

not permit lynching, it was protected and carried out by legal officeholders. As time passed, we made progress, and I doubt if lectures or threats from foreigners would have moved things faster.

Democracy, including rights for workers, is an evolutionary process. Isolation and containment will not promote improved rights for a people. Rather, working together and from within a society will, over time, promote improved conditions. The United States-China WTO agreement will speed up the evolutionary process in China. American labor should support it because it is in our interest, and it is the interests of Chinese workers too.

RYAN WHITE COMPREHENSIVE AIDS RESOURCES EMERGENCY ACT

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to briefly discuss a reauthorization bill introduced yesterday by Senators JEFFORDS and KENNEDY, the Ryan White CARE Act Amendments of 2000, S. 2311. This legislation is very important in that it will help to continue to improve the quality and availability of care for low-income, uninsured, and under insured individuals and families affected by AIDS and HIV disease. I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this initiative.

Ryan White died on April 8, 1990 at age 18. He was a prime example of someone whose own community rejected him when he was only 13 years old because of his health status. As a result of his courageous battle to attend public school in Indiana, we all learned and understood more about AIDS. Ryan White played a major role in changing people's views concerning the disease and AIDS patients. Through his actions, he conveyed the importance of education and awareness to combat the spread of this deadly disease. Even after his death, the story of his courageous battle with AIDS continues to impact the common man. His legacy lives on through the Ryan White CARE Act.

This reauthorization provides us the opportunity to improve this bipartisan legislation to adequately care for those persons affected with AIDS and HIV. As noted by Ryan's mother, Jeanne, "We have come a long way since Ryan's death, but we still have so far to go." Although the number of AIDS cases continues to decline each year, the number of HIV-positive individuals continues to grow at an alarming rate. This legislation would expand the duties of the Planning Council, provide for a Quality Management Program, establish requirements for health care referral relationships, fund early intervention services, and improve resources for infants, children, and women. Until a cure is found, the Ryan White CARE Act will continue to be the "payer of last resort" for thousands of individuals who otherwise cannot afford health care or basic subsistence needs. In my home State of Rhode Island, \$3,463,706 of Ryan White CARE funding was provided during fiscal year 1999 to ensure access to life-sustaining

drugs and other critical health and social services for those individuals affected with AIDS and HIV.

Because AIDS and HIV is a national problem, it deserves national attention. I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee to make further enhancements and improvements to the bill. Specifically, I understand my colleague, Senator BINGAMAN, has been working on a provision that would allow more states to have access to dental care grant funding under Part F of the act. I believe this is a very important issue for individuals with HIV and AIDS and hope this provision will be incorporated into the overall bill.

ANTI-DEMOCRATIC ACTIONS IN BELARUS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak today about the dramatically deteriorating situation in Belarus. As of Sunday, March 26, more than 100 opposition activists remained in custody after a rally on Saturday that turned from a peaceful event into a demonstration that saw police clubbing protesters with nightsticks, hitting journalists covering the event and sending armored cars into Central Minsk. More than 500 people were detained, most of whom were not formally charged until Monday. This is only one of the examples of how, in Belarus, the Lukashenka regime continues to try to suppress the will of the people.

In November, Senator CAMPBELL and I introduced a resolution condemning the Lukashenka regime and its actions towards the country. The sad reality is that Belarus is being left behind while the rest of Europe is building a foundation of democratic governance, respect for human rights, and the rule of law.

Since 1996, President Lukashenka has been responsible for numerous unconstitutional steps. He unilaterally extended his term until 2001 after he promised to hold democratic elections in 1999. He replaced the 13th Supreme Soviet with a rubberstamp parliament and he rewrote the country's constitution.

Belarus has turned into a country where those who choose to participate in civil society by speaking truth to power must do so at great risk to their freedom, and even their lives, under Lukashenka's rule. Two prominent opposition figures—General Yuri Zakharenko and Viktor Gonchar—as well as another associate, Anatoly Krasovsky, have disappeared. Many of the people arrested on March 25 as well as other peaceful protesters were members of the opposition.

Belarus' economy is apparently imploding and neighboring countries, Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia, are concerned about regional instability.

Our resolution condemns the arrest of opposition figures and the disappearance of others; calls for a dialogue be-

tween Lukashenka and the opposition; calls for the restoration of a democratically-elected government and democratic institutions; calls on the U.S. President to fund travel by Belarusian opposition figures and non-governmental organizations in Belarus; and supports information flows into Belarus.

Belarus is not making progress. We must do what we can to sustain the remarkable progress of the other countries that have transformed themselves into fully democratic market democracies, and encourage the development of a democracy in Belarus.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, on March 25, Belarusian authorities harshly suppressed a pro-democracy demonstration in the capital of Minsk, arresting and detaining hundreds of peaceful protesters, including nearly 30 domestic and foreign journalists. Riot police, deployed with dogs and armored personnel carriers, used excessive force against some peaceful demonstrators.

Among those detained and beaten was democratic opposition leader Anatoly Lebedka, Deputy Chairman of the 13th Supreme Soviet. Many of my Senate colleagues met Mr. Lebedka last September when I introduced him right here on the Senate floor. Mr. Lebedka was just in Washington earlier this month to testify at a Helsinki Commission hearing about the deteriorating situation in Belarus.

Based on information I obtained from the State Department, I am advised that Anatoly Lebedka was arrested by plainclothes police during the demonstration, kept in detention, and reportedly beaten over the course of two days. He spent most of Monday in a police van outside the courthouse awaiting trial, but was released at 5:00 p.m. His trial has been scheduled for April 4.

Mr. President, the harsh overreaction by the authorities to this peaceful demonstration represents a clear violation of the freedom of association, assembly, and information guaranteed both by the Belarusian constitution and OSCE agreements. In addition, the Belarusian authorities detained a U.S. citizen who is an accredited diplomat and a member of the OSCE Advisory and Monitoring Group in Belarus, and who was observing the demonstration in line with his official responsibilities. This action also violates international conventions.

It appears that the green light for the most recent crackdown was given by Belarusian President Lukashenka, who praised the police for their actions. Reports indicate that earlier this month, he cautioned that the riot police will "beat the stuffing out" of any protestor who "gets out of line."

Unfortunately, the suppression by the Belarusian authorities of peaceful protest, along with the sentencing last week of a prominent member of the opposition, does nothing to encourage a constructive dialogue with the democratic opposition that can lead Belarus

out of its continuing constitutional impasse and end its self-imposed international isolation.

Mr. President, I call upon the Government of Belarus to thoroughly investigate reports of police brutality during the course of the demonstration and subsequent detentions and take measures to ensure that citizens are guaranteed their rights to engage in peaceful protests, keeping with that country's OSCE commitments.

I was pleased to join Senator DURBIN as an original cosponsor to Senate Concurrent Resolution 75 which we introduced last November. That resolution summarized many of the political problems facing the democratic opposition in Belarus expressing strong opposition to the continued egregious violations of human rights, the lack of progress toward the establishment of democracy and the rule of law in Belarus, and calls on President Lukashenko to engage in negotiations with the representatives of the opposition and to restore the constitutional rights of the Belarusian people. In light of the recent violent crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators last weekend, I urge my colleagues to support passage of the Durbin/Campbell resolution.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a news report from the Washington Post on this latest crackdown be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 26, 2000]
BELARUS POLICE CRACK DOWN ON PROTEST

MINSK, BELARUS.—Hundreds of police beat back thousands of protesters at an opposition rally, sending armored personnel carriers into central Minsk and detaining 400 people in one of the country's harshest crackdowns on dissent in recent years.

The rally was held to commemorate the founding of the Belarusian Popular Republic on March 25, 1918, when German forces were ousted from Minsk in the waning days of World War I. The independent state was short-lived and within a year, much of Belarus was part of the Soviet Union.

Belarus' hard-line government had said it would allow the rally to be held on the outskirts of Minsk, but several thousand demonstrators went instead to a central square in the capital.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION LAW REPORT

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to discuss an injustice to a group of Central American and Caribbean nationals who for many years have resided in the United States. As I speak, a clock is ticking. A deadline to gain legal status in the United States is one day away. How did we get to this point?

In 1997 and 1998, Congress passed legislation to protect Central American, Cuban and Haitian refugees from deportation. Action was needed because of the passage of the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act which changed immigra-

tion rules retroactively. Under the Presidency of Ronald Reagan, the United States offered protection and legal status to many Central American nationals who were fighting for democracy in their home country, or fleeing the war that ensued.

Similarly, during the Presidency of George Bush, Haitian nationals were forced to flee after the overthrow of elected President Jean Bertrand Aristide. They were offered protection and legal status in the United States.

By 1996, these Central American and Haitian nationals had been living in our nation for years, in the cases of Central Americans, often longer than a decade. They established businesses, had families, bought homes, and strengthened their communities.

Then, in 1996, with the passage of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act, these Central American and Haitian individuals and families were made retroactively deportable. These deportations would have occurred years and years after these nationals had established full lives in the United States.

Congress protected their legal status here by passing the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act in November of 1997 and the Haitian Refugee Immigration Fairness Act in October of 1998 by making certain sections of the 1996 immigration law non-retroactive.

Since 1997, we have waited for final regulations to guide applicants through the process of applying for relief under NACARA. Since 1998, we have waited for final regulations to assist Haitian nationals with this process. And now, seven days before the application deadline, final regulations are issued. This is not an example of "good government."

Under legislation I introduced in February, the new deadline for relief will be one year after the date the regulations became final. This new deadline, March 23, 2001, reflects the added time needed by the INS to develop regulation. This will not cover any additional individuals who will then have rights to live in the United States. It just creates a more realistic, and fair deadline for individuals Congress has already passed legislation to protect.

We are now one day away from the deadline coming and going, and the Senate has yet to take action on this legislation. The Senate Judiciary Committee will not be able to meet this week to approve this legislation. We cannot purport to offer our constituents good and fair government if we let this deadline come and go without the simple action of extending the deadline by one year. When I spoke on the Senate Floor earlier this year, I tried to put a human story with this legislation. It's her story, and others, that should spur us to action on this legislation.

Immigration attorneys in Florida are trying to help a young woman I will call "Francis." She is 22 years old this

year. Her parents fled Haiti in the 1980's when she was very young. Her family settled in Florida and she now has 3 U.S. citizen brothers and sisters.

Then tragedy struck her family. Her father died when she was seven. Her mother died when she was in her early teens. She finished high school and is raising her younger brothers and sisters while working. She is an orphan, protected by our 1998 legislation.

She is trying to pull the documents together to apply to stay in the United States, and not be separated from her U.S. citizen brothers and sisters—the only family she has left. The 1-year extension and the ability to apply for relief under final regulations will make a huge difference in the life of this young woman.

I ask for the Senate's quick action on this timely and important matter. Many in the Senate worked diligently to protect Cuban, Haitian and Nicaraguan nationals in the original legislation. Let's not put these families at risk by our failure to act now.

WORKER ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the Worker Economic Opportunity Act (S. 2323), which was introduced yesterday, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2323

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 "Worker Economic Opportunity Act".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT OF 1938.

(a) EXCLUSION FROM REGULAR RATE.—Section 7(e) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6), by striking "or" at the end;

(2) in paragraph (7), by striking the period and inserting ";; or"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) any value or income derived from employer-provided grants or rights provided pursuant to a stock option, stock appreciation right, or bona fide employee stock purchase program which is not otherwise excludable under any of paragraphs (1) through (7) if—

"(A) grants are made pursuant to a program, the terms and conditions of which are communicated to participating employees either at the beginning of the employee's participation in the program or at the time of the grant;

"(B) in the case of stock options and stock appreciation rights, the grant or right cannot be exercisable for a period of at least 6 months after the time of grant (except that grants or rights may become exercisable because of an employee's death, disability, retirement, or a change in corporate ownership, or other circumstances permitted by regulation), and the exercise price is at least 85 percent of the fair market value of the stock at the time of grant;

"(C) exercise of any grant or right is voluntary; and