

WASHINGTON UPDATE

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Confusion Remains Surrounding Availability of H-1B Visas

U.S. Employers have been facing an H-1B visa blackout since October 1, 2004, the first day of fiscal year (FY) 2005. Without access to these important visas, employers are unable to hire the professionals they need to help their businesses develop new products, create groundbreaking research, implement new projects, expand operations and compete in the global marketplace.

The Omnibus Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2005 (Pub. L. No. 108-447) (“Omnibus”) provided limited relief from the H-1B visa blackout. This relief, which was statutorily mandated to go into effect on March 8, exempts from the H-1B numerical cap 20,000 H-1B visas for foreign nationals who graduated with advanced degrees from U.S. universities.

Employers anxiously awaiting guidance from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) on the implementation of this limited exemption were shocked on March 4 when the agency advised that it would not begin accepting petitions for the 20,000 visas on March 8. The agency followed this announcement with another on March 8, stating that it would publish regulations implementing the new exemption as soon as possible and would reject any H-1B petitions received prior to the filing date set forth in the regulations.

USCIS also announced in its March 8 notice that it intended to make the additional 20,000 H-1B numbers available to *all* H-1B petitions rather than limiting their availability to individuals holding a master’s degree or higher degree from a U.S. institution of higher learning. The agency has not yet publicized its rationale for this decision.

The lack of clear guidance about how the exemption would be implemented has caused confusion and anxiety. Underscoring both is the fact that the 20,000 visas the law provides are likely to be exhausted soon after they are made available and do not meet American employers’ needs.

American employers need H-1B professionals to fill specific positions in companies nationwide. As our economy improves, the need for these professionals will continue to grow. Congress must

take steps that reflect our nation's need for these critical professionals, allowing U.S. employers access to the talents of H-1B professionals now and in the future.

H-2B Blackout Continues, Employers Host Hill Briefing

This is the second year in a row that small and seasonal employers are confronting the negative consequences of the H-2B blackout. This year's blackout began on January 3, only three months into the current fiscal year, when the 66,000 annual cap on essential workers was reached. Last year, the federal government stopped accepting applications for H-2B workers only six months into the federal fiscal year. In both years, the cap's exhaustion has prevented employers from operating at full capacity (despite demand) and retaining American workers whose jobs depend on the employment of H-2B workers.

Employers from many industries across the nation support the "Save Our Small and Seasonal Businesses Act of 2005" (S. 352/H.R. 793), introduced by Senators Mikulski (D-MD) and Gregg (R-NH) and Representatives Gilchrist (R-MD) and Delahunt (D-MA). S. 352/H.R. 793 would provide emergency relief for this year and next by exempting from the cap H-2B workers who have participated in the program in one of the previous three years and successfully complied with all program requirements. The 66,000 numerical cap would be reallocated with 33,000 visas reserved for each half of the fiscal year. The bill also would charge petitioning employers an anti-fraud fee, the funds from which would go to federal agencies to investigate and prevent fraud. The bill's new enforcement provisions would enhance DHS's and DOL's ability to punish those that misuse the program. Finally, a new reporting mechanism would provide Congress with statistics on how the H-2B program is used and characteristics of H-2B visa holders.

Employers and immigration experts, on March 7, briefed Hill staff on the importance of cosponsoring S. 352/H.R. 793 and the emergency relief the legislation would supply. They also emphasized that such short-term relief must not take the place of comprehensive immigration reform. Such reform, business owners from the landscaping, hotel, and seafood-processing industries noted, is vitally necessary to help ensure the stability of their businesses. These employers emphasized the fact that the H-2B program is a last resort for finding workers, and, despite active recruiting efforts, not enough U.S. workers are willing to take these jobs, many of which are in remote locations. The panelists spoke candidly about paying competitive wages, their extensive recruitment efforts, and the costs associated with working within a legal visa program. Several business owners spoke movingly that their businesses had been in their families for generations. However, without H-2B workers, it was unclear how long they could remain open for business. Such uncertainty could mean that many U.S. businesses across the nation may be forced to limit their services, lay-off permanent U.S. employees, or even close their doors.

House Subcommittee Hearing Examines ICE, CBP Division

The Subcommittee on Management, Integration, and Oversight of the House Committee on Homeland Security held a hearing on March 9 to examine whether the current organizational division between the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) best serves U.S. Homeland Security interests.

The Homeland Security Act of 2002 (Pub. L. No. 107-296), which abolished the INS and consolidated over 22 agencies under the new Department of Homeland Security, created the Border and Transportation Services Directorate to oversee, among other things, the immigration, customs and agriculture operations at the nation's borders and within the nation's interior.

Former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge further divided these enforcement operations into two separate bureaus: CBP, which focuses mainly on operations at the border, and ICE, which is responsible for interior enforcement.

Representative Mike Rogers (R-AL), the Subcommittee Chair, noted that this hearing, the first of several on this issue, was designed to obtain the perspective of non-governmental and former governmental parties. The chairman indicated that he expected the subcommittee to hold a subsequent hearing with government witnesses.

The witnesses included: Dr. James Carafano, Senior Research Fellow, The Heritage Foundation; Mr. Michael Cutler, Former Senior Special Agent, U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service; Mr. David Venturella, Former Director, Office of Detention and Removal Operations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security; Mr. T.J. Bonner, President, National Border Patrol Council; Mr. Randy Allen Callahan, Executive Vice President, American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO; Mr. Kenneth C. Klug, Former Special Agent in Charge, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security.

The witnesses addressed the budget shortfalls, conflicting mandates, and inadequate coordination between the two agencies and discussed the 800-personnel vacancy within ICE; personnel hiring freezes; the creation of stovepipe systems that impede investigation efforts; and a lack of adequate resources and training for personnel. While all the witnesses agreed that combining the two bureaus and a long-term management plan would help ameliorate these problems, only Mr. Venturella believed that such reunification was not a necessary course of action at this time. Instead, he proposed that the bureaus first try developing clear direction and leadership.

Angelina Jolie Speaks in D.C. on Behalf of Unaccompanied Children; Helps Launch the National Center for Refugee and Immigrant Children; and Urges Support for the Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act of 2005

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Goodwill Ambassador and Academy award winning actress Angelina Jolie, on March 7, addressed the National Press Club in Washington, DC on the plight of unaccompanied immigrant children in the U.S. Roughly 6,200 children reach our country every year, unaccompanied by a parent or legal guardian. These children include asylum seekers and children who have been smuggled into the country and who may be forced into sweatshop labor or sexual servitude. Ms. Jolie spoke passionately about the difficulties facing these children as they try to navigate a complex, confusing and often frightening immigration system without the assistance of guardians ad litem or legal counsel. Ms. Jolie stated: "I can't believe that any of us would expect that it's reasonable to send a child to face this by themselves," adding "I actually think it's cruel."

Specifically, Ms. Jolie announced the creation of the new Washington-based National Center for Refugee and Immigrant Children. The center was created on December 21, 2004, when UNHCR awarded a grant to the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI) in partnership with AILA. To be launched this spring, the Center will help hundreds of immigrant children obtain lawyers free of charge for their immigration proceedings. Made possible by a generous donation from Ms. Jolie, the two-year \$500,000 grant helps fill a gap in services to children released from federal custody into the care of a family member or other caregiver.

Key to the Center's success is the commitment of large law firms to provide pro bono services in

their communities. The Center will also work closely with the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) and local non-profit agencies that already assist children in cities nationwide.

Ms. Jolie also strongly advocated for the passage of the Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act (UACPA) of 2005 (S. 119/H.R. 1172). To address the inappropriate treatment these children face upon arrival in the United States, Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) introduced the UACPA on January 24th. In the House, Representatives Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), Chris Smith (R-NJ), and Chris Cannon (R-UT) introduced the companion UACPA on March 8th. The UACPA builds on provisions of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, which transferred the care and custody of these children to the ORR within the Department of Health and Human Services. The UACPA seeks to address many of the holes in our immigration system's treatment of unaccompanied children by providing: access to guardians ad litem; access to pro bono counsel; alternative custody and detention options; improved age determination procedures; training for immigration personnel; and Codifying DHS Children's Asylum Guidelines.

A previous version of the UACPA introduced in the 108th Congress had 67 cosponsors and unanimously passed the Senate. We are hopeful that Congress will move quickly to pass this modest, but critically important reform bill.

To view AILA's Issue Packet on unaccompanied children, click on:
<http://www.aila.org/fileViewer.aspx?docID=17885>.

Recently Introduced Legislation

The following briefly describes newly introduced, immigration-related legislation, in reverse chronological order and by chamber. AILA will report further on these bills if and when they move through the legislative process.

House Legislation

H.R. 1233, the Legal Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act of 2005, introduced on March 10 by Representative Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R-FL), would amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to permit States the option of coverage of legal immigrants under the Medicaid Program and the State children's health insurance program (SCHIP).

H.R. 1219, the Security and Fairness Enhancement (SAFE) for America Act, introduced on March 9 by Representative Bob Goodlatte (R-VA), would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the diversity immigrant program, effective October 1, 2005.

H.R. 1196, introduced on March 8 by Representative Solomon Ortiz (R-TX), seeks to improve the security clearance process along the United States-Mexico border and increase the number of detention beds. The bill would also require the Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the heads of all other Federal agencies with border-related functions or with facilities or lands on or along the border, to submit to the appropriate congressional committees, within six months of the bill's enactment, unclassified and classified versions of a unified, comprehensive strategy to secure the land borders of the United States.

H.R. 1180, introduced on March 8 by Representative Todd Russell Platts (R-PA), would provide for the adjustment of status of certain aliens who were aboard the Golden Venture.

H.R. 1172, the Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act of 2005, introduced on March 8 by Representative Zoe Lofgren (D-CA), would provide for the protection of unaccompanied alien children. Senator Dianne Feinstein introduced companion legislation in the Senate on January 24 (S. 119).

H.R. 997, the English Language Unity Act of 2005, introduced on March 1 by Representative Steve King (R-IA), would, among other things, declare English as the official language of the United States, and require official functions of the U.S. Government, including naturalization ceremonies, to be conducted in English.

H.R. 972, the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2005, introduced on February 17 by Representative Christopher Smith (D-MA), would authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2006 and 2007 for the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

H.R. 952, the Torture Outsourcing Prevention Act, introduced on February 17 by Representative Edward Markey (D-MA), would prohibit the transfer or return of persons by the United States, for the purpose of detention, interrogation, trial, or otherwise, to countries where torture or other inhuman treatment of persons occurs. While not an immigration bill per se, the legislation specifically notes (in its congressional findings section) that “[R]ecent practices have weakened the safeguards under applicable laws, such as the procedures under the immigration laws of the United States governing removals from the United States, and persons have been transferred from the custody of the United States to that of other governments entirely outside of any legal framework.”

H.R. 925, the Identification Integrity Act of 2005, introduced on February 17 by Representative Elton Gallegly (R-CA), would prohibit a Federal agency from accepting a form of individual identification issued by a foreign government, except a passport that is accepted on the date of enactment.

H.R. 858, the Social Security for Americans Only Act of 2005, introduced on February 16 by Representative Ron Paul (R-TX), would amend title II of the Social Security Act and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide prospectively that wages earned, and self-employment income derived, by individuals who are not citizens or nationals of the United States shall not be credited for coverage under the old-age, survivors, and disability insurance program under such title, and to provide the President with authority to enter into agreements with other nations taking into account such limitation on crediting of wages and self-employment income.

H.R. 815, the Financial Customer Identification Verification Improvement Act, introduced on February 15 by Representative Scott Garrett (R-NJ), would prohibit financial institutions from accepting any form of identification that was issued by a foreign government, other than a passport, for use in verifying the identity of a person in connection with the opening of an account at the financial institution, including a *matricula consular* issued in the United States by a consular officer of the Government of Mexico.

H.R. 620, the Security Measures Feasibility Act, introduced on February 8 by Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX), would require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the development and implementation by States of security measures for driver’s licenses and identification cards and a study on the consequences of denying driver’s licenses to aliens unlawfully present in the United States.

Senate Legislation

S. 524, introduced on March 3 by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA), would make the use of fraudulent travel documents—such as passports, Border Crossing Cards, Canadian driver's licenses or identification cards, transportation letters for parolees, military identification cards or green cards—an aggravated felony which will mandate detention and increase the likelihood of prosecution.

S. 455, the American Competitiveness through International Openness Now (ACTION) Act of 2005, introduced on February 17 by Senator Norm Coleman (R-OR), would amend the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 to facilitate United States openness to international students, scholars, scientists, and exchange visitors. Among other things, the bill requires the President, in consultation with institutions of higher education in the United States, organizations that participate in international exchange programs, and other appropriate groups, to develop a strategic plan for enhancing the access of foreign students, scholars, scientists, and exchange visitors to the United States for study and exchange activities. The legislation also calls for improvements in visa processing, including allowing U.S. embassies more discretion in waiving visa interviews, amending a 50-year old provision which requires consular officers to presume prospective foreign students are intending immigrants, reducing SEVIS fees for short-term visitors, and providing latitude to consular officers to issue visitor rather than student visas to some short-term English language students. The bill also sets standards for timeliness in security reviews of pending applications.

Recent Rulemaking and Other Activity in the Federal Agencies

Federal agencies have issued a variety of new regulations and notices in recent weeks, impacting everything from electronic passports to the annual poverty guidelines. A brief summary of these items follows.

Department of Homeland Security

DHS Extends Comment Period for Proposed Rule on H-2B Uniform Review Process. On January 27, 2005, the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS's) U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) published a proposed rule in the Federal Register to provide a uniform review process governing petitions for aliens to perform temporary nonagricultural services or labor. To ensure that the public has ample opportunity to fully review and comment on the proposed rule, DHS has extended the comment period for this rule for an additional 30 days, until April 8, 2005. (70 FR 11585, 3/9/05, see AILA InfoNet Doc. No. 05031071).

CBP Regulations Amended to Implement Customs-Related Provisions of the US-Chile Free Trade Agreement. The DHS's Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) regulations have been amended on an interim basis in order to implement the preferential tariff treatment and other customs-related provisions of the US-Chile Free Trade Agreement. The interim rule took effect upon publication on March 7. Comments are due by June 6. (70 FR 10868, 3/7/05, see AILA InfoNet Doc. No. 05030860).

CBP Publishes Final Rule on Administrative Forfeiture Notices. The DHS's CBP, on February 22, adopted as final a proposed amendment to the CBP Regulations published in the Federal Register on January 14, 2004, to raise the threshold value of seized property for which CBP must publish a forfeiture notice in a newspaper from \$2,500 to \$5,000. The rule's preamble states that by changing the requirements for publication of administrative forfeiture notices, the amendment

significantly reduces the publication costs incurred by CBP, which have often exceeded the value of seized property. (70 FR 8509, 2/23/05, see AILA InfoNet Doc. No. 05022363).

Department of State

DOS Begins Process for Selecting Accrediting Entities Under the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000. The Department of State (DOS) has announced that it will meet with eligible applicants to begin the process of selecting accrediting entities under the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000. (70 FR 11306, 3/8/05, see AILA InfoNet Doc. No. 05030869).

DOS Publishes Proposed Rule on Electronic U.S. Passports. This proposed rule would amend the passport regulations to incorporate changes required by the electronic passport. The rule would define “electronic passport,” would include a damaged electronic chip as an additional basis for possible invalidation of a passport, would abolish the U.S. passport amendment process except for the convenience of the U.S. Government, and would enlarge the reasons for issuing a replacement passport at no fee. The rule would also add unpaid fees as a ground for invalidating a passport. Comments are due 45 days from February 18. (70 FR 8305, 2/18/05, see AILA InfoNet Doc. No. 05021866).

Department of Labor

DOL Reopens and Extends Comment Period on Post-Adjudication Audits of H-2B Petitions. The Department of Labor (DOL) has reopened and extended for an additional 30 days the comment period for the January 27, 2005 proposed rule on DOL’s post-adjudication audits of attestations submitted in support of selected approved H-2B petitions received from DHS. Comments are now due by April 8. (70 FR 11592, 3/9/05, see AILA InfoNet Doc. No. 05031070).

Department of Health and Human Services

HHS Updates Poverty Guidelines for 2005. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has updated its poverty guidelines for 2005 to account for last year’s increase in prices as measured by the Consumer Price Index. These data are used in determining ability to provide support in connection with the affidavit of support. The new guidelines took effect upon publication on February 18, 2005. (70 FR 8373, 2/18/05, see AILA InfoNet Doc. No. 05021865).

MEDIA SPOTLIGHT: Members and Staff in the News

Elif Keles (Southern California) and **Ronald Oldenburg** (Hawaii) were quoted in a March 14 *Los Angeles Times* article about Ms. Keles’ client who faces deportation even though he was granted a haven in America by the U.S. government because of his family’s ties to former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos. **Marshall Fitz** (National) was quoted in a March 14 *Newsday* article about an innovative new program at Hofstra University School of Law, the Political Asylum Clinic.

Jacqueline Baronian (New York) and **Lenni Benson** (New York) were quoted in a March 13 *Newsday* question and answer article about immigration. **Tom Griffin** (Philadelphia) was quoted in a March 13 *Philadelphia Inquirer* article about his report on the atrocities that are occurring in Haiti. As a result, his report has received the attention of the Organization of American States, Council on Hemispheric Affairs, Congressional Black Caucus, and the Canadian Parliament. **Jonathan S. Greene** (Washington, DC), **Patricia Chiriboga-Roby** (Washington, DC) and **Judy**

Golub (National) were quoted in a March 13 *Baltimore Sun* article about a family victimized by *notarios*.

Joanna Hedvall (National) was quoted in a March 12 *Detroit Free Press* article about alleged immigration violations by Computech Corp. The company owes \$ 4.5 million in back wages and another \$ 1.2 million in fines. **Cristina Perez Gonzalez** (Southern California) was featured in a March 11 *Los Angeles Daily News* article about being named “Woman of the Year” by California Assemblyman Dario Frommer. **Harry Gee** (Texas) was featured in a March 10 *Houston Chronicle* article about receiving the Leon Jaworski Award from the Houston Bar Association Auxiliary.

Carl Shusterman (Southern California) was quoted in a March 9 *Los Angeles Times* article about how the change in the way the U.S. government handles certain visa applications will likely discourage foreign nurses from coming to the United States. **Raluca Oncioiu** (New York) was quoted in a March 9 *Newsday* article about immigration advocates calling for a more humane system of detaining people seeking political asylum.

The American Immigration Lawyers Association was featured in the press (*Associated Press, St. Petersburg Times, Washington Times, Washington Post, among others*) on March 9 following the appearance of actress and UN Goodwill Ambassador, Angelina Jolie, at the National Press Club event for the National Center for Refugee and Immigrant Children. **Jeanne Butterfield** (National) was quoted on a March 9 *ABC affiliate* broadcast about the National Center for Refugee and Immigrant Children.

Douglas Nelson (San Diego) was featured in a March 8 *Associated Press* article about his client, a Lebanese gay man, whom the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit found had credible fear of being arrested, tortured or killed in a country where homosexuality is considered a crime. **Joanna Hedvall** (National) was quoted in a March 8 *Scripps Howard News Service* about the Save Our Small and Seasonal Businesses Act. **Bradley Maier** (Oregon) was quoted in a March 8 *Statesman* article about a debate on immigration reform at Willamette University.

Carroll Lucht (Connecticut) was featured in a March 7 *Connecticut Law Tribune* article about his client who was deported to Haiti four and a half years ago after living in the U.S. for 20 years, and then in 2003 was charged with unlawful reentry. Nevertheless, a recent ruling by U.S. District Judge Janet C. Hall stated that the original deportation order against him was “fundamentally unfair” and couldn't be used to support a subsequent conviction for illegal reentry. **Angela Bean** (Northern California) was quoted in a March 6 *Newsday* question and answer article about immigration. **Laura Danielson** (Minnesota/Dakotas) was featured in a March 6 *Washington Post* article about her client who was able to gain approval to have an Iraqi orphan with cerebral palsy enter the U.S. under humanitarian parole.

Anthony Olson (Central Florida) was quoted in a March 4 *Bradenton Herald* article about British citizens who boost their chances of getting a visa by starting businesses. **Susanna Bogue** (Northern California) was featured in a March 4 *San Francisco Chronicle* article about the Crossroads Irish American Festival, a weeklong exploration and celebration of the experiences, identities and culture of Irish America.

Audrey Glover-Dichter (Southern Florida) was featured in a March 4 *Sun-Sentinel* article about an immigration law presentation she gave to a local Jewish women's association. **David Leopold** (Ohio) and **Marshall Fitz** (National) were quoted in a March 4 *Associated Press* article about Stewart Elliott, who won last year's Kentucky Derby and Preakness Stakes aboard Smarty Jones

and was detained because he had pleaded guilty to felony assault charges. **Marcia Needleman** (New York) was quoted in a March 4 *New York Daily News* article about a Mexican woman who gave birth to a daughter in a CBP vehicle after she had been detained.

Solange Goncalves Altman (Southern California) was quoted in a March 3 *Modesto Bee* article about a poll that shows Mexican migrants hope to stay in the United States indefinitely but also assert support for temporary guest worker plans now being considered by Congress. **Edward White** (New England) and **Kerry Doyle** (New England) were quoted in a March 3 *Boston Globe* article about a recent federal appeals court decision that immigrants who marry U.S. citizens should be able to apply for legal permanent residency, even if the immigrants were in the process of fighting deportation when they got married. **Stephen Converse** (Philadelphia) was quoted in a March 3 *Hanover Press* article about his client, Stewart Elliott, a Kentucky Derby winning jockey whose guilty plea for assault has resulted in his detention for immigration-related aggravated felony charges.

Marshall Fitz (National) was quoted in a March 2 *Christian Science Monitor* article about special-education teacher Obain Attouoman, whose asylum case has become a cause celebre and highlights the problems the REAL ID Act would pose for asylees. **Jesse Brar** (Utah) was quoted in a March 2 *Associated Press* article about a new bill that will result in the issuance of driving “privilege” cards to undocumented immigrants instead of driver’s licenses. **Alan R. Diamante** (Southern California) was quoted in a March 2 *Washington Post* article about the viability of President Bush’s immigration proposal.

David Nachman (New Jersey) was quoted in a February 28 *Computerworld* article about the additional 20,000 H-1B visa slots. **Gail Seeram** (Central Florida) was quoted in a February 27 *Orlando Sentinel* article about a meeting between Caribbean immigrants and Consul Generals from various Caribbean nations. **Craig Trebilcock** (Philadelphia) was quoted in a February 27 *Associated Press* article about his clients who are fighting for citizenship for their adopted Chinese daughter. **Jim Benzoni** (Iowa/Nebraska) was quoted in a February 27 *Des Moines Register* article about domestic violence against immigrant women. **Amy Peck** (Iowa/Nebraska) was quoted in a February 25 *Lincoln Journal-Star* article about her client, a political refugee from Nigeria who lost control of his car and killed a woman in July 2000.

MaryLu Cianciolo (Chicago), **Maria Baldini-Potermin** (Chicago) and **Jeff Joseph** (Denver) were quoted in a February 24 *Chicago Tribune* article about Operation Predator. **Jeanne Butterfield** (National) was quoted in a February 24 *Contra Costa Times* article about President Bush’s proposed immigration reform plan. **David Leopold** (Ohio) was quoted in a February 24 *St. Paul Pioneer Press* article about a 43-year-old cabdriver from Afghanistan who is seeking asylum on the basis of his Christian faith.

Ted Garcia (Missouri/Kansas) was quoted in a February 23 *Kansas City Star* article about the impact *notarios* have on the immigrants they defraud. **Timothy Wheelwright** (Utah) and **J. Christopher Keen** (Utah) were quoted in a February 22 *Associated Press* article about a Salt Lake County man fighting a deportation order for unlawfully using his brother’s Social Security card. **Jonathan Aviom** (New York) was quoted in a February 22 *Philadelphia Inquirer* about the National Hockey League strike and the potential problems acquiring visas for replacement players.

Timothy Wichmer (Missouri/Kansas) was quoted in a February 21 *Belleville News-Democrat* article about an immigrant who faces deportation to Peru following her guilty plea to possessing cocaine. **Carol Chandler** (New Jersey) and **Ryan Lilienthal** (New Jersey) were quoted in a

February 20 *New York Times* article about the fear among undocumented immigrants in Princeton, New Jersey of immigrant raids that are being carried out. **Edward Litwin** (Northern California) was quoted in a February 20 *San Jose Mercury News* question and answer article about immigration.

Cyrus Mehta (New York) was quoted in a February 18 *Inter Press Service* article about the harsh U.S. immigration and anti-terrorism laws that have had a devastating effect on many Muslim communities in the U.S. post 9/11. **Peter Ashman** (Nevada) was quoted in a February 18 *Las Vegas Business Press* article about President Bush's immigration reform proposal. **Rex Chen** (New Jersey) participated in the taping of the weekly television show *Asian America* (www.asianamerica.com), shown on PBS affiliate stations, urging people to pressure Congress to support the AgJobs bill, oppose the REAL ID Act, and recognize that the scapegoating of immigrants masks the true problems that low-income workers face.

Jeanne Butterfield (National) was quoted in a February 17 *New York Daily News* article about the negative impact the REAL ID Act would have on immigrants. **Angelo Paparelli** (Southern California) and the **American Immigration Lawyers Association** were quoted in a February 17 *St. Charles County Business Record* about the Save Our Small and Seasonal Businesses Act of 2005. **Kenneth Robinson** (Ohio) was quoted in a February 16 *Columbus Dispatch* article about his clients, a Welsh family that had moved to Columbus to treat their children's sleep disorders.

Geoffrey Scowcroft (New Jersey) and **Rex Chen** (New Jersey) appeared on a February 21 *Telemundo* broadcast and a February 6 *Cablevision* broadcast for winning cancellation of removal for two non-LPR parents and commented on the unfairly high standard set by the current law.

Note: Please submit all articles, letters-to-the-editor, etc. for inclusion in "Members in the News" to Julia Hendrix of the AILA Advocacy Department (jhendrix@aila.org).

Did You Know?

Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan, on February 17, said that he supports increased immigration because it is good for the United States, not simply because it could help the Social Security trust fund.

"I think that immigration has been very important to the success of this country and I fully support it," Greenspan said in response to a question from the House of Representatives Financial Services Committee. "I'm not sure I would want to give the reason that we're creating immigration to support our Social Security system," he said.

"I think we ought to do it on the grounds that it is good for the country but not because it helps the Social Security fund -- because that then suggests that if we find other means to solve the Social Security problem that we shouldn't be expanding immigration and I would not support that," Greenspan said.

--*Reuters.com* (Feb. 17, 2005)

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