

the rights of States in establishing occupancy standards for housing providers.

During the 105th Congress the House Committee on Banking and Financing Services passed a public housing bill. Within the debate of this bill at the committee level, occupancy standards were discussed, but a real standard with real definitions was left out of the final product. This bill would amend the Quality Housing and Word Responsibility Act and insert the standards and definition that should have been put in originally.

I believe that it is important to firmly establish the rights of the states in determining this standard, especially when considering that the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) could require housing providers to house more people than is considered appropriate and reasonable.

Currently, many states have occupancy laws or guidelines in place, and there is a national consensus among housing providers that the maximum number of occupants most housing can accommodate is two people per bedroom. This legislation allows the inclusion of one infant to the already established two-people-per-bedroom limit. Beyond this level, the negative effects of overcrowding, including providers possibly decreasing the stock of affordable housing, could be triggered. It is important that reasonable limits be set for the number of occupants in a housing unit to provide safe living conditions, to protect from property damage, and to make sure that requisite services can be provided for all residents.

The bill I am introducing is a simple clarification of existing law and practice. It says that States, not HUD, will set occupancy standards and that a two-per-bedroom plus an infant standard is reasonable in the absence of a State law. American taxpayers have spent billions of dollars on HUD programs designed to reduce crowding. It is time to ensure that overcrowding will not be a possibility. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

A SECURE SOCIAL SECURITY CARD

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation that will make the Social Security card more tamper-resistant and less susceptible to fraudulent use. Eliminating Social Security document fraud is a vital first step in controlling our borders and stopping illegal immigration. It is simply unacceptable that the one document that is most commonly used to prove eligibility for employment—the Social Security card—is nothing more than a paper document that is easily counterfeited. As it stands, an illegal alien wanting a Social Security card can go to a street corner and purchase a fake for as little as \$30.

Improving the Social Security card is of the utmost importance for two fundamental reasons: (1) it reduces the incentive for illegal aliens to come to the U.S. by making it more difficult for them to get a job, and (2) it makes it easier for employers to comply with existing law by making employment authorization documents more reliable. It is that simple.

Mr. Speaker, the only way to control the crisis of illegal immigration is to eliminate the

lure of employment. The 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act created employer sanctions, making it illegal to knowingly hire an illegal alien. That law requires everyone seeking employment in the U.S. to produce evidence of eligibility to work. The most commonly used form of verification is the combination of a driver's license with the Social Security card. These reforms were well intentioned but a decade later, it is clear that fraudulent documents have weakened the impact.

One of the primary reasons that employer sanctions are not working today is the rampant fraud in the documents used to prove eligibility to work, including the Social Security card. As long as the Social Security card can be easily counterfeited, employer sanctions will not work. The fact that illegal aliens can easily counterfeit authorization documents undermines this important law and the lure of easy jobs continues to pull illegal aliens into this country.

My legislation would require a simple upgrading of the Social Security card. This would replace today's card with one that offers the best possible security against counterfeiting, forgery, alteration and fraudulent use. This proposal would require the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration to make such improvements to the Social Security account number card as are necessary to make it as secure against counterfeiting as the 100 dollar bill and as protected against fraudulent use as the United States passport. I chose these performance standards because of the many counterfeit-resistance features that are built into these two documents, including the type of paper, watermarks, background pattern of inks and security threads.

Mr. Speaker, with this legislation, the Commissioner of Social Security would be required to offer more than a bare assertion concerning the card's security. This legislation directs the Comptroller General to perform an annual audit regarding the progress and status of developing a secured social security account number card, the incidence of counterfeit production and fraudulent use of social security account number cards, and the steps being taken to detect and prevent such counterfeiting and fraud.

The legislation also provides that, beginning on January 1, 2008, any Social Security card that is used for employer sanctions purposes, i.e., to show that an individual is eligible to work in the U.S., must be one of the new, secured Social Security cards. By a date certain we need an improved Social Security card to be the only Social Security card acceptable for employer sanctions. Other documents, such as the passport, would still be acceptable. This would make the older, easy to counterfeit cards, worthless to illegal aliens.

Immigrants bring growth, creativity and opportunity to America. They are the cornerstone of much of our great nation's cultural heritage. Immigration should once again be seen as a noble experience that enriches America—both economically and culturally—rather than one demeaned by criminality and deceit. To accomplish this, we must make employer sanctions work and cut off the magnet of jobs. Adopting measures, such as a secure Social Security card, to reduce document fraud is the first pivotal step that must be taken.

If we do nothing and continue to allow the use of the Social Security card without making it tamper-resistant, fraud will remain rampant,

and the country will continue to be overrun by illegal aliens. This is a modest proposal to ensure that the SSA uses the latest inking and anti-counterfeiting mechanisms now used on paper issued in the form of the \$100 bill and the U.S. passport—both of which boast extremely low rates of fraud. These would be specific, clearly outlined performance standards. In 9 years or so, only such an upgraded card would qualify as a Social Security card for the purposes of confirming employment eligibility. These modest steps are the least we can do to stop the unrivaled wave of illegal immigration hitting our nation.

RELIEF FOR ROBERT ANTHONY BROLEY

HON. BILL McCOLLUM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing a bill for the relief of Robert Anthony Broley. After enactment of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (IIRIRA), Immigration Judges lost most discretion in granting suspension of deportation of certain criminal aliens. Any relief must be sought from Congress. The case of Robert Anthony Broley is, in my opinion, sufficiently compelling to have Congress grant him relief from pending deportation.

Robert is the son of Robert M. Broley and Barbara Broley. Mrs. Broley was born in Canada but is a U.S. citizen, having been naturalized in 1962. Mr. Broley is also a naturalized U.S. citizen. The son, Robert Anthony Broley, was born in Canada in 1966 and remains a Canadian citizen.

Robert Anthony Broley entered the United States with his parents at the age of 2 in November 1968. He lived with his parents in the United States until they accepted employment in Canada when he was nine. Robert Anthony Broley was admitted again in October, 1978 and, for the most part, he has remained here since. He has an American citizen son, Matthew.

Robert Anthony Broley had personal problems beginning with his senior year in high school. He stole checks from his parents in 1990. In 1992 he was convicted of Driving Under the Influence. He stole furniture from his family in 1993 in order to sell it for cash. His parents felt the need to turn him in to the authorities in order to help Robert in the long run. He served 5 months in prison and was released in October, 1993 and given probation, which he violated by returning to Canada.

His father finally convinced Robert Anthony Broley to return to the United States in order to accept the consequences of his actions. While attempting to enter the United States to turn himself in for violating his probation, he was apprehended and is currently serving a term for parole violation with a release date of March 20, 1999. Once released, he is deportable under Section 212(a) and 237(a) of the Immigration and Naturalization Act (as amended by IIRIRA).

While serving time in prison, Robert was involved in a very serious accident that has left his face permanently disfigured. His family feels that their son has completely changed

and has suffered for his crimes and that his deportation will hurt Matthew, Robert's American citizen son.

In view of Robert Anthony Broley's situation, insofar that he was arrested because his family felt it would be for his own good, I feel great sympathy for his family's struggles. They

never intended for him to be deported. Therefore, I am introducing a private relief bill on behalf of Robert Anthony Broley. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.