

LEGISLATIVE REPORT
ON THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 106TH CONGRESS

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**LEGISLATIVE REPORT
106th Congress First Session**

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I. COMMUNICATIONS

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Affordable Telephone Service Accessible to All	S. 1153, Harkin (D-IA) "Rural Telecommunications Improvement Act." To establish the office of rural advocacy in the F.C.C.	S. 1153 introduced/referred to the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on 5/27/99. Prognosis: Uncertain.	Generally supportive of efforts to make affordable phone service accessible to all.	Monitoring.
Low-Power Radio	H.R. 3439, Oxley (R-OH), "to prohibit the FCC from establishing rules authorizing the operation of new low power FM radio stations"	H.R. 3439 introduced/referred to the Commerce Committee. Prognosis: Uncertain.	Supports establishing a new class of radio stations - micro-radio station, to: (a) open opportunity for ownership of radio stations; (b) increase diversity of programs and voices heard on radio, and (c) offer low cost alternatives to current broadcast facilities.	Monitoring.

I. COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>New Telecommunications Services Provided to All Segments of Public: Internet Access by school and library</p>	<p>H.R. 1746, Tauzin (R-LA)/S. 1004, Burns (R-SD), "School and Libraries Internet Access Act." (Background: A universal service fee, in consumer and business telephone bills, has been in effect since 1934 in order to provide comparable and affordable phone service in all parts of the country (e.g., high cost and rural areas) and to low income residents. The Telecommunications Act of 1996 included an amendment by Senators Snowe (R-ME) and Rockefeller (D-WV), to use universal service fees also to see that schools, libraries and rural health care facilities have affordable access to advanced telecommunications services. As this program has been implemented, some lawmakers have criticized its structure and the size of the money earmarked by the FCC, maintaining it has caused rate increases for some consumers.) H.R. 1746/S. 1004 would abolish the current FCC structure for and financing of the E-rate program. It would reduce the current</p>	<p>H.R. 1746 introduced/referred to the Committee on Commerce and the Committee on Ways and Means on 5/11/99. Hearing held by Commerce Telecommunications Subcommittee on 9/30/99.</p> <p>S. 1004 introduced/referred to the Committee on Finance on 5/11/99.</p>	<p>Strongly support set-asides for non-profit, religious and educational groups. Support E-Rate program as it is.</p>	<p>Monitoring (see "Education" below).</p>

I. COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>New Telecommunications Services Provided to All Segments of Public: Internet Access by school and library (continued)</p>	<p>telephone excise tax from 3% to 1% and devote the remaining revenue to the E-rate (the excise tax has been used for the budget deficit and general government operations). Operating authority would be assigned to the National Telecommunication and Information Administration, while leaving the distribution of funds to the discretion of state and local authorities. It would eliminate the means-testing, provides annual cap of \$1.7 billion, and sunsets in 5 years.</p> <p>H.R. 727, Klink(D-PA), "Telecommunications Trust Act." To provide for explicit and stable funding for federal support of universal telecommunications services through the creation of a Telecommunications Trust Fund.</p> <p>H.R. 692, Tancredo(R-CO), "E-Rate Termination Act." (See Education Department)</p>	<p>H.R. 727 was introduced/referred to the Committee on Commerce and the Committee on Ways and Means.</p> <p>H.R. 692 introduced/referred to the Committee on Commerce on 2/10/99.</p> <p>Prognosis: Congress unlikely to complete action.</p>		<p>Monitoring</p> <p>Monitoring</p>
<p>New Telecommunications Services Provided to All Segments of Public: Internet Deregulation</p>	<p>H.R. 2420, Tauzin (R-LA) "Internet Freedom and Broadband Development Act." To deregulate the Internet and high speed data services.</p>	<p>H.R. 2420 introduced/referred to Commerce Committee on 7/1/99.</p> <p>Prognosis: Uncertain.</p>	<p>Generally supportive of legislation designed to make new telecommunication services available to all segments of the public.</p>	<p>Monitoring.</p>

I. COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>New Telecommunications Services Provided to All Segments of Public: Internet Taxation</p>	<p>S. 328, Smith(R-NH)/H.R. 3252, Kasich (R-OH), To make permanent the moratorium on the imposition of taxes on the Internet. (Similar Bills)</p> <p>H.R. 1291, Upton(R-MI), "Internet Access Charge Prohibition Act." To prohibit the imposition of access charges of Internet service providers.</p>	<p>S. 328 introduced/referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation on 1/28/99. H.R. 3252 introduced/referred to Committees on Judiciary and Ways and Means on 11/8/99.</p> <p>H.R. 1291 introduced/referred to the Committee on Commerce on 3/25/99.</p> <p>Prognosis: Uncertain.</p>	<p>Generally supportive of legislation designed to make new telecommunication services available to all segments of the public.</p>	<p>Monitoring.</p>
<p>Protecting Children from Violent Programming</p>	<p>S. 876, Holdings(D-SC), "Children's Protection from Violent Programming Act." To require that the broadcast of violent video programming be limited to hours when children are not reasonably likely to comprise a substantial portion of the audience.</p> <p>H.Con.Res. 184, Portman (R-OH)/S.Con.Res. 56, Voinovich (R-OH), "Sense of Congress" regarding the importance of "family friendly" programming on TV.</p> <p>H.Res. 346, Brown (D-FL), "Sense of House" that "Family Hour" (8-9pm) should be set aside by T.V. exclusively for family oriented programming.</p>	<p>S. 876 introduced/referred to the Committee on Commerce on 4/26/99. Hearings were held on 5/18/99. On 5/13/99, Sen. Holdings offered S. 876 as an amendment to S. 254, the Juvenile Crime Bill. It was defeated 39-60.</p> <p>Prognosis: Congress unlikely to complete action.</p> <p>H.Con.Res. 184 introduced/referred to Commerce Committee on 9/9/99. On 9/13/99 brought to House Floor under suspension of Rules. Passed 396-0.</p> <p>S.Con.Res. 56 introduced/referred to Commerce Committee on 9/14/99. On 9/16/99 the Committee was discharged and the bill passed on the Senate floor by unanimous consent.</p> <p>H.Res. 346 introduced/referred to Commerce Committee on 10/29/99.</p> <p>Prognosis: Uncertain.</p>	<p>No formal position taken.</p>	<p>Monitoring</p>

I. COMMUNICATIONS (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Spectrum Allocation	H.R. 879, Woolsey(D-CA), "A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to exempt licenses in the instructional television fixed service from competitive bidding."	H.R. 879 introduced/referred to the Committee on Commerce on 2/25/99. Prognosis: Uncertain.	USCC supports legislation to maintain the number of television channels for noncommercial use and oppose legislation that decreases the number of educational stations.	Lobbying.

II. DOMESTIC SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Benefits	<p>S. 1282, Treasury/Postal Appropriations, contained a provision that would have evaluated the impact of the welfare reform law of 1996 based on employment assistance, food stamp eligibility vs. receipt and health care assistance eligibility vs. receipt, etc.</p> <p>H.R. 3150, Rep. Maloney, C. (D-NY), a House Bill that requires evaluation of the impact of the welfare reform law of 1996 as described above.</p>	<p>S. 1282 was reported on 6/24/99. It was passed as amended on 7/19/99.</p> <p>The provision was stripped out by the Conference Committee, but was introduced as freestanding legislation in the House.</p> <p>H.R. 3150 introduced/referred to Ways and Means on 10/26/99.</p> <p>Prognosis: Uncertain.</p>	Supports.	Monitored.
Budget Resolution	<p>H. Con. Res. 68, Kasich, (R-OH)/S. Con. Res. 20, Domenici (R-NM) "Congressional Budget Resolution." This bill establishes the budget for FY2000 which determines how much funding will be available for the 13 appropriations bills.</p>	<p>H. Con. Res. 68 was reported as an original measure by the House Committee on the Budget on 3/23/99. It was amended and passed the full House on 4/14/99.</p> <p>S. Con. Res. 20 was reported as an original measure by the Senate Committee on the Budget on 3/19/99. H. Con. Res. 68 passed the Senate in lieu of S. Con. Res. 20 on 3/25/99. The House and the Senate Conferees agreed to file a conference report on 4/13/99. The House agreed to the conference report on 4/14/99 and the Senate agreed to the conference report on 4/15/99.</p> <p>Action was completed (President does not sign this legislation into law; it is used as the basis for the Appropriations process).</p>	No formal position taken. USCC supports maximum funding for a wide range of Federal programs in the areas of health, education and welfare, especially as they impact low income and disadvantaged people.	Monitored.

II. DOMESTIC SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Community Reinvestment Act (CRA)	<p>H.R. 10, Leach (R-IA) "Financial Modernization Bill." To enhance competition in the financial services industry by providing a prudential framework for the affiliation of banks, securities firms, insurance companies, and other financial service providers, and for other purposes.</p> <p>S. 900, Gramm (R-TX) "Financial Services Modernization Bill." A companion bill to H.R. 10; the bill contained provisions that would exempt some banks from compliance with CRA.</p>	<p>H.R. 10 introduced/referred to the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services and the House Committee on Commerce on 1/6/99. It was reported by the Committee on Banking and Financial Services on 3/23/99 and by the Committee on Commerce on 6/15/99; House amended and passed it on 7/1/99.</p> <p>S. 900 was reported as an original measure by the Senate Committee on Banking on 4/28/99. It was amended and passed by the Senate on 5/6/99.</p> <p>The bill went to Conference Committee on 10/29/99. The Conference Bill was passed by the House on 11/4/99 and by the Senate on 11/4/99.</p> <p>Final version contained provisions that require new branches or merging banks to have a satisfactory or better rating, reduces frequency of CRA review for rural and small banks with good rating records, and requires disclosure of agreements between banks and community organizations that result in grants of \$10,000 grants or more and loans of \$50,000 or more being provided to these organizations.</p> <p>S. 900 signed by the President on 11/12/99, P.L. 106-102.</p>	Opposes. Sought amendments to maintain and extend the Community Reinvestment Act to new financial institutions.	Lobbying. Letter.
Earned Income Tax Credit	H.R. 3037, Labor, HHS Appropriations Bill contained a provision that would have required EITC recipients to take monthly disbursement rather than lump-sum year end disbursement of EITC funds.	<p>H.R. 3037 was reported in the House on 10/7/99. The bill never passed the House, It was replaced by H.R. 3424.</p> <p>The EITC provision was not included in the new bill.</p>	No formal position on the Labor, HHS Appropriations Bill, but opposed changing EITC to require monthly disbursement.	Letter. Monitored.

II. DOMESTIC SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Health Care Coverage	<p>H.R. 827, DeGette (D-CO) "Improved Maternal and Children's Health Coverage Act of 1999." A bill to amend titles XIX and XXI of the Social Security Act to improve the coverage of needy children under the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) and the Medicaid Program</p> <p>H.R. 3426, Thomas (R-CA), "Medicare, Medicaid, and State Children's Health Insurance Program bill", restores \$12.8 billion that was cut from Medicare by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.</p> <p>H.R. 1180, Lazio (R-NY), "Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999", amends the Social Security Act to expand the availability of health care coverage for working individuals with disabilities. (See General Counsel section under "Social Security Coverage for Clergy").</p>	<p>H.R. 827 introduced/referred to the House Committee on Commerce on 2/24/99.</p> <p>Prognosis: uncertain.</p> <p>H.R. 3426 was introduced on 11/17/99 and enacted by cross reference as part of H.R. 3194, the Consolidated Appropriations Act.</p> <p>H.R. 3194 was signed on 11/29/99, P.L. 106-113.</p> <p>H.R. 1180 reported from Conference Committee on 11/17/99. It passed the House on 11/18/99, 418-2. It then passed the Senate on 11/19/99, 95-1.</p> <p>H.R. 1180 signed by the President on 11/17/99, P.L. 106-170.</p>	<p>No formal position taken. The USCC is in negotiation with the sponsor to change provisions of the bill to ensure contraceptive and abortion services are not expanded to a larger population as a result of the bill.</p> <p>No formal position taken.</p> <p>USCC supports.</p>	<p>Monitoring.</p> <p>Monitored.</p> <p>Monitored. Letters.</p>

II. DOMESTIC SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>Juvenile Justice/Gun Control</p>	<p>H.R. 1501, McCollum (R-FL) “Juvenile Crime Bill.” To provide grants to ensure increased accountability for juvenile offenders. This legislation was split into two bills (resulting in the creation of H.R. 2122) because the House Leadership wanted to afford Members of Congress with the opportunity to vote on juvenile justice issues separately from gun control issues.</p>	<p>H.R. 1501 introduced/referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on 4/21/99. It was discharged from full Committee consideration and was amended on the House floor. It passed the House on 6/17/99; the Senate amended and passed it on 7/28/99.</p>	<p>Seeking gun control amendments.</p>	<p>Lobbying. Letter.</p>
	<p>H.R. 2122, McCollum (R-FL) “Gun Control Bill.” A bill to require background checks at gun shows, and for other purposes.</p>	<p>H.R. 2122 introduced/referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on 6/10/99. It was discharged from full Committee consideration and was amended on the House floor. It failed to pass the House on 6/18/99.</p>	<p>USCC opposes these provisions as too weak.</p>	<p>Letter. Lobbying.</p>
	<p>S. 254, Hatch (R-UT), “ Juvenile Crime Bill.” A bill to reduce violent juvenile crime, promote accountability by rehabilitation of juvenile criminals, punish and deter violent gang crime, and for other purposes.</p>	<p>S. 254 introduced in the Senate on 1/20/99. It was amended to include gun control provisions and subsequently passed the Senate on 4/20/99.</p> <p>On 7/16/99, upon consideration of S. 254, the House passed H. Res. 249, expressing the opinion of the House that S. 254 is unconstitutional.</p> <p>Prognosis: House and Senate versions are currently under consideration by a Conference Committee. It is unclear whether conferees can come to an agreement on gun provisions before the end of this Congress.</p>	<p>USCC is supportive of the Senate gun control provisions, and opposes many of the provisions specifically dealing with juvenile offender status and treatment in court correctional systems.</p>	<p>Letter, lobbying.</p>

II. DOMESTIC SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>Low-Income Food Assistance Programs</p>	<p>H.R. 1906, Skeen (R-NM)/S. 1233, Cochran (R-MS) "Agricultural, Rural Development, Food, and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, FY 2000." This bill includes funding for Women's, Infants' and Children's Program, Food Stamps and other food programs.</p>	<p>H.R. 1906 was reported as an original measure by the House Committee on Appropriations on 5/21/99. It was amended and passed by the House on 6/8/99.</p> <p>S. 1233 was reported as an original measure by the Senate Committee on Appropriations on 6/7/99. It was amended, passed, and engrossed into H.R. 1906 on 8/4/99.</p> <p>H.R.1906 went to Conference on 9/13/99. The Conference Report included \$21.1 Billion for Food Stamps. The Conference Report passed the House on 10/1/99 and the Senate on 10/13/99.</p> <p>H.R. 1906 signed by the President on 10/22/99, P.L. 106-78.</p>	<p>No formal position taken on the appropriations bill; however, USCC supports maximum funding for Women's, Infants' and Children's Program, Food Stamps and other food programs.</p>	<p>Monitoring.</p>

II. DOMESTIC SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Low Income Housing	H.R. 2684/S. 1596, VA/HUD Appropriations Bill. Originally the legislation significantly cut funding for housing assistance for the poor.	<p>H.R. 2684 was reported on 7/30/99 and passed the House amended on 9/9/99, 235-187.</p> <p>S. 1596 was reported on 9/16/99, and passed the Senate on 9/24/99.</p> <p>A Conference committee was named and a conference report was issued on 10/13/99.</p> <p>The House agreed to the Conference on 10/14/99 and the Senate agreed on 10/15/99.</p> <p>The Conference Report included \$345 million in funding for 60,000 additional rental assistance housing vouchers. The final bill also includes provisions from H.R. 202 to enable disabled and elderly residents to remain in their homes when landlords discontinue participation in federal low-income housing programs.</p> <p>H.R. 2684 was signed by the President on 10/20/99, P.L. 106-74.</p>	Opposes cutting housing assistance to the poor.	Letter, lobbied.

II. DOMESTIC SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Managed Care	<p>S. 326, Jeffords (R-VT) “Patients’ Bill of Rights Act.” A bill to improve the access and choice of patients quality, affordable health care.</p> <p>S. 6 Daschle (D-SD) “Patients Bill of Rights Act of 1999.” A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act, the Employee Retirement Security Act of 1974, and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage.</p> <p>H.R. 2723, Norwood (R-GA), the “Bipartisan Consensus Managed Care Improvement Act”, a bill to protect consumers in managed care plans and other health coverage.</p> <p>H.R. 2990, Rep. Talent (R-MO),/S. 1344, Lott (R-MS), “Managed Care bill “To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow individuals greater access to health insurance through a health care tax deduction, a long-term care deduction, and other health-related tax incentives, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to provide access to and choice in health care through association health plans, to amend the Public Health Service Act to create new pooling opportunities for small employers to obtain greater access to health coverage through HealthMarts, and for other purposes.</p>	<p>S. 326 introduced/referred to Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions. It was reported to the Senate with an amendment in the nature of a substitute on 6/27/99.</p> <p>S. 6 introduced/referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on 1/19/99.</p> <p>The House passed H.R. 2723 on 10/7/99. It then folded the bill into H.R. 2990.</p> <p>H.R. 2990 was introduced/referred to Commerce, Education and Workforce, and Ways and Means Committees on 9/3/99. On 10/6/99, it was considered and passed on the House floor pursuant to Hres3230.</p> <p>S. 1344 was introduced on 7/8/99. It was considered and amended, and it was passed on 7/15/99. On 10/14/99 it was inserted into H.R. 2990, which the Senate then passed in place of S. 1344.</p> <p>Prognosis: Uncertain, but a conference will take place.</p>	No formal position taken.	Monitoring.

II. DOMESTIC SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>Minimum Wage</p>	<p>H.R. 3081, Lazio (R-NY), A bill to increase the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax benefits for small businesses. This bill would increase the minimum wage by \$1 over 3 years with \$30 Billion in tax cuts over 5 years.</p> <p>S. 625, Grassley (R-IA) "Bankruptcy Reform Act", A Domenici Amendment to this bill raises the minimum wage by \$1 over 3 years with tax cuts of \$18.4 Billion over 5 years.</p> <p>A Kennedy (D-MA) Amendment was offered to this bill that would have raised the minimum wage by \$1 over 2 years and \$11.5 billion with offsets.</p> <p>H.R. 325, Bonoir (D-MI)/S. 192 Kennedy (D-MA) "Fair Minimum Wage Act of 1999." A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to increase the Federal minimum wage.</p>	<p>H.R. 3081, introduced and referred to the Education and Workforce and the Ways and Means Committees on 10/14/99. On 11/9/99 the bill passed the Ways and Means Committee, 23-14, and was reported on 11/11/99. It has not been reported by the Education and Workforce Committee.</p> <p>S. 625 was introduced/referred to the Judiciary Committee on 4/16/99. The Committee reported the bill as amended on 5/11/99. The Domenici Amendment offered on the Senate floor passed. The Kennedy amendment offered on the floor was tabled. The bill is still under debate in the Senate.</p> <p>H.R. 325 introduced/referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on 1/19/99.</p> <p>S. 192 introduced/referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Labor, Education, and Pensions on 1/19/99.</p> <p>Prognosis: Uncertain, but the President has threatened to veto the Domenici-type minimum wage increase.</p>	<p>USCC supports proposals for a two year minimum wage increase as opposed to H.R. 3081 or the Domenici Amendment.</p> <p>Supports.</p> <p>Supports.</p>	<p>Lobbying. Letters.</p>

II. DOMESTIC SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Offsets in Food Stamps, Housing, and TANF/ Emergency Supplemental Appropriations	H.R. 1141, Young (R-FL)/ S. 544, Domenici (R-NM) "Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill." To provide emergency supplemental appropriations for recovery from natural disasters that occurred in Central America. This bill was also eventually modified to include many of the original provisions from H.R. 1664, a bill designed to provide emergency supplemental appropriations for the Kosovo crisis.	<p>H.R. 1141 was reported as an original measure by the House Committee on Appropriations on 3/17/99. It was amended and passed by the full House on 3/18/99.</p> <p>S. 544 was reported as an original measure by the Senate Committee on International Relations on 3/4/99. It was amended and passed by the full Senate on 3/23/99. It was subsequently incorporated into H.R. 1141 as an amendment on 3/25/99. H.R. 1141 went to conference on 4/22/99. The conference report for H.R. 1141 was passed by the House on 5/18/99 and by the Senate on 5/20/99.</p> <p>Signed by the President on 5/21/99, P.L. 106-31.</p>	USCC supported this bill, but was concerned about the potential for offsets in food stamps, housing, and the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program (TANF).	Lobbying.
Social Security	S. 502, Ashcroft, (R-MO) "Protect Social Security Benefits Act of 1999." This bill contains a social security lock box that would prevent Congress from using the Social Security surplus as part of the budget for spending purposes.	<p>S. 502 introduced/referred to the Senate Committee on the Budget and the Senate Committee on Government Affairs.</p> <p>Prognosis: Congress is likely to complete action on this bill in during this session.</p>	No formal position taken.	Monitoring.

III. EDUCATION

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>College Tuition Break for D.C. Residents</p>	<p>H.R. 974, Davis (R-VA) “District of Columbia College Access Act.” Would provide scholarships to graduates of high schools, public and private, in Washington D.C., allowing them to pay in-state tuition rates at public and private colleges and universities in Maryland and Virginia and under certain conditions throughout the Nation. Awards would be capped at \$10,000 annually for students attending public universities, and \$50,000 over the college career; awards are capped at \$2,500 annually toward private college tuition and \$12,500 over the college career.</p> <p>S. 856, Jeffords (R-VT) “Expanded Options in Higher Education for District of Columbia Students Act.” Would allow the federal government to pay the difference in cost between in-state and out-of-state tuition for Washington, D.C. residents who attend public post-secondary institutions in Maryland and Virginia. Also, it would provide additional federal funds to the University of the District of Columbia under Title III of the Higher Education Act, and allocate \$2,000 in grants for D.C. students who attend private universities in the capital city.</p>	<p>H.R. 974 introduced/referred to the House Committee on Government Reform and the House Committee on Ways and Means on 3/4/99. Reported amended from Government Reform on 5/24/99. Passed the House amended on 5/24/99. H.R. 974 was received in the Senate and referred to the Senate Committee on Government Affairs on 5/27/99. Reported amended from Government Affairs on 9/9/99. Passed the Senate on 10/19/99. Measure passed the House with Senate changes on 11/1/99 and was sent to the President.</p> <p>H.R. 974 signed by the President on 11/12/99, P.L. 106-98.</p> <p>The Conference Report on the FY2000 District Appropriations bills agreed to by House and Senate would fund D.C. students 11 million for college tuitions in Maryland and Virginia or 17 million if money can be used at colleges nationwide. The House passed the conference report of the third version of the D.C. Appropriations Bill (H.R. 3194) on 11/18/99. The Senate passed the Conference report on 11/19/99.</p> <p>H.R. 3194, DC Appropriations, signed by the President on 11/29/99, P.L. 106-113.</p> <p>S. 856 introduced/referred to the Senate Committee on Government Affairs Committee on 4/21/99.</p>	<p>Supports.</p>	<p>Lobbying in coalition with the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. Letter.</p>

III. EDUCATION (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>Education Appropriations-FY 2000</p>	<p>House Bill, HR 3037, Porter (R-IL)/ Senate Bill, S. 1650, Spector (R-PA)</p> <p>The final negotiated FY 2000 Labor, HHS. And Education Appropriations Bill (HR 3424) would: fund the Education Department at \$35.7 Billion a \$2.2 Billion increase over 1999; fund Title I at \$8 Billion, but allow students at “failing” Title I schools to transfer to better public schools; funds “Capital Expenses” at \$12 million; provides \$1.325 billion to hire new teachers, but 25% for teacher training including private schools teachers; repeals the Goals 2000 programs; funds Eisenhower Title II professional development at \$335 million; Education technology at \$583.6 million; Drug-free schools at \$605.7 million; Title VI at \$380 million; Reading Excellence at \$260 million; Bilingual at \$406 million; and IDEA part B at \$4.98 billion.</p>	<p>H.R. 3037 reported from the Appropriations Committee 10/7/99.</p> <p>S. 1650 reported from Appropriations Committee Sept. 28, 1999; Passed the Senate amended Oct. 7, 1999. A House/Senate Conference Report was filed 10/27/99 which combines Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations with the District of Columbia spending bill coupled with an across-the-board cut in all discretionary spending. The Conference Report on H.R. 3064 passed both the House and the Senate and the President vetoed the bill on 11/3/99. A new bill, H.R. 3424 (incorporated by reference in H.R. 3194 (D.C.) was adopted by the House on 11/18/99 and passed the Senate on 11/19/99.</p> <p>H.R. 3194 signed by the President on 11/29/99, P.L. 106-113.</p>	<p>No formal position taken, but the USCC is generally supportive of full funding for most Federal Education Programs. The USCC is seeking amendments to maintain an adequate FY2000 appropriation for “Capital Expenses” in the ESEA Title I program.</p>	<p>Lobbying. Letters and testimony before the House Committee on Education and Workforce. Letters to House and Senate Appropriations Committees.</p>

III. EDUCATION (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Education Flexibility	<p>H.R. 800, Castle (R-DE/ S. 280, Frist (R-TN) "Education Flexibility Partnership Act of 1999." Expands the Education Flexibility Demonstration Program (Ed Flex), letting all 50 states apply to participate in a K-12 regulatory flexibility initiative now available to just 12 states. Eligible states have the right to waive certain statutory requirements under the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Education Act. However, they must also waive their own state education rules and hold participating schools accountable for improving student achievement.</p> <p>The measure also amends the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), letting schools move a disabled child to an alternative placement for possessing, and not just carrying, a weapon. Guarantees participation of students and teachers in private schools.</p>	<p>H.R. 800 introduced/referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce. It was reported to the full House on 3/8/99. H.R. 800 was considered, amended, and subsequently passed by the House on 3/11/99.</p> <p>S.280 introduced/ referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on 1/21/99. It was reported to the full Senate on 1/28/99 where it was amended.</p> <p>H.R. 800 passed the Senate in lieu of S.280 on 3/11/99.</p> <p>The House and the Senate agreed to the conference report on 4/21/99.</p> <p>H.R. 800 signed by the President on 4/29/99, P.L. 106-25.</p>	No position formally taken; the USCC was successful in ensuring that language safeguarding requirements to provide for the participation of students and teachers in private schools was included in both bills.	Lobbied.

III. EDUCATION (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>Education Savings Accounts for K-12 or Higher Education Expenses</p>	<p>S. 1134, Roth (R-DE) "Affordable Education Act of 1999." This bill would allow families or corporations to contribute up to \$2,000 annually to education savings accounts for either higher education or K-12 expenses, including private school tuition. Current law allows people to contribute \$500 annually to education IRAs, and the proceeds must be used for higher education. It would also authorize the 12 Federal Home Loan Banks to guarantee up to \$500 million in bonds for public school construction.</p> <p>H.R. 2488 Archer (R-TX) "Taxpayer Refund and Relief Act of 1999." Amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce individual income tax rates, to provide marriage penalty relief, to reduce taxes on savings and investments, to provide estate and gift tax relief, to provide incentives for education savings and health care, and for other purposes. <i>H.R. 2488 included the education savings account provision described above under the Roth Bill.</i></p> <p>Related House and Senate Bills: S. 14, Coverdell (R-GA). "Education Savings Account and School Excellence Act of 1999." S.277 Coverdell (R-GA) "Educational Opportunity and Excellence Act of 1999." H.R. 7 Hulshof (R-MO) "Education Savings and School Excellence Act."</p> <p>Note: In addition, tax credit bill was introduced: H.R. 1710 Salmon (R-AZ) "K-12 Education Excellence Now Act of 1999." Allows a credit against income-tax for expenses of attending elementary and secondary schools and for contributions to scholarships for children to</p>	<p>S. 1134 introduced on 5/26/99 and placed on the calendar in the full Senate. The Senate Finance Committee reported the measure on 5/18/99.</p> <p>H.R. 2488 Referred to Ways and Means July 13, 1999. Reported amended July 16, 1999; passed House amended July 22, 1999; Received in Senate and ordered placed on the calendar July 28, 1999. Passed Senate with amendment July 30, 1999. Senate asked for a conference July 30, 1999. House agreed to a conference Aug. 2, 1999. House agreed to conference report Aug. 5, 1999; Senate agreed to conference report Aug. 5, 1999. Presented to the President Sept. 15, 1999. Final Version included the education savings account provision.</p> <p>H.R. 2488 was vetoed by the President on Sept. 23, 1999.</p> <p>S. 14 introduced/referred to Committee on Finance 1/19/99. S. 277 introduced/referred to Committees on Finance 1/21/99. H.R. 7 introduced/referred to Committee on Ways and Means on 3/11/99. H.R. 1710 introduced/referred to Committee on Ways and Means 5/5/99.</p>	<p>No formal position taken, but the USCC is generally supportive.</p>	<p>Monitoring. USCC lobbied strongly for similar legislation in the last Congress.</p>

III. EDUCATION (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) (reauthorization)</p>	<p>H.R. 2, Goodling (R-PA) “Dollars to the Classroom Act,” a general reauthorization of ESEA was replaced by “Students Results Act of 1999,” which became H.R. 2 by amendment. This bill is based on four main principles: quality, accountability, choice and flexibility. It renews Title I of the 1965 Elementary and Secondary Education Act, maintaining the requirement that states put in place by 2000-01 academic assessments that are aligned with state content and performance standards. <i>It also strengthened requirements relating to students in private schools: permits assumed proportionality; requires consultation on use of contract services; requires written sign off on consultation; poverty count every two years permitted; added “quality of program” to bypass provision; extends “Capital Expenses” three more years.</i></p> <p>Note: In addition, it had the following new provisions: lets states spend up to 30 percent of new Title I funds on rewards to high-performing schools; requires parental consent before enrolling a child in a bilingual education program; lowers threshold of poverty for participation in school-wide programs to 40 percent; allows schools to spend Title I funds on transportation to transfer students from low-performing schools to other public schools; bars the hiring of new paraprofessionals unless they complete two years of college, obtain an associate’s degree, or pass a local test demonstrating their knowledge of - and ability to teach - reading, writing, and math. Rural Schools given unprecedented flexibility to consolidate Federal funds to best meet their needs. Raised the authorization for Title I grants to school districts by \$1.5 billion, to \$9.9 Billion</p>	<p>H.R. 2 introduced/referred to the Education and Workforce Committee on 2/11/99. Mr. Goodling offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute, “the Students Results Act of 1999”, on 9/29/99. Reported Amended from Education and Workforce 10/18/99. Passed the House Amended 10/21/99 by a vote of 358 to 67.</p>	<p>No formal position taken on the overall bill, but the USCC is generally supportive. The USCC sought amendments to strengthen or add provisions to ensure the equitable participation of students and staff in private and religious schools, specifically in Title I and in all Federal education programs.</p>	<p>Lobbying. Letters to and Testimony before House Education and Workforce Committee.</p>

III. EDUCATION (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) (reauthorization) (continued)</p>	<p>H.R. 1960, Clay (D-MO) "Education Excellence for All Children Act of 1999." The Clinton Administration's proposal, requiring states to demonstrate in four years that 95 percent of their teachers are either fully certified or working toward certification through an alternative route. It also would compel schools to provide needed supervision, educational and counseling services to all students suspended or expelled from school. And it would ensure that states and schools provide needed, age appropriate services before ending social promotion. It strengthens consultation provisions for participation of private school students and teachers.</p> <p>S. 1180, Kennedy (D-MA) This bill matches H.R. 1960, except that it does not include language on social promotion.</p> <p>Note: Chairman Jefford's proposed bill would be a major Senate bill, but is still in draft form.</p>	<p>H.R. 1960 introduced and referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on 5/26/99. The Committee held hearings related to ESEA reauthorization.</p> <p>S. 1180 introduced/referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions on 5/27/99. The Committee held hearings related to ESEA reauthorization.</p> <p>Prognosis: Congress is required to reauthorize this law and is likely to complete action during the next session.</p>		
<p>Internet Blocking in Schools</p>	<p>H.R. 896, Franks (R-NJ) "Children's Internet Protection Act." Requires the installation and use by schools and libraries of a technology for filtering or blocking material on the Internet on computers with Internet access to be eligible to receive or retain universal service assistance.</p> <p>S. 97. McCain (R-AZ) "Children's Internet Protection Act." Requires schools and libraries to install filtering technology or blocking material on computers with Internet access to be eligible to receive or retain universal service assistance (E-Rate discounts).</p>	<p>H.R. 896 introduced/referred to the House Committee on Commerce on 3/2/99. It was taken and approved as an amendment to H.R. 1501, the "Juvenile Offender Act of 1999" which passed the House on 6/17/99. H.R. 1501 passed the Senate Amended 7/28/99. House and Senate agreed to Conference on 7/30/99.</p> <p>S. 97 introduced/referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on 1/19/99. It was reported amended from the Committee on 8/5/99.</p> <p>Prognosis: Uncertain.</p>	<p>While the USCC strongly supports any effort that prevents children from having access to pornography through the Internet, it considers efforts that rely solely on Internet Blocking as too limited. Therefore the USCC advocated the inclusion of Ethical Internet Use policies within S. 97 legislation as an option that is available to schools in the prevention of children's access to pornography on the Internet.</p>	<p>Lobbying. Letters.</p>

III. EDUCATION (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>New Telecommunications Services Provided to All Segments of Public: Internet Access by school and library</p>	<p>H.R. 1746, Tauzin (R-LA)/S. 1004, Burns (R-SD), "School and Libraries Internet Access Act." (See description under "Communications" above).</p> <p>H.R. 692, Tancredo(R-CO), "E-Rate Termination Act."</p> <p>H.R. 727, Klink(D-PA), "Telecommunications Trust Act." To provide for explicit and stable funding for federal support of universal telecommunications services through the creation of a Telecommunications Trust Fund.</p>	<p>H.R. 1746 introduced/referred to the Committee on Commerce and the Committee on Ways and Means on 5/11/99.</p> <p>S. 1004 introduced/referred to the Committee on Finance on 5/11/99.</p> <p>H.R. 692 introduced/referred to the Committee on Commerce on 2/10/99.</p> <p>H.R. 727 was introduced/referred to the Committee on Commerce and the Committee on Ways and Means.</p> <p>Prognosis: Congress unlikely to complete action.</p>	<p>Strongly support set-asides for non profit, religious and educational groups. Supports the current FCC structure for financing the E-rate program.</p>	<p>Lobbying in Coalition.</p>
<p>New Telecommunications Services Provided to All Segments of Public: Internet Taxation</p>	<p>S. 328, Smith(R-NH), To make permanent the moratorium on the imposition of taxes on the Internet.</p> <p>H.R. 1291, Upton(R-MI), "Internet Access Charge Prohibition Act." To prohibit the imposition of access charges of Internet service providers.</p>	<p>S. 328 introduced/referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation on 1/28/99</p> <p>H.R. 1291 introduced/referred to the Committee on Commerce on 3/25/99.</p> <p>Prognosis: Congress unlikely to complete action.</p>	<p>Strongly support set-asides for non profit, religious and educational groups. Opposes the excise tax proposal since religious schools would be eliminated from participation.</p>	<p>Lobbying in Coalition.</p>

III. EDUCATION (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
School Construction	<p>H.R. 1660, Rangel (D-NY) "Public School Modernization Act." Would provide \$3.3 billion in tax credits over five years to pay the interest on school modernization bonds. Also, the bill would raise to \$11 billion the total amount of qualified school construction bonds that can be issued in fiscal years 2000 and 2001.</p> <p>S. 7, Daschle (D-SD) "Public Schools Excellence Act." Would provide tax credits, in lieu of interest, for bonds issued by states and schools for school construction and repair, and provide added funding to low-income districts for reducing class sizes in early grades. It would also authorize \$1.2 billion for teacher recruitment.</p>	<p>H.R. 1660 introduced/referred to the House Education and the Workforce Committee and the House Ways and Means Committee on 5/4/99. A provision from the Rangel bill that extends a program giving tax credits to financial institutions that invest in bonds to improve public schools in needy areas was included in H.R. 2923, which was incorporated into H.R. 1180, "The Work Incentives Opportunity Act," and passed the House on 11/18/99 and cleared the Senate on 11/19/99.</p> <p>H.R. 1180, including the Rangel Bill Provision, was signed by the President on 12/17/99, P.L. 106-170.</p> <p>S. 7 introduced/referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions on 1/19/99.</p>	<p>No formal position taken. The USCC is seeking amendments to permit private and religious schools to participate in local construction bond issues, and/or participate in federal grant funding for health and safety, energy efficiency or technology and building access renovation projects in private and religious schools.</p>	<p>Lobbying. Letters and testimony before the House Committee on Education and the Workforce.</p>

III. EDUCATION (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>School Construction (continued):</p>	<p>S. 223, Lautenberg (D-NJ) "Public School Modernization Act." Would provide special bond authority to states and school districts, letting them raise funds for school modernization and construction through federal tax credits instead of interest payments. States would receive 65 percent of the bond authority in proportion to their share of Title I basic grants; the remaining 35 percent would be allocated to the 100 school districts with the largest number of poor children. It would also provide tax credits for school modernization: up to \$400 million in 1999, \$1.4 billion in 2000 and \$1.4 billion in 2001.</p> <p>S. 950, Feinstein (D-CA), "Excellence in Education Act." Would provide \$1 billion in school construction grants each year for fiscal years 2000 through 2004. To receive funds, local education agencies must: reduce class size to a student-teacher ratio of 20-to-1 in K-6, and a 28-to-1 ratio in grade 7-12 classes; prohibit social promotion; require that K-12 students be subject to state achievement tests; and provide matching funds to the federal grants.</p> <p>H.R. 1760, Johnson (R-CT) "America's Better Classrooms Act", Amends IRC to expand incentives for the construction, repair, rehabilitation, and renovation of public schools.</p> <p>S. 1134, Roth (R-DE) "Affordable Education Act of 1999." This bill would, among other things, authorizes the 12 Federal Home Loan Banks to guarantee up to \$500 million in bonds for school construction.</p>	<p>S. 223 introduced/referred to the Senate Committee on Finance on 1/19/99.</p> <p>S. 950 introduced/referred to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee on 5/4/99.</p> <p>H.R. 1760 introduced/referred to Committees on Ways and Means and Education and the Workforce on 5/11/99.</p> <p>S. 1134 approved by the Senate Committee on Finance, 12-8, as an original bill on 5/18/99. It was introduced/placed on the full Senate calendar on 5/26/99.</p> <p>Prognosis: Uncertain</p>		

III. EDUCATION (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>Super Education Flexibility--Straight A's (Block Grant)</p>	<p>H.R. 2300, Goodling (R-PA)/ S. 1266, Gorton (R-WA) "Academic Achievement for All Act." Straight A's gives states the option of establishing a five-year performance agreement with the Secretary of Education. If states do not choose this option, they would continue to receive funds under the current ESEA categorical program requirements. Approved states would be able to combine funds from a few or all of the federal K-12 education programs they administer at the state level; participating states would be held to strict accountability requirements: as part of their agreement they would be required to set specific and measurable performance goals to reach by the end of its five year term. States that do not substantially meet those goals would be required to revert to the categorical, regulated program structure. The total amount of funds is what the state would have otherwise received from the categorical programs. The formulas remain the same. Eligible programs comprise most of the formula-grant, state administered Federal education programs: Title I, Eisenhower, Technology Literacy Challenge Fund, Safe and Drug Free Schools, Emergency Immigration Education Act, McKinney Education Homeless Assistance Act, Title VI block grant, Class Size Reduction, Goals 2000, and Perkins Vocational Education. It would not include IDEA. States may then use these funds to implement their own education reform plans, as determined by the Governor and State legis-lature, in accordance with state law. The funds may be used for any educational activity per-mitted by state law. If Title I, Part A is included by a state, each school district in the state would</p>	<p>H.R. 2300 introduced/referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce on 6/22/99. Reported Amended from Committee 10/15/99. Passed the House Amended on 10/21/99. An amendment adopted on the House floor curtails the program limiting the grant-consolidations strategy to 10 states - making the straight A's a pilot program.</p> <p>S. 1266 introduced/referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions on 6/22/99.</p> <p>Prognosis: Uncertain</p>	<p>No formal position was taken, however the USCC is working to 1) safeguard the provisions for the equitable participation of students and staff in private schools and 2) to ensure that federal funds would not be commingled with state funds and trigger state Blaine amendment provisions in state constitutions.</p> <p>N.B. USCC opposes the inclusion of Title I in this program.</p>	<p>Lobbying.</p>

III. EDUCATION (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Super Education Flexibility--Straight A's (continued)	receive at least as much money as they received in the preceding fiscal year. States must include in their agreement assurances that civil rights laws will be enforced and that they will ensure the equitable participation of students and professional staff in private schools.			
Teacher Training	H.R. 1995, Goodling (R-PA) "Teacher Empowerment Act" This bill would authorize \$2 billion annually for teacher training, combining the existing class size, Eisenhower professional development and Goals 2000 programs into one new authority. Half of the funds would be distributed to states based on student population, and half based on student poverty rates. States would be required to send 95 percent of the funds to school districts for teacher quality projects, such as recruiting instructors, establishing mentoring programs and running merit pay initiatives. Provisions are included for the participation of teachers and other staff in private schools.	H.R. 1995 was introduced/ referred to the House Committee on Education and the Workforce and the House Committee on Armed Services on 5/27/99. It was reported amended from the Education and Workforce Committee and discharged from the Armed Services Committee on 7/14/99. Passed the House Amended on 7/20/99. Received in Senate and referred to Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committees 7/22/99. Prognosis: Congress is likely to complete action during the next session.	No formal position taken, but the USCC is generally supportive.	Lobbying. Letters and testimony. Submitted amendments to strengthen provisions for the participation of teachers and other staff in private schools.

IV. GENERAL COUNSEL

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Charitable Giving	H.R. 1310, Crane (R-IL) "The Charitable Giving Tax Relief Act." Allows taxpayers who do not itemize to deduct some of their charitable contributions.	H.R. 1310 introduced/referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means. Prognosis: Uncertain.	Supports.	Lobbying. Letter.
Religious Liberty Protection Act	H.R. 1691, Canady (R-FL) "Religious Liberty Protection Act." Would protect religious activities and practices from being substantially burdened by government action. It is a successor to the 1993 Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), partially invalidated by the Supreme Court in 1997.	H.R. 1691 introduced/referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on 5/5/99. It was reported to the House on 7/1/99. Passed the House 306-118 on 7/15/99. It was received in the Senate on 7/16/99 and held at the desk so that it might be brought to the Senate floor directly. On 9/9/99, although the bill had not been referred to the Committee, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing regarding the Constitutionality of H.R. 1691. The bill was never brought to the Senate floor, and on 11/19/99, the Senate referred the bill to the Judiciary Committee. Prognosis: Uncertain.	Supports.	Lobbying. Letters.

V. GENERAL COUNSEL (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>Social Security Coverage for Clergy</p>	<p>H.R. 133, English (R-PA)/S. 170, Smith (R-NH) “A bill to allow members of the clergy to participate in the Social Security program.” Clergy who opted out of social security would have an opportunity to reenter that program. The social security provision for clergy was included in H.R. 1180.</p> <p>H.R. 1180, Lazio (R-NY)/S. 331, Jeffords (R-VT) “A bill to enable individuals with disabilities to pursue employment.” This bill would allow persons on Social Security disability to enter the work force and retain their Medicaid health benefits.</p>	<p>H.R. 133 introduced/referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means on 1/6/99.</p> <p>S. 170 introduced/referred to the Senate Committee on Finance on 1/19/99.</p> <p>H.R. 1180 introduced/referred to the House Committee on Commerce and Ways and Means on 3/18/99. It was reported by the Committee on Commerce on 7/1/99. The House amended and passed the bill on 10/19/99, 412-9.</p> <p>S. 331 introduced/referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. It was reported to the Senate on 3/25/99. It was amended and passed by the Senate 99-0 on 6/16/99. On 10/21/99, the Senate passed H.R. 1180, replacing the text of H.R. 1180 with the text of S. 331.</p> <p>The Conference Committee filed its agreed upon report on 11/18/99. The Conference report passed the House on 11/18/99, 418-2 and passed the Senate on 11/19/99, 95-1.</p> <p>H.R. 1180 was signed by the President on 12/17/99, P.L. 106-170.</p>	<p>Supports.</p>	<p>Lobbying.</p>

V. INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Budget Resolution	H. Con. Res. 68, Kasich, (R-OH)/S. Con. Res. 20, Domenici (R-NM) "Congressional Budget Resolution." This bill establishes the budget for FY2000 which determines how much funding will be available for the 13 appropriations bills.	<p>H. Con. Res. 68 was reported as an original measure by the House Committee on the Budget on 3/23/99. It was amended and passed the full House on 4/14/99.</p> <p>S. Con. Res. 20 was reported as an original measure by the Senate Committee on the Budget on 3/19/99.</p> <p>H. Con. Res. 68 passed the Senate in lieu of S. Con. Res. 20 on 3/25/99. The House and the Senate Conferees agreed to file a conference report on 4/13/99. The House agreed to the conference report on 4/14/99 and the Senate agreed to the conference report on 4/15/99.</p> <p>Action was completed (President does not sign this legislation into law; it is used as the basis for the Appropriations process).</p>	No formal position taken. Supports funding for international programs which alleviate poverty.	Monitored.
Cuba Sanctions	S. 1233, Agriculture Appropriations, contained an Ashcroft (D-MO)/Dodd (D-CT) amendment that would require Congressional approval before the imposition of any unilateral agricultural or medical sanctions. This provision would apply to all new, as well as existing agricultural and medical sanctions. In the case of existing sanctions, the President would be required to immediately cease any unilateral agricultural or medical sanctions upon enactment, ultimately permitting the sale of food and medicines to Cuba.	<p>S. 1233 reported on 6/17/99. It passed the Senate as amended on 8/4/99 by voice vote.</p> <p>The Ashcroft/Dodd amendment was stripped out by the Conference Committee.</p>	Supported.	Lobbied. Letters.

V. INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Debt Relief: State Department Authorization	H.R. 2415, Smith (R-NJ) "American Embassy Security Act of 1999."/ S. 886, Helms (R-NC) "Foreign Relations Authorization Act." Originally introduced in the House as H.R. 1211, this bill authorizes spending for a number of State Department programs including UN funding, UN Population fund, International Arm Sales Code of Conduct, Payment past due UN dues/fees, and refugee program funding.	<p>H.R. 1211 introduced/referred to the House Committee on International Relations. It was reported by the Committee on 4/29/99.</p> <p>H.R. 2415, a revised version of H.R. 1211, was introduced/referred to the House Committee on International Relations on 7/1/99. The House began consideration on 7/19/99 and passed the bill as amended on 7/21/99.</p> <p>S.886 was reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to the full Senate on 4/27/99. It passed the Senate on 6/22/99.</p> <p>Senate engrossed S. 886 into H.R. 2415 on 8/3/99. Senate called for a Conference on the measure.</p> <p>The House and Senate were unable to conference H.R. 2415; however, many of the provisions of this bill as well as the free-standing debt relief bills, H.R. 1095 and S.1690, were included in H.R. 3194, the Consolidated Appropriations Act.¹</p> <p>H.R. 3194 was signed by the President on 11/29/99, P.L. 106-113.</p>	Seeking amendments regarding United Nations arrears; UNFPA funding; Code of Arms Conduct, and MRA.	Lobbying. Letter.

¹The debt relief provisions essentially codified the Cologne Initiative -- the agreement made by the G-7 nations to provide enhanced debt relief for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC). The provision of the Cologne Initiative, while more generous than the original HIPC debt relief initiative, is somewhat less generous than some of the provisions of H.R. 1095 and S. 1690. Debt relief enacted into law as a result of H.R. 3194 includes authorization for U.S. cancellation of all debt owed to it by certain HIPCs, subject to economic and social reform conditions; appropriation of \$123 million to pay for this bilateral debt cancellation; and authorization of the IMF to revalue a portion (9/14ths) of it gold reserves and invest that portion, using the income generated by such investments to fund enhanced debt relief.

V. INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>Debt Relief (continued): Free Standing Bills</p>	<p>H.R. 1095, Leach (R-IA) "Debt Relief for Poverty Reduction Act of 1999." To require the United States to take action to provide bilateral debt relief, and improve the provision of multilateral debt relief, in order to give a fresh start to poor countries.</p> <p>S. 1690, Mack (R-FL)/Sarbanes (D-MD), "Debt Relief for Poor Countries Act of 1999", A bill to require the United States to take action to provide bilateral debt relief, and improve the provision of multilateral debt relief, in order to give a fresh start to poor countries.</p>	<p>H.R. 1095 introduced/referred to the House Committee on International Relations and the House Committee on Banking and Financial Services on March 11, 1999. On 11/03/99, the bill was marked up and passed by the full Banking Committee. International Relations has not yet marked up the bill.</p> <p>S. 1690 introduced/referred to Committee on Foreign Relations.</p> <p>Prognosis: Uncertain, but many of the provisions from these bills were included in H.R. 3194, the Consolidated Appropriations Act.</p>	<p>Supports.</p>	<p>Lobbying. Testimony, letter and statement.</p>
<p>Emergency Supplemental Appropriations</p>	<p>H.R. 1141, Young (R-FL)/ S. 544, Domenici (R-NM) "Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill." To provide emergency supplemental appropriations for recovery from natural disasters that occurred in Central America including Hurricanes George and Mitch.</p>	<p>H.R. 1141 was reported as an original measure by the House Committee on Appropriations on 3/17/99. It was amended and passed by the full House on 3/18/99.</p> <p>S. 544 was reported as an original measure by the Senate Committee on International Relations on 3/4/99. It was amended and passed by the full Senate on 3/23/99. It was subsequently incorporated in H.R. 1141 as an amendment on 3/25/99.</p>	<p>Supported providing funding for disaster to the countries in Central America, South America and the Caribbean, including the debt relief provisions and the money for construction.</p>	<p>Lobbied. Testimony.</p>

V. INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Emergency Supplemental Appropriations (continued)	H.R. 1664, Young (R-FL) "Kosovo Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill." To make emergency supplemental appropriations for military operations, refugee relief, and humanitarian assistance relating to the conflict in Kosovo, and for military operations in Southwest Asia. Provisions of this bill dealing with Kosovo were eventually incorporated into H.R. 1141.	<p>H.R. 1664 was reported as an original measure on 5/4/99. It was amended and passed by the House on 5/6/99. H.R. 1664 was reported into the Senate on 5/6/99 and was referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations.</p> <p>H.R. 1141 went to conference on 4/22/99. The Kosovo related provisions of H.R. 1664 were incorporated into H.R. 1141 during conference. The conference report on H.R. 1141 was passed by the House on 5/18/99 and by the Senate on 5/20/99.</p> <p>H.R. 1141 signed by the President on 5/21/99, P.L. 106-31.</p> <p>(N.B. H.R. 1664 has now become the legislative vehicle for issues unrelated to Kosovo.)</p>	Supported providing funding for humanitarian assistance, but was concerned about military spending.	Lobbied. Letter
Land mines	H.R. 2561/S. 1122, Stevens (R-AK) "FY2000 Defense Appropriations Bill." Both bills appropriated \$1.47 million to mine countermeasures.	<p>S. 1122 was reported as an original measure by the Senate Committee on Appropriations. It was amended and passed by the full Senate on 6/8/99.</p> <p>H.R. 2561 was reported to the full House on 7/20/99 and passed the House on 7/22/99.</p> <p>Senate engrossed S.1122 into H.R. 2561 and called for Conference on 7/28/99. A Conference report was filed and passed by the House on 10/13/99, and by the Senate on 10/14/99.</p> <p>H.R. 2561 signed by the President on 10/25/99, P.L. 106-79.</p>	No formal position taken.	Monitoring.

V. INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Land mines (continued)	H.R. 2415, Smith (R-NJ) "American Embassy Security Act of 1999."/ S. 886, Helms (R-NC) "Foreign Relations Authorization Act." The House bill did not address Land mines. The Senate bill authorized an appropriation to the State Department for \$10 million in two years for demining.	<p>H.R. 1211 introduced/referred to the House Committee on International Relations. It was reported by the Committee on 4/29/99.</p> <p>H.R. 2415, a revised version of H.R. 1211, was introduced/referred to the House Committee on International Relations on 7/1/99. The House began consideration on 7/19/99 and passed the bill as amended on 7/21/99.</p> <p>S.886 was reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to the full Senate on 4/27/99. It passed the Senate on 6/22/99.</p> <p>Senate engrossed S. 886 into H.R. 2415 on 8/3/99. Senate called for a Conference on the measure.</p> <p>The House and Senate were unable to conference H.R. 2415; however, a new bill, H.R. 3427 was introduced to replace the previous bills. H.R. 3427 extended the ban on the export of Land mines. It also approved \$12 million for the Patrick Leahy War Victims Fund for medical, orthopedic and related rehabilitative assistance for victims of Land mines and other war injuries. The agreement also includes \$40 million for demining.</p> <p>H.R. 3427 was included in a list of bills enacted by cross-reference in H.R. 3194, the Consolidated Appropriations Act.</p> <p>H.R. 3194 was signed by the President on 11/29/99, P.L. 106-113.</p>	No formal position taken.	Monitoring.

V. INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Middle East/Funding for Wye River Agreement	H.R. 2606/S.1234/H.R. 3196/H.R. 3422, Foreign Operations Appropriations Bills. The President requested adequate funding for implementing his Wye River Middle East Peace Accord between the Israelis and the Palestinians.	<p>The Conference Report of H.R. 2606, which combined H.R. 2606 and S.1234, was vetoed by the President on 10/18/99.</p> <p>H.R. 3196 was a second attempt by Congress at a Foreign Operations Bill. This bill included \$1.8 Million for implementing Wye River.</p> <p>H.R. 3422 replaced H.R. 3196, but was nearly identical. It also included the \$1.8 million for implementing Wye River. H.R. 3422 was enacted by cross reference as part of H.R. 3194, the Consolidated Appropriations Act.</p> <p>H.R. 3194 signed by the President on 11/29/99, P.L. 106-113.</p>	No formal position, but USCC generally supports funding for Middle East Peace Process.	Monitored.
Normalizing Trade Relations with China	H.J. Res. 57, Rohrabacher (R-CA) A joint resolution disapproving the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of the People's Republic of China.	<p>H.J. RES. 57 introduced/referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means on 6/7/99. On 7/1/99, the Ways and Means Committee marked up the bill and Unfavorably reported the bill to the full body. The bill was reported on 7/26/99, with H.Rept. 106-262.</p> <p>It failed by a vote of 170-260 and 1 Present on 7/27/99.</p>	Supports.	Monitoring. Lobbied and Letters.
Nuclear Weapons	Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, Treaty Document 105-28 which would ban underground nuclear weapons testing once the pact is ratified by the 44 nations that have either nuclear power plants or nuclear research reactors.	On 10/13/99, the Senate rejected ratification of treaty, 48-51.	Supported Ratification.	Active lobbying. Letters and Statements.

V. INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE AND PEACE (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Status of Jerusalem	H.R. 1211/S.886, Foreign Relations Authorization Act. S. 886 initially contained language to move the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem.	<p>H.R. 1211 and S. 886 never came out of Conference Committee. Instead, a new Foreign Relations Act, H.R. 3427, was enacted by cross-reference in the Consolidated Appropriations Act.</p> <p>H.R. 3427 did not contain the provision relating to Jerusalem.</p>	No formal position taken.	Monitoring.
Trafficking of Persons	<p>H.R. 3244, Smith (R-NJ), "Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 1999." To combat trafficking of persons, especially into the sex -trade, slavery, and slavery-like conditions in the United States and countries around the world through prevention, through prosecution and enforcement against traffickers, and through protection and assistance to victims of trafficking.</p> <p>S. 1842/H.R. 3154 Wellstone (D-MN)/Gejdenson (D-CT) "Comprehensive Anti-trafficking of Persons Act of 1999."</p> <p>S. 600/H.R. 1238, Wellstone (D-MN)/Slaughter (D-NY) "International Trafficking of Women and Children Victim Protection Act of 1999"</p>	<p>H.R. 3244, on 11/8/99, introduced/referred to the Committees on International Relations, Judiciary, and Banking and Financial Services. Reported amended by the Committee for International Relations on 11/22/99. The other committees were granted extensions until March 24, 2000.</p> <p>S. 1842 introduced and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. H.R. 3154 introduced and referred to Committees on Judiciary, International Relations, and Banking and Financial Services.</p> <p>S.600 introduced and referred to the Committee on International Relations. H.R. 1238 introduce/referred to Committees on Judiciary and International Relations.</p> <p>Prognosis: Uncertain.</p>	No formal position taken.	Monitoring.

VI. MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>Agricultural Guest Workers: Parameters of the H-2A Nonimmigrant Temporary Agricultural Guest Worker Program</p>	<p>S. 1814, Smith (R-OR), would weaken labor and wage protections for H-2A nonimmigrant seasonal agricultural guest workers, permit growers easier access to visas for such workers, and institute a program that could lead to the eventual legalization of undocumented agricultural workers who meet the stringent conditions of the program. The latter feature, identical to S. 1815, would provide employers with a seven-year long supply of conditional guest workers who are awaiting legalization.</p>	<p>S. 1814 introduced on 10/27/99 and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Prognosis: uncertain</p>	<p>USCC has no formal position on the bill but generally opposes weakening labor conditions for seasonal agricultural workers.</p>	<p>Monitoring</p>
	<p>S. 1815, Graham (D-FL), would institute a program that could lead to the eventual legalization of certain undocumented domestic seasonal agricultural workers who meet the stringent conditions of the program while providing employers with a seven-year long supply of conditional guest workers who are awaiting legalization. Conditions for such a worker's eventual legalization would include requirements that he or she work in seasonal agricultural for six months a year in five of the next seven years, a prohibition on his or her working in any other employment sector during that time, a requirement that he or she return to his or her home country for at least two months each year, and a further wait of up to five years after satisfying the above requirements before he or she could receive Lawful Permanent Resident (LPR) Status. Such a worker would not be able to apply to for reunification with spouses and children for up to twelve years, and would not be able to apply for citizenship for up to 17 years after applying for adjustment.</p>	<p>S. 1815 introduced on 10/27/99 and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Prognosis: uncertain</p>	<p>USCC has no formal position on the bill but generally supports legalizing undocumented workers and opposes weakening wage and labor protections for agricultural workers</p>	<p>Monitoring</p>

VI. MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Agricultural Guest Workers: Parameters of the H-2A Nonimmigrant Temporary Agricultural Guest Worker Program (continued)	H.R. 1886, Canady (R-FL), the "MSPA Clarification Act of 1999", would weaken a broad range of housing and labor guidelines, requirements, and restrictions that growers who employ H-2A nonimmigrant foreign seasonal agricultural guest workers must currently abide by.	H.R. 1886 introduced on 5/20/99 and referred to the House Education and Workforce Committee's Subcommittee on Workforce Protections. Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held hearing on 10/21/99. Prognosis: uncertain	USCC has no formal position on the bill but generally opposes weakening labor conditions for seasonal agricultural workers.	Monitoring
Agricultural Guest Workers: Requirements of Growers to Recruit Domestic Farmworkers Before Hiring H-2A Foreign Guest workers	H.R. 1906, Skeen (R-NM)/S. 1233, Cochran (R-MS), "Agriculture Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2000." The enacted version of the legislation contained a provision that shortens the period during which an agricultural employer must recruit domestic farm workers prior to bringing foreign H-2A nonimmigrant agricultural guest workers into the country. The recruitment period is shortened by this law from 33-38 days under previous law to just 3-8 days. The provision was added in the Senate Appropriations Committee by Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY). The House-passed version contained no such provision.	H.R. 1906 was reported by the House Committee on Appropriations on 5/24/99 (H. Rept. 106-157). It was passed by the House on 6/8/99. S. 1233 was reported as an original measure by the Senate Appropriations Committee on 6/17/99 (S. Rept. 106-80). It was passed by the Senate on 8/4/99. The conference report on H.R. 1906 (H. Rept. 106-354) was adopted by the House on 10/1/99 and by the Senate on 10/13/99. Signed by the President on 10/22/99. P.L. 106-78	USCC opposed the McConnell Provision.	Lobbying.
Asylum: Detention Circumstances and Conditions for Asylum Seekers	S. ____, Kennedy (D-MA), would enact minimum standards for the detention of asylum seekers in the United States.	S. ____ has not yet been introduced. Prognosis: Congress is unlikely to enact this measure	USCC helped initiate this legislation.	Lobbying.
Asylum: Expedited Removal of Asylum Seekers	S. 1940, Leahy (D-RI), the "Refugee Protection Act", would limit the use of expedited removal to immigration emergencies; permit it to be used only against people who are not fleeing from countries that generally persecute their citizens; and make procedural and due process reforms in the expedited removal process.	S. 1940 introduced on 11/17/99 and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Prognosis: Congress is unlikely to enact this measure	USCC helped initiate this legislation.	Lobbying.

VI. MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Asylum: Gender Persecution	H.R. 1849, Maloney (D-NY), would require the the Attorney General to promulgate regulations relating to gender-related persecution, including female genital mutilation, for use in determining an alien's eligibility for asylum or withholding of deportation.	H.R. 1849 introduced on 5/18/99 and referred to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims. Prognosis: Congress is unlikely to enact this legislation.	USCC has no formal position on this measure. However, it is concerned about the failure of the administration to recognize gender-based grounds for asylum.	Monitoring.
Asylum: Guam Asylum Applicants	H.R. 945, Underwood (D-GU), would limit the ability of asylum seekers who reach the Island of Guam from applying for asylum in the U.S.	H.R. 945 introduced/referred to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims on 3/2/99. House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims held hearing on 5/18/99.	USCC opposes.	Monitoring.
Benefits for Noncitizens	H.R. 1399, Levin (D-MI)/S. 792, Moynihan (D-NY), "Fairness for Legal Immigrants Act of 1999." The measure would amend the 1996 Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PROWRA) to allow states to provide medical assistance under the Medicaid program to legal immigrant pregnant women, children, and blind or disabled medically needy individuals.	S. 792 introduced/referred to the Senate Committee on Finance on 4/14/99. H.R. 1399 introduced/referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means on 4/14/99. It was additionally referred to the Committees on Commerce, Agriculture, and the Judiciary. Prognosis: Uncertain	USCC supports restoring all benefits to legal and undocumented immigrants that were stripped by PRWORA. USCC welcomes the introduction of H.R. 1399/ S. 792.	Lobbying, Statement.
Benefits for Noncitizens (continued)	S. 1227, Chafee (R-RI), the "Immigrant Children's Health Improvement Act of 1999." The measure would amend the 1996 PROWRA to allow states to provide CHIP benefits to legal immigrant pregnant women and children.	S. 1227 introduced in the Senate on 6/46/99. Referred to the Senate Committee on Finance. Prognosis: Uncertain	While USCC has not taken a formal position on S. 1227, it welcomes its introduction.	Lobbying.

VI. MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Due Process for Aliens in Removal Proceedings	<p>H.R. 2999, McCollum (R-FL), the “Fairness for Permanent Residents Act,” would permit the Attorney General to grant relief to a small range of criminal alien permanent residents who were adversely affected by changes made in 1996 to the definition of aggravated felony under the Immigration and Nationality Act, and to amend certain provisions of such Act relating to detention of an alien pending and after a decision on whether the alien is to be removed from the United States.</p> <p>S. 173, Moynihan (D-NY). This measure would make reforms in the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) by easing its provisions targeting criminal aliens for deportation and detention.</p> <p>H.R. 1485, Frank (D-MA), “Family Reunification Act of 1999.” This measure would make reforms in the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA) and Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act (AEDPA) by easing provisions targeting criminal aliens for deportation and detention.</p>	<p>H.R. 2999 introduced on 10/1/99 and referred to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims.</p> <p>Prognosis: uncertain</p> <p>S. 173 introduced/referred to the Senate Committee on Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration on 1/19/99.</p> <p>Prognosis: Congress in unlikely to complete action on this bill.</p> <p>H.R. 1485 was introduced on 4/20/99 and referred to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims.</p> <p>Prognosis: Congress is unlikely to complete action on this bill.</p>	<p>USCC supports restoring the due process protections that immigrants lost as a result of the enactment of IIRIRA and AEDPA in 1996. While it welcomes the introduction of H.R. 2999, it would like to see much more comprehensive and effective legislation enacted.</p> <p>USCC supports restoring the due process protections that immigrants lost as a result of the enactment of IIRIRA and AEDPA in 1996. While it welcomes the introduction of S. 173, it would like to see much more comprehensive and effective legislation enacted.</p> <p>USCC supports H.R. 1485 but also wants to see much more comprehensive and effective legislation enacted.</p>	<p>Monitoring.</p> <p>Monitoring.</p> <p>Testimony, Statements</p>
Illegal Immigration: Alien Smuggling	S. 1644, Abraham (R-MI), “Alien Smuggling Prevention and Enforcement Act”, would increase penalties for individuals involved in alien smuggling.	<p>S. 1644 introduced on 9/27/99 and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee.</p> <p>Prognosis: uncertain</p>	USCC has no formal position on S. 1644.	Monitoring.

VI. MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Illegal Immigration: Reimbursement of State and Local Government Costs Associated with Illegal Immigration	S. 1709, Kyl (R-AZ). This bill would provide for federal reimbursement for indirect costs relating to the incarceration of illegal aliens and for emergency health services furnished to undocumented immigrants.	S. 1709 introduced on 10/7/99 and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee Prognosis: uncertain	USCC has no formal position on S. 1709.	Monitoring
Immigration Status of Certain Foreign Nationals in the U.S. : Central American and Haitian Nationals	H.R. 2722, Smith (R-NJ)/S. 1592, Durbin (D-IL), the "Central American and Haitian Adjustment Act of 1999." This measure would eliminate the requirement that spouses and children of aliens eligible for adjustment of status under such the Nicaraguan Adjustment and Central American Relief Act of 1997 (NACARA) be nationals of Nicaragua or Cuba and to provide to nationals of El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Haiti an opportunity to apply for adjustment of status under that Act.	H.R. 2722 introduced/referred to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims on 8/5/99. S. 1592 introduced on 9/15/99 and referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary. Prognosis: Congress is unlikely to complete action on this bill.	USCC supports efforts to regularize the status of Central American and Haitian nationals in the United States but has no formal position on H.R. 2722/S. 1592.	Monitoring.
Immigration Status of Certain Foreign Nationals in the U.S. : "Late Amnesty" Population	H.R. 2125, Jackson Lee (D-TX)/S. 1552 (Reid (D-NV), "Legal Amnesty Restoration Act of 1999." Would permit a specific population of undocumented aliens, popularly known as the "late amnesty" class, to pursue lawsuits against the INS that would force consideration of their legalization applications. This class was improperly told by the INS in the 1980s that they were ineligible to apply for legalization under the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act (IRCA). They pursued lawsuits seeking to have their "amnesty" applications considered, notwithstanding INS's error. Congress in 1996 passed Section 377 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act (IIRIRA), which terminated the suits. H.R. 2125 would repeal Section 377 of IIRIRA and restore these suits.	H.R. 2125 introduced on 6/10/99 and referred to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims. S. 1552 introduced on 8/5/99 and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Prognosis: Congress is unlikely to complete action on this bill.	USCC supports H.R. 2125 as one of several potential legislative options to provide relief to the "late amnesty" population. Nonetheless, USCC believes the INS already has the necessary authority to consider "late amnesty" applications and that the INS should proceed, forthwith, to provide administrative relief to the "late amnesty" population.	Lobbying, statement, letter.

VI. MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Immigration Status of Certain Foreign Nationals in the U.S. : Undocumented Farmworkers	S. 1815, Graham (D-FL), would institute a program that could lead to the eventual legalization of certain undocumented domestic seasonal agricultural workers who meet the stringent conditions of the program while providing employers with a seven-year long supply of conditional guest workers who are awaiting legalization. (For more complete description of this legislation, see the description of S. 1815 that is contained in the "Agricultural Guest Workers -- Parameters of the H-2A Nonimmigrant Temporary Agricultural Guest Worker Program" Issue found earlier in this report.)	S. 1815 introduced on 10/27/99 and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee. Prognosis: uncertain	USCC has no formal position on the bill but generally supports legalizing undocumented workers and opposes weakening wage and labor protections for agricultural workers	Monitoring
Immigration Status of Certain Foreign Nationals in the U.S. : Victims of Sexual Trafficking	H.R. 1356, would define sexual trafficking, establish offices in the U.S. Department of State to monitor sexual trafficking, impose sanctions on countries that do not fully prosecute and deter international sexual trafficking, and protect victims in the U.S. by conferring immigration status on them during the pendency of their cooperation with authorities.	H.R. 1356 introduced on 3/25/99 and referred to the House Committees on International Relations, Judiciary, and Banking. House International Relations Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights markup session held, bill was amended and forwarded to the full committee on 8/4/99. Prognosis: uncertain	USCC has no formal position.	Monitoring.
Legal Immigration : Affidavits of Support Requirements	H.R. 2998, McCollum (R-FL), would reduce the annual income level at which a person petitioning for a family-sponsored immigrant's admission must agree to provide support from 125 percent of poverty to 100 percent of poverty in those instances where a United States employer has agreed to employ the immigrant for a period of not less than one year after admission or where the sponsored alien is under the age of 18.	H.R. 2998 was introduced on 10/1/99 and referred to the House Judiciary Committee. Prognosis: Congress is unlikely to enact this measure.	USCC has no formal position.	Monitoring.

VI. MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>Legal Immigration: Status Protection for Children who Age Out of Visas</p>	<p>H.R. 1520, Smith (R-TX), "Child Status Protection Act", would seek to protect the status of children who age out of immediate relative visas by placing them into the backlog of first preference visas</p>	<p>H.R. 1520 introduced on 4/22/99 and referred to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims.</p> <p>Subcommittee forwarded the bill to the full Committee on 9/30/99.</p> <p>Full Committee ordered the bill reported to the full House on 10/5/99.</p> <p>Prognosis: uncertain</p>	<p>USCC has no formal position on the bill but would like to see different methodologies in protecting the status of children who age out so that they not displace others in line for other visas.</p>	<p>Monitoring.</p>
<p>Naturalization Adjudications and Processing</p>	<p>H.R. 3421, Young (R-FL), "Commerce, Justice, State, Appropriations Act for FY 2000" (originally introduced as H.R. 2670/S. 1217). As finally enacted, contains a directive requiring the INS to spend \$124 million to continue efforts to eliminate the backlog in naturalization application processing. Congress does not usually fund naturalization processing and adjudications functions with appropriated funds. Instead, these functions are usually funded by fees paid by applicants. Congress appropriated \$171 million for these functions in FY 1999. The Administration requested \$124 million for FY 2000.</p>	<p>S. 1217 was reported as an original measure by the Senate Appropriations Committee on 6/10/99 (S. Rept. 106-76), and passed by the Senate on 9/8/99.</p> <p>H.R. 2670 was reported as an original measure by the House Appropriations Committee on Appropriations on 7/30/99 (H. Rept. 106-283), and passed by the Senate on 8/5/99.</p> <p>Conference agreement reached on H.R. 2670 on 10/19/99 (H. Rept. 106-398).</p> <p>Conference Report on H.R. 2670 passed by House and Senate on 10/20/99, and vetoed by President on 10/25/99.</p> <p>New bill, H.R. 3421, introduced in House on 11/17/99 and enacted by cross reference as part of H.R. 3194, the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act (H. Rept. 106-479).</p> <p>Signed by the President on 11/29/99. P.L. 106-113.</p>	<p>USCC supports the full Administration FY2000 request for \$124 million for naturalization processing and adjudications.</p>	<p>Lobbying.</p>

VI. MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>Nonimmigrant Nursing Relief for Hospitals in Disadvantaged Areas</p>	<p>H.R 441, Rush (D-IL)/S. 455, Durbin (D-IL), the "Nursing Relief for Disadvantaged Areas Act of 1999", would permit hospitals in economically disadvantaged areas to hire nonimmigrant foreign nurses. The bill was introduced specifically to assist St. Bernard Hospital in the Archdiocese of Chicago.</p>	<p>H.R. 441 introduced on 2/2/99 and /referred to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims.</p> <p>S. 455 introduced/referred to the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration on 2/24/99.</p> <p>H.R. 441 marked up by the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims on 3/18/99, ordered reported by full Committee on the Judiciary on 3/24/99, and passed by the House on 5/24/99.</p> <p>H.R. 441 received in Senate on 5/27/99 and referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee, ported by the Senate Judiciary Committee on 6/24/99, and passed by the Senate on 10/22/99.</p> <p>House cleared H.R. 441 for presidential consideration on 11/2/99.</p> <p>Signed by the President on 11/12/99. P.L. 106-95</p>	<p>USCC supported and helped initiate this bill.</p>	<p>Lobbying.</p>

VI. MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>Organizational Structure of the Immigration and Naturalization Service</p>	<p>H.R. 2528, Rogers (R-KY), would reorganize the immigration functions of the U.S. government by creating two separate bureaus, one for immigration enforcement and another for immigration services. Under H.R. 2528, there would be little centralized coordination and control between the two bureaus, inspections of aliens at U.S. ports of entry would be under the jurisdiction of the Enforcement Bureau, and detention of aliens would be transferred to the U.S. Bureau of Prisons.</p> <p>S. 1563, Abraham (D-MI), would reorganize the immigration functions of the U.S. government by creating two bureaus, one for immigration enforcement and another for immigration services. Under S. 1563, the two bureaus would be coordinated by an Associate Attorney General for Immigration Affairs, the Office of the Associate Attorney General would control inspections of aliens at U.S. ports of entry, detention would be under the control of the Enforcement Bureau but detention of asylum seekers in expedited removal would be under the control of the Service Bureau.</p>	<p>H.R. 2528 introduced on 7/15/99 and referred to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims.</p> <p>Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims held a hearing on 7/29/99.</p> <p>Subcommittee held a markup, amended the bill, and forwarded it to the full Judiciary Committee on 11/4/99.</p> <p>Prognosis: Uncertain</p> <p>S. 1563 introduced on 8/15/99 and referred to the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration.</p> <p>Subcommittee on Immigration held a hearing on 9/23/99.</p> <p>Prognosis: Uncertain</p>	<p>USCC opposes.</p> <p>USCC generally supports the thrust of S. 1563 but supports changes.</p>	<p>Lobbying. Letter.</p> <p>Lobbying. Letter.</p>

VI. MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>Refugees: Appropriations for Refugee Consequences of the Crisis in Kosovo</p>	<p>H.R. 1141, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations for FY 1999 (Kosovo provisions originally contained in H.R. 1664). Among its provisions are those that appropriated \$266 million for the Department of State's Migration and Refugee Affairs (MRA) Account, \$166 million for United States Emergency Migration and Refugee Assistance (ERMA), and \$100 million for the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR). The MRA funds are to be used to provide assistance in European refugee camps for Kosovo refugees; for the initial resettlement into the United States of Kosovo refugees; and for the eventual repatriation, if necessary, of Kosovo refugees who are resettled into the United States. The ORR funds are to be used for ongoing resettlement costs associated with those Kosovo refugees who are brought to the United States.</p>	<p>H.R. 1664 was reported by the House Appropriations Committee as an original measure on 5/4/99 (H. Rept. 106-125). It was amended and passed by the House on 5/6/99. H.R. 1664 was received in the Senate on 5/6/99 and was referred to the Senate Committee on Appropriations.</p> <p>The Kosovo related provisions of H.R. 1664 were incorporated into H.R. 1141 during conference. The conference report on H.R. 1141 was passed by the House on 5/18/99 and by the Senate on 5/20/99 (H. Rept. 106-143).</p> <p>Signed by the President on 5/21/99, P.L. 106-31.</p>	<p>USCC supported the level of funding in the measure.</p>	<p>Lobbying, Letter.</p>

VI. MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>Refugees: Appropriations for Domestic Refugee Resettlement for FY 2000</p>	<p>H.R. 3424, Young (R-FL), "Appropriations the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, FY2000." (originally introduced as H.R. 3037/S. 1650). Contains an appropriation of \$426.5 million for FY2000 for the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR), including an earmark of \$7.5 million of the funds for Torture Victims programs, leaving \$419 million for refugee resettlement programs. Congress appropriated \$415 million in FY 1999 for refugee resettlement, and the administration requested \$423 million for FY 2000 for ORR.</p>	<p>S. 1650 was reported as an original measure by the Senate Appropriations Committee on 9/28/99 (S. Rept. 106-166), and passed by the Senate on 10/7/99 by a vote of 73-25.</p> <p>H.R. 3037 was reported as an original measure by the House Appropriations Committee on 10/7/99 (H. Rept. 106-370). It was passed by the House and cleared by Congress as part of the conference report on H.R. 3064, the District of Columbia Appropriations Act (H. Rept. 106-419), on 10/28/99 and was vetoed by the President on 11/3/99.</p> <p>New bill, H.R. 3424, introduced in House on 11/17/99 and enacted by cross reference as part of H.R. 3194, the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act (H. Rept. 106-479).</p> <p>Signed by the President on 11/29/99. P.L. 106-113</p>	<p>USCC supported the \$423 million funding level requested by the Administration.</p>	<p>Monitoring.</p>

VI. MIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICES (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>Refugees: Appropriations for Overseas Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) for FY 2000</p>	<p>H.R. 3422, (Young (R-FL) "Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for FY2000." (originally introduced as H.R. 2606/1234). Among its many provisions is one that appropriates funding for the Department of State's Migration and Refugee Assistance (MRA) account, which funds overseas assistance to refugees and the Reception & Placement (R & P) grant, which funds the first 30 days of refugee admissions assistance for refugees who are admitted into the United States. The final measure appropriates \$625 million for MRA, which is \$15 million less than the FY 1999 level and \$35 million less than President's request of \$660 million for FY 2000.</p>	<p>S. 1234 was reported as an original measure by the Senate Appropriations Committee on 6/17/99 (S. Rept. 106-81), and passed by the Senate on 6/30/99 by a vote of 97-2.</p> <p>H.R. 2606 was reported as an original measure by the House Appropriations Committee on 7/23/99 (H. Rept. 106-254), and passed by the House on 8/3/99.</p> <p>Conference agreement on H.R. 2606 was reached on 9/27/99 (H. Rept. 106-339), adopted by the House on 10/5/99, and adopted by the Senate on 10/6/99.</p> <p>President vetoed H.R. 2606 on 10/18/99.</p> <p>New bill, H.R. 3422, introduced in House on 11/17/99 and enacted by cross reference as part of H.R. 3194, the Omnibus Consolidated Appropriations Act (H. Rept. 106-479).</p> <p>Signed by the President on 11/29/99. P.L. 106-113</p>	<p>USCC supported a funding level of \$700 million for MRA or, at a minimum, the \$660 million level requested by the Administration.</p>	<p>Lobbying, Testimony.</p>
<p>Refugees: Authorization for Domestic Refugee Resettlement Program Funding for FY 2000 - 2002</p>	<p>S. 1713, Abraham (R-MI)/H.R. 3061, Smith (R-TX), a bill to extend the authorization of funding for refugee resettlement activities of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (under Chapter 2 of Title IV of the Immigration and Nationality Act) for fiscal years 2000, 2001, and 2002. The measure also would extend by two years the "S" or "Snitch" nonimmigrant visa for aliens who are cooperating with authorities in prosecuting individuals involved in criminal enterprises.</p>	<p>S. 1713 introduced on 10/8/99 and referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.</p> <p>H.R. 3061 introduced on 10/12/99 and referred to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims.</p> <p>H.R. 3061 passed by the House on 10/26/99 and by the Senate on 11/8/99.</p> <p>Signed by the President on 11/13/99. P.L. 106-104</p>	<p>USCC supported the measure.</p>	<p>Lobbied.</p>

VI. MIGRATION AND REFUGEE LEGISLATION (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>Refugees: Authorization for State Department Migration and Refugee Affairs Programs and Activities</p>	<p>H.R. 2415, Smith (R-NJ) “American Embassy Security Act of 1999.”/ S. 886, Helms (R-NC) “Foreign Relations Authorization Act.” This bill authorizes spending for a number of State Department programs. Among its many provisions are several that specifically relate to refugees. Originally introduced in the House as H.R. 1211, the House bill authorizes \$750 million for MRA and the Senate bill authorizes \$660 million for MRA. This compares to \$704.5 million authorized for FY 1999. Additionally, the House bill would authorize funding for MRA for FY 2000 and 2001, while the Senate bill authorizes funding through the end of FY 2000 only.</p>	<p>H.R. 1211 introduced/referred to the House Committee on International Relations. It was reported by the Committee on 4/29/99.</p> <p>H.R. 2415, a revised version of H.R. 1211 with nearly identical refugee provisions, was introduced/referred to the House Committee on International Relations on 7/1/99. It passed the House on 7/21/99.</p> <p>S. 886 was reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to the full Senate on 4/27/99. It passed the Senate on 6/22/99.</p> <p>Prognosis: Congress is unlikely to complete action on this bill.</p>	<p>USCC supports the level of funding authorized in the House bill.</p>	<p>Lobbying, Letter.</p>
<p>Religious Worker Visa Program</p>	<p>H.R. 1871, Lofgren (D-CA), the “Mother Theresa Religious Worker Visa Act”. This measure would permanently extend the nonminister religious worker special immigrant program, which permit religious organizations to sponsor the immigration of religious workers from abroad to perform work in the United States.</p>	<p>H.R. 1871 introduced on 5/19/99. Referred to the House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims.</p> <p>Prognosis: uncertain.</p>	<p>USCC supports and initiated this measure.</p>	<p>Lobbying, Letter.</p>

VII. PRO-LIFE

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Abortifacient Drugs	H.R. 1906, Skeen (R-NM); S. 1233, Cochran (R-MS), "Agriculture Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2000."	<p>H.R. 1906 was reported to the House on 5/24/99. Rep. Coburn's (R-OK) amendment passed 217-214, prohibiting funding for the FDA "...for the testing, development, or approval (including approval for production, manufacturing, or distribution) of any drug for chemical inducement of abortion." H.R. 1906 was passed by the House on 6/8/99.</p> <p>S. 1233 was reported as an original measure on 6/17/99. The Senate passed S.1233 on 8/24/99 and it did not contain the prohibition.</p> <p>The provision was deleted by the Conference Committee.</p>	Supported.	Monitored.
Abortion & Contraceptive Coverage Under Federal Employee Health Benefit Program, FY 2000	H.R. 2490, Kolbe (R-AZ),/S. 1282 Campbell (R-CO), "Treasury/Postal Service Appropriations Bill." As drafted, the House bill contained a provision excluding abortion coverage under the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program except to save the life of the mother, i.e., "Smith/DeWine Amendment." It included as well the Lowey/Reid "contraceptive coverage mandate," with conscience protection for plans objecting on the basis of religious beliefs and for physicians writing prescriptions. The Senate bill only included Lowey/Reid language.	On 05/13/99, the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Treasury, Postal Service, and General Government reported out the bill with "Smith Amendment" and "Lowey Amendment" unchallenged. On July 15, 1999, on the House floor, Rep Smith (R-NJ) offered another amendment to expand the conscience protection to carriers, to plans with moral convictions and to all individuals who are health care providers (ex. nurses, pharmacists, etc). Rep. Lowey (D-NY) offered a second degree amendment to strike "or moral convictions" and prevailed 217-200. The Smith Amendment as amended then passed by voice vote. This provision was deleted by the conferees.	Supports Smith/DeWine Amendment & oppose Lowey/Reid Amendment.	Lobbying, letters.

VII. PRO-LIFE (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>Abortion & Contraceptive Coverage Under Federal Employee Health Benefit Program, FY 2000 (continued)</p>		<p>S. 1282 was ordered to be reported as an original measure by the Senate Committee on Appropriations on 6/24/99 without change. On 7/1/99, Senator Dewine offered the “Smith/Dewine Amendment” for abortion exclusion and prevailed 51-47 on the floor. S. 1282 was passed by the Senate on 7/2/99.</p> <p>S. 1282, containing both the Smith/DeWine Amendment and Lowey/Reid language, was signed by the President on 9/29/99, P.L. 106-58.</p> <p>(Note: However, the modified Smith amendment was later incorporated by the leadership into the revised Commerce-Justice-State Appropriations Bill (H.R. 3421), which was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) (H.R. 3194), and passed on 11/19/99.)</p> <p>Signed by the President on 11/29/99, P.L. 106-113.</p>		
<p>Adolescent Family Life Program, FY 2000</p>	<p>H.R. 3037, Porter (R-IL)/ S.1650, Specter (R-PA), “Appropriations for the Dept. of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies FY2000” (Labor/HHS)</p>	<p>The House appropriated last year’s figure of \$17.7 million. The Senate appropriated \$19.7 million. Conferees accepted the Senate figure. The final Labor/HHS bill (H.R. 3424) was incorporated into the Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 3194), passed on 11/19/99.</p> <p>Signed by the President on 11/29/99, P.L. 106-113.</p>	<p>Supports Adolescent Family Life program.</p>	<p>Monitoring.</p>

VII. PRO-LIFE (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Assisted Suicide: Use of Federally Controlled Drugs	H.R. 2260, Hyde (R-IL), Stupak (D-MI)/ S. 1272, Nickles (R-OK), "Pain Relief Promotion Act." To promote pain management and palliative care without permitting assisted suicide and euthanasia. These bills are in response to the 06/05/98 ruling by Attorney General Janet Reno that the Federal Controlled Substances Act allows physicians to prescribe federally controlled drugs for assisted suicide in any circumstances where assisted suicide is allowed by a state law.	<p>H.R. 2260 introduced/referred to the House Committees on Commerce and the House Committee on Judiciary on 6/17/99 (See detailed description of Judiciary Committee Action below.)* The Bill passed the Judiciary Committee on 9/14/99, 16-8. On 10/13/99 the House Commerce Committee reported the Bill on a voice vote. On 10/27/99, the House passed H.R. 2260, 271-156 (See below for details on floor amendment process.)**</p> <p>S. 1272 introduced/referred to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee on 6/23/99. The HELP committee held a hearing on 10/13/99 on managing pain and improving health care for terminally ill patients.</p> <p>Prognosis: Uncertain.</p>	Supports.	Lobbying, Statement, Letters, and Testimony. On 10/20/99, prior to the floor vote, Rep. DeFazio (D-OR) was quoted by the Oregonian: "with the shock troops in the right-to-life movement and the Catholic Bishops, I would say our prospects of defeating Hyde are as good as having a pro-choice vote in the House, and there's never been one since I've been here."

* The Judiciary's Constitution Subcommittee held a hearing on 6/24/99 and marked up the Bill on 7/20/99. It was passed by voice vote after defeating by voice vote the Rep. Watt (D-NC) amendment which would permit use of controlled substances for euthanasia and assisted suicide if Federal, State, or Local Laws permitted it ("except in compliance with applicable State, Federal, and Local Laws," and struck "no force and effect" language). Full Committee scheduled markup for 8/3/99, but delaying tactics pushed the markup back to 9/9/99.

Rep. Watt offered his subcommittee amendment as two amendments and lost 13-15 and 12-15. Rep Scott (D-VA) moved to strike Sec. 101 (assisted suicide provisions), so the Bill would no longer clarify the Federal Controlled Substances Act to distinguish aggressive pain control from intentional killing and would no longer forbid the latter. The Scott amendment lost 12-15. The markup continued on 9/14/99 with the Rep. Conyers (D-MI) Amendment to change the standard from "preponderance of evidence" to "clear and convincing", and it was rejected 9-15. A second Conyers Amendment, establishing an "Affirmative Defense," was defeated 10-16. A Jackson-Lee (D-TX) Amendment excluding State Laws already in effect, lost 9-14. A Berman (D-CA)/Scott (D-VA) Amendment, precluding new criminal liability, lost 9-16.

** The House passed H.R. 2260 after defeating: a) the Scott (D-VA) Amendment to strike section 101 (assisted suicide provisions) by a vote of 160-278; (b) the Johnson (R-CT) substitute, to replace H.R. 2260, with the "Conquering Pain Act (H.R. 2188/S. 941) by a vote of 184-239 (this substitute supports pain control but without the assisted suicide provisions); (c) an Obey (D-WI) Amendment to strike the enacting clause, by voice vote; (d) and a Blumenauer (D-OR) motion to recommit with instructions, exempting contrary State laws and precludes criminal liability for doctors, by voice vote.

VII. PRO-LIFE (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>“Conscience Clause” for Catholic Health Care Plans</p>	<p>H.R. 3037, Porter (R-IL)/S.1650, Specter (R-PA), “Labor/HHS Appropriations Bill for FY 2000.” Both bills included the DeLay (R-TX) Amendment, negating a policy of the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) that Catholic health plans cannot serve patients in the Medicare+Choice program because they do not provide abortions.</p> <p>H.R. 2043, Kelly (R-NY) “Patient Right to Unrestricted Medical Advice.” Prohibits medical health plans from restricting the medical treatment options that can be presented by doctors to their patients. Would prevent Catholic Health Care Plans from ensuring that medical communications by a plan physician are consistent with the “Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Services.”</p>	<p>Senate bill passed 10/7/99 and House bill on 10/27/99. Final Labor HHS Bill (H.R. 3424), incorporated into the Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 3194), passed 11/19/99.</p> <p>Signed by the President on 11/29/99, P.L. 106-113.</p> <p>H.R. 2043 introduced/referred to House Education and Workforce Committee on 6/8/99. It was marked-up by the Subcommittee on Employer-Employee Relations on 6/16/99. Rep. Hoekstra (R-MI) offered a conscience clause amendment and it passed by voice vote. No further action taken on this bill. However, both chambers passed managed care bills that had medical communications sections. S. 1344, “Patients Bill of Rights,” passed 7/16/99. Conscience protection was obtained through section 727(b) “Rule of Constructions. Nothing in this section shall be construed as requiring a group health plan (other than a fully insured group health plan) to provide specific benefits under the terms of such plan.” On 10/6/99, the House agreed to H.R. 2723, the “Bipartisan Consensus Managed Care Improvement Act” (Norwood/Dingell), (which was incorporated into H.R. 2990, and passed on 10/7/99).</p>	<p>Supports Delay Amendment.</p> <p>Supports Hoekstra Amendment.</p>	<p>Monitoring.</p> <p>Lobbying. Letter</p>

VII. PRO-LIFE (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>“Conscience Clause” for Catholic Health Care Plans (continued)</p>		<p>As introduced, Sec 153(a) provided adequate conscience protection, but a change incorporated with the adoption of the rule made it unacceptable to the Catholic Health Association (CHA). It was unacceptable to CHA because it established a presumption of Law that these health plans would be required to provide items and services that are morally objectionable, unless they are specifically excluded from coverage. Before passage by the House, both bill sponsors personally assured CHA that the language would be corrected in conference.</p> <p>Prognosis: Uncertain.</p>		
<p>D.C. Abortion Funding, FY 2000</p>	<p>H.R. 2587, Istook (R-OK), S 1283, Hutchison (R-TX), “D.C. FY 2000 Appropriations Bill.” As drafted, H.R. 2587 and S. 1283 both included abortion funding prohibition.</p>	<p>S. 1283 was reported by the Senate Committee on Appropriations on 6/24/99, and passed the full Senate on 7/1/99, with the funding restriction unchallenged. H.R. 2587 passed House on 7/29/99, with the provision intact. Final bill, H.R. 3194, became the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) which passed 11/19/99.</p> <p>Signed by the President on 11/29/99, P.L. 106-113.</p>	<p>Supports the prohibition of all public funds for abortion.</p>	<p>Monitoring.</p>

VII. PRO-LIFE (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Human Embryo Research, FY 2000	H.R.3037 Porter (R-IL), S. 1650, Specter (R-PA), "Labor/HHS Appropriations Bill for FY 2000." Included Dickey (R-AR)/Wicker (R-MS) Amendment which bans federal funding: (a) for creating human embryos for research; (b) for harmful, destructive research on human embryos; (c) for cloning. However, on 1/19/99 the National Institute of Health (NIH) announced plans to begin funding research which requires the direct destruction of live human embryos to obtain their "stem cells." NIH hopes to circumvent the ban, by allowing the specific act of destruction to be funded with private dollars and then provide federal funds for all other parts of the project. It will soon publish guidelines for implementing these plans in the Federal Register.	Dickey/Wicker amendment went unchallenged in the House. In the Senate, the committee held hearings on stem cell research on 12/2/98, 1/12/99, 1/26/99 and 11/4/99. Senator Specter's initial draft bill included language that would have given NIH authority to conduct research using stem cells that its scientists derive from embryos that were created as part of invitro fertilization efforts, but were no longer needed for that purpose. In full committee, he deleted this language, responding to Sen. Brownback's (R-KS) threatened filibuster and Senator Lott's promise to have a debate on a separate Bill in February, 2000. The Final Bill, H.R. 3424, with the Dickey/Wicker language, was incorporated into the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA), H.R. 3194, passed on 11/19/99. Signed by the President on 11/29/99, P.L. 106-113.	Supports Dickey/Wicker Amendment and opposes NIH action.	Testimonies, Letters, Lobbying.
Hyde Amendment	H.R. 3037, Porter (R-IL)/ S.1650, Specter (R-PA), "Labor/HHS Appropriations Bill." Both draft bills included the current Hyde Amendment with life/rape/incest exception, applying to direct abortion funding, to managed care health benefits packages, and to trust funds to which funds are appropriated under this Act.	Hyde amendment went unchallenged in House and Senate, and a new bill, H.R. 3424, was incorporated into the CAA, H.R. 3194, passed on 11/19/99. Signed by the President on 11/29/99, P.L. 106-113.	Opposes federal funding of abortion.	Monitoring.

VII. PRO-LIFE (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>Military Abortions, FY 2000</p>	<p>H.R. 1401, Spence (R-SC)/S. 1059, Warner (R-VA), "National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2000." S. 974 was the original legislative vehicle for the Defense Authorization Act.</p>	<p>H.R. 1401 introduced/referred to the House Committee on Armed Services on 4/14/99. The following day, in the Personnel Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee: (a) a Kuyhendall(R-CA) Amendment was adopted 11-7, to expand federal funding of abortions in military hospitals to include situations of rape and incest; and (b) a Sanchez(D-CA) Amendment was adopted 10-8, to allow abortions in military hospitals for any reason as long as they are privately funded.</p> <p>On 5/19/99, in the full House Committee: (a) a Buyer(R-IN) Amendment to strike the Sanchez Amendment passed 33-27; (b) a Bartlett(R-MD) Amendment to strike the Kuyhendall Amendment failed 25-29; and (c) a Buyer Amendment on a 30-29 vote replaced the Kuyhendall Amendment with "forcible rape or incest which has been reported to a law enforcement agency." The House Committee on Armed Services reported H.R. 1401 on 5/24/99. Rep. Meek (D-FL) (for Rep. Sanchez (D-CA)) moved to allow privately funded abortions at overseas DOD facilities and lost 203-225 on the House floor on 6/9/99. H.R. 1401 was passed on 6/10/99.</p>	<p>Supports ban on abortions in military hospitals.</p>	<p>Letters, Lobbying.</p>

VII. PRO-LIFE (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>Military Abortions, FY 2000 (continued)</p>		<p>S. 974 was introduced/referred to the Senate Committee on Armed Services on 5/6/99.</p> <p>S. 1059 was ordered to be reported as an original measure in lieu of S. 974. Senators Murray (D-WA) and Snowe (R-ME) moved to repeal the ban on privately funded abortions and it was tabled 51-49. The measure passed the Senate on 5/27/99.</p> <p>The Conference committee on 8/6/99 rejected changing the law on abortions in Military Hospitals. The Conference Report was adopted by the House on 9/18/99 and the Senate on 9/22/99.</p> <p>H.R 1401 was signed by the President on 10/5/99. P.L. 106-65.</p>		
<p>Parental Notification</p>	<p>H.R. 1218, Ros-Lehtinen(R-FL)/ S. 661, Abraham (R-MI), “Child Custody Protection Act.” To prohibit taking minors across state lines for an abortion to avoid laws requiring the involvement of parents in abortion decisions.</p>	<p>H.R. 1218 introduced/referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on 3/23/99. On 5/27/99, there was a hearing in House Judiciary Constitution Subcommittee. The full Committee reported to the House on 6/25/99. H.R. 1218 was passed by the House on 6/30/99, 270-159.</p> <p>S. 661 introduced/referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on 3/18/99.</p> <p>Prognosis: Congress unlikely to complete action this congress.</p>	<p>Supports.</p>	<p>Lobbying. Letter.</p>

VII. PRO-LIFE (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>Partial Birth Abortion Ban (PBAB)</p>	<p>H.R.____, Canady(R-FL)/S. 928, Santorum (R-PA), “Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act of 1999.”</p>	<p>S. 928 introduced/referred to the Senate Committee on the Judiciary on 4/29/99. On 10/19/99 Senator Lott (R-MS) moved that the Senate proceed to consider this legislation. The motion passed 52-48 and the motion to reconsider was tabled 53-47. (Setting aside Campaign Finance Reform legislation played a role in these votes.) A Durbin “Third Trimester Ban” substitute was tabled, 61-38. A Harkin (D-IA) Sense of Congress Amendment in support of Roe v. Wade passed 51-47. The bill then passed 63-34.</p> <p>Prognosis: Congress will complete action, but bill will be vetoed and the veto will not be overridden.</p>	<p>Supports.</p>	<p>Lobbying, Letter.</p>

VII. PRO-LIFE (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>Population Control: (UNFPA Policy), State Department Authorization Bill</p> <p>The Policy on UNFPA(United Nations Population Fund) is no funds for UNFPA unless it ceases its operation in China or China ends its coercive population control policy.</p>	<p>H.R. 1211, Gilman (R-NY)/ S. 886, Helms (R-NC), “State Department Reauthorization Bill.”</p>	<p>H.R. 1211 introduced/referred to the House Committee on International Relations. (See below for detailed committee action.) * On 4/15/99, the full committee reported H.R. 1211. However, then the indential bill was reintroduced with a new number, H.R. 2415, and a new title, “American Embassy Security Act.” On June 20,1999, on the House floor, Rep. Smith (R-NJ) and Barcia (D-MI) offered an amendment to restore the pro-life conditions for funding UNFPA. <i>Then Rep. Campbell (R-CA) and Gilman (R-NY) offered a 2nd degree replacement amendment that provided \$25 million to UNFPA with no U.S. funds going to China, and reducing U.S. funds to UNFPA by the amount of funds UNFPA spent in China. It passed 221-198.</i></p> <p>S.886 was reported by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to the full Senate on 4/27/99. It passed the Senate on</p>	<p>Opposes the Campbell Amendment.</p>	<p>Lobbying.</p>

*On 3/23/99, the Subcommittee on International Operations and Human Rights of the House Committee on International Relations voted out H.R. 1211, with the provision that no U.S. funds can be made available to UNFPA unless the President certified for each fiscal year that it has terminated all activities in China or that no coerced abortions are performed there. On 4/14/99, the full committee replaced the subcommittee language by adopting 23-17, a Campbell (R-CA) amendment, which would authorize \$25 million for UNFPA for FY 2000, with an elaborate bookkeeping scheme; U.S. funds couldn't go to China and UNFPA funds could only go to certain counties in China where there were so-called voluntary programs.

VII. PRO-LIFE (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
<p>Population Control: (UNFPA Policy), State Department Authorization Bill (continued)</p>		<p>6/22/99. There is no reference to UNFPA in the bill. A new Bill (H.R. 3427) with the Campbell/Gilman language and a two year authorization was incorporated into the Consolidated Appropriations Act (H.R. 3194), which was passed on 11/19/99.</p> <p>Signed by the President on 11/29/99, P.L. 106-113.</p>		
<p>Population Control: (UNFPA and Mexico City Policy), Foreign Operations Appropriations</p> <p>The Policy on UNFPA(United Nations Population Fund) is no funds for UNFPA unless it ceases its operation in China or China ends its coercive population control policy.</p> <p>The Mexico City Policy is no population control funds to foreign organizations that promote or perform abortions as a method of family planning.</p>	<p>H.R. 2606, Callahan (R-AL)/S. 1234, McConnell (R-KY), Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill. Neither bill as introduced included Mexico City language. The House bill continued the ban on UNFPA funding while the Senate bill included \$25 million.</p>	<p>H.R. 2606 was considered by the House Appropriations Committee on 7/20/99. <i>Rep. Pelosi (D-CA) offered an amendment providing \$25 million for UNFPA, prohibiting the money being spent in China, and reducing the amount by whatever amount UNFPA would give to China. It passed 30-26.</i> On 7/29/99, two amendments were offered on the House floor. The Smith/Barcia Amendment to reinstate the Mexico City Policy but allow the President to waive the ban on funding of organizations that perform abortions. It passed 228-200. Then a separate Greenwood-Pelosi Amendment passed 221-208, which did not restore the Mexico City policy, and only prohibiting U.S. subsidized organizations from breaking any laws. The Conferees deleted the Smith/Barcia language, but they kept the \$25 million with the Pelosi provisions for UNFPA funding. The Conference Report passed Congress on 10/6/99 and was</p>		

VII. PRO-LIFE (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Population Control (UNFPA and Mexico City Policy), Foreign Operations Appropriations (continued)		<p>vetoed on 10/18/99. A revised bill, H.R. 3422, was incorporated into the final Consolidate Apporpriations Act (CAA), H.R. 3194. It maintains the \$25 Million with the Pelosi provisions for UNFPA funding, while substantially including the Mexico City Policy. Sec. 559D provides \$385 million for population control programs. It prohibits funding organizations that perform abortions, violate or lobby to alter foreign abortion laws. The President can waive these provisions for up to \$15 million in grants (4%), but if he does, then \$12.5 million from the remainder is transferred to the Child Survival and Disease Programs Fund. H.R. 3194, the CAA, was passed on 11/19/99.</p> <p>Signed by the President on 11/29/99, P.L. 106-113. On 11/30/99, the President exercised the waiver.</p>		
Prison Abortions, FY 2000	H.R. 2670 Rogers (R-KY)/ S. 1217, Gregg (R-NH), "Commerce, Justice, State Appropriations Bill for FY 2000." Both the House and the Senate bills prohibit the federal government from paying for prison abortions, except for life/rape.	<p>S. 1217 introduced/referred to the Committee on Appropriations on 6/14/99. It was reported by the Committee as an original measure on 6/10/99. When the House considered the Bill on 8/4/99, Rep. DeGette (R-CO) moved to strike the provision and lost 160-268. The prohibition was contained in the final bill (H.R. 3421), as part of the CAA (H.R. 3194), passed on 11/19/99 and</p> <p>Signed by the President on 11/29/99, P.L. 106-113.</p>	Supports ban on federal funding of abortions in federal prisons.	Monitoring.

VII. PRO-LIFE (continued)

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Bill Number/Sponsor/Description</u>	<u>Status</u>	<u>USCC Position</u>	<u>USCC Documents/Activities</u>
Unborn Victim of Violence	H.R. 2436, Graham (R-SC)/S. 1673, DeWine (R-OH) "Unborn Victims of Violence Act." Provides that an individual who injures or kills an unborn child during the commission of certain federal crimes of violence will be guilty of a separate offense.	<p>Hearing held on 7/21/99 by the Judiciary Constitution Subcommittee. On 8/4/99, the Subcommittee reported the bill, 5 to 2. The full committee on 9/14/99 passed the bill 14 to 11, after: (a) rejecting, 8-20, a Lofgren (D-CA) Substitute Amendment that would have criminalized attacking a pregnant woman and "interrupting the normal course of" or "terminating a pregnancy," but not create a separate charge for harming a fetus; and (b) rejecting 11-14 a Watt (D-NC) Amendment replacing "unborn child" with "pregnancy". On 9/30/99, the House passed the Bill 254-172, after defeating the Lofgren amendment 201-224.</p> <p>Prognosis: Uncertain.</p>	Supports.	Letter, Lobbying.
Trafficking in Fetal Organs and Tissues	H Res 350, Tancredo (R-CO). Asks Congress to investigate and conduct hearings with respect to private companies involved in the trafficking of baby body parts for profit.	<p>On 10/21/99, the Senate rejected (46-51) Sen. Bob Smith's amendment to the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act, which would have required extensive reporting and disclosure of the details of procurement, transfer and research use of embryonic and fetal tissue obtained from induced abortions.</p> <p>H. Res. 350 was considered by the House on 11/9/99 and passed by voice vote.</p>	Supports	Letter, Lobbying.

