

“The exercise of power and the use of public funds by the state, the granting of customs duty privileges, the arbitrary and discriminatory placement of official advertising and government loans; the concession of radio and television broadcast frequencies, among others, with the intent to put pressure on and punish or reward and provide privileges to social communicators and communications media because of the opinions they express threaten freedom of expression, and must be explicitly prohibited by law. The means of communication have the right to carry out their role in an independent manner. Direct or indirect pressures exerted upon journalists or other social communicators to stifle the dissemination of information are incompatible with freedom of expression.”;

Whereas, according to the principles of the American Convention on Human Rights and the Inter-American Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression, to both of which Venezuela is a party, the decision not to renew the concession of the television station RCTV is an assault against freedom of thought and expression and cannot be accepted by democratic countries, especially by those in North America who are signatories to the American Convention on Human Rights;

Whereas the most paradoxical aspect of the decision by President Chávez is that it strongly conflicts with two principles from the Liberator Simón Bolívar’s thinking, principles President Chávez says inspire him, which state that “[p]ublic opinion is the most sacred of objects, it needs the protection of an enlightened government which knows that opinion is the fountain of the most important of events,” and that “[t]he right to express one’s thoughts and opinions, by word, by writing or by any other means, is the first and most worthy asset mankind has in society. The law itself will never be able to prohibit it.”; and

Whereas the United States should raise its concerns about these and other serious restrictions on freedoms of thought and expression being imposed by the Government of Venezuela before the Organization of American States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) expresses its profound concern about the transgression against freedom of thought and expression that is being attempted and committed in Venezuela by the refusal of the President of Venezuela, Hugo Chávez, to renew the concession of the television station “Radio Caracas Televisión” (RCTV) merely because of its adherence to an editorial and informational stance distinct from the thinking of the Government of Venezuela; and

(2) strongly encourages the Organization of American States to respond appropriately, with full consideration of the necessary institutional instruments, to such transgression.

SENATE RESOLUTION 212—TO EXPRESS THE SENSE OF THE SENATE RELATING TO LEGISLATION TO CURB GLOBAL WARMING

Mr. COLEMAN (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

S. RES. 212

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that any comprehensive, mandatory greenhouse gas emissions reduction program enacted by Congress should include—

(1) periodic determinations of the extent to which other countries that are major con-

tributors of atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations have established for those countries emissions reduction programs that are comparable in effectiveness to the program established by the United States;

(2) in the event of an authoritative determination that the emissions reduction programs established by other countries that are major contributors of atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations are substantially less effective than the program established by the United States, consequences in the form of—

(A) a review of provisions of the emissions reduction program established by the United States; or

(B) 1 or more changes to other policies of the United States;

(3) periodic determinations relating to whether the emissions reduction program established by the United States is increasing the rate of poverty or unemployment in the United States;

(4) in the event of an authoritative determination that the emissions reduction program established by the United States is increasing the rate of poverty or unemployment in the United States, a process of review of provisions of the emissions reduction program established by the United States; and

(5) in addition to the imposition of limits relating to the emission of greenhouse gases, effective incentives for private entities that sell electricity to increase the percentage of sales by the entities of electricity that is generated by clean energy sources.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1146. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1348, to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1147. Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 849, to promote accessibility, accountability, and openness in Government by strengthening section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act), and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1148. Mrs. McCASKILL (for herself and Mr. DODD) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1348, to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1149. Mrs. McCASKILL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1348, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1150. Mr. REID (for Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. SPECTER)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1348, *supra*.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1146. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1348, to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE

SEC. 01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act of 2007”.

SEC. 02. DEFINITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In this title:

(1) COMPETENT.—The term “competent”, in reference to counsel, means an attorney, or a representative authorized to represent unaccompanied alien children in immigration proceedings or matters, who—

(A) complies with the duties set forth in this title;

(B) is—

(i) properly qualified to handle matters involving unaccompanied alien children; or

(ii) working under the auspices of a qualified nonprofit organization that is experienced in handling such matters; and

(C) if an attorney—

(i) is a member in good standing of the bar of the highest court of any State, possession, territory, Commonwealth, or the District of Columbia; and

(ii) is not under any order of any court suspending, enjoining, restraining, disbarring, or otherwise restricting the attorney in the practice of law.

(2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office.

(3) OFFICE.—The term “Office” means the Office of Refugee Resettlement established by section 411 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1521).

(4) UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILD.—The term “unaccompanied alien child” has the meaning given the term in 101(a)(51) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by subsection (b).

(5) VOLUNTARY AGENCY.—The term “voluntary agency” means a private, nonprofit voluntary agency with expertise in meeting the cultural, developmental, or psychological needs of unaccompanied alien children, as certified by the Director.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.—Section 101(a) (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(51) The term ‘unaccompanied alien child’ means a child who—

“(A) has no lawful immigration status in the United States;

“(B) has not attained 18 years of age; and

“(C) with respect to whom—

“(i) there is no parent or legal guardian in the United States; or

“(ii) no parent or legal guardian in the United States is available to provide care and physical custody.

“(52) The term ‘unaccompanied refugee children’ means persons described in paragraph (42) who—

“(A) have not attained 18 years of age; and

“(B) with respect to whom there are no parents or legal guardians available to provide care and physical custody.”.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) STATE COURTS ACTING IN LOCO PARENTIS.—A department or agency of a State, or an individual or entity appointed by a State court or a juvenile court located in the United States, acting in loco parentis, shall not be considered a legal guardian for purposes of section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279) or this title.

(2) CLARIFICATION OF THE DEFINITION OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILD.—For the purposes of section 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2)) and this title, a parent or legal guardian shall not be considered to be available to provide care and physical custody of an alien child unless such parent is in the physical presence of, and able to exercise parental responsibilities over, such child at the time of such child’s apprehension and during the child’s detention.

Subtitle A—Custody, Release, Family Reunification, and Detention**SEC. 11. PROCEDURES WHEN ENCOUNTERING UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.**

(a) UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN FOUND ALONG THE UNITED STATES BORDER OR AT UNITED STATES PORTS OF ENTRY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), an immigration officer who finds an unaccompanied alien child described in paragraph (2) at a land border or port of entry of the United States and determines that such child is inadmissible under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) shall—

(A) permit such child to withdraw the child's application for admission pursuant to section 235(a)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225(a)(4)); and

(B) return such child to the child's country of nationality or country of last habitual residence.

(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR CONTIGUOUS COUNTRIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any child who is a national or habitual resident of a country, which is contiguous with the United States and has an agreement in writing with the United States that provides for the safe return and orderly repatriation of unaccompanied alien children who are nationals or habitual residents of such country, shall be treated in accordance with paragraph (1) if the Secretary determines, on a case-by-case basis, that—

(i) such child is a national or habitual resident of a country described in this subparagraph;

(ii) such child does not have a fear of returning to the child's country of nationality or country of last habitual residence owing to a fear of persecution;

(iii) the return of such child to the child's country of nationality or country of last habitual residence would not endanger the life or safety of such child; and

(iv) the child is able to make an independent decision to withdraw the child's application for admission due to age or other lack of capacity.

(B) RIGHT OF CONSULTATION.—Any child described in subparagraph (A) shall have the right, and shall be informed of that right in the child's native language—

(i) to consult with a consular officer from the child's country of nationality or country of last habitual residence prior to repatriation; and

(ii) to consult, telephonically, with the Office.

(3) RULE FOR APPREHENSIONS AT THE BORDER.—The custody of unaccompanied alien children not described in paragraph (2) who are apprehended at the border of the United States or at a United States port of entry shall be treated in accordance with subsection (b).

(b) CARE AND CUSTODY OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN FOUND IN THE INTERIOR OF THE UNITED STATES.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF JURISDICTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided under subparagraphs (B) and (C) and subsection (a), the care and custody of all unaccompanied alien children, including responsibility for their detention, where appropriate, shall be under the jurisdiction of the Office.

(B) EXCEPTION FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE COMMITTED CRIMES.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the Department of Justice shall retain or assume the custody and care of any unaccompanied alien who is—

(i) in the custody of the Department of Justice pending prosecution for a Federal crime other than a violation of the Immigration and Nationality Act; or

(ii) serving a sentence pursuant to a conviction for a Federal crime.

(C) EXCEPTION FOR CHILDREN WHO THREATEN NATIONAL SECURITY.—Notwithstanding subparagraph (A), the Department shall retain or assume the custody and care of an unaccompanied alien child if the Secretary has substantial evidence, based on an individualized determination, that such child could personally endanger the national security of the United States.

(2) NOTIFICATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Each department or agency of the Federal Government shall promptly notify the Office upon—

(i) the apprehension of an unaccompanied alien child;

(ii) the discovery that an alien in the custody of such department or agency is an unaccompanied alien child;

(iii) any claim by an alien in the custody of such department or agency that such alien is younger than 18 years of age; or

(iv) any suspicion that an alien in the custody of such department or agency who has claimed to be at least 18 years of age is actually younger than 18 years of age.

(B) SPECIAL RULE.—The Director shall—

(i) make an age determination for an alien described in clause (iii) or (iv) of subparagraph (A) in accordance with section 15; and

(ii) take whatever other steps are necessary to determine whether such alien is eligible for treatment under section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279) or under this title.

(3) TRANSFER OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.—

(A) TRANSFER TO THE OFFICE.—Any Federal department or agency that has an unaccompanied alien child in its custody shall transfer the custody of such child to the Office—

(i) not later than 72 hours after a determination is made that such child is an unaccompanied alien, if the child is not described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (1);

(ii) if the custody and care of the child has been retained or assumed by the Attorney General under paragraph (1)(B) or by the Department under paragraph (1)(C), following a determination that the child no longer meets the description set forth in such subparagraphs; or

(iii) if the child was previously released to an individual or entity described in section 12(a)(1), upon a determination by the Director that such individual or entity is no longer able to care for the child.

(B) TRANSFER TO THE DEPARTMENT.—The Director shall transfer the care and custody of an unaccompanied alien child in the custody of the Office or the Department of Justice to the Department upon determining that the child is described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of paragraph (1).

(C) PROMPTNESS OF TRANSFER.—If a child needs to be transferred under this paragraph, the sending office shall make prompt arrangements to transfer such child and the receiving office shall make prompt arrangements to receive such child.

(c) AGE DETERMINATIONS.—If the age of an alien is in question and the resolution of questions about the age of such alien would affect the alien's eligibility for treatment under section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279) or this title, a determination of whether or not such alien meets such age requirements shall be made in accordance with section 15, unless otherwise specified in subsection (b)(2)(B).

(d) ACCESS TO ALIEN.—The Secretary and the Attorney General shall permit the Office to have reasonable access to aliens in the custody of the Secretary or the Attorney General to ensure a prompt determination of

the age of such alien, if necessary under subsection (b)(2)(B).

SEC. 12. FAMILY REUNIFICATION FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN WITH RELATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES.**(a) PLACEMENT OF RELEASED CHILDREN.—**

(1) ORDER OF PREFERENCE.—Subject to the discretion of the Director under paragraph (4), section 13(a)(2), and section 462(b)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(b)(2)), an unaccompanied alien child in the custody of the Office shall be promptly placed with 1 of the following individuals or entities in the following order of preference:

(A) A parent who seeks to establish custody under paragraph (3)(A).

(B) A legal guardian who seeks to establish custody under paragraph (3)(A).

(C) An adult relative.

(D) An individual or entity designated by the parent or legal guardian that is capable and willing to care for the well being of the child.

(E) A State-licensed family foster home, small group home, or juvenile shelter willing to accept custody of the child.

(F) A qualified adult or entity, as determined by the Director by regulation, seeking custody of the child if the Director determines that no other likely alternative to long-term detention exists and family reunification does not appear to be a reasonable alternative.

(2) SUITABILITY ASSESSMENT.—

(A) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), and subject to the requirements of subparagraph (B), an unaccompanied alien child may not be placed with a person or entity described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (1) unless the Director provides written certification that the proposed custodian is capable of providing for the child's physical and mental well-being, based on—

(i) with respect to an individual custodian—

(I) verification of such individual's identity and employment;

(II) a finding that such individual has not engaged in any activity that would indicate a potential risk to the child, including the people and activities described in paragraph (4)(A)(i);

(III) a finding that such individual is not the subject of an open investigation by a State or local child protective services authority due to suspected child abuse or neglect;

(IV) verification that such individual has a plan for the provision of care for the child;

(V) verification of familial relationship of such individual, if any relationship is claimed; and

(VI) verification of nature and extent of previous relationship;

(ii) with respect to a custodial entity, verification of such entity's appropriate licensure by the State, county, or other applicable unit of government; and

(iii) such other information as the Director determines appropriate.

(B) HOME STUDY.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall place a child with any custodian described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (F) of paragraph (1) unless the Director determines that a home study with respect to such custodian is necessary.

(ii) SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN.—A home study shall be conducted to determine if the custodian can properly meet the needs of—

(I) a special needs child with a disability (as defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12102(2)); or

(II) a child who has been the object of physical or mental injury, sexual abuse, negligent treatment, or maltreatment under circumstances which indicate that the child's health or welfare has been harmed or threatened.

(iii) FOLLOW-UP SERVICES.—The Director shall conduct follow-up services for at least 90 days on custodians for whom a home study was conducted under this subparagraph.

(C) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Director may, by grant or contract, arrange for some or all of the activities under this section to be carried out by—

(i) an agency of the State of the child's proposed residence;

(ii) an agency authorized by such State to conduct such activities; or

(iii) an appropriate voluntary or nonprofit agency.

(D) DATABASE ACCESS.—In conducting suitability assessments, the Director shall have access to all relevant information in the appropriate Federal, State, and local law enforcement and immigration databases.

(3) RIGHT OF PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN TO CUSTODY OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILD.—

(A) PLACEMENT WITH PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN.—If an unaccompanied alien child is placed with any person or entity other than a parent or legal guardian, and subsequent to that placement a parent or legal guardian seeks to establish custody, the Director shall—

(i) assess the suitability of placing the child with the parent or legal guardian; and

(ii) make a written determination regarding the child's placement within 30 days.

(B) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to—

(i) supersede obligations under any treaty or other international agreement to which the United States is a party, including—

(I) the Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction, done at The Hague, October 25, 1980 (TIAS 11670);

(II) the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, adopted at Vienna, June 25, 1993; and

(III) the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, adopted at New York, November 20, 1959; or

(ii) limit any right or remedy under such international agreement.

(4) PROTECTION FROM SMUGGLERS AND TRAFFICKERS.—

(A) POLICIES AND PROGRAMS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall establish policies and programs to ensure that unaccompanied alien children are protected from smugglers, traffickers, or other persons seeking to victimize or otherwise engage such children in criminal, harmful, or exploitative activity.

(ii) WITNESS PROTECTION PROGRAMS INCLUDED.—Programs established pursuant to clause (i) may include witness protection programs.

(B) CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS.—Any officer or employee of the Office or of the Department, and any grantee or contractor of the Office or of the Department, who suspects any individual of involvement in any activity described in subparagraph (A) shall report such individual to Federal or State prosecutors for criminal investigation and prosecution.

(C) DISCIPLINARY ACTION.—Any officer or employee of the Office or the Department, and any grantee or contractor of the Office, who believes that a competent attorney or representative has been a participant in any activity described in subparagraph (A), shall report the attorney to the State bar association of which the attorney is a member, or to other appropriate disciplinary authorities, for appropriate disciplinary action, including private or public admonition or censure, sus-

pension, or disbarment of the attorney from the practice of law.

(5) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—The Director may award grants to, and enter into contracts with, voluntary agencies to carry out this section or section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279).

(b) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—All information obtained by the Office relating to the immigration status of a person described in subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) of subsection (a)(1) shall remain confidential and may only be used to determine such person's qualifications under subsection (a)(1).

(2) NONDISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—In consideration of the needs and privacy of unaccompanied alien children in the custody of the Office or its agents, and the necessity to guarantee the confidentiality of such children's information in order to facilitate their trust and truthfulness with the Office, its agents, and clinicians, the Office shall maintain the privacy and confidentiality of all information gathered in the course of the care, custody, and placement of unaccompanied alien children, consistent with its role and responsibilities under the Homeland Security Act to act as guardian in loco parentis in the best interest of the unaccompanied alien child, by not disclosing such information to other government agencies or nonparental third parties.

(c) REQUIRED DISCLOSURE.—The Secretary or the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide the information furnished under this section, and any other information derived from such furnished information, to—

(1) a duly recognized law enforcement entity in connection with an investigation or prosecution of an offense described in paragraph (2) or (3) of section 212(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)), when such information is requested in writing by such entity; or

(2) an official coroner for purposes of affirmatively identifying a deceased individual (whether or not such individual is deceased as a result of a crime).

(d) PENALTY.—Any person who knowingly uses, publishes, or permits information to be examined in violation of this section shall be fined not more than \$10,000.

SEC. 13. APPROPRIATE CONDITIONS FOR DETENTION OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

(a) STANDARDS FOR PLACEMENT.—

(1) ORDER OF PREFERENCE.—An unaccompanied alien child who is not released pursuant to section 12(a)(1) shall be placed in the least restrictive setting possible in the following order of preference:

- (A) Licensed family foster home.
- (B) Small group home.
- (C) Juvenile shelter.
- (D) Residential treatment center.
- (E) Secure detention.

(2) PROHIBITION OF DETENTION IN CERTAIN FACILITIES.—Except as provided under paragraph (3), an unaccompanied alien child shall not be placed in an adult detention facility or a facility housing delinquent children.

(3) DETENTION IN APPROPRIATE FACILITIES.—An unaccompanied alien child who has exhibited violent or criminal behavior that endangers others may be detained in conditions appropriate to such behavior in a facility appropriate for delinquent children.

(4) STATE LICENSURE.—A child shall not be placed with an entity described in section 12(a)(1)(E), unless the entity is licensed by an appropriate State agency to provide residential, group, child welfare, or foster care services for dependent children.

(5) CONDITIONS OF DETENTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director and the Secretary shall promulgate regulations incor-

porating standards for conditions of detention in placements described in paragraph (1) that provide for—

- (i) educational services appropriate to the child;
- (ii) medical care;
- (iii) mental health care, including treatment of trauma, physical and sexual violence, and abuse;
- (iv) access to telephones;
- (v) access to legal services;
- (vi) access to interpreters;

(vii) supervision by professionals trained in the care of children, taking into account the special cultural, linguistic, and experiential needs of children in immigration proceedings;

- (viii) recreational programs and activities;
- (ix) spiritual and religious needs; and
- (x) dietary needs.

(B) NOTIFICATION OF CHILDREN.—Regulations promulgated under subparagraph (A) shall provide that all children in such placements are notified of such standards orally and in writing in the child's native language.

(b) PROHIBITION OF CERTAIN PRACTICES.—The Director and the Secretary shall develop procedures prohibiting the unreasonable use of—

- (1) shackling, handcuffing, or other restraints on children;
- (2) solitary confinement; or
- (3) pat or strip searches.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to supersede procedures favoring release of children to appropriate adults or entities or placement in the least secure setting possible, as described in paragraph 23 of the Stipulated Settlement Agreement under Flores v. Reno.

SEC. 14. REPATRIATED UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

(a) COUNTRY CONDITIONS.—

(1) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that, to the extent consistent with the treaties and other international agreements to which the United States is a party, and to the extent practicable, the United States Government should undertake efforts to ensure that it does not repatriate children in its custody into settings that would threaten the life and safety of such children.

(2) ASSESSMENT OF CONDITIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall include, in the annual Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, an assessment of the degree to which each country protects children from smugglers and traffickers.

(B) FACTORS FOR ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary shall consult the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices and the Trafficking in Persons Report in assessing whether to repatriate an unaccompanied alien child to a particular country.

(b) REPORT ON REPATRIATION OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives on efforts to repatriate unaccompanied alien children.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the number of unaccompanied alien children ordered removed and the number of such children actually removed from the United States;

(B) a description of the type of immigration relief sought and denied to such children;

(C) a statement of the nationalities, ages, and gender of such children;

(D) a description of the procedures used to effect the removal of such children from the United States;

(E) a description of steps taken to ensure that such children were safely and humanely repatriated to their country of origin; and

(F) any information gathered in assessments of country and local conditions pursuant to subsection (a)(2).

SEC. 15. ESTABLISHING THE AGE OF AN UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILD.

(a) PROCEDURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director, in consultation with the Secretary, shall develop procedures to make a prompt determination of the age of an alien, which procedures shall be used—

(A) by the Secretary, with respect to aliens in the custody of the Department;

(B) by the Director, with respect to aliens in the custody of the Office; and

(C) by the Attorney General, with respect to aliens in the custody of the Department of Justice.

(2) EVIDENCE.—The procedures developed under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) permit the presentation of multiple forms of evidence, including testimony of the alien, to determine the age of the unaccompanied alien for purposes of placement, custody, parole, and detention; and

(B) allow the appeal of a determination to an immigration judge.

(b) PROHIBITION ON SOLE MEANS OF DETERMINING AGE.—Radiographs or the attestation of an alien may not be used as the sole means of determining age for the purposes of determining an alien's eligibility for treatment under this title or section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279).

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to place the burden of proof in determining the age of an alien on the Government.

SEC. 16. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This subtitle shall take effect on the date which is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Subtitle B—Access by Unaccompanied Alien Children to Child Advocates and Counsel

SEC. 21. CHILD ADVOCATES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF CHILD ADVOCATE PROGRAM.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Director may appoint a child advocate, who meets the qualifications described in paragraph (2), for an unaccompanied alien child. The Director is encouraged, if practicable, to contract with a voluntary agency for the selection of an individual to be appointed as a child advocate under this paragraph.

(2) QUALIFICATIONS OF CHILD ADVOCATE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A person may not serve as a child advocate unless such person—

(i) is a child welfare professional or other individual who has received training in child welfare matters;

(ii) possesses special training on the nature of problems encountered by unaccompanied alien children; and

(iii) is not an employee of the Department, the Department of Justice, or the Department of Health and Human Services.

(B) INDEPENDENCE OF CHILD ADVOCATE.—

(i) INDEPENDENCE FROM AGENCIES OF GOVERNMENT.—The child advocate shall act independently of any agency of government in making and reporting findings or making recommendations with respect to the best interests of the child. No agency shall terminate, reprimand, de-fund, intimidate, or retaliate against any person or entity appointed under paragraph (1) because of the findings and recommendations made by such person relating to any child.

(ii) PROHIBITION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—No person shall serve as a child advocate for a child if such person is providing legal services to such child.

(3) DUTIES.—The child advocate of a child shall—

(A) conduct interviews with the child in a manner that is appropriate, taking into account the child's age;

(B) investigate the facts and circumstances relevant to the child's presence in the United States, including facts and circumstances—

(i) arising in the country of the child's nationality or last habitual residence; and

(ii) arising subsequent to the child's departure from such country;

(C) work with counsel to identify the child's eligibility for relief from removal or voluntary departure by sharing with counsel relevant information collected under subparagraph (B);

(D) develop recommendations on issues relative to the child's custody, detention, release, and repatriation;

(E) take reasonable steps to ensure that—

(i) the best interests of the child are promoted while the child participates in, or is subject to, proceedings or matters under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.);

(ii) the child understands the nature of the legal proceedings or matters and determinations made by the court, and that all information is conveyed to the child in an age-appropriate manner;

(F) report factual findings and recommendations consistent with the child's best interests relating to the custody, detention, and release of the child during the pendency of the proceedings or matters, to the Director and the child's counsel;

(G) in any proceeding involving an alien child in which a complaint has been filed with any appropriate disciplinary authority against an attorney or representative for criminal, unethical, or unprofessional conduct in connection with the representation of the alien child, provide the immigration judge with written recommendations or testimony on any information the child advocate may have regarding the conduct of the attorney; and

(H) in any proceeding involving an alien child in which the safety of the child upon repatriation is at issue, and after the immigration judge has considered and denied all applications for relief other than voluntary departure, provide the immigration judge with written recommendations or testimony on any information the child advocate may have regarding the child's safety upon repatriation.

(4) TERMINATION OF APPOINTMENT.—The child advocate shall carry out the duties described in paragraph (3) until the earliest of the date on which—

(A) those duties are completed;

(B) the child departs from the United States;

(C) the child is granted permanent resident status in the United States;

(D) the child reaches 18 years of age; or

(E) the child is placed in the custody of a parent or legal guardian.

(5) POWERS.—The child advocate—

(A) shall have reasonable access to the child, including access while such child is being held in detention or in the care of a foster family;

(B) shall be permitted to review all records and information relating to such proceedings that are not deemed privileged or classified;

(C) may seek independent evaluations of the child;

(D) shall be notified in advance of all hearings or interviews involving the child that are held in connection with proceedings or matters under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), and shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be present at such hearings or interviews;

(E) shall be permitted to accompany and consult with the child during any hearing or interview involving such child; and

(F) shall be provided at least 24 hours advance notice of a transfer of that child to a different placement, absent compelling and unusual circumstances warranting the transfer of such child before such notification.

(b) TRAINING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall provide professional training for all persons serving as child advocates under this section.

(2) TRAINING TOPICS.—The training provided under paragraph (1) shall include training in—

(A) the circumstances and conditions faced by unaccompanied alien children; and

(B) various immigration benefits for which such alien child might be eligible.

(c) PILOT PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall establish and begin to carry out a pilot program to test the implementation of subsection (a). Any pilot program existing before the date of the enactment of this Act shall be deemed insufficient to satisfy the requirements of this subsection.

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the pilot program established pursuant to paragraph (1) is to—

(A) study and assess the benefits of providing child advocates to assist unaccompanied alien children involved in immigration proceedings or matters;

(B) assess the most efficient and cost-effective means of implementing the child advocate provisions under this section; and

(C) assess the feasibility of implementing such provisions on a nationwide basis for all unaccompanied alien children in the care of the Office.

(3) SCOPE OF PROGRAM.—

(A) SELECTION OF SITE.—The Director shall select 3 sites at which to operate the pilot program established under paragraph (1).

(B) NUMBER OF CHILDREN.—Each site selected under subparagraph (A) should have not less than 25 children held in immigration custody at any given time, to the greatest extent possible.

(4) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the first pilot program site is established under paragraph (1), the Director shall submit a report on the achievement of the purposes described in paragraph (2) to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives.

(5) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 22. COUNSEL.

(a) ACCESS TO COUNSEL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall ensure, to the greatest extent practicable, that all unaccompanied alien children in the custody of the Office or the Department, who are not described in section 11(a)(2), have competent counsel to represent them in immigration proceedings or matters.

(2) PRO BONO REPRESENTATION.—To the greatest extent practicable, the Director shall—

(A) make every effort to utilize the services of competent pro bono counsel who agree to provide representation to such children without charge; and

(B) ensure that placements made under subparagraphs (D), (E), and (F) of section 12(a)(1) are in cities in which there is a demonstrated capacity for competent pro bono representation.

(3) DEVELOPMENT OF NECESSARY INFRASTRUCTURES AND SYSTEMS.—The Director shall develop the necessary mechanisms to

identify and recruit entities that are available to provide legal assistance and representation under this subsection.

(4) CONTRACTING AND GRANT MAKING AUTHORITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall enter into contracts with, or award grants to, non-profit agencies with relevant expertise in the delivery of immigration-related legal services to children in order to carry out the responsibilities of this title, including providing legal orientation, screening cases for referral, recruiting, training, and overseeing pro bono attorneys.

(B) SUBCONTRACTING.—Nonprofit agencies may enter into subcontracts with, or award grants to, private voluntary agencies with relevant expertise in the delivery of immigration-related legal services to children in order to carry out this subsection.

(C) CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—In awarding grants and entering into contracts with agencies under this paragraph, the Director shall take into consideration the capacity of the agencies in question to properly administer the services covered by such grants or contracts without an undue conflict of interest.

(5) MODEL GUIDELINES ON LEGAL REPRESENTATION OF CHILDREN.—

(A) DEVELOPMENT OF GUIDELINES.—The Director of the Executive Office for Immigration Review of the Department of Justice, in consultation with voluntary agencies and national experts, shall develop model guidelines for the legal representation of alien children in immigration proceedings. Such guidelines shall be based on the children's asylum guidelines, the American Bar Association Model Rules of Professional Conduct, and other relevant domestic or international sources.

(B) PURPOSE OF GUIDELINES.—The guidelines developed under subparagraph (A) shall be designed to help protect each child from any individual suspected of involvement in any criminal, harmful, or exploitative activity associated with the smuggling or trafficking of children, while ensuring the fairness of the removal proceeding in which the child is involved.

(C) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Executive Office for Immigration Review shall—

(i) adopt the guidelines developed under subparagraph (A); and

(ii) submit the guidelines for adoption by national, State, and local bar associations.

(b) DUTIES.—Counsel under this section shall—

(1) represent the unaccompanied alien child in all proceedings and matters relating to the immigration status of the child or other actions involving the Department;

(2) appear in person for all individual merits hearings before the Executive Office for Immigration Review and interviews involving the Department; and

(3) owe the same duties of undivided loyalty, confidentiality, and competent representation to the child as is due to an adult client.

(c) ACCESS TO CHILD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Counsel under this section shall have reasonable access to the unaccompanied alien child, including access while the child is—

(A) held in detention;

(B) in the care of a foster family; or

(C) in any other setting that has been determined by the Office.

(2) RESTRICTION ON TRANSFERS.—Absent compelling and unusual circumstances, a child who is represented by counsel may not be transferred from the child's placement to another placement unless advance notice of

at least 24 hours is made to counsel of such transfer.

(d) NOTICE TO COUNSEL DURING IMMIGRATION PROCEEDINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except when otherwise required in an emergency situation involving the physical safety of the child, counsel shall be given prompt and adequate notice of all immigration matters affecting or involving an unaccompanied alien child, including adjudications, proceedings, and processing, before such actions are taken.

(2) OPPORTUNITY TO CONSULT WITH COUNSEL.—An unaccompanied alien child in the custody of the Office may not give consent to any immigration action, including consenting to voluntary departure, unless first afforded an opportunity to consult with counsel.

(e) ACCESS TO RECOMMENDATIONS OF CHILD ADVOCATE.—Counsel shall be given an opportunity to review the recommendations of the child advocate affecting or involving a client who is an unaccompanied alien child.

(f) COUNSEL FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.—Nothing in this title may be construed to require the Government of the United States to pay for counsel to any unaccompanied alien child.

SEC. 23. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICABILITY.

(a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This subtitle shall take effect on the date which is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The provisions of this subtitle shall apply to all unaccompanied alien children in Federal custody before, on, or after the effective date of this subtitle.

Subtitle C—Strengthening Policies for Permanent Protection of Alien Children

SEC. 31. SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE CLASSIFICATION.

(a) J CLASSIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(a)(27)(J) (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(J)) is amended to read as follows:

“(J) an immigrant, who is 18 years of age or younger on the date of application for classification as a special immigrant and present in the United States—

“(i) who, by a court order supported by written findings of fact, which shall be binding on the Secretary of Homeland Security for purposes of adjudications under this subparagraph—

“(I) was declared dependent on a juvenile court located in the United States or has been legally committed to, or placed under the custody of, a department or agency of a State, or an individual or entity appointed by a State or juvenile court located in the United States; and

“(II) should not be reunified with his or her parents due to abuse, neglect, abandonment, or a similar basis found under State law;

“(ii) for whom it has been determined by written findings of fact in administrative or judicial proceedings that it would not be in the alien's best interest to be returned to the alien's or parent's previous country of nationality or country of last habitual residence; and

“(iii) with respect to a child in Federal custody, for whom the Office of Refugee Resettlement of the Department of Health and Human Services has certified to the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services that the classification of an alien as a special immigrant under this subparagraph has not been made solely to provide an immigration benefit to that alien.”

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in section 101(a)(27)(J) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended by paragraph (1), shall be construed to grant, to any natural parent or prior adoptive parent of any alien provided special immigrant status under such subparagraph, by virtue of such parent-

age, any right, privilege, or status under such Act.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—Section 245(h)(2)(A) (8 U.S.C. 1255(h)(2)(A)) is amended to read as follows:

“(A) paragraphs (4), (5)(A), (6)(A), (7)(A), 9(B), and 9(C)(i)(I) of section 212(a) shall not apply; and”.

(c) ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A child who has been certified under section 101(a)(27)(J) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended by subsection (a)(1), and who was in the custody of the Office at the time a dependency order was granted for such child, shall be eligible for placement and services under section 412(d) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(d)) until the earlier of—

(A) the date on which the child reaches the age designated in section 412(d)(2)(B) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1522(d)(2)(B)); or

(B) the date on which the child is placed in a permanent adoptive home.

(2) STATE REIMBURSEMENT.—If foster care funds are expended on behalf of a child who is not described in paragraph (1) and has been granted relief under section 101(a)(27)(J) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the Federal Government shall reimburse the State in which the child resides for such expenditures by the State.

(d) TRANSITION RULE.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a child described in section 101(a)(27)(J) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended by subsection (a)(1), may not be denied such special immigrant juvenile classification after the date of the enactment of this Act based on age if the child—

(1) filed an application for special immigrant juvenile classification before the date of the enactment of this Act and was 21 years of age or younger on the date such application was filed; or

(2) was younger than 21 years of age on the date on which the child applied for classification as a special immigrant juvenile and can demonstrate exceptional circumstances warranting relief.

(e) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate rules to carry out this section.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to all aliens who were in the United States before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 32. TRAINING FOR OFFICIALS AND CERTAIN PRIVATE PARTIES WHO COME INTO CONTACT WITH UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

(a) TRAINING OF STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS AND CERTAIN PRIVATE PARTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting jointly with the Secretary, shall provide appropriate training materials, and upon request, direct training, to State and county officials, child welfare specialists, teachers, public counsel, and juvenile judges who come into contact with unaccompanied alien children.

(2) CURRICULUM.—The training required under paragraph (1) shall include education on the processes pertaining to unaccompanied alien children with pending immigration status and on the forms of relief potentially available. The Director shall establish a core curriculum that can be incorporated into education, training, or orientation modules or formats that are currently used by these professionals.

(3) VIDEO CONFERENCING.—Direct training requested under paragraph (1) may be conducted through video conferencing.

(b) TRAINING OF DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL.—The Secretary, acting jointly with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall provide specialized training to all personnel

of the Department who come into contact with unaccompanied alien children. Training for agents of the Border Patrol and immigration inspectors shall include specific training on identifying—

(1) children at the international borders of the United States or at United States ports of entry who have been victimized by smugglers or traffickers; and

(2) children for whom asylum or special immigrant relief may be appropriate, including children described in section 11(a)(2)(A).

SEC. 33. REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives that contains, for the most recently concluded fiscal year—

(1) data related to the implementation of section 462 of the Homeland Security Act (6 U.S.C. 279);

(2) data regarding the care and placement of children under this title;

(3) data regarding the provision of child advocate and counsel services under this title; and

(4) any other information that the Director or the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines to be appropriate.

Subtitle D—Children Refugee and Asylum Seekers

SEC. 41. GUIDELINES FOR CHILDREN'S ASYLUM CLAIMS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress—

(1) commends the former Immigration and Naturalization Service for its “Guidelines for Children’s Asylum Claims”, issued in December 1998;

(2) encourages and supports the Department to implement such guidelines to facilitate the handling of children’s affirmative asylum claims;

(3) commends the Executive Office for Immigration Review of the Department of Justice for its “Guidelines for Immigration Court Cases Involving Unaccompanied Alien Children”, issued in September 2004;

(4) encourages and supports the continued implementation of such guidelines by the Executive Office for Immigration Review in its handling of children’s asylum claims before immigration judges; and

(5) understands that the guidelines described in paragraph (3)—

(A) do not specifically address the issue of asylum claims; and

(B) address the broader issue of unaccompanied alien children.

(b) TRAINING.—

(1) IMMIGRATION OFFICERS.—The Secretary shall provide periodic comprehensive training under the “Guidelines for Children’s Asylum Claims” to asylum officers and immigration officers who have contact with children in order to familiarize and sensitize such officers to the needs of children asylum seekers.

(2) IMMIGRATION JUDGES.—The Director of the Executive Office for Immigration Review shall—

(A) provide periodic comprehensive training under the “Guidelines for Immigration Court Cases Involving Unaccompanied Alien Children” and the “Guidelines for Children’s Asylum Claims” to immigration judges and members of the Board of Immigration Appeals; and

(B) redistribute the “Guidelines for Children’s Asylum Claims” to all immigration courts as part of its training of immigration judges.

(3) USE OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES.—Voluntary agencies shall be allowed to assist in the training described in this subsection.

(c) STATISTICS AND REPORTING.—

(1) STATISTICS.—

(A) DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.—The Attorney General shall compile and maintain statistics on the number of cases in immigration court involving unaccompanied alien children, which shall include, with respect to each such child, information about—

- (i) the age;
- (ii) the gender;
- (iii) the country of nationality;
- (iv) representation by counsel;
- (v) the relief sought; and
- (vi) the outcome of such cases.

(B) DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—

The Secretary shall compile and maintain statistics on the instances of unaccompanied alien children in the custody of the Department, which shall include, with respect to each such child, information about—

- (i) the age;
- (ii) the gender;
- (iii) the country of nationality; and
- (iv) the length of detention.

(2) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually, thereafter, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary, Secretary of Health and Human Services, and any other necessary government official, shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary House of Representatives on the number of alien children in Federal custody during the most recently concluded fiscal year. Information contained in the report, with respect to such children, shall be categorized by—

- (A) age;
- (B) gender;
- (C) country of nationality;
- (D) length of time in custody;
- (E) the department or agency with custody; and
- (F) treatment as an unaccompanied alien child.

SEC. 42. UNACCOMPANIED REFUGEE CHILDREN.

(a) IDENTIFYING UNACCOMPANIED REFUGEE CHILDREN.—Section 207(e) (8 U.S.C. 1157(e)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (4), (5), (6), (7), and (8), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) An analysis of the worldwide situation faced by unaccompanied refugee children, categorized by region, which shall include an assessment of—

“(A) the number of unaccompanied refugee children;

“(B) the capacity of the Department of State to identify such refugees;

“(C) the capacity of the international community to care for and protect such refugees;

“(D) the capacity of the voluntary agency community to resettle such refugees in the United States;

“(E) the degree to which the United States plans to resettle such refugees in the United States in the following fiscal year; and

“(F) the fate that will befall such unaccompanied refugee children for whom resettlement in the United States is not possible.”.

(b) TRAINING ON THE NEEDS OF UNACCOMPANIED REFUGEE CHILDREN.—Section 207(f)(2) (8 U.S.C. 1157(f)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” after “countries.”; and

(2) by inserting “, and instruction on the needs of unaccompanied refugee children” before the period at the end.

SEC. 43. EXCEPTIONS FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN IN ASYLUM AND REFUGEE-LIKE CIRCUMSTANCES.

(a) PLACEMENT IN REMOVAL PROCEEDINGS.—Any unaccompanied alien child apprehended by the Department, except for an unaccompanied alien child subject to exceptions under paragraph (1)(A) or (2) of section 11(a), shall be placed in removal proceedings under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a).

(b) EXCEPTION FROM TIME LIMIT FOR FILING ASYLUM APPLICATION.—Section 208 (8 U.S.C. 1158(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by adding at the end the following:

“(E) APPLICABILITY.—Subparagraphs (A) and (B) shall not apply to an unaccompanied alien child.”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(3), by adding at the end the following:

“(C) INITIAL JURISDICTION.—United States Citizenship and Immigration Services shall have initial jurisdiction over any asylum application filed by an unaccompanied alien child.”.

Subtitle E—Amendments to the Homeland Security Act of 2002

SEC. 51. ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES AND POWERS OF THE OFFICE OF REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT WITH RESPECT TO UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.

(a) ADDITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTOR.—Section 462(b)(1) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (K), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (L), by striking the period at the end and inserting “, including regular follow-up visits to such facilities, placements, and other entities, to assess the continued suitability of such placements; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(M) ensuring minimum standards of care for all unaccompanied alien children—

“(i) for whom detention is necessary; and

“(ii) who reside in settings that are alternative to detention.”.

(b) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR.—Section 462(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) AUTHORITY.—In carrying out the duties under paragraph (3), the Director may—

“(A) contract with service providers to perform the services described in sections 12, 13, 21, and 22 of the Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act of 2007; and

“(B) compel compliance with the terms and conditions set forth in section 13 of such Act, by—

“(i) declaring providers to be in breach and seek damages for noncompliance;

“(ii) terminating the contracts of providers that are not in compliance with such conditions; or

“(iii) reassigning any unaccompanied alien child to a similar facility that is in compliance with such section.”.

SEC. 52. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.

Section 462(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(b)), as amended by section 51, is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by striking “paragraph (1)(G)” and inserting “paragraph (1)”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in paragraph (2)(B) may be construed to require that a bond be posted for unaccompanied alien children who are released to a qualified sponsor.”.

SEC. 53. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this subtitle shall take effect as if included in the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.).

Subtitle F—Prison Sexual Abuse Prevention**SEC. 61. SHORT TITLE.**

This subtitle may be cited as the “Prison Sexual Abuse Prevention Act of 2007”.

SEC. 62. SEXUAL ABUSE.

Sections 2241, 2242, 2243, and 2244 of title 18, United States Code, are each amended by striking “the Attorney General” each place that term appears and inserting “the head of any Federal department or agency”.

Subtitle G—Authorization of Appropriations**SEC. 71. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Health and Human Services, such sums as may be necessary to carry out—

(1) the provisions of section 462 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279); and

(2) the provisions of this title.

(b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.

SA 1147. Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 849, to promote accessibility, accountability, and openness in Government by strengthening section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the Freedom of Information Act), and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table, as follows:

Strike section 6 and insert the following:

SEC. 6. TIME LIMITS FOR AGENCIES TO ACT ON REQUESTS.**(a) TIME LIMITS.—**

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 552(a)(6)(A)(i) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by striking “determine within 20 days (excepting Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays) after the receipt of any such request” and inserting “within the 20-day period commencing on the date on which the request is first received by the agency (excepting Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays), which shall not be tolled without the consent of the party filing the request, determine”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this subsection shall take effect 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) APPLICABILITY OF AGENCY FEES.—

(1) LIMITATION.—Section 552(a)(4)(A) of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(viii) An agency shall refund any fees collected under this subparagraph if the agency fails to comply with any time limit that applies under paragraph (6). Such refunds shall be paid from annual appropriations provided to that agency.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICATION.—The amendment made by this subsection shall take effect 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and shall apply to requests for information under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, filed on or after that effective date.

SA 1148. Mrs. McCASKILL (for herself and Mr. DODD) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1348, to promote for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 123, strike line 5 and all that follows through page 124, line 6, and insert the following:

“(1) EMPLOYERS.—Whenever an employer who does not hold Federal contracts, grants,

or cooperative agreements is determined by the Secretary to be a repeat violator of this section or is convicted of a crime under this section, the employer shall be subject to debarment from the receipt of Federal contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements for a period of not less than 5 years in accordance with the procedures and standards prescribed by the Federal Acquisition Regulations. The Secretary or the Attorney General shall advise the Administrator of General Services of any such debarment, and the Administrator of General Services shall list the employer on the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Nonprocurement Programs for the period of the debarment.

“(2) CONTRACTORS AND RECIPIENTS.—Whenever an employer who holds Federal contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements is determined by the Secretary to be a repeat violator of this section or is convicted of a crime under this section, the employer shall be subject to debarment from the receipt of Federal contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements for a period of not less than 5 years in accordance with the procedures and standards prescribed by the Federal Acquisition Regulations. Prior to debarring the employer, the Secretary, in cooperation with the Administrator of General Services, shall advise all agencies holding contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements with the employer of the proceedings to debar the employer from the receipt of new Federal contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements for a period of not less than 5 years.”.

SA 1149. Mrs. McCASKILL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 1348, to promote for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 281, between lines 40 and 41, insert the following:

(vi) MISDEMEANOR OFFENSE.—The alien shall admit to a misdemeanor offense for being in the United States illegally, and such offense shall be punishable by at least 416 hours of community service.

SA 1150. Mr. REID (for Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. SPECTER)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1348, to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes; as follows:

(The amendment will be printed in a future edition of the RECORD.)

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS**

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs be authorized to hold an off-the-floor markup during the session of the Senate on Monday, May 21, 2007, at 5:30 p.m., in S-216 of the Capitol, to consider pending committee business.

Agenda**Nomination**

Howard C. Weizmann to be Deputy Director, Office of Personnel Management.

Post Office naming bills

(1) S. 1352, a bill to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 127 East Locust Street In Fairbury, Illinois, as the “Dr. Francis Townsend Post Office Building”;

(2) H.R. 1402, a bill to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 320 South Lecanto Highway in Lecanto, Florida, as the “Sergeant Dennis J. Flanagan Lecanto Post Office Building”;

(3) H.R. 625, a bill to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 4230 Maine Avenue in Baldwin Park, California, as the “Atanacio Haro-Marin Post Office”;

(4) H.R. 988, a bill to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 5757 Tilton Avenue in Riverside, California, as the “Lieutenant Todd Jason Bryant Post Office”;

(5) H.R. 437, a bill to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 500 West Eisenhower Street in Rio Grande City, Texas, as the “Lino Perez Jr. Post Office”;

(6) H.R. 414, a bill to designate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service located at 60 Calle McKinley West in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico, as the “Miguel Angel Garcia Mendez Post Office Building.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Ellen Gallagher, a detailee to my staff from the Department of Homeland Security, be given floor privileges for the duration of debate on the comprehensive immigration reform bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

POSTHUMOUSLY AWARDING A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO CONSTANTINO BRUMIDI

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 150, S. 254.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KLOBUCHAR). The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 254) to award posthumously a Congressional gold medal to Constantino Brumidi.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill which had been reported from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, with an amendment on page 5, line 13 to strike “Unites” and insert in lieu thereof “United”.

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to, the bill as amended be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid on the table, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.