

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

October 1, 1990

**Support Temporary Protection for Nationals from El Salvador, Lebanon,
Liberia and Kuwait**

Dear Colleague:

We urge you to support temporary protections for nationals from El Salvador, Lebanon, Liberia and Kuwait -- and to oppose a motion to strike this provision from HR 4300. Similar measures have passed the House three times -- most recently on October 25, 1989 as HR 45.

The current provisions in HR 4300 are identical to HR 45 except that the specific designation of temporary protection for nationals of China and Nicaragua have been deleted -- and temporary protections for nationals from Lebanon, Liberia and Kuwait have been added. Protection for nationals of El Salvador remain in the bill. In the case of China, President Bush has issued an Executive Order which provides essentially the same relief for Chinese students as did HR 45. Chinese student organizations have informed us that the President's action meets their needs and that they trust it will not be terminated. In the case of Nicaragua, hostilities have ended and a new government has been elected. Since the House last acted on this matter in 1989, the extraordinary justification for temporary protection no longer exists.

Last week, during his visit to Washington, D.C., Salvadoran President Alfredo Cristiani reiterated his strong support for this legislation. He recognizes, as do we, that the continuing war in El Salvador has displaced hundreds of thousands of his countrymen and that they have need of protection until the war ends.

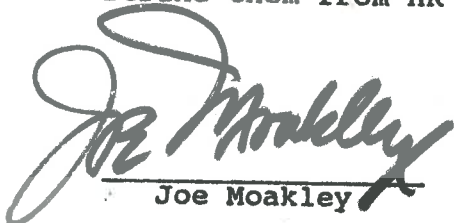
The main purpose of this measure is to provide protection to the innocent victims of war, random violence and widespread civil strife. Essentially, the provision would provide a 3-year temporary suspension from deportation for nationals of El Salvador, Lebanon, Liberia and Kuwait. These nationals would have to register with U.S. authorities; they would be provided temporary work permits; they would be ineligible for any federal benefits; and there would be no obligations for state and local governments to provide benefits. In addition, the measure sets forth a statutory framework for temporary protected status -- so that in the future, the Attorney General would have the sole authority to grant temporary protected status.

We believe that it is in the humanitarian traditions and the national interest of the United States to provide this modest but necessary relief to those uprooted by the conflicts in their homeland.

This measure is also necessary to enable immigration authorities to regulate the presence of these refugees and to assure their return to their countries when the conflicts end and this protection terminates. If we do not enact this measure, we are tolerating a large number of undocumented foreign nationals who have every reason to avoid legal authorities for fear of deportation back to war.

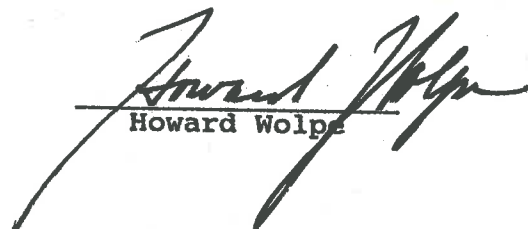
Again support these modest protections. Oppose any motion to strike them from HR 4300.

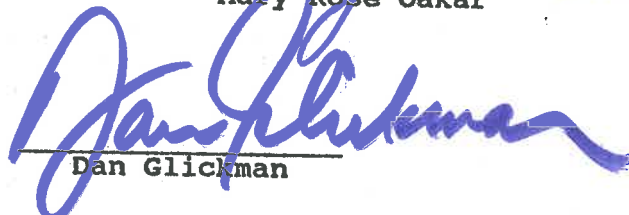
Sincerely,


Joe Moakley


Bill Gray


Mary Rose Oakar


Howard Wolpe


Dan Glickman