

(1) by striking "Attorney General" each place such term appears and inserting "Secretary of Homeland Security"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(d) In processing petitions under section 204(a)(1)(H) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1154(a)(1)(H)) for classification under section 203(b)(5) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(5)), the Secretary of Homeland Security may give priority to petitions filed by aliens seeking admission under the pilot program described in this section. Notwithstanding section 203(e) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(e)), immigrant visas made available under such section 203(b)(5) may be issued to such aliens in an order that takes into account any priority accorded under the preceding sentence."

(b) EXTENSION.—Section 610(b) of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1993 (8 U.S.C. 1153 note) is amended by striking "10 years" and inserting "15 years".

SEC. 2. GAO STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the General Accounting Office shall report to Congress on the immigrant investor program created under section 203(b)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(5)).

(b) CONTENTS.—The report described in subsection (a) shall include information regarding—

(1) the number of immigrant investors that have received visas under the immigrant investor program in each year since the inception of the program;

(2) the country of origin of the immigrant investors;

(3) the localities where the immigrant investors are settling and whether those investors generally remain in the localities where they initially settle;

(4) the number of immigrant investors that have sought to become citizens of the United States;

(5) the types of commercial enterprises that the immigrant investors have established; and

(6) the types and number of jobs created by the immigrant investors.

AMENDING THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 2152, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2152) to amend the immigration and nationality act to extend for an additional 5 years the special immigrant religious worker program.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this House bill is identical to S. 1580, the Religious Workers Act of 2003, of which I am a proud cosponsor. The bill extends for 5 years provisions of our immigration law that provide for special immigrant visas for religious workers sponsored by religious organizations in the United States. These visas allow

religious denominations or organizations in the United States to bring in foreign nationals to perform religious work here. This modest program—which provides for up to 5,000 religious immigrant visas a year—was created in the Immigration Act of 1990, and has been extended ever since.

These religious workers contribute significantly not just to their religious communities, but to the community as a whole. They work in hospitals, nursing homes, and homeless shelters. They help immigrants and refugees adjust to the United States. In other words, they perform vital tasks that all too often go undone.

I have worked on this issue over the years, and cosponsored bills in 1997 and 2000 that would have made this program permanent. I still believe that it should be permanent but fully support a 5-year extension as the next best thing. Time is now of the essence as we have entered Fiscal Year 2004 and allowed this program to lapse.

The House passed this bill last month by voice vote. I urge the Senate to follow suit by approving this extension and sending it to the President without further delay.

Mr. FRIST. I ask unanimous consent the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

The bill (H.R. 2152) was read the third time and passed.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS THIS WEEK

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, at this juncture I wish to take a second to thank everyone for their assistance throughout this week. It has been a busy week. We have accomplished a great deal. Earlier this week we began consideration of the Iraq supplemental request. We made good progress on the supplemental request and, as we had discussed, we will complete action on this request during the first week we return.

We also considered this week the DC appropriations bill. Although I am disappointed we were unable to finish that bill, we had very important debate and discussion, much of which centered around the opportunity scholarships for impoverished children in the District, support for public charter schools, as well as additional support for public schools in the District. We were not successful in passing that bill.

I do want to assure my colleagues that we will be coming back and addressing that important issue of opportunity scholarships for impoverished schoolchildren in the District. We have addressed it and we will continue to address it with the leadership of Mayor Anthony Williams as well as other local leaders.

Last night, we reached an agreement for final passage on a genetic non-

discrimination bill, which I spoke to in detail last night. The vote on final passage of that bill will occur at 2:30 on October 14. Last night, I commended the tremendous work on both sides of the aisle in addressing this legislation, under the leadership in large part of Senator OLYMPIA SNOWE, someone who has been working on this issue for at least 6 years because I know I have been working for at least the last 6 years on that important legislation. We completed debate on it last night. We will vote on it Tuesday, October 14. At that juncture, we will have addressed the issues of civil rights protections and the importance of preventing the use of genetic information in a discriminatory way. I look forward to that vote on October 14.

In addition, this week we passed H.R. 1925, called the Runaway Homeless and Missing Children's Protection bill. This is the House companion bill to Senator HATCH's bill which we passed earlier.

In addition, Chairman SHELBY helped in securing passage of S. 1680, the Defense Production Act. We are grateful for his efforts as this legislation expired earlier this week.

We were also able to pass TANF this week, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families extension. Senators GRASSLEY and BAUCUS were instrumental in ensuring this was completed on time.

Chairman MCCAIN and the Commerce Committee finished up and the full Senate subsequently passed S. 1261, the Consumer Product Safety Commission reauthorization.

In addition, just a few moments ago, I read S. Con. Res. 66, which was a resolution commending the National Endowment for Democracy for its contributions to democratic development around the world. That resolution has been introduced and addressed because it is the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the National Endowment for Democracy. The sponsor of that resolution was Senator LUGAR.

I just wanted to mention that because I had the opportunity to sit through a board meeting and a review of the important programs the National Endowment for Democracy does, the programs reflecting the tremendous work in promoting democracy in countries all around the world. I am proud this body has passed this very important resolution to commend that organization for the productive and very important work around the world.

Finally, a short while ago, we were able to confirm, along with seven judges from earlier this week, a series of executive nominations. One of these nominations was Randall Tobias to be coordinator of U.S. Government activities to combat HIV/AIDS globally with the rank of Ambassador. This particular position, in essence, is the person in charge, the point person for the United States of America, in terms of our global efforts to address one of the greatest moral, humanitarian, and public health challenges of the last 100