

Since the program's inception, there have been about 250 participants each year. Thus, CBO estimates that any effects on fees collected by the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) or the State Department as a result of extending the program would be insignificant. INS fees are classified as offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending), and the State Department fees are classified as governmental receipts (i.e., revenues).

Pay-as-you-go considerations: The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act specifies pay-as-you-go procedures for legislation affecting direct spending and receipts. Those procedures would apply to H.R. 4558 because it would affect both direct spending and receipts, but CBO estimates that the annual amount of such changes would not be significant.

Intergovernmental and private-sector impact: H.R. 4558 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

Previous CBO estimate: On July 22, 2002, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 4558 as ordered reported by the House Committee on the Judiciary on July 17, 2002. The two versions of the legislation are identical, as are our cost estimates.

Estimate prepared by: Federal costs: Mark Grabowicz (226-2860); impact on state, local, and tribal governments: Angela Seitz (225-3220); impact on the private sector: Paige Piper/Bach (226-2960).

Estimate approved by: Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I regret that I was necessarily absent for the vote on the confirmation of Timothy Corrigan to the United States District Court in Florida due to my attending events in Minnesota commemorating the anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11. I would ask that the RECORD reflect that I would have voted yes on this nomination.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred in July 2000 in San Diego, CA. Four Mexican migrants were attacked and shot with pellet guns. The assailants, several neo-Nazi skinheads, chased the victims, beat them, and shot them with high-powered pellet guns. Two of the victims had to have the pellets surgically removed. Police investigated the incident as a hate crime.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol

that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

SPEECH OF YASSER ARAFAT

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, this week, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat delivered a speech to the Palestinian Legislative Council that I found extremely disappointing.

The speech, which was given Monday, did not outline specific steps to end terrorism against the Israeli people and did not offer any new ideas on how to achieve peace in the Middle East. As one senior European diplomat said, "It was a very shallow speech, repeating the standard phrases he's used for years now."

Perhaps most disturbing of all was Yasser Arafat's outright refusal to call for an end to the practice of suicide bombings, even after his own interior minister, Abdel Razak Yehiyeh, said that all Palestinians should abandon suicide attacks. The omission is especially glaring given that drafts of the speech made available to the media beforehand explicitly called for the parliament to outlaw suicide bombings against civilians. As someone who has continually worked to rally international support against this disgraceful practice, I am greatly saddened that Yasser Arafat did not have the courage to call for a complete ban on suicide bombings.

Given this most recent failure of Yasser Arafat, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues a report issued by Amnesty International titled "Without Distinction—Attacks on Civilians by Palestinian Armed Groups." This report, which was released just weeks before the August recess, documents 128 attacks between September 29, 2000 and May 31, 2002 in which 338 civilians were killed. In the press release issued with the report, William Schultz, Executive Director of Amnesty International USA, says, "there is no justification for attacking civilians, and Palestinian leaders must clearly state that all such attacks must cease, whether they take place in Israel, the West Bank or Gaza." I ask unanimous consent that the entire press release be printed in the RECORD. The full report can be found on the Internet at http://www.amnestyusa.org/countries/israel_and_occupied_territories/index.html.

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

[From Amnesty International, July 11, 2002]
ISRAEL/OCCUPIED TERRITORIES/PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY

WASHINGTON, DC.—In a report released today, Amnesty International condemned attacks by Palestinian armed groups against civilians as crimes against humanity and possible war crimes, and called for the perpetrators to be arrested and prosecuted.

"There is no justification for attacking civilians, and Palestinian leaders must clearly

state that all such attacks must cease, whether they take place in Israel, the West Bank or Gaza," said William F. Schulz, Executive Director of Amnesty International USA (AIUSA). "Action must then follow words, with those responsible for these attacks arrested and brought to justice in line with international human rights standards."

Amnesty International examined 128 attacks between September 29, 2000 and May 31, 2002 in which 338 civilians were killed. Based on analysis of the attacks and the armed groups claiming responsibility, Amnesty International concludes that the attacks are widespread, systemic, and part of an explicit policy of attacking civilians. Those individuals who order, plan, or carry out such attacks are therefore guilty of crimes against humanity, and the attacks may constitute war crimes. Attacks on civilians are expressly prohibited by the Geneva Conventions and the principles of international humanitarian law.

The report profiles the groups claiming responsibility for these attacks and reviews the statements of their leaders and officials. For example, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, formed by Fatah members in 2000, has claimed responsibility for 23 attacks. Marwan Barghouti, Secretary General of Fatah, stated to Amnesty International that Fatah considers that Israelis in the West Bank and Gaza are not civilians because "it is all in occupied country." Amnesty International asserts that international law prohibits attacks on civilians wherever they are.

Despite an obligation to investigate and prosecute the perpetrators of attacks on civilians, many of the detentions of alleged members of armed groups by the Palestinian Authority appear to be motivated by considerations other than a genuine concern to bring the perpetrators to justice.

"The Palestinian Authority has the responsibility to stop attacks by Palestinian armed groups and claims that the Palestinian Authority has acted with due diligence to stop these attacks lack credibility," said Marty Rosenbluth, AIUSA's Country Specialist for Israel, the Occupied Territories and the Palestinian Authority. "However, the investigation and prosecution of those responsible must not result in further violations. To date, the measures taken by both Israel and the Palestinian Authority have included torture and violations of the right to a fair trial."

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, this week, Yasser Arafat had the opportunity to follow the advice of Dr. Schultz and strongly state that terrorist attacks, including suicide bombings, must end. Unfortunately, Yasser Arafat has again fallen short of what he must do so that peace can be achieved in the Middle East.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

• Mrs. CARNAHAN. Mr. President, I am proud to take this opportunity to recognize the period beginning on September 15 and ending on October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month. This month celebrates the rich and varied heritage of Hispanics in the United States, who come from as far away as South America and the islands of the Caribbean, and as nearby as our neighbor to the south, Mexico. I urge all Americans to

take this opportunity to learn more about the culture and important contributions Hispanics have made and continue to make to the United States.

It is fitting that what originally started out as Hispanic Heritage Week in September of 1968 has been lengthened to a month-long celebration of the culture and contributions of Hispanics to the American experience. This is in large part a reflection of the growing prominence of Hispanics in all sectors of American society. As a U.S. Senator, though, I am especially interested and encouraged by the growing role Hispanics are playing in our Nation's government.

Hispanics have a long history of service to the United States as elected officials. The first Hispanic to serve in the Congress was Delegate Joseph Marion Hernandez of the Territory of Florida in 1822. The first Hispanic elected from a State was Romualdo Pacheco of California, who won his race by one vote in 1876. Dennis Chavez of New Mexico became the first Hispanic Senator after being elected in 1936.

In recent years, Hispanic women have also successfully been elected to the Congress. In 1988, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN became both the first Cuban-American and first Hispanic woman elected to serve in the House of Representatives. Four years later, she was joined in the House by LYDIA VELÁSQUEZ, the first Puerto Rican woman, and LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, the first Mexican-American woman. I am pleased that the number of Hispanics now serving in the House of Representatives has more than doubled in the years from 1984 to 2000, from 9 to 21, and I look forward to working with Hispanic colleagues in the Senate as well.

Government is not the only area where Hispanics are breaking new ground. Hispanics are enriching all aspects of our Nation's cultural and economic life. Hispanic entrepreneurs, who open up small businesses at a higher rate than that of the general population, fuel our economy and create jobs. Hispanic writers, such as Isabel Allende, are not only enriching our literature, but are also redefining the American experience through their novels, such as *Portrait of Sepia* and *Daughter of Fortune*. Hispanic labor leaders, following in the footsteps of Cesar Chavez, continue to fight for livable wages and safe working conditions. Roberto Clemente, an athlete and humanitarian, who died while delivering much-needed relief supplies to Central America, was the first Hispanic elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame following a stellar career with the Pittsburgh Pirates. Hispanics have also served honorably in every military engagement since the Revolutionary War—38 have earned the military's highest decoration for their bravery, the Medal of Honor. Louis Caldera, the eldest son of Mexican immigrants, followed in this tradition of military service and became the first Hispanic Secretary of the Army from 1998–2001.

As we celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month, let us take the time to learn more about these and other Hispanic leaders. But let us also take a moment to recognize the many hardworking Hispanic members of our own communities as well. Let us welcome them when they are new arrivals and ensure that our diversity remains one of our greatest strengths. Their contributions serve to enrich our common culture and we are all the better for it. The truest testimony of our greatness as a nation is the enduring power of the American Dream and the sacrifices people everywhere are willing to make to attain it.●

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION FOR INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS LOCAL 309

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the centennial of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 309 in Collinsville, IL. On September 11, 1902, eleven electrical workers from my hometown of East St. Louis, IL committed to support a united labor effort by forming their own local chapter. Despite the dangers in developing the electrical industry, the group continued its work and advanced to become highly trained and skilled journeymen.

The group has grown from its eleven original members to 1,100 and has helped shape the Metro-east and surrounding areas of southern Illinois. Local 309 has been a leader in the electrical industry, with advancements in training, organizing, market recovery, and member services. Its apprentice program has been registered in the United States Department of Labor Bureau of Apprenticeship and has been producing skilled and experienced workers for the past 100 years. It continues to show its commitment to the education of its members in this, its centennial year.

Through their expertise and solidarity, today's members of Local 309 continue the legacy of their founders by uniting the electrical workers of southern Illinois under the common goals of fairness, justice, and leadership in their field.

Congratulations to the members of Local 309 on their centennial celebration. Best wishes for the next 100 years.●

NATIONAL KIDS VOTING WEEK

● Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I wish to take this opportunity to recognize Kids Voting USA and its efforts to educate our children about civic participation, democracy, and the electoral process. Kids Voting USA is an organization that began in my State, but now reaches nearly five million students nationwide.

What began as a fishing trip to Costa Rica by three Arizona businessmen has blossomed into an organization that in-

volves 9,000 schools, 200,000 teachers, 80,000 volunteers, and countless sponsors and donors. With 38 States and more than 140 communities across the Nation participating, Kids Voting USA teaches students from kindergarten through high school about the importance of civic participation and their rights and responsibilities as citizens. Through an acclaimed, interactive core of service-based curricula, young people gain the knowledge, skills, and motivation for democratic living.

Combined with a civics education, students participate in local and national elections in communities across the country. Kids Voting USA enables students to visit official polls on election day, accompanied by a parent or guardian, to cast a ballot that replicates the official ballot. During the last national election, more than 1.5 million students voted as part of the Kids Voting USA program. In last year's local elections students actively participated in over 114 cities, counties, and school districts.

This year, National Kids Voting Week is September 11–17, and will coincide with the inauguration of National Civic Participation Week. It will be a week that highlights programs and activities that lead to greater participation in elections and the political process. As we reflect on the events of the last year, National Kids Voting Week will celebrate the vibrant and important Kids Voting program by focusing on the hopes and dreams of young citizens. I would like to recognize Kids Voting USA and all it has done to promote the future of democracy by engaging families, schools, and communities in the election process.●

MERCK MECTIZAN DONATION PROGRAM

● Mr. CORZINE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 15th anniversary of one of the largest and most successful public/private partnerships in health care in the developing world, the Merck MECTIZAN Donation Program. Today, this program provides hope to millions, and I am proud to pay tribute to Merck & Co., a leading New Jersey corporation, for its work on this critical issue.

On October 21, 1987, Merck & Co., Inc. announced plans to donate MECTIZAN, ivermectin, a medicine Merck discovered to combat river blindness, for as long as it might be needed, wherever needed. Onchocerciasis, "river blindness", is a leading cause of blindness in the developing world. It is a debilitating and disfiguring disease, affecting millions in sub-Saharan Africa, parts of Central and South America and Yemen in the Middle East. The disease, which has infected 18 million people and has left an estimated one million people visually impaired or blind, is caused by parasitic worms that infiltrate, multiply, and spread throughout the human body.