

## 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.

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