

me to quote Mr. Baldwin's later thoughts on this dramatic change in his life: "Once I found myself on the other side of the ocean, I saw where I came from very clearly . . . I am the grandson of a slave, and I am writer. I must deal with both." Through his writing, Baldwin did deal with this reality.

In 1953, Baldwin published his first novel, a semi-autobiography called *Go Tell It on the Mountain*, which explores the repression, moral hypocrisy, religious inspiration, and community ties that characterize the Black American experience. While he spent much of his life abroad, Baldwin always remained a quintessentially American writer. In the early 1960s, he returned home and became a leading voice and activist in the Civil Rights Movement. The works that Baldwin published during this tumultuous time in American history, explored the deep-rooted racial tension with eloquence and unparalleled honesty. His two collections of essays, *Notes of a Native Son* (1955) and *Nobody Knows My Name* (1961), as well as two novels, *Giovanni's Room* (1956) and *Another Country* (1962), were immediate bestsellers. James Baldwin created beautiful literary works with unprecedented depth and power; his writing will remain an essential part of the American literary canon.

In honor of his birthday, as well as to pay tribute to Mr. Baldwin's tireless effort to addressing our nation's issues with race and spirituality, the New Heritage Theatre Group, Columbia University School of the Arts, National Black Theater, Street Corner Recourse and Harlem Renaissance High School recognize August 2nd as James Baldwin Day.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues join me as we pay tribute to such a legend. I pledge to continue his fight for justice for all and encourage everyone to do the same.

SECURE THE SOUTHWEST BORDER
ACT OF 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 31, 2014

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak in strong opposition to H.R. 5230, a bill to make supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014 to address the humanitarian crisis on our nation's southern border.

As a senior member of the House Committee on Homeland Security and the Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security, I have visited the border and seen the children that this bill intends to help.

This bill offers too little in funding to address the need that over 50 states are attempting to address by providing shelter and assistance to the tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors who are now living in our country.

Over two-thirds of the language in H.R. 5230 will make significant changes in existing law or creates new law regarding immigration policy without going through the committees of jurisdiction such as the House Committees on Homeland Security, Judiciary, and Foreign Affairs.

H.R. 5230 contains too much language that is legislative such as:

The bill makes significant changes to 2008 Trafficking Victims Protection Act. This change will subject all children to the initial screening process that now applies only to children from Mexico and Canada; erects a new expedited immigration court screening for any children who pass the initial screening; prohibits administrative appeals from children ordered removed through the new expedited process; requires detention of certain children who demonstrate a credible fear of persecution throughout the pendency of their asylum proceedings; establishes new, high burdens of proof; and sets up a principle of "Last In, First Out" in the adjudication process.

The bill prohibits the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture from impeding, denying, or restricting the activities of U.S. Customs and Border Protection on Federal land located within 100 Miles of the U.S./Mexico border—This issue has already been addressed. Both Interior and Agriculture have existing Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs) with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and all these agencies, as well as the GAO, have testified that these agreements are working and that federal land management laws and activities do not impair border security.

The bill provides too few emergency immigration judges—the bill only requires the Department of Justice to designate up to 40 temporary immigration judges within 14 days of enactment of this legislation. Then the bill permits hiring of retired judges or magistrate judges, or the reassignment of current immigration judges, to conduct expedited hearings for unaccompanied alien children to try to meet the new requirement that their cases be heard within 7 days of being screened by DHS officials.

This is a rushed process for an emergency situation involving children. They require our best efforts to ensure their safety and wellbeing not a rushed job.

The bill undermines a long standing policy regarding asylum—H.R. 5230 Prohibits anyone believed to have been convicted outside the U.S. of any drug-related offense punishable by a prison term of more than a year from being granted asylum.

This provision has nothing to do with unaccompanied children entering the United States and clearly is an immigration reform that would impact several committees such as the House Committees on Judiciary and Foreign Affairs.

This provision is problematic because what is considered unlawful in one country is a constitutionally protected right in the United States. Often people are fleeing religious, ethnic or political persecution.

Persecution means that they are experiencing or have experienced actions taken by their countries governments, which often includes imprisonment or torture while in custody.

This one change would hand repressive regimes like North Korea with an easy way to block the United States from helping those seeking to escape that country—charge and convict them of a felon.

A Sudanese woman was sentenced to death for being a Christian—would this Congress bar her entry into the United States?

The bill makes the wrong decision on border security by sending the National Guard support for border operations—H.R. 5230 would deploy National Guard under Title 32 Status.

National Guard troops with this change may be assigned duties as deemed necessary to provide assistance in operations, with priority given to high traffic areas experiencing the highest number of crossing by unaccompanied children.

Sending armed soldiers to greet children escaping violence—Mr. Speaker what is the leadership thinking?

These children need our help not frightening images of more adults with guns.

The bill denies safe shelter to children through its sense of Congress—the states that the Secretary of Defense should not be allowed to shelter unaccompanied children or other migrants unless certain conditions are met.

The military and the administration are well aware of the conditions that are acceptable for children and this Congress should provide what is needed so that their needs can be met.

This bill does too little to actually help the thousands of children who are awaiting immigration hearings. They are victims of human trafficking, sexual violence, and witnesses to murders as well as acts of violence against other children who took that dangerous trek to the United States.

We should be focused on learning what they know and what they experienced to be sure the guilty are found and punished.

I offered, along with several other members of the House amendments in attempts to improve the bill, but all were rejected by the Rules Committee, which chose to place H.R. 5230 before the House in the form of a closed rule.

The Jackson Lee Amendment would have authorized designated federal agencies to reimburse State and local governments and private nonprofit organizations for the costs incurred in providing psychological counseling, housing, education, medicine and medical care, food and water, clothes, personal hygiene and other indispensable consumables, other human services in response to the humanitarian crisis on the Southwest Border.

This Congress has had the Senate's version of a Comprehensive Immigration reform bill for nearly a year, without accomplishing the task of taking up the issue and passing a House version.

Our nation's immigration system is broken and needs reform, but the only attempt at addressing immigration into the United States is this bill that is being presented as an appropriations bill.

H.R. 5230 is not an appropriations bill it is an immigration reform bill, which covers the jurisdictions of the two committees I serve on—the House Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees. Neither of these committees were given the opportunity to hold hearings or make the needed changes to the bill to make sure it conforms with long standing policies relating to unaccompanied minor or issues related to refugees.

The Jackson Lee amendment would have helped nonprofits, local and state governments in all of the 50 states who are now providing assistance to the tens of thousands of unaccompanied minors within the United States.

The message has gotten to families in El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. Parents are no longer sending their children to the United States once they learned of the dangers and the prospects for their children surviving the journey without becoming victims of human trafficking.

These children have found the compassion and love of thousands of Americans found in the states of Texas, Alabama, Alaska, California, Illinois, North Carolina, South Dakota, New York, Utah, Virginia and—yes even the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The nature of America is that of the Good Samaritan.

On July 3, 2014, I went to McAllen, Texas and observed a Customs and Border Protection (CBP) facility where unaccompanied children were being processed by the Border Patrol.

As I walked through the facility, I saw frightened and needy children, some as young as five years old.

Madam Speaker, some members of this body who have not taken the time to visit the border or visit the children who are now in their own states will stand before this body and accuse them of being dangerous—but they are not.

They are traumatized and frightened children driven from their homes by violence and inducements of these same gangs to get payments from desperate parents seeking to save the lives of their children to bring them to the United States.

These children had risked their lives to make their way to the U.S. by riding atop freight trains through dangerous territories in Mexico. One can only imagine the desperation and hopelessness that would prompt a parent to send their young child on such a treacherous journey.

It takes courage and desperation to escape senseless violence and I know that is what Cuban Americans faced, and Christians, Jews and all other groups facing violence have endured.

These are refugees and their status requires that the United States act appropriately.

Some may mention that the United States has a quota on refugees that we can take each year and that number has been reached. The program that refer to is for refugees that other nations around the world are providing shelter—but if the refugees are crossing our own border there is not limit.

This international law that the United States has backed for decades and pressured other nations to enforce. If the refugees are Christians escaping ISIS or Boko Haram or they are children escaping violent gangs in Central America they are not and should not be turned back.

Children do not leave their homes and families by the tens of thousands unless fear is driving them from their homes.

Upon my visit to South Texas borders, I witnessed hundreds of children whose young faces were pressed against glass jails with tears running down their faces. We are dealing with helpless children who have traveled a treacherous journey, and it should be within our American values to care for these children who fled their homes to escape violence.

These children are not perpetrators or criminals—they are in many cases victims fleeing deadly violence in Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, and are seeking temporary safe haven in the United States, as so many people before them have done for centuries.

The surge of unaccompanied children on our southern border does not pose a threat to our national security. Contrary to the shrill rhetoric used by some commentators, the na-

tion is not being invaded by an army of children dispatched to do us harm.

We are confronted instead with a humanitarian crisis resulting from the alarming scale of violence and economic desperation in three Central American countries that now lead the world in murder rates: El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala.

Politicizing the issue will not solve the problem. Taking actions that address the root causes in the short and long term will. We should be taking up Immigration Reform to deal with the wide range of immigration problems.

The current status on the border is the number of children coming across the border has abated. Those children remaining in detention shelters along the border number only a few hundred.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, these three Central American countries have among the highest per capita homicide rates in the world, with Honduras topping the list and the other two nations in the top five.

To address this issue of the humanitarian crisis, I introduced H.R. 4990, the “Justice for Children Now Act of 2014,” which authorizes the immediate hiring of an additional 70 immigration judges in the Executive Office of Immigration Review.

This bill will help but it is not sufficient to address the backlogs to help advance the flow of the children’s immigration court hearings.

The amount allowed under this bill will leave states and aid agencies footing a significant portion of the cost for assisting these helpless children—when it is the role of the federal government to be present and actively engaged in leading the effort.

I support the President’s request for \$3.7 billion to respond to the humanitarian crisis on the border and urge my colleagues in leadership to reconsider the level of funding for this great need.

Congress should allocate the resources needed to deal with the increase in unaccompanied children seeking refuge in the United States. Some of these persons are attempting to enter the country unlawfully and without justification. Our laws do not permit this and they should not be allowed entry.

The Administration is following immigration law as it relates to these unaccompanied minors.

The Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008, signed by President George W. Bush establishes the legal status of the children who have entered the nation unaccompanied.

That law provides persons fleeing lethal violence or escape from human trafficking the opportunity to have their case heard by an immigration judge.

Over the time Congress has delayed acting and an additional 366,000 pending cases were added to the immigration courts that must have hearings before any action can be taken.

Because this situation is untenable for everyone—law enforcement, taxpayers, and individuals petitioning for relief, the first thing that we can and should do to reduce the backlog is provide the funding needed to appoint 70 new immigration judges, as provided under legislation.

Ensuring that there are available sufficient facilities to house detained children in a hu-

mane manner while they await their immigration hearing is another challenge.

I ask that the Rules Committee approve the Jackson Lee Amendment for inclusion in H.R. 5230.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE JOB CORPS PROGRAM ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. LAMAR SMITH

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 1, 2014

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this year the Job Corps program celebrates its 50th anniversary. It does much good by helping young people earn a high school diploma, develop a career, and obtain a good job.

I am pleased to have had the opportunity to work with the individuals at the Gary Job Corps Center in San Marcos, Texas. Gary Job Corps opened its doors in 1965 and has provided a wide range of career technical training opportunities to students in San Marcos ever since.

Gary Job Corps has a long, distinguished history in our community that began in a deactivated air field. The former Gary Air Field was transformed from an air base to a career technical training facility. Barracks and buildings were converted to dormitories, classrooms, training shops, and offices.

Today, Gary is the largest Job Corps Center in the United States with more than 1,600 students. Gary Job Corps has more than 20 career technical training opportunities that range from health occupations and business technology to computer related professions. Other opportunities include construction, manufacturing, human services, and correctional and security officer training. Additionally, Gary Job Corps offers the largest GED program in the state of Texas. Students can obtain their high school diploma via the Internet and acquire an accredited Texas high school diploma.

There is overwhelming support for the Center among local civic and community groups. Teachers, mentors, friends and advisors selflessly invest themselves on a daily basis in the futures of Gary’s students.

But it is the students themselves who make the greatest investment and they are to be commended for their dedication to success. The tireless efforts of the bright, young men and women of Gary Job Corps have enabled them to enter a competitive marketplace equipped with the skills and education necessary to succeed; and succeed they do.

The motto on the entrance to Gary Job Corps says, “Not your last chance, your best chance.” I commend Gary Job Corps for providing these students an opportunity to discover their learning potential and providing them with the ability to succeed. I also commend these students for recognizing that this “best chance” required hard work and dedication on their part, and for rising to meet this challenge.

Congratulations to Gary Job Corps and the Job Corps Program on 50 years of “best chances.” May you continue to prepare America’s young people with the skills needed to succeed in a career and in life.