

may never realize their full potential. Make them understand that, while they may be splendid parents in every other way, they did their children a great disservice by leaving them to wander in the shadows.

Whether they can go to college is the least of their worries. I don't care if the children are honor students, they can be picked up and deported at any time. And now, unless there are substantial legislative changes—like the enactment of the federal Dream Act championed by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, which would allow illegal immigrant students to attend college—there is not much any of us can do for these children.

The good news is that there is still quite a bit that parents can do for their children. They can contact an immigration lawyer or a low-cost legal clinic and ask how it is that one begins the long and often expensive process for obtaining legal residency.

I told the crowd that I knew of one person who spent 12 years and more than \$12,000 to convert her status, and that of her son, from “illegal” to “legal.” That brought gasps. Apparently, that sounded like a lot of money. It isn't, I told them. It's \$1,000 per year, or about \$80 a month.

I know immigrants who spend that on their monthly cell phone bill, and this is much more important. If these illegal immigrant parents don't want to do it for themselves, then they should do it for their children.

I received scattered applause, but it was nothing compared to the rousing response that went to another panelist—Raul

Yzaguirre, former president of the National Council of La Raza—when he said that he didn't like the term “illegal immigrant” because he didn't think that people who came to this country to feed their families should be considered criminals.

What else would we call them? They broke the law. We can be sympathetic to their plight without condoning their actions. In order for Latinos to make real progress, first they have to stay in the real world.

IN HONOR OF SS. CYRIL AND
METHODIUS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, November 14, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the teachers, staff, administrators and students of SS. Cyril & Methodius Catholic School, in celebration of their newly appointed status from the U.S. Department of Education as a No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon School of Excellence.

This significant tribute, awarded to less than 300 schools nationwide, represents the highest levels of academic excellence, achievement and improvement. The Blue Ribbon School of Excellence recognition also honors

schools in which at least 40 percent of students come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Reverend Jerome Duke, Pastor of SS. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church, turned down an offer to merge his school with three other local Catholic Schools. His decision mirrors his dedication to the east side neighborhoods of Lakewood and his true commitment and service to the families and children of SS. Cyril & Methodius Catholic School. Reverend Duke knew that if the school had merged, most families would have been unable to afford the tuition at the new school.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Reverend Jerome Duke, Principal Carol Shakarian and every student, teacher, pastor, staff member, volunteer and donor of SS. Cyril & Methodius Catholic School, as they celebrate their newly appointed status as a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence. Their collective work and dedication focused on uplifting the lives of our youth with a strong foundation of education and personal achievement, serves to shine a light of hope and promise on a bright future for the children of the SS. Cyril & Methodius Catholic School. Moreover, the tenacity and heart reflected from these students who face daily struggles, inspires us all and offers our entire community the promise for a better tomorrow.