AMENDING THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1424, introduced earlier today by Senator KENNEDY.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1424) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide permanent authority for the admission of ''S'' visa non-immigrants.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of the bill.

Mr. LEAHEY. Mr. President, in this time of tragedy, there are a few things Congress can do to provide immediate assistance. Passage of this legislation is one of them.

This bill restores the 'S' visa, which Congress created as part of the 1994 Violent Crime Control Act. The visa allows foreign nationals with critical information about criminal cases, especially events of terrorism, to remain in the United States legally for the purpose of cooperating with law enforcement. An application for the visa must be made by a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency or by a court.

The provision authorizing the 'S' visa expired yesterday, so without this legislation law enforcement will be unable to take advantage of it. The State and Justice Departments have requested that we reinstitute the 'S' visa. I urge the Senate to grant this request and to give law enforcement the support it needs in this area.

This is a limited program, but it serves an important purpose. The number of 'S' visas granted in a year is limited to 200 for those providing information about crimes and an additional 50 specifically devoted to those who can provide information about terrorism. Our law enforcement officials face a terrible responsibility in seeking out the perpetrators of these evil acts. I am pleased to co-sponsor this legislation, and hope that it helps in this search.

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

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

The bill (S. 1424) was read the third time and passed.

(Purpose: To provide for a complete database described in subsection (k)."

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF PROGRAM AND EXPENDITURE AMOUNTS.

(a) In general.—Section 9(n)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(n)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

''(1) REQUIRED EXPENDITURE AMOUNTS.—

''(A) In general.—With respect to each fiscal year through fiscal year 2009, each Federal agency that has an extramural budget for research, or research and development, in excess of $500,000,000 for that fiscal year, shall expend with small business concerns not less than the percentage of that extramural budget specified in subparagraph (B) of this subsection, as determined by the Administrator, in subsection (d), for the purpose of enhancing its STTR program, in conjunction with any such outreach done for purposes of the SBIR program.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall be effective beginning in fiscal year 2001.

(b) Compliance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes of the United States.

(c) Authorization of appropriations.

(d) STTR database.

(e) STTR Program data collection.

(f) Authorization of appropriations.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.

(h) Compliance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes of the United States. The amendments made by this Act are effective beginning in fiscal year 2001.

(i) Authorization of appropriations.

(j) EFFECTIVE DATE.

(k) Compliance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes of the United States.

(l) Authorization of appropriations.

(m) EFFECTIVE DATE.