

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### PAYING TRIBUTE TO NEWLY ELECTED CASTLE ROCK, COLORADO COUNCILMEMBERS

**HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2004*

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, it is not an easy undertaking to answer the call to public service and run for local City Councils. Often the job of City Councilmember is thankless; it is with the highest regard for the services our elected officials do for our communities that I wish to pay tribute to the newly elected Castle Rock, Colorado City Council.

In April, returning Councilmembers Ray Waterman and Jay Richards and new City Councilmembers Ed Rusch (District 4) and Randy Reed (District 2) were sworn in by Judge Louis Gresh. The new council's first order of business was the unanimous election of City Councilmember Ray Waterman as Mayor.

Mr. Speaker, the newly elected council should be dedicated to improving their community. It is not only their devotion, but also their passion for contributing to the betterment of the Colorado community that I wish to recognize before this body. It is my distinct pleasure to honor the new and returning councilmembers here today, and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

### UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AMENDMENTS OF 2004

SPEECH OF

**HON. GENE GREEN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 17, 2004*

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 3722, the Alien Emergency Medical Assistance Amendments of 2004. This bill would prohibit the federal government from reimbursing hospitals for the emergency care they provide to undocumented immigrants. Under the bill, hospitals could only receive federal reimbursement if they provide the Department of Homeland Security with the patient's immigration status, financial data and employer information. The bill makes the immigrant's employer responsible for hospital costs and directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to initiate deportation proceedings against the immigrant.

Mr. Speaker, this bill flies in the face of the medical profession's mission. A hospital's job is to help any individual in need of health care, regardless of the patient's immigration status. We need to let our health care professionals do their jobs, not burden them with additional administrative details that, if imposed, will discourage immigrants from seeking care.

We already know the tremendous problems associated with the 44 million Americans who

are uninsured. It goes without saying that the uninsured are less likely to seek preventive health care and, as a result, get care at the hospital only when their health problems have reached emergency proportions. This bill would only exacerbate this problem and discourage our immigrant population from seeking health care at all, for fear of being reported to DHS. This would increase the health risk for citizens and immigrants, legal or not.

It is unconscionable to me that we would consider denying necessary health care services to individuals solely based on their immigration status. This is a wrong-headed approach to addressing our health care problems and would only serve to decrease access to care.

As such, I would urge my colleagues to vote against this bill and, instead, co-sponsor legislation that I have introduced to increase undocumented immigrants' access to quality health care. My legislation, H.R. 3273, would allow state and locally-funded programs to provide preventive and primary health care to undocumented aliens. H.R. 3273 addresses our health care problems at the source and would allow our local hospitals to see that their health care dollars are spent more wisely by preventing emergencies—not treating them.

Mr. Speaker, illnesses know no residency. Medical care shouldn't either. I urge my colleagues to reject the misguided Rohrabacher bill and address our health care problems—both in terms of access and funding—at the source by focusing their efforts on prevention.

### EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT ALL AMERICANS OBSERVE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN VERSUS BOARD OF EDUCATION WITH A COMMITMENT TO CONTINUING AND BUILDING ON THE LEGACY OF BROWN

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 13, 2004*

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the anniversary of one of the most important Supreme Court decisions handed down in our nation's history. On May 17, 1954 the United States Supreme Court ended federally sanctioned segregation in the case *Brown v. Board of Education* by unanimously ruling that "separate but equal" was unconstitutional. This landmark case, which overturned *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the 1896 Supreme Court Case in which the doctrine of "separate but equal" was declared constitutional, provided the legal foundation for the civil rights movement in this country.

In his decision which challenged the conscience of the nation, Chief Justice Earl Warren argued:

To separate [black children] from others of similar age and qualifications solely because

of their race generates a feeling of inferiority as to their status in the community that may affect their hearts and minds in a way unlikely ever to be undone. . . . We conclude that in the field of public education the doctrine of "separate but equal" has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal.

These powerful words began the slow process of integration and sparked the campaign for social justice in America.

Fifty years later, we have come a long way in realizing the promise of *Brown* but still have much work to do. While *Brown* broke down the barriers of segregation, many of our schools remain separate and unequal. This has occurred primarily because minority students are concentrated in urban settings where schools continue to fall short of providing adequate education. While many whites are able to leave the inner city for the suburbs where they can receive a better education, minorities remain trapped in failing urban schools simply because their parents lack the financial resources to secure a better education for their children. As a result, minority students continue to lag behind in reading, math, writing, geography and science and have a much higher dropout rate than whites, according to a recent Department of Education report.

Mr. Speaker, as we celebrate the groundbreaking case of *Brown v. Board of Education*, it is imperative that we continue to work to fulfill its promise to provide equal education for all Americans regardless of their race, religion, sex or socio-economic status. Fifty years ago, the Supreme Court laid out its vision for our nation's schools. It is now time for Congress to ensure that that vision becomes reality.

In this year in which Congress will reauthorize the Higher Education Act, we as a body need to take bold steps to provide poor and minority students at the primary and secondary levels with adequate resources to ensure that the door to higher education is open to all. We must fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act, protect Head Start, provide adequate funding for after school programs and make college more affordable for everyone. Doing so will help fulfill the promise of *Brown*, a promise that we as a nation cannot afford to break.

### WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 2004*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, as we remember those who sacrificed their lives for our Nation on this Memorial Day, let us remember that daily we reap the benefits of the bravery of America's veterans. They have been our liberties' steadfast defenders.

Soon hundreds of thousands of World War II veterans will gather on the National Mall to help dedicate the newest Memorial commemorating their heroic service to our country and

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