

programs and allow new regional centers to compete for investments with quality projects—if the EB-5 authorization is made permanent in law.

The State of Vermont and Vermont entrepreneurs recognized the potential of this program early on, and Vermont gained regional center status in 1997. Our State and the Vermont entrepreneurs who took advantage of the regional center planned their projects with great care. As a result, both the State and our entrepreneurs have successfully attracted investors and created jobs. Other states have taken note of Vermont's success, and today there are now about 135 designated regional center programs across the country, which are creating jobs in States like Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Iowa, and New York, to name just a few.

A regional center program is an economic engine for the state or region in which it is located. In a small state like Vermont, the economic activity generated by EB-5 projects at resorts like Jay Peak and Sugarbush has created direct jobs in those communities. Some of those jobs are for the construction and expansion phase, and others are for long-term employees of the resorts. These resort expansions bring more tourists to Vermont to enjoy skiing and summertime activities. Then there are the multiplier effects of these projects. Our visitors spend money while skiing and touring Vermont, supporting other Vermont businesses with every purchase they make. The economic activity is not limited to tourism, and there are other innovative projects in the pipeline in Vermont—projects like biotechnology; water purification; and manufacturing. Because the entire State of Vermont is a designated regional center, there is great potential for diversity both in terms of projects and geographic location.

The Regional Center program attracts foreign investors seeking legal permanent residency and a chance to invest in the American economy. Investors must pledge a minimum of \$500,000 to a project within a Regional Center, and they independently apply for EB-5 visas. If approved by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration, USCIS, foreign investors are granted conditional 2-year green cards. After 2 years, these investors must provide proof that they have created at least 10 jobs as a result of their investments, and that they have met additional investment requirements set by USCIS.

The Federal Government authorizes approximately 388,000 green cards each year. Out of that number, only 10,000 annually are reserved for the EB-5 program. The vast majority of the green cards issued by our Government are family-based and available to anyone who meets the admissibility criteria, irrespective of personal wealth. It is true that this program requires a significant up-front investment from a prospective immigrant, but that does

not disadvantage others who wish to become permanent residents. Most importantly, that investment directly benefits American communities and workers at no cost to American taxpayers. Similar programs have long yielded extraordinary economic benefits for the people of Canada, Australia and other countries.

There is virtually no substantive opposition to the EB-5 program. Most elected officials will agree that creating jobs and capital investment is a good, bipartisan goal.

The bill I introduce today makes the program permanent, but I am also working on a broader package of improvements to the EB-5 program to modernize it and ensure it operates efficiently, and as Congress intended. We must make sure that the immigration agency has the tools it needs to keep the program free from fraud and abuse. We must offer stakeholders an efficient process with fair standards so that they have confidence in the program. I am developing legislation in consultation with stakeholders and agency officials to make changes that will bring about lasting improvements for everyone involved.

The EB-5 regional center program is one small corner of our overall immigration system—and it is one that generates tangible, ongoing economic benefits for Americans in the form of jobs and capital investment in local communities. It is an American success story, and we can build on its success with a continuing charter, with careful cultivation, and with appropriate oversight.

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 printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 642

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Creating American Jobs Through Foreign Capital Investment Act”.

SEC. 2. PERMANENT REAUTHORIZATION OF EB-5 REGIONAL CENTER PROGRAM.

Section 610 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1993 (8 U.S.C. 1153 note) is amended—

- (1) by striking “pilot” each place such term appears; and
- (2) in subsection (b), by striking “until September 30, 2012”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 104—DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 2011 AS “CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH”

Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. MENENDEZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 104

Whereas, each year, States across the Nation formally designate September as Campus Fire Safety Month;

Whereas, since January 2000, at least 143 people, including students, parents, and children have died in campus-related fires;

Whereas 85 percent of those deaths occurred in off-campus residences;

Whereas a majority of college students in the United States live in off-campus residences;

Whereas a number of fatal fires have occurred in buildings in which the fire safety systems had been compromised or disabled by the occupants;

Whereas automatic fire alarm systems provide the early warning of a fire that is necessary for occupants and the fire department to take appropriate action;

Whereas automatic fire sprinkler systems are a highly effective method of controlling or extinguishing a fire in its early stages, protecting the lives of the building's occupants;

Whereas many college students live in off-campus residences, fraternity and sorority housing, and residence halls that are not adequately protected with automatic fire sprinkler systems and automatic fire alarm systems;

Whereas fire safety education is an effective method of reducing the occurrence of fires and reducing the resulting loss of life and property damage;

Whereas college students do not routinely receive effective fire safety education during their time in college;

Whereas it is vital to educate young people in the United States about the importance of fire safety to help ensure fire-safe behavior by young people during their college years and beyond; and

Whereas, by developing a generation of fire-safe adults, future loss of life from fires may be significantly reduced: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates September 2011 as “Campus Fire Safety Month”; and

(2) encourages administrators of institutions of higher education and municipalities across the country—

(A) to provide educational programs to all students during September and throughout the school year;

(B) to evaluate the level of fire safety being provided in both on- and off-campus student housing; and

(C) to ensure fire-safe living environments through fire safety education, installation of fire suppression and detection systems, and the development and enforcement of applicable codes relating to fire safety.

SENATE RESOLUTION 105—TO CONDEMN THE DECEMBER 19, 2010, ELECTIONS IN BELARUS, AND TO CALL FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ALL POLITICAL PRISONERS AND FOR NEW ELECTIONS THAT MEET INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. LIEBERMAN, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. KYL, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. KIRK, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 105

Whereas the people of Belarus have lived under the brutal dictatorship of Alexander Lukashenko for almost 2 decades;

Whereas, under Mr. Lukashenko's rule, Belarus—which is known as “the last dictatorship of Europe”—has defied the post-Soviet democratic transformation that swept eastern and central Europe by maintaining an abhorrent human and political rights record and denying its citizens fundamental freedoms;

Whereas, according to the United States Department of State 2009 Human Rights Country Report on Belarus, elections in Belarus are consistently unfair and undemocratic; politically motivated arrests and detentions are ongoing; Belarus' judiciary is not independent; beatings, poor treatment, and disease are widespread in prisons in Belarus, where detainees lack access to food, proper clothing, and medical treatment; and the Government of Belarus has severely and systematically restricted basic freedoms of press, speech, assembly, association, and religion;

Whereas Mr. Lukashenko had an opportunity to move Belarus closer to the community of democracies by holding free and fair presidential elections on December 19, 2010, and allowing for multiple opposition candidates to run for president;

Whereas the Lukashenko regime squandered this opportunity for the people of Belarus by orchestrating a fraudulent election that failed to meet minimal international standards;

Whereas, following the elections, the Lukashenko regime arrested 5 of the 6 opposition presidential candidates, severely beating one candidate, Uladzimir Niakliayeu, and arbitrarily beating many of the thousands of Belarusians who were peacefully protesting the stolen election in the largest public demonstration the country had seen in over 5 years;

Whereas, during the course of election day and its aftermath, Lukashenko's security forces, the State Security Agency (KGB), detained or arrested over 600 additional people, including journalists, civil society representatives, political activists, and ordinary Belarusians who were peacefully seeking to exercise their fundamental human rights to free assembly and expression;

Whereas the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Election Observation Mission, which monitored the election in Belarus, issued a statement of preliminary findings and conclusions on December 20, 2010, that criticized the election's campaign environment as “characterized by the lack of a level-playing field” and reported that international observers assessed the vote count as “non-transparent” and “bad or very bad in almost half of all observed polling stations”;

Whereas, according to Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe observers, prominent international websites, including Gmail and Hotmail, and Belarusian websites including Charter97.org, euroradio.by, gazetaby.com, and zapraudu.info were rendered inaccessible on election day;

Whereas, on February 22, 2011, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe stated in its final report on the December 19, 2010, election that the final vote count was “flawed and lacked transparency”;

Whereas Department of State spokesperson Philip J. Crowley said on December 20, 2010, “We cannot consider the election results as legitimate.”;

Whereas, on December 20, 2010, the Obama Administration called for the release of all detained presidential candidates and protestors arrested around the election and strongly condemned the violence used by the Lukashenko regime to “undermine the democratic process”;

Whereas on December 23, 2010, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Catherine Ashton strongly condemned the Lukashenko regime's disproportionate use of violence and called for “the immediate release of the presidential candidates and the over 600 demonstrators who have been taken into custody in the wake of the presidential elections in Belarus”;

Whereas the heads of the foreign affairs committees of the German and Polish parliaments issued a joint statement on December 31, 2010, stating that the presidential election in Belarus showed “a complete lack of respect for European values and standards”;

Whereas, on January 20, 2011, the European Parliament adopted a resolution that condemns the December 19, 2010, elections in Belarus and their violent aftermath; demands the immediate and unconditional release of political prisoners; and calls for “new elections to be held” in Belarus under “free and democratic conditions” and “according to OSCE standards”;

Whereas, on December 31, 2010, the Government of Belarus refused to extend the mandate of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe office in Minsk, thereby shuttering the democratic institution building efforts of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe in Belarus;

Whereas, on January 4, 2011, Department of State spokesperson Philip J. Crowley and Darren Ennis, Spokesperson for European Union High Representative Catherine Ashton, issued a joint statement expressing regret over the closure of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Office in Belarus and calling on authorities in Belarus “to fulfill their commitments to the OSCE by reforming the election process and providing greater respect for human rights”;

Whereas the Belarusian KGB continues to detain at least 32 political opposition leaders and activists associated with the December 19, 2010, elections who face dubious charges that carry prison sentences up to 15 years;

Whereas, on February 28, 2011, Ales Mikhalevich, a presidential candidate who was arrested following the December 19, 2010, elections and released on January 19, 2011, issued a statement detailing the abuse and torture that he endured during his 2-month detention by the Belarusian KGB, in violation of existing Belarusian laws as well as international agreements, including the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, done at New York December 10, 1984, to which Belarus has been a signatory since December 1985;

Whereas families of presidential candidates and political opposition leaders and their lawyers face continued harassment and intimidation by Lukashenko's KGB, including repeated interrogations, raids, pressure, and threats of dismissal from places of employment and schools;

Whereas the detained presidential candidates and political opposition leaders are being denied regular access to family, lawyers, medical treatment, and open legal proceedings;

Whereas authorities in Belarus continue to carry out searches and seizures across the country, including the offices and homes of journalists, political activists, civil society representatives, former presidential candidates and their advisers, and ordinary Belarusians with tenuous connections to members of the political opposition;

Whereas, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, an internationally reputable source on global arms trade, the Lukashenko regime deliv-

ered a shipment of military equipment to the Qaddafi regime in Libya in February 2011, just before Qaddafi prepared to initiate the widely condemned bloody crackdown undertaken against the people of Libya;

Whereas, on January 31, 2011, the United States and the European Union imposed targeted travel and financial sanctions on an expanded list of officials of the Government of Belarus, including Alexander Lukashenko and those helping prop up his regime;

Whereas, on January 31, 2011, the United States Government also restricted economic transactions with Lakokraska OAO and Polotsk Steklovolochno OAO, 2 subsidiaries of Belarus's largest state-owned petroleum and chemical conglomerate, Belneftekhim;

Whereas, on February 2, 2011, the United States Government pledged to supplement its democracy assistance to Belarus by \$4,000,000 in fiscal year 2011;

Whereas, on March 2, 2011, Lukashenko's regime sentenced 3 of the political detainees, Alyaksandr Atroshchankau, Zmitster Novik, and Alyaksandr Malchanau, to between 3 and 4 years in a top-security prison;

Whereas on March 4, 2011, Department of State Spokesman P.J. Crowley said, “The United States remains gravely concerned over the continuing post-election crackdown by the Government of Belarus on civil society, independent media, and the political opposition. Through its ongoing detentions, trials, and harsh prison sentences, the government is creating new political prisoners. We urge the unconditional release of those detained in the crackdown without trials, and the creation of space for the free expression of political views, the development of civil society, and the ability of citizens to expand their contact with open societies.”; and

Whereas Congress passed the Belarus Democracy Act of 2004 (Public Law 108-347) and the Belarus Democracy Reauthorization Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-480) as expressions of support consistent with these aims: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the December 19, 2010, election in Belarus as illegitimate, fraudulent, and not representative of the will or the aspirations of the voters in Belarus, and joins the European Parliament in calling for new elections to be held in Belarus that meet international standards;

(2) condemns the beating, arrest, fining, and imprisonment of presidential candidates, opposition leaders, and activists by Alexander Lukashenko's KGB in the wake of the December 19, 2010, election;

(3) condemns the Lukashenko regime's systematic efforts to prevent freedom of expression and association in Belarus, including its efforts to censor the Internet and stifle freedom of the press;

(4) stands in solidarity with the people of Belarus, those political prisoners being unjustly detained, and those who continue to fight for peaceful democratic change and their fundamental human rights in Belarus;

(5) applauds the pledges of the United States Government and the European Union to impose targeted sanctions, including visa bans and asset freezes, on Belarusian officials and their associates responsible for the recent crackdown and human rights abuses against the people of Belarus;

(6) applauds the decisions of the United States Government, the European Union, and other democratic allies to expand assistance to civil society in Belarus;

(7) calls on the Lukashenko regime—

(A) to immediately and unconditionally release all political prisoners in Belarus who were arrested in association with the December 19, 2010, election, including 3 presidential candidates, Andrei Sannikov, Nikolai

Statkevich, and Uladzimir Nyaklyaeu, who are still in prison or under house arrest;

(B) to immediately cease the harassment of the families, friends, and lawyers of political prisoners in Belarus;

(C) to authorize the extension of the mandate of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Office in Belarus;

(D) to hold new presidential and parliamentary elections in Belarus that are free, fair, inclusive, and meet international standards; and

(E) to meet its international obligations and cease any illegal efforts related to the provision of arms to rogue regimes;

(8) urges the President and the Secretary of State—

(A) to continue to closely coordinate United States and European Union policies towards Belarus;

(B) to resume direct technical and material support to the opposition and civil society in Belarus, including political parties, civic groups, and independent media outlets;

(C) to ensure that the United States list includes any other officials of the Government of Belarus responsible for the crackdown following the December 19, 2010, election in Belarus, associated human rights abuses, and the continued detention, prosecution, and mistreatment of all political prisoners, and to impose targeted sanctions on those individuals and their family members where warranted; and

(D) to identify any other entities that enrich Mr. Lukashenko and his regime at the expense of the people of Belarus and prohibit business with and freeze the assets of such entities;

(9) urges the European Union—

(A) to join the United States in prohibiting business with, and freezing the assets of, the Belarusian state-owned oil and petrochemicals company Belneftekhim and its subsidiaries Lakokraska OAO and Polotsk Steklovlokn OAO, as well as other entities that enrich Mr. Lukashenko and his regime at the expense of the people of Belarus;

(B) to cut all European projects linked to the authorities in Belarus responsible for the crackdown and associated human rights abuses and to exclude officials of the Government of Belarus from meetings under the European Union's Eastern Partnership policy—including the planned European Union summit with post-Soviet countries scheduled to take place in Budapest in May 2011—but to ensure that this suspension not apply to non-governmental and civil society organizations in Belarus;

(C) to ensure that the European Union list includes any other officials of the Government of Belarus responsible for the crackdown following the December 19, 2010, election in Belarus, associated human rights abuses, and the continued detention, prosecution, and mistreatment of political prisoners, and to impose targeted sanctions on those officials and their family members where warranted; and

(D) to increase support to the opposition and civil society in Belarus, including political parties, civic groups, and independent media outlets;

(10) calls on other members of the international community, including Russia, to take similar targeted actions against the leaders of the Government of Belarus;

(11) calls on the Government of Lithuania, as chair of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe for 2011, to make the reestablishment of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Office in Belarus one of its chief priorities for its tenure; and

(12) calls on the International Ice Hockey Federation to suspend its 2014 International World Ice Hockey championship to be hosted

in Minsk, Belarus until all political prisoners in Belarus are released.

SENATE RESOLUTION 106—RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRIANGLE SHIRTWAIST COMPANY FIRE IN NEW YORK CITY ON MARCH 25, 1911, AND DESIGNATING THE WEEK OF MARCH 21, 2011, THROUGH MARCH 25, 2011, AS THE ‘100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TRIANGLE SHIRTWAIST FACTORY FIRE REMEMBRANCE WEEK’

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 106

Whereas the Triangle Shirtwaist Company fire was the deadliest industrial disaster in the City of New York's history and resulted in the 4th greatest loss of life from an industrial accident in the history of the United States, claiming the lives of 146 garment workers, many of whom were young immigrants;

Whereas this human catastrophe exposed the need to strengthen labor laws, fire regulations, and health and safety protections for workers;

Whereas the Triangle Shirtwaist Company fire helped spur the growth of the modern-day organized labor movement, particularly the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, which continued to fight for better conditions for sweatshop workers;

Whereas from the ashes of this horrific event emerged the modern celebration of International Women's Day, and the death of 129 women workers in the Triangle Shirtwaist Company fire demonstrated the need for workers' rights and women's rights;

Whereas more than 5,000 workers lose their lives each year on the job, and protecting the health and safety of workers continues to be a critical issue in the United States today; and

Whereas national events will be held to remember the victims of the Triangle Shirtwaist Company fire, and to educate citizens about the important role this tragic event played in the history of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate designates the week of March 21, 2011 through March 25, 2011 as the ‘100th Anniversary of the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire Remembrance Week’.

SENATE RESOLUTION 107—DESIGNATING APRIL 4, 2011, AS ‘NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR AUXILIARIES DAY’

Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mr. PRYOR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 107

Whereas the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries and the members of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries provide valuable service and leadership opportunities for women who wish to take an active role in their communities;

Whereas the mission of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries is to encourage member chapters to render charitable services that—

(1) are beneficial to the general public; and
(2) place a particular emphasis on providing for the needs of children; and

Whereas since the founding of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries in 1941, the organization has provided strength and inspiration to women who want to effect positive change in their communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 4, 2011, as ‘National Association of Junior Auxiliaries Day’;

(2) recognizes the great contributions made by members of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries to their communities and to the people of the United States; and

(3) especially commends the work of the members of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries to better the lives of children in the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 108—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE ON THE IMPORTANCE OF STRENGTHENING INVESTMENT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND BRAZIL

Mr. LUGAR submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 108

Whereas President Barack Obama is set to visit Brazil on March 19 and 20, 2011, during a 5 day trip which will include stops in Chile (March 21), and El Salvador (March 22);

Whereas the United States and Brazil enjoy longstanding economic relations sustained by trade and investment;

Whereas investment in and by Brazil promotes economic growth, generates greater wealth and employment, strengthens the manufacturing and services sectors, and enhances research, technology, and productivity in the United States and Brazil;

Whereas the United States is the largest direct investor abroad, with total world-wide investments of \$3,508,000,000,000 in 2009;

Whereas the United States has historically been the largest direct investor in Brazil, investing a total of \$56,692,000,000 in 2009;

Whereas the sound economic policy of the Government of Brazil was given an investment-grade rating by the 3 major investment rating agencies in 2009;

Whereas the United States is the largest recipient of direct investment in the world, with total foreign direct investments of \$2,320,000,000,000 in 2009;

Whereas the United States received direct investment from Brazil, including a total of \$1,400,000,000 in 2007 and a reduction of that amount by \$647,000,000 in 2009;

Whereas Brazil is the only country with a gross national product of more than \$1,000,000,000,000 with which the United States does not have a bilateral tax treaty;

Whereas Brazil is the 4th largest investor in United States Treasury securities, which are important to the health of the United States economy;

Whereas Brazil ranked 7th among other countries in the number of corporations listed on the New York Stock Exchange in 2009, with 35 corporations listed;

Whereas a bilateral tax treaty between the United States and Brazil would enhance the partnerships between investors in the United States and Brazil and benefit small- and medium-sized enterprises in both the United States and Brazil;

Whereas a bilateral tax treaty between Brazil and the United States would promote a greater flow of investment between Brazil and the United States by creating the certainty that comes with a commitment to reduce taxation and eliminate double taxation;

Whereas the Brazil-United States Business Council and the United States-Brazil CEO