal falls far short of protecting the immigrants who were eligible for the legalization program of 1987, but who were improperly prevented from applying by the INS. It does not provide permanent immigration status, nor does it address the situation of their family members. Had the INS acted properly, these individuals would be U.S. citizens, or eligible for citizenship, by now. We hope that this proposal forms the basis of further discussion on how to provide adequate relief to these individuals.



Program Offices: Phoenix, Arizona • San Antonio, Texas • Los Angeles, California • Chicago, Illinois

LA RAZA: The Hispanic People of the New World

NCLR to Senator Hatch
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In addition, while we are encouraged by the second proposal, which adds to the debate the notion of providing relief to some individuals in the family backlog, we believe that it covers only a very few individuals. Most petitioners under the family visa category you propose to amend wait less than five years for their visas. Only a few individuals from Mexico would benefit from this relief. While we encourage you to pursue proposals to relieve the burden on individuals both within and outside of the U.S. who are waiting in the family backlog, we would encourage that the proposal be expanded to include more family categories and a shorter waiting period.

Nevertheless, even a generous proposal to address the family backlog is unlikely to fully address the concerns of families who face separation because Section 245i has not been restored to immigration law. I know that you share this view; your voting record on the issue attests to your support of these families. I urge you in the strongest possible terms to support the restoration of 245i to immigration law in the name of American families.

In addition, even a generous family reunification proposal cannot serve as a substitute to finally bringing justice to populations which have waited in some cases more than a decade for our laws to finally fulfill the promise of protection. In the case of Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Hondurans and Haitians, there is a long history of misapplication of the nation's asylum laws. These are individuals who fled conflicts in their countries, applied for political asylum, and won protections from the Congress at various times. In other words, they played by the rules, and were denied the ability to stay permanently despite their patience. Their neighbors from Nicaragua, and others from Cuba, who faced a similar situation were granted green cards; we ask that you finally close the long and difficult chapter of the mistreatment of Central Americans by bringing their status in line with that of the Nicaraguans and Cubans. As my staff has suggested to yours, we believe that the situation of Central America is unique; we don't believe that nationals of other countries can demonstrate the same history of mistreatment under our laws.

Finally, I would like to reiterate two requests: the first is that you communicate directly with Senator Roth to urge his support for Senator Chafee's bill to provide access to health care for legal immigrant children and pregnant women. The second is that you issue a strong statement in opposition to the Utah "English Only" initiative, and my invitation to arrange a joint appearance in Utah with other Latino leaders to announce our collective opposition to Proposition A.

NCLR to Senator Hatch

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I will try to reach you by telephone when you return to Washington tomorrow to discuss these issues in greater detail. Again, I thank you for your commitment to resolving these issues; I look forward to talking with you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raul Yzaguirre', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Raul Yzaguirre
President

DRAFT ANALYSIS OF REPUBLICAN ALTERNATIVE TO LIFA

- **Republican "Due Process" Proposal** – The initial proposal would repeal Section 377 of the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRAIRA), the provision that prevented the participants in successful class-action litigation against the INS from having continued access to the courts. This puts the immigrants who were eligible for the legalization program of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA), but who were improperly prevented from applying by the INS, in the same legal limbo they were in at the time of the enactment of IIRAIRA. It does not resolve their immigration status, nor address the situation of their family members. Had the INS acted properly in the 1980's, these individuals would be U.S. citizens by now.

There is some suggestion the proposal could be amended to provide for processing one portion of the "late legalization" class, those who can prove that they actually applied for legalization and were told at the INS front desk not to proceed. While helping those who were "front desked" accomplishes a portion of the goals of the registry date proposal, it fails to provide relief to a significant portion of the late legalization class, particularly those who were discouraged by the INS from coming forward to apply in the first place.

- **Republican Family Backlog Proposal** – The initial proposal would provide one-time interim relief for the spouses and children of legal permanent residents who have been waiting more than five years for immigrant visas. It would also offer relief for those in the backlog of the family first preference (adult unmarried children of U.S. citizens). The relief would consist of visitors visas and work authorization, which would allow them to reunite with family members legally in the United States while waiting for their permanent visas. This proposal, which addresses a family immigration concern not contemplated in LIFA, would affect only a small number of family immigrants from only two countries for the following reasons:

- Most of the individuals in the backlog of spouses and children of legal permanent residents do not wait five years to receive their visas. The only country with a waiting period of more than five years is Mexico, where the backlog is now six years.
- Similarly, the only individuals in the backlog of adult unmarried children of U.S. citizens for more than five years are individuals from Mexico, where the backlog is now six years and seven months, and from the Philippines, where the backlog is now twelve years and six months.
- If the proposal were to be modified to cover individuals who have been in the backlog for two years or more, the impact would broaden, and would cover individuals from a variety of countries. However, its overall impact would still be modest. That is because individuals whose family members filed petitions on their behalf before January 14, 1998, are eligible for Section 245(i) adjustment of status, because of the "grandfather" provision written into the law when Section 245(i) was allowed to expire. Therefore, with an effective date of January 1, 2001 (for example), of the individuals in the backlog for two years or more, only the individuals whose family members filed for them between January 14, 1998 and January 1, 1999 would be covered.
- This proposal fails to offer any protection from family separation for individuals in the other three family categories: unmarried adult children of legal permanent residents; married adult children of U.S. citizens; and brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens. In these categories of family immigration, the backlog for all countries is five years or longer (with the exception of the married adult children of U.S. citizens, where the backlog is approaching five years for all countries).

The proposal does not address in any way the situation of Central Americans or Haitians who were left in legal limbo by the 1997 Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA).

NCLR

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA

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CITY: _____

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Office of Research, Advocacy and Legislation

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of pages in transmission, including cover 5MESSAGE:

_____**Note: If there is any problem with this transmission please contact Concepcion Romero at (202) 776-1782.****Program Offices:** Phoenix, Arizona • San Antonio, Texas • Los Angeles, California • Chicago, Illinois**LA RAZA:** The Hispanic People of the New World

National Immigration Forum

Fax Cover Page

Date ~~August 1999~~ 10/17/00

TO: IRENE BUEAR

Of: _____

Fr: Angela Kelley

Re: _____

Total number of pages INCLUDING this page: 3

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is not being sent to Hatch's staff.

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The proposal does not address in any way the situation of Central Americans or Haitians who were left in legal limbo by the 1997 Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA).

Numbers of People Covered

In sum, even with the most generous interpretation of the proposal far fewer individuals are helped than under the LIFA proposal.

Analysis

Republican "Due Process" Proposal:

Repeal of section 377 does not confer legal status on anyone.

Legalizing those that were front-desked will cover 80,000 people

Republican Family Backlog Proposal:

The proposal to offer visitors visas to those in two of the five family preference categories who have been in the backlog for a number of years is not quantifiable. Because the number of people who file petitions each year varies, there is no way to know how many would benefit under the proposal. It is certain however, that because only two of the five family categories are covered, and the backlogs are of varying lengths, that many family members will remain separated from their loved ones. The proposal does not achieve the goal of keeping families united.

LIFA - Registry:

Registry with a 1982 date would cover 235,000 people

Registry with a 1986 date would cover 386,000 people

LIFA -245(I)

In the case of 245(I), it applies across the board to all people seeking legal status through family members. Unlike the Republican proposal, it does not discriminate among the family categories. Both proposals do not legalize any new people.

LIFA - Central American and Haitian Parity

This provision is not included in the Republican proposal. In LIFA, this portion of the legislation will cover an estimated 425,000 individuals.

Totals

Republican Proposal – Legalizing "front-desked" people - 80,000

Family backlog visas – unknown total

LIFA 1986 registry date -386,000

parity 425,000

Total 811,000

Washington, DC 20515

October 6, 2000

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
Speaker of the House
H-232 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We are writing to express our great concern about the possibility that the Medicare and Medicaid refinements legislation that is now under consideration might contain a provision that expands welfare for noncitizens. More specifically, we understand that there is a proposal to reduce the 5-year ban on welfare for noncitizens entering the country after August 22, 1996 to 2 years in the case of Medicaid. In our view, this provision is a retreat from a core principle of welfare reform.

The most important provision on noncitizens in the 1996 welfare reform law was the 5 year ban on nearly all welfare benefits for noncitizens who enter the U.S. after August 22, 1996. Rather than require taxpayers to support noncitizens, the 1996 policy requires noncitizens to have sponsors who are responsible for providing assistance. Once these new entrants become citizens, of course, they are eligible for all welfare benefits on the same basis as other citizens. Moreover, the 1996 legislation contains exceptions for medical emergencies and for education and other programs that noncitizens could use to expand their knowledge and skills so they can qualify for better jobs. But we think it critically important to ensure that noncitizens come to America for opportunity and not for welfare. Any breach in the August 22, 1996 policy must be resisted with great vigor.

Thus, we urge you not to accept any welfare expansions for noncitizens on the Medicare and Medicaid refinements legislation. Thanks for your help with this important matter.

Sincerely,

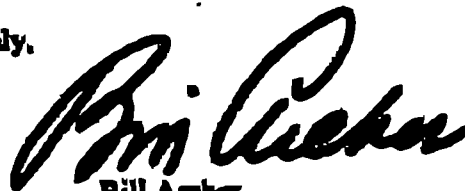


Lamar S. Smith

Chairman

Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims

Committee on the Judiciary



Bill Archer

Chairman

Committee on Ways and Means

cc: Tom Bliley

Michael Billrakis

Bill Thomas

American communism used various aliases in his youth, including John Howell and John Hollberg, but legally adopted the name Gus Hall in the mid-1930s.

One of 10 children of a frequently out-of-work Finnish immigrant iron miner and union organizer, he grew up in what he once described as "semi-starvation." His parents helped organize the American Communist Party and recruited him for membership in his teens.

Hall dropped out of school after eighth grade and worked as a lumberjack, iron miner, steelworker and union organizer. His hardscrabble experiences in the logging camps, mines and mills convinced him of the rightness of communism.

Hall is survived by his wife of 66 years, Elizabeth; one son, Arvo; one daughter, Barbara; two sisters; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Proposed Chevron-Texaco Merger Will Face Regulatory Hurdles

By Nancy Rivera Brooks and James F. Peltz= ^ (c) 2000, Los Angeles Times=

As Chevron and Texaco heaped superlatives Monday on their proposed \$35 billion merger, this latest entry in the oil industry's bigger-is-better derby faces high hurdles built by near-record oil and gasoline prices that have made energy companies decidedly unpopular in consumer and political circles.

Indeed, the deal, which would create the world's fourth-largest publicly traded oil company but cost at least 4,000 jobs, drew sharp criticism Monday from consumer groups and suspicion from politicians. Antitrust experts predicted that the companies would be required to sell some refineries and gasoline stations, particularly on the West Coast, to get approval from the Federal Trade Commission.

In addition, Chevron and Texaco may be hobbled by their relatively late entry into the oil industry's race to consolidate, which in the last three years has seen Texaco and Shell bring their refining and marketing operations together, Exxon and Mobil merge to create the world's biggest oil company and British Petroleum buy first Amoco Corp. and then Atlantic Richfield Co., making it No. 3 in the "super major" trio of ExxonMobil Corp., Royal Dutch/Shell and BP.

Those mergers have yet to produce the anticipated increased spending in exploration and production for oil and natural gas, and each combination has further concentrated the industry and pushed the FTC to take a harder look with each successive matchup.

"Any time you see an industry that's rapidly consolidating, the antitrust regulators tend to get a little more cautious," said William J. Baer, who was director of the FTC's Bureau of Competition until last fall and now is with the Washington, D.C., law firm Arnold & Porter. "On the other hand, the last guy in has the argument that 'I need to get in too, or I won't be able to get to the size of my competitors.'"

Chevron Corp. Chief Executive David J. O'Reilly, who would run the merged company, and Texaco Inc. Chief Executive Peter I. Bijur, who would become a vice chairman, hailed their long-rumored merger as good for consumers because the two companies together would be able to more efficiently search for low-cost energy around the globe. The companies pledged to work with regulators and have begun talks to sell some of the controversial refining and market assets in the West.

"We are the company for the 21st century," Bijur said of the proposed corporation, which would be called ChevronTexaco Corp. and be based in San Francisco, home of Chevron. The stock deal which trades 0.77 of a Chevron share for each outstanding Texaco share would leave Chevron shareholders with 61 percent ownership of the new company. Chevron would get nine seats on the 15-member board of directors.

In trading Monday, Chevron shares lost \$2.25 to close at \$82 on the New York Stock Exchange, and Texaco rose \$3.88 to \$59, also on the NYSE.

The two companies expect to achieve at least \$1.2 billion in annual savings within six to nine months of closing the deal, partly by eliminating overlapping operations around the world and by cutting 4,000 of 57,000 jobs. The executives said they have not yet identified where the cuts would be.

Consumer groups were quick to criticize the merger, saying it raises the likelihood of higher gasoline and natural-gas prices.

"We're not pleased to see it," said Wenonah Hauter, director of energy and environment for the watchdog group Public Citizen. "We think this doesn't bode well for consumers, because we'll have fewer competitors. And in the long run, there's the additional problem of the increased political power of these larger, wealthier companies."

Michael Shames, executive director of Utility Consumers' Action Network, a consumer group in San Diego, said that "there is no way we could be happy about this merger" because "we have not seen any evidence of an oil industry merger in the last five years that's been beneficial to consumers."

High crude oil and gasoline prices have been a hot political issue, and the proposed deal will be eyed with caution by politicians.

California Attorney General Bill Lockyer, whose office is investigating gasoline pricing in the state, will closely examine the combination, spokeswoman Sandra Michioku said.

"The California market suffers from low competition and high concentration, and this sort of merger deserves to be looked at," she said.

Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., who has blasted past oil industry mergers as being bad for consumers, "continues to be concerned about further concentration and reduced competition in the oil industry," said her communications director, David Sandretti. "We think with the past oil industry mergers that there is a direct correlation between less competition and higher prices for the consumer."

Texaco is the largest seller of gasoline in the nation through two joint ventures: one in the West with Shell, called Equilon, and another in the East with Shell and Saudi Aramco, called Motiva. Chevron is the fifth in the nation.

O'Reilly and Bijur said they are eager to cooperate with the FTC and already are considering divestitures. Texaco has begun talks with Shell Oil Co., the U.S. arm of Royal Dutch/Shell, and with Saudi Refining, about selling their interests in the joint ventures.

Chevron and Texaco together would be less than half the size of ExxonMobil, which got FTC approval to merge in November 1999. But a transaction doesn't have to be an industry's biggest merger to be blocked on antitrust grounds.

Antitrust regulators look at each merger "with whatever scrutiny is justified by the circumstances," and those "circumstances change if there are mergers in front of you because your industry gets more concentrated," said Michael Cooper, an antitrust lawyer with the law firm Bryan Cave LLP in Washington.

In the case of Chevron and Texaco, all aspects of the companies' operations from exploration and production to their gasoline stations will be examined against the backdrop of there now being fewer major oil companies, said Steve Newborn, a lawyer at the law firm Rogers & Wells in Washington and a former head of merger enforcement at the FTC.

"The bottom line is: Does this merger allow the merging parties to increase prices, decrease service or reduce innovation, all of which would be to the detriment of the ultimate consumer?" he said.

Past oil industry mergers were approved with the idea that exploration and production would increase because the bigger firms would have better access to capital. But such worldwide spending actually decreased 5 percent in 1999 despite rising oil prices and energy company profits, said Jim Petrie, a partner with the Arthur Andersen consulting firm in Houston. Part of that reflects a typical time lag, he said.

"You don't turn the capital expenditure faucet as quickly as oil prices go up," Petrie said.

Justices Send Tiger Trademark Dispute Back to Lower Court (Washn)

By David G. Savage= ^ (c) 2000, Los Angeles Times=

WASHINGTON The Supreme Court refused Monday to referee a cat fight between the oil company that puts a "tiger in your tank" and the cereal maker whose Frosted Flakes are described

Both Internet companies said Monday that they would ignore the subpoenas.

After hearing arguments in the case, the appeals court took an unusual step of allowing the lower court's ruling to stand without issuing a written opinion. That means the court's action last week will not serve as a precedent for future cases involving online anonymity.

Lidsky said the appeals court's refusal to write an opinion was a disappointment because it provided no guidance to other courts facing similar cases. She said an appeal of the ruling is being explored.

We should play up

Immigrant Health Care Bill Is Dumped (Washn)

By Alissa J. Rubin= ^ (c) 2000, Los Angeles Times=

WASHINGTON Congressional Republicans have dropped legislation that would help pregnant legal immigrants and children of legal immigrants regain health care benefits taken away as part of the 1996 welfare reform law, legislative aides said Monday.

In closed-door meetings late last week, GOP negotiators decided to jettison a version of the measure that would have given states the option to offer government-subsidized health care to legal immigrant children and pregnant women who have been in the country at least two years, according to Republican aides.

The legislation had been backed by a bipartisan group of lawmakers including a number of Latino House members. Two of its leading backers were Rep. Lincoln Diaz-Balart, R-Fla., and Rep. Henry A. Waxman, D-Calif. Florida Gov. Jeb Bush as well as two Republican Senate candidates, Rep. Rick Lazio, R-N.Y., and Rep. Bill McCollum, R-Fla., also supported the measure.

But several powerful lawmakers, led by Rep. Bill Archer, R-Texas, and Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, said that such a change would be an unacceptable retreat from welfare reform.

"It is critically important to ensure that noncitizens come to America for opportunity and not for welfare," wrote Smith and Archer in a letter to House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert, R-Ill.

The issue highlights divisions between Republican lawmakers who want to reach out to Latinos and those who take a hard-line anti-immigrant stand. For now, at least, support appears stronger for the anti-immigrant position.

"There's division on all kinds of things," said Rep. Brian Bilbray, R-Calif., an early supporter of the provision to restore benefits. "Perinatal service is so much more cost-effective than having a premature delivery. From a humanitarian point of view, it's the right thing (and) from a budgetary point of view it's the right thing to do."

In Texas, which has a large immigrant population, Republican Gov. George W. Bush has not taken a position on the bill, his staff said.

The GOP is similarly divided on whether to give amnesty to more than 300,000 Latinos who failed to apply when amnesty was available but have been living and working in the United States for many years.

The health care measure would have modified a provision of the 1996 welfare reform law that prohibited legal immigrants from enrolling for five years in the Medicaid program, which is jointly funded by the federal government and the states. Public health advocates as well as many lawmakers said that the change was needed to ensure the health of all children and communities.

If enacted, it would help about 130,000 children and 50,000 pregnant women over the next five years at a cost of about \$500 million, according to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office.

The legislation had been added to the House version of a \$26 billion bill intended to help Medicare HMOs and hospitals. That bill will come to a vote in the House and Senate by midweek.

This year's fight over immigrants' health benefits reprises one of the most bitter confrontations in the 1996 welfare reform debate: whether the goal of reform was only to end the entitlement to cash benefits for poor Americans or whether it also was intended to stop immigrants from using the health care system.

"If you look at the broad welfare reform debate it was around entitlements and work and family structure and personal responsibility," said Alan Weil, director of the New Federalism Project at the Urban Institute. "But the immigrant piece wasn't an

accident. It was a significant share of the savings associated with the bill and, for some lawmakers, it was a matter of principle."

Until 1996, immigrants who came to the United States legally were accorded the same rights and responsibilities as native-born Americans or naturalized citizens.

But that changed under welfare reform. Legal immigrant children and pregnant women lost health care coverage unless they had been in the country for five years. In addition the children of legal immigrants lost coverage because many legal immigrants did not understand that their children were still eligible for Medicaid coverage.

"These are pregnant women and children, these are the most precious and vulnerable in our population," said Marcela Urrutia, of La Raza, a national organization that represents immigrant interests. "Pregnant women pay taxes, too."

Gus Hall, Head of U.S. Communist Party, Dies at 90

By Myrna Oliver= ^ (c) 2000, Los Angeles Times=

Gus Hall, the lumberjack, iron miner, steelworker and union organizer whose name became synonymous with the American Communist Party that he led for 40 years, has died at age 90.

Hall, once imprisoned for conspiracy to teach and advocate the violent overthrow of the U.S. government, died Friday in New York City's Lenox Hill Hospital of complications from diabetes, party officials announced Monday.

Although Hall mellowed with age and his party's slow fade from public enemy to historic relic, he never repudiated his beliefs or his rosy view of the Soviet Union as it was under Leonid Brezhnev. Hall outlasted that nation, but not even the dismantling of the Communist Bloc a decade ago could shake his ultimate loyalty.

"Just as feudalism was an advance over slavery, and capitalism was the next step after feudalism, socialism is the next step after capitalism," he told the Cleveland Plain-Dealer in 1996. "Socialism in America will come through the ballot box."

After shifting the party goal from violent overthrow of democracy toward what he saw as "a peaceful, democratic road to socialism" in the mid-1960s, Hall waged four quixotic campaigns for president of the United States.

But he never garnered as much as even 1 percent of the nation's vote and he never qualified for the ballot in more than a handful of states.

In 1976, he received his highest nationwide tally, a mere 58,992 votes.

Never the ogre he was often assumed to be, the barrel-chested Hall in person was affable, nattily dressed and adept at telling funny stories over endless cups of coffee.

The man who said he was a born Communist and was inevitably introduced as "Comrade Gus Hall" was also quintessentially American. He enlisted in the Navy as a machinist's mate during World War II and repaired engines on Guam for the duration.

In a 1982 Los Angeles Times interview, Hall insisted that life in the Soviet Union at that time was far better than in America because of the Communist nation's total employment, free education and medical care, low taxes and rent and housing for all.

Yet asked if he would prefer to live there or anywhere other than the United States, he exclaimed: "Oh, no. This is the best country in the world in which to live."

Even his explanations of the party could make communism sound as American as Mom and apple pie: "(The party) is a product of our American industrial and political system," he said, "like mass production ... the Bill of Rights, jazz ... blues and baseball."

Hall also had a few trappings of the capitalism he so soundly denounced in speeches, on television talk shows and in a dozen pro-Communist books and innumerable pamphlets.

He lived in a bourgeois house in suburban Yonkers, N.Y., where he painted pictures of woodpeckers and traveled by chauffeured limousine.

He had to buy the house, he told the Times, because no landlord "would rent to a Communist leader," and he needed the chauffeur first because New York denied him a driver's license and later for "security reasons."

Born Arvo Kusta Halberg in Iron, Minn., the patriarch of

MEMORANDUM

TO: MARIA ECHAVESTE
FROM: IRENE BUENO
RE: CONFERENCE CALL ON LATINO AND IMMIGRANT FAIRNESS ACT
10 am on Tuesday, October 17, 2000

PURPOSE: The purpose of this call is to update the groups and the Hill on the status of negotiations on the LIFA provisions and to discuss strategy.

BACKGROUND: We have met several times with Republican staff on the LIFA provisions. They have rejected the Administration's proposals and have offered other proposals but offered nothing on Parity legislation. In our discussion with Republican staff yesterday, it was clear that we are much further apart than originally thought.

ATTENDEES:

Administration
You
Irene
Patty
Robert
Joel
Mark
Ruth & Brian - invited
INS?

Hill
Cassandra Butts
Scott Deutchman
Congressional Hispanic Caucus staff - invited
Andrea LaRue
Bruce Cohen - invited

Groups

Frank Sharry & Angie Kelly National Immigration Forum
Cecilia Munoz, NCLR
Larry Gonzalez, NALEO
Jeanne Butterfield & Judy Golub, AILA
Kevin Appleby & Michael Hill, US Catholics Charities
Alison Rearden, SEIU

We are telling Rep leadership to instruct Hatch & Lamm Smith to be forthcoming otherwise we would veto.

• Parity - Nothing

• Registry Date

• New via program 5 yr wait
1998
won't help many people

• Next Steps

- meeting w/ Maura & Sharon

• Did not understand their own proposal... willing to reduce 2 yrs

• Did not get 245(s)

• Probably would help to educate re

• Lamm Smith's legacy

• Don't

• Don't want to help 1982 under their ~~state~~ program parameters + direct parity

• Don't want to give them.

Next Steps

- Blast their proposal... target Lamm Smith.

- We have good editorial

- Education piece for Hatch's staff

Backlog \$ have not gotten in CJS

- Press Paper - today @ 4 pm

- NCLC - talk to Hatch

- Fleck out Hyde - Dems - Brown, Berman, - coordinate

- Catholic - will call Hyde - Peter Levisen - Scott D.

- meeting w/ Hyde - House Dems - Dan

- We should not be negotiating

- Need to look the #s.

Public
higher level
mediation

House

October 12, 2000

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As Congress considers immigration legislation in the final days of this session, the Administration urges Congress to pass the legislative proposals described below. These legislative proposals would restore fairness in our immigration system that is long overdue for many individuals and their families who have been living in the United States for a number of years.

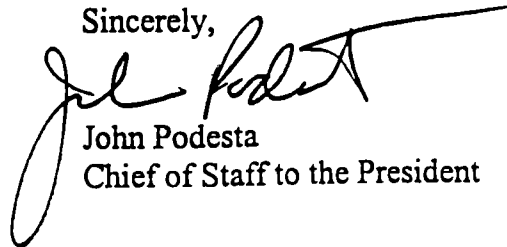
Registry Date Amendment. This legislation would amend section 249 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to allow qualified long-term migrants who have resided in the United States since 1986 to become lawful permanent residents. The INA registry provision has existed in this country since 1929 and has changed several times. The last time the date was changed was in 1986 when it was revised to 1972. Revising the registry date from 1972 to 1986 would provide humanitarian relief to many long-term migrants and also reduce or eliminate the need to continue litigating some of the large class action suits still lingering from the 1986 legalization program.

Central American and Haitian Parity Relief Act. This legislation would amend the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act of 1997 (NACARA) to allow qualified nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Haiti, and Liberia an opportunity to become lawful permanent residents by providing treatment equal to that granted to Nicaraguans and Cubans. NACARA was passed, in part, to support important, fragile emerging democracies. Like Nicaraguans and Cubans, many Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Hondurans, Haitians and Liberians fled human rights abuses or unstable political conditions in the 1980s and 1990s. Yet these latter groups received less favorable treatment than that granted to Nicaraguans and Cubans by NACARA.

Reauthorization of Section 245(i). This legislation would reauthorize section 245(i) of the INA to permit certain eligible migrants to adjust their immigration status while remaining in the United States by paying an additional fee. This provision had previously been the law but it expired in 1998. The revenues generated from this proposal should be directed toward efforts to reduce the backlog of naturalization applications and other immigrant benefit applications and to support detention funding. If such revenues are not directed in this manner, then we need to increase resources to ensure adequate funding for naturalization and other services and to support detention efforts.

As previously indicated, the President will veto the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations bill unless these provisions are resolved satisfactorily. It is long overdue that we correct these injustices in the immigration system. The legislative proposals described above would address these injustices and would help many individuals and their families who have been living in the United States for a long time and have developed strong ties to their community to normalize their immigration status. For these reasons, the Administration urges Congress to pass this legislation without delay. We stand ready to work with Congress to enact these legislative proposals this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Podesta", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Podesta
Chief of Staff to the President

Estimated Number of Individuals Covered by Proposed Parity and Registry Legislation¹

10/13/00

Central American and Haitian Parity Act

Salvadorans	140,000 ²
Guatamalans	170,000 ³
Hondurans	80,000
Haitians	50,000 ⁴
<u>Total</u>	<u>440,000⁵</u>

Liberian Parity: 7,300⁶

Registry: 500,000

Section 249 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, known as the “registry” provision, allows certain individuals to obtain status as lawful permanent residents if they have resided continuously in the United States since January 1, 1972. The proposed legislation would update the registry date (last amended in 1986) to January 1, 1986.

¹ The Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act (LIFA), S. 2912, includes both parity and registry provisions. In addition, it would restore Section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act which would allow certain individuals who are eligible for adjustment of status to complete the process in the United States rather than traveling to a U.S. consulate overseas.

² This figure does not include an estimated 190,000 Salvadorans who are already eligible to apply for benefits under Section 203 of the Nicaraguan and Central American Relief Act of 1997 (NACARA), which allows them to apply for suspension of deportation or cancellation of removal under the more favorable rules applicable before 1996.

³ This figure does not include an estimated 50,000 Guatamalans who are already eligible to apply for benefits under Section 203 of NACARA, which allows them to apply for suspension of deportation or cancellation of removal under the more favorable rules applicable before 1996.

⁴ This figure does not include an estimated 50,000 Haitians who are already eligible to apply for benefits under the Haitian Refugee and Immigration Fairness Act of 1998.

⁵ This total does not include the spouses or children of those individuals who would be eligible to apply for adjustment of status under parity legislation. In some instances, non-citizen family members who do not already have legal immigration status may also be eligible to apply for adjustment of status.

⁶ This figure is based on the number of Liberians estimated to have continuously resided in the United States since December 31, 1996.

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 12, 2000

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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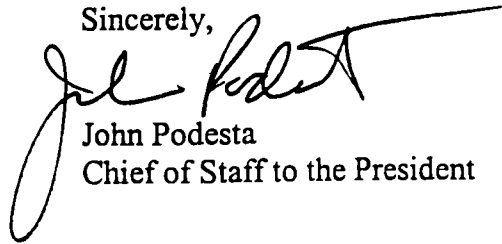
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Podesta', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Podesta
Chief of Staff to the President



220 I Street, NE, Suite 220
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 544-0004
Fax: (202) 544-1905
www.immigrationforum.org

Memorandum

October 10, 2000

To: ~~Forum Friends~~ *maria*

From: Tara Young

Re: Supplement for LIFA Advocacy Book

A couple weeks ago, we sent you an advocacy book on the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act. Enclosed are materials that should be inserted in your book.

- 1.) Stephen Moore Op-Ed, 10/5/00 (Section 5)
- 2.) Senator John McCain Statement, 9/27/00 (Section 7)
- 3.) Minority Leader Dick Gephardt Statement, 9/27/00 (Section 7)
- 4.) Senate & House letter to President, 9/21/00 (Section 2)
- 5.) Sun-Sentinel Ft. Lauderdale Editorial, 10/4/00 (Section 5)

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me at (202) 544-0004 Ext. 24 or tyoung@immigrationforum.org.

Immigration as a foreign asset

EPHEN MOORE

In the final weeks of the 106th Congress, Republicans on Capitol Hill have an opportunity to pass an immigration bill that would have a substantially positive impact on the U.S. economy.

By combining an increase in visas for high-tech workers with a more generous legalization program for many Central Americans already here, the immigration bill would be shrewd politics too, potentially steering many Latino voters in to the Republican camp.

The economic case for the immigration bill are almost beyond dispute. It turns out that one of the biggest impediments to continued prosperity is not a scarcity of oil, but a scarcity of talented and hard-working people. Everywhere I travel, the single most persistent complaint I hear from employers is the need for more workers. Charles Hilton, the owner of six hotels in Panama City, Florida tells me that "we couldn't keep our hotels open if it weren't for immigrants. We still need a lot more."

The labor shortage problem is a myth made up by greedy employers. Silicon Valley desperately needs more computer technicians, physicists, mathematicians and electrical engineers.

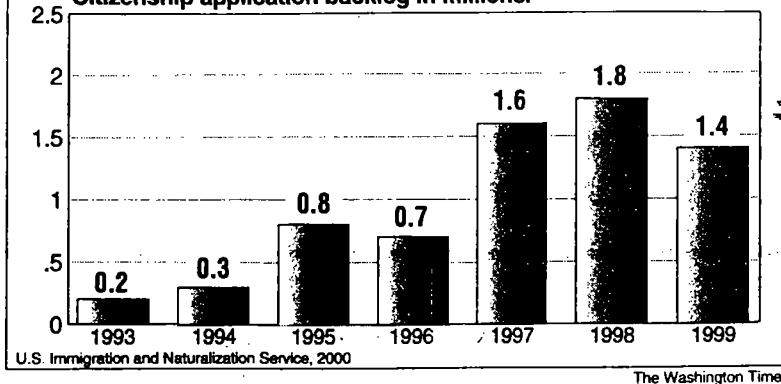
A 1999 study by the Joint Venture in California, estimates that the acute shortage of workers in Silicon Valley costs employers about \$3 billion a year.

Meanwhile, in the fast booming Southwest, construction companies cannot fill \$12 to \$15 an hour jobs. Service industries across the nation complain that they can't find nurses, kitchen help, waiters and waitresses, clerks, maids, home care workers, and auto mechanics.

Anti-immigrant groups, such as the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), are trying to spook the public with stories of Americans losing good jobs if more immigrants gain visas. But years of economic research can't detect much of an impact of immigrants on unemployment or wages for Americans. In some localized markets and in some industries — the taxicab market in D.C., for example — immigrants do displace Americans. But the flexibility of our labor markets allow fairly rapid adjustments, allowing a person displaced from one job, to quickly snatch up another. Consider this awesome statistic: Over the past 20 years, the U.S. has admitted about 15 million new immigrants. But over that period, the unemployment rate has

AMERICANS IN WAITING

Citizenship application backlog in millions.



If anyone thinks closing the gates to immigrants is a good way to protect jobs, take a good look at Europe. Many European nations have become more nativist in recent years, closing their doors to foreign workers. Guess what? These nations typically have unemployment rates twice as high as ours.

Immigrants aren't just doing the grunt work. They also provide technical skills needed in our cutting edge high-technology industries, as well. As many as 1 in every 4 workers in Silicon Valley are foreign-born. I once asked a personnel manager at Hewlett-Packard what would happen if Congress closed the golden gates to new immigrants. "It would bring our semiconductor industry to its knees," he answered without hesitation. In this age of global competition for brain power and talent, we need as many talented foreigners as we can get.

So here's what Congress should do. First, double the number of so-called H1B visas for immigrants with special technical skills that are unavailable in the U.S. labor force. Sen. Spencer Abraham, Michigan Republican, has been pushing for more high-skilled immigrants and he is right. "What's the sense of teaching foreigners in American universities and then not allowing them to work here after we've subsidized their education," he notes. Good question.

Next, we need to start accelerating the citizenship process for many of the immigrants already here. The backlog for U.S. citizen applications now is approaching the 2 million mark. Congress should be encouraging citizenship, not creating every conceivable roadblock to it. Sometimes it seems the INS is a less friendly federal agency than the IRS.

Finally, there are several hundred thousand Central Americans and Eastern Europeans, who long ago fled their war-ravaged countries and sought freedom here. Many of these refugees have been in the U.S. for as many as 20 years working, contributing, and staying out of trouble. But they still haven't gained the legal protections they deserve. They are, for all intents and purposes, Americans, but without the proper paperwork. Republicans could build up a lot of good will with Latinos and other ethnic groups, if they displayed some compassionate conservatism and allowed these Americans in name only to become full-fledged citizens.

Congress can and should get all this done this year. With these changes, we can allow several million aspiring Americans to fulfill their life long dreams. Moreover, we can ensure the immigrants to the U.S. over the next 20 years will be the most talented people ever to come to these shores. That's a proven formula for national greatness. And it could help the GOP win elections too.

Stephen Moore is president of the Club for Growth.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I regret that the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act, which I enthusiastically support, has fallen victim to political currents in the Senate that do a disservice to the many Latino and other immigrants who rightly deserve the status this legislation would afford them. I strongly support the H-1B visa bill but, like my colleagues, recognize that attaching the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act to it would likely prevent the high-tech worker legislation's passage in the 106th Congress. Indeed, the House leadership has indicated that it will not bring the H-1B visa bill to the floor with the Fairness provisions attached—a position I strongly disagree with.

Senators who support passage of both the H-1B bill and the Fairness Act thus find themselves in the position of being forced to vote against a procedural motion to allow consideration of the Fairness provisions to keep alive our hope of raising visa caps for the high-tech workers our companies so desperately need.

I hope the Senate will have the opportunity to vote on passage of the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act before the 106th Congress adjourns. It is the right thing to do, and our leaders on both sides of the aisle should find a way to bring it to a vote.

Throughout my political career, I have been deeply honored by the support of Latinos and other immigrants in my home state of Arizona. Our compassion and advocacy of family values for all members of our society, including hard-working, tax-paying Latinos

who have resided in this nation for many years, require us to take a closer look at the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act than has been afforded us during the H-1B visa debate. I look forward to an up-or-down vote on this legislation and will support its passage.

Gephardt Statement on Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act
U.S. Newswire
27 Sep 10:08

Gephardt Statement on Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act

To: National Desk, Political Reporter

Contact: Laura Nichols or Sue Harvey, 202-225-0100, both of
the Office of House Democratic Leader Richard A. Gephardt

Web site: <http://democraticleader.house.gov/>

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27 /U.S. Newswire/ -- Following is a statement released by House Democratic Leader Richard A. Gephardt:

"I am pleased to stand here with my colleagues today to talk about fairness. Throughout our history, immigrants have made important contributions to the economic, political and social well-being of our great nation. Our ongoing efforts to pass the 'Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act' are consistent with that history and the fundamental American values of family, work, justice and community.

"The President has joined us in support of the bill and he has encouraged our efforts, and today we are very pleased to announce that we have the necessary signatures to sustain a presidential veto if the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act is not included in the Commerce-Justice-State appropriation bill. While Republicans have put every roadblock in the way of consideration of the Latino Fairness legislation and made every excuse as to why we could not get this done, this letter is concrete proof that Democrats are committed to accomplishing this in the 106th Congress.

"Now that we have secured a Democratic commitment on Latino fairness, House Republicans have no more excuses as to why they can't complete H-1B. The leadership has repeatedly said that they will not bring H-1B to the floor because they feared Democratic efforts to attach the Latino fairness issues. That was a false choice.

"I challenge Republicans leaders to bring the Dreier-Lofgren Hi-Tech Act to the floor for immediate consideration. They have had the power to do this since this bill was introduced. Now they have no more excuses.

"Democrats have never been afraid to engage in debate on meaningful legislation like the Latino Fairness Act and H-1B. We are committed to getting all of this done."

KEYWORDS:

POLITICAL IMMIGRATION

-0-

/U.S. Newswire 202-347-2770/
09/27 10:08

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 21, 2000

The Honorable William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

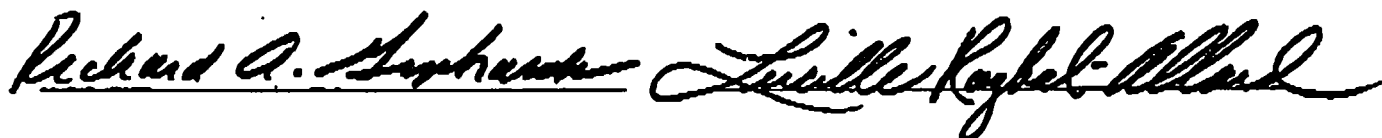
Dear Mr. President:

We write to you regarding an issue of great importance to us and to many families across this country. We are committed to ensuring that the provisions contained in S. 2912, the "Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act," are included in the Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary (CJSJ) bill or any other legislation to which CJSJ may be attached. Therefore, as you work with Congress to craft the FY 2001 Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary bill and other remaining appropriations legislation, we urge you to make it your priority to include this critical provision.

The Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act has strong support in both the House and the Senate because it would add desperately needed fairness to our immigration laws. S. 2912 would stabilize the immigration status of specific immigrants who have been living, working, paying taxes and raising families in the United States for many years. In particular, the bill includes three provisions: (1) establishing legal parity between Central American and Caribbean refugees; (2) updating the "registry" date so that long-time resident, deeply-rooted immigrants who have been in this country since before 1986 will qualify to remain here permanently; and (3) restoring Section 245(i) of the Immigration Act, a provision that sensibly allows persons in the U.S. who are on the verge of gaining their immigration status to remain in the U.S. while completing the process.

We, the undersigned, believe that the time is now to normalize the status of these immigrants. This will ensure that these individuals can continue to make valued contributions to our economy and that their families, which often include American-born children, are not torn apart. Accordingly, we will vote to sustain a veto of the FY 2001 Commerce, Justice, State and Judiciary appropriations bill or any other bill that may contain its provisions, if the components of S. 2912 are not included. As Democrats, we believe that the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act is a measured and just recognition of the important contributions these individuals have made to our country. We know you share our beliefs, and we look forward to working with you to accomplish this important goal.

Sincerely,



1. Gephardt
2. Roybal-Allard
3. Rodriguez
4. Romero-Barcelo
5. Gutierrez
6. Conyers
7. Velazquez
8. Scott
9. Ortiz
10. Sanchez
11. Napolitano
12. Baca
13. Becerra
14. Jackson-Lee
15. Hinojosa
16. Blagojevich
17. Hoyer
18. Pelosi
19. DeLauro
20. Miller, George
21. Berman
22. Eshoo
23. Lipinski
24. Rothman
25. Thompson, Mike
26. Johnson, Eddie Bernice
27. Waters
28. Payne
29. Woolsey
30. Clayton
31. Dixon
32. DeGette
33. Slaughter
34. Kennedy
35. Murtha
36. Reyes
37. Pastor
38. Menendez
39. Underwood
40. Bonior
41. Frost
42. Gonzales
43. Meeks, Gregory

44. Capuano
45. Crowley
46. Dooley
47. Green, Gene
48. Lofgren
49. Capps
50. Schakowsky
51. Davis, Danny
52. Jackson, Jr.
53. Tierney
54. Hastings
55. Meek, Carrie
56. Olver
57. Gordon
58. Millender-McDonald
59. Watt
60. Blumenhauer
61. Markey
62. Clyburn
63. McGovern
64. Pascrell
65. Thurman
66. McCarthy, Carolyn
67. Tauscher
68. Kaptur
69. Phelps
70. Smith
71. Nadler
72. Wynn
73. Deutch
74. Crowley
75. Hoeffel
76. Holt
77. Levin
78. Sherman
79. Cummings
80. Udall, Tom
81. McDermot
82. Meehan
83. Sabo
84. Abercrombie
85. McKinney
86. Towns
87. Baird
88. Rush

89. Lowey
90. Kucinich
91. Pomeroy
92. Waxman
93. Udall, Mark
94. Lewis
95. Oberstar
96. Delahunt
97. Brady
98. Costello
99. Frank, Barnie
100. Snyder
101. Matsui
102. Farr
103. Owens
104. Rangel
105. Carson
106. Maloney, Carolyn
107. Stark
108. Lee, Barbara
109. Palone
110. Berkley
111. Turner
112. Moakley
113. Fattah
114. Forbes
115. Baldwin
116. Wexler
117. Weiner
118. Baucher
119. Sandlin
120. Hilliard
121. Payne
122. Filner
123. Strickland
124. Ford
125. Doggett
126. Evans
127. McNulty
128. Sanders
129. Ackerman
130. Borski
131. LaFalce
132. Clay
133. Kilpatrick

- 134. Jefferson
- 135. Berry
- 136. Boswell
- 137. Cardin
- 138. Turner
- 139. Barrett
- 140. Price
- 141. Kildee
- 142. Coyne
- 143. Weygand
- 144. Davis, Jim
- 145. Condit
- 146. Andrews
- 147. Lampson
- 148. Skelton
- 149. Obey
- 150. Moran
- 151. Brown, Corrine
- 152. Brown, Sherrod

John J. Leary

Don Chap

Adrian Eick

Bob Crawford

Ever Bayl

Jim Johnson

Wally Kent

Ed Kennedy

Bernie Long

Joe Vachle

Sam Miller

Paul Willstone

Richard By-

Brian Dinkin

Chuck Rolfe

Clifford

Charles Schires

Bob

Jeff Jones
Jay R. R. R.

Ron W. W.
John Breau

Patty Murray
Jack Reed

W. W.
W. W.

John Edwards
Dianne Feinstein

Barack Obama
Phyllis K. K.

J. K.

Tom Harkin

W. W. W.

Max Baucus

Robert A. Nease

Barbara R. Levin

Paul S. Serban

105 1 Biber

Patrick Leahy

Paul Levin

Daniel L. Shapiro

Herb Kohl

Nora Feingold

Two sides of same coin

Sun-Sentinel Editorial Board

Web-posted: 7:23 p.m. Oct. 4, 2000

Congress has helped the high-tech industry and the nation's economy this week by boosting the number of visas for foreign skilled workers. Too bad lawmakers are reluctant to help the service industry and some immigrants who deserve a chance to legalize their status.

The House and Senate on Tuesday passed legislation to increase the number of foreign "H1-B" visas to 195,000 a year for the next three years. This will allow companies to hire more computer programmers, engineers and other professionals from foreign countries.

Congress passed the foreign visas bill after some lawmakers gave up the fight to attach an immigrant amnesty proposal. The technology industry successfully argued that it desperately needs foreign workers to fill a critical labor shortage.

But Congress has a tougher time understanding that the service industry also needs more workers. Together with labor unions, hotel and restaurant operators and others have urged Congress to pass the Latino Immigrant and Fairness Act, which gives relief to Central Americans, Haitians and others who have lived in the United States for years.

This is not a blanket amnesty for people who have crossed U.S. borders illegally. Instead, the "fairness" bill is about bringing fairness and uniformity to immigration policies. Three groups are targeted in this legislation: immigrants who were unfairly excluded from a 1986 amnesty program, Central Americans and Haitians who are seeking parity under a 1997 law that favored Nicaraguans and Cubans, and immigrant workers who qualify for permanent status under family reunification policies but must first leave the country for up to 10 years.

Both leading presidential candidates support relief for some undocumented workers with longstanding ties to their communities. Vice President Al Gore, the Democratic standard bearer, backs amnesty for all three groups. Texas Gov. George W. Bush, the Republican contender, favors a break for one group -- immigrants who were wrongly excluded from the 1986 legislation.

Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who lost the presidential primary race, has added his voice to the debate.

"I hope the Senate will have the opportunity to vote on passage of the Latino and Immigration Fairness Act before the 106th Congress adjourns. It is the right thing to do, and our leaders on both sides of the aisle should find a way to bring it to a vote," said McCain last week, in the *Congressional Record*.

With time running out, Congress should take McCain's advice.

Q&As on Registry

10/13/00

Q: What is the “registry” provision of the immigration law?

Section 249 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) (8 USC 1259), known as the “registry” provision, allows certain aliens to become lawful permanent residents (LPRs) if they have resided continuously in the United States since January 1, 1972. Applicants must also meet certain other requirements, such as demonstrating that they have “good moral character.”

Q: What is the history of the registry provision?

There has been a registry provision in the INA since 1929, and it has been updated several times, most recently in 1986 as part of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA). At that time, the “registry date” was set at January 1, 1972.

Q: How does someone apply to become an LPR under the registry provision?

A registry applicant must file a form (Form I-485) with the INS and pay a fee of \$220. This is the same form and fee required from individuals who apply to become LPRs under other provisions of the immigration law. Applicants must submit supporting evidence, photos, and fingerprints along with the form, and the INS interviews them. If INS approves the application, the alien is granted a “green card.”

Q: Is there a cut-off date for registry applications?

No. Even today, someone who entered the United States before January 1, 1972, could file an application with INS to adjust to LPR status under the registry provision.

Q: What is the purpose of the registry provision, and has that purpose changed over time?

In its early years, the registry law aided aliens of good moral character who had lived in the United States for substantial periods of time, but who lacked records of their arrival. By establishing an entry date, it allowed such aliens to demonstrate residence in the United States in order to support an application for naturalization. When Congress amended the registry provision in 1958, it changed the requirements in such a way that the registry mechanism became available to aliens who had entered the country illegally or who had overstayed a temporary period of entry (or violated its terms). According to committee reports, these changes granting the Attorney General discretionary authority under the registry provision were prompted by congressional concern over the number of private bills designed to grant LPR status to long-time U.S. residents. The registry provision, as updated by Congress in 1965 and 1986, serves much the same purpose today: providing discretionary relief to aliens of good moral character with long-standing ties to the United States.

Q: Is changing the registry date a reward for immigration violators?

No. The registry provision reflects the fact that it is an inefficient use of the government's resources to pursue the removal of aliens who have resided in the United States for substantial periods of time and who have acquired substantial connections to the United States. It is also in the public interest to avoid a perpetual "underground" class of individuals who are subject to exploitation by employers, landlords, and others and whose fear of government authorities has other negative effects, such as failing to report crimes or participate in important events such as the census.

Q: Is this a new amnesty?

No. While the registry provision does reflect the same concept as a statute of limitations, the benefit is not automatic. An alien must apply for the benefit at an INS office. In addition to demonstrating residence in the United States since the registry date, the alien must establish that he or she is a person of good moral character, is not ineligible for citizenship, and is not deportable on terrorism-related grounds.

Q: How does changing the registry date affect "late amnesty" class members?

The "late amnesty" cases involve claims by illegal aliens who did not successfully apply for legalization under IRCA before the deadline of May 1988. Legalization under IRCA required continuous unlawful presence since January 1, 1982. Because the pending legislation would move the registry date to January 1, 1986, "late amnesty" class members who would have been eligible for legalization would be eligible to apply under the new registry law.

Q&As on Registry

10/13/00

Q: What is the “registry” provision of the immigration law?

Section 249 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) (8 USC 1259), known as the “registry” provision, allows certain aliens to become lawful permanent residents (LPRs) if they have resided continuously in the United States since January 1, 1972. Applicants must also meet certain other requirements, such as demonstrating that they have “good moral character.”

Q: What is the history of the registry provision?

There has been a registry provision in the INA since 1929, and it has been updated several times, most recently in 1986 as part of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA). At that time, the “registry date” was set at January 1, 1972.

Q: How does someone apply to become an LPR under the registry provision?

A registry applicant must file a form (Form I-485) with the INS and pay a fee of \$220. This is the same form and fee required from individuals who apply to become LPRs under other provisions of the immigration law. Applicants must submit supporting evidence, photos, and fingerprints along with the form, and the INS interviews them. If INS approves the application, the alien is granted a “green card.”

Q: Is there a cut-off date for registry applications?

No. Even today, someone who entered the United States before January 1, 1972, could file an application with INS to adjust to LPR status under the registry provision.

Q: What is the purpose of the registry provision, and has that purpose changed over time?

In its early years, the registry law aided aliens of good moral character who had lived in the United States for substantial periods of time, but who lacked records of their arrival. By establishing an entry date, it allowed such aliens to demonstrate residence in the United States in order to support an application for naturalization. When Congress amended the registry provision in 1958, it changed the requirements in such a way that the registry mechanism became available to aliens who had entered the country illegally or who had overstayed a temporary period of entry (or violated its terms). According to committee reports, these changes granting the Attorney General discretionary authority under the registry provision were prompted by congressional concern over the number of private bills designed to grant LPR status to long-time U.S. residents. The registry provision, as updated by Congress in 1965 and 1986, serves much the same purpose today: providing discretionary relief to aliens of good moral character with long-standing ties to the United States.

Q: Is changing the registry date a reward for immigration violators?

No. The registry provision reflects the fact that it is an inefficient use of the government's resources to pursue the removal of aliens who have resided in the United States for substantial periods of time and who have acquired substantial connections to the United States. It is also in the public interest to avoid a perpetual "underground" class of individuals who are subject to exploitation by employers, landlords, and others and whose fear of government authorities has other negative effects, such as failing to report crimes or participate in important events such as the census.

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Jack A. Smalligan
10/12/2000 11:14:16 AM

Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: diana l. meredith/omb/eop@eop, mark d. magana/who/eop@eop, steven m. mertens/omb/eop@eop
bcc:
Subject: Re: URGENT! Scoring S. 2912 

Regarding your questions, OMB does not score PAYGO costs from bills that increase the rate of immigration into the country or that permit individuals who are already in the country to stay here longer. Consequently, adding Liberians or others would not change our scoring. Below is a Q&A I put together. Steve Mertens and our technical budget scoring gurus have signed off on this Q&A. It might help you explain our difference with CBO. Please don't hand it out on the Hill. Call if you have any questions.

Q: Why doesn't OMB score the increased welfare benefit costs of legislation that allows more immigrants into the country or legislation that allows individuals already in the country to stay here longer?

A: OMB considers any changes in spending on benefits that result from changes in immigration admission policy to be "secondary effects" and not a cost subject to PAYGO scoring. OMB scores "direct effects" of legislation. Allowing more people to enter the U.S. or allowing individuals already in the country to stay here longer has a variety of ripple affects. Immigrants enter the workforce, pay taxes, marry and have children. These ripple affects are all secondary affects. It is not practical to estimate the overall impact of these secondary effects on the Federal budget.

Irene Bueno

Irene Bueno
10/11/2000 07:56:31 PM

Record Type: Record

To: diana l. meredith/omb/eop@eop
cc: See the distribution list at the bottom of this message
bcc:
Subject: URGENT! Scoring S. 2912 

Diana - the issue of cost has come up again so I have a couple of follow up questions:

- What is our estimate of S. 2912 adding Liberians? Steve Mertens has this language if you need it or I can get it to you.
- what do we think about the CBO cost estimates of S. 2912? Do we agree with it? If not, why?

- What is the cost of H.R. 5062? I don't think there is a cost but it was raised.

We are negotiating now and need this asap. Thanks.

Irene

Irene Bueno

Irene Bueno
09/27/2000 07:08:43 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Diana L. Meredith/OMB/EOP@EOP
cc: irene bueno/opd/eop@eop, jack a. smalligan/omb/eop@eop, mark d. magana/who/eop@eop, joel k. wiginton/who/eop@eop
bcc: Records Management@EOP
Subject: Re: Scoring parity bill 

Diana - Very helpful. Thanks.

Joel/Mark - let us know if you hearing from the Hill that this is a major problem.

Diana L. Meredith

Diana L. Meredith


 09/27/2000 06:40:18 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Irene Bueno/WHO/EOP@EOP
cc: irene bueno/opd/eop@eop, jack a. smalligan/omb/eop@eop, mark d. magana/who/eop@eop, joel k. wiginton/who/eop@eop
Subject: Re: Scoring parity bill 

I spoke with CBO staff about S. 2912 and learned the following:

The preliminary, unofficial score for this bill is \$0.6 billion over 5 years and \$1.6 billion over 10. About half of the cost is due to the parity portion, the other half is due to the registry date change provision.

Basically, the way CBO scores this bill is they look at the total number of aliens who could gain "qualified alien" status as a result of the parity and registry date provisions, and then make some assumptions about how many of those aliens would become eligible for Federal benefits (primarily Medicaid, SSI, and food stamps). As I understand it, the parity and registry provisions combined would apply to more than 1 million aliens. CBO started with this base number and then adjusted this number downward based on assumptions about overlap between the two provisions, Haitians who may already be eligible for benefits as a Cuban/Haitian entrant, aliens who would have gotten asylum anyway, and any other relevant

downward adjustments. That still leaves several hundred thousand aliens who would become qualified aliens under this bill. Even if only a small percentage of them were to become eligible for means-tested benefits each year, the Government's costs would increase by tens of millions of dollars every year. Most if not all of the people affected by this bill are pre-PWRORA entrants, so they are not subject to the five-year ban on benefits for aliens and can become eligible for SSI and food stamps under certain circumstances.

I hope this is useful. Let me know if you would like more information.

Diana

Message Copied To:

irene bueno/opd/eop@eop
jack a. smalligan/omb/eop@eop
mark d. magana/who/eop@eop
joel k. wiginton/who/eop@eop
Patricia.A.First@usdoj.gov
Steven M. Mertens/OMB/EOP@EOP



*United States Department of Justice
Immigration & Naturalization Service
Office of the Executive Associate Commissioner
Policy and Planning*

425 I Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20536
Phone: 202-514-3242 / Fax: 202-305-0134

Fax Cover Sheet

To: Irene Bueno From: B. Strack
Fax: _____ Pages: 5
Phone: _____ Date: 10/12
Re: _____

☐ Urgent ☐ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply ☐ Please Recycle

• Comments:

LIFA materials:

- ① Draft estimates: This is still under review, but pls. let me know if it's what you're looking for.
- ② Illegal estimates materials.
- ③ More detailed info. on registry will follow separately.

**Estimated Number of Individuals Covered by
Proposed Parity and Registry Legislation¹**

Central American and Haitian Parity Act

DRAFT

Salvadorans	140,000 ²
Guatamalans	170,000 ³
Hondurans	80,000
Haitians	50,000 ⁴
<u>Total</u>	<u>440,000⁵</u>

Registry: 500,000

Section 249 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, known as the "registry" provision, allows certain individuals to obtain status as lawful permanent residents if they have resided continuously in the United States since January 1, 1972. The proposed legislation would update the registry date (last amended in 1986) to January 1, 1986.

¹ The Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act (LIFA), S. 2912, includes both parity and registry provisions. In addition, it would restore Section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act which would allow certain individuals who are eligible for adjustment of status to complete the process in the United States rather than traveling to a U.S. consulate overseas.

² This figure does not include an estimated 190,000 Salvadorans who are already eligible to apply for benefits under Section 203 of the Nicaraguan and Central American Relief Act of 1997 (NACARA), which allows them to apply for suspension of deportation or cancellation of removal under the more favorable rules applicable before 1996.

³ This figure does not include an estimated 50,000 Guatamalans who are already eligible to apply for benefits under Section 203 of NACARA, which allows them to apply for suspension of deportation or cancellation of removal under the more favorable rules applicable before 1996.

⁴ This figure does not include an estimated 50,000 Haitians who are already eligible to apply for benefits under the Haitian Refugee and Immigration Fairness Act of 1998.

⁵ This total does not include the spouses or children of those individuals who would be eligible to apply for adjustment of status under parity legislation. In some instances, these family members may also be eligible to apply for adjustment of status.

don't see USC?

For Internal Use Only

Illegal Alien Population—Internal Questions & Answers — October 12, 2000

1) In his October 5 press release, Chairman Lamar Smith indicated that INS has information that shows a doubling of illegal immigration after the 1986 amnesty. Is this correct?

No. INS does not have any annual estimates of the illegal population before 1987, so there is no baseline data to indicate a doubling of illegal immigration after the 1986 amnesty.

2) Doesn't the surge in illegal immigration in the post-Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) years show that amnesty caused illegal immigration?

No. We believe the increase in illegal immigration is more related to the Special Agricultural Worker Program of IRCA. (See Q&A #3 below.)

3) What is the Special Agricultural Worker Program of IRCA and how could it have affected the growth in illegal immigration?

The legalization program in IRCA benefited two distinct populations:

- **Special Agricultural Workers (SAWs)** who only had to have worked in agriculture for at least 90 days during the year ending on May 1, 1986, and
- **those eligible for adjustment of status under Section 245A** (commonly known as "amnesty") who had to show that they continuously resided in the United States since January 1, 1982. These beneficiaries had spent on average 8 years in the United States before applying for legal status.

Data suggest that the increase in illegal immigration in the 1989-90 period was more likely associated with the SAW program. SAW beneficiaries were very recent arrivals to the United States and — with unauthorized relatives still living in Mexico coming to join them — may have impacted the growth of illegal immigration at that time. However, legalization beneficiaries under Section 245A had been in the United States for a much longer time (average of 8 years) and survey data show were more likely to already be living with their spouses in the United States, either legally or illegally, and to have had U.S. citizen children.

4) Why didn't the INS release the illegal immigration report on September 28 as planned?

We decided on Thursday morning (September 28) to wait to finalize the report in order to incorporate some new data that will become available shortly from the Census Bureau. The calculations currently include estimates for this data set (concerning long-term nonimmigrants). However, we will be able to get actual data from the Census Bureau in about 6 weeks. We plan to wait and incorporate the actual numbers instead of estimates, and issue the report sometime before Thanksgiving.

5) What is INS doing about the subpoena for the INS report issued by the House Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims?

INS delivered the draft report to the Committee on October 6, 2000.

— INS —



U.S. Department of Justice
Immigration and Naturalization Service

CO 703.2016

Office of the Commissioner

425 I Street NW
Washington, DC 20536

OCT 4 2000

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman, Subcommittee
on Immigration and Claims
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you know, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is working on developing new estimates of the illegal immigrant population in the United States, based on a new methodology. These estimates will cover the time period January 1987 through January 1, 1997.

These estimates are not ready for public release because we are awaiting additional data from the Census Bureau concerning long-term nonimmigrants included in the Current Population Survey. These actual data will replace estimated figures for certain nonimmigrants that the INS has used to develop tentative estimates, and they will allow the INS to improve the quality of the overall product. While the INS initially requested this information from the Census Bureau more than a year ago, recent conversations indicate that they are now prepared to move forward quickly with this task. We expect that the INS will receive these data and complete work on updated estimates before Thanksgiving.

While the INS's work on the revised estimates is not complete, we understand from your staff that you are particularly interested in the INS' estimates of changes in the illegal population from 1987 through 1992, the years following passage of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA). While these figures are not final and are subject to revision based on the outstanding census data, we provide the following tentative estimates for your information.

Tentative Annual Estimates of the Increase in the Unauthorized Immigrant Population, 1987-92					
1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992
365,000	455,000	585,000	530,000	350,000	225,000

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Page 2

While the INS cannot provide explanations for all of the trends observed in the tentative estimates, we believe that the Special Agricultural Worker (SAW) program of IRCA is at least partially responsible for some of the changes in the illegal immigration population growth in the post-IRCA years. As you know, the legalization program in IRCA benefited two distinct populations: SAWs and those eligible for adjustment of status under Section 245A (commonly known as "amnesty"). Data suggest that the increase in illegal immigration in the 1989-90 period was more likely associated with unauthorized relatives still living in Mexico coming to join SAW beneficiaries, who were required to have worked in agriculture for at least 90 days before enactment of IRCA, than the Section 245A beneficiaries, who had to show that they had been continuously resident in the United States since January 1, 1982. The SAW beneficiaries, who had spent little time in the United States before legalization, were much more likely to have spouses and minor children still in Mexico. In fact, legalization beneficiaries under Section 245A had spent on average 8 years in the United States before applying for legal status. They were more likely to be living with their spouses in the United States, either legally or illegally, and many had U.S. citizen children.¹

Congress is actively considering legislation that would make adjustment to legal status under the registry provision, Section 249 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, available after 14 years residence in the United States by changing the registry date from 1972 to 1986. These potential registry applicants, like Section 245A legalization beneficiaries, would likely have strong ties to this country, including the presence of close relatives in the United States. Thus, updating the registry date, like Section 245A legalization, would be unlikely to draw a significant number of relatives for illegal family reunification in the United States. The experience of the SAW program cannot be reliably extended to the very different context of an updated registry date, since the SAW program was available to aliens based on temporary residence who had much weaker ties to the United States.

I hope the information in this letter is helpful to you. Please do not hesitate to contact my staff or me if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,



Doris Meissner
Commissioner

cc: The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee

¹ See "Immigration Reform and Control Act: Report on the Legalized Alien Population" (1989).

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 12, 2000

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As Congress considers immigration legislation in the final days of this session, the Administration urges Congress to pass the legislative proposals described below. These legislative proposals would restore fairness in our immigration system that is long overdue for many individuals and their families who have been living in the United States for a number of years.

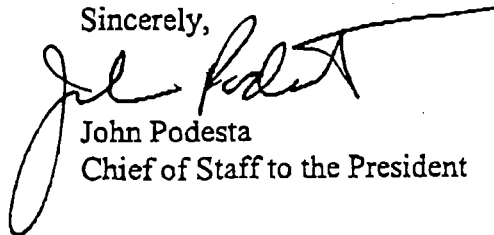
Registry Date Amendment. This legislation would amend section 249 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) to allow qualified long-term migrants who have resided in the United States since 1986 to become lawful permanent residents. The INA registry provision has existed in this country since 1929 and has changed several times. The last time the date was changed was in 1986 when it was revised to 1972. Revising the registry date from 1972 to 1986 would provide humanitarian relief to many long-term migrants and also reduce or eliminate the need to continue litigating some of the large class action suits still lingering from the 1986 legalization program.

Central American and Haitian Parity Relief Act. This legislation would amend the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act of 1997 (NACARA) to allow qualified nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Haiti, and Liberia an opportunity to become lawful permanent residents by providing treatment equal to that granted to Nicaraguans and Cubans. NACARA was passed, in part, to support important, fragile emerging democracies. Like Nicaraguans and Cubans, many Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Hondurans, Haitians and Liberians fled human rights abuses or unstable political conditions in the 1980s and 1990s. Yet these latter groups received less favorable treatment than that granted to Nicaraguans and Cubans by NACARA.

Reauthorization of Section 245(i). This legislation would reauthorize section 245(i) of the INA to permit certain eligible migrants to adjust their immigration status while remaining in the United States by paying an additional fee. This provision had previously been the law but it expired in 1998. The revenues generated from this proposal should be directed toward efforts to reduce the backlog of naturalization applications and other immigrant benefit applications and to support detention funding. If such revenues are not directed in this manner, then we need to increase resources to ensure adequate funding for naturalization and other services and to support detention efforts.

As previously indicated, the President will veto the Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations bill unless these provisions are resolved satisfactorily. It is long overdue that we correct these injustices in the immigration system. The legislative proposals described above would address these injustices and would help many individuals and their families who have been living in the United States for a long time and have developed strong ties to their community to normalize their immigration status. For these reasons, the Administration urges Congress to pass this legislation without delay. We stand ready to work with Congress to enact these legislative proposals this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Podesta", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Podesta
Chief of Staff to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 12, 2000

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Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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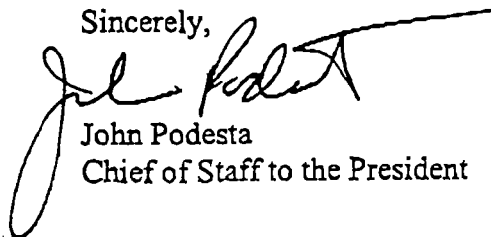
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John Podesta
Chief of Staff to the President

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 12, 2000

The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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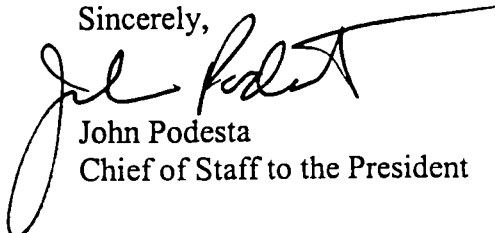
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Podesta", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

John Podesta
Chief of Staff to the President

Irene Bueno

10/12/2000 05:52:32 PM

Record Type: Record

To: Maria Echaveste/WHO/EOP@EOP

cc:

Subject: Hatch request - Win for Legal Immigrants

Patty spoke with Steve and he said that we should propose the following helps for legal immigrants:

- \$35 million in additional appropriations for backlog reduction for naturalization and adjustment of status applications.

- reauthorize section 245(i) would provide additional \$37 million to reduce the backlogs.

Do you think this will help our negotiations?

**MALDEF**

MEXICAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND
1717 K Street NW, Suite 311 • Washington, DC 20036 • (202) 293-2828 • (202) 293-2849 FAX

TELECOPIER COVER SHEET

PLEASE DELIVER THE FOLLOWING FAX AT ONCE TO:

TO: MARIA ECHAVESTE

RECIPIENTS' FAX NUMBER: (202) 456-1121 VOICE: _____

FROM: MARISA J. DEMEO, REGIONAL COUNSEL

DATE: Tuesday, October 10, 2000

PLEASE ADVISE NELLY B. VALDES AT ONCE IF THE 3 PAGE(S), INCLUDING THIS PAGE, HAVE NOT BEEN RECEIVED AT THE END OF THE TRANSMISSION. OUR REGULAR PHONE NUMBER IS (202) 293-2828, OUR FAX NUMBER IS (202) 293-2849.

NOTES: _____



MALDEF

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

Washington, D.C.
Regional Office
 1717 K Street, NW
 Suite 811
 Washington, DC 20006
 Tel: 202.293.2828
 Fax: 202.293.2849

October 9, 2000

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 Tel: 312.782.1422
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 Tel: 210.224.5476
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 Suite 170
 Phoenix, AZ 85004
 Tel: 602.307.5918
 Fax: 602.307.5928

Atlanta
Census Office
 3885 Lenox Road
 Suite 750
 Atlanta, GA 30326
 Tel: 404.504.7020
 Fax: 404.504.7021

Via Facsimile

President William Jefferson Clinton
 The White House
 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
 Washington, D.C. 20500

Re: Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act

Dear Mr. President:

On behalf of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) and the Hispanic community that we represent, we want to commend you for your ongoing support of the Hispanic issues raised in S. 2912, the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act (LIFA).

We are still working to include the language of LIFA in one of the final appropriations bills. We want to thank you for your promise to veto the Commerce, Justice and State (CJS) appropriations bill if the Latino immigration interests outlined in LIFA are not included. As you well know, the three main issues outlined below and included in LIFA are essential in addressing the needs of a great portion of the Hispanic community.

First, nearly 500,000 residents who qualified for legalization under the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA) were victims of INS error. Updating the "registry date" from 1972 to 1986 would bring justice to this "late amnesty" class and grant immigrants who have resided and worked in the U.S. for 14 years the opportunity to continue contributing to our economy.

Second, Salvadorans, Guatemalans, Hondurans, and Haitians should be offered the same opportunity to apply for permanent residence as was extended to Nicaraguans and Cubans in 1997. They left their countries under similar circumstances as Cubans and Nicaraguans, but are not allowed to adjust their status to legal resident under the same procedure as Cubans and Nicaraguans.

Finally, reinstating section 245(i) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act would prevent the separation of families by allowing the intending immigrant family members to remain in the U.S. as they finish the final stage of their applications for permanent residence.

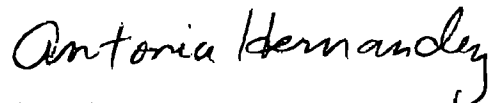
Celebrating Our 30th Anniversary
Protecting and Promoting Latino Civil Rights

*President Clinton
Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act
Page 2 of 2*

As always, MALDEF and the Latino community are counting on your commitment and determination on these issues to guarantee three clear victories for our community and another great legacy of your presidency. Even if the CJS bill is rolled into an omnibus or "mini-omnibus" bill, we anticipate that your veto threat will still hold.

Thank you for standing up with us on this one.

Sincerely,



Antonia Hernandez
President and General Counsel

cc:

John Podesta – Chief of Staff

Maria Echaveste – Deputy Chief of Staff

Irene Bueno – Special Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

Brian Barreto – Associate Director for Public Liaison

Fax Cover Sheet

To: *Maria Echaveste*

Fax number: *202.456.2883*

From: Sikandar Essani

Date: October 29, 2000

Subject: **SUPPORT FOR LIFE AND CONGRESSIONAL LEGISLATION FOR THE 1982
AMNESTY APPLICANTS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

Pages: 2, including cover

From:

Sikandar Essani

230 Manchester Dr. #277

Euless, TX 76039-6549

29 Oct 2000

To: Maria Echaveste, Deputy Chief of Staff, The White House

Dear Ms. Echaveste:

I am writing to support the LIFA and the Congress' proposal for legalization for the 1982 amnesty applicants and their families. I believe that the Congress' proposal will end my long wait for legalization.

I am a class member in Catholic Social Services v. Reno. I have been working with the Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law in Los Angeles which is principal counsel for that class action suit.

I came to the United States in 1981 from Pakistan. I tried to apply for legalization prior to May 4, 1988 and tried to file a completed application along with my fee. But I was told by the INS official that I was ineligible to apply because I had traveled briefly outside the United States without prior INS authorization. I returned to Pakistan in August of 1987 because of the death of my mother and returned to the United States after 22 days.

In May of 1991 I was allowed to submit an INS form I-687: Application for Status as a Temporary Resident. This document explained that I had tried to apply before under the amnesty program, but that I was turned away. My I-687 application was accepted and I was given a work permit. INS renewed my work permit 6 more times with no questions that would cast any doubt about my eligibility under the amnesty program. Then in 1998, my work permit was taken away because the INS was no longer required to follow any further court action on my behalf.

Since that time I have been forced to work illegally most of the time for wages close to the minimum because I cannot produce a work permit that would give me access to employment that is in line with my professional capabilities and talents. I am a skilled photographer and photo technician, as well as a skilled computer professional. Yet I can only get jobs which barely allow me to support myself, my wife and my 11 year old daughter, who are also immigrants from Pakistan. I am currently trying to open a business on my own hoping that will allow me to support my family a little better and be less dangerous. All the while I have been paying my taxes and contributing to my community.

It is very important to me that my legalization application be processed by the INS. I am constantly afraid of being arrested by the INS, cannot get proper lawful employment and am very insecure about the safety of my wife and daughter. We are afraid to seek proper medical care when it is needed and in general fear doing anything that would identify us as being illegal or out of the ordinary.

I will do everything I can to stay in the United States which has been my home for the past many years and where I want to spend the rest of my life as a legal citizen.

Please support the pending legislation which would put and end to this long and terribly painful process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Sikandar Essani

Sikandar Essani

President William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

attn. Jhon Podesta
202-456-6797

cc: Maria Echaveste
Irene Bueno

President Clinton:

We, the immigrant families that belong to the Association for Residency and Citizenship of America (ARCA), greatly appreciate your efforts to support the Latino Immigrant Fairness Act (LIFA) that is currently being discussed in the U.S. Congress. You have demonstrated sensibility towards the needs and problems of immigrant working families that have always been a part of the development of this great nation; a nation that has been built on the values of family unity, democracy and justice.

We, ARCA also acknowledge other attempts to not recognize these values and the importance of immigrants and their assets to the country. Together, we struggle with that challenge. We will support any action that you take to implement the principals of LIFA.

Once again, we express our solidarity and commend you for your commitment.

Sincerely,

Dora Morales U.S. Citizen

President William J. Clinton
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue

attn. Jhon Podesta
202-456-6797

cc: Maria Echaveste
Irene Bueno

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Sincerely,

Dora Morales U.S. Citizen