

their dedicated service during World War II.

S. 1215

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1215, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to repeal a certain exemption for hydraulic fracturing, and for other purposes.

S. 1375

At the request of Mr. ROBERTS, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1375, a bill to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 to reauthorize State mediation programs.

S. 1379

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1379, a bill to encourage energy efficiency and conservation and development of renewable energy sources for housing, commercial structures, and other buildings, and to create sustainable communities.

S. 1532

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1532, a bill to establish partnerships to create or enhance educational and skills development pathways to 21st century careers, and for other purposes.

S. 1652

At the request of Mr. HARKIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1652, a bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to provide full Federal funding of such part.

S. 1683

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1683, a bill to apply recaptured taxpayer investments toward reducing the national debt.

S. 1692

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 1692, a bill to extend the sunset of certain provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act and the authority to issue national security letters, and for other purposes.

S. 1709

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1709, a bill to amend the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 to establish a grant program to promote efforts to develop, implement, and sustain veterinary services, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 263

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Montana

(Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 263, a resolution designating October 2009 as "National Medicine Abuse Awareness Month".

S. RES. 295

At the request of Mr. BAYH, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 295, a resolution designating October 13, 2009, as "National Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day".

S. RES. 296

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 296, a resolution designating October 2009 as "National Work and Family Month".

AMENDMENT NO. 2555

At the request of Mr. SPECTER, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2555 proposed to H.R. 3326, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2560

At the request of Mr. COCHRAN, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. MCCASKILL) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 2560 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3326, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2561

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2561 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3326, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2562

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, his name was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2562 proposed to H.R. 3326, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 2582

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 2582 intended to be proposed to H.R. 3326, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2010, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. FRANKEN (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 1737. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act

and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to increase the number of children eligible for free school meals, with a phased-in transition period; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. FRANKEN. Mr. President, in a country as wealthy as ours, it is shameful to let any child go hungry. That is why today, Senator MURKOWSKI and I are introducing the Expand School Meals Act. By eliminating the reduced price meals category and replacing it with the free meal program, this legislation will ensure that low-income children are not denied nutritious food during the school day if their family can't afford to pay for it.

It is important to remember that this will improve student readiness for school. Parents have long known, and recent studies confirm, that children cannot learn on empty stomachs. Hungry children perform worse on achievement tests, have trouble concentrating, and are more likely to act out in school. Securing access to healthy foods for low-income children is therefore not only a means of reducing child hunger, but also an important strategy for narrowing the achievement gap.

There are 3.1 million low-income children across the Nation, and 54,000 children in Minnesota are eligible for reduced-price school meals. This means that the families of these children pay for part of their children's school meals. Currently, these families must pay 40 cents for each lunch and 30 cents for each breakfast their children eat at school. While this may not sound like a lot of money to members of Congress, to a family that is barely scraping by, especially in today's economy, the cost can be prohibitive.

In this tough economy, a growing number of these families simply can no longer afford to pay. Low-income children in Minnesota and across the country are increasingly being turned away from school lunch counters because they don't have enough money in their meal accounts. In some districts, children in the reduced price meal program are humiliated when they are forced to pay small fees in front of their peers, or when they are handed cheese sandwiches instead of regular meals on the days they cannot afford to pay. It then becomes abundantly clear to all of their peers in the lunchroom that they are in the reduced price program. Teachers in Minnesota and elsewhere have reported that many children choose to avoid this stigma by just skipping meals.

The indecency of turning away children from the school lunch counter becomes all too evident when one hears the stories of the food service workers and teachers who have to confront these children directly. In the Roseville, Minnesota, school district, for example, schools recently reported that parents with health problems showed up at the district office unable to pay for reduced-price lunch. The families,

however, had too much income to qualify for the free lunch program. The district policy is that children who cannot pay for school lunches can receive cheese sandwiches for three days, and then must be turned away. Roseville cashiers and food service managers have been using their own money to cover children who they know cannot pay.

This situation is entirely unacceptable. It is unacceptable not only because we are allowing children to go hungry today, but also because we know the impact of this hunger on their future. We know that insufficient access to food will negatively affect their development, as well as their educational outcomes, which together will have a lasting impact on their ability to reach their potential.

Recent studies show just how devastating the impact of food insecurity is on the academic and social outcomes of school children. For example, researchers at Cornell and the University of Michigan found that children ages 6 to 11 who lacked sufficient food had significantly lower arithmetic scores, and were more likely to have repeated a grade than their peers. Furthermore, they found that teenagers who lacked sufficient food were almost three times as likely to have been suspended from school. Similarly, researchers at Harvard Medical School, and Massachusetts General Hospital found that children who, according to their parents, were experiencing hunger, were two to four times more likely than other children to repeat a grade, access special education services, or receive mental health counseling.

Based on this research, it is clear that child hunger must be one of the factors that we address if we are serious about closing the achievement gap and giving every child in America a genuine opportunity to succeed.

I would like to conclude by commending my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their leadership in advocating for the extension of free school meals to children of the working poor. These efforts began with Senator Elizabeth Dole, who in 2003 introduced a bill that would have also phased out the reduced price meals category. And in 2004, Senator Dole advocated for a provision to be included in the Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act that authorized a 5 State pilot project to test the feasibility of eliminating the reduced price category. Funding for this project, unfortunately, was never appropriated.

Some States and districts therefore decided to take matters into their own hands. I am proud to represent a State that decided to eliminate the reduced price category for school breakfasts. Based on the experience of these localities, we have learned that expanding eligibility for free meals to children in the reduced price category significantly increases their participation in school breakfast and lunch programs.

In light of the experiences of these localities, and the difficult economic

times, I am hopeful that this will be the year that we expand eligibility for free school meals. I urge all of my colleagues to join us in this endeavor and do right by our children.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 1747. A bill for the relief of Javier Lopez-Urenda and Maria Leticia Arenas; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, today I am introducing a private relief bill on behalf of Javier Lopez-Urenda and his wife, Maria Leticia Arenas. Mr. Lopez-Urenda and his wife are Mexican nationals living in Fremont, California, and the loving parents of three U.S. citizen children, Bryan, age 16, Ashley, age 12, and Nancy, age 6.

I have decided to introduce this private bill to ensure that this family stays together because they have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to each other and the greater community in the Bay area. I believe Mr. Lopez-Urenda and Ms. Arenas merit Congress' special consideration for such an extraordinary form of relief as a private bill.

Javier Lopez-Urenda was born in Michoacán, Mexico. When he was 19 years old, his father was stabbed and murdered while working as a cab driver. In 1990, at the age of 23, Mr. Lopez-Urenda came to the United States to find a higher paying job to support his extended family. Leticia Arenas came to the U.S. at the age of 17 after her mother died of cancer. Mr. Lopez-Urenda and Ms. Arenas have now been living in the U.S. for almost 20 years.

Mr. Lopez-Urenda is the sole financial provider for his wife and three U.S. citizen children and owns his own home. For over 17 years, Mr. Lopez-Urenda has worked at Full Bloom Baking Company, a commercial bakery in San Mateo, California, and was the second employee that they hired. With Mr. Lopez-Urenda's help, the company grew to one of the largest commercial bakeries in the Bay Area, which currently employs approximately 385 people in the bay area.

Full Bloom Baking Company has stated:

Javier is critical to the operation of our business. . . . He holds a tremendous amount of 'institutional knowledge' that can never be replaced. He mentors and develops Team members, conducts training classes, and has deep understanding of complex industrial baking equipment and is an expert on how to produce wonderful artisan quality products from the intricate interactions of formula, people and equipment.

Mr. Lopez-Urenda's coworkers have also written to me about his value to the company. Coleen Donnelly writes:

I am lucky enough to have worked with Javier briefly at the bakery he helped build from the ground up. I always knew he was in the room before I saw him. His presence is such a positive force. He has the natural ability to manage and lead people and make it all seem like play, not work. Without Javier at the bakery, the lives of hundreds of people will change.

With the encouragement of his employer, Mr. Lopez-Urenda sought legal

advice in 1996 in an attempt to legalize his status. However, the enactment of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act, IIRIRA, eliminated his ability to apply for suspension of deportation.

Mr. Lopez-Urenda also attempted to legalize through his employer, but the labor certification remained unadjudicated for nearly three years. Once the Department of Labor granted his labor certification, Mr. Lopez-Urenda could have legalized his status but for the fact that his removal case had already been resolved against him due to the change in law.

When the Ninth Circuit Court denied his appeal, the Court acknowledged the compelling circumstances of Mr. Lopez-Urenda's case. The court stated:

We are not unmindful of the unique and extremely sympathetic circumstances of this case. By all accounts, Petitioner has been an exemplary father, employee, and member of his local community. If he were to be deported, he would be separated from his wife, three U.S. citizen children, and the life he has worked so hard to build over the past seventeen years. In light of the unfortunate sequence of events leading up this juncture and Petitioner's positive contributions to society, Petition may very well be deserving of prosecutorial grace.

Unfortunately, Mr. Lopez-Urenda faces deportation today despite his sympathetic circumstances and the significant positive contributions that he and his family have made to society.

These contributions to the San Mateo and Fremont communities have truly been exceptional. He is an active volunteer for the Women's Foundation of California, Lance Armstrong's Livestrong Foundation, the Saint Patrick Proto Cathedral Parish, the American Red Cross, and just last year he was one of the key organizers of the California AIDS Ride.

Ms. Arenas has also volunteered in the community as a religious school teacher at Our Lady of the Rosary Church, a health promoter at the Tiburcio Vasquez Health Center, and a sexual assault counselor at Bay Area Woman Against Rape.

My office has received 46 letters of support on behalf of this family staying together in the community that they have helped build. Below are a few notable excerpts from the letters I have received reflecting the impact of this family on the community:

Patricia W. Change, CEO of Feed the Hunger Foundation, former President/CEO of the Women's Foundation of California, and a prior San Francisco Commissioner and U.S. Commissioner writes:

Mr. Urenda has always operated with the highest integrity. Asking Mr. Urenda to leave the United States would deprive his children of their father, an upstanding resident of the country. It would deprive the community of an active participant, leader, and volunteer.

The Bay Area Women Against Rape indicates that Leticia has been "successful, available, [and] committed to the cause of breaking the silence of sexual abuse in our community."

Judy Patrick, President/CEO of the Women's Foundation of California, writes:

Javier Urenda is fulfilling tremendous needs within his community. He is a model participant in this society.

Christine Bozzini, a friend and former coworker of Mr. Lopez-Urenda, writes:

Javier strives to create a meaningful and rewarding life with his children, focusing on supporting them in their studies, as well as a variety of athletic pursuits and personal interests. For example, over the last few years he has taken great pride in traveling to various U.S. monuments in order to teach his children about the birth of their country.

One of the other compelling reasons for permitting these parents to remain in the United States is the impact that deportation would have on their three U.S. citizen minor children, Bryan, Ashley, and Nancy.

All too often, U.S. citizen children face the loss of a parent through deportation. A January 2009 report by the Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General found that, over the last 10 years, 108,434 immigrant parents of U.S. citizen children were removed from this country.

A separate report completed this year by Dorsey & Whitney LLP for the Urban Institute affirms what many of us know—the deportation of a parent is deeply traumatic and causes long-lasting harm to U.S. citizen children.

Mr. John Arthur Balano, Head Coach and Faculty Instructor at the City College of San Francisco, has known Mr. Lopez-Urenda through his volunteer work at Washington High School in Fremont, California. He has stated that Mr. Lopez-Urenda “actively participates in the daily life of his children. Be it school, domestic, or extracurricular activities, socialization and citizenship, Javier is always furthering their growth.”

In addition, Ms. Marlene Davis, the Principal of Patterson Elementary School, where two of the Lopez-Urenda children currently attend, has written me, stating that:

Mr. Lopez-Urenda and his wife are very involved in their children's lives and school work. If they were not, the children would not be doing as well as they are. I think without his presence, the children would definitely fare very poorly indeed both because of the psychological shock of having their father taken away but also academically because their mother would not be as available and one half of their scholastic support would be missing. . . . This would be a terrible strategy which could be avoided if the children are able to remain in the same stable environment with two loving and supportive parents who are committed to their children's success.

Enactment of the legislation I am introducing today on behalf of Mr. Lopez-Urenda and Maria Leticia Arenas will enable this family to continue to remain in the U.S. and make positive contributions to each other and their extensive community in Fremont, California.

Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to support this private bill.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill and let-

ters of support be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 1747

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

SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENT STATUS FOR JAVIER LOPEZ-URENDA AND MARIA LETICIA ARENAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsections (a) and (b) of section 201 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151), Javier Lopez-Urenda and Maria Leticia Arenas shall each be eligible for issuance of an immigrant visa or for adjustment of status to that of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence upon filing an application for issuance of an immigrant visa under section 204 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) or for adjustment of status to lawful permanent resident.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Javier Lopez-Urenda or Maria Leticia Arenas enter the United States before the filing deadline specified in subsection (c), that alien shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1255) as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.—Subsections (a) and (b) shall apply only to an application for issuance of an immigrant visa or an application for adjustment of status that is filed, with appropriate fees, within 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) REDUCTION OF IMMIGRANT VISA NUMBER.—Upon the granting of an immigrant visa or permanent residence to Javier Lopez-Urenda or Maria Leticia Arenas, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by one, during the current or next following fiscal year, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of that alien's birth under section 203(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)) or, if applicable, the total number of immigrant visas that are made available to natives of the country of that alien's birth under section 202(e) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1152(e)).

FULLBLOOM BAKING COMPANY,
Newark, CA, July 20, 2009.

Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
San Francisco, CA.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: I am writing you to ask for your help to support my key employee and friend, Javier Lopez-Urenda, and his family in their efforts to lawfully remain in the United States. Mr. Lopez-Urenda's case is extremely sympathetic. He had the misfortune of beginning the process of legalizing his status in the summer of 1996. It was prior to the enactment of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA). As you know, IIRIRA brought a sea of change to our immigration laws, which has now left Javier, his wife and their three U.S. citizen children facing the imminent prospect of being forced to leave the U.S., essentially forever.

Mr. Lopez-Urenda challenged the retroactive application of IIRIRA to his case, but the Ninth Circuit Court has recently ruled against him. While the Ninth Circuit case was pending, based on humanitarian concerns and his extensive community involvement, he sought deferred action of his removal from the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (USICE). He requested that the agency exercise its prosecutorial

discretion to grant a request for deferred action, considering Javier's immigration history, length of U.S. residence, criminal history, and cooperation with law enforcement, future admissibility, community attention and humanitarian concerns. However, the agency denied his request and has issued a surrender notice for Monday, May 24, 2004.

The Labor certification that my company, FullBloom Baking Company filed for Javier on April 26, 2001, after 3 long years, was finally granted on March 19, 2004. We immediately filed a petition to immigrate Javier with the California Service Center. Our lawyers have also filed a motion to reopen and request for stay at the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) for Javier, but I am told that it is unlikely the BIA will grant such a motion if the USICE does not join or does not oppose this motion. Therefore, I am requesting that you call officials at USICE and urge them join or to not oppose Javier's motion to reopen now pending before the BIA. (Contact names and numbers attached). We acknowledge that this type of action is only taken in the most extraordinary cases, but as you will see below, Javier is an extraordinary individual and a very well-respected member of his community.

Javier, a 42-year-old native of Mexico, first came to the U.S. in March of 1990 and resides in Fremont, CA with his wife and three U.S. citizen children, Bryan who is sixteen, Ashley who is twelve, and Nancy who is six. In 1996, Javier sought the advice of an immigration attorney and started the process to legalize his status. Javier appeared at an immigration hearing on January 29, 1999, where he attempted to file for suspension of deportation but was informed that because his court proceedings did not begin until September 7, 1997; he was not eligible for that relief. However, the Immigration Judge remarked that “[t]he Court believes that . . . he would have been a good candidate for that relief and appears to be a good person who would contribute to this country in a meaningful and positive way.” Javier appealed the decision to the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), but the BIA dismissed the case on February 14, 2002. Javier's employer, FullBloom Baking Company, filed a labor certification for Javier on April 26, 2001 which would make him eligible for permanent residence, but the application has not yet been approved. On March 15, 2002, Javier filed a Petition for Review with the Ninth Circuit, which was dismissed. He subsequently filed a petition for rehearing en banc which was dismissed on January 2, 2004.

Javier has been a resident of the U.S. for more than 19 years, and has never departed the U.S. since his first entry. He has worked at FullBloom for the past 17 years where he now is the Production Process Manager, managing the transition of recipes from the R&D bench top prototypes to fully scaled up production runs. He supervises four line supervisors and up to 210 production employees in the company's daily production of more than 346,000 pieces of artisan organic and natural pastries that are distributed to a wide range of grocery stores & cafes including FullBloom's largest client, Starbucks Coffee Company (Nationally). Javier is critical to the operation of our business which has grown from an idea in 1989 to a run rate of over \$55MM/year in gross revenue. He holds a tremendous amount of “institutional memory” that can never be replaced. He mentors and develops Team members, conducts training classes, has deep understanding of complex industrial baking equipment and is an expert on how to produce wonderful artisan quality products from the intricate interactions of formula, people and equipment.

He is an outstanding member of his community; Javier has helped to raise money for

numerous local organizations and participates in the annual AIDS Ride. He volunteers regularly with his son's swim team, the local homeless shelters; Lance Armstrong's Livestrong Foundation and is an active member of his local church. He has absolutely no criminal history and has always attended his court hearings and, with the help of his employer, has tried repeatedly to legalize his status, but has been the victim of changes in the law and a slow-moving labor certification system. Moreover, Javier's removal from the U.S. would render him effectively ineligible for future immigration as he has more than one year of unlawful presence and is subject to the ten-year bar to admissibility. Most importantly, Javier's removal from the U.S. would cause emotional and financial hardship to his family, especially his three U.S. Citizen children. If his family remains in the U.S. and he is removed, they would be unable to support themselves, and more importantly, his U.S. citizen children would be separated from their devoted father at a critical point in their lives. On the other hand, if his children accompany him to Mexico, they would suffer extreme hardship in adjusting to life in a completely foreign country at the ages of sixteen, twelve and six.

I thank you for your interest in and willingness to review Javier's case. I will contact you to further discuss this case once you have had a chance to review this letter. You may also feel free to contact me at any time.

Sincerely,

KAREN TRILEVSKY,
Founder & CEO.

JULY 22, 2009.

Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
San Francisco, CA.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: In February of this year, I stood and applauded as you accepted the Anne B. Stanton Award for Extraordinary Leadership and Dedication to Bay Area Youth given to you by Larkin Street Youth Services. It was a great moment, knowing the history of your involvement with the agency and how it has allowed Larkin Street to survive and flourish. As everyone knows, your actions were critical in securing the future of this organization and the futures of the many people it serves.

I am asking you now to consider another very important intervention. Javier Urenda is set to be deported from this country next week after 19 years of living here as a responsible citizen. This action defies reason. He has a family, a career, owns his home and gives back to the community through volunteer work. He is exactly the kind of person this country needs more of, not fewer!

I am lucky enough to have worked with Javier briefly at the bakery he helped build from the ground up. I always knew he was in the room before I saw him. His presence is such a positive force. He has the natural ability to manage and lead people and make it all seem like play, not work. Without Javier at the bakery, the lives of hundreds of people will change.

His family has relied on him to provide for them and he has never let them down. The Urendas are part of their community, part of what makes up this country as it has evolved. To send him away is moving backwards. I urge you to take action to reverse this destructive trend towards tearing apart families that have the same right to be here as you and I do.

Senator Feinstein, this is a defining moment. Javier is not the only one unfairly facing deportation. Many before have been forced to leave and if this practice is left unchecked many more will follow.

Please help. All of us who care about this issue are grateful for your consideration.

Sincerely,

COLEEN DONNELLY.

FEED THE HUNGER FOUNDATION,
San Francisco, CA, July 22, 2009.

Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: I am respectfully writing to you, as a citizen, a prior San Francisco Commissioner and a Commissioner of the United States, a former President & CEO of the Women's Foundation of California, and the current CEO of Feed The Hunger Foundation. I am writing in support of Javier Urenda Lopez and urging you to allow Mr. Urenda to remain in the United States as a lawful permanent resident, eligible for citizenship to the United States of America.

Mr. Urenda deserves to be in the United States on both procedural as well as personal grounds.

Mr. Urenda recently received an approved labor certification (pending for the last three years), and is finally eligible for adjustment of status. However, the recently issued "surrender notice" takes effect on July 29, 2009. Had the approved labor certification been approved in a timely manner, this current ordeal would have been unnecessary. If the Board were to reopen his case, he could adjust his status immediately and be a lawful permanent resident.

I have had the honor and pleasure of knowing Mr. Urenda over the past ten years as an employee of FullBloom Baking Co., a volunteer of the Women's Foundation of California, an active community member and a friend.

Mr. Urenda has, in the time that I have known him, been the Managing Director of FullBloom Baking Co., supervising and mentoring over 190 employees. His intellect, ability and hunger to learn, and perhaps most importantly, his motivation and spirit, has enabled FullBloom Baking Co. to become a multi-million dollar business and a major contributor to communities in California. FullBloom Baking Company is a leader in the field of small businesses both in terms of its treatment and advancement of employees, and in being a model corporate citizen. No other company of which I am aware, provides free bilingual courses in both English and Spanish, computers, dentistry, a matching pension program, and numerous gifts to all of their employees and to their respective family members as FullBloom Baking Co. In addition, this company contributes nearly \$1 million per year to the community. Mr. Urenda has made this possible.

I first met Mr. Urenda when he personally delivered baked goods to the graduation party of 50 participants of the Women's Foundation of California's welfare to work program. Mr. Urenda could have sent one of his company's drivers to deliver these donated goods. However, he wanted to support those individuals who were struggling to gain skills and become active contributors to the economy of this country—just as he has done. Mr. Urenda has, since that time, become a volunteer to the Women's Foundation of California, serving on a committee determining which non-governmental organizations would receive funding and assistance from the foundation as well as mentoring young adults. Mr. Urenda has always operated with the highest integrity. He is reliable, hard working, and creative.

Mr. Urenda is an individual who contributes all of himself to all of his endeavors. He has involved himself in the arena of sports: engaging in five day bike-a-thons to raise money for AIDS; running in races for his

community and others; and coaching swimming and soccer meets. He consistently takes classes at night to improve his skills and resources in management, business development, and in the arts.

On top of all that I described, Mr. Urenda is a devoted father to three children of the United States who he is teaching to be upstanding citizens of this country. Asking Mr. Urenda to leave the United States would deprive his children of his guidance, love, and mentorship. It would deprive his children of their father, an upstanding resident of this country. It would deprive the community of an active participant, leader, and volunteer. It would deprive FullBloom Baking Co. and its employees of an unparalleled decision maker, manager, and mentor. And it would deprive our country of an individual who lives up to the very values and standards that make the United States a great nation.

If Mr. Urenda's family were to leave with him, it would cause an extreme hardship to his wife and three children, aged 6, 12 and 16. His children would leave the only country they have ever known, to go to a country that they have never visited and where they do not speak the language. Bryan, his eldest son, would be unable to receive treatment for a learning disability for which he has been diagnosed.

Thank you for your kind attention and assistance to this matter. If you have any questions about Mr. Urenda, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

PATRICIA W. CHANG,
President & CEO.

JULY 21, 2009.

Re request for assistance in the case of
 Javier Lopez-Urenda and family.

Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
San Francisco, CA.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: It is with the utmost faith that I submit this letter to you, with the hope that you will prevent a potentially devastating tragedy with exponential ramifications from occurring by sponsoring a private bill for my former coworker and friend, Javier Lopez-Urenda. It is my understanding that at this time, the only hope for this upstanding family man, leader, and community volunteer to remain in the U.S. is through a private bill. Please sponsor this outstanding person and prevent the senseless tragedy of losing such a valuable contributor to our country.

During these past years of a complex legal battle, I have often reflected on the irony that a person who so greatly embodies the ideal citizen could be ejected from our country. Javier is more than a model citizen. He goes beyond what any average person would do to better his community, his workplace, the lives of his family members, and himself. Every year, Javier participates in charity events such as the AIDS ride and the Providian Relay supporting organ donation, as well as being an active member in his church and a frequent contributor to many local food banks. At FullBloom Baking Company, where we worked together for eight years, Javier's leadership helped to launch the company and to propel it into its newest phase of growth and success in a new cutting edge facility, where staff and production levels have recently doubled.

I've literally never known a more dedicated and loving father. Javier strives to create a meaningful and rewarding life with his children, focusing conscientiously on supporting them in their studies, as well as a variety of athletic pursuits and personal interests. For example, over the last few years he has taken great pride in traveling to various U.S. monuments in order to teach his

children about the great country of their birth. I can think of nothing more destructive and unfair to Bryan, 16; Ashley, 11; and Nancy, 5; than to either face separation from their father, or to be forced to leave their country of origin, the only country they have ever known.

During the years I've know Javier, he has been a great inspiration to me and many others, sharing his captivating warmth, his compassionate support for those who need help, and his passion for learning (English, French, neuroscience, politics—you name it!). To this day, I attribute my fluency in Spanish to him, telling people, "Everything I know, I learned from Javier". The thought that he, a person who exemplifies the spirit and the triumph of America, is threatened with deportation brings tears to my eyes and keeps me up at night. It is utterly unfathomable the extent to which our legal system has failed Javier and his family, leading to this urgent plea for your support to quite literally "save" them.

Please help to prevent this potentially disgraceful tragedy through your crucial sponsorship.

Sincerely,

CHRISTINA BOZZINI,
Psychotherapist.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL
EDUCATION, ATHLETICS AND DANCE,
San Francisco, CA, July 22, 2009.

Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
San Francisco, CA.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE,
Immigration and Customs Enforcement,
Sansome Street, San Francisco, CA.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: I am exceedingly humbled by opportunity to write this letter on behalf of Javier Urenda. It has been my good fortune to know Javier the past 18 years. During this time I have been continually astounded at his remarkable embrace of the very values we all share as citizens of our great land.

As a person commitment to his family, their wellbeing, and Javier actively participates in the daily life of his children. Be it school, domestic, or extra-curricular activities, socialization and citizenship, Javier is always furthering their growth. His belief in family as a solid foundation, where meals and private time is shared. Javier fundamentally understands that these critical, formative years are critical to his children's future so that they may fully embrace the untold opportunities our great country affords our citizens. Javier's belief is that when children feel truly loved in the home, with a solid foundation of right and wrong therefore, creating an intrinsic obstacle to the many pestiferous temptations that the youths of today encounter.

As well, Javier is a good husband, who works hard to provide not only the material but, assuring that there is always calm, reason, and attentiveness. Javier affection can be found in simply hand picking flower rather than the ostentatious. I have witnessed thoughtful his response in uncomfortable situations rather than pugnacious. Always respecting and embracing the other point of view, nurturing too, the love of his wife. It's that constant striving for synergy that constantly amazes me.

As a member of academia, I am proud that Javier continually seeks knowledge and makes time to further his education. He fundamentally understands that knowledge is power and with that, his affect and direct contribution to society magnified. I subscribe to the notion that each and every single citizen contributes to our society; and the more knowledgeable the individual, society's enrichment as a whole is not insignificant. In my lifetime, with extreme con-

fidence, Javier is a shining example to that end.

The strong sense of community in Javier is expressed by his deeds. He was volunteer coach for me when I was the Head Track and Field Coach at Washington High School in Fremont, California. There, Javier assisted with the distance runners who had many levels of athleticism and talent. His grassroots approach and caring for each student/athlete as an individual and maximizing their own individual potential made that diverse group flourish. Beyond the track, they had the highest GPA on the team. To this day, I firmly believe that Javier's influence in embracing challenge and to look at it not as an obstacle but, as an opportunity, played a significant role in their academic success.

Holding dear the notion of our country's diversity, Javier has participated in several AIDS Rides, personally raising thousands of dollars to contribute to fighting that virulent disease. Annually, he volunteered for a transition station with the Provident Relay which supports organ donation. At present he continues to support a myriad of other events and community fund-raisers through his running and cycling efforts. He lends time too, to the less fortunate in feeding the homeless within the community. All the while, Javier shuns kudos for his efforts and is embarrassed by any attention as he believes that is what a neighbor typically does for his fellow human being.

Penning this letter to you gives me great pride. In our United States, during these very trying times, Javier Lopez-Urenda is a beacon for responsibility, accountability, compassion, and active citizenship.

I hope that I have conveyed to you my thoughts on Javier and why he should remain a part of our country. He has contributed to our society immensely thus far by being who he is; a person with strong family values understands the significance of education, volunteerism, and hard work in making the United States the leader of the free world it is today. It is those very tenets that many of us hold dear; yet Javier embodies them. He has been encouraging to each person he meets, be it in passing or those in need and a trusted and loyal friend.

There are citizens in our land from all walks of life, from every possible background and social status that comprise the bedrock in continuing to make our country strong. Javier is the type of person that makes us a better land and continues to remain a shining light of limitless opportunity.

I pray that the good Lord will allow for the rendering of a favorable decision to allow Javier to remain in the country that I love.

Thank you so very much in allowing me to be a voice for my dear friend.

Respectfully,

JOHN ARTHUR BALANO,
City College of San Francisco.

PATTERSON SCHOOL,
Fremont, CA, August 25, 2009.

Re Javier Lopez-Urenda.

Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
San Francisco, CA.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN, I am writing on behalf of Javier Lopez-Urenda's United States citizen children. They have all attended Patterson Elementary School. Nancy, the youngest, is currently in first grade this year. Ashley graduated from sixth grade last year. Bryan graduated about five years ago.

The Lopez-Urenda children have sometimes struggled academically, particularly Bryan. However, as a result of keen parental involvement, they are doing well. Mr. Lopez-Urenda has volunteered his time as a coach for after-school sports that Bryan was involved in. Teachers have reported that he

and his wife are actively involved in their children's school activities and meet with teachers in order to support their children's schoolwork and try to help them address areas of concern.

All the children have been a pleasure to have in school. As an educator, I can tell you that I have witnessed the spectrum of parental involvement from parents who are actively involved in their children's lives to those who are at best minimally engaged in their children's activities. Javier Lopez-Urenda and his wife are very involved in their children's lives and schoolwork. If they were not, the children would not be doing as well as they are. I think without his presence, the children would definitely fare very poorly indeed both because of the psychological shock of having their father taken away but also academically because their mother would not be as available and one half of their scholastic support would be missing. In my experience, that void is generally filled with bad behavior, bad influences, poor decisions and academic deterioration. With three children who struggle in school already, I honestly cannot foresee anything positive for the children in the future if their father is no longer living with them and supporting their academic milestones. Rather, I imagine it would be quite possible that they would drop out or flunk out. This would be a terrible tragedy which could be avoided if the children are able to remain in the same stable environment with two loving and supportive parents who are committed to their children's success.

Sincerely,

MARLENE C. DAVIS,
Principal.

BAY AREA WOMEN AGAINST RAPE,
Oakland, CA, July 21, 2009.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service,
St. Albans, VT.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN: This letter pertains to Javier L Urenda and it gives me great pleasure to furnish you with pertinent facts and information about this extraordinary supporter of the oldest rape crisis center in the nation, Bay Area Women Against Rape (BAWAR).

I have known Mr. Urenda for nearly a year. I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Urenda through his wife Leticia Arena at that time when she was taking our intensive state certified rape crisis training. One of the things that is crucial towards the successful completion of our training is the support that trainees receive from their family members. Not only are participants trained for three months, but they are also in commitment to volunteer 36 hours per month for 9 consecutive months after their certification. I believe that without the support that Mr. Urenda gave to Leticia during her training and during her volunteer activities at our agency she would not had been as successful, available or committed to the cause of breaking the silence of sexual abuse in our community.

In addition, Mr. Urenda not only gives constant support to his wife's social responsibility, but he also is an active participant in our fundraising events. Mr. Urenda has shown to be a strong supporter for our walkathon in benefit of sexually assaulted youth. Just last month, Mr. Urenda went to his employer at Full Moon and bravely asked for an in-kind donation of 500 delicacies to be given away to walkers the day of the event. This came to BAWAR's great surprise since we did not expect this massive contribution. Mr. Urenda has far exceeded our expectations and by far surpassed the in-kind donations that other advocates have tried to acquire from local donors. It was for this reason that Mr. Urenda holds a very special place in our agency.

To this end and without reservation, I strongly believe that Mr. Urenda will be a wonderful and positive addition to our community. If you have further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

KRISTINA MOLINA,
Latina Outreach Coordinator.

THE WOMEN'S FOUNDATION OF
CALIFORNIA,
San Francisco, CA, July 22, 2009.

Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN,
San Francisco, CA.

DEAR SENATOR FEINSTEIN: On behalf of the Women's Foundation of California, we are writing to convey our support for Javier Urenda to remain in the United States and become a lawful permanent resident.

Javier is a vital member of his community who participates at all levels: he is a hard-working and dedicated employee of FullBloom Baking Company, a Newark, California based company which did \$58 million in business last year; he is a devoted husband and father to three US citizen children; and he is an important role model to community members and co-workers. Javier was the second person hired by FullBloom and has helped grow FullBloom to a company which now has 388 employees. Javier's dedication, technical know-how and effective management abilities have been critical to FullBloom's success. The local community has been well served by FullBloom, which provides employment, health benefits and educational opportunities to its employees and their children. Javier's community would also be severely impacted if it were to lose his volunteer efforts in his children's schools and his tireless fundraising for charity.

The Women's Foundation of California has a long history of supporting immigrants and immigrant communities throughout the state. Through our research, grantmaking, and other programs, we have seen many of the benefits that new Americans give to our economy, society, and our overall infrastructure. The state's economy would suffer tremendously without the incredible achievements of immigrants.

Javier has recently received an approved labor certification (which had been pending for nearly three years) and is now eligible for adjustment of status. However, he has been issued a "surrender notice" which takes effect on July 29, 2009. If he is forced to leave the country, he would be barred from returning for 10 years causing his children and his employer enormous hardship. If Javier were granted a stay of his deportation order, he could adjust status immediately and be a lawful permanent resident.

We understand that the Immigration and Naturalization Service has established immigration policy to meet the needs of this country and others. Javier Urenda is fulfilling tremendous needs within his community. He is a model participant in this society and deserves to remain here legally.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

JUDY PATRICK,
President and CEO.

By Mrs. BOXER:

S. 1748. A bill to establish a program of research, recovery, and other activities to provide for the recovery of the southern sea otter; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the introduction of the Southern Sea Otter Recovery and Research Act.

The southern sea otter is a keystone species that plays a critical role in central California's kelp forest ecosystem. By maintaining a healthy and productive ecosystem capable of supporting many other marine species, they also contribute to California's \$22 billion ocean tourism, recreation, and fishing industries.

Already listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, southern sea otters recently experienced their largest population decline in over a decade. They face a variety of threats, including food limitation, disease, and habitat degradation—but the exact causes of their decline are unknown.

Sea otters are a sentinel species that serve as an indicator of ecosystem health, so this population decline is extremely alarming. Understanding and addressing the causes of this decline would help us protect the health of our kelp ecosystems as a whole.

My legislation would require the Department of the Interior to monitor the population of southern sea otters and assess the major factors limiting their recovery. It would also establish a competitive grant program for research and recovery projects.

The language has been drafted in consultation with numerous scientists, agency officials, conservation groups, and fishermen. Companion legislation was reported by the House Natural Resources Committee by voice vote in May, and passed the full House of Representatives in July. I look forward to working with my colleagues to achieve a successful outcome in the Senate.

With this legislation, we can finally put the southern sea otter on a path to recovery—and restore central California's magnificent kelp forests to a healthy, thriving condition.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 297—TO RECOGNIZE THE DYKE MARSH WILDLIFE PRESERVE AS A UNIQUE AND PRECIOUS ECOSYSTEM

Mr. WEBB submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

S. RES. 297

Whereas the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve on the west bank of the Potomac River just south of Alexandria in Fairfax County is one of the largest remaining freshwater tidal marshes in the Greater Washington, DC, area;

Whereas Congress expressly designated the Dyke Marsh ecosystem for protection in 1959, fifty years ago, under Public Law 86-41 "so that fish and wildlife development and their preservation as wetland wildlife habitat shall be paramount";

Whereas the Honorable JOHN D. DINGELL of Michigan, the late Honorable John P. Saylor of Pennsylvania, and the late Honorable Henry S. Reuss of Wisconsin were instrumental in passing this legislation and in preventing proposed development along the Potomac River, thereby protecting the Dyke Marsh ecosystem from further dredging, fill-

ing, and other activities incompatible with a preserve;

Whereas Dyke Marsh is 5,000 to 7,000 years old and is a unique natural treasure in the national capital region, with more than 6,500 species of plants, insects, fish, birds, reptiles and amphibians contained within an approximately 485-acre parcel;

Whereas the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve is a significant element in the historic character of the Mount Vernon Memorial Parkway;

Whereas freshwater tidal marshes are rare, and the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve is one of the few climax, tidal, riverine, narrow-leaved cattail wetlands in the United States National Park Service system;

Whereas wetlands provide ecological services such as flood control, attenuation of tidal energy, water quality enhancement, wildlife habitat, nursery and spawning grounds, and recreational and aesthetic enjoyment;

Whereas the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve serves as an outdoor laboratory for scientists, educators, students, naturalists, artists, photographers, and others, attracting people of all ages; and

Whereas the Friends of Dyke Marsh is a conservation advocacy group created in 1975 and dedicated to the preservation and restoration of this wetland habitat and its natural resources: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve of Fairfax County, Virginia, as a unique and precious ecosystem that serves as an invaluable natural resource both locally and nationally;

(2) recognizes and expresses appreciation for Representative JOHN DINGELL's, Representative John Saylor's, and Representative Henry Reuss's leadership in preserving this precious natural resource;

(3) celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Federal legislation designating the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve as a protected wetland habitat;

(4) expresses the need to continue to conserve, protect and restore this fragile habitat, in which a diverse array of plants, animals and other natural resources is threatened by past dredging and filling, a gradual depletion in size, urban and suburban development, river traffic, stormwater runoff, poaching, and non-native invasive species; and

(5) commends the Friends of Dyke Marsh for its longstanding commitment to promoting conservation and environmental awareness and stewardship, so that the Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve may be enjoyed by generations for the next 50 years and into the future.

SENATE RESOLUTION 298—RECOGNIZING FILIPINO AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH IN OCTOBER 2009

Mr. REID (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. AKAKA, Mr. ENSIGN, Mr. INOUE, and Mr. MENENDEZ), submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 298

Whereas the earliest documented Filipino presence in the continental United States was on October 18, 1587, when the first "Luzones Indios" set foot in Morro Bay, California, on board the Manila-built galleon ship Nuestra Señora de Esperanza;

Whereas the Filipino American National Historical Society recognizes the year of 1763 as the date of the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States in St. Malo, Louisiana, which set in motion the focus on