

I am praying for you and the people of Michigan. My Sisters serve the poor in Detroit where we have a soup kitchen and night shelter for women. Let us all thank God for this chance to serve His poor.

Signed: MOTHER TERESA.

My office received this letter only a few weeks before her death. In honor of her great deeds for humanity I hope that this year we can finally extend the religious workers provisions of the INA permanently.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 2406

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 "Mother Teresa Religious Workers Act".

SEC. 2. PERMANENT AUTHORITY FOR ENTRY INTO UNITED STATES OF CERTAIN RELIGIOUS WORKERS.

Section 101(a)(27)(C)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(C)(ii)) is amended by striking "before October 1, 2000," each place it appears.

By Mr. REID (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 2407. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act with respect to the record of admission for permanent residence in the case of certain aliens; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

DATE OF REGISTRY ACT OF 2000

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today along with the Senior Senator from Massachusetts, Mr. KENNEDY, to introduce the Date of Registry Act of 2000.

The Date of Registry Act of 2000, complements similar legislation I introduced last year in an effort to fix a terrible mistake made by the Congress in 1996. Tucked into the massive piece of legislation known as IIRA IRA, the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, was an obscure, but lethal, provision which stripped the federal courts of jurisdiction to adjudicate legalization claims against the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Most troubling is the fact that this provision nullified legitimate claims based upon substantiated evidence that the Immigration and Nationalization Service had by-passed Congressional intent in denying benefits to certain undocumented persons who have come to be known as the "late amnesty" class of immigrants. Through this limitation, Section 377 of IIRA IRA has caused significant hardships, and denied due process and fundamental fairness, for hundreds of thousands of hard working immigrants, including several thousand in my home State of Nevada. These are good, hard-working people who have been in the United States and had been paying taxes for more than ten years, who suddenly lost their jobs and the ability to support their families.

In an effort to repeal the limitation on judicial jurisdiction imposed by Section 377 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, I introduced S. 1552, the Legal Amnesty Restoration Act of 1999. In addition to repealing Section 377, S. 1552 would also change the date of registry for those immigrants seeking legalized, documented status in the United States from January 1, 1972, to January 1, 1984. The legislation I am introducing today focuses on this aspect of last year's legislation, and would change the date of registry from January 1, 1972, to January 1, 1986.

The date of registry exists as a matter of public policy, with the recognition that immigrants who have remained in the country continuously for an extended period of time—in some cases, up to thirty years—are highly unlikely to leave. Today, we must accept the reality that many of the people living in the United States are undocumented immigrants who have been here for quite a long time. Consequently, many people living in this country do not pay their fair share of taxes because they are unable to work legally. Furthermore, the businesses who employ these undocumented persons also do not pay their fair share of taxes. These are the facts, and coupled with the knowledge that we can't simply solve this problem by wishing that it will go away, is the reality we must face when considering our immigration policies.

We last changed the date of registry in 1986, with the passage of the Immigration Reform and Control Act, which changed the date to January 1, 1972. In doing so, the 99th Congress employed the same rationale I have outlined above in support of a registry date change. Furthermore, I have mirrored the 99th Congress in another, critical aspect, by establishing an approximate fifteen-year differential between the date of enactment and the updated date of registry.

Mr. President, I should note one more thing about the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986. That legislation which last changed the date of registry was passed by a Democratic House of Representatives and a Republican Senate, and was signed into law by President Reagan. I mention these facts to highlight my hope that support for this legislation will be bipartisan and based upon our desire to ensure fundamental fairness as a matter of public policy in this country.

Finally, the legislation I am introducing today builds upon the fifteen year differential standard established in the 1986 reform legislation by implementing a "rolling registry" date which would sunset in five years without Congressional reauthorization. In other words, on January 2002, the date of registry would automatically change to January 1, 1987, thereby maintaining the fifteen year differential. The date of registry would continue to change on a rolling basis through January 1,

2006, when the date of registry would be January 1, 1991. Limiting this annual, automatic change to five years will allow the Congress to examine both the positive and negative effects of a rolling date of registry and make an informed decision on reauthorization.

Mr. President, as I stated when I introduced S. 1552 last year, I don't pretend that this legislation will solve all the problems of our immigration and legalization procedures. However, we have an obligation to face our problems, and the reality is that there are many, many undocumented immigrants who live in this country who would be much more productive contributors to American society if they were legal residents, workers and taxpayers. We know this to be true, as evidenced by the thousands of immigrants in Southern Nevada whose status had yet to be adjusted, but were working legally and paying taxes—in some instances for more than ten years—when their employment permits were revoked as a result of the 1996 IIRA IRA legislation. I have met with many of these people on several occasions and I have witnessed, firsthand, their pain and genuine suffering. Good people who have worked hard and paid their taxes in order to live the American dream only to see their efforts turn into a nightmare.

As I stated when I introduced S. 1552 last year, I don't pretend that my legislation will solve all the problems of immigration and legalization policies. However, we must face these problems head on, and that is precisely my intent in introducing this legislation today.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. INOUE):

S. 2408. A bill to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to the Navajo Code Talkers in recognition of their contributions to the Nation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

HONORING THE NAVAJO CODE TALKERS ACT

Mr. BINGAMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce important legislation, recognizing the heroic contributions of a group of Native American soldiers who served in the Pacific theater during the second World War. This legislation will authorize the President of the United States to award a gold medal, on behalf of the Congress, to each of the original twenty-nine Navajo Code Talkers, as well as a silver medal to each man who later qualified as a Navajo Code Talker (MOS 642). These medals are to express recognition by the United States of America and its citizens of the Navajo Code Talkers who distinguished themselves in performing a unique, highly successful communications operation that greatly assisted in saving countless lives and in hastening the end of the war in the Pacific.

It has taken too long to properly recognize these soldiers, whose achievements have been obscured by twin veils