

completed. One reason he's leaving, he says, is that he couldn't see himself staying long enough to properly implement those reforms.

"We know that economically the best possible investment is to put the money in early childhood education and kindergarten," Wartgow was saying. "There's no question about it. That's the best way to go about secondary-school reform—to start early.

"But here's the problem: The benefit won't be seen for years. I think that's it. I think that's the issue. I don't have the answer, but I've observed the problem.

"The time frame for everything we know about how long it takes for education reform to take hold is a much longer time frame than policymakers and elected officials live in."

In the time it takes to go from kindergarten through 12th grade and, with luck, on to college, a student has lived through a couple of mayors, a couple of governors, maybe three or four superintendents, and all with a farewell speech to deliver.

When Wartgow says he doesn't have an answer for this problem, he is being modest. He does, at the very least, have a suggestion, which would fit nicely on a sampler.

"My quote," he said, "is that successful leaders have always been able to resist the pressure to make short-term, quick-fix changes at the expense of sustainable reform."

Lesson given. Lesson learned?

REAL ID ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 10, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 418, the REAL ID Act. For decades, immigrants arriving at Ellis Island were greeted by the Statue of Liberty, beckoning with the words, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to be free." Today's legislation would render this motto obsolete, as the United States would turn its back on those escaping genocide; rape, or persecution around the world.

Contrary to the claims of the bill's sponsors, this legislation does little to prevent future terrorist attacks within our borders, while eroding civil liberties. Most troubling to me are the provisions making asylum nearly impossible for those who flee their countries to find a safe haven. Terrorists are already prevented from receiving asylum in the United States under current law, and none of the September 11 hijackers had even applied for asylum.

However, H.R. 418 raises the already difficult burden of proof on legitimate asylum-seekers, requiring that they provide corroborating evidence of persecution due to one's race, religion, national origin, political opinion, or social group. Can we imagine sending a refugee back to face genocide in the Sudan

because he or she does not have a letter from the government explaining that religion was the reason his or her family was murdered? This legislation presents a nearly impossible hurdle for asylum seekers.

In addition, I am disappointed in Section 102, which allows the Secretary of Homeland Security to waive any Federal, State, or local law to ensure construction of physical barriers to deter illegal border crossings. This overly broad provision would give unprecedented power to the Secretary to undertake large construction projects without any accountability or judicial review. Under this legislation, the Secretary could waive labor laws such as the minimum wage, public health laws like the Clean Water Act, or eminent domain laws requiring repayment for property seized, all in the name of homeland security. While I understand the need to prevent unauthorized border crossings, this provision grants far too much power without any oversight, setting a dangerous precedent for the future.

H.R. 418 also contains new national driver's license standards, which completely overhaul the bipartisan requirements unanimously recommended by the September 11th Commission and signed into law just a few months ago. These new Federal standards for issuing state drivers' licenses could result in a flurry of privacy and civil liberties concerns.

Most disturbingly, the provisions in H.R. 418 go far beyond the recommendations of the bipartisan September 11th Commission, disguising an assault on our Nation's freedoms and principles with a false claim of security. I urge my colleagues to join me in opposition to this egregious and unnecessary bill.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO SHIRLEY CHISHOLM: AN AMERICAN HEROINE

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 15, 2005

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an extraordinary woman in American history. Shirley Chisholm, an outspoken advocate for women and minorities during her seven terms in the House of Representatives, passed on January 1st. This iconoclastic political figure has been lost and forgotten in many of today's civic classes in this country but her ideals have seen a rebirth.

Born in 1924 to parents that emigrated from the West Indies, Chisholm was raised in an American society that told African Americans to stay in their place and women to stay at home. Chisholm vehemently rejected this canon which ultimately shaped and fueled her political career—becoming both the first African American woman elected to Congress and the first black or woman to wage a serious campaign for a major party's presidential nomination in 1972.

Shirley Chisholm excelled in academics at Girls High School in Brooklyn, New York, from which she graduated in 1942. After graduation she attended Brooklyn College where she majored in sociology. It was there that she experienced blatant racism. When black students at Brooklyn College were denied admittance into social clubs, Chisholm formed alternate ones. She would go on to graduate with hon-

ors in 1946 but found herself turned away by employers time and time again. During this time many black graduates found it difficult to obtain employment commensurate to their education. It was a culmination of these events in her life that led Chisholm to vow to fight against injustices everywhere. After graduation, she would earn a masters degree in child education from Columbia University and later served as director of the largest nursery school network in New York.

In 1949, Chisholm participated in local politics, helping to form the Bedford-Stuyvesant political league. She also became active in the Brooklyn chapter of the National Urban League and in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), where she debated minority rights. Chisholm's political career took off in 1964, when she won, by a landslide, her campaign for the New York State Assembly. As an assembly person (1965–1968), she sponsored legislation that instituted programs which provided college funding to disadvantaged youths, and successfully introduced a bill that secured unemployment insurance for domestics and day-care providers. In 1968 Chisholm won a seat in the House of Representatives becoming the first African American woman to be elected to Congress. She found herself one of ten women and nine African Americans in the prestigious body.

Representing an entirely inter-city constituency, Chisholm protested her relegation to the Agriculture Committee, an assignment she considered insulting. She would often criticize Congress for being too clubby and unresponsive. It was during these challenging times that Chisholm exemplified one of the most important characteristics of a pioneer—the determination to strive for more and to not accept "no" for an answer. With a character that she has described as "unbought and unbossed," Chisholm became known as a politician who refused to allow her colleagues, including the white male-dominated House of Representatives, to deter her from her goals. She remarked that, "Women in this country must become revolutionaries. We must refuse to accept the old, the traditional roles and stereotypes." She subsequently served on a number of committees, including the Education and Labor, and campaigned for a higher minimum wage and increased federal funding for disadvantaged communities. In her first term in Congress, Chisholm hired an all female staff and was an unyielding advocate of social justice, women's rights, the underprivileged and people of all races, nationalities and faith.

On January 25, 1972 Chisholm became the first African American woman to campaign for the presidency. She admitted that she stood no real chance of winning but wanted to galvanize minority communities, working class whites and young people into a sizable political force. Chisholm ran as "the candidate of the people," receiving 151 delegate votes at the Democratic National Convention that year.

During the campaign, she experienced resistance from her colleagues, including the Congressional Black Caucus for which she was a founding member, and was attacked four times on the campaign trail. Chisholm's bid for the presidency was not fruitless—her legacy and work has ushered in a generation of exceptional leaders—from presidential candidate Jesse Jackson, to former U.S. Senator Carol Mosley Braun to Democratic Leader NANCY PELOSI.