I received a letter of support for the DREAM Act from a group of Americans who lost loved ones in the September 11 terrorist attacks. Here is what they wrote me:

> We will all be safer if we unite against terrorists, and if our immigration system can be made more rational and reflective of our values as a Nation.

President Bush said the other day some words that I think are worthy of repeating on the floor of the Senate. He said:

> It is true that we are a Nation of laws, but we are also a welcoming Nation. We are a Nation of immigrants.

I stand before this body, as I have said many times, so proud of the fact that my grandmother and grandfather had the courage to pick up and leave a tiny little village in Lithuania in 1911. My grandmother picked up my mom, a 2-year-old infant, and brought her and my aunt and uncles on a boat from Germany to Baltimore, MD, where they caught a train and went to St. Louis, MO, and then crossed the river into East St. Louis, the town where I was born.

My grandfather worked in the steel mills, packinghouses, and the stockyards—did things that all immigrants did, the hardest, toughest, dirtiest jobs. He kept the family together.

My mother made it to the eighth grade and then went to work, as young women did in her era, and then was married to my dad and applied and became a naturalized citizen.

I have her naturalization certificate in my office today. I am very proud of it. Today, her son is the 47th Senator in history from the State of Illinois. It is an American story, our family story. And it is a story repeated over and over again.

Some of the children who will be helped here, some of the young people who will be helped here, will make extraordinary contributions to our country. I can't even predict what they will be. But would we be a better nation, a stronger nation by turning them away, telling them to go back to Korea and Mexico and Ireland and Poland and all the places they have come from? I don't think so.

I think the letter from the families of the September 11 victims says it all. We need to have an immigration system that reflects our values as a nation. We shouldn't deport extraordinary people like the ones I have described. They will make America a better place. We should extend a welcoming hand and an opportunity for them to earn their way into legalization in America. That is what the DREAM Act will do.

I urge my colleagues, when they consider this bill as it comes to the floor, to support this legislation and the DREAM Act provisions.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 8:11 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 30, 2006, at 9:30 a.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination and the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar under the authority of an order of the Senate of January 20, 2005:

Eric M. Thorson, of Virginia, to be Inspector General, Small Business Administration.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate Wednesday, March 29, 2006:

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

RANDALL L. TOBIAS, OF INDIANA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

THE ABOVE NOMINATION WAS APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEE'S COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.