

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to take a moment to thank those involved in this bill, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) has worked indefatigably on this issue, as has the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE). We appreciate that. Her great leadership on the committee has been helpful.

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) has worked very, very hard on these issues. We appreciate his comments, and those of the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. CLAYTON), who just spoke eloquently. We appreciate her concerns and leadership on the issue.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, the bill before us contains technical corrections and clarifications to the H1-B visa legislation which passed the House by voice vote on Wednesday and the Senate 96 to 1. This bill will increase the H1-B visa fee which will be used to train American workers in high tech jobs. It also goes further to protect non-profits affiliated with educational institutions, like teaching hospitals. This training money is a positive step. It is overwhelmingly supported by members in both bodies and on both sides of the aisle. I want to thank my colleague DAVID DREIER for his leadership on this issue.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman DREIER and Congressman JOE MOAKLEY for including my bill into the H-1B visa bill. The American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 developed a new filing fee which must be paid by employers when they file H-1B petitions for "aliens in specialty occupations" before October 1, 2001. Certain employers are exempt from paying the filing fee, including institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations or a Government research institute, it is my regret that this preferential treatment does not extend to grades K-12. With this in mind, elementary and secondary-level education institutions that qualify as nonprofit organizations under the appropriate sections of the Internal

Revenue Code do not qualify as "institutions of higher education," as defined by the ACWIA, and are thus not exempt.

In response to this confusion, The Department of Labor has identified the need to clarify the definition of exemption provisions as they apply to elementary and secondary-level education institutions. We offered H.R. 1573 to ensure that the same policies and objectives served by the ACWIA be extended to include elementary and secondary-level education providers.

The fee was paid by our public schools from property tax dollars to I.N.S. This bill will save our public schools scarce property tax funds to use for education.

I hope we can pass this legislation that would provide our elementary and secondary schools a chance to hire experts and teachers through the H1-B Visa program and save local tax dollars.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, because I support the bill, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HOBSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the bill, as follows:

H.R. 5362

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORITIES RELATING TO THE IMPOSITION OF FEES.

Section 214(c)(9) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(9)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "(excluding)" and all that follows through "2001" and inserting "(excluding any employer that is a primary or secondary education institution, an institution of higher education, as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a), a nonprofit entity related to or affiliated with any such institution, a nonprofit entity which engages in established curriculum-related clinical training of students registered at any such institution, a nonprofit research organization, or a governmental research organization) filing before October 1, 2003"; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking "\$500" and inserting "\$1000".

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendment made by section 1(2) shall apply only to petitions that are filed on or after the date that is two months after the date of enactment of this Act.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CANNON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 5362.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

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FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregon, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate agrees to the report of the committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4475) "An Act making appropriations for the Department of Transportation and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2001, and for other purposes."

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2547. An act to provide for the establishment of the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve and the Baca National Wildlife Refuge in the State of Colorado, and for other purposes.

NOTICE

*Incomplete record of House proceedings.
Today's House proceedings will be continued in Part II.*