

not wed terror. This act must not be cloaked in the irresponsible and inhuman euphemism of "collateral damage." Stop the bombing. Let an international police force continue in Afghanistan. Let the humble people of Afghanistan be spared friendly fire issued from the skies. Enough of the bombing of villages to save the villages. Stop the bombing.

CORPORATE GREED

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, a scandal-weary American people awoke this morning to more unpleasant news. WorldCom, an employer of 60,000 people, \$107 billion in assets, announced that it would seek bankruptcy court protection.

Millions of Americans have watched their retirement accounts evaporate because of fraud, rampant greed, and misgovernance in some of America's largest corporations. Ordinary investors and Wall Street alike have demanded stronger oversight of the accounting industry, rules that prohibit accounting firms from consulting the companies they audit, new authorities for Federal prosecutors to investigate and to punish corporate criminals, and a requirement that top executives personally certify the accuracy of their companies' financial statements.

Legislation that would make these needed reforms passed the other body unanimously last week. Throughout the 1990s, Republicans rushed to unravel regulations and block needed reforms and helped create the permissive regulatory environment that has led to recent corporate scandals. Now the Republican leadership has stubbornly refused to bring meaningful accounting reform to the floor. Why, Mr. Speaker?

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

RECORD votes on motions to suspend the rules ordered prior to 6:30 p.m. may be taken today. RECORD votes on remaining motions to suspend the rules will be taken tomorrow.

EXTENSION OF IRISH PEACE PROCESS CULTURAL AND TRAINING PROGRAM

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4558) to extend the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4558

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF IRISH PEACE PROCESS CULTURAL AND TRAINING PROGRAM.

Section 2 of the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2)(A) by striking "3" and inserting "4";

(2) in subsection (a)(3) by striking "3" and inserting "4";

(3) in subsection (d)(1) by striking "2005," and inserting "2006,"; and

(4) in subsection (d)(2) by striking "2005," and inserting "2006,".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. 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. 4558, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 4558 amends the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998, which established a cultural training program for disadvantaged individuals to assist the Irish peace process. The program creates 12,000 3-year nonimmigrant visas of the Q classification for adults between the ages of 18 and 35 who live in disadvantaged areas in northern Ireland and the border counties of the Irish Republic. The program enacted in 1998 is set to sunset on October 1, 2005. This bill extends it for 1 year to 2006.

The purpose of the visa is to provide practical training, employment, and the experience of co-existence and conflict resolution in a diverse society and a strong economy such as ours. After trainees return home, they can provide the critical skill base needed to attract private investment in their local economies. The program currently operates in Washington, D.C.; Colorado Springs; Boston; and Pittsburgh. Because the program has been so successful, it also began in Syracuse, New York, within the past few months.

The program got off to a late start due to funding trouble. As such, H.R. 4558 would extend the program for 1 year to make up for the delay so that additional young people can take advantage of this successful program and become peacemakers for Northern Ireland.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) will manage the time on his side of the aisle.

There was no objection.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This appears to be a very worthwhile bill, as it amends the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998 to extend through fiscal year 2006. The Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program provides for admission into the U.S. each fiscal year of up to 4,000 young disadvantaged aliens from designated counties in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. These youths suffer from sectarian violence and high unemployment.

The need for these programs is highlighted by the recent outbreak of violence in the country. The Guardian newspaper reports today that a young 20-year-old Catholic man was shot dead in north Belfast. This shooting is a continuation of a series of shootings. Earlier, a 19-year-old Protestant man was shot in the groin in Ardoyne close to the site of last year's loyalist picket at Holy Cross School. The shootings followed a series of violent clashes in north Belfast over the weekend in which an elderly disabled man narrowly escaped death when a petrol bomb was thrown into his home as he slept. Officials and residents are concerned that the renewed attacks will escalate violence in the country.

Hopefully, Mr. Speaker, this program will help put an end to such violence. This program helps these young people develop job and conflict resolution skills in a diverse and peaceful environment so they can return to their homes better able to contribute toward economic regeneration and a lasting peace in Ireland. America's vibrant Irish community welcomes this. I think it is a good idea.

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

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH).

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H.R. 4558, a bill to extend the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program. This legislation would simply extend the current program for 1 year and allow another group of participants from Northern Ireland and the border counties to enter into the program in fiscal year 2003. I would like to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS), who has been such a wonderful advocate for this bill and also the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), who, despite an incredibly heavy workload in the Committee on the Judiciary, fast-tracked this bill. We are very grateful to both of them.

As chairman of the bipartisan Friends of Ireland Caucus here in the House, I believe this is a vital program in support of the Northern Ireland peace process; and I thank the committee for their prompt consideration.

Imagine a program where young people are able to leave Irish neighborhoods of hardship and strife to experience life in a multicultural, multireligious, and diverse Nation. Upon return, they share what they have learned with their peers and build a better life for themselves and their families, a life of greater acceptance of difference without hate. This was the idea of the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program, which began in 1998.

The original legislation, H.R. 4293, creates 12,000 3-year nonimmigrant visas, Q classification, for adults between the ages of 18 and 35 who live in disadvantaged areas in Northern Ireland and the border counties of the Republic of Ireland. It aims to assist the region in its transition to a peacetime economy. As a low-cost, low-risk, high-return investment in peace, it affords people an opportunity to obtain valuable job skills and the experience of working in the world's greatest economy. After their visit, they return home to provide the crucial skill base needed to attract private investment in their local communities.

Signed into law by President Clinton on October 30, 1998, the legislation directs the Secretary of State and the Attorney General to establish a program for young people who are residents of these areas to, quote, "develop job skills and conflict resolution abilities."

Since its inception, this program has already allowed about 500 young people ages 18 to 35 to immerse themselves in the culture in United States hub cities, including Colorado Springs; Washington, D.C.; Boston; Pittsburgh; and, most recently, my home, Syracuse. When the program was created, the Congress had no idea how many visas would be required. We had no accurate way to gauge interest among young people in those areas. However, the program is working; and I am anxiously awaiting a review by the Immigration and Naturalization Service and the State Department next spring when the first group of participants return to their home country.

Mr. Speaker, current regulations state that INS may only admit 4,000 aliens per year under this program for a maximum of 36 months and only during the years 2000, 2001, and 2002. This legislation would simply allow another group of participants in fiscal year 2003 to obtain a 3-year Q-2 visa and enter into the program. This is understood by the State Department as well as the Ireland and Northern Ireland governments. If approved, they are expecting about 250 additional visas will be issued next year.

□ 1415

Mr. Speaker, whenever Members of Congress visit Ireland and Northern

Ireland, we are thanked for the support Congress has given to the peace process and reminded of the need to maintain our involvement. We have seen firsthand benefits of private and public investment in these distressed areas that have suffered the most from the violence over the last 30 years.

The peace process in Northern Ireland is a great story, but it is an ongoing story and needs leadership from within and support from outside. This program is part of our ongoing commitment to a process that would have been impossible without U.S. involvement.

The visa program will leverage existing and future private investment at a time of fiscal austerity. This program is a relatively inexpensive way to promote peace, reconciliation and stability. I believe this program serves as a model for future efforts to bring peace and resolve conflicts in other hot spots around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of H.R. 4558.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 4558 an extension of the Irish Peace Process Cultural Training program sponsored by my friend and colleague the gentleman from New York. Mr. WALSH, who chairs the Congressional Friends of Ireland.

Today, in the north of Ireland the institutions established by the Good Friday Accord are up and running. They are serving the people very well in a shared governance scheme supported by the two governments in the region, by our nation, and most of the people in both the north and south.

Now that we have changed their means of governance, we must also help change hearts and minds in the long divided Irish society, where sadly some elements of sectarianism still exist.

During this past summer we witnessed nearly nightly violence in some of the inter-faith areas in the inner city of Belfast, where some Catholics and Protestants have yet to learn to live together side by side.

Mr. Walsh's plan, extended by H.R. 4558, has provided for young people from the north and the border counties in the south to come to our nation. Here they can learn new skills and at the same time also learn to live and work together in peace and harmony in multicultural societies, such as ours.

These new job skills and cultural experiences that they learn here and take back to Ireland, are just what Northern Ireland needs today.

While the shared governance scheme has changed the institutions, we also must help change mind sets and develop new outlooks and opportunities for the young people of the region. Mr. Walsh's program meets those two vital needs, and is a long term and insightful solution for what next needs to be done in Northern Ireland.

On a recent Codel to Ireland, I am informed, the Walsh visa program won high praise from some members of the Irish Dail and the Northern Ireland assembly. These are people on the ground who know the challenges and what can and needs to be done by our nation to cement the peace.

I urge all of our colleagues who are for the future of Northern Ireland and especially its

young people to vote for H.R. 4558. It is yet another commitment from our nation to the people of Northern Ireland, especially the young, who are its future.

There is no turning back from the Good Friday accord as the important and well meaning IRA apology of last week made clear. We are at the dawn of a new beginning in that long troubled region. H.R. 4558 is a vital part of our contribution to that new and hopeful future, and I urge its adoption.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4558.

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.

CHILD STATUS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1209) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to determine whether an alien is a child, for purposes of classification as an immediate relative, based on the age of the alien on the date the classification petition with respect to the alien is filed, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Child Status Protection Act".

SEC. 2. USE OF AGE ON PETITION FILING DATE, PARENT'S NATURALIZATION DATE, OR MARRIAGE TERMINATION DATE, IN DETERMINING STATUS AS IMMEDIATE RELATIVE.

Section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(f) RULES FOR DETERMINING WHETHER CERTAIN ALIENS ARE IMMEDIATE RELATIVES.—

"(1) AGE ON PETITION FILING DATE.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), for purposes of subsection (b)(2)(A)(i), a determination of whether an alien satisfies the age requirement in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) of section 101(b)(1) shall be made using the age of the alien on the date on which the petition is filed with the Attorney General under section 204 to classify the alien as an immediate relative under subsection (b)(2)(A)(i).

"(2) AGE ON PARENT'S NATURALIZATION DATE.—In the case of a petition under section 204 initially filed for an alien child's classification as a family-sponsored immigrant under section 203(a)(2)(A), based on the child's parent being lawfully admitted for permanent residence, if the petition is later converted, due to the naturalization of the parent, to a petition to classify the alien as an immediate relative under subsection (b)(2)(A)(i), the determination described in paragraph (1) shall be made using the