in a remote area near the Richmond Municipal Airport. According to Mayor Cornett, the opportunity costs of this Federal meddling is high. The city wants to update fire department equipment, but is strapped for the funding. Curbs, sidewalks and streets need repairs, but the demands of the Federal regulations come first. The city of Richmond is not unique in this regard. The U.S. Conference of Mayors with the firm of Price Waterhouse assessed the cost of 10 unfunded Federal mandates and found that they consumed 11.7 percent of local revenue—(August and September 1993).

As I stated, the Unfunded Mandate Reform Act of 1995 is an important first step. To do the full work of rightsizing the Federal Government, this Congress must also: First, address existing unfunded mandates—H.R. 5 directly addresses only prospective mandates; Second, level the playing field between public and private entities—that is to say, private sector entities that provide services such as utilities should receive the same relief from regulation as publicly held entities; and third, reduce barriers to privatization. With regard to the last—privatization—I hope to introduce an amendment to H.R. 5 to reduce barriers to the privatization of federally financed infrastructure assets by State and local governments.

State and local governments should have greater control over infrastructure decisions, on roads, utilities, and airports. Current Federal policy greatly restricts the options available to those governments to manage infrastructure assets with little regard to local priorities.

My amendment would allow State and local governments to transfer Federal-aid facilities to the private sector—either by sale or long-term lease—without repayment of Federal grants, provided the facility continues to be used for its original purpose. This legislation is an extension of Executive Order 12803 on Privatization that President Bush signed in 1992. It would not interfere with any contractural obligations agreed to by local government owners in connection with previous grants.

In my home district, the Second Congressional District of Indiana, there are many examples of successful privatization efforts. Two in particular are the Muncie Youth Opportunity Center and the Anderson Community Hospital Pregnancy Plus Program. The Muncie Youth Opportunity Center is a home for disadvantaged young people privatized and supported by private donations under the very able leadership of Judge Steven Caldemeyer. The center was previously administered by Delaware County and since its privatization, the center has renovated its facilities and begun to serve more needy children in my hometown. The Anderson Community Hospital Pregnancy Plus Program offers prenatal care to women of limited means. Previously run by the Madison County Department of Health, since privatization, the program has nearly doubled the number of women who have access to prenatal care in this program and expanded to provide post-natal care.

Just adjacent to my district, the city of Indianapolis is a leader in privatization. Indianapolis Mayor Steve Goldsmith has moved 50 public services into the private sector by way of competitive bidding, at a savings of $115 million.

□ 1200

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill and support for my amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon [Mr. DEFAZIO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Colorado [Mr. MCINNIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MCINNIS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from New York [Ms. VELÁZQUEZ] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. VELÁZQUEZ addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. BEREUTER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. BEREUTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Ms. JACKSON-LEE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

PROPOSED CHANGES TO H.R. 4, WELFARE REFORM LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. KIM] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KIM. Mr. Speaker, I am concerned that in H.R. 4, the welfare reform legislation, as introduced, unjustly treats taxpaying legal immigrants the same as illegal aliens. The two are very different.

Therefore, today I am introducing legislation that will ensure that taxpaying legal immigrants are not discriminated against.

I am encouraged that the behind the scenes work I have already undertaken appears to have brought the Speaker's and other Republican leaders' attention to this problem. I very much welcome their willingness to fix their oversight. My intention in introducing this bill is to make readily available—to the appropriate committee and subcommittee chairmen—legislative language to fix this flaw. Having introduced this bill, I am hopeful it can be amended into H.R. 4 as soon as possible.

Legal immigrants should not be used as an excuse for a broken-down welfare system that has failed to bring people out of poverty.

The majority of those who receive benefits are either American citizens or illegal aliens.

The frustrations of this country's failed attempts to curb the illegal immigration crisis should not turn into a backlash on legal immigrants.

These law abiding immigrants patiently wait and study for 5 years to become U.S. citizens while illegal aliens have no regard for the law. Legal immigrants contribute to the national identity, whereas illegal immigrants can all too often become a burden to the Nation's taxpayer.

I was an immigrant who entered the United States lawfully. I worked hard for an education and I couldn't wait for the chance to become an American citizen. I still take personal pride knowing that I worked hard, paid my fair share of taxes, earned my way, and provided for my family.

I decided to enter public service so I could pay back my country for the opportunities that it gave me.

Where is the incentive for immigrants to pay taxes, and to enter the United States legally if they are cut off from the system?

With this kind of discrimination why not enter illegally? We should prevent that—not encourage it.

This is why I believe that saving money from denying legal, taxpaying immigrants the benefits for which they have paid and may need in the future, is not the answer.

Instead, Congress should focus on how to get people already on welfare off of it quickly. The Federal Government has spent billions of tax dollars on people who originally needed a temporary helping hand, but soon became accustomed to getting a free ride.

Over time, our country has created a permanent society dependent on the Federal Government. That must be changed.

H.R. 4—the Republican welfare reform bill—will be an effective first step in that process. With the changes I have proposed today, I believe the Republican efforts at welfare reform will be even fairer and more successful.

CONGRESSIONAL REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Mr. DREIER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I have taken this time out to talk about an issue which I raised briefly in the 1-minutes earlier, the question of congressional reform.

I would like to take time because today marks the 1-week point of the strongest and most dynamic reform of this institution that we have seen in decades, and there has been this sense