

ninth president, is a great leader, and we work well together. He has been successful in advancing the university and winning accolades from students, faculty, and educators nationwide.

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Western Kentucky University on its centennial year.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I am encouraged by reports regarding progress the Judiciary Committee made on the immigration bill today. I understand that the committee has scheduled a meeting for Monday, March 27 when we return from our break to try to conclude work on the bill.

It is very important that we allow this process to continue. The committee should be given the opportunity to report out a consensus bill on a bipartisan basis. I want to commend Senators SPECTER, LEAHY, and KENNEDY, among others, for their efforts to draft a comprehensive immigration bill and I hope that the Leader will give them the time they need to complete their work.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD letters that were sent to Senator FRIST today from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Restaurant Association and the National Roofing Contractors Association that express a similar desire.

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

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Washington, DC, March 16, 2006,

Hon. BILL FRIST,
Senate Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR FRIST: On behalf of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, I am writing to request that you allow the Senate Judiciary Committee additional time to develop and report out an immigration reform measure for consideration by the full Senate.

While we fully appreciate that the Senate floor schedule is very crowded, and that you must adhere to a schedule to move important legislation through the process, it is apparent that more time is needed by the Committee to adequately consider the many complex issues surrounding immigration. Hundreds of amendments have been introduced by Senators sitting on the Committee, and it would seem that those actually offered should be given due consideration.

Unfortunately, it has now become clear that this will be impossible under a deadline of March 27, with the result that the Committee will not be able to report out a bill by that deadline. The Committee has an obvious expertise to bring to bear on the many difficult, and frankly, controversial issues involved and it should be given an adequate opportunity to shape legislation before consideration by the full Senate.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

R. BRUCE JOSTEN.

MARCH 16, 2006.

Hon. BILL FRIST,
Senate Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR FRIST: On behalf of the National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA), we write today to urge you to allow the Senate Judiciary Committee the time necessary to complete its work on an immigration reform measure for consideration by the full Senate. We fully appreciate the breadth of business placing demands on the Senate calendar, but given the paramount economic and national security concerns addressed in this legislation, it is imperative that the Committee have adequate time to consider the complexities of immigration reform in a full and reasoned fashion.

Established in 1886, NRCA is one of the nation's oldest trade associations and the voice of roofing contractors worldwide. It is an association of roofing and waterproofing contractors, material manufacturers, distributors, architects, consultants and engineers. NRCA has over 5,000 member companies from all 50 states and 54 countries and is affiliated with 105 local, state, regional and international roofing contractor associations.

As you are aware, hundreds of amendments have been submitted by Committee members. Unfortunately, it has become clear during the markup process that your March 27 deadline will not be met given the sheer volume of amendments to be considered.

We commend you for your commitment to bringing immigration reform before the full Senate. The topic is one of our most pressing public policy challenges and ripe for discussion. Toward that end, NRCA looks forward to a vigorous and comprehensive debate on the Senate floor that addresses America's national security needs, while ensuring the long-term health of our economy.

Respectfully submitted,

CRAIG S. BRIGHTUP,
Vice President, Government Relations.
R. CRAIG SILVERTOOTH,
Director of Federal Affairs.

NATIONAL RESTAURANT ASSOCIATION,
March 16, 2006.

Hon. BILL FRIST,
U.S. Senate, Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR FRIST: On behalf of the National Restaurant Association, I am writing to ask that more time be allotted to allow the Judiciary Committee to complete its work on comprehensive immigration reform legislation presently before it.

We greatly appreciate your setting aside substantial time on the Senate calendar for consideration of this critically important bill, but think that time would be best spent if the Senate could have the benefit of full consideration of the proposal by the committee of jurisdiction.

Given the tremendous number of amendments offered thus far, and the conflicts with other committee and floor activities impeding the Judiciary Committee's ability to operate, it is clear that without an extension the Committee will be unable to complete its work by the deadline you had earlier set.

In the interest of producing the best possible policy, we respectfully urge you to extend the deadline to allow the Committee to complete its responsibilities,

Sincerely,

JOHN GAY,
Senior Vice President,
Government Affairs and Public Policy.

RECOGNITION OF THE RAPE,
ABUSE, AND INCEST NATIONAL
NETWORK

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to thank everyone involved with the Rape, Abuse, Incest, National Network, RAINN, for giving me the Congressional Crime Fighter Award. This is a great honor.

I have worked in public service, in one way or another, for about 40 years now. During my career, I have become aware of the horrible effects of sexual assault and child abuse—on the victims, but also on our community as a whole. It is a silent epidemic that is shattering lives across America.

We have made progress in helping abuse victims, and that is largely because of the hard work of your organization. Since 1994, more than 970,000 people have called your National Sexual Assault Hotline. More than 5,300 of them were Nevadans. Your work makes an incredible difference in people's lives.

But too many victims are still suffering in the shadows. We need to do more to strengthen laws to fight sexual assault, to provide law enforcement with the tools and funding they need, and to support victims.

I have always been a strong supporter of the Violence Against Women Act. As you probably know, VAWA was landmark legislation that expanded the Federal Government's commitment to eliminating violence against women. I was a cosponsor of the original act back in 1990, and I have voted for it every time it has come up for reauthorization.

As a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I have worked to get funding for sexual assault prevention programs and victims aid programs in Nevada and around the country.

I was also happy to work with RAINN last year to get funding to help victims. I hope some of this money will be used specifically to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita. We set aside \$500,000 in last year's Federal budget. I think it should have been more the Senate approved more, but the House did not—but I am happy we were able to get the funding.

I know there is a lot more work to be done, and I look forward to working with all of you in the future. Thank you again for this honor.

SUPPORT HOMELAND SECURITY AND EDUCATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleges to support the Homeland Security Education Act. This bill encourages initiatives to increase the number of Americans trained in science, technology, engineering, math, and foreign languages.

Our security and economic future depends on the next generation of workers and their ability not just to keep up, but to innovate. Science and technology are the engines of economic