

This is the main revision needed to EPA's Worker Protection Standard, but there are others, as well, spelled out in the report by the Government Accountability Office (GAO).

To Congress:

1. Amend the FLSA to provide children in agriculture the same protections as children in other industries. Three key amendments are needed to achieve this result. First, the minimum age for hazardous work in agriculture must be raised from 16 to 18, so that all children in all employments will be protected equally. Second, the normal minimum age for non-hazardous work in agriculture must be raised from 14 to 16, in order to equalize the rules for all working children. Third, the restrictions on hours that children can work must be strengthened in agriculture, so that children in agriculture enjoy the same hours of work protections as all other children.

2. Amend the FLSA to provide a private right of action for child labor violations. Under existing federal law, if any child is employed in violation of the child labor requirements, only DOL can bring a lawsuit, and the penalty that is finally determined must be paid to the United States Treasury. In order to provide a greater incentive on the part of employers to comply with the law, lawsuits should also be permitted by children who are employed in violation of the law. The maximum employer liability for each violation should remain at the level for a penalty assessed by DOL (currently \$11,000), but the money in a private action should be paid by the employer to the child (or, in the case of a death, to the parents or guardians of the child). The inability of DOL to enforce the law adequately requires that others have a role in enforcement. FLSA minimum wage and overtime lawsuits are permitted both by DOL and by individual employees, and the FLSA should be amended to allow the same approach in child labor cases.

IN RECOGNITION OF JUDGE
GARRY MALPHRUS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to congratulate Judge Garry Malphrus, his family and friends, on his appointment to the Federal Immigration Court.

I am very grateful to represent the Malphrus family in Congress and one of the great honors of serving in Congress was having the opportunity on June 3rd to join in a swearing-in ceremony to recognize the achievements of a constituent. As a former attorney who has practiced immigration law, I know the importance of this judgeship.

Garry was born and raised in Jasper County, South Carolina, a son of the Lowcountry, which is in the district that I represent. Garry's impressive career track includes his graduation from Thomas Heyward Academy of Ridgeland and his further education at the University of South Carolina for his undergraduate and law degrees. Garry was a law clerk to Federal Judges Chauncey Patterson and Dennis Shedd. I particularly appreciate the importance of clerkships because Judge Dennis Shedd was a clerk in our office. Garry

also worked on the Senate Judiciary Committee for South Carolina's former Senior Senator Strom Thurmond and was an attorney for the current Bush Administration. I know he will do well with that list of former employers.

Not only do I want to congratulate Garry, but I also want to congratulate the people who helped make this possible, his family; Judy and Donnie Malphrus, his brother Barry and sister Kim and his grandmother Lorene Langford.

Garry has been instrumental in furthering the cause of justice for many years through his work on the judiciary committee and political campaigns.

Garry has been involved for campaigns, including mine, for as long as I can remember. He and his brother Barry actually recruited my chief of staff, Eric Dell, involving him in politics for the first time in 1986 as a volunteer in the gubernatorial race of Congressman Carroll Campbell in his successful election. I always enjoyed seeing Garry and Barry at state conventions; it was encouraging to see their bravery and enthusiasm to be dedicated activists in a county where they were a persistent political minority.

In the seventeen years I served in the South Carolina Senate, I had the opportunity to vote on dozens of candidates for judgeships and appoint numerous magistrates. In every election, I looked for judicial temperament of a person who would respectfully give every participant a respectful day in court, no matter who they were or what they looked like. I am confident Garry possesses this unique quality.

Again, I want to congratulate Garry, his family, and friends on his appointment as a federal immigration judge and wish him success and Godspeed.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. On House rollcall vote No. 239, H.J. Res. 27 a bill "Withdrawing approval of the United States from the Agreement establishing the World Trade Organization." I voted "yea" on this vote, and intended to vote "no." I am asking that the record show that I am supportive of the United States membership in the World Trade Organization.

LET'S KEEP FAMILIES TOGETHER

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker. I rise today because legal immigrants and their families need our help.

As Congress continues to debate ways to address illegal immigration, we must remember the many hard-working legal immigrants that contribute so much to our nation's economy and culture. In Congress' zeal to crack down on illegal immigration, it has unfairly punished many of these legal immigrants.

That's why I invite all my colleagues to join my fight to reverse certain unfair provisions of so-called "immigration reforms" instituted by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996. This law has allowed stable, long-term families headed by legal immigrants to be torn apart because of minor crimes committed years ago—crimes for which the offenders have already served their sentences.

A basic legislative attempt to fix this law was passed by the House of Representatives in the 106th Congress, but it was never taken up by the Senate. So I have re-introduced my "Keeping Families Together" Act (H.R. 2865). This bill would reinstate judicial review to the immigration process, restore the definition of aggravated felony that existed prior to 1996, end the practice of automatically detaining productive members of our society for minor crimes they committed years ago and for which they have already served their sentence, and allow legal immigrants previously deported to appeal that decision.

Please join me in supporting this critical legislation to restore justice to our immigration processes and keep families together.

INTRODUCING A BILL TO CLEAR
TITLE TO TWO PARCELS OF
LAND LOCATED ALONG THE RIO
GRANDE IN ALBUQUERQUE, NEW
MEXICO

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Albuquerque Biological Park Title Clarification Act. This legislation would assist the City of Grande.

The Albuquerque Biological Park is a distinctive environmental museum comprising four facilities: Albuquerque Aquarium, Rio Grande Botanic Garden, Rio Grande Zoo and Tingley Beach Aquatic Park. In 1997, as part of an effort to improve these facilities, the City purchased two properties from the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District (MRGCD) for \$3,875,000.

The City had been leasing the first property, Tingley Beach, from MRGCD since 1931. The City had been leasing the second property, San Gabriel Park, from the MRGCD since 1931. Both properties had been used as public parks.

In 2000, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation interrupted the City's plans when it asserted that it had acquired ownership of all of MRGCD's property associated with the Middle Rio Grande Project in 1953. This called into question the validity of the City's title to the properties. The City cannot move forward with its plans to improve the properties until the titles are cleared.

The legislation is narrowly drafted to affect only the two properties at issue and leaves the main dispute concerning title to project works for the courts to decide. This important legislation will allow the City to move forward with a project that will provide residents and visitors with exciting new recreational opportunities.

THE BELLS OF BALANGIGA: IT IS
TIME TO GO HOME

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to speak about my resolution, H. Res. 313, which urges the President to authorize the transfer of ownership to the Philippines of one of the bells taken in 1901 from the town of Balangiga in the Philippines. The bells are currently displayed at F.E. Warren Air Force Base in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

In the 100 years since the taking of the bells occurred, the citizens of the United States and the Philippines have shared many historic and political ties. The Philippines was a staunch ally of the United States during World War II. Brave Filipino soldiers were drafted into service by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, fought side-by-side with American soldiers, and were instrumental in the successful outcome of World War II. Filipino soldiers also fought alongside our soldiers on the battlefields of Korea and Vietnam.

Since the independence of the Philippines in 1946, the U.S.-Philippine relationship has been largely one of friendship and cooperation. The Philippines is a republic patterned basically on our own system of government. The Philippines is a valuable trading partner of the U.S. and an ally in the war against terrorism. Approximately two million Americans are of Filipino descent and close to 130,000 United States citizens reside in the Philippines. The acts of conflict that surrounded the taking of the bells of Balangiga are not consistent with the friendship that is currently an integral part of the relationship between our two nations.

The Republic of the Philippines has repeatedly requested the return of the bells. They are an important symbol to the Filipino people, who wish to have them re-installed in the belfry of the Balangiga Church. I believe that it is time to resolve this situation in order to solidify the bonds between our two nations. My resolution would honor and promote the positive relationship our countries enjoy.

A compromise measure has been suggested to return one of the bells, as my resolution calls for, and to create two replica bells—one for each country. This compromise would satisfy most Filipino veterans.

As the years pass, I am confident that relations between our two nations will grow even stronger. To that end, the United States Government, which has final disposition over the Bells of Balangiga, should transfer ownership of one of the bells to the people of the Philippines as a measure of good will and cooperation. I urge the passage of my resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LUIS V. GUTIERREZ

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber on June 7, 2005. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall votes 228 and 229.

I also inadvertently missed rollcall vote 192 on May 19, 2005. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted “no” on rollcall vote 192.

COMMENDING MS. ALMA OLIVAS

HON. HEATHER WILSON

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call the House's attention to the important work of one of my constituents, Alma Olivas, and her recent selection for the nation's highest community health leadership distinction.

Ms. Olivas was one of the 10 outstanding individuals from across the country chosen to receive this year's Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership award. The award also comes with a \$105,000 grant for Ms. Olivas to use to further her important efforts. Ms. Olivas works with the Coalition for Community Healthcare Access, which helps poor and uninsured people access health care in Bernalillo County, New Mexico.

A persistent and courageous advocate for the uninsured, Ms. Olivas has been working to increase access to health care from an early age. Since she was seven years old, when she moved from Mexico to Albuquerque, Ms. Olivas has served as an interpreter for extended family members and neighbors. But it was her grandmother's devastating encounter with the medical system that made it her life's work.

Her uninsured grandmother was repeatedly denied surgical treatment for a broken hip because she could not afford to pay half of the cost of the surgery upfront. Ms. Olivas became a fierce advocate, learning how to negotiate the health care system on her grandmother's behalf and eventually winning her the treatment she needed.

Since working with the Coalition for Community Healthcare Access, Ms. Olivas has increased the availability of interpreter services, improved financial assistance for low-income people, and raised community awareness of the health care problems of immigrants and the uninsured.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to take the opportunity to commend Ms. Olivas for her tremendous work and to congratulate her as a recipient of the Robert Wood Johnson Community Health Leadership award.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROGER F. WICKER

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall votes Nos. 171–175, I was unavoidably absent. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows: On Nos. 171–174, “yea”; on No. 175, “aye.”

CONGRATULATION TO THE TOWN
OF SOUTHWEST RANCHES

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 13, 2005

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, in the fall of 1996, a bill was proposed to the Broward County Legislative Delegation to annex all of the unincorporated area between Griffin Road to the north, Sheridan Street to the south, Flamingo Road to the east and SR 27 to the west, into the City of Pembroke Pines.

Hundreds of citizens from that unincorporated area, known as the Southwest Ranches, packed the Delegation hearing in November of 1996, to protest this attempted takeover and to call for the right to form their own city. As a result of this grassroots effort, the State Legislature passed a bill during the 1997 legislative session, calling for a vote of the citizens of Southwest Ranches in March of 2000.

In the summer of 1997, Southwest Ranches Homeowners Association members agreed to actively promote incorporation of a new city for the area and formed a political committee to explore this option. A feasibility committee was appointed to determine if a new city would be viable.

On July 3, 1999, the SWRHA sponsored a parade and picnic to declare the area's independence. The bill was passed by the Florida Legislature in 1997, authorizing the vote in 2000 to determine if residents wanted to annex or form their own city. On March 14, 2000, residents voted overwhelmingly to form a new Town. The election to approve the Town's charter was held on June 6, 2000, and Council Members were elected on July 25, 2000. On that day, Southwest Ranches was officially in business.

This year, we celebrate the Fifth Anniversary of the Town of Southwest Ranches and commemorate the preservation of the beautiful land and environment that its residents love so much.

**HONORING AL VAN METRE, SR.,
CEO AND FOUNDER OF VAN
METRE COMPANIES**

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2005

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Al Van Metre, the founder and CEO of Van Metre Company. This recognition is well deserved for his contributions to the communities of Northern Virginia.

Al Van Metre attended the U.S. Naval Academy from June 1944 to March 1945 before graduating from George Washington University with a degree in engineering. Mr. Van Metre established the Van Metre Company in 1955, since that time his company has built over 15,000 single family homes, town homes and manages 2,200 apartments throughout Northern Virginia. These dwellings proudly serve over 50,000 homeowners and residents throughout Northern Virginia.