

the U.S. economy that depends on foreign tourists.

The driving force behind the INS proposal is the attempt to improve our homeland security and to prevent terrorists from entering our country. Although I believe that INS reform is badly needed to better address our homeland security concerns, I am completely convinced that limiting visitor visas to 30 days will do nothing to better protect us from terrorists, and will in fact only place severe, undue burdens on the lawful, decent individuals abroad who come to visit the United States.

I would like to expand on exactly who would feel the effects of this proposal. It is the grandmother or grandfather who lives in another country and chooses to come to the United States to spend time with their family that has settled here. Is 30 days enough time to reunite a family? Is 30 days enough time, if thousands of dollars and over 24 hours have been spent traveling to the United States? Is 30 days enough time to spend with a newborn grandchild, or a grandchild getting married? I do not think so.

Mr. Speaker, over 70,000 people in the United States have signed a petition against this proposal in the last 10 days or so. Interestingly enough, the INS has not thought so, or has not agreed with this proposal for the past 10 years. In fact, they have suggested the opposite.

The INS is arbitrarily changing this law in response to September 11, but the change will be ineffectual in preventing further terrorism. In fact, there are two detrimental effects that I foresee with this proposal.

First, if visitors are provided only a 30-day visa, it is likely that upon entrance to the United States, these visitors will apply for a visa extension. This type of extra paperwork is the exact reason why the INS extended the visitor's visa to 6 months, so tourists could accomplish the purpose of their visit, leave the United States within the given time here, and not further overload the INS. This will not be the case if the 30-day limit is implemented.

Mr. Speaker, the second reason, I think, which is so important, is that we are all aware of the impact on the tourism industry in the United States after September 11. The airline industry and tourism industry would be drastically affected by the decrease in visits to the United States that would be a result of visitors finding that 30 days is not worth the great effort required to visit the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I know that the INS has thought about this, but I think they need to reconsider. I urge the INS to reconsider their proposal. It will in no way fight terrorism, and only serves to trample on the legitimate visits from relatives with legitimate residents of the United States.

#### “SHOE BOB” AND INTERFAITH OUTREACH TEAM UP TO HELP HOMELESS IN MINNESOTA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. RAMSTAD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a true servant leader who proves, year after year, that one person can make a big difference in the lives of people in need.

Bob Fisher of Bob's Shoe Repair in Wayzata, Minnesota has raised more than \$1 million over the past 6 years by his winter “sleep-outs” to help people who are homeless.

This past winter alone, on behalf of Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners, “Shoe Bob,” as we affectionately call him, raised \$520,000 for Interfaith Outreach's community housing fund during his 30-day sleep-out for the homeless.

Sleeping outside in subzero temperatures in Minnesota winters, that has become Bob Fisher's trademark. Bob's well-worn tent and sleeping bag have not only raised badly needed funds to provide housing, but his sleep-outs have raised public awareness of the housing shortage and the increasing number of homeless families in our Lake Minnetonka community, State, and Nation.

Bob is teamed up with other caring people at Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners who distribute the housing resources he raises to homeless families.

Led by one of Minnesota's greatest humanitarians, LaDonna Hoy, and supported by an active board of truly charitable community leaders, Interfaith Outreach helps kick off Bob's sleep-out for the homeless each and every year.

More than 500 supporters gathered on November 17 to kick off last year's sleep-out, featuring a soup supper with bread, hot chocolate, and water served by the Girl Scouts. And thanks to the Boy Scouts, four campfires kept everyone warm along Lake Street in Wayzata as the various churches that support Interfaith Outreach provided song and spirit.

The distinguished mayors of our five neighboring communities issued their “Housing Week” proclamation, and 200 young students joined Bob Fisher in sleeping outside on the first night in the 2001 cold. Two local bank employees also slept outside with Bob to offer their support.

Mr. Speaker, I know firsthand that Bob's sleep-outs are a true ordeal, as I slept outside in December of 1997 in below-zero temperatures as part of Bob's sleep-out for the homeless. It was a night of bone-chilling cold, well spent, as we raised several thousand dollars to help bring homeless families in from the cold.

Mr. Speaker, every year the fundraising goal for Bob Fisher's sleep-outs gets higher, reflecting his strong commitment, infectious enthusiasm and energy, as well as the increasing need

for more affordable housing in the Twin Cities' western suburban area.

Bob Fisher, Interfaith Outreach, and the people of our Lake Minnetonka communities are already looking forward to this year's “Housing Week,” November 16 to 23, 2002, which will once again be kicked off by Bob Fisher's sleep-out for the homeless. In fact, Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners is working hard to expand this campaign by encouraging communities throughout Minnesota and the Nation to follow Bob Fisher's example.

I urge my colleagues to take Bob Fisher's story back to their communities and tell their constituents how one person in Minnesota, a cobbler with a big heart, has made a big difference in the lives of countless homeless people.

Tell America the story of “Shoe Bob” and his mission to help homeless families secure affordable housing. Tell America how one person has increased awareness of the homeless problem, bolstered community involvement in addressing the housing shortage, and raised more than \$1 billion to help families with their housing crises.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, Bob Fisher has proved that one person can make a big difference in the world, as he has walked in the shoes of the homeless. We salute you, Bob Fisher, just as we salute Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners.

Our gratitude also goes out to all who have supported Shoe Bob's sleep-outs for the homeless. He is truly doing the Lord's work, and he represents the absolute best in public service.

Thank you, Bob Fisher. Thank you to all my friends at Interfaith Outreach and Community Partners, and to the entire Lake Minnetonka area, those who have supported this worthwhile, important drive to help people who are homeless.

#### URGING MEMBERS TO CONSIDER COSPONSORING IMPORTANT LEGISLATION CONCERNING SCIENCE EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, we are at the end of Earth Day week. I have always felt that if one is a Member of Congress, the best way to celebrate Earth Day and the week in which it occurs is to legislate. After all, we are Members of Congress. We can do more than hug trees and go to river sites.

Congress is now all entangled in the energy bill and the ANWR controversy, but there are many noncontroversial matters that need to be taken up in legislation.

I invite Members to go on to two bills I introduced this week. One is called the Academic Excellence In Environmental Sciences Act of 2002. It aims to make environmentalists and scientists