

Preserve humanitarian relief from deportation for long-term permanent residents and others who have extensive family and community ties in the United States;

Hold public meetings to better know the needs and concerns of your constituents, prior to passage of legislation.

Please consider and remember during your legislative deliberations that when a long-term permanent resident is deported, we have personally witnessed the following:

United States citizen children who are minors have been compelled to accompany a deported parent in order to maintain the family unit;

A United States citizen child never has the same opportunities for education and economic well being in his or her parent's home land as he or she would have in the U.S.

Families have been irreparably broken up; Youngsters have lost parents and great emotional harm has resulted;

Aged parents have lost the solace and company of a son or daughter who is deported and have no hope of seeing that child again;

Families have lost their major breadwinner and have been forced to turn to public benefits for relief;

We can not imagine why Congress would single out these vulnerable groups among us and tamper with their well being and their family unity. We wonder if the members of Congress spoke with their constituents before passage of such far reaching legislation. We wonder if you remembered that we are a nation of immigrants and that it is our diversity which has made us strong?

If you doubt the contribution of immigrants to this country, we invite you to visit our communities in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. There you will see how we have transformed run-down urban neighborhoods in Fall River, New Bedford, Cambridge, Somerville, Peabody, and Taunton, as well as Providence, East Providence, Bristol, Tiverton, West Warwick into clean, safe, updated, family neighborhoods.

Even though some of us speak with an accent, and have names that may be hard to spell or pronounce, we are nonetheless, voters and tax payers, and we own businesses and property, we are also educators, public officials and public servants, as well as doctors and lawyers and, if you visit the factories in our communities you will see that we are the backbone of the work force. We are also the mothers, fathers, children, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts and cousins of legal permanent residents who have been hurt by the recent legislation and as such, the laws have hurt us as well.

We urge you ladies and gentleman of Congress to remember the plight of the immigrant during the deliberations of the 105th Congress and to ameliorate the present legislation.

Respectfully submitted, Forum Acoreano—U.S.A. Board of Directors.

ALFREDO ALVES,  
*President.*  
MANUEL ESTRELLA,  
*Secretary.*  
MARIA PINHEIRO,  
*Vice President.*  
ARTHUR TAVARES,  
*Treasurer.*

HONORING AMBASSADOR  
LILJEGREN OF SWEDEN

**HON. EARL F. HILLIARD**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 10, 1997*

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I come before this body today to both bid good bye and to

give special recognition to the accomplishments of Sweden's Ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Henrik Liljegen. He has proven himself to be a skillful and resourceful diplomat.

My colleagues will remember that Ambassador Liljegen arrived in the United States over 4½ years ago. Among his many accomplishments was his active involvement in 1993 of removing Soviet troops from the Baltic States of Europe. Many of you will also recall his work with the Clinton administration to help these Baltic States integrate into the West. He was successful in both of these endeavors. These efforts helped the United States and Sweden seize a narrow window of opportunity to enhance the national interests of both nations. Through his efforts in the Baltic States, working in coordination with the United States, Ambassador Liljegen helped President Clinton achieve one of his first foreign policy successes.

While Washington's official diplomatic community will truly miss Ambassador Liljegen, Washington society will also miss his charming wife, Nil. She is one of those rare flowers who is truly beautiful and intelligent.

As they both depart for the Ambassador's next assignment in Turkey, I would like to extend to him the very best wishes of the United States House of Representatives.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 10, 1997*

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, along with the vast majority of Americans, I strongly support the Social Security program and believe that we have a responsibility to make it financially secure for generations to come.

When I am in my congressional district, I see this highly successful program at work. More than 63,000 residents of my district receive a Social Security benefit every month. Social Security provides a guaranteed benefit to 99 percent of retirees in the United States. Social Security provides a secure base for senior citizens and allows their children to concentrate more financial resources on their own families.

However, we all realize that Social Security has a financing problem that we must address. The sooner we resolve it, the less drastic the solutions and the greater the lead time for people to adjust for their own retirement. I do want to point out, however, that we have time to discuss and decide on wise and prudent adjustments. In 1983, the Social Security trust fund would have been insolvent in 2 months if Congress had not acted. Today, we have 30 years to avoid a similar situation.

Radically altering the system is not warranted—the projected shortfall in the trust fund can be fixed with relatively minor changes to the system. Privatization and gambling with retirement income is not the answer. The Social Security Administration has been aware of the problem posed by the retirement of the baby boom generation for decades. Social Security has faced challenges in the past and can face this challenge of the future without dismantling the entire system.

As we search for solutions to Social Security's long-term problems, we should think about the features of the program that work. Foremost among them is the availability of benefits to all workers who earned them, regardless of income. Therefore, I agree with the Social Security Advisory Council that we should reject means testing. Tying benefits to need sends the wrong message to workers and beneficiaries—a signal that if they save for retirement, their Social Security, to which they are currently contributing, could be reduced or lost.

In addition, the program's progressive benefit formula already differentiates between those who are more highly compensated and those who are not. Lower wage workers currently receive a greater return on their payroll taxes than average and high earners. This practice works, but additional tilting away from those who earn more could punish productivity and create the impression that Social Security is somehow a welfare program. Nothing could be further from the truth.

On the other hand, privatization would tilt the Social Security program far away from lower wage workers, by introducing a huge element of uncertainty into the economy and into a retirees' monthly income. Therefore, we must reject this change. Social Security currently is the secure portion of a retirement portfolio. An individual's savings and investments now are the risk-taking segment. Privatizing makes Social Security and an individual's retirement income subject to the whims of the stock market and the skills, or lack thereof, of a person's financial advisor. In short, gambling with our seniors' future livelihoods is unacceptable.

With privatization, we would be placing all of our retirement eggs in one unstable basket—risky scrambling all of our retirement plans.

Proponents of privatization suggest that it will promote national savings, but shifting payroll taxes from the Social Security trust funds into individual accounts does not increase the national savings by one penny.

Misinformation regarding Social Security has been spread by powerful groups determined to turn the entire fate of America's retirees over to Wall Street. In contrast, making reasonable modifications to restore Social Security's long-term imbalance is a more sound and prudent course.

Let me repeat—we have time to fix the problems. Social Security has stood the test of time and has proven to be a fair and successful program. We do not need to rush into unknown waters with privatization and other radical proposals. Our seniors and future seniors deserve to have this body take a moderate and deliberative approach to altering a program that has served so many so well.

#### NATIONAL GUARD HONORED

**HON. JIM DAVIS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 10, 1997*

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the brave men and women of the National Guard were honored at the world premier of Charles Gabriele's "National Guardian's March" presented in Venice, FL, on May 19, 1997 at a concert of the Venice Concert Band directed