

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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February 4, 1990
CAMBRIDGE MA.

Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk
Office of the City Clerk
City of Cambridge, City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02138

Dear Mr. Connarton:

Thank you for your recent letter in support of the Chinese Student Immigration Bill, which passed Congress with overwhelming support last November, but which was vetoed by President Bush. I strongly supported this legislation and I was disappointed that the recent veto override attempt by Congress was ultimately unsuccessful.

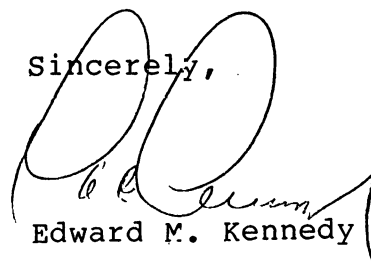
Although pro-democracy efforts are now flourishing in Eastern Europe, China persists in its efforts to suppress dissent. The Chinese government itself reports that 6,000 dissidents have been imprisoned since the Tiananmen Square massacre, and other reports suggests that the number may well approach 30,000.

These disturbing developments add to the vulnerability which the 40,000 Chinese students in America already feel, especially those who have been active advocates of democratic reform in their home country and have already been harassed -- even in this country -- by representatives of their own embassy. They must be given the strongest possible assurances that they will not one day be forced to return to China against their will in order that they may confidently pursue their pro-democracy activities.

While the President has announced his intention to use existing authorities to provide immigration protection to the students, it is questionable whether such authorities can fully accomplish the goals of the legislation. In addition, administrative actions can be easily revoked or altered at any time. Therefore, it does not provide the Chinese students now in this country with the specific, reliable and certain protection they deserve.

Again, thank you for writing about this issue of fundamental fairness and human rights.

Sincerely,



Edward M. Kennedy

10. S-179

Comm. from Senator Edward M. Kennedy
relative to a communication received by
him from the City Council in support of
the Chinese Student Immigration Bill.

In City Council,

February 26, 1990

Placed on file