

the immigrant communities. Additionally, to ensure that all potentially eligible persons have an opportunity to qualify for 245(i), if necessary the INS should accept petitions and applications before the April 30, 2001 sunset date that do not contain all necessary supporting documents, and allow additional documents to be filed after the deadline.

Second, the legislation adds the members of a third class action law suit, *Zambrano v. INS*, to those covered by the LIFE Act's provisions concerning adjustment of status under the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (IRCA). We note that persons eligible for adjustment pursuant to the combined LIFE provisions include everyone who has "filed with the Attorney General a written claim of class membership", that is all registered class members, not only those who have been issued employment authorization pursuant to a screening that did not reliably distinguish between potentially meritorious and non-meritorious applications.

We understand that several other class action lawsuits are still pending in the federal courts challenging other INS interpretations of the 1986 adjustment provisions. The precise posture of one of these cases, *Perales v. Thornburgh*, came to our attention after the legislation had been finalized. We understand that a class of about 200 identified plaintiffs in *Perales* challenged the same regulation whose illegality the INS has conceded in *Zambrano*. We would encourage the Attorney General to provide a just resolution for the *Perales* class members in light of the legislation enacted today.

Other cases that have come to our attention, such as *Proyecto San Pablo v. INS*, and *Immigrant Assistance Project v. INS*, are in a different posture from those addressed by the LIFE Act and these amendments, in that they do not involve regulations that INS has conceded were illegal. At the same time, however, it is now almost 2001, that is, almost 15 years after the enactment of IRCA, and these cases remain unresolved. We encourage the plaintiffs and the Attorney General to explore the possibility of settling these cases and bringing to an end the years of bitter and costly litigation. Nothing in this legislation is intended to preclude this option, or to preclude the Attorney General from resolving any other IRCA adjustment applications on the merits.

In that connection, we also note that when the 1986 legalization program was enacted, the Attorney General, pursuant to section 245A of the INA, was authorized to work in conjunction with voluntary organizations and other qualified State, local and community organizations to broadly disseminate information about the legalization program. The INS helped provide funding to these organizations to assist with the outreach effort, as well as with the preparation and submission of the applications for adjustment of status. A similar outreach campaign should be conducted to disseminate information about the opportunity to apply for adjustment of status under this Act. As noted above, almost 15 years have elapsed since the original legalization program was enacted, therefore the need to publicize the resolution of these issues reached by the LIFE Act and amendments thereto is critical to ensure that eligible persons are notified and have an opportunity to obtain the benefits of this Act. Moreover, nothing in the Act should be construed to preclude the Attorney General from providing funding to organizations qualified and experienced in the preparation and submission of adjustment applications.

Third, the amendments clarify that the spouses and unmarried children of the beneficiaries of Section 1104 of the LIFE Act are eligible for the Family Unity provisions of the Immigration Act of 1990. By enacting this provision, our objective is to ensure that these family members are treated in the same manner as the family members of those who adjusted their status under IRCA.

In addition, the amendments address two, more technical issues. Section 1104 LIFE Act applicants, as well as beneficiaries under the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act (NACARA) and the Haitian Refugee Immigrant Fairness Act (HRIFA) are made eligible for certain waivers of grounds of inadmissibility. These waivers are ordinarily available only to persons who are outside the U.S. The amendments to the LIFE Act allow the covered individuals to apply for these waivers in the U.S.

Finally, the LIFE amendments clarify that section 241(a)(5) of the INA which bars anyone who has been ordered removed and who subsequently reenters the U.S. from obtaining any relief under the INA. Because adjustment under section 245A, NACARA, and HRIFA is not "relief under" the Act, LIFE amendments specify that this bar does not apply to LIFE section 1104 beneficiaries, or NACARA or HRIFA applicants.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be advanced to third reading and passed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, all without intervening action, motion, or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 1795) was read the third time and passed.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, Senator DASCHLE is here. We have a few resolutions we can offer at this point.

THANKING THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk on behalf of myself and Senator DASCHLE and ask for its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 388) tendering the thanks of the Senate to the President pro tempore for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of the Senate.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 388) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 388

Resolved, That the thanks of the Senate are hereby tendered to the Honorable Strom Thurmond, President pro tempore of the Senate, for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which he has presided over its deliberations during the second session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress.

Mr. LOTT. Let me note, Mr. President, that the distinguished Senator from South Carolina, Senator STROM THURMOND, has been very diligent in his duties over the past 2 years. No matter what hour of the day the Senate came in, Senator THURMOND was in the chair and recognized the Chaplain and called on a Senator to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. On a few occasions, I even suggested a substitute could fill in, but on rare occasions did that ever happen.

He has set a tremendous example for all of us in the Senate. He continues the tradition that Senator BYRD of West Virginia also exhibited when he was President pro tempore. So I am sincere when I say we extend our appreciation to Senator THURMOND for his diligence as our President pro tempore.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I associate myself with the remarks of the distinguished majority leader.

I have admired the distinguished President pro tempore for a lot of reasons. But his diligence in opening the session every day, and his willingness to be as prompt as he always is, is something admired on both sides of the aisle.

So for all of his effort, for all of his service, for his willingness to serve as he has, we thank him.

I thank the majority leader for yielding.

THANKING THE VICE PRESIDENT

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk on behalf of myself and Senator DASCHLE and ask for its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 389) tendering the thanks of the Senate to the Vice President for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which he has presided over the deliberations of the Senate.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 389) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 389

Resolved, That the thanks of the Senate are hereby tendered to the Honorable Al Gore, Vice President of the United States and President of the Senate, for the courteous, dignified, and impartial manner in which he has presided over its deliberations during the second session of the One Hundred Sixth Congress.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, let me note that the Vice President, AL GORE, a former Member of this body, served the Senate. I served with him here. I served with him in the House. He has served his country so well for a long time. He, probably more than most Vice Presidents, did spend time up here. On a few occasions, he did have to come and break ties. Generally, I did not like that, but he was prepared to do that.

He served his country so well, and a simple resolution of this nature is not adequate to express the appreciation of the Senate and of our Nation.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. DASCHLE. I will have more to say about that matter at another time. But let me also, again, associate myself with the remarks of the majority leader, except to say I was delighted he was there in the chair to break those tie votes on occasion.

He has served his country well in so many roles over the years, including his years in the Senate, both as a Senator and as the President of the Senate. We congratulate him and thank him for his work, as well.

COMMENDING THE EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP OF THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I send a resolution to the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 390) to commend the exemplary leadership of the Democratic Leader.

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

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 390) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 390

Resolved, That the thanks of the Senate are hereby tendered to the distinguished Democratic Leader, the Senator from South Dakota, the Honorable Thomas A. Daschle, for his exemplary leadership and the cooperative and dedicated manner in which he has performed his leadership responsibilities in the conduct of Senate business during the second session of the 106th Congress.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I could go on for quite some time about my colleague from South Dakota. He does a magnificent job as the Democratic leader. He is thoughtful. He is accessible. He is tenacious. He is committed. He is courteous. And while, as leaders of our respective parties in the Senate, we sometimes disagree and sometimes even clash publicly—it has been rare—we have a very good working relationship. When the day is done and we have conversations, they are quite often personal and very kind. I appreciate his courtesies. I look forward to working with him in the next Congress.

It is going to surely test us in every way, every day, but I hope and pray we will be up to the task. I will certainly try to fulfill that new, challenging role. And I know I can count on my friend and partner to do his part on the other side of the aisle.

So I am delighted to be able to offer this resolution of commendation to Senator DASCHLE.

Mr. DASCHLE addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

COMMENDING THE EXEMPLARY LEADERSHIP OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, I have a resolution at the desk and ask for its immediate consideration.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 391) to commend the exemplary leadership of the Majority Leader.

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

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, this resolution is offered in the most heartfelt and sincere way. These last 2 years have been very difficult. There have been times when it has tested all of us. But no one has been more tested than the majority leader. No one has been called upon to lead in more arduous circumstances, on more occasions, than the majority leader. And as he has just noted, there have been times when we have had our differences. But I have always admired him for his remarkable ability to put aside those differences, to come to my office, to invite me to his, to talk in the most affable and personal way when the day is done. I admire that and many other of his remarkable talents. We are fortunate to have his leadership. We are fortunate to have his service to this country. And I am fortunate to have his friendship.

So I congratulate him on his successful tenure as majority leader. And as he noted, our times in the future will become even more arduous, even more tested. I look forward to taking on those challenges with the same degree

of enthusiasm, the same degree of willingness, to work in a partnership that I hope we can continually demonstrate. So I thank him. I wish him well and look forward to our service together in the next 2 years.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the American public, the people from South Dakota, the people from Mississippi, do not know how hard these two men work for their States and their country. They probably have some idea because they are both so popular in their respective States, but from someone who sits and watches these two men every day we are in session—and many of the days we are not in session—I am in awe as to the work they do and the difficult situations they get us out of.

If someone had said this morning at 10 o'clock that we would be in the position we are in today—being able to go home for Christmas—I would have laughed at them. I thought it was impossible for us to do that. But these two men, working together, were able to put together a package of about \$500 billion involving the most important things this country deals with on a daily basis. They did this. They did it alone. There were others on the outside helping a little bit, but this is just an example.

But I have been able, from my perspective here for 2 years, to watch them, and I am tremendously impressed. I want this RECORD spread with the fact that these resolutions do not in any way connote the really good work they do. On paper it says they did a good job, but it takes someone who works with these two gentlemen on a daily basis to see the sacrifices they make for their States and for the country.

Their families should be so proud of what they do. The people of their States should be so proud of what they do. And I, speaking on behalf of Americans, after this bitter election, say here are examples of everything that is good about the American political system—Senators DASCHLE and LOTT.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the resolution?

Without objection, the resolution is agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 391) was agreed to, as follows:

S. RES. 391

Resolved, That the thanks of the Senate are hereby tendered to the distinguished Majority Leader, the Senator from Mississippi, the Honorable Trent Lott, for his exemplary leadership and the cooperative and dedicated manner in which he has performed his leadership responsibilities in the conduct of Senate business during the second session of the 106th Congress.

Mr. LOTT. I appreciate very much the kind remarks of Senator DASCHLE and also our good friend, Senator REID of Nevada. He has been very generous, and we appreciate it. He makes our jobs easier. Sometimes when we are out there having meetings or taking