

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. 1. INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Openness to international students, scholars, scientists, and exchange visitors serves vital and longstanding national foreign policy, educational, and economic interests.

(2) The real and perceived erosion of such openness undermines the national security interests of the United States.

(3) The report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States recommended: "The United States should rebuild the scholarship, exchange, and library programs that reach out to young people and offer them knowledge and hope."

(4) The Government Accountability Office convened a forum in September 2006 to discuss concerns whether the United States will be able to "attract an appropriate share of talented international students to its universities and to its workforce," in which participants "identified real and perceived barriers created by U.S. immigration policy."

(5) Increased marketing by countries such as Great Britain and Australia give rise to concerns that the United States has lost market share with regard to international students. The European Union has set forth a comprehensive strategy to be the most competitive and dynamic knowledge-based economy in the world by 2010, and part of this strategy is aimed at enhancing economic competitiveness by making the European Union the most favorable destination for students, scholars, and researchers from other regions of the world.

(6) International students studying in the United States and their families contribute more than \$13,000,000,000 to the United States economy each year, making higher education a major service sector export.

(b) DRIVER'S LICENSES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND EXCHANGE VISITORS.—Section 202(c)(2)(C) of the REAL ID Act of 2005 is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(v) PROVISIONS FOR NONIMMIGRANTS MONITORED UNDER SEVIS.—With respect to nonimmigrants subject to the monitoring system required under section 641 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1372)—

"(I) notwithstanding clause (ii), a temporary driver's license or temporary identification card issued under this subparagraph shall be valid for the shorter of—

"(aa) the period during which the applicant is authorized to remain in the United States; or

"(bb) the standard issuance period for driver's licenses issued by the State; and

"(II) valid status under the program developed under such section shall constitute valid documentary evidence of status for purposes of clause (iv)."

(c) LANGUAGE TRAINING PROGRAMS.—

(1) ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENT.—Section 101(a)(15)(F)(i) (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(F)(i) is amended by striking "a language" and inserting "an accredited language".

(2) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall issue regulations that—

(A) except as provided in subparagraphs (C) and (D), require that an accredited language training program described in section 101(a)(15)(F)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended by paragraph (1), be accredited by an accrediting agency recognized by the Secretary of Education;

(B) require that if such an accredited language training program provides intensive language training, the head of such program provide the Secretary of Education with doc-

umentation regarding the specific subject matter for which the program is accredited;

(C) permit an alien admitted as a non-immigrant under such section 101(a)(15)(F)(i) to participate in a language training program, during the 2-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, if such program is not accredited under subparagraph (A); and

(D) permit a language training program established after the date of the enactment of this Act, which is not accredited under subparagraph (A), to qualify as an accredited language training program under such section 101(a)(15)(F)(i) during the 2-year period beginning on the date on which such program is established.

(d) COUNTERING VISA FRAUD.—The Secretary of State shall—

(1) require United States consular offices, particularly consular offices in countries from which large numbers of international students and exchange visitors depart for study in the United States, to submit to the Secretary plans for countering visa fraud that respond to the particular fraud-related problems in such countries; and

(2) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, submit a report on the measures taken to counter visa fraud under the plans submitted under paragraph (1) to—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(e) SHORT-TERM STUDY ON TOURIST VISA.—Section 101(a)(15)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(B) is amended by inserting "for a period longer than 90 days" after "study".

(f) RESTORATION OF LIMITED INTERVIEW WAIVER AUTHORITY FOR RETURNING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND FREQUENT VISITORS.—Section 222(h) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1202(h) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)(iv), by striking "or" at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by striking "and" at the end and inserting "or"; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(D) by the Secretary of State if the Secretary has provided for expedited visa review because the alien is—

"(i) a frequent visitor to the United States, who—

"(I) has a history of visa approvals;

"(II) has provided biometric data; and

"(III) has agreed to provide the consulate with such information as the Secretary may require; or

"(ii) admitted under subparagraph (F) or (J) of section 101(a)(15), who—

"(I) is pursuing a program of study in the United States;

"(II) has not violated their immigration status;

"(III) has left the United States temporarily; and

"(IV) requires a new visa to return to the same program; and"; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(A), by inserting at the end "except for an alien described in paragraph (1)(D)(ii)".

mittee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to conduct a hearing during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 7, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. in 328A, Senate Russell Office Building. The purpose of this committee hearing will be to discuss investing in our Nation's future through agricultural research.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 7, 2007, at 9:30 a.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building. The purpose of the hearing is to evaluate policy implications of pharmaceutical importation from Canada.

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

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 7, 2007, at 2:30 p.m., in room 253 of the Russell Senate Office Building. The purpose of the hearing is to review national imperatives for Earth science research.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 7, 2007, at 9:30 a.m. in room SD-366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building. The purpose of the hearing is to investigate market constraints on large investments in advanced energy technologies and investigate ways to stimulate additional private-sector investment in the deployment of these technologies.

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

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet for a hearing on Wednesday, March 7, 2007, at 3 p.m. in SD-406. The purpose of the hearing is to conduct oversight on the President's FY 2008 EPA budget.

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

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 7, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. in SD-430.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "The McCarran-Ferguson Act and Antitrust Immunity: Good for Consumers?" on Wednesday, March 7, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. in Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

Witness list

Panel I: The Honorable Trent Lott, U.S. Senator, R-MS; the Honorable Mary L. Landrieu, U.S. Senator, D-LA.

Panel II: Michael Homan, Homeowner, New Orleans, LA; J. Robert Hunter, Insurance Director, Consumer Federation of America, Washington, DC; Marc Racicot, President, American Insurance Association, Washington, DC; Susan E. Voss, Iowa Insurance Commissioner, National Association of Insurance Commissioners, Des Moines, IA.

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

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a hearing on "Oversight of the Enforcement of the Antitrust Laws" on Wednesday, March 7, 2007 at 2 p.m. in Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

Witness list

The Honorable Thomas O. Barnett, Assistant Attorney General for the Antitrust Division, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC; the Honorable Deborah Platt Majoras, Chairman Federal Trade Commission, Washington, DC.

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

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 7, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. in room 418 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building to conduct a hearing on the VA Claims Adjudication Process.

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

PERMANENT SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATIONS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations be authorized to meet on Wednesday, March 7, 2007, at 10 a.m., for a hearing entitled "Credit Card Practices: Fees, Interest Rates, and Grace Periods."

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be closed.

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

CLOTURE MOTIONS—S. 4

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send to the desk a cloture motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the Reid substitute amendment No. 275 to S. 4, the 9/11 Commission legislation.

Joe Lieberman, Charles Schumer, Robert Menendez, Patty Murray, Dianne Feinstein, B.A. Mikulski, Christopher Dodd, Joe Biden, Debbie Stabenow, Harry Reid, Pat Leahy, Dick Durbin, Jeff Bingaman, H.R. Clinton, Bill Nelson, Tom Carper, Jack Reed.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close the debate on Calendar No. 57, S. 4, the 9/11 Commission legislation.

Joe Lieberman, Charles Schumer, Robert Menendez, Patty Murray, Dianne Feinstein, B.A. Mikulski, Christopher Dodd, Joe Biden, Debbie Stabenow, Harry Reid, Pat Leahy, Dick Durbin, Jeff Bingaman, H.R. Clinton, Bill Nelson, Tom Carper, Jack Reed.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be a period for morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar Nos. 39 and 40; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be laid on the table; that any statements thereon be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate return to legislative session.

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

The nominations, considered and confirmed are as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Stanley Davis Phillips, of North Carolina, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Pleni-

potentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Estonia.

William B. Wood, of New York, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, we just approved the new Ambassador to Afghanistan. I do recall yesterday we approved the new Ambassador to Iraq. That is pretty good work of the Senate. These are two very important diplomats. They have their work cut out for them. I congratulate both of them.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now return to legislative session.

NATIONAL SAFE PLACE WEEK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to S. Res. 100.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 100) designating the week beginning March 12, 2007, as "National Safe Place Week."

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

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today with Senator CRAIG and 14 of my colleagues in support of a resolution designating the week of March 12 through 17, 2007, as National Safe Place Week.

This resolution recognizes the participating businesses, community organizations, youth service agencies, and volunteers that are part of the YMCA National Safe Place Program and work for the safety and well being of at-risk youth.

Youth today face a growing amount of pressure in their daily lives at school, at home, and in the community. For some youth, problems include abuse or neglect at home, drug or alcohol addictions of family members and friends, trouble at school or dangerous situations on a date.

Young people who face these serious situations should not feel left alone and should have a place to go to in their community.

Over the past 24 years, the National Safe Place Program has provided immediate help to more than 200,000 youth in crisis at nearly 16,000 Safe Place locations and with counseling by phone.

This important program is currently operated by 140 agencies serving 700 communities in 40 States—bringing together the private and public sector to reach out and help at-risk youth who might be neglected, abused, threatened or in unsafe situations.