The oversight in this provision is the failure to exempt the Canadian nationals who previously have not been required to fill out INS documents, or I-94's, at the border. In 1996, more than 116 million people entered the United States by land from Canada. Of these, more than 76 million were Canadian or United States permanent residents. As anyone who has crossed the United States-Canada border knows, congestion is a problem. The more than $1 billion of goods and services trade that crosses our border daily adds enormously to congestion. For this reason, United States laws were to implement the entry and exit procedures required by section 110, congestion would turn into a nightmare at the border.

After the Immigration Reform Act passed last year, Chairman SIMPSON and SMITH of the Senate and House Judiciary Subcommittees on Immigration, respectively, wrote to Canadian Ambassador Raymond Chretien assuring him that “we did not intend to impose a new requirement for border crossing cards or I-94’s on Canadians who are not presently required to possess such documents.”

Mr. Speaker, consistent with the intent of the United States-Canada Accord on Our Shared Border to open and improve the flow of United States and Canadian citizens across our common border, and the intolerable congestion that would result from implementation of section 110 as it now stands, I am offering an amendment to the Immigration Reform Act. My bill simply exempts from section 110 Canadian nationals who are not otherwise required by law to possess a visa, passport, or border-crossing identification card.

This correction of an oversight in the 1996 Immigration Reform Act is the right thing to do, the practical thing to do, it follows through on assurances made to the Canadian Ambassador that it was not congressional intent to reverse decades of practice with respect to Canadian nationals.

The text of the bill follows:

H.O.R.

To amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 to clarify that records of arrival or departure are not required to be collected for purposes of the automation control system developed under section 110 of such Act for Canadians who are not otherwise required to possess a visa, passport, or border crossing identification card, be enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

SEC. 1. EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN ALIENS FROM ENTRY-EXIT CONTROL SYSTEM.

(a) In General.—Section 110(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1221 note) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) SYSTEM.

(1) In General.—Subject to paragraph (2), not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall develop an automated entry and exit control system that will—

(A) collect a record of departure for every alien departing the United States and match the records of departure with the record of the alien’s arrival in the United States; and

(B) enable the Attorney General to identify, through on-the-spot screening procedures, lawfully admitted nonimmigrants who remain in the United States beyond the period authorized by the Attorney General.

(2) Exemption for Certain Aliens.—The system under paragraph (1) shall not collect a record of arrival or departure for an alien—

(A) who is—

(i) a Canadian national; or

(ii) an alien having a common nationality with Canadian nationals and who has his or her residence in Canada;

(B) who is not otherwise required by law to be in possession, for purposes of establishing eligibility for admission into the United States of—

(i) a visa;

(ii) a passport; or

(iii) a border crossing identification card.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996 (Public Law 104-208; 110 Stat. 3009-546).

TRIBUTE TO DR. JAMES BILLINGTON ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIS SELECTION AS LIBRARIAN OF CONGRESS

HON. TOM LANTOS
OF CALIFORNIA

In the House of Representatives Tuesday, September 16, 1997

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues to join me in paying a well-deserved tribute to Dr. James Billington, a dear friend of mine, who has served our Nation with great distinction as the Librarian of Congress for the last 10 years. This week we mark the 10th anniversary of the appointment of Dr. Billington to this important leadership position. I invite my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to him as we celebrate this important milestone.

Dr. Billington was appointed the 13th Librarian of Congress by President Ronald Reagan in 1987, and he was subsequently confirmed to that position by the U.S. Senate. Earlier, he served as the director of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and before that he was a distinguished professor and scholar of Russian history and culture at Princeton University.

The Library of Congress is the largest and most comprehensive library in the world with more than 110 million items in more than 450 languages. Managing that immense collection is a major task in and of itself, but Dr. Billington assumed the position as Librarian of Congress at a critical time in the Library's history. The past 10 years have been a time of great change because of the rapid and complete transformation of information technology. At this critical time, Dr. Billington's vision, insight, and skills have been a tremendous asset for the Library, for the Congress, and for the American people.

Dr. Billington was one of the first scholars and cultural administrators to recognize the significance of the approaching information age and its importance for the Library of Congress. At his confirmation hearing in 1987, Dr. Billington voiced his hope that "the Library might furnish new technologies boldly" and share its catalog and national treasures by the year 2000 with citizens in local communities across America. In 1994, Dr. Billington's hope became reality when the National Digital Library was launched. That project, which has as its objective to preserve and make accessible from the Library's collection at a cost of some $60 million, is being accomplished with private/public funding. Today, the Library's World
Wide Web site brings to tens of millions of people the Library's catalog, the American Memory collections of the National Digital Library, and Thomas—the Library's legislative information site. The Library's site is recognized as one of the most important content sites on the Internet, and it is quickly becoming a major source and tool for teaching and learning for students at all levels.

During his 10 years as Librarian, Dr. Billington has made a great contribution to the improvement of the Library in many areas, in addition to his incredible efforts in the area of technology. He has strengthened control of the Library's various collections, and increased the Library's acquisitions. For example, he was instrumental in the acquisition of the Leonard Bernstein collection, the Marion Carson collection, and the Gordon Parks collection.

Under the direction of Dr. Billington, the Library of Congress has undergone a period of tremendous growth and development. He has established the first office of development at the Library to facilitate the private support of the Library. He has also created an endowment for scholarly activities, exhibitions, and the National Digital Library. He proposed and the Congress approved the establishment of the Madison Council, a group of private citizens who provide sustained financial support to the Library. In the 10 years that Dr. Billington has served at the Library of Congress, he has raised $91.7 million, of which $41.5 million represents the contributions from the Madison Council, which is chaired by John Kluge.

Additionally, Dr. Billington has made a major commitment to public display of the Library's own treasures as well as the priceless heritage of other nations around the world, and he has sponsored a series of widely acclaimed exhibitions at the Library of Congress. A few of the most spectacular exhibitions include "Rome Reborn: The Vatican Library and Renaissance Culture," "Scrolls from the Dead Sea," "Revelations of the Russian Archives," and "From the Ends of the Earth: Judaic Treasures of the Library of Congress."

Mr. Speaker, I am particularly appreciative of my association with Dr. Billington and his friendship. Shortly after he became Librarian of Congress, to mark the "Year of the Book," Dr. Billington and officials of the Library came to San Mateo, CA, in my congressional district, where they gave focus to the incredible resources of the Library and further emphasized the important outreach program that has been given great emphasis under Dr. Billington's leadership.

Mr. Speaker, in my remarks thus far, I have focused on the outstanding achievements and leadership of Dr. Billington over this 4-year period of his stewardship at the Library of Congress. I want to add a few personal comments about Dr. Billington as a friend. A number of our colleagues in the Congress and I, had the wonderful opportunity to travel with him on a visit to Russia a few years ago, under the leadership of Mr. Gephardt and Mr. Gingrich. Dr. Billington added an incredible perspective and an understanding of Russia and the Russian people to those of us who participated in that important trip. He was not only a brilliant scholar, but also a delightful traveling companion. Dr. Billington also participated in my role as chair of the delegation, which I chaired at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire between delegations representing the Congress and the European Parliament.

Again, he contributed in a major way to both delegations' understanding of the complexities of our relationships with Russia and the republics of the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Billington should be congratulated for his exceptional successes during his 10-year tenure at the Library of Congress. In the 10 years he has served there, Dr. Billington has become the center of an extended family of people who have come to love and respect him as a scholar, but also as a delightful traveling companion. He has added an incredible perspective and leadership of Mr. Ephardt and Mr. Ingrich. Dr. Billington's leadership.

We, like the Library of Congress and our Nation over the past decade, thank Dr. Billington and pay tribute to his 10-year tenure at the Library of Congress and our Nation over the past decade.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS
OF FLORIDA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 16, 1997

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, September 11, I missed the House vote applying the same anti-choice Hyde amendment standard to health maintenance organizations as is currently applied to traditional fee-for-service arrangements between doctors and patients. Under the 20-year-old legislation, Medicaid money cannot pay for abortions except in cases of rape or incest or when the mother's life is at stake. The new language makes it clear that the ban also applies to Medicaid treatment through HMO's. During the time the vote was held, I was moderating a Congressional Black Caucus braintrust that I initiated on environmental justice. Let me be clear—had I been present on Thursday, I would have voted against this anti-choice amendment.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO SPEED RISK ADJUSTMENT OF MANAGED CARE PLANS

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK
OF CALIFORNIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 16, 1997

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, how many studies do we need before we act to correct a gross taxpayer overpayment of many health maintenance organizations? The GAO has just issued another report in the long line of papers demonstrating that the public is paying HMO's too much for the Medicare part of the Medicare trust fund will be substantially higher among those with chronic conditions. While only 6% of all new enrollees returned to FFS within 6 months, the percentage ranged from 45% for beneficiaries without a chronic condition to 10.2% for those with two or more chronic conditions. Also, disenrollees who returned to FFS had substantially higher chronic condition and enrolment compared to those who remained in their HMO. These data indicated that favorable selection still exists in California Medicare HMO's because they attract and retain the least costly beneficiaries in each health status group.

Since we pay Medicare managed care risk contractors [HMO's] 95 percent of the average cost of treating Medicare patients in an area, it is obvious that if they do not sign up the average type of Medicare beneficiary, but sign up healthier people, then the taxpayer will end up paying the HMO's too much. Many HMO's, of course, make a fine art of finding the healthiest people to enroll—and encouraging the unhealthy to disenroll. Because we do not adjust the payments to HMO's to reflect the true risk they face of providing needed health care services, risk adjustment, we overpay. We overpay HMO's billions of dollars—and as enrollment grows, the Medicare trust fund will lose an escalating amount.

At the end of my statement I would like to include in the record a recent summary from the American Hospital Association, a congressional advisory panel, that further documents the problem. The just-passed Balanced Budget Act requires HHS to begin to collect data to correct this problem and in the year 2000, implement a risk adjustment system to stop the abuse and overpayment that plagues the current program.

The GAO report is just further proof that we need to move faster—and that even a partial risk adjustment program, which can be refined over time, is better than the current hemorrhage of Medicare trust fund moneys. Therefore, I am introducing today—as part of our efforts to stop Medicare waste, and in some cases fraud, a bill to require that the risk adjustment changes be implemented January 1, 1999. This amendment will easily save $1 billion and probably more—and it will help force an end to the outrageous overpayment of those HMO's who have, for whatever reason, managed to avoid the average Medicare beneficiary.

PHASING OUT METERED DOSE INHALERS

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY
OF RHODE ISLAND
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Tuesday, September 16, 1997

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to offer my position on an issue that I know is of great concern to my constituents in Rhode Island and the Nation at large. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has recently proposed regulations which would impact the lives of thousands of Rhode Islanders...