

the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws, to enhance border security, and for other purposes:

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Chairman, I am deeply concerned about a bill of this type "The Border Security Act of 2005" coming to the floor of this chamber.

This bill does not adequately achieve our common goals of a comprehensive immigration policy that protects our borders while humanely seeking to address the many workers who are already in this country.

We realize that 9/11 taught us that our nation must address our national security along our borders from the north, south, east and west. Unfortunately, this bill is not the way to go in addressing this very important issue.

Statistics have shown that barrier fences have never worked to deter migration. The fences proposed in this legislation would be disastrous to the environment. It would destroy half of our national park land and many endangered species would be at risk if a massive fence was built in this territory.

This is why I have joined with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, American Nursery & Landscape Association, and Americans for Tax Reform, Associated Builders and Contractors, National Restaurant Association, National Retail Federation, Small Business & Entrepreneurs Council, Society of American Florists and the American Bar Association in opposing this bill.

For centuries, America has prided herself on welcoming those who felt that our country could give them a better way of life. The statue of Liberty in the Harbor of New York was that symbol of hope. Where is the promise and hope in this legislation?

Furthermore, this bill does nothing to address judicial review. As it now stands, the current detention practices are extremely expensive. The overall cost for detention is over \$1 billion a 2 year. On average over 22,000 detainees are in custody each day. Detaining members of vulnerable populations who are likely to appear for hearings and are not a threat to society is a misguided use of taxpayer's dollars. Using detention as the only way to ensure compliance is a costly practice. A formal hearing would expedite the process and save time and money.

Finally, if this bill is enacted provisions of this legislation would deny citizenship to babies who are born in this country by parents who are not citizens and would become law. These are not the principles of America.

As a Nation we need to address serious comprehensive immigration issues. As a Congress, we need to get to work and complete a bill that reflects the needs and concerns of the entire country.

I would be happy to vote for an immigration bill that actually protects the interests of the American public, small businesses and makes our Nation secure. H.R. 4377 is not that bill.

I urge a no vote on the Border Security Act of 2005.

TRIBUTE TO CBO DIRECTOR, DR.
DOUGLAS J. HOLTZ-EAKIN

HON. JIM NUSSLE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man who many in this body have had

the distinct pleasure of working with during the past several years, and someone who has left a tremendous mark on the Congressional Budget Office. The distinguished Director of the CBO, Dr. Douglas J. Holtz-Eakin, will be leaving his position at the end of this month to take on the challenges and opportunities of his new job with the Council on Foreign Relations.

Back in 2003, I had the honor of interviewing candidates and making my recommendation on who should be the next director to lead the CBO. And while I'd interviewed several superbly qualified candidates for the position, after meeting with Dr. Holtz-Eakin, the choice was clear.

First, Doug possessed a wealth of economic and public sector experience, having served as the Chief Economist for the President's Council of Economic Advisers, a position to which he was appointed by President Bush in June 2001.

Second, based on his reputation as a man of unquestioned integrity, combined with his history of providing consistent, strong leadership, I felt confident he would effectively serve the whole of Congress in an independent, non-partisan fashion.

Last, but certainly not least, Doug is well known for his gregarious personality, and great sense of humor. And for anyone familiar with the always challenging and often thankless tasks regularly asked of CBO, these attributes are a tremendous asset to its leader.

And Doug's work these past few years has shown that my confidence in his abilities was more than justified.

During his tenure as CBO's director, he has effectively utilized the tremendous energy and talent of his staff. He has led CBO to make great strides in analyzing the impact of revenue measures on the economy. And because of his clear vision of how Congress and CBO could better work together, CBO's responsiveness and performance have improved significantly under his leadership.

I have been extremely impressed and very proud of Doug's leadership and accomplishments, and would today like to publicly thank him on behalf of this Congress.

Doug, we wish you continued success in the next chapter of your distinguished career.

STATEMENT ON FEMA'S BROKEN
PROMISES

HON. AL GREEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 100 days since Hurricane Katrina devastated the gulf coast region, destroying more than 300,000 homes, taking more than 1,300 lives. FEMA promised help, yet, more than 100 days later, thousands of survivors are still living in tents and shelters. More than 100 days later, promised trailers have not arrived. More than 100 days later, a Federal judge has had to force FEMA to extend its deadline.

FEMA is now opting out of 12-month leases. What FEMA won't do, Congress can do. It is time for this Republican Congress to work with Democrats and enact legislation granting 1 year of housing assistance. It is imperative that this be done before we adjourn. Human

suffering continues. I am willing to work with those who want to end this suffering.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS WITH RESPECT TO THE
2005 ELECTIONS IN EGYPT

HON. JEFF FORTENBERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, as we consider the issue of democratic reform in Egypt, I think it is vitally important to assess progress in the context of the multifaceted cultural and philosophical challenges facing Egyptian society.

None of us would deny the benefits of freedom and democracy or choose another path to justice for our nation. Egypt has also taken its first steps on the path to democracy in a region where this concept of governance is virtually unknown and untested, despite many internal and external obstacles.

While this resolution draws attention to very legitimate and serious concerns that I share, I am concerned that as re-written, it amounts to a harsh censure that will accomplish little short of alienating the Egyptian government at a particularly volatile time in the history of the Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, would it have been better if Egypt's elections had not been held at all?

Looking at recent history, Egypt has borne significant sacrifices for the cause of peace and freedom in the Middle East. Formerly an ally of the Soviet Union, Egypt moved to establish diplomatic relations with Israel in 1978 after 30 years of hostilities. President Sadat paid a high price for Egypt's rapprochement with Israel. More recently, Ambassador Ihab al-Sherif paid with his life for daring to defy the foes of democracy in Iraq.

When I visited Sinai as an 18-year-old, I was struck by the graffiti scrawled on a twisted heap of concrete with the message: "Here was the war—Here is the peace." For close to 30 years now, Egypt has stood by a courageous choice for peace. While no government is perfect, this choice has been consistent with a move toward democratic reform, however flawed, and however tenuous.

Egypt's first contested presidential elections this September and the parliamentary elections held in December represent a significant achievement. Nevertheless, the unpleasant realities of high unemployment, threats of terrorism, internal political and religious strife, along with the vicious persecution of minority faith communities remain pressing concerns. While the state of democracy in Egypt is neither ideal nor established, we dismiss Egypt's concerns about the "slippery slope to theocracy" at our peril.

During Secretary Rice's visit to American University in Cairo this summer, she recalled the words of President Bush's Second Inaugural Address: "Our goal is to help others find their own voice, to attain their own freedom, and to make their own way." Secretary Rice went on to say that "we know these advances will not come easily, or all at once."

I appreciate and share the heartfelt concern of my colleagues who are seeking to usher Egypt along the path toward a vibrant and