Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to the service and achievements of Jenny Inge before this body of Congress and this nation. Her efforts to strengthen her community are truly remarkable, and the recognition she received from the Creede-Mineral County Chamber of Commerce, as their 2004 Employer of the Year, is a well-deserved testament to her tireless efforts. I sincerely thank Jenny for her service, and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

## UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AMENDMENTS OF 2004

SPEECH OF

### HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 17, 2004*

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3722, which I believe poses a significant threat to the health of all Americans. If H.R. 3722 is enacted, the fear of deportation will inevitably discourage undocumented immigrants from seeking care for potentially communicable diseases. As a result, serious health problems will likely go untreated and unreported with serious negative consequences to the health of entire communities.

In addition, numerous hospital and local government organizations have told Congress that the reporting and record keeping requirements included in H.R. 3722 will not only place a serious administrative burden on already overburdened hospitals, but also harm the relationship of trust between health care providers and their patients. This will undermine health care providers' basic and vital mission—tending the sick and injured. I would like to include in the RECORD a letter in opposition to H.R. 3722 I received from El Centro, an organization in my district dedicated to family improvement.

Like many of my colleagues, I am dedicated to continuing to seek solutions to the challenges we face in our immigration policy. I have supported multiple efforts to strengthen our immigration and border patrol systems. I do not believe, however, that denying emergency health care to those critically in need is consistent with the successful curbing of illegal immigration.

EL CENTRO, INC.,
*Kansas City, KS, May 7, 2004.*

Congressman DENNIS MOORE,
*Cannon House Office Building,*
*Washington, DC.*

CONGRESSMAN MOORE: El Centro, Inc. sincerely hopes that you will oppose Representative Dana Rohrabacher's (R–CA) extreme bill threatening access to emergency health care for undocumented immigrants and, we fear, for many U.S. citizens living in immigrant families and communities.

Among its provisions, H.R. 3722, the Undocumented Alien Emergency Medical Assistance Amendments of 2004, would deny hospitals and other health care providers reimbursement for uncompensated emergency care they provide to undocumented immigrants unless they report those immigrants to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). As a practical matter, this would oblige providers to verify the immigration status of all uninsured patients presenting health care emergencies. The information health care providers would be required to transmit to DHS would include their patients' financial data, identity of employer, and biometric information.

H.R. 3722 would also narrow the scope of emergency health services available to undocumented persons and make inability to pay medical expenses a basis for removal from the U.S. Employers of undocumented workers whose medical expenses are reimbursed by the federal government would be required to repay the government for those costs.

This proposal would jeopardize the health of immigrants and the general public. The threat of separation from their communities and families would deter immigrants and their family members from seeking needed health services, including testing and treatment for communicable diseases. Overburdened emergency health care providers would be forced to verify the immigration status of emergency patients, and report those believed to be undocumented to immigration authorities, in conflict with patient privacy rights and the fundamental principle that they refrain from harming their patients. The bill would impose additional burdens on employers, including small businesses, who already are required to verify the citizenship and immigration status of workers. It also would increase the likelihood of discrimination against persons assumed to ''appear foreign'' because of their race, accent or other prohibited factors.

Though Rep. Rohrabacher's intentions may be to contain emergency health cost and the flow of undocumented immigrants via this proposal, this is certainly not the way to do it. In fact, we believe the only possible outcome of the proposal is the creation of a disastrous and costly public health scenario. We ask that you oppose attempts to move this proposal forward.

Most sincerely,

MELINDA K. LEWIS,
*Director of Policy Advocacy and Research.*

## PAYING TRIBUTE TO FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF THE ROCKIES

### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 19, 2004*

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this Nation today to pay tribute to First National Bank of the Rockies, a business that has given a century of service to the citizens of Colorado. Recently, the bank moved its headquarters from Meeker to Grand Junction where most of its corporate officials reside. As First National celebrates its 100th Anniversary, let it be known that I, along with the people of Colorado, are grateful for the valuable service it provides.

First National Bank of the Rockies first opened its doors in 1904. Originally chartered as The First National Bank of Meeker, the name was changed in 1989 when a group of investors bought the bank, as well as First Federal Savings & Loan in Craig, and renamed it. Since the new owners took over, the bank has rapidly expanded, increasing its total assets ten-fold, and buying Rocky Mountain State Bank and Rio Blanco State Bank in 1997. As First National continues its expansion, it sees a bright economic outlook for Grand Junction and the State of Colorado.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to recognize the service and dedication of First National Bank of the Rockies to Grand Junction and the State of Colorado. It has maintained strong community involvement and excellent personal customer service while continuing to grow and expand throughout the state. I congratulate First National on its 100th Anniversary and wish it continuing success.

## PAPERWORK AND REGULATORY IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2004*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chairman, I speak out in opposition to H.R. 2432, the ''Paperwork and Regulatory Improvements Act of 2003.'' This bill would weaken, rather than improve, the process of developing federal regulations by elevating the interests of regulated industries over all other considerations. The bill would needlessly divert resources from implementing important regulations and does nothing to protect current public health and environmental regulations, which are under fire from the Bush administration. These are regulations that even the Office of Management and Budget has indicated have immense benefits: in September of 2003 an OMB study concluded that environmental regulations are well worth the costs they impose on industry and consumers, resulting in significant public health improvements and other benefits to society. For example, the study found that the health and social benefits of enforcing clean-air regulations during the past decade were five to seven times greater in economic terms than were the costs of complying with the rules. Yet the Bush administration continues to issue rules and guidelines that weaken the Clean Air Act.

I strongly support the Waxman-Tierney amendment to establish an independent commission on the politicization of science in the regulatory process. The amendment responds to a growing concern among scientists and the environmental community that the Bush administration is placing politics above science. From refusing to release a report contradicting their views in the Klamath basin of Oregon to removing information on global warming in an Environmental Protection Agency report, this administration has shown little more than flat out contempt for science. Just last month we saw the Bush administration issue a new policy that would allow hatchery-raised salmon in the Pacific Northwest to be included in wild salmon population counts, which could have a significant impact on whether or not the species are listed under the Endangered Species Act. Press accounts show that this was done over the objection of an independent panel of scientists commissioned by National Marine Fisheries Service to advise them on the issue.

In February of this year, 60 leading scientists—including 20 Nobel laureates, leading medical experts, former federal agency directors, and university chairs and presidents—voiced their concern over the misuse of science by this administration. I am deeply disappointed that H.R. 2432 takes us in the wrong direction by advancing a misguided concept that elevates the interests of regulated industries over the health of our communities.