

codification of current practices. Chairman LEAHY and Chairman CONYERS both know of my strong interest in this area and have agreed to incorporate changes to the law. There is no doubt that inequitable conduct reform has the potential to single-handedly revolutionize the manner in which patent applications are prosecuted. Arguably, reform in this area will have the most favorable impact on patent quality and the ability for the USPTO to reduce its pendency—thereby fostering a strong and vibrant environment for all innovation and entrepreneurship.

Now more than ever, our industries need reassurance and predictability in order to move forward in these challenging times. I believe the Patent Reform Act of 2009 has the potential to complement all of the stimulatory efforts currently under way. Now is the time to act.

By Mr. DODD:

S. 517. A bill for the relief of Alejandro Gomez and Juan Sebastian Gomez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today I send to the desk a private relief bill to provide permanent resident status to Juan and Alejandro Gomez, and ask that it be appropriately referred.

Juan, 20, and Alejandro, 21, are natives of Colombia who came to the U.S. with their parents in August 1990 on B-2 visitors visas and reside in Miami, FL. Their parents were deported on October 30, 2007. Their initial departure date was September 14, 2007, but because of legislation introduced last Congress that date was extended. However, now they have been ordered to report for deportation on March 15, 2009. Juan and Alejandro have lived continuously in the U.S. for the last 18 years. They have both graduated from Miami Killian High School. Juan is a student at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. Alejandro is a student at Miami Dade Community College and works at the Biltmore Hotel in Miami. They have the strong support of their community. It would be an extreme hardship to uproot Juan and Alejandro from their community, which has wholeheartedly embraced them, to send them back to Colombia where there lives could be in serious danger.

We all know that the circumstances of Juan and Alejandro are not unique. Just like many other children here illegally, they had no control over their parents' decision to overstay their visas a number of years ago. Most of these young people work hard to complete school and contribute to their communities. Cases like Juan's and Alejandro's are the reason why the so called DREAM Act was attached to the comprehensive immigration reform legislation that the Senate attempted to pass last Congress, only to face a filibuster from opponents of any comprehensive immigration reform proposal.

The DREAM Act has broad partisan support and is not the reason that the

immigration bill stalled in the Senate. I would hope that consideration could be given to delinking the DREAM Act from the larger bill so that we can put in place a legal framework for dealing with young people similar in circumstances to Juan and Alejandro who are caught in this unfortunate immigration status. But that is not likely to happen soon enough to address the problems confronting Juan and Alejandro.

That is why I have decided to re-introduce a private bill on their behalf. I will also be writing to Senator CHARLES SCHUMER, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration to request, pursuant to the Subcommittee's Rules of Procedure, that the Subcommittee formally request an expedited departmental report from the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services regarding the Gomez brothers so that the Subcommittee can then move forward to give consideration to this bill as soon as possible.

I have had the opportunity to meet Juan and Alejandro. They believe that America is their home. They love our country and want to have an opportunity to fulfill their dreams of becoming full participants in this country. Passage of the private bill would give them that opportunity. I look forward to working with the Subcommittee to facilitate its passage.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 520. A bill to designate the United States Courthouse under construction at 327 South Church Street, Rockford, Illinois, as the "Stanley J. Roszkowski United States Courthouse"; considered and passed.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be placed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 520

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

SECTION 1. STANLEY J. ROSZKOWSKI UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The United States courthouse under construction, as of the date of enactment of this Act, at 327 South Church Street, Rockford, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the "Stanley J. Roszkowski United States Courthouse".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Stanley J. Roszkowski United States Courthouse".

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 62—A BILL ESTABLISHING A SELECT COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE TO MAKE A THOROUGH AND COMPLETE STUDY AND INVESTIGATION OF THE FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES GIVING RISE TO THE ECONOMIC CRISIS FACING THE UNITED STATES AND TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS TO PREVENT A FUTURE RECURRENCE OF SUCH A CRISIS

Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration:

S. RES. 62

Whereas the United States is currently facing an unprecedented economic crisis, with massive losses of jobs in the United States and an alarming contraction of economic activity in the United States;

Whereas the United States Government has pledged, committed, or loaned more than \$9,000,000,000,000 as of February 2009 in an attempt to mitigate and resolve the economic crisis and trillions of dollars more may well be necessary before the crisis is over;

Whereas the economic crisis reaches into, and has impacted, almost every aspect of the United States economy and significant parts of the international economy;

Whereas any thorough and complete study and investigation of this complex and far-reaching economic crisis will require sustained and singular focus for many months;

Whereas a study and investigation of this size and scope implicates the jurisdiction of several Standing Committees of the Senate and, if it is to be done correctly and timely, will require a degree of undivided attention and resources beyond the capacity of the Standing Committees of the Senate, which are already over-burdened;

Whereas adding such a significant study and investigation to the duties of the existing Standing Committees of the Senate would make it difficult for such committees to get their regular required work accomplished, particularly when so much attention and so many resources are appropriately devoted to responding to the ongoing economic crisis;

Whereas dozens of important investigations have been conducted with the creation of a select committee of the Senate for a specific purpose and a set time; and

Whereas the American public has a right to get straight answers on how this economic crisis developed and what steps should be taken to make sure that nothing like it happens again: Now therefore be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. SELECT COMMITTEE ON INVESTIGATION OF THE ECONOMIC CRISIS.

There is established a select committee of the Senate to be known as the Select Committee on Investigation of the Economic Crisis (hereafter in this resolution referred to as the "Select Committee").

SEC. 2. PURPOSE AND DUTIES.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Select Committee is to study and investigate the facts and circumstances giving rise to the current economic crisis facing the United States and to recommend actions to be taken to prevent a future recurrence of such a crisis.

(b) DUTIES.—The Select Committee is authorized and directed to do everything necessary or appropriate to conduct the study

and investigation specified in subsection (a). Without restricting in any way the authority conferred on the Select Committee by the preceding sentence, the Senate further expressly authorizes and directs the Select Committee to examine the facts and circumstances giving rise to the current economic crisis facing the United States, and report on such examination, regarding the following:

(1) The causes of the current economic crisis.

(2) Lessons learned from the current economic crisis.

(3) Actions to prevent a recurrence of an economic crisis such as the current economic crisis.

SEC. 3. COMPOSITION OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

(a) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Select Committee shall consist of 7 members of the Senate of whom—

(A) 4 members shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; and

(B) 3 members shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

(2) DATE.—The appointments of the members of the Select Committee shall be made not later than 30 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution.

(b) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Select Committee shall not affect its powers, but shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(c) SERVICE.—Service of a Senator as a member, Chair, or Vice Chair of the Select Committee shall not be taken into account for the purposes of paragraph (4) of rule XXV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

(d) CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.—The Chair of the Select Committee shall be designated by the majority leader of the Senate, and the Vice Chair of the Select Committee shall be designated by the minority leader of the Senate.

(e) QUORUM.—

(1) REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—A majority of the members of the Select Committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of reporting a matter or recommendation to the Senate.

(2) TESTIMONY.—One member of the Select Committee shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of taking testimony.

(3) OTHER BUSINESS.—A majority of the members of the Select Committee, or $\frac{1}{3}$ of the members of the Select Committee if at least one member of the minority party is present, shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting any other business of the Select Committee.

SEC. 4. RULES AND PROCEDURES.

(a) GOVERNANCE UNDER STANDING RULES OF SENATE.—Except as otherwise specifically provided in this resolution, the investigation, study, and hearings conducted by the Select Committee shall be governed by the Standing Rules of the Senate.

(b) ADDITIONAL RULES AND PROCEDURES.—In addition to the provisions of section 7(h), the Select Committee may adopt additional rules or procedures if the Chair and the Vice Chair of the Select Committee agree, or if the Select Committee by majority vote so decides, that such additional rules or procedures are necessary or advisable to enable the Select Committee to conduct the investigation, study, and hearings authorized by this resolution. Any such additional rules and procedures—

(1) shall not be inconsistent with this resolution or the Standing Rules of the Senate; and

(2) shall become effective upon publication in the Congressional Record.

SEC. 5. AUTHORITY OF SELECT COMMITTEE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Select Committee may exercise all of the powers and respon-

sibilities of a committee under rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

(b) POWERS.—The Select Committee or, at its direction, any subcommittee or member of the Select Committee, may, for the purpose of carrying out this resolution—

(1) hold hearings;

(2) administer oaths;

(3) sit and act at any time or place during the sessions, recess, and adjournment periods of the Senate;

(4) authorize and require, by issuance of subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of witnesses and the preservation and production of books, records, correspondence, memoranda, papers, documents, tapes, and any other materials in whatever form the Select Committee considers advisable;

(5) take testimony, orally, by sworn statement, by sworn written interrogatory, or by deposition, and authorize staff members to do the same; and

(6) issue letters rogatory and requests, through appropriate channels, for any other means of international assistance.

(c) AUTHORIZATION, ISSUANCE, AND ENFORCEMENT OF SUBPOENAS.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION AND ISSUANCE.—Subpoenas authorized and issued under this section—

(A) may be done only with the joint concurrence of the Chair and the Vice Chair of the Select Committee;

(B) shall bear the signature of the Chair or the designee of the Chair; and

(C) shall be served by any person or class of persons designated by the Chair for that purpose anywhere within or without the borders of the United States to the full extent provided by law.

(2) ENFORCEMENT.—The Select Committee may make to the Senate by report or resolution any recommendation, including a recommendation for criminal or civil enforcement, that the Select Committee considers appropriate with respect to—

(A) the failure or refusal of any person to appear at a hearing or deposition or to produce or preserve documents or materials described in subsection (b)(4) in obedience to a subpoena or order of the Select Committee;

(B) the failure or refusal of any person to answer questions truthfully and completely during the person's appearance as a witness at a hearing or deposition of the Select Committee; or

(C) the failure or refusal of any person to comply with any subpoena or order issued under the authority of subsection (b).

(d) AVOIDANCE OF DUPLICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To expedite the study and investigation, avoid duplication, and promote efficiency under this resolution, the Select Committee shall seek to—

(A) confer with other investigations into the matters set forth in section 2(a); and

(B) access all information and materials acquired or developed in such other investigations.

(2) ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND MATERIALS.—The Select Committee shall have, to the fullest extent permitted by law, access to any such information or materials obtained by any other governmental department, agency, or body investigating the matters set forth in section 2(a).

SEC. 6. REPORTS.

(a) INITIAL REPORT.—The Select Committee shall submit to the Senate a report on the study and investigation conducted pursuant to section 2 not later than one year after the appointment of all of the members of the Select Committee.

(b) UPDATED REPORT.—The Select Committee shall submit an updated report on such investigation not later than 180 days

after the submittal of the report under subsection (a).

(c) FINAL REPORT.—The Select Committee shall submit a final report on such investigation not later than two years after the appointment of all of the members of the Select Committee.

(d) ADDITIONAL REPORTS.—The Select Committee may submit any additional report or reports that the Select Committee considers appropriate.

(e) FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The reports under this section shall include findings and recommendations of the Select Committee regarding the matters considered under section 2.

(f) DISPOSITION OF REPORTS.—All reports made by the Select Committee shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Senate. All reports made by the Select Committee shall be referred to the committee or committees that have jurisdiction over the subject matter of the report.

SEC. 7. ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.

(a) STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Select Committee may employ in accordance with paragraph (2) a staff composed of such clerical, investigatory, legal, technical, and other personnel as the Select Committee, or the Chair and the Vice Chair of the Select Committee considers necessary or appropriate.

(2) APPOINTMENT OF STAFF.—The staff of the Select Committee shall consist of such personnel as the Chair and the Vice Chair shall jointly appoint. Such staff may be removed jointly by the Chair and the Vice Chair, and shall work under the joint general supervision and direction of the Chair and the Vice Chair.

(b) COMPENSATION.—The Chair and the Vice Chair of the Select Committee shall jointly fix the compensation of all personnel of the staff of the Select Committee.

(c) REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES.—The Select Committee may reimburse the members of its staff for travel, subsistence, and other necessary expenses incurred by such staff members in the performance of their functions for the Select Committee.

(d) SERVICES OF SENATE STAFF.—The Select Committee may use, with the prior consent of the chair of any other committee of the Senate or the chair of any subcommittee of any committee of the Senate, the facilities of any other committee of the Senate, or the services of any members of the staff of such committee or subcommittee, whenever the Select Committee or the Chair of the Select Committee considers that such action is necessary or appropriate to enable the Select Committee to carry out its responsibilities, duties, or functions under this resolution.

(e) DETAIL OF EMPLOYEES.—The Select Committee may use on a reimbursable basis, with the prior consent of the head of the department or agency of Government concerned and the approval of the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate, the services of personnel of such department or agency.

(f) TEMPORARY AND INTERMITTENT SERVICES.—The Select Committee may procure the temporary or intermittent services of individual consultants, or organizations thereof.

(g) PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.—There shall be paid out of the applicable accounts of the Senate such sums as may be necessary for the expenses of the Select Committee. Such payments shall be made on vouchers signed by the Chair of the Select Committee and approved in the manner directed by the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate. Amounts made available under this subsection shall be expended in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate.

(h) CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.—The Select Committee shall issue rules to prohibit or minimize any conflicts of interest involving its members, staff, detailed personnel, consultants, and any others providing assistance to the Select Committee. Such rules shall not be inconsistent with the Code of Official Conduct of the Senate or applicable Federal law.

SEC. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE; TERMINATION.

(a) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This resolution shall take effect on the date of the adoption of this resolution.

(b) TERMINATION.—The Select Committee shall terminate three months after the submittal of the report required by section 6(c).

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 613. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, making omnibus appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 614. Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself and Mr. BOND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1105, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 615. Mr. ENSIGN (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. KYL, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. BROWNBACK, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. GREGG, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. ENZI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 616. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 617. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 618. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1105, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 619. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1105, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 620. Mr. ENSIGN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 621. Mr. VITTER (for himself, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. ENSIGN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 622. Mr. ENSIGN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 623. Mr. COBURN (for himself and Mr. MCCAIN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, supra.

SA 624. Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. BEGICH) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1105, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 625. Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mr. THUNE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 626. Mr. NELSON, of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 627. Mr. ENSIGN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the

bill H.R. 1105, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 628. Mr. GRASSLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 629. Mr. KYL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 630. Mr. KYL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 631. Mr. KYL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 632. Mr. KYL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 633. Mr. KYL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 634. Mr. KYL (for himself and Mr. VITTER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 635. Mr. THUNE proposed an amendment to the bill H.R. 1105, supra.

SA 636. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 637. Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Mr. ENZI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 638. Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. VITTER, and Mr. CORKER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 639. Mr. UDALL of New Mexico submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 613. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, making omnibus appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 942, between lines 14 and 15, insert the following:

RESTRICTION ON ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS AND VOLUNTARY PAYMENTS TO UNITED NATIONS

SEC. 7093. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available under any title of this Act may be made available to make any assessed contribution or voluntary payment of the United States to the United Nations if the United Nations implements or imposes any taxation on any United States persons.

SA 614. Mrs. MCCASKILL (for herself and Mr. BOND) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1105, making omnibus appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In title I of division C, strike section 108.

SA 615. Mr. ENSIGN (for himself, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. KYL, Mr. DEMINT, Mr.

BROWNBACK, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. GREGG, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. MCCAIN, and Mr. ENZI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, making omnibus appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 308, line 2, strike beginning with “: Provided” through line 8 and insert a period.

SA 616. Mr. COBURN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, making omnibus appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 3, between lines 5 and 6, insert the following:

SEC. 4. REPORT ON CONFERENCES BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section the term “agency” has the meaning given under section 551(1) of title 5, United States Code.

(b) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of each agency for which appropriations are made available under this Act, shall submit quarterly reports as provided under paragraph (2) regarding the costs and contracting procedures relating to each conference held by that agency during fiscal year 2009 for which the cost to the Government was more than \$20,000.

(2) SUBMISSION OF REPORTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall be submitted to—

(A) the Inspector General of that agency; or

(B) in the case of an agency for which there is no Inspector General, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives.

(3) CONTENTS OF REPORTS.—Each report submitted under this subsection shall include for each conference described under paragraph (1) held during the applicable quarter—

(A) a description of the subject of and number of participants attending that conference;

(B) a detailed statement of the costs to the Government relating to that conference, including—

(i) the cost of any food or beverages;

(ii) the cost of any audio-visual services; and

(iii) a discussion of the methodology used to determine which costs relate to that conference; and

(C) a description of the contracting procedures relating to that conference, including—

(i) whether contracts were awarded on a competitive basis for that conference; and

(ii) a discussion of any cost comparison conducted by the agency in evaluating potential contractors for that conference.

SA 617. Mr. VITTER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1105, making omnibus appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2009, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1122, after line 10, insert the following:

SEC. 103. STUDY ON VALIDITY OF DIGITAL FLOOD INSURANCE RATE MAPS.—

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Corps of Engineers, in conjunction with