

States to study at a language training program must enroll in a program that is recognized as accredited by the Secretary of Education. The Senate passed this legislation by unanimous consent last Congress.

Intensive English Programs (“IEPs”) serve to teach English to foreign students. There are about 75,000 such students in the United States. The programs range in length from 2 weeks to 1 year, but average 12 weeks. There are nearly 1,000 IEPs in the U.S., and students must study a minimum of 18 hours per week to meet their visa requirements.

Currently all IEPs must be officially recognized, but that sometimes means there is just a check to see that the building in which the IEP is supposedly located actually exists. The result of such lax monitoring is fraud in the IEP community.

Illegitimate IEPs either do not teach English well or serve as scams for individuals who want to come to the United States through fraudulent means. In April 2008, the Los Angeles Times reported, “The operator of two English language schools was charged Wednesday with running a scheme that allowed foreign nationals, including several Russian prostitutes, to fraudulently obtain student visas to enter and stay in the United States.”

And just 2 weeks ago, two individuals who ran an English language school for immigrants in Duluth, GA, were indicted for submitting fraudulent documents to the Department of Homeland Security. They did so in order to get student visas for “dozens, and perhaps hundreds, of ‘students.’”

Such fraudulent programs, along with IEPs that do not function well, tarnish the reputation of the entire IEP industry. That’s why the American Association of Intensive English Programs supports this legislation. And legitimate IEPs are interested in ensuring the quality of their programs.

Under this bill, IEPs can meet the accreditation requirement in one of two ways. First, they can be under the governance of a university or college that has been accredited by a regional accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education. Or, second, they can be individually accredited by the Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training (ACCET) or the Commission on English Language Program Accreditation (CEA).

The three typical steps in the accreditation process are (1) the completion of a written self-study that documents how the program or institution meets the standards of the accreditation agency; (2) a site visit by an agency team to verify that standards are being met; and (3) follow-up measures on the part of the school to correct any deficiencies, subject to review and final approval by the accreditation agency.

Currently, many legitimate IEPs are voluntarily becoming accredited on their own.

I support this legislation and encourage my colleagues to cosponsor the bill.

KELSEY COMPTON

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kelsey Com-

ton who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kelsey Compton is a senior at Compass Montessori High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kelsey Compton is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kelsey Compton for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

COMMEMORATING THE ROCKY
FLATS 1969 FIRE

HON. JARED POLIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. POLIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate one of the most fateful days in the history of the State of Colorado, the day the Rocky Flats Nuclear Weapons Plant outside of Boulder nearly became America’s own Chernobyl, some 30 years before that terrible accident in the Ukraine.

On Mother’s Day of that year, a fire broke out amid the glove boxes in Building 776, where plutonium spheres were being manufactured for use as cores for some of the most powerful weapons in human history. The fire quickly spread throughout the facility, as many of the fire alarms had been removed to make room for more production. It is estimated that between 0.14 and 0.9 grams of plutonium 239 and 240 were released before a heroic band of perhaps 40 firefighters were able to control and eventually douse the fire. Those firefighters faced the immense decision of whether to battle the blaze with water, which could have set off a chain reaction with the resulting explosion literally contaminating the entire Denver metropolitan area. Luckily for us all, they chose correctly.

Still, plutonium was released into the environment from that accident, through the air vents in the roof of the building and via firefighters exiting it. Thousands of Coloradans were exposed, although how many we’ll never know. The firefighters, of course, were exposed most severely, and everyone nearby faced greatly increased risks of serious disease. Indeed, many of those involved have since contracted and died from cancers and other conditions tied to radiation exposure.

I bring up the 1969 accident not only because today, May 11, is its 40th anniversary. I bring it up because the Americans who worked at Rocky Flats and other nuclear facilities around the Nation deserve our thanks, and our support, now that the nuclear arms race is a matter for the history books. They faced enormous risks. They worked with materials that are among the most toxic known to mankind, with half-lives of hundreds of thousands of years, all so that under the prevailing ideology of the time we were able to live our

lives safely. They are American heroes every bit as much as our wartime soldiers. In a sense, they were wartime soldiers: Soldiers of the nuclear cold war, and many gave their lives.

Several weeks ago, I along with my Colorado colleagues, Representatives PERLMUTTER, DEGETTE, SALAZAR, and COFFMAN, and Senators UDALL and BENNET, introduced H.R. 1828, the Charlie Wolf Nuclear Workers Compensation Act. The act would finally cut through the red tape that has prevented America’s nuclear workers from gaining the compensation they were promised in exchange for their dangerous service. I urge my colleagues to take a moment to remember the risks and sacrifices made by heroic men and women in our nation’s nuclear production facilities, which were located in virtually every State in the country, and to pass this historic piece of legislation.

FRANK CASADOS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Frank Casados who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Frank Casados is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Frank Casados is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Frank Casados for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

TRIBUTE TO MS. ROSA WALKER

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 12, 2009

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Rosa Walker, former Director of the Texas AFL-CIO, for her 38 years of visionary leadership. As a stalwart trailblazer in the Texas labor movement and Democratic politics, Rosa’s accomplishments and admirers are many. Beyond her personal politics or civic niche, we can all celebrate her lifelong commitment to community involvement and public service.

Born in the Piney Woods in Hemphill, Texas, Rosa earned her high school degree from Pineland High School before she took up a career at Southwestern Bell. She subsequently joined the Communication Workers of America (CWA) where organizing piqued her interest. With CWA she served as a commercial job steward, rose through the ranks, and