

INTRODUCTION OF “LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT RESTORATION ACT OF 2007”

HON. DAVE WELDON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Local Law Enforcement Restoration Act of 2007 in response to the recent decision by a federal judge to strike down a local ordinance in Hazleton, Pennsylvania aimed at addressing out of control illegal immigration in that community. The purpose of that local ordinance was to keep illegal aliens from taking up residence within the town's jurisdiction or taking local jobs. I believe that my legislation is necessary at this time in order to provide clarity and ensure that local elected officials are able to enforce ordinances against illegal immigration in their communities. Immigration enforcement has already overburdened our federal law enforcement agencies, and state and local governments should not be hampered when they want to step in where the federal government has failed. The federal judge misread current federal immigration law and communities should not be penalized by over-reaching federal judges. My legislation simply clarifies the right of local communities and states to address the consequences of illegal immigration within their jurisdictions.

A number of other communities and several states have taken similar approaches to address illegal immigration in their communities. Given the Federal Government's failure to act to enforce the laws already on the books to combat illegal immigration, a growing number of state and city officials across the United States are pursuing laws similar to those enacted in Hazleton. These elected officials are driven by Washington's failure to control our borders or deal with the more than 12 million illegal immigrants living in the U.S.

It is important to remove any ambiguity about the ability of states and localities—the ones who bear the financial costs associated with illegal immigration—to enforce their local ordinances aimed at addressing illegal immigration in their community. In many ways, illegal immigration is the ultimate unfunded mandate—the federal government fails to control the border, but then saddles states and localities with the costs imposed by illegal aliens (in the form of education spending, public services, and law enforcement costs).

It is important to clarify that states and localities are not preempted by federal law from imposing civil or criminal sanctions upon those who employ, recruit or refer for a fee for employment, unauthorized aliens. In the case of the ruling against Hazleton, the judge went well beyond the intent of federal law. Essentially, he said that cities and states are powerless to discourage illegal immigration within their jurisdiction. The good news is that by amending the INA we can address this problem and provide the degree of clarity to this issue that would remove any ambiguity in the law. My legislation does just this, and makes sure that cities and states have leeway to reinforce federal immigration law.

If you believe that the Federal Government has failed to effectively enforce our immigration laws, and believe that the Federal Government should ensure that states and local

communities have the ability to discourage illegal immigration consistent with federal law, then join me in passing the The Local Law Enforcement Restoration Act of 2007.

TRIBUTE TO CONGREGATION OHEV SHOLOM

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, Ohev Sholom is the oldest continuously operating Jewish House of Worship in the state of Kansas.

Congregation Ohev Sholom was founded in 1877 and is currently a Member of The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism. The first building erected by Gomel Chesed Synagogue, at 925 State Line, was dedicated by Rabbi M. Gershonowitz on September 3, 1893. Congregation Ohev Sholom was the result of a merger between Gomel Chesed and Shearith Israel Synagogues. Congregation Ohev Sholom's first building was at 7th and Sandusky in Kansas City, Kansas and they moved into that building in 1925.

Ohev Sholom began the transition from 7th and Sandusky, Wyandotte County, Kansas, to 75th and Nall, Johnson County, Kansas, in the 1950s. The current location was completed in two stages. The school building was finished in 1961, while the remaining structure was finished about a decade later.

Congregation Ohev Sholom offers a schedule of programs that include Regular Daily Morning Services, Weekly Sabbath Services, an Active and Vibrant Sisterhood, a Robust Breakfast Club, Social Action Activities, and Programs for Adult Education, and Community Action including participation in building a Habitat for Humanity House. Congregation Ohev Sholom's Religious School is an exciting part of programming and spans Kindergarten to tenth grade. Congregation Ohev Sholom also offers an Adult Education Program that includes Torah Study, lectures and minicourses, lunches, brunches, and speakers. Additionally, Congregation Ohev Sholom conceived and executed the metro Kansas City area's first KosherFest—A Celebration of Jewish Food—and will continue that tradition on June 1, 2008 and thereafter.

Congregation Ohev Sholom will celebrate its 130th Anniversary, October 27, 2007. Madam Speaker, I know that you and the entire U.S. House of Representatives join with me in taking note of this special and important occasion.

TRIBUTE TO EHUD DANOCHE, CONSUL GENERAL OF ISRAEL IN LOS ANGELES

HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. BERMAN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I and my colleagues, Rep. HENRY WAXMAN, Rep. ADAM SCHIFF, Rep. BRAD SHERMAN, Rep. LINDA SÁNCHEZ, Rep. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD, Rep. XAVIER BECER-

RA, Rep. GRACE NAPOLITANO, Rep. HILDA SOLIS, Rep. ED ROYCE, and Rep. JANE HARMAN pay tribute today to Ehud Danoch, Consul General of Israel in Los Angeles. We have had the pleasure of working with the Consul General on many Middle East issues since his arrival in Los Angeles in October of 2004 and view his return to Israel with regret.

Consul General Danoch is a distinguished and greatly admired individual who has enjoyed an outstanding diplomatic career. Prior to arriving in Los Angeles, he served as Chief of Staff to Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Silvan Shalom. He held this position during some of Israel's most challenging moments in foreign policy—the road map, the disengagement plan, and the security fence. He served as Senior Advisor to Israel's Minister of Finance, where he helped shape Israel's economic policy and the national budget. His contributions as liaison to the Ministry of Finance, the Prime Minister's Bureau, the Israeli Parliament, and other government offices, were invaluable.

Consul General Danoch received both a law degree and an MBA from Manchester University. He is a member of the Israeli Bar Association and has specialized in corporate and finance law and business litigation. Born in Ashkelon, Israel, he lived abroad for many years.

His multi-cultural experiences and knowledge of Hebrew, English, and Spanish have been extremely useful during his years in Los Angeles. He met with leaders in the Latino political, business, and media communities; and forged new partnerships which provide great mutual benefits. The Consul General was also a strong force in uniting the Jewish communities in the area through Israel-centered events.

Consul General Danoch's passion for film endeared him to many influential individuals in Hollywood. The relationships he forged enabled him to marshal entertainment industry support for Israel during the Hezbollah war of 2006.

During his three year tenure as Consul General of Israel, Ehud Danoch dedicated his time and energy in promoting Israel's many resources and providing opportunities for mutual advancements in the fields of high tech, trade, and finance. A man of tradition and devout observance, he furthered religious tolerance by arranging for Israeli spiritual leaders to meet with those in the United States.

Madam Speaker, distinguished colleagues, we ask you to join us in saluting Ehud Danoch on his many achievements as Consul General of Israel in Los Angeles and extending our best wishes for his future endeavors.

H.R. 3161—MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES PROGRAMS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2008, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 3161, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug

Administration, and Related Agencies program. I regretfully do so even though agriculture is second only to tourism in terms of revenue for my home state of Florida.

By passing this legislation in its current form, the House of Representatives is almost ensuring a veto from the White House. This bill would spend \$91.5 billion including \$18.8 in discretionary spending, and is \$993 million over the President's budget request. I am concerned that if we send this bill to the President's desk with the current excessive spending, it will be vetoed along with many of the other fiscal year 2008 Appropriations bills. It is imperative that we write a bill with real reform and realistic spending levels. My constituents of the Fourth Congressional District of Florida, along with the rest of America deserve legislation that contains realistic funding levels to ensure the safety of their food, promote conservation, provide assistance to those in need and protect the health of plants and animals through research.

LIEUTENANT MICHAEL J. SPIRITO

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Lieutenant Michael J. Spirito for his long-time service to the Tredyffrin Township Police Department and surrounding communities.

Lieutenant Spirito began his career in law enforcement as a police officer in West Bradford Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania in March 1972. On his way to the Tredyffrin Township Police Department, Lt. Spirito served four years with the West Chester Borough Police Department. Lt. Spirito joined the Tredyffrin Township Police in August 1977 and has been a proud member of that force from that day on.

Lt. Spirito is a graduate of Newman College and is also a graduate of the 253rd session of the National Academy of the FBI. Born in Brooklyn, New York and raised in Delaware County, Pennsylvania, giving back to the community has always been a priority with Lt. Spirito. In addition to his service as a police officer, Lt. Spirito volunteered his services to the Aston Fire Company. In his spare time, Lt. Spirito is an avid pilot and a technology expert.

His leadership will be missed at the Tredyffrin Township Police Department, however I expect the entire County of Chester to benefit by his recent appointment as Deputy Director of Computer Services with the Chester County Government Services Department.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Lieutenant Michael J. Spirito for his exemplary and dedicated service to the Tredyffrin Township Police Department and citizens it serves. His commitment and energy to make his community a better place is an example for all citizens to follow.

DR. JAMES H. BILLINGTON: TWENTY YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AS LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, on September 14, 1987, Dr. James H. Billington, who had already distinguished himself as one of this nation's most eminent cultural historians, was installed as the 13th Librarian of Congress. As one of Dr. Billington's many admirers, I want to extend to him my warmest congratulations on his 20th anniversary in that distinguished post.

As a youngster in his native Pennsylvania, Dr. Billington began what was to be a life-long pattern of exceptional intellectual accomplishment. He was one of those habitual valedictorians—first at Lower Merion High School and then, at Princeton University. He next went as a Rhodes Scholar to Oxford University, where he completed his Ph.D.

Dr. Billington has been a professor at two of our most famous universities—Harvard and Princeton.

He is the author of several notable books on the cultural and political history of Russia—The Icon and the Axe and Fire in the Minds of Men, to name just two. Another of his books—The Face of Russia—became the basis of a three-part television series on PBS.

At last count, Dr. Billington had been awarded 33 honorary degrees from institutions all over the world, including Oxford, Moscow State University and Tblisi State University in the Republic of Georgia.

It is in his present job, however—that of Librarian of Congress—that Dr. Billington has made truly monumental contributions to our nation's cultural and intellectual life.

“This place has a destiny to be a living encyclopedia of democracy,” he said in his inaugural address, “not just a mausoleum of culture, but a catalyst for civilization.”

For two decades, he has worked to fulfill that destiny.

During Dr. Billington's tenure, the holdings of the Library of Congress have grown from 86 million to over 135 million items. The Library's budget has grown in that same period by over 200 percent.

In the Billington years, the Library has launched many new services—THOMAS, for example, is familiar to all of us here in Congress and the American Memory Program is being used in schools and libraries around the country.

Just recently, the Library's Packard Campus for Audio-Visual Conservation began operations in Culpeper, VA. The Packard Campus, which is the result of the largest private gift ever made to the Library, is dedicated to transferring the Library's priceless, but deteriorating, collection of moving images and recorded sounds to digital files and placing these materials in a digital storage archive.

But of all the Billington era projects, the most-far-reaching is the National Digital Library. This massive effort, funded by a public-private partnership, has already placed 135 million items on the Library's web site—with many, many millions more to come.

In Japan, Madam Speaker, a person who has made exceptional cultural contributions

can be designated as a living national treasure. We don't have that tradition here in America, but if we did, I do not think that I would be alone in submitting for that honor the name of James H. Billington.

I congratulate Dr. Billington on his 20th anniversary—and I thank him for the great things that he has done for our country.

H.R. 3162:—THE CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MEDICARE PROTECTION ACT

HON. ANDER CRENSHAW

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 20, 2007

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my displeasure with H.R. 3162—The Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act (CHAMP). The CHAMP Act would expand the existing State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) by giving nearly 5 million children who come from middle-income families access to free healthcare. This proposal pays for this expansion by cutting 3 million senior citizens' access to Medicare. This legislation would nearly double the 6.6 million children who are currently enrolled in the SCHIP program.

In my home state of Florida, the current SCHIP program level covers children in families who earn up to 200 percent above the poverty level, which amounts to a \$41,200 annual income for a family of four. I support the SCHIP program in its current form. However, I cannot support an over-expansion of the program that uses hard-earned tax dollars to provide free healthcare to children and adults who come from middle-income families that make 300 to 400 percent of the federal poverty level.

The CHAMP Act is nothing more than a veiled effort to develop a single-payer healthcare system. In order to pay for this gross expansion of socialized medicine, this proposal would cut Medicare funds for 9,746 seniors who live in the Fourth Congressional District of Florida and are currently enrolled in the Medicare Advantage Program. I believe that my constituents would be unsupportive of any measure that compromises healthcare to the elderly in an attempt to give free healthcare to middle-class children and adults who were already covered by private health insurance plans. Finally, the funding mechanism for this expansion incorporates an increase in the federal cigarette tax from 39 cents to 84 cents per pack and increases taxes on many other forms of tobacco products.

In the Fourth Congressional District of Florida, 27,416 families, or 31 percent of all families with children under the age of 18, are already eligible for either Medicaid or SCHIP under current law. Despite this fact, the Medicare cuts to seniors are exacerbated by the fact that the CHAMP Act would cover individuals up to the age of 25. Once again, the very nature of the program, which is intended to provide medical care to children, is compromised by the expansion plan to cover young adults as well.

In addition to all the concerns I mentioned above, I was unable to support this legislation due to several additional concerns I had during the consideration of this legislation. First of all this bill was clouded in secrecy until hours