

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

DEVELOPMENT, RELIEF, AND EDUCATION FOR ALIEN MINORS ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. BRIAN P. BILBRAY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. BILBRAY. Mr. Speaker, one of our Nation's most core beliefs is that everyone is equal before the law. From the richest men and women, to the poorest we are all subject to the laws of our country. Today though, we have gathered to debate a bill, the Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors Act, that would undermine that very principle and reward individuals who have broken our laws at the expense of those who have followed them.

The so-called "DREAM" Act, a bill that would establish a pathway to citizenship for illegal immigrants as old as 29, as long as they arrived before age 16, based on the promise that they will complete two years of college or serve in our armed forces. Importantly, for the first time ever, this bill would equate a willingness to serve in defense of our country with just two years of a college education. This vote is a slap in the face to the dedicated men and women in our military who have spent, in many cases, years working toward legal immigration to our country.

Moreover, it sends a mixed message to those one day hoping to call themselves Americans, effectively encouraging them to come to this country illegally and break our laws. Unfortunately, all too often we have seen the direct impact these mixed messages have had, which have put would-be immigrants at great risk. This includes the 72 would-be illegal immigrants who were murdered by drug cartels in Mexico this August as well as the human trafficking ring that was broken up in Phoenix last week where nearly a dozen smuggled children were being held for ransom.

The immigration system in our country is undoubtedly broken. Today, there are more than 12 million illegal immigrants residing in the U.S., but this bill does nothing to address the underlying causes of illegal immigration or create a single job during the largest economic recession in more than a generation. Instead, this bill proposes a massive amnesty for what the Congressional Budget Office projects will be 1.1 million individuals at a time when we already have 9.8 percent unemployment.

I suppose it is fitting then that the House had to break its own rules to even begin debate on the DREAM Act. Earlier today, the House passed a resolution that exempts the DREAM Act from the rules that we obey in the House of Representatives in order to bring this bill up with less than one day's notice and without any opportunity for amendment. Beyond that, this Congress has failed to even hold a hearing on the DREAM Act over the

last 2 years. And now, we have been asked to vote on this legislation in the dead of night and in the waning days of this Congress and let me be clear: this is unacceptable. The American people deserve better than this. They deserve an open debate before the people where there is an opportunity for amendments to be made. They deserve the rule of law to be followed.

As the proud son of an Australian immigrant, I firmly believe that we are a nation of immigrants, but we are also a nation of laws. For that reason, I strongly oppose the DREAM Act and the circumstances in which it was brought up for debate. Going forward, I will do everything in my power to ensure Congress focuses on real immigration reform that enforces the rule of law and addresses the root causes of illegal immigration: employers who hire illegal labor.

HONORING JAMES A. RAFFETTO

HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary young man from Devon, Pennsylvania, Navy Corpsman James A. Raffetto. James went off to war for his country and came back home missing three limbs and part of his fingers. He not only rushed in to save lives on the battlefield, but shines even brighter with his inspirational life and his remarkable recovery. With the help of his lovely wife Emily, his recovery is beyond words.

I ask that this poem, penned in honor of him by Albert Caswell, be placed in the RECORD. Rescue me!

On battlefields of honor bright!

Are but all of those fine souls, who but bring their light!

Who rush in, where Angels so fear to tread . . .

As all around them so lies, the face of hell . . . the face of death so said!

For all in these most precious moments, which now so lie!

As all in, as when who will live . . . and who will die?

But, comes all of those most courageous souls who bring such tears to eyes!

As but from where does courage come, so rise?

For only this, our Lord God knows up on high!

As when on battlefields of honor bright, all in that this the darkest fight . . .

As a Corpsman so brings his most, his most Angelic light!

As have you Raffey! As have You James, all on battlefields of honor bright!

All because of you, families remain whole on this night!

Little boys and little girls,

Who will not have to grow up without their best friends, in the world!

Rescue Me, before I die!

As upon these scene's of death and gore, James you gave the gift of life so high!

All in those most precious moments, which lie!

Rescue me, before I die!

As somewhere across a world a Mother cries . . .

As some how, she knows . . . her son or daughters life, upon you relies!

Rescue Me, for James you are but a hero in our Lords eyes!

As it was on that fateful day, as when you too almost died . . .

As you lie there, waiting for an Angel just like you . . . to save your life . . .

As on that morning after and you awoke, and saw what this war had invoked . . .

And you so began to cry . . .

As you asked, the Lord, I have a wife . . . Rescue me? . . . Don't let me die!

And what's when Corpsman, it all kicked in! And you began your most courageous climb!

As all in just, a few short months James . . . you have come so far . . . so fast . . .

So high!

Rescue me before I die!

With but your most magnificent heart, on the rise!

Almost all in a blink of an eye, as your recovery has so climbed!

As we stand here, all in disbelief . . . All in what before us now so lies!

Oh yes James, you and your beautiful wife . . . You both bring such tears to our eyes!

With your faith, as now you Rescue Us . . . All in your lives!

As James you so Teach Us . . . So Beseech . . . And to us, such hopes give rise!

For you are the kind of Son, The Signers knew, upon all of our hopes were won!

With that smile, with your light . . . Making me wish, for a son so bright!

As you Rescuer Me, James . . . with all of your magnificent light!

As ever in my heart, I will carry you throughout my life . . .

James, Rescue Us . . . Before We Die!

DEVELOPMENT, RELIEF, AND EDUCATION FOR ALIEN MINORS ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for H.R. 1751, the American Dream Act.

Each year, thousands and thousands of exemplary students graduate from high school and find their dreams of securing a job or attending college deferred because of their immigration status.

These kids worked diligently through high school just like their peers, often taking Advanced Placement classes to give themselves a leg-up in the college application process.

But through no fault of their own, these students face an unsurpassable obstacle: their status as an "undocumented" American. In honor of each of these ambitious young people, I am proud to support the DREAM Act tonight.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

This bipartisan legislation provides undocumented young people in the United States with conditional residency and a pathway to citizenship if they came here before the age of 16 and maintained a continuous residency for 5 years. These young people must also graduate from high school or obtain a GED, have no criminal records and either serve their country in the military or attend college for at least two years.

Since the first introduction of this legislation in 2001, an untold number of accomplished and determined immigrant students have been denied the right to citizenship, at severe cost to our nation economically and socially.

I am proud to not only count myself among DREAM Act supporters, but also as an active recruiter to convince some of my more conservative colleagues to sign their name on, too.

Tonight is a wonderful night for countless talented young people across our nation. I will proudly vote "yes" on the American DREAM Act.

FULL-YEAR CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, today we take the last few steps in the decades-long fight to finally update our nation's food safety infrastructure.

When you consider that the current food safety system has remained largely unchanged since it was first adopted in the 1930s, it is no wonder that each year thousands of Americans fall ill and even die, as a result of tainted food. In fact, the Centers for Disease Control estimates that food contaminations cause 76 million illnesses in the U.S. each year, including over 300,000 hospitalizations and 5,000 deaths. And the economic cost is equally astounding. A recent report estimates that in Colorado alone over \$2.3 billion is spent on the health-related costs of foodborne illness. And of course, the cost to our nation's food industry—from the farmer to the producer to the community supermarket—is often even greater. From Salmonella in eggs to E.coli in cheese, the last few months alone have proven that every day we have waited to pass food safety legislation was one day too many.

As we evaluate this final bill today, I still stand by the stronger traceability provisions I fought for in the bill this Chamber passed last year. While this bill marks an improvement to our current regime, I still believe over the next few years Congress will have to maximize the traceability pilot projects called for in this legislation in order to develop the tools we need to pull tainted products from the shelves or prevent unsafe food products from even getting into our stores and homes. Nonetheless, the mandatory recall authority in this bill means we no longer have to rely on corporations to act in good faith. And greater inspection of imported goods means we can ensure that they are just as safe as what is cultivated and produced domestically.

But the benefit of these changes won't come overnight. So I look forward to working

with the FDA as they put this new law to work. This bill could overcome years of intransigence and partisanship that have needlessly exposed people throughout my state of Colorado and across the U.S. to foodborne illness.

Food safety is both a public health issue and an economic issue. This bill represents the best of what the American people sent us here to do—work together on a bipartisan basis to keep their families safe and healthy, while securing the key industries that help drive our economy. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I look forward to the Senate finding a way to send this to the President.

MIDDLE CLASS TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2010

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Speaker, as our economy continues to recover we need to do everything we can to help struggling middle class families. That's why I supported the extension of the 2001/2003 tax cuts which provides meaningful tax relief for 97 percent of families and small businesses. I'm also pleased that this legislation complies with PAYGO and will add some much needed certainty to Oregon families and small businesses as they budget for next year.

However, I'm uncomfortable making these tax cuts permanent and would prefer a temporary extension to protect middle class families. We need to have a real debate on overhauling our tax system and its long term effects on our economy and National Debt next session. Without controlling our deficit issues we will be unable to fund our schools, health care for seniors, public safety and national defense so we must keep all our options on the table. I'm also disappointed we did not include the bipartisan estate tax fix, which passed the House last December, in this tax relief package.

WARD MCGINLEY

HON. TOM PRICE

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I offer my delighted congratulations to Matthew and Lauren McGinley on the birth of their first child. Born on December 2, 2010, Edward (Ward) Joseph McGinley weighed in at a respectable 5 pounds, 12 ounces and measured 20 inches from stem to stern. His parents are understandably overjoyed, as are all who know and love them.

I wish every blessing upon young Edward as he charts his course of success and love of liberty.

RECOGNIZING THE ARGYLE HIGH SCHOOL BAND

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Argyle High School Band from Argyle, Texas for their recent outstanding achievement in winning the 2010 Class 3A UIL Texas State Marching Band Championship.

Argyle swept the state competition in San Antonio with a unanimous decision from all judges for a perfect score of straight 1's, besting their closest competitor by a significant margin. The band's stellar performance of "Inside Out" earned them their fourth state title.

The accomplished members of the Argyle High School Band deserve praise for their hard work and dedication. I commend Argyle's Director Kathy Johnson, Associate Director Michael Lemish, Superintendent Telena Wright and Principle Jeff Butts for their leadership of these exemplary students.

Madam Speaker, it is truly an honor to have the opportunity to commend the Argyle High School Band. I am proud to represent the administrators, teachers, staff and students that comprise the Argyle Independent School District in the U.S. House of Representatives.

DEVELOPMENT, RELIEF, AND EDUCATION FOR ALIEN MINORS ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the DREAM Act, which is common-sense, bipartisan legislation that will strengthen our country.

The DREAM Act will allow millions of young people who have grown up in America the chance to develop their talents and contribute to our nation's success by serving in our Armed Forces or pursuing a college education. It is targeted legislation that ensures many of our best and brightest young people can earn their legal status, but only after going through a rigorous and thorough process.

By allowing these students to achieve their full potential, we strengthen both our economy and our national security. Additionally, this bill allows us to do the right thing for millions of young men and women living in America—people who were brought here as minors, through no fault of their own, and most of whom know no other home.

Madam Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote.

HONORING WILLIAM W. MILLAR

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 9, 2010

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who has greatly served