

H-1B program through regular order in a bipartisan manner. However, I have strong objections to S. 281 or the Fairness in High-Skilled Immigrants Act.

This bill would eliminate the per country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants and increase the per country numerical limitation for family-based immigrants from 7 percent to 15 percent of the total number of family-sponsored visas. It would also do nothing to improve serious problems in our H-1B visa program. In fact, it does not address any employer abuses, fraud, protections for American workers or protections for the H-1B workers themselves.

Congress must deal with the visa backlog issue, but this bill is a bandaid over a bullet hole that I fear will lead to unintended consequences. First, eliminating the per country caps will not necessarily clear out the backlog. Inevitably, with tens of thousands of people waiting in line, a backlog will ensue from a processing standpoint regardless of whether or not there are per country caps. Second, this bill does not replace the per country caps with any sort of metric-based system or order. This is problematic at best. Of course, an immigrant's country of origin should not dictate their place in line for visas, but surely a clear corresponding domestic labor demand should.

Members on both sides of the aisle have said they are committed to a merit-based immigration system. Certainly then, if we eliminate per country caps, we should have a merit-based system that prioritizes not based on country of origin, but on what jobs need to be filled and a showing that there are not enough Americans to fill that position. Some of my colleagues have proposed a points-based system. I believe this could be a good starting point. Ultimately, however, a replacement system for the per country limitations should be discussed and fully vetted through hearings and debate. I am willing to work with any Member, Democrat or Republican, including the proponents of this bill, to create a smarter and fairer system.

President Trump and congressional Republicans promised the American people that we would address chain migration, but this bill does not do that. Instead, it more than doubles family-sponsored visas but does not limit this privilege to the nuclear family. Before we talk about expanding family-sponsored visas, we should right-size immigration in a manner that balances domestic economic demand with American values. Limiting family-sponsored visas to spouses, children, and elderly dependent parents seems both fair and prudent.

Finally, this bill does not include overdue reforms to our H-1B visa program. This bill does not include any safeguards, such as requiring employers to recruit American workers prior to hiring an H-1B worker and increasing wages for H-1B workers. Too often

we have seen employers undercut wages for U.S. workers by intentionally classifying H-1B workers at a lower wage level for the work they are performing. This bill also ignores harms that befall the H-1B workers, many of whom are underpaid, vulnerable to abuse, and frequently placed in poor working conditions. There is bipartisan agreement that we need to address the visa backlog and H-1B reform. I look forward to working with any of my colleagues on this effort in the next Congress.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR STEVEN FOWLER

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, today I recognize Maj. Steven Fowler for all of his hard work on behalf of myself, my staff, and the State of South Dakota while working in my Washington, DC, office.

Steven entered military service in 2004 and has devoted his career to the U.S. Air Force. Before his time in my office, Steven served as a full-time National Guard officer in the National Guard Bureau. He also received a master's degree in public administration from the JFK School of Government at Harvard University. Steven's experience and expertise have been a true asset to my office.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Steven for his service to our country. I wish Steven, his wife Cara, and their daughters MaKenna, Alexandra, and Abigail all the best in the years to come. As he continues his career of service, he bears the esteem of a grateful State and my utmost gratitude for a job well done.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO SANDY SANDERS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the career of Edward "Sandy" Sanders who is retiring as Mayor of Fort Smith, AR, capping a lifetime of service in the public and private sectors.

Sandy Sanders received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Oklahoma and spent 32 years with Whirlpool Corporation, retiring as the human resources manager in the Fort Smith Division. During his corporate career, Sandy was well known as a volunteer and leader among countless community organizations and events. Locally he served as the chair and president of numerous charitable boards including the Fort Smith Symphony, the Old Fort Days Rodeo, Bost Human Development Center, Leadership Fort Smith Alumni, the Fort Smith Port Authority, and the Fort Smith Park Board.

His leadership skills were also appreciated at the State level and beyond. He was appointed by the Governor to the Arkansas Aeronautic Association and also served as President of the Ar-

kansas-Louisiana District Exchange Clubs and National President of the Association of Community College Trustees.

Sandy has always looked for ways to improve opportunities for young people and create a well-educated workforce. His efforts included serving on the Governor's Apprenticeship Coordination Steering Committee and the Southern States Apprenticeship Committee. He was a member of the board of directors of the Fort Smith Chamber of Commerce and continuously provided a bridge between business and community needs.

After his retirement from Whirlpool, Sanders was called over and over to fill positions of need in the community. First, as interim director of the Children's Emergency Shelter and then as first executive director of the Fort Chaffee Redevelopment Authority, which was created to transition former military property into a job-creating asset for the region. This was supposed to be a temporary position, but Sandy stayed for 6 years and laid the groundwork for what we now know as Chaffee Crossing.

He probably thought he was officially retired when he left that position. However, the community called again, this time to run for public office. Sandy was elected mayor of Fort Smith in 2010. His combination of experience in the private and public sectors made him the ideal person to lead the city, help the area attract new jobs and improve services to the community. During his tenure, the city has seen impressive growth and success in business and the arts.

I know he is especially proud of the events he led during his last year in office to celebrate Fort Smith's bicentennial. In many ways, his leadership illustrates everything he hoped to highlight about the city. He has a rich history in the area, but has always looked forward.

Sandy has received many accolades for his work over the years, but I know from our visits that he is more interested in the success of others. His work to promote education and provide opportunities for young people will continue to benefit generations to come.

He is a man of great faith who uses his gifts however they are needed at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, whether that is serving on the building committee or singing in the choir. He and his wife, Dr. Sandi Sanders, have been married for 54 years and are very proud of their two daughters and six grandchildren. Beyond all of his personal accomplishments, he would tell you that his family is his greatest legacy.

I appreciate Sandy's friendship and am grateful for his years of service and efforts devoted to the State of Arkansas.●

#### 125TH BIRTHDAY OF THE NEVADA SAGEBRUSH

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I come forward today to recognize the

125th birthday of the Nevada Sagebrush, the independent student newspaper of the University of Nevada, Reno. Born out of a rebellion against the university's board of regents, the Nevada Sagebrush has been a strong and independent voice for the student body since October 19, 1893.

The paper has gone through several name changes throughout its long history. It was first known as the Student Record, then changed its name to the Sagebrush before the 18th volume was published in 1910 and finally, in 2004, became known as the Nevada Sagebrush. The newspaper has received an Associated Collegiate Press Pacemaker Award several times, most recently during the 2014–15 school year, and the ACP Online Pacemaker Award in 2011.

The Nevada Sagebrush alumni have gone on to pursue successful careers in a variety of prominent fields. Its editorial alumni have distinguished records in journalism, literature, education, business, the military, and public service from the local level to the highest levels of State and Federal Government.

Among distinguished Sagebrush alumni, Alan Bible, the paper's managing editor in 1929, went on to become a U.S. Senator for Nevada from 1954–1974. Eva Adams, the woman who ran Bible's Senate office, was the Sagebrush business manager in 1928 and was appointed by President Kennedy to head the U.S. Mint, a position she held until 1969. Jim Joyce, the newspaper's editor from 1957–1958, served as the press secretary and later executive assistant to Senator Howard Cannon. Edward Allison, the news editor in 1960, served as chief of staff for Senator Paul Laxalt. Sig Rogich, an editor of the Sagebrush from 1965–1966, served as a senior assistant to President H.W. Bush and was also the U.S. Ambassador to Iceland in 1992.

Many more Sagebrush alumni have gone on to serve and make an impact in the State of Nevada. Ruthe Deskin and Dondero Elementary Schools in Las Vegas were named after Ruthe Deskin, assistant to the publisher of the Las Vegas Sun for 50 years, and Harvey N. Dondero, a teacher and school principal in Nevada, both of whom wrote for the Nevada Sagebrush. Rollan Melton Elementary School and Earl Wooster High School in Reno also owe their namesake to alumni of this great newspaper.

Today, I celebrate the many contributions of the Nevada Sagebrush to the University of Nevada, Reno and to the State of Nevada. It is with pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Nevada Sagebrush for giving students a strong and independent voice.●

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TRIBUTE TO EDMUND G. BROWN,  
JR.

● Ms. HARRIS. Mr. President, today I wish to express my deepest appreciation to Governor Edmund G. "Jerry"

Brown, Jr., for his nearly 50 years of committed public service to the people of California.

The son of a former California Governor, Jerry was born in San Francisco in 1938 to Pat Brown and Bernice Layne. He graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 1961 before earning his law degree from Yale University in 1964. He began his statewide career in public service in 1970 after winning his first election as California secretary of state.

In 1974, Jerry became Governor of California for the first time, implementing an agenda that epitomizes the essence of California values. He helped create millions of jobs and strengthened the environment. He passed the Agricultural Labor Relations Act and led the cause for the introduction of government funding in renewable energy research. After 8 years in office, Jerry had a distinguished law career, ran for Federal office on a platform dedicated to empowering communities and affecting change, and served as chairman of the California Democratic Party.

He reentered public life in 1998, this time as mayor of the great city of Oakland, my hometown. As mayor, Jerry worked diligently to revitalize downtown Oakland, reduce crime, and expand educational opportunities. In 2006, he became California attorney general and prioritized consumer protection, environmental protection, and combating the underground economy.

Finally, in 2011, Mr. Brown returned to the Governor's seat where his record can only be described as extraordinary. Jerry has brought California's unemployment rate to record lows, expanded health coverage to millions in the wake of the Affordable Care Act, and established groundbreaking policies to combat climate change that have inspired our Nation and the world. Before joining the U.S. Senate, I worked with Jerry for 6 years as attorney general of California, during which we tackled an economic and housing crisis of epic proportions and fought to protect the privacy and cyber security of California's residents and businesses. Since joining the U.S. Senate, Jerry, Senator FEINSTEIN, and I have worked together to bring critical aid to those affected by the deadly wildfires that have ravaged our State.

I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to honor Governor Brown's leadership and achievements today on the Senate Floor. His ability to bring sweeping change to improve the lives of the people he serves and the communities he governs is truly inspiring. His unwavering commitment to the people of California and vision for a more perfect union will long be remembered and cherished in the pages of history.●

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TRIBUTE TO ARTURO S.  
RODRÍGUEZ

● Ms. HARRIS. Mr. President, it is with gratitude that I rise today to ac-

knowledge Arturo S. Rodriguez for his 45 years of leadership and commitment to protecting and advancing the civil, political, and economic rights of farm workers, most notably as president of the United Farm Workers of America, or UFW.

Born the grandson of a cattle farmer in San Antonio, TX, in 1949, Arturo first learned of Cesar E. Chavez and California's farm worker movement in 1966. His passion for civil rights and social justice motivated him to become an active farm worker supporter as a student at Saint Mary's University, where he would later graduate in 1971 with a degree in sociology. After receiving a master's degree in social work from the University of Michigan in 1973, Arturo joined the farm worker movement full-time, working with Chavez for the next two decades to develop and train new organizers, manage UFW industry organizing campaigns, and oversee national boycott strategies that would increase wages and improve working conditions. Following Chavez's passing in 1993, Arturo became the second president of the UFW and committed himself to fulfilling Chavez's legacy of creating a more just and equitable food system that treated farm workers with the dignity and respect they deserved.

Arturo's presidency has been nothing short of extraordinary. Under his leadership, farm worker wages have risen to an average of \$13.18 an hour, above State and Federal minimum wage laws. Arturo established industry-wide organizing campaigns resulting in 80 percent of the mushroom, rose, and strawberry workers now represented by a union contract. He held employers accountable for wage and hour laws, winning millions of dollars for workers in back wages and overtime pay. He won historic State legislation to provide overtime pay to farm workers and protect them from heat exposure.

As president of the largest and most active farm worker movement in the Nation, Arturo has also pushed a national agenda for immigrant and workers' rights. He led negotiations with major agricultural associations to develop the agricultural provisions in the Senate's comprehensive immigration reform bill passed in 2013. He and the UFW worked closely with the Obama White House to secure protections for farm workers from the harmful effects of pesticides, in addition to protections for children and parents as part of President Obama's immigration Executive actions. I was honored to work closely with him as a newly elected Member of the Senate to introduce the Fairness for Farm Workers Act, S. 3131, to strengthen critical Federal protections for farm workers as they face long hours and exposure to harsh working conditions.

Arturo's legacy represents the best of who we are as a nation. His unwavering commitment to bettering the lives of the most vulnerable epitomizes the kind of servant leader we should all