

The bill is not an amnesty. To earn the right to remain in this country, workers would not only have to demonstrate past work contributions to the U.S. economy, but also make a substantial future work commitment. These workers will be able to come forward, identify themselves, provide evidence that they have been employed in agriculture, and continue to work hard and play by the rules.

The legislation will also modify the current temporary foreign agricultural worker program, while preserving and enhancing key labor protections. It strikes a fair balance and streamlines the H-2A program's application process by reducing paperwork for employers and accelerate processing. But individuals participating in the program receive strong labor protections. Anything else would undermine the jobs, wages and working conditions of U.S. workers.

This legislation would unify families. When temporary residence is granted, the farm worker's spouse and minor children would be allowed to remain legally in the U.S., but they would not be authorized to work. When the worker becomes a permanent resident, the spouse and minor children would also gain such status.

AgJOBS will also enhance national security and reduce illegal immigration. AgJOBS will also reduce the chaotic, illegal, and all-too-deadly flows of immigrants at our borders by providing safe and legal avenues for farm workers and their families. Future temporary workers will be carefully screened to meet security concerns. Enforcement resources will be more effectively focused on the highest risks. By bringing undocumented farm workers out of the shadows and require them to pass thorough security checks, it will enable our officers to more effectively train their sights on terrorists and criminals.

Last year, the Senate came together—Democrats and Republicans—to pass farreaching immigration reform legislation, which included the AgJOBS bill. The American people are calling on us to come together again. They know there is a crisis and they want action now.

The President has been a leader on immigration reform, and I'm hopeful that he will renew his efforts with members of his party, so that we can enact comprehensive reform legislation, to end the festering crisis once and for all. The House of Representatives is now ready to be a genuine partner in this effort.

By heritage and history, America is a nation of immigrants. Our legislation proposes necessary changes in the law while preserving this tradition. This bill will ensure that immigrant farm workers can live the American dream and contribute to our prosperity, our security, and our values and I hope very much that it can be enacted quickly in this new Congress.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 33—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD EXPAND ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH THE REPUBLIC OF GEORGIA BY COMMENCING NEGOTIATIONS TO ENTER INTO A FREE TRADE AGREEMENT

Mr. LUGAR submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 33

Whereas, in the November 2003 Rose Revolution, the people of the Republic of Georgia protested fraudulent elections in a non-violent manner and demanded a fair election, resulting in a democratically elected new government;

Whereas, based on commitments to maintain an open economy and adhere to free trade principles including the reduction and elimination of trade barriers, Georgia was granted membership in the World Trade Organization on June 14, 2000;

Whereas, Georgia was found to have accorded its citizens the right to emigrate, travel freely, and to return to their country without restriction meeting the human rights criteria consistent with the objectives of the Trade Act of 1974, and based on these findings was granted permanent normal trade relations through a waiver of Jackson-Vanik sanctions in 2000;

Whereas, in 1994, Georgia concluded a bilateral investment treaty with the United States, its largest source of foreign direct investment, in order to promote and facilitate non-discriminatory, open and fair commercial policies;

Whereas, the United States is Georgia's largest trading partner and the commercial relationship presents an opportunity for American companies to expand and prosper;

Whereas, the Georgian government has made significant efforts to promote regional cooperation and peaceful conflict resolution;

Whereas Georgia has demonstrated a commitment to responsible facilitation of the energy resources located within the region;

Whereas, Georgia has taken important steps toward the creation of democratic institutions and a free-market economy and, as a participating state of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), is committed to developing a system of governance in accordance with the principles regarding human rights and humanitarian affairs that are set forth in the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (also known as the "Helsinki Final Act"); and

Whereas the United States is committed to aiding in regional development, economic integration and supporting democracy in the South Caucasus: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that the United States should expand its relationship with the Republic of Georgia by commencing negotiations to enter into a free trade agreement.

SENATE RESOLUTION 34—CALLING FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF THE EFFORTS OF THE UNITED STATES TO DEFEAT THE TALIBAN AND TERRORIST NETWORKS IN AFGHANISTAN

Mr. KERRY (for himself and Mr. FEINGOLD) submitted the following res-

olution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 34

Whereas global terrorist networks, including the al Qaeda organization that attacked the United States on September 11, 2001, continue to threaten the security of the United States and are recruiting new members and developing the capability and plans to attack the United States and its allies throughout the world;

Whereas a democratic, stable, and prosperous Afghanistan is a vital security interest of the United States;

Whereas stability in Afghanistan is being threatened by antigovernment and Taliban forces that seek to disrupt political and economic developments throughout the country;

Whereas Osama Bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahiri, the leaders of al Qaeda, are still at large and are reportedly hiding somewhere in the Afghanistan-Pakistan border region;

Whereas, according to United States military intelligence officials—

(1) Taliban attacks on United States, allied, and Afghan forces increased from 1,558 in 2005 to 4,542 in 2006;

(2) suicide bomb attacks in Afghanistan increased from 27 in 2005 to 139 in 2006;

(3) roadside bomb attacks more than doubled from 783 in 2005 to 1,677 in 2006; and

(4) crossborder attacks from Pakistan into Afghanistan have increased by 300 percent since September 2006;

Whereas, on September 2, 2006, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime reported that in 2006 opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan increased 59 percent over 2005 levels and reached a record high;

Whereas the President's current request for United States economic assistance to Afghanistan for fiscal year 2007 is approximately 33 percent of the amount appropriated for fiscal year 2006;

Whereas only 50 percent of the money pledged by the international community for Afghanistan between 2002 and 2005 has actually been delivered;

Whereas, on September 12, 2006, the Secretary of State said, "[A]n Afghanistan that does not complete its democratic evolution and become a stable, terrorist-fighting state is going to come back to haunt us. . . . [I]t will come back to haunt our successors and their successors." and "If we should have learned anything, it is if you allow that kind of vacuum, if you allow a failed state in that strategic a location, you're going to pay for it.";

Whereas the bipartisan Iraq Study Group Report concluded, "If the Taliban were to control more of Afghanistan, it could provide al Qaeda the political space to conduct terrorist operations. This development would destabilize the region and have national security implications for the United States and other countries around the world.";

Whereas the Iraq Study Group Report recommended that the President provide additional political, economic, and military support for Afghanistan, including resources that might become available as combat forces are redeployed from Iraq;

Whereas the Iraq Study Group Report specifically recommended that the United States meet the request of General James Jones, then United States North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) commander, for more troops to combat the resurgence of al Qaeda and Taliban forces in Afghanistan;

Whereas, on October 8, 2006, General David Richards, NATO's top commander in Afghanistan, warned that a majority of Afghans would likely switch their allegiance to resurgent Taliban militants if their lives showed no visible improvements in the next 6 months;