

then qualify for welfare benefits and Social Security benefits.

In fact, it is estimated that in one sting operation alone where there were 89 people arrested, over \$400,000 of alleged fraud was committed under the guise of utilizing the automatic citizenship clause through phony certificates. The granting of automatic citizenship to children born in the United States has led to this kind of fraud. Regardless of the parents' status, we are rewarding people for violating our laws.

We are talking about fairness here, too, Mr. Speaker, because how many people are waiting out there, 3,500,000, to immigrate legally? How many children are born to these 3,500,000 people who are playing by the rules? Do we give them automatic citizenship? No. We tell them, like we should be telling the children of illegal aliens, you have the right to apply for citizenship like anyone else, but we are not going to give you automatic citizenship.

I think it is quite unfair that we tell one group of people that your children get automatic citizenship because you broke the law and then tell another group of people, 3,500,000, that you will not get this privilege because you did not break the law. Fairness tells us we need to take care of this problem. Thousands of legal immigrants are waiting, and many, many thousands of illegal aliens are getting rewarded.

There may be those who say that H.R. 7 is unconstitutional. Mr. Speaker, the Supreme Court has never ruled on the issue of illegal aliens getting automatic citizenship for their children. They have ruled on legal aliens, and they have said that because legal aliens were allowed in this country and agreed to come to this country, they have the burdens of loyalty and obligations of service in the draft. With that obligation comes the inheritance for their children of automatic citizenship. Illegal aliens do not have that obligation, and thus cannot pass on a citizenship right to their children as legal immigrants can and U.S. citizens.

Mr. Speaker, the status of H.R. 7 is we have 51 bipartisan sponsors. The hearing was held on June 25. We are looking forward to a markup in early November, and frankly, I would encourage every citizen in the United States and every legal resident to contact their Congressman and ask them to join in the Immigration Reform Act of 1997, and bring some logic and some fairness back into our immigration policy.

Let us start rewarding people for playing by the rules and stop punishing them for obeying the laws.

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

[Mr. PRICE of North Carolina 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 Georgia [Mr. LEWIS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

JOIN THE FIGHT AGAINST BREAST CANCER

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, breast cancer is currently the second leading cause of cancer deaths among American women. One woman in eight will develop breast cancer during her lifetime. In 1996 alone, an estimated 44,000 women died from this terrible disease.

While these statistics are sobering indeed, there is hope. If breast cancer is detected early, the probability that a woman can survive is greater than 90 percent. Certainly, we must do everything in our power to identify the signs of breast cancer early, treat the symptoms aggressively, and make continued medical attention affordable and accessible. As we celebrate Breast Cancer Awareness Month, we in Congress should recognize the obligation that we share in the national battle against this terrible illness.

I am a cosponsor of several important pieces of legislation that seek to establish high standards for quality and affordable medical treatment of breast cancer, including H.R. 164 and H.R. 135, which my colleagues, the gentlewoman from California, Ms. ANNA ESHOO, and the gentlewoman from Connecticut, Ms. ROSA DELAURO, introduced earlier this year. Both of these measures would give breast cancer patients who undergo mastectomies the health care coverage they need to fully recuperate from their illness.

When I meet the women throughout my district in Massachusetts, I hear how concerned they are that their health insurance will not adequately provide for them if they are one day diagnosed with breast cancer.

Back in January, the Massachusetts Breast Cancer Coalition wrote me to ask that I cosponsor the legislation of the gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO], which requires a 48-hour minimum hospital stay for patients undergoing mastectomies, and a 24-hour stay for lymph node removal for the treatment of breast cancer.

Under the legislation drafted by my colleague from Connecticut, physicians and patients, not insurance companies, determine whether or not a shorter hospital stay is warranted. I strongly agree with their sentiment, that decisions about hospital stays following these painful and psychologically distressing surgeries should be between the health care provider and the patient. I was proud to become a cosponsor of that legislation.

The gentlewoman from Connecticut [Ms. DELAURO] and the gentlewoman

from California [Ms. ESHOO] have also worked to establish a site on the World Wide Web that allows visitors to learn more about breast cancer, read and submit personal encounters with the disease, and build support for many of the legislative initiatives that seek to improve conditions for breast cancer patients.

As I read through some of the personal stories posted on that Internet site, I noticed a number of individuals who had written from my home State of Massachusetts, and I would like to share a couple of those stories.

Lynn DeCristofaro of Massachusetts wrote, and I quote: "I am only 16 years old, and I had to watch my 24-year-old sister die from breast cancer. I watched her come home after a mastectomy when it was obvious that she should be in the hospital."

Mrs. R. Russell of Massachusetts wrote: "I am a breast cancer survivor who is doing very well. However, I never know if the day will come that I have a recurrence. I think a recurrence is enough to worry about, without additional concern that my insurance company may not adequately cover my care."

Christopher Carron of Massachusetts wrote: "Two years ago my mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. She immediately had a mastectomy and reconstructive surgery. Luckily, she lives in Connecticut, where minimum stays in the hospital are required by law, and her health insurance company was flexible in the amount of time she spent in the hospital.

"I now realize that my mom's care was the exception, not the rule. Please end the inhumane treatment of our Nation's mothers, daughters, sisters, grandmothers, and granddaughters, and vote for H.R. 135 and H.R. 164. These women need to be treated with dignity and more than ample health care. My mom is now a 2-year cancer survivor and is fighting for herself and the rights of millions of other women who have faced this horrible battle. Thank you," he wrote.

Mr. Speaker, after hearing the stories of these individuals and countless others like them, I do not see how any Member of this body could say that current law is doing an adequate job of addressing the health needs of breast cancer patients in America.

□ 1730

Doctors in this country are spending far too much time fighting with insurance companies to get permission to give their patients the treatment they need. Physicians who treat women suffering from breast cancer should never be put in that position.

Our legislation will allow doctors to make decisions based on the health and long-term well-being of their patients and not the bottom line. Clearly we in Congress must do more to ensure that women suffering from this dreaded disease have access to quality, affordable,