

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. CONRAD):

S. 2259. A bill to provide for the protection of the flag of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SANTORUM:

S. 2260. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for fairness in the calculation of medicare disproportionate share hospital payments for hospitals in Puerto Rico; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DEWINE (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM of Florida, Mr. LUGAR, Mr. BAUCUS, Mr. CHAFEE, Mr. DODD, Mr. NELSON of Florida, Mr. VOINOVICH, and Mr. SUNUNU):

S. 2261. A bill to expand certain preferential trade treatment for Haiti; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 243

At the request of Mr. ALLEN, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. MILLER) were added as cosponsors of S. 243, a bill concerning participation of Taiwan in the World Health Organization.

S. 310

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 310, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 976

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. ENSIGN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 976, a bill to provide for the issuance of a coin to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the Jamestown settlement.

S. 985

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 985, a bill to amend the Federal Law Enforcement Pay Reform Act of 1990 to adjust the percentage differentials payable to Federal law enforcement officers in certain high-cost areas, and for other purposes.

S. 1129

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1129, a bill to provide for the protection of unaccompanied alien children, and for other purposes.

S. 1380

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1380, a bill to distribute universal service support equitably throughout rural America, and for other purposes.

S. 1807

At the request of Mr. MCCAIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1807, a bill to require criminal back-

ground checks on all firearms transactions occurring at events that provide a venue for the sale, offer for sale, transfer, or exchange of firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 1898

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1898, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow tax-payers to designate part or all of any income tax refund to support reservists and National Guard members.

S. 1902

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BOND) were added as cosponsors of S. 1902, a bill to establish a National Commission on Digestive Diseases.

S. 1916

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1916, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to increase the minimum Survivor Benefit Plan basic annuity for surviving spouses age 62 and older, to provide for a one-year open season under that plan, and for other purposes.

S. 1948

At the request of Mr. REID, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1948, a bill to provide that service of the members of the organization known as the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II constituted active military service for purposes of laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

S. 2099

At the request of Mr. MILLER, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2099, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide entitlement to educational assistance under the Montgomery GI Bill for members of the Selected Reserve who aggregate more than 2 years of active duty service in any five year period, and for other purposes.

S. 2100

At the request of Mr. MILLER, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. SMITH) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2100, a bill to amend title 10 United States Code, to increase the amounts of educational assistance for members of the Selected Reserve, and for other purposes.

S. 2146

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. BROWNBACK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2146, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the contributions of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to the United States.

S. 2175

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2175, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to support the planning, implementation, and evaluation of organized activities involving statewide youth suicide early intervention and prevention strategies, and for other purposes.

S. 2179

At the request of Mr. BROWNBACK, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of S. 2179, a bill to posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Reverend Oliver L. Brown.

S. 2193

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2193, a bill to improve small business loan programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2212

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. COCHRAN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. EDWARDS), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2212, a bill to amend title VII of the Tariff Act of 1930 to provide that the provisions relating to countervailing duties apply to nonmarket economy countries.

S. 2236

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. INOUE) were added as cosponsors of S. 2236, a bill to enhance the reliability of the electric system.

S. CON. RES. 81

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 81, a concurrent resolution expressing the deep concern of Congress regarding the failure of the Islamic Republic of Iran to adhere to its obligations under a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency and the engagement by Iran in activities that appear to be designed to develop nuclear weapons.

AMENDMENT NO. 2937

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. DEWINE), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. CORZINE) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. HARKIN) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2937 proposed to H.R. 4, a bill to reauthorize and improve the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, improve access to quality child care, and for other purposes.

At the request of Mr. VOINOVICH, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2937 proposed to H.R. 4, supra.

AMENDMENT NO. 2939

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. BYRD) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2939 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4, a bill to reauthorize and improve the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, improve access to quality child care, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2942

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2942 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4, a bill to reauthorize and improve the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, improve access to quality child care, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2943

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2943 intended to be proposed to H.R. 4, a bill to reauthorize and improve the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, improve access to quality child care, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. HATCH (for himself, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. GREGG, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. THOMAS):

S. 2258. A bill to revise certain requirements for H-2B employers for fiscal year 2004, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Summer Operations and Services or "SOS" Relief and Reform Act, S. 2258.

Across our Nation, there are businesses, many of which are small, which look forward to the summer time each year as an opportunity to conduct their seasonal operations. From Utah to Alaska to New England and down to the Southern States, innkeepers, swimming pool operators, and fishermen rely on the income generated during the summer months to feed their families, employ their neighbors, and contribute to their local economies. Individually, these businesses may not be big operations, but collectively, they are an integral part of the American economy.

Because of the nature of our country's labor market, and perhaps be-

cause of the unattractiveness of seasonal versus permanent work, these operations have traditionally relied upon the H-2B visa program to bring needed workers from abroad. For those who may not understand the purpose for this program, let me explain it. An employer is only allowed to request an H-2B worker when no American worker is available for the same job. An employer is not allowed to pay lower wages to these foreign visa holders. Throughout our immigration history, the H-2B program has remained non-controversial.

This year, perhaps as a sign of our economy's increasing vitality, the H-2B annual cap of 66,000 visas has already been reached. Meanwhile, small businesses across the country warn that if Congress does not make some sort of accommodation, they stand to suffer immeasurable losses. Failing to act would not only be detrimental to these small businessowners, many of whom simply cannot afford to lose an entire year's worth of profit, but would hurt the Americans whose jobs also depend on the stability of these businesses. The negative impact upon the hospitality and tourism sectors would be severe as well. In other words, unless we act quickly and give these seasonal operations the resources they need, we are facing a very bleak summer for many hard-working Americans and entrepreneurs.

That said, as much as I want to do all that I can to save this summer of seasonal work, I also want to make sure that in our haste, we do not establish unsound policy and set a bad precedent for the future. Many immigration reformists oppose increasing numbers in any immigration program. I oppose simply raising the numbers indiscriminately. Instead, what we need is a program that is tied to the realities of our economy and our job market. The reform I propose in "SOS" will bring us closer to this ultimate goal.

Specifically, S. 2258 does not raise the visa cap number. Instead, it exempts those who were admitted on an H-2B visa during the past 2 fiscal years from the cap for the remainder of this year. This is a good reform approach for several reasons: First, the number of actual workers admitted will be dictated by the strength of the economy, and not by a random number that resulted from political compromise. Second, it gives preferential treatment to those who have used the program before, and who have complied with the law and returned to their home countries at the end of the season. Third and finally, it would allow the Secretary of Homeland Security to delegate to the Secretary of Labor the specific as well as inherent authority to investigate fraudulent immigration and employment practices. No immigration reform can be complete without addressing that issue. Of course, this bill does not represent all of the reforms that are needed, but is it a step in the right direction, while providing

immediate relief for our seasonal businesses.

I thank Chairman CHAMBLISS of the Judiciary Committee's Immigration Subcommittee for his valuable input and for being our lead cosponsor on this bill. I also want to thank the administration for its contribution and expertise in reforming the H-2B visa program in an administratively feasible manner. Finally, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the contribution made by the other original cosponsors, Senators ALLEN, GREGG, COLLINS, MURKOWSKI, WARNER, and THOMAS.

Let me conclude by emphasizing that without our immediate attention to this pressing problem, local economies will face substantial losses. Let us work together to prioritize the health of America's seasonal businesses, and safeguard the livelihood of all the people who depend on them. I ask my colleagues for their bipartisan cooperation in the timely passage of this bill.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself, Mr. BENNETT, and Mr. CONRAD):

S. 2259. A bill to provide for the protection of the flag of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, 15 years ago the U.S. Supreme Court, in a 5 to 4 decision, struck down a Texas flag protection statute. The Supreme Court ruled that burning an American flag was a form of "speech," and therefore protected under the first amendment of the Constitution.

I disagreed with the Court's decisions then and I still do. I don't believe that the act of desecrating a flag is an act of speech. And I believe that our flag, as our national symbol, can and should be protected by law.

In the intervening years since the Supreme Court decision, I have supported Federal legislation that would make flag desecration illegal. Yet on several occasions, I have also voted against amendments to the Constitution to do the same.

I voted that way because, while I believe that flag desecration is despicable conduct that should be prohibited by law, I also believe that amending our Constitution is a step that should be taken only rarely, and then only as a last resort.

In the past year I have once again reviewed in detail nearly all of the legal opinions and written materials published by constitutional scholars and courts on all sides of this issue. After that review, I have concluded that there remains a way to protect our flag without having to alter the Constitution of the United States. So I am joining Senator BENNETT today to introduce bipartisan legislation that accomplishes that goal.

The bill we introduce today protects the flag but does so without altering the Constitution. A number of respected constitutional scholars tell us they believe this type of statute will be upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.