

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2269

To establish a cultural and training program for disadvantaged individuals from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 7, 1998

Mr. D'AMATO (for himself and Mr. TORRICELLI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish a cultural and training program for disadvantaged individuals from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. UNITED STATES-NORTHERN IRELAND/REPUB-**
4 **LIC OF IRELAND CULTURAL AND TRAINING**
5 **PROGRAM.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

7 (1) PURPOSE.—The Secretary of State, in con-
8 sultation with the Secretary of Labor, shall establish
9 a program designed to bring individuals from dis-
10 advantaged areas of Northern Ireland and the Re-

1 public of Ireland to the United States for the pur-
2 pose of providing such individuals the experience of
3 living and working in a multicultural society while
4 obtaining valuable work skills and experience.

5 (2) GUIDELINES.—The program established
6 under paragraph (1) shall be carried out in accord-
7 ance with the following guidelines:

8 (A) The program shall expose individuals
9 who have been subjected to a war-torn,
10 monocultural, sectarian environment to the di-
11 verse, cooperative, multicultural environment of
12 the United States.

13 (B) The program shall identify disadvan-
14 tagged areas within Northern Ireland and the
15 Republic of Ireland which require public and
16 private sector activity to break the cycle of
17 structural unemployment and identify individ-
18 uals, including the long-term unemployed and
19 out-of-work young adults, to participate in the
20 program and in doing so assist in regenerating
21 the economies of such areas.

22 (C) The program shall bring individuals to
23 the United States for a period of not more than
24 60 months.

1 (D) The program shall encourage grass-
 2 roots support for long-term peace and economic
 3 stability by providing training in peaceful coex-
 4 istence and conflict resolution in addition to
 5 work skills and job experience.

6 (E) The program shall promote cross-com-
 7 munity and cross-border initiatives which ex-
 8 pose individuals from disadvantaged areas of
 9 Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland to
 10 the business and social life of other commu-
 11 nities.

12 (F) The program shall train individuals in
 13 job skills for which there are opportunities for
 14 employment in disadvantaged areas of Northern
 15 Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

16 (b) TEMPORARY NONIMMIGRANT VISA.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(a)(15)(Q) of the
 18 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
 19 1101(a)(15)(Q)) is amended—

20 (A) by inserting “(i)” after “(Q)”; and

21 (B) by inserting after the semicolon at the
 22 end the following: “or (ii) an alien having a res-
 23 idence in Northern Ireland or the Republic of
 24 Ireland which the alien has no intention of
 25 abandoning who is coming temporarily (for a

1 period not to exceed 60 months) to the United
2 States as a participant in a United States-
3 Northern Ireland/Republic of Ireland cultural
4 and training program approved by the Sec-
5 retary of State for the purpose of providing
6 practical training, employment, and the experi-
7 ence of coexistence and conflict resolution in a
8 multicultural society, consistent with the his-
9 tory, culture, and traditions of the people of
10 Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland,
11 and who will be employed under the same
12 wages and working conditions as domestic
13 workers.”.

14 (2) WAIVER AUTHORITY.—Section 212 of the
15 Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182) is
16 amended by adding after subsection (o) the following
17 new subsection:

18 “(p) The Attorney General, in the discretion of the
19 Attorney General, may waive the provisions of paragraphs
20 (6)(C) (other than clause (ii)) and (9) of subsection (a)
21 in the case of an alien who is applying for a nonimmigrant
22 visa under section 101(a)(15)(Q)(ii).”.

23 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
24 are authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year such
25 sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of

- 1 this section. Amounts appropriated pursuant to this sub-
- 2 section are authorized to be available until expended.

