

neighborhoods, well over 90 percent of children from safe, stable homes do not become delinquents. By contrast, only 10 percent of children from unsafe, unstable homes in these neighborhoods avoid crime."

And it is where welfare is most prevalent that families break up. If family break-up causes crime, and welfare causes family break-up, why do we keep kiting checks to destroy our most vulnerable communities? Reforming welfare is not just a matter of saving money—it is a matter of fighting crime. Reforming welfare is a moral imperative for those who care about our children's safety.

Last year we worked hard to end welfare as we know it, to spring our Nation's most vulnerable members from the trap of dependency, sloth, and moral decay. The Personal Responsibility Act, as it was called, was a revolutionary proposal that delivered the true, tough welfare reform Americans have been demanding for so long. In spite of cries to the contrary, this legislation will improve the lives of the disadvantaged children trapped in today's collapsed welfare pit. Welfare reform will, over time, begin to heal the diseased underbelly of society. And as it does, I deeply believe the cancer of crime will begin to recede.

The current welfare system is a cause, not a cure, of the ills afflicting inner-city America. Nothing could be more cruel to our Nation's children than a system which lures their parents into dependency, traps them in broke down public housing, and subsidizes failure, illegitimacy, and substance abuse. This system is hurting the very disadvantaged children it was intended to help—and turning ever more of them to a life of crime.

The current welfare state fuels crime by paying poor people to break up their families, use drugs and alcohol, and abandon their responsibility for their own lives. Over half of the 5 million families on welfare remain trapped on it for 10 years or more.

The Personal Responsibility Act I supported would end welfare as a way of life, both by requiring recipients to work for benefits after 2 years, and by cutting off welfare altogether after 5 years. The measure would get even tougher with faceless Washington bureaucrats. It eliminated their bloated headquarters, turning the resources over to States to design programs that work at the local level. I want to make sure our money is used in Nebraska where it's needed, not Washington where all too often it's wasted. That way the resources can be used to lift families out of poverty, instead of anchoring them in it. The seemingly hopeless, pointless communities blasted by the top-down welfare state breed crime, and true welfare reform would allow Nebraska to heal those communities. We could save children not just from poverty, but from depravity.

Moving to an opportunity society rather than a welfare state will favor families over illegitimacy, local control over Federal centralization, and responsibility over dependence. And, ultimately, it will fight crime by giving our poorest, most disillusioned children hope rather than handouts. The best way to fight crime is to have fewer children becoming criminals.

Those who truly care about our safety—as well as our disadvantaged—should come together to reform the failed Federal welfare state. I'll continue working hard to see that that gets done.

#### CONCLUSION

I believe that the new Congress and I have brought true change to Washington. I've

worked hard to balance the budget for the first time in a generation to put the Nation back on track, just as I said I would. I've worked hard to clean up our broken court system, to stop the blight of runaway lawyers and rampant lawsuits crippling our Nation, just as I said I would. I've worked hard as your representative on the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee to reduce the burden on hard-working Americans and job-creating businesses to restore the upward climb of our families and workplaces, just as I said I would. And I've tried always to keep my word, to restore the bonds of trust that make a democracy work—just as I said I would.

This fight to bring Nebraska's values to Washington is well on its way. The day will come when the occupant of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue will have the courage to sign a balanced budget, welfare reform, and tax relief—and to keep his promises. But to restore the American dream for us and our children, none of this will be enough. What does a balanced Federal budget matter if Nebraska's children can't play in the streets? What consolation is the restoration of a good income to a woman who's lost her husband at the hands of a violent criminal? What do good jobs and opportunity matter if people are barricaded in their houses?

That's why we need to come together as Americans to fight this shadow off. Men and women of all ideologies, all races, and all creeds agree that the shadow of crime has frightened our children long enough. I say those who care should work now—today—to restore our streets to safety. We should work now—today—to knit up our Nation's fraying social fabric. We should work now—today—to stop coddling criminals and start crushing them.

I'm confident my colleagues will join me in this hard work, because it is hard work. And I also know that many Americans on the front lines of this battle are working far more effectively and bravely than any of us could to combat crime. But until more and more of our families live free from fear, and less and less of our children cry themselves to sleep, I also promise you this: No one will outwork JON CHRISTENSEN.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2202, IMMIGRATION IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST ACT OF 1995

#### SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 19, 1996*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am in opposition to the rule for H.R. 2202, the Immigration in the National Interest Act of 1995. If passed, this bill will dramatically change the way that we deal with immigration in this country. I am concerned, therefore, because a number of very important amendments, specifically those relating to the bill's legal immigration provisions have been excluded from consideration.

H.R. 2202 attempts to do too much too fast. By combining the enforcement of illegal immigration and the reform of legal immigration in one bill, I fear that we are sending the wrong

message to the American public. While I, like most Americans, believe that we must stem the tide of illegal immigration to this country, legal immigration serves important national interests.

Given the legal and administrative complexities of the reform challenge at hand, we must examine each component to the fullest extent. I am hopeful, therefore, that my colleagues will support the Crane-Dooley-Davis amendment, which would strike the parts of title V (subtitles A, B, and C) that would virtually prevent American citizens from sponsoring their adult children, siblings, and parents; reduce America's support for refugees; and place additional experience requirements that will complicate companies' ability to hire foreign scientists and engineers.

The current legal immigration system is specifically designed to strengthen families by reuniting close family members and fueling prosperity by attracting hardworking individuals. We must not abandon these principles. At a time when strong family bonds are more important than ever, restrictions, in family based immigration will hurt legal immigrant families in America.

It is disturbing to think that Government policy will keep such families, even parents and their children, apart just because a child is older than 21 years of age. Energetic young people, about to enter the work force, are exactly the type of new Americans that compliment the existing work force. Not only will they fuel our economy along with our existing population, but they will be here to care for their aging parents. Most Americans do not think that their children, at any age, are ever distant family members.

Similarly, barring entry of brothers and sisters of U.S. citizens because of the current backlog in that visa category is especially unfair to the citizens and their siblings who have followed the rules and waited patiently in line—some for 15 years or more.

H.R. 2202 imposes nearly insurmountable obstacles for U.S. citizens seeking to bring their own mothers and fathers to the United States. The legislation enables the U.S. Government to control and overrule the decisions of families by requiring that U.S. citizens purchase high levels of insurance for their parents and lowering the priority for the parents' visa category. This category will only receive visas if any are left over from other categories. The State Department projects that within 3 years after the law takes effect no visas will be available for parents.

In addition, H.R. 2202 will require citizens and legal residents to show that their income will be 200 percent above the poverty line in order to bring their parents, minor children, or spouses to the United States. More than 35 percent of Americans, over 91 million people, have incomes below 200 percent of the poverty line. The bill will have a devastating impact on American families who will be barred from living in the United States with their own husbands, wives, parents, and adult children.

Proposed restrictions in employment-based immigration will have a negative impact on the U.S. economy. It is crucial that the American workplace reflects the international character of its customers and responds to both domestic and international competitive pressures. Achieving such a work force requires looking

beyond the U.S. labor market. Employees, researchers and professors possessing both innovative technical skills and multicultural competence ensures our economic viability in world markets.

Additionally, placing a cap on the number of refugees admitted to the United States ignores our leadership role in providing protection and safe harbor to those fleeing political and religious persecution. Strict levels of refugee admissions ignore the changing and urgent nature of refugee situations. U.S. policy should maintain the flexibility to respond appropriately to emergency situations.

I also have serious reservations about a national employment verification system which would tend to subject individuals to invasions of privacy and discrimination. Such a system would serve as an enormous administrative burden to the Nation's employers, especially small businesses. And even if such a system could be maintained with an error rate of only 1 percent—an impossibility since it would be based on INS and SSA data which have error rates of at least 30 percent—hundreds of thousands of Americans would be denied employment opportunities annually because, according to an error in the data base, they were not eligible to work. Therefore, I support the Chabot-Conyers amendment, which would strike the employment verification system from the bill.

Finally, H.R. 2202 would restrict immigrants' access to all Federal means-tested programs. This means that programs like child care, immunizations, the Head Start Program, battered spouse shelters, and Maternal and Child Health Care Programs will be out of reach for needy women and children. Compromising the health and education of women and children hurts all Americans. Children must not be made to suffer from the actions of their parents. Furthermore, it is not in our national interest to have a population of malnourished, nonimmunized, and uneducated children.

H.R. 2202 also proposes to reimburse hospitals that provide emergency services to undocumented immigrants only if the hospital turns in the names of the undocumented people it serves. If this proposal becomes law people will fear seeking emergency care. By discouraging sick and critically ill people from seeking help, this provision jeopardizes not only the health of those who are ill, but also risks the well-being of their families and their communities. In addition, the measure will force doctors, nurses, and hospital administrators to spend valuable time and resources being law enforcers and learning to interpret immigration documents and understand the minutia of immigration law.

In short, there are no easy solutions for the deep-seated problems facing our Nation. Scapegoating, however, is not the answer. The issue has never been should we deal with immigration but how. Although H.R. 2202 comes clothed in good intentions, I am afraid the legislation does not capture fully the Commission's work and effectively bring about a long, lasting solution.

Immigrants are not the cause of the widening gap between rich and poor, the deterioration of our public schools or the violence in our streets. Indeed, the causes of these problems are much more fundamental and it is time they were addressed. We as Americans, can handle them without resorting to left wing or right wing rhetoric. This is what the Amer-

ican people demand and it is what they deserve.

#### LEGISLATION TO REVISE ELIGIBILITY FOR VA MEDICAL CARE

HON. G.V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 1996*

Mr. MONTGOMERY. Mr. Speaker, I am introducing today by request legislation which would very substantially revise provisions of law governing eligibility for VA health care services. This measure would require VA to provide any core veteran—that is, any veteran to whom VA now has an obligation to furnish hospital care—whatever care or services are clinically needed.

This measure would also provide VA new funding streams to support the improved service delivery promised by this legislation.

Most of the major veterans organizations strongly support this legislation and have urged its introduction.

#### ARMS TRANSFERS TO PAKISTAN

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 1996*

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Government of Pakistan continues to assure our Government that it is a staunch ally of the United States. Last year, Pakistan illegally purchased M-11 missiles and 5,000 ring magnets from China. The M-11 missiles are capable of delivering a nuclear warhead and the ring magnets are used to enrich uranium, a key component for making nuclear bombs. Both transfers violate several U.S. nuclear non-proliferation laws.

The latest destabilizing act by Pakistan appears to have occurred earlier this month when authorities in Taiwan seized the cargo of a ship loaded with 34.8 tons of chemicals traveling from North Korea to Pakistan. According to an article appearing in the March 10 edition of the United Daily News, a leading newspaper in Taiwan, the materials "could be used for massively destructive purposes." The cargo, which Taiwanese authorities are holding, is being treated as top secret.

The actions of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto are deeply troubling. Last year, Mrs. Bhutto travelled to North Korea. In addition, last year, Pakistan illegally purchased M-11 missiles from the People's Republic of China [PRC]. Earlier this year, news reports disclosed that Pakistan had 5,000 ring magnets from the PRC.

Mr. Speaker, the administration is currently considering transferring \$368 million worth of seized military hardware to Pakistan. The Congress granted that authority to the administration last year before it was aware of the seized cargo, the ring magnets, or the M-11 missiles. In light of these developments, it is imperative that the administration not proceed with the transfer. Tensions in South Asia are already very high. The United States needs to step back and reassess its position regarding Pakistan rather than continue on its present course.

#### HAPPY RETIREMENT TO JIM CAMPBELL

HON. GLENN POSHARD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 1996*

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a good friend on the occasion of his retirement. James E. "Jim" Campbell has spent the last 50 years of his life working for the cause of rural electrification. He has spent the last 13 years as manager of the Clay Electric Cooperative in Flora, IL, and will retire at the end of this month. I would like to thank Jim for his contributions to the quality of life in southern Illinois and wish him health and happiness for many years to come.

The work that Jim has dedicated his professional life to is especially meaningful to me, because for the last 8 years I have also worked hard to improve the infrastructure for the citizens in my congressional districts. Improving electrical service to rural areas is an important part of this process. I vividly remember when my family had our house in White County wired for electricity and the changes that brought to our lives. Jim has worked tirelessly to improve the living conditions and quality of service for consumers of electricity. His career has taken him from Kentucky to Colorado, and he has shared his expertise with professionals in Uruguay, Turkey, the Philippines, Nigeria, and Bangladesh. Jim has also served on numerous boards and associations, including the board of directors of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association [NRECA] Management Committee and their Parity of Rates Committee.

Mr. Speaker, what makes Jim's accomplishments all the more remarkable is he has also been a devoted family man. He and his wife Patty have been married 49 years and have raised three children and have five grandchildren. Jim will be able to turn even more attention to this facet of his life, including his yardwork and woodworking. It has been an honor to represent Jim in the U.S. Congress, and I wish him Godspeed.

#### HONORING CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL BOYS HOCKEY DIVISION 2 STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 20, 1996*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to congratulate the Cathedral High School Boys Hockey Team for their record setting year which earned them the 1996 Massachusetts Division 2 State Hockey Championship.

For many years, hockey teams from western Massachusetts have not fared well against their eastern counterparts. Hampered by the lack of hockey rinks and the stiff competition that exists in Eastern Massachusetts, hockey teams from western Massachusetts have struggled. In the midst of period, Edgar Alejandro, the Cathedral hockey coach and a former standout hockey player at American International College, decided to challenge the