

standards for the educational well-being of the children of South Carolina.

UNDOCUMENTED ALIEN EMERGENCY MEDICAL ASSISTANCE AMENDMENTS OF 2004

SPEECH OF

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, May 17, 2004*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my opposition to H.R. 3722, the Undocumented Alien Emergency Medical Assistance Amendments of 2004.

First and foremost, I oppose the way this bill was brought to the floor. There have been no committee hearings or markups. Instead, the bill was rushed to the floor under suspension so that no amendments could be offered to the bill. There has not been any proper debate on this piece of legislation.

Studies have estimated that there are between 8–12 million illegal immigrants in the country. Hospitals throughout the country, but particularly in border states, are overcrowded and often cannot afford to provide vital services to their patients. The Medicare bill which recently became law provided for a total of \$1 billion over four years to reimburse hospital expenses incurred by providing medical services to illegal immigrants. While the Medicare bill does not mandate the use of the reimbursement program, many hospitals depend on these funds simply to remain open.

The Undocumented Alien Emergency Medical Assistance Amendments will require further paperwork to be done by doctors and nurses in hospitals who are already overworked and overburdened. These doctors and nurses are not trained to enforce immigration law and should not be expected to do so. We should not use hospitals to fight the influx of illegal immigration but rather should provide more resources to law enforcement so that they can better enforce immigration laws.

This bill also has the potential to discourage illegal immigrants from seeking treatment for life-threatening conditions. Immigrant women who become victims of domestic violence may not seek help for fear of being deported. Pregnant women may not seek prenatal care or even go to the hospital for the birth of their children out of fear of being separated from their families and deported. It is likely that this bill will actually increase the cost of emergency services because illegal immigrants are more likely to wait until their conditions have worsened and require more expensive treatments.

Doctors and nurses create important trust-based relationships with immigrant communities which may be broken if this legislation is enacted. Discouraging immigrants from seeking medical assistance will have ill effects on our public health as well. Without proper treatment, communicable diseases such as tuberculosis are likely to spread and cause a much larger public health hazard.

I also have many concerns about requiring doctors and nurses to ask so many questions of their patients. It is not always possible or practical to ask such questions of every patient who enters the hospital; as a result, doctors and nurses might have to pick and

choose those they ask, opening themselves up for accusations of profiling and possible legal recourse. This also may slow the delivery of medical treatment, as patients will have to provide documentation of their citizenship or immigrant status.

These are just some of the concerns this bill raises, and none of them has been adequately discussed. H.R. 3722 clearly is controversial and thus deserves to be properly debated on the floor, with amendments allowed to be offered. For all the reasons I've outlined, I must vote against suspending the rule and passing this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same so that H.R. 3722 can be considered under normal procedures.

POEM FOR A SOLDIER'S WIFE

**HON. LINCOLN DAVIS**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 19, 2004*

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I am going to read a poem written in honor of the wives of soldiers, specifically for Betty Calabrese whose husband, Master Sergeant Robert Calabrese, just returned from a tour in Iraq. The poem was written by Lt. Commander Don Flanagan, U.S. Navy, Retired.

ONE SOLDIER'S WIFE

If she could take the time today to sit and stare  
She would find her emotions ranging from hope to despair  
So long ago her life was filled with daily chores  
With joys and sorrows in and out like revolving doors.  
In the early years of serving his country she was so proud  
And anyone can tell you she certainly said so out loud  
As a member of the National Guard he was called up each year  
When he went to Vietnam and Kosovo she was filled with fear.  
Fast forward to that terrible day in September 2001  
She knew the dangers to him would increase one by one.  
The talk of terrorists became much more intense  
Until President Bush said that we would help the people of Iraq in their defense.  
Too soon the day came for him to go  
And as a soldier's wife she knew the dangers would grow.  
The military promise of a limited tour did not come true.  
Time passed with no firm planning to do.  
In mortal combat he has comrades to stand by his side  
But who really there for his worried and burdened bride?  
Although family and friends say that they understand  
They do not know unless a spouse had to fight for this land.  
What does the war mean to you and me?  
Only a distraction or an interruption of a program on TV.  
Yet to her it is crying, despair, not knowing of a dead soldier and who it might be.  
In spite of all she rallied her church members to pray for all to return safely.  
Is there anything we can say or do but Just realize how simple the challenges we go through.  
Let us now allow her an extra fault or two  
And most of all pray God to help her in all she must face and do.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LEO LARGE

**HON. SCOTT McINNIS**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 19, 2004*

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Leo Large and thank him for his exceptional contributions to his community and the State of Colorado as a Montrose County Commissioner. A two-term commissioner, Leo will always be remembered as a dedicated public servant and leader of his community. As Leo celebrates his retirement, let it be known that he leaves behind a terrific legacy of commitment to the people of Montrose County and the State of Colorado.

Born and raised in La Juanta, Colorado, Leo is a lifelong farmer and rancher who served his country proudly from 1950 to 1953 in the U.S. Army. His intimate knowledge with agricultural issues and dedication to his community later took him into a career in public service. For 16 years he served as vice-president for the Montrose County Farm Bureau Board, represented District 9 for the Colorado Farm Bureau, and served as chairman of American Farm Bureau Natural Resources for 9 years. As a county commissioner, he served on the Montrose Airport Advisory Board. Some of the other numerous boards and committees Leo served on and or chaired include Club 20, C.S.U. Task Force, Society for Range Management Board of Directors, National Public Lands Committee, Water for Colorado Task Force, and the Region 10 Transportation Board.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Commissioner Leo Large before this body of Congress and this Nation, and to congratulate him on an outstanding career of public service. His selfless dedication to his community and the people of Colorado as a Montrose County Commissioner is truly remarkable. I wish him and his wife Mickie all the best in their future endeavors. Thanks for your service.

MALCOLM X WOULD HAVE BEEN 79 TODAY

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 19, 2004*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a revolutionary African-American leader, Malcolm X, who would have turned 79 today, May 19, 2004. Malcolm X is recognized in my community and several others as a hero. His contributions towards racial and social equality will never be forgotten, thus his legacy still exists today.

Malcolm X's life was cut short when his influence as a political leader was reaching its pinnacle. Although his ability to leave a clear institutional legacy was thwarted, his influence was and continues to be wide reaching. Malcolm's religious and social transformation is something to be recognized and emulated.

Malcolm X played a pivotal role in American and African-American history. He helped shape the course of the Civil Rights Movement and the path for equal social justice. Let