

backlog in the processing of immigration cases.

While I am pleased with the overall bill, I am disappointed that the Senate provision permanently extending Section 245(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act was not included in the final conference report.

245(i) allows certain eligible immigrants to apply for green cards in the United States, rather than returning to their home countries to apply. Without Section 245(i), people fully eligible for green cards will be forced to return to their countries of origin and barred from returning to the United States for up to ten years—ripping families apart and causing many employers to lose qualified and well-trained employees. The issue is not whether these immigrants are eligible for legal residence, nor when they can adjust, but rather from where they can apply to become permanent U.S. residents.

As my colleagues know, the LIFE Act, which passed last year, provided a window of just four months for people to file applications with the INS or Department of Labor. For various reasons, thousands of qualified immigrants were unable to benefit from this short extension by the April 30th 2001, deadline. In the rush to apply, many eligible applicants had their files returned by the INS because of technical mistakes after the deadline expired. In addition, many immigrants did not have their papers filed properly, or even at all, by unscrupulous individuals purporting to be immigration lawyers.

Many members, including myself and the membership of Congressional Hispanic Caucus, believe that Congress should pass a permanent extension Section 245(i). While some may disagree with this view, it is clear that some sort of extension is long overdue. President Bush, the AFL-CIO and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have all publicly supported an extension of this important provision.

The Senate passed a compromise extension of 245(i) more than 2 months ago, and the House was set to vote on this legislation on September 11th. It is my sincere hope that the leadership of the House will re-schedule a vote on this critical legislation as soon as possible. I look forward to working with Chairman WOLF and Ranking Member SERRANO to ensure that an extension of 245(i) is passed before Congress adjourns for the year.

Mr. Speaker, having expressed my concern about the omission of section 245(i), let me now focus on some of the positive aspects of the bill and why I will support it. For example, I am very pleased that the conference committee was willing to provide funding for a variety of initiatives and projects that are of importance to Los Angeles and California.

The Los Angeles Conservancy works with a variety of community interest groups and developers on rehabilitation and restoration projects. The funding in this bill will assist the L.A. Conservancy with their renovation of historic St. Vibiana's Cathedral. In addition, the conservancy's Broadway Redevelopment project will rehabilitate a number of theaters in the historic area of Los Angeles. Both projects fit into an exciting downtown redevelopment plan that is strengthening the economic foundation of this once neglected area of downtown Los Angeles.

In addition to economic development funding, I am also pleased by the number of projects that have been included to help our nation's kids through the Department of Justice's juvenile justice programs and community-oriented police (COPS) programs. In Los Angeles, several groups that are working with teenagers will receive support for their promising efforts. The East Los Angeles Community Union (TELACU) operates a family-based gang violence prevention program, Project JADE—the Juvenile Assistance Diversion Effort—is a well-regarded community-based organization working to expand its juvenile crime prevention program. Para Los Niños provides intervention for first-time juvenile offenders and their families, including after-school programs for at-risk youth. Another program included in our bill is LA's Best, a nationally recognized afterschool program which operates in schools throughout the city of Los Angeles.

I was also pleased to work in cooperation with Governor Davis and Republican and Democratic members of the California delegation to acquire funding for other projects of regional and statewide importance.

One of the proudest achievements of the California delegation is a project that honors the longtime service on the Commerce-Justice-State Subcommittee of our late colleague, Julian Dixon. Funds are provided to assist Julian's law school alma mater, Southwestern University School of Law, with construction of its state-of-the-art Julian Dixon Courtroom. The courtroom will facilitate the teaching of advocacy and litigation skills. It will also provide Southwestern, which serves a significant populace of minority law students, with a community resource for jurists and lawyers. The university has committed to a better than one to one match for the federal funding.

Mr. Speaker, there are not many issues where 100 percent of the diverse 52-member California House delegation come together, but support for the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program is one of them. A united and unanimous delegation is responsible for seeing that \$565 million was provided for this important program that reimburses California and other impacted states for the costs associated with incarcerating illegal aliens.

Several other California projects also received attention. The California Center for Integrative Coastal Research, CI-CORE, is a new research initiative pulling together the strengths of several California State University campuses, including San Jose, San Francisco, Hayward, Monterey Bay, San Luis Obispo, Sacramento, Long Beach, Los Angeles, and San Diego. With the increased burden placed upon California's coastal resources due to agriculture, industry and urban development, better understanding of the oceans and our coastal region is imperative in making informed commercial, recreational and environmental policy decisions. CI-CORE will provide timely, indispensable and appropriate environmental data to regulatory agencies that are responsible for the development and enforcement of management policies.

The University of California's textile research program will receive funding and designation as one of the member institutions of the National Textile Consortium (NTC). California is the leading manufacturer of apparel in

the U.S. and is the largest employer in the apparel and textile trade, yet until now, no California university was included in the NTC. The inclusion of its research program, whose strengths include polymer science, fiber mechanics, fabric performance, and fashion theory, is long overdue.

The California Spatial Reference Center at Scripps Institute will also receive special attention. The center's research and activities support an accurate spatial reference system in California that is integral to decision-making by policy-makers at the local, state and federal level. As California faces significant seismic and geologic activity each year, an up-to-date spatial reference system is central to our ability to perform environmental monitoring, manage our civil infrastructure, and respond appropriately to emergencies of all kinds.

And finally, a modest amount of funding is provided to support the Central California Ozone Study. This study is being conducted to understand the relative role of local emissions and transported pollutants on air quality. The study is a collaborative effort by the California Air Resources Board, local governments, and industry, and has already received over \$8 million in state and local contributions. In light of the change in federal air quality standards for ozone, the deregulation of utilities in bringing new power generation to California, and the on-going process of developing State Implementation Plans for air quality, the Central California Ozone Study is a vital ingredient to ensure the cleanest air possible for all Californians.

I have enjoyed working with our chairman, ranking member and all the members of the Commerce-Justice-State-Judiciary Subcommittee this year on the wide variety of programs and agencies within our jurisdiction. Our work is a constant balancing act, but I believe a good balance has been achieved. I urge support of the conference report.

CONDOLENCES TO BETRU FAMILY

HON. DIANE E. WATSON

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 15, 2001

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, as a fellow American, I extend my deepest sympathies and condolences to Yeneneh Betru's friends and family, as well as the numerous and untold victims of the tragedies that occurred on September 11th. Dr. Betru was aboard the American Airlines Flight 77 bound from Washington Dulles Airport to Los Angeles which crashed into the Pentagon.

A native of Ethiopia who was raised in Saudi Arabia, Yeneneh Betru came to the United States for an education. "Ever since he was a little kid, he always wanted to be a doctor" said his brother Sirak, "he always wanted to help people." Yeneneh realized his dream before his life tragically ended. Dr. Betru was a pioneer in the hospitalist movement and he personally trained hundreds of hospitalists. His passion and legacy was a project distributing dialysis equipment to Ethiopia.

May we honor his legacy and cherish his memory forever and always.