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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20545

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CAMBRIDGE MA.

April 17, 1990

Mr. Joseph E. Connarton
City Clerk
City of Cambridge
City Hall
Cambridge, Massachusetts 02139

Dear Mr. Connarton:

Thank you for contacting me regarding visa extensions for Chinese students currently residing in the United States. I apologize for my delay in responding.

Following the Chinese government's brutal crackdown on peaceful pro-democracy protesters in Tianamen Square, many Chinese students living in this country became fearful that they would face political persecution if they returned to their homes in the People's Republic of China. In order to respond to these concerns, I co-sponsored and voted for the Emergency Chinese Visa Adjustment Act of 1989 (H.R. 2712). This bill would have allowed Chinese nationals to maintain legal residency status in the U.S., change their status within non-immigrant categories, and apply for permanent resident status if they qualify.

H.R. 2712 was approved by the House and Senate on November 19, 1989. Unfortunately, it was vetoed by President Bush on November 30. On January 25, 1990 I joined 389 of my colleagues to override the veto, but unfortunately the Senate failed to do likewise. The President argued that because of foreign policy considerations, it was preferable to extend visa protection to Chinese nationals living in the U.S. by way of an executive order. However, he has never issued such an order.

I have also been active in supporting establishment of partial economic sanctions against China. Last year I authored the section of the Congressional sanctions legislation which bars all forms of peaceful nuclear energy cooperation between the U.S. and China until the human rights situation in that country improves and the Chinese government provides the U.S. with clear and unequivocal assurances that it is not helping nations such as Pakistan obtain nuclear explosives.

Again, thanks for getting in touch. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey

Edward J. Markey
Member of Congress

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S-444

Comm. from Congressman Edward J. Markey
relative to the visa extensions for
Chinese students currently residing in the
United States.

In City Council,

April 30, 1990

Placed on file