SEC. 506. INCREASE IN ELECTIVE WITHHOLDING RATE FOR NONPERIODIC DISTRIBUTIONS FROM DEFERRED COMPENSATION PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3405(b)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to withholding) is amended by striking ''10 percent'' and inserting ''15 percent''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to distributions after December 31, 2000.

Amend the title so as to read: ''To authorize a new trade and investment policy for sub-Saharan Africa, expand trade benefits to the countries in the Caribbean Basin, renew the generalized system of preferences, and reauthorize the trade adjustment assistance programs.''.

THE NURSING RELIEF FOR DISADVANTAGED AREAS ACT OF 1999

LOTT (AND DASCHLE) AMENDMENT NO. 2326

Mr. ROBERTS (for Mr. LOTT (for himself and Mr. DASCHLE)) proposed an amendment to the bill (H.R. 441) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the requirements for the admission of nonimmigrant nurses who will practice in health professional shortage areas; as follows:

At the end of the bill add the following:

SEC. ___. NATIONAL INTEREST WAIVERS OF JOB OFFER REQUIREMENTS FOR ALIENS WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE PROFESSIONS HOLDING ADVANCED DEGREES OR ALIENS OF EXCEPTIONAL ABILITY.

Section 203(b)(2)(B) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(2)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

''(B) WAIVER OF JOB OFFER.—

''(i) NATIONAL INTEREST WAIVER.—Subject to clause (ii), the Attorney General may, when the Attorney General deems it to be in the national interest, waive the requirements of subparagraph (A) that an alien's services in the sciences, arts, professions, or business be sought by an employer in the United States.

''(ii) PHYSICIANS WORKING IN SHORTAGE AREAS OR VETERANS FACILITIES.—

''(I) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall grant a national interest waiver pursuant to clause (i) on behalf of any alien physician with respect to whom a petition for preference classification has been filed under subparagraph (A) if—

''(aa) the alien physician agrees to work full time as a physician in an area or areas designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services as having a shortage of health care professionals or at a health care facility under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; and

''(bb) a Federal agency or a department of public health in any State has previously determined that the alien physician's work in such an area or at such facility was in the public interest.

''(II) PROHIBITION.—No permanent resident visa may be issued to an alien physician described in subclause (I) by the Secretary of State under section 204(b), and the Attorney General may not adjust the status of such an alien physician from that of a nonimmigrant alien to that of a permanent resident alien under section 245, until such time as the alien has worked full time as a physician for an aggregate of five years (not including the time served in the status of an alien described in section 101(a)(15)(J)), in an area or areas designated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services as having a shortage of health care professionals or at a health care facility under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

''(III) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subparagraph may be construed to prevent the filing of a petition with the Attorney General for classification under section 204(a), or the filing of an application for adjustment of status under section 245, by an alien physician described in subclause (I) prior to the date by which such alien physician has completed the service described in subclause (II).''.

(IV) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The requirements of this subsection do not affect waivers on behalf of alien physicians approved under section 203(b)(2)(B) before the enactment date of this subsection. In the case of a physician for whom an application for a waiver was filed under Section 203(b)(2)(B) prior to November 1, 1998, the Attorney General shall grant a national interest waiver pursuant to Section 203(b)(2)(B) except that the alien is required to have worked full time as a physician for an aggregate of three years (not including time served in the status of an alien described in section 101(a)(15)(J)) before a visa can be issued to the alien under Section 204(b) or the status of the alien is adjusted to permanent resident under Section 245.

HATCH AMENDMENT NO. 2327

Mr. ROBERTS (for Mr. HATCH) proposed an amendment to the bill, H.R. 441, supra; as follows:

At the end of the bill insert the following:

SEC. . FURTHER CLARIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING FIRMS.

Section 206(a) of the Immigration Act of 1990 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended to read as follows:

''(a) CLARIFICATION OF TREATMENT OF CERTAIN INTERNATIONAL ACCOUNTING AND MANAGEMENT CONSULTING FIRMS.—In applying sections 101(a)(15)(L) and 203(b)(1)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and for no other purpose, in the case of a partnership that is organized in the United States to provide accounting or management consulting services and that markets its accounting or management consulting services under an internationally recognized name under an agreement with a worldwide coordinating organization that is collectively owned and controlled by the member accounting and management consulting firms or by the elected members (partners, shareholders, members, employees) thereof, an entity that is organized outside the United States to provide accounting or management consulting services shall be considered to be an affiliate of the United States accounting or management consulting partnership if it markets its accounting or management consulting services under the same internationally recognized name directly or indirectly under an agreement with the same worldwide coordinating organization of which the United States partnership is also a member. Those partnerships organized within the United States and entities organized outside the United States which are considered affiliates under this subsection shall continue to be considered affiliates to the extent such firms enter into a plan of association with a successor worldwide coordinating organization, which need not be collectively owned and controlled.''.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE BRUCE M. SELYA

• Mr. CHAFEE. Mr. President, for the past 5½ years, Judge Bruce Selya has served as Board Chairman of the Lifespan hospital system, a network of five hospitals in Rhode Island and Massachusetts. After an impressive tenure, he is stepping down from that post this week.

As a United States Appeals Court Judge for the First Circuit, Judge Selya already has heavy responsibilities. Nevertheless, he approached this unpaid position with great energy and determination. He has been actively engaged in the health care debates in my state.

Indeed, he was one of the chief architects of the Lifespan system, helping to bring about the initial merger between Rhode Island Hospital and Miriam Hospital in 1994. As Chairman, he oversaw the addition of Bradley Hospital, Newport Hospital, and Boston's New England Medical Center to the system. Together, those five hospitals offer more than 1,600 beds. In 1998, they discharged more than 60,000 patients and treated nearly 200,000 emergency room visitors.

Presumably, any one or more of these facilities might have been acquired by an out-of-state hospital network, reducing them to ''satellite'' status and moving the decision-making authority out of Rhode Island. Thanks to Judge Selya's leadership and foresight, hospital decisions affecting quality of care for Rhode Islanders are still made within my state's borders.

These past five years have been tumultuous times for the hospital industry, marked by changes in the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and difficulties in the private health insurance market. Judge Selya recognized these challenges as they came along, and he has been responsive to them.

And so, Mr. President, I want to salute Judge Selya for his long-standing commitment to quality health care for the people of Rhode Island. Bruce is a good friend and a long-time supporter, going back to before my first campaign for Governor in 1962. I look forward to continuing our close association in the years ahead.•

A SALUTE TO MEDAL OF FREEDOM RECIPIENT EVY DUBROW

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize my friend, Evelyn Dubrow, who recently received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. Unfortunately, a previous commitment prevented me from joining Evy's many friends and admirers at the ceremony, but I want to commend her on receiving the nation's highest civilian honor bestowed by the United States Government.

President Kennedy established the Presidential Medal of Freedom award in 1963 to honor persons who have made