

and the full support of the administration. Again, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) and his staff and our colleagues at INS for their cooperation and hard work in enabling us to reach this result. I urge all of my colleagues to join in support of this legislation.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation to remedy this important flaw in our immigration laws.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I want to thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) for his generous comments.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my good friend from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) and other members of the Judiciary Committee in support of H.R. 2883, the Child Citizenship Act of 2000, as amended. And I want to thank all Members who worked together to find common ground so that this legislation could move forward in a way that was acceptable to the Administration as well as the House and the Senate.

Over the course of the last year and more, the Committee on International Relations has been working on implementing legislation for the Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption, which this House took up and passed last night. This brought to my attention once again the difficult, and what must sometimes seem endless, procedures faced by U.S. citizens in adopting foreign-born children. We have all had constituents who have called our offices, desperate for help in solving last minute difficulties that have arisen in their search to build their family. After all the exhausting paperwork, extensive travel, and sometimes heart-wrenching experiences associated with so many international adoptions, it is unfortunate that U.S. families must negotiate yet another paper maze to obtain U.S. citizenship for their children. This additional hurdle is particularly difficult because upon their return many parents look forward to settling down to the joy of family life and its new challenges; they are not seeking yet more forms to fill out and move through the Immigration and Nationalization Service.

It was for this reason that I was the original co-sponsor of H.R. 3667, introduced by my good friend from Massachusetts, Mr. DELAHUNT, which has now been combined with the measure the House is taking up today. Once these children arrive in the United States, and the adoption is finalized, these children should be U.S. citizens, without going through a further naturalization process. And that is what H.R. 2883 does.

But we should remember that this is not just to avoid paperwork or ease mental discomfort. H.R. 2883 will end the occasional instance of injustice perpetrated by our immigration system. As mentioned by colleagues, there are tragic cases where children of U.S. parents, never naturalized because of inadvertence, are facing deportation because of a crime they have committed. While these children must face their punishment, to deport them to countries with which they have no contact, no ability to speak the language, and no family known to them is needlessly cruel. We must be sure that this never happens again.

I once again commend the sponsors of this legislation on both sides of the aisle and hope for its expedited consideration in the Senate.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that my colleagues have passed H.R. 2883, the Adopted Orphans Citizenship Act, and I wish to add my strong support for this long overdue legislation. H.R. 2883 would restore fairness to our immigration law by removing the burdensome requirement that U.S. citizen parents apply for naturalization for their foreign-born adopted children.

What our current immigration policy says to parents is that adopted foreign-born children are not equal to their biological siblings and are not worthy of automatic U.S. citizenship. Requiring foreign-born adopted children to apply for naturalization is insulting and it's wrong. With the passage of H.R. 2883, we are sending a clear message to American parents that, should they choose to adopt a child from another country, U.S. citizenship will be awaiting that child once he or she sets foot on U.S. soil. As the aunt of Korean-born Jamie and Natalie, I strongly identify with this issue.

The birthright of all children of U.S. citizen parents, whether they are biological or adopted should be automatic U.S. citizenship. This bill will simplify the already complicated and complex process parents undertake when they embark on an international adoption and I applaud its passage.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2883, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to modify the provisions governing acquisition of citizenship by children born outside of the United States, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1400

RELIGIOUS WORKERS ACT OF 2000

Mr. PEASE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4068) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend for an additional 3 years the special immigrant religious worker program.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4068

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Religious Workers Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. 3-YEAR EXTENSION OF SPECIAL IMMIGRANT RELIGIOUS WORKER PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(a)(27)(C)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(C)(ii)) is amended by striking "2000," each place it appears and inserting "2003."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PEASE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4068.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

Mr. PEASE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, under the Immigration and Nationality Act, a program exists which authorizes religious denominations throughout the United States to sponsor nonminister workers in religious vocations and religious occupations, such as lay workers, to enter the United States as permanent residents.

This program also authorizes visas for temporary nonimmigrant religious workers who will serve for a period not exceeding 5 years. This program was created by Congress in 1990 and has been extended several times. The nonminister religious worker programs will expire September 30th of this year; therefore, an extension of the existing program is necessary and must be accomplished with expediency.

As it exists, the legislation requires that an immigrant religious worker has been carrying on such vocation continuously for at least the 2-year period immediately preceding the time of application. This requirement was thought to reduce the likelihood of fraudulent applications; however, the Department of Justice and the INS have raised concerns regarding suspected fraud existent in the program.

Because of a vague definition of religious worker and the inability to require other precise definitions of religion, there has been suggestion of fraudulent applications in both the temporary and permanent categories.

In opposition to the views of the Department of Justice and the INS, religious institutions assert that a quantity of fraudulent applications has not been verified. The religious institutions hold the view that the limited number of visas granted per year for the nonminister aliens, which is not to exceed 5,000 persons, does not demand the addition of antifraud provisions to the existing programs.

In order to accommodate the interests of both the administration and the

religious institutions, provisions to prevent fraudulent applications were discussed. Despite numerous attempts to find a resolution to these concerns and extend the program permanently, there remains disagreement as to the suggested antifraud provisions. Therefore, this bill will extend the existing Religious Worker Visa program for an additional 3 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that within that time, Congress will develop an acceptable program which reduces potential fraud, yet not require excessive administrative demands on the religious institutions which utilize this program.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 4068 and thereby approve a 3-year extension of the existing important program.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims.

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE), my friend, for yielding the time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to play a part in the creation of the Religious Worker Program in 1990. I support these visas since they allow American religious denominations, large and small, to benefit by the addition of committed religious workers from overseas.

The visa program expires at the end of the fiscal year September 30. H.R. 4068, introduced by our colleague, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE), extends the program for 3 additional years until October 2003.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for all the good work he has done on this issue. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. PEASE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to add my accolades and appreciation to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE) for H.R. 4068, and also note the great work of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) on this matter and thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims, for his work on the Religious Workers Act of 2000.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation has the support of the U.S. Catholic Conference, the Lutheran Immigration Service and many other religious organizations. It is a vital piece of legislation that again raises its head in unity of Republicans and Democrats.

This legislation allows religious organizations to sponsor nonminister re-

ligious workers from abroad to perform service in the United States. Examples of nonminister related work are included, but not limited to nuns, religious brothers, catechists, cantors, pastoral service workers, missionaries, and religious broadcasters. Such individuals make important contributions to the United States by caring for the sick, the aged, providing shelter and nutrition to the most needy, supporting families in crisis and working with the religious leaders.

Mr. Speaker, this country has always had a history of involving the religious community in public service or voluntarism, helping the most needy of our community, and this legislation allows this to happen.

I would have liked this legislation to have been permanent, but it extends it for 3 years. I hope during this time frame we will be able to see the value of these religious workers and ensure that we work to keep them. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the Non-Minister Religious Worker Visa Program, originally enacted as part of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1990, allows religious organizations to sponsor non-minister religious workers from abroad to perform service in the United States. Examples of non-minister religious workers include but are not limited to: nuns, religious brothers, catechists, cantors, pastoral service workers, missionaries, and religious broadcasters. Such individuals make important contributions to the United States by: caring for the sick and aged, providing shelter and nutrition to the most needy, supporting families in crisis, and working with religious leaders.

The program is composed of two parts. Part one, the Special Immigration provision, provides for up to 5,000 Special Immigrant visas per year. Once granted, this type of visa allows religious workers to permanently immigrate to the United States. Under current law, this part of the program will expire on September 30, 2000. While this bill will extend the program for an additional 3 years, we really need a bill that makes the program permanent.

The Executive Director of the Lutheran Immigration Service has stated that, "Foreign lay religious workers admitted to the United States under this provision serve very important and traditional religious functions in the congregations and the communities where they work and live . . . in many communities, there is an increasing need for religious workers who can help develop or start congregations for certain ethnic or language groups . . . and Congress should extend the provision permanently so that religious denominations may implement, without any trepidation, long-term strategic plans that rely on lay foreign workers." However, I support this bill as it does extend the program for 3 years.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN), who has worked very hard on this legislation. I thank her for her leadership on it.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of extending the reli-

gious worker visa program. I applaud my colleagues for recognizing the importance of this provision to religious communities across America.

My only reservation to the passage of this bill is the temporary nature of the extension. I believe that Congress should extend the religious worker program permanently. I believe that the Catholic Church, the Lutheran Church, the Methodist Church, the Christian Science Church, the Church of Jesus Christ and Latter Day Saints and other churches, synagogues, temples and mosques across America have much worthier work to accomplish than lobbying politicians every 3 years to allow a few thousand nuns, monks, sisters, brothers, cantors and other religious workers to enter this country.

Religious workers are among the most valuable members of our American society. They come to America at the call of their church and expect only the opportunity to serve. The services they provide to the communities they become a part of are immeasurable. For example, religious workers are involved in caring and ministering to the sick and elderly. Think about the hospitals and local hospice care facilities across the country and the comfort those who offer spiritual solace provide.

These facilities and their patients are all the better for our religious workers. Religious workers work with adolescents and young adults offering them spiritual guidance and counsel at a critical time in their lives.

Religious workers are involved in helping refugees adjust to a new way of life. Think of how frightening it must be to come to a new land and how welcoming it must be to know that you still have a church, where someone can lead a prayer in the language of your parents.

Most importantly, religious workers help our poor. Mr. Speaker, 3 years ago, in 1997, I read a letter from Mother Teresa urging Congress to extend this program. She said "my sisters serve the poor in Detroit where we have a soup kitchen and a night shelter for women. Let us all thank God for this chance to serve his poor."

That letter moved me and many of my colleagues to create legislation that would extend this provision permanently. While I applaud Congress for bringing this H.R. 4068 to the floor, I wish with all my heart that I could make this extension a permanent one.

I thank all of my colleagues who have worked with me on this issue, and I especially want to thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE) for his willingness to reach across the aisle to work with me on this important issue and for his successful struggle to bring a good resolution, although not a perfect one, to the floor today. I thank the gentleman and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can fix this, as we can fix other immigration issues, and I ask my colleagues to support this legislation. And I thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE) for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PEASE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the work of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims; the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), the ranking member of the subcommittee; and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. CANNON), all of whom spent a great deal of time with us and with staff and with representatives of the religious denominations trying to meet the objections that were raised by the Department of Justice and the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Mr. Speaker, it was the most candid, open, honest, effort that I have seen during my time here to reach a consensus; everyone operating in good faith. We have before us what I believe is a good bill. It is not a perfect bill. But under the circumstances and given the urgency of time, I believe it is the best we can do for the most. I would encourage all my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCARBOROUGH). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PEASE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4068.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DEBT RELIEF AND RETIREMENT SECURITY RECONCILIATION ACT

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5203) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to sections 103(a)(2), 103(b)(2), and 213(b)(2)(C) of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2001 to reduce the public debt and decrease the statutory limit on the public debt, and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for retirement security.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5203

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE, ETC.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Debt Relief and Retirement Security Reconciliation Act".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title, etc.

DIVISION A—DEBT RELIEF

Sec. 100. Findings and purpose.

TITLE I—DEBT REDUCTION LOCK-BOX

Sec. 101. Establishment of Public Debt Reduction Payment Account.

Sec. 102. Reduction of statutory limit on the public debt.

Sec. 103. Off-budget status of Public Debt Reduction Payment Account.

Sec. 104. Removing Public Debt Reduction Payment Account from budget pronouncements.

Sec. 105. Reports to Congress.

TITLE II—SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE LOCK-BOX

Sec. 201. Protection of Social Security and Medicare surpluses.

Sec. 202. Removing Social Security from budget pronouncements.

DIVISION B—RETIREMENT SECURITY

TITLE XI—INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS

Sec. 1100. References.

Sec. 1101. Modification of IRA contribution limits.

TITLE XII—EXPANDING COVERAGE

Sec. 1201. Increase in benefit and contribution limits.

Sec. 1202. Plan loans for subchapter S owners, partners, and sole proprietors.

Sec. 1203. Modification of top-heavy rules.

Sec. 1204. Elective deferrals not taken into account for purposes of deduction limits.

Sec. 1205. Repeal of coordination requirements for deferred compensation plans of State and local governments and tax-exempt organizations.

Sec. 1206. Elimination of user fee for requests to IRS regarding pension plans.

Sec. 1207. Deduction limits.

Sec. 1208. Option to treat elective deferrals as after-tax contributions.

TITLE XIII—ENHANCING FAIRNESS FOR WOMEN

Sec. 1301. Catch-up contributions for individuals age 50 or over.

Sec. 1302. Equitable treatment for contributions of employees to defined contribution plans.

Sec. 1303. Faster vesting of certain employer matching contributions.

Sec. 1304. Simplify and update the minimum distribution rules.

Sec. 1305. Clarification of tax treatment of division of section 457 plan benefits upon divorce.

Sec. 1306. Modification of safe harbor relief for hardship withdrawals from cash or deferred arrangements.

TITLE XIV—INCREASING PORTABILITY FOR PARTICIPANTS

Sec. 1401. Rollovers allowed among various types of plans.

Sec. 1402. Rollovers of IRAs into workplace retirement plans.

Sec. 1403. Rollovers of after-tax contributions.

Sec. 1404. Hardship exception to 60-day rule.

Sec. 1405. Treatment of forms of distribution.

Sec. 1406. Rationalization of restrictions on distributions.

Sec. 1407. Purchase of service credit in governmental defined benefit plans.

Sec. 1408. Employers may disregard rollovers for purposes of cash-out amounts.

Sec. 1409. Minimum distribution and inclusion requirements for section 457 plans.

TITLE XV—STRENGTHENING PENSION SECURITY AND ENFORCEMENT

Sec. 1501. Repeal of 150 percent of current liability funding limit.

Sec. 1502. Maximum contribution deduction rules modified and applied to all defined benefit plans.

Sec. 1503. Excise tax relief for sound pension funding.

Sec. 1504. Excise tax on failure to provide notice by defined benefit plans significantly reducing future benefit accruals.

Sec. 1505. Treatment of multiemployer plans under section 415.

Sec. 1506. Prohibited allocations of stock in S corporation ESOP.

TITLE XVI—REDUCING REGULATORY BURDENS

Sec. 1601. Modification of timing of plan valuations.

Sec. 1602. ESOP dividends may be reinvested without loss of dividend deduction.

Sec. 1603. Repeal of transition rule relating to certain highly compensated employees.

Sec. 1604. Employees of tax-exempt entities.

Sec. 1605. Clarification of treatment of employer-provided retirement advice.

Sec. 1606. Reporting simplification.

Sec. 1607. Improvement of employee plans compliance resolution system.

Sec. 1608. Repeal of the multiple use test.

Sec. 1609. Flexibility in nondiscrimination, coverage, and line of business rules.

Sec. 1610. Extension to all governmental plans of moratorium on application of certain nondiscrimination rules applicable to State and local plans.

Sec. 1611. Notice and consent period regarding distributions.

TITLE XVII—PLAN AMENDMENTS

Sec. 1701. Provisions relating to plan amendments.

DIVISION A—DEBT RELIEF

SEC. 100. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) fiscal discipline, resulting from the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, and strong economic growth have ended decades of deficit spending and have produced budget surpluses without using the social security surplus;

(2) fiscal pressures will mount in the future as the aging of the population increases budget obligations;

(3) until Congress and the President agree to legislation that saves social security and medicare, the social security and medicare surpluses should be used to reduce the debt held by the public;

(4) until Congress and the President agree on significant tax reductions, amounts dedicated for that purpose shall be used to reduce the debt held by the public;

(5) strengthening the Government's fiscal position through public debt reduction increases national savings, promotes economic growth, reduces interest costs, and is a constructive way to prepare for the Government's future budget obligations; and

(6) it is fiscally responsible and in the long-term national economic interest to use a portion of the nonsocial security and non-medicare surpluses to reduce the debt held by the public.

(b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this division to—

(1) reduce the debt held by the public by \$240,000,000,000 in fiscal year 2001 with the goal of eliminating this debt by 2012;

(2) decrease the statutory limit on the public debt; and