

S. 1684

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 "Return of Talent Act".

SEC. 2. RETURN OF TALENT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title III of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 317 the following:

"TEMPORARY ABSENCE OF PERSONS PARTICIPATING IN THE RETURN OF TALENT PROGRAM"

"SEC. 317A. (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall establish the Return of Talent Program to permit eligible aliens to temporarily return to the alien's country of citizenship in order to make a material contribution to that country if the country is engaged in post-conflict or natural disaster reconstruction activities, for a period not exceeding 24 months, unless an exception is granted under subsection (d).

"(b) ELIGIBLE ALIEN.—An alien is eligible to participate in the Return of Talent Program established under subsection (a) if the alien meets the special immigrant description under section 101(a)(27)(N).

"(c) FAMILY MEMBERS.—The spouse, parents, siblings, and any minor children of an alien who participates in the Return of Talent Program established under subsection (a) may return to such alien's country of citizenship with the alien and reenter the United States with the alien.

"(d) EXTENSION OF TIME.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may extend the 24-month period referred to in subsection (a) upon a showing that circumstances warrant that an extension is necessary for post-conflict or natural disaster reconstruction efforts.

"(e) RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS.—An immigrant described in section 101(a)(27)(N) who participates in the Return of Talent Program established under subsection (a), and the spouse, parents, siblings, and any minor children who accompany such immigrant to that immigrant's country of citizenship, shall be considered, during such period of participation in the program—

"(1) for purposes of section 316(a), physically present and residing in the United States for purposes of naturalization within the meaning of that section; and

"(2) for purposes of section 316(b), to meet the continuous residency requirements in that section.

"(f) OVERSIGHT AND ENFORCEMENT.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall oversee and enforce the requirements of this section."

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 317 the following:

"317A. Temporary absence of persons participating in the Return of Talent Program".

SEC. 3. ELIGIBLE IMMIGRANTS.

Section 101(a)(27) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (L), by inserting a semicolon after "Improvement Act of 1998";

(2) in subparagraph (M), by striking the period and inserting "; or"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(N) an immigrant who—

"(i) has been lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence;

"(ii) demonstrates an ability and willingness to make a material contribution to the

post-conflict or natural disaster reconstruction in the alien's country of citizenship; and

"(iii) as determined by the Secretary of State in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security—

"(I) is a citizen of a country in which Armed Forces of the United States are engaged, or have engaged in the 10 years preceding such determination, in combat or peacekeeping operations;

"(II) is a citizen of a country where authorization for United Nations peacekeeping operations was initiated by the United Nations Security Council during the 10 years preceding such determination; or

"(III) is a citizen of a country which received, during the preceding 2 years, funding from the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance of the United States Agency for International Development in response to a declared disaster in such country by the United States Ambassador, the Chief of the U.S. Mission, or the appropriate Assistant Secretary of State, that is beyond the ability of such country's response capacity and warrants a response by the United States Government."

SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall submit a report to Congress that describes—

(1) the countries of citizenship of the participants in the Return of Talent Program established under section 317A of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 2;

(2) the post-conflict or natural disaster reconstruction efforts that benefitted, or were made possible, through participation in the program; and

(3) any other information that the Secretary of Homeland Security determines to be appropriate.

SEC. 5. REGULATIONS.

Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall promulgate regulations to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services for fiscal year 2008, such sums as may be necessary to carry out this Act and the amendments made by this Act.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS**SENATE RESOLUTION 249—HONORING THE LIFE OF RUTH BELL GRAHAM**

Mrs. DOLE (for herself, Mr. BURR, Mr. STEVENS, and Mr. McCONNELL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 249

Whereas Ruth Bell Graham returned to the United States to attend Wheaton College, where she met and fell in love with her future husband, Billy Graham, who would become one of the most acclaimed evangelists in the world;

Whereas Ruth Bell Graham married Billy Graham on August 13, 1943 at Montreat Presbyterian Church in her beloved Western North Carolina;

Whereas Ruth Bell Graham was the devoted mother of five children (Virginia, Anne, Ruth, Franklin, and Nelson Edman) and the grandmother of 19 grandchildren;

Whereas Ruth Bell Graham was a renowned author and poet who penned 14 books

that have moved and inspired people around the globe;

Whereas Ruth Bell Graham and Billy Graham were recognized with the Congressional Gold Medal in 1996 for their "outstanding and lasting contributions to morality, racial equality, family, philanthropy, and religion"; and

Whereas Ruth Bell Graham touched countless lives worldwide by sharing her tremendous faith, her deep compassion for the less fortunate, her great talents and her light-hearted wit.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors the life, work, and legacy of Ruth Bell Graham, a loyal companion who shined with grace and courage beside her husband Billy Graham, and a dedicated mother who fostered individuality and humility in her five children.

SENATE RESOLUTION 250—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE CONDEMNING THE MILITARY JUNTA IN BURMA FOR ITS CONTINUED DETENTION OF AUNG SAN SUU KYI AND OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS

Mr. McCONNELL (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. McCAIN, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. LUGAR, Mrs. LINCOLN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mrs. DOLE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 250

Whereas Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi has dedicated her life to the peaceful, non-violent movement for democracy and reconciliation in the Union of Burma;

Whereas Aung San Suu Kyi and the National League for Democracy won a majority of parliamentary seats in Burma's last election held in 1990;

Whereas the State Peace and Development Council of Burma refuses to cede power and permit representative government and has detained Aung San Suu Kyi under house arrest for 11 of the last 17 years;

Whereas the ruling military junta has committed numerous, well-documented atrocities against the people of Burma;

Whereas Aung San Suu Kyi continues to promote peaceful dialogue and reconciliation despite mistreatment from the State Peace and Development Council;

Whereas the United States recognizes and supports the dedication and commitment to freedom demonstrated by Aung San Suu Kyi: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi for her courage and devotion to the people of the Union of Burma and their struggle for democracy; and

(2) calls for the immediate release of Aung San Suu Kyi and other political prisoners by the State Peace and Development Council.

SENATE RESOLUTION 251—HONORING THE FIREFIGHTERS AND OTHER PUBLIC SERVANTS WHO RESPONDED TO THE FIRE IN CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, ON JUNE 18, 2007

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. DODD, Mr. McCAIN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. KERRY, Mr. ISAKSON, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. BIDEN, and Mr.