

are generally lower than those of other immigrant groups.

But Congressional sponsors of the legislation say their intent was not to impose unfair burdens on immigrant families but simply to prevent them from becoming dependent on public aid.

The law requires immigrants seeking to bring relatives here to meet income requirements and to make legally enforceable promises to support the newcomers.

Advocates for immigrants say these restrictions are a backdoor way to slash legal immigration in a year when Republicans in Congress failed to reduce immigration levels directly. They say it will needlessly divide hard-working husbands and wives from each other and their children.

The law, which is to go into effect later this year after regulations are finalized, requires immigrants sponsoring family members for admission to the United States to make at least 125 percent of the poverty level, or \$19,500 for a family of four.

Under the old law, there was no income test for sponsors, just a requirement that incoming immigrants show they would not need public aid. In deciding whether to issue visas, consular officers at United States embassies overseas could consider whether prospective immigrants had jobs waiting, marketable skills, enough savings to support themselves or a sponsor.

Preliminary research, sponsored by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service and based on a random survey of 2,160 statements signed by sponsors of family immigrants in 1994, found that about 3 in 10 of those sponsors had incomes below the new standard.

Another study conducted last year by the Urban Institute, a nonprofit research group in Washington, reached similar conclusions. Its examination of 1993 Census Bureau income data found that 40 percent of immigrant families in the United States and 26 percent of Americans born in the United States would not make enough to sponsor an immigrant under the new standard.

Federal immigration officials refused to discuss their new research, which had not yet been released, or to say whether the preliminary findings had changed. But several people familiar with the research—three who opposed the new law and two who favored it—described the findings on condition that their names not be used.

Based on the survey of statements signed by sponsors, immigration officials estimated that roughly half of the Mexicans and Salvadorans, one-third of the Dominicans and Koreans, one-fourth of the Chinese and Jamaicans and one-fifth of the Filipinos, Indians and Vietnamese would not have met the new income requirements.

One opponent of the new laws who spoke on condition of anonymity said the study showed that half of the legal permanent residents and about 3 in 10 of the citizens who sponsored their wives in 1994 would not have met the income standard.

The cases surveyed included both immigrants seeking to join their families here and those already in the United States, who may have entered on student visas or illegally, trying to become legal permanent residents.

In 1994, 461,725 immigrants came to the United States to join their families here, according to Federal statistics. Demographers with the New York City Planning Department estimate that about 1 in 6 of those immigrants came to the city.

But the new research comes with these cautions: the income reported on each statement was not verified, and the size of the families and the incomes they would need to meet the new standard were difficult to determine in a substantial portion of the cases.

Representative Lamar Smith, a Texas Republican who is chairman of the House Immigration Subcommittee and a sponsor of the law, said in a statement on Friday that he had been advised that the methodology of the immigration service's research was "fatally flawed."

New studies of the impact of last year's immigration law are being scrutinized because the issue of immigration is so politically charged and because legal changes so often have unanticipated consequences.

Complicating this debate is the disagreement among experts about just how much legal immigrants rely on public assistance. The Urban Institute says that 94 percent of immigrants do not receive welfare. George J. Borjas, a professor of public policy at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, using a broader definition of welfare benefits, says that 21 percent of all immigrant households receive some type of public assistance, compared with 14 percent of native households.

Even with the data on the income requirements, it is difficult to predict exactly what impact the new law will have on immigration levels. For one thing, people who cannot immigrate legally may come anyway.

"The perverse effect of the law will be to encourage illegal immigration," said Cecilia Munoz, a deputy vice president of the National Council of La Raza, a nonprofit Hispanic civil rights organization. "The ties between families are probably stronger than our laws."

All immigrants seeking to join their families will need a sponsor when the law takes effect; the old law did not require a sponsor for those who convinced officials that they could support themselves. About one-quarter of the immigrants who joined their families in 1994 had no sponsor, according to the new research, and it is not possible to determine how they would have fared under the new law.

In addition, under the new law, sponsors who do not meet the new income standards will be allowed to recruit a friend or other relative who does earn enough to sign a statement in their stead, promising to support the new immigrant if necessary.

That may enable more people to bring in relatives, although another provision of the law is already discouraging some close family members, not to mention friends, from signing such legally binding statements, immigration lawyers say.

In the past, such promises have generally been found unenforceable in the courts, but the new law specifically empowers Federal, state and local governments to sue sponsors of immigrants who wind up on public assistance. It also allows immigrants to sue their sponsors for support. The sponsor is responsible until the immigrant becomes a citizen or has been working and paying taxes for 10 years.

Ana C. Zigal, an immigration lawyer in Baltimore, said she represents a young college student married to an illegal Mexican immigrant who installs air-conditioners for a living. The student, who works as a sales clerk in a department store, does not make enough to sponsor her husband and her father is "very scared" about signing a statement promising to support his son-in-law if necessary, Mr. Zigal said.

"What if that kid has a car accident that leaves him a paraplegic?" Ms. Zigal said. "The father is weighing his daughter's happiness against these future unknowns."

The new requirements continue to stir debate about the purpose of immigration to the United States. Groups that favor more restrictive policies, like the Federation for American Immigration Reform, contend the law will help keep out those who cannot support themselves.

"We don't need to import a poverty class into this country," John L. Martin, special projects director at the federation, said.

But advocates for immigrants say the new law runs counter to America's commitment to encouraging immigrants to reconstruct their close families here.

"The new law will mean that literally thousands of U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents won't be able to reunite with their spouses, children and other family members," said Jeanne A. Butterfield, executive director of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.

IN RECOGNITION OF PAUL HOSHIKO

Mr. ALLARD. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a fine American, a great father and a good friend, Paul Hoshiko of Eaton, Colorado. Paul recently passed away, but left behind him a legacy of accomplishment and achievement that deserves to be recognized by all Americans.

To many, Paul Hoshiko was known as a leader in the agricultural arena. To others he was known for his civic involvement and his donation of time and money for various charities. I knew him not only in those regards, but also as a moral man who put his family first; who had a deep and abiding faith in his God; and one who was an unabashed patriot. But in all regards and to all who knew him, Paul Hoshiko, was admired and respected.

He served on numerous boards and committees throughout his life which showed his standing in the community. One of the most prestigious positions he held was his appointment by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to the Colorado State Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee. Some other organizations he was involved with were the Extension Advisory Committee, Colorado Seed Growers Association, Central Weld Water District, member of Kersey & Greeley area Chamber of Commerce, member of Weld County Farm Bureau, Director of Lower Latham Reservoir for over 30 years, and the hospital foundation, among others. He received countless awards from these associations which illustrate his leadership and influence.

Paul was perhaps best known around the country as the "onion king". In fact, his sole appearance on commercial television (at least so far as I know) was standing in an onion field explaining to a future U.S. Senator what it took, "to be a good onion man". He was elected to the Board of the National Onion Association and served as president for five years. During his tenure the national office was moved to Greeley, Colorado. He served on the board of directors of this association until his death.

However, perhaps most notable and dearest to his heart, Paul should be recognized for his lifelong devotion to the 4-H program. He actively participated in this organization his entire life, both as a member and as a leader. He was continuously taking strides to

make 4-H an astronomical success, including but not limited to his active involvement in the International Farm Youth Exchange program, the National Western Stock Show, an annual State 4-H golf tournament, and a 4-H lighted softball field. He made a tremendous impact on those lives he touched while partaking in the 4-H program. His devotion is reflected in the faces of those youth who had the opportunity to work with him in these projects.

In summary, Mr. President, as you can see by my remarks, Paul was a born leader. He gave to his family, community, church and region unselfishly. He was the kind of man who only comes along every so often . . . and his life deserves to be recognized.

THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Wednesday, March 19, 1997, the federal debt stood at \$5,367,674,335,377.56.

One year ago, March 19, 1996, the federal debt stood at \$5,058,839,000,000.

Five years ago, March 19, 1992, the federal debt stood at \$3,862,284,000,000.

Ten years ago, March 19, 1987, the federal debt stood at \$2,243,959,000,000.

Fifteen years ago, March 19, 1982, the federal debt stood at \$1,050,933,000,000 which reflects a debt increase of more than \$4 trillion (\$4,318,164,231,511.65) during the past 15 years.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE EDWIN CRAIG WALL, JR.

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, in any state, there are certain individuals who make their mark in one or more fields, and in the process, they not only earn personal success, but they also make significant contributions to the place they call "home". I rise today to pay tribute to one such man, Edwin Craig Wall, Jr., who was a successful businessman and civic booster, who recently passed away after being struck by a heart attack.

During his adult life, Mr. Wall distinguished himself as a leader of business and industry in the Grand Strand area of South Carolina. This region is one of the fastest growing parts of the Palmetto State and represents a well developed and diversified economy that includes manufacturing, tourism, and shipping concerns. Tens of thousands of South Carolinians are employed in good paying, secure jobs, and the revenues that are contributed to our State's coffers from this area are certainly significant. Without question, Mr. Wall helped to create this very impressive picture of economic health that typifies the Grand Strand and Pee Dee.

Though Mr. Wall entered the businessworld with a tremendous advantage, his father had built a very successful company called Canal Industries, he chose not to rest on the accomplishments of his namesake. Trained at the business schools of Da-

vidson College and Harvard University, Mr. Wall was determined to find ways to streamline Canal and make it more efficient and profitable. From what I understand, he was more than successful in his objectives, as Canal is now a world leader in the timber industry, as well as becoming a prominent company in commercial development in the Myrtle Beach area.

Perhaps one of the hallmarks of a good business person is how much they give back to the community and state which allowed them to prosper. In the case of Mr. Wall, he was very generous in what he contributed to South Carolina and he set an excellent example for other corporate executives to follow. His expertise and insight were valued by many, and he served on countless boards, including those of Davidson College and NationsBank. He was a strong advocate of education and worked hard to ensure that the Palmetto State had a school system that would guarantee that none of our citizens lack for the skills they would require to succeed in life.

Mr. President, Craig Wall was a man who had a tremendous impact on life in South Carolina, and though he passed away at far too young an age, his star certainly shone bright. We are all grateful for the leadership and contributions he made throughout his life and career, and his wife and children have my deepest sympathies.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

Mr. COVERDELL. Mr. President, I would guess that many in the gallery today, and even some of my colleagues, are unaware of today's significance for rural America. Today is National Agriculture Day and should be a time of great reflection and celebration for all Americans. It is unfortunate that many in today's society are unaware of agriculture's daily role in their lives, but the fault for this may lie with those of us in the agricultural sector who have not properly told our story. The significance of this day is held in the tremendous, yet quiet, success story American farmers have written in building this nation. Although our agricultural community is in a period of great transition, there still can be no dispute—American farmers produce the world safest, most abundant and affordable food and fibers. This did not come by accident. American farmers, with a few exceptions, have enjoyed a positive partnership with their government. Congress has long backed vital research, promotion and insurance activities for farmers. These efforts, for the most part, need to continue in order to maintain our excellence. Just coming out of the 1996 Farm Bill, we should now carefully evaluate our work to determine where our policies have been successful and where we need work. Let's not forget that agriculture is our nation's number one export product, and in my state, is the largest industry. My point is, just like a good

crop, our agriculture community needs attention.

Now, what is the future of agriculture? I tend to believe that our future is in trade and technology. We are strategically positioned to compete and win on a world market. We are also leading the world in our ag research with many exciting advancements on the horizon. Where we need to concentrate is on the crafting of future Agriculture leaders for America. In my state, the Georgia Farm Bureau, the Georgia Agribusiness Council and the state Department of Agriculture and University, in coordination with others involved in agriculture, have teamed up to promote a program for future ag leaders. Program participants are selected for their leadership, integrity and effectiveness and are chosen in order to better communicate with non-ag leaders the many challenges facing agriculture today. This program was adopted six years ago and is called the Georgia Agri-Leaders Forum. The Agri-Leaders of Georgia are all standouts in various fields related to agriculture. They come from farms, banks, electrical membership cooperatives, commodity groups and other organizations with a common agricultural thread. These leaders should be commended for their contributions to agriculture and their service in what should be a mission to better educate America on just what her annual harvests mean to our national security and health. They are the best and brightest in Georgia agriculture each year, and I want to recognize them on this important day. The following are the class of the 1997 Georgia Agri-Leaders Forum:

Dr. David K. Bishop, Extension Animal Scientist (University of Georgia) Tifton, GA; Roger L. Branch, Southeastern Gin Inc., Surrency, GA; Louie Canova, Floyd County Extension Director, Rome, GA; Charles Enfinger, Pineland Plantation, Newton, GA; Clint Hood, President, Allied Bank of GA, Louisville, GA; Sam James, Regional Marketing Manager, Gold Kist, Inc., Atlanta, GA; Debra M. Cervetti Engineer, Cornerstone Engineering, Moultrie, GA; James Colson, Regional Accounts Manager, Gold Kist Inc., Valdosta, GA; Frank Dean, Vice President, North GA; Farm Credit, ACA Daniel L. Johnson, D.L. Johnson Farms, Alma, GA; Robert F. Jones, The Kroger Company, Atlanta, GA; George Larsen II, Lone Oak Plantation, DeSoto, GA; April Lavender, Georgia Forestry Association, Norcross, GA; Mary Ellen Lawson, GA; Department of Agriculture, Atlanta, GA; Dr. Daniel V. McCracken, Dept. Of Crop and Soil Science (University of GA.), Griffin, GA; Clete Sanders, S&S Farms, Forsyth, GA; Shirley Stripling, Chula Peanuts and Grain, Chula, GA; Stephen L. Morgan, ISK Bioscience, Thomasville, GA; James R. Noble, GA; Power Company, Tifton, GA; Richard L. Oliver, Area Conservationist (USDA/NRCS), Rome, GA; Lynn D. Thornhill, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Tifton, GA; Frank Wade, Jr., A.F. Wade CPA, Cochran, GA;

Mr. President, I want to again recognize and congratulate this fine class of agri-leaders for their contributions to agriculture and to their country on this National Agriculture Day.