

NONCITIZEN BENEFIT CLARIFICATION AND OTHER TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, the bill before us today, H.R. 4558, is important in that it clarifies the eligibility of immigrants in receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits. As you know, the 1997 Balanced Budget Act permanently grandfathered most but not all noncitizens who were receiving SSI benefits when the welfare reform law was signed into law on August 22, 1996. About 22,000 "nonqualified" noncitizens were grandfathered through only September 30, 1998 in order to give the Social Security Administration adequate time to determine their status. This legislation would clarify that these individuals—many of whom are elderly or disabled and who claim citizenship but lack documentation or are not capable of documenting their immigration status—will continue to receive SSI benefits from the federal government.

While there should be strong and vigorous debate on the ensuring that those most in need of public assistance not fall through the safety net, perhaps it is not clearly known that not all U.S. citizens are eligible for participation in the SSI program. SSI is available to citizens who live in one of the 50 States; however, U.S. citizens residing in Guam, American Samoa, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico are not eligible for assistance under the SSI program. Given the fact that the cost of living is much higher in the territories than almost any mainland location, and given the fact that we have a permanent cap on Medicaid, I sincerely believe that there is a definite need to extend the SSI program to the territories.

Citizenship in this country and the privileges associated with it should not be measured by geographic choice in residency or the size of one's pocketbook. Whether one chooses to live in Hagatna, St. Croix or Peoria, a federally funded program should be accessible to everyone.

I urge my colleagues pass H.R. 4558 and to extend the SSI program to the American citizens in the territories.

SENSE OF CONGRESS CONDEMNING ATROCITIES BY SERBIAN POLICE AND MILITARY FORCES AGAINST ALBANIANS IN KOSOVA

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 23, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to show my support of H. Con. Res. 315 in condemning the atrocities in Kosova. The region has suffered significant loss of life and an immense amount of property damage due to the brutal actions of the Milosevic administration's military forces.

Tension in the area has been increasing since the government of Yugoslavia removed Kosova's autonomous status in 1989 without

the consent of the people, of whom 90% are ethnic Albanians. Human rights groups report that the conflict has escalated to the point where forces are conducting abductions and summary executions of innocent civilians. More than 900 people have died in the fighting this year, while an estimated 200,000 Albanian refugees have been forced out of their homes. If the offensive continues, these refugees will be at risk of freezing to death in the forests where they have hidden.

Mr. Speaker, we can not allow this destruction of Kosova's resident's to continue. Because the Milosevic government has been primarily responsible for this conflict, it should bear the burden of providing compensation for the loss of life and for the costs of rebuilding the destroyed areas.

IN REGARD TO CSU STANISLAUS AND THE DEDICATION OF THE UNIVERSITY'S PROFESSIONAL SCHOOL BUILDING

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 1998

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to California State University, Stanislaus on the occasion of the dedication of the University's Professional Schools Building.

CSU Stanislaus, located in my district in California's great Central Valley, has seen a very impressive 63 percent growth in student population during the past two decades and this new Professional Schools Building reflects a new milestone in the university's strong commitment to obtaining the highest level of student academic achievement.

This magnificent new building represents the core values of a learning-centered environment—not only for undergraduate students—but for the university's credential programs and the professional and applied programs.

I am very proud to report to my colleagues that standing on the brink of a new millennium, this new facility is designed with an eye on the 21st Century with an advanced technological infrastructure which supports on-site and interactive distance learning programs.

A copy of this message of congratulations is being enclosed in a time capsule at the University to be removed during the University's centennial anniversary in the year 2060. It is my sincerest hope, that at that time CSU Stanislaus will have traveled far down the path of academic excellence and made its mark of distinction along the avenue of Universities.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be among the alumni of this university and can say that it holds a special place in my heart. I ask that my colleagues rise and join me in offering congratulations to Dr. Marvalene Hughes, president of California State University, Stanislaus, and in extending my best wishes to future generations of those who will hear this message.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE MARCH—COMING TOGETHER TO CONQUER CANCER

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 24, 1998

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, this weekend, hundreds of thousands of Americans will participate in The March—a rally to raise public awareness in support of the fight to end cancer. A high-profile gathering led by Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, Vice President AL GORE, and others will be held on the National Mall, and similar events are planned in communities around the country. This week is also "Prostate Cancer Awareness Week," and October is "National Breast Cancer Awareness Month."

Cancer causes one of every four deaths in the United States. Tragically, about 1.2 million new cancer cases will be diagnosed in 1998, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CDC estimates that half a million people will lose their lives to cancer this year—more than 1,500 people a day. Despite these sobering statistics, however, there is reason for renewed hope in the "War on Cancer."

A recent report by CDC, the American Cancer Society and the National Cancer Institute showed cancer incidence and death rates for all cancers combined actually declined between 1990 and 1995—reversing an almost 20-year trend of increasing cancer cases and deaths in the United States. The report recognized, however, that "the declines in cancer incidence and deaths have not been seen for all Americans and that our collective efforts must be directed at reaching populations with a disproportionate cancer burden."

While we seek to give hope to cancer patients and their loved ones, we must not let optimism breed complacency. Instead, events like The March should heighten our determination to win the war.

As Chairman of the Health and Environment Subcommittee, I believe the federal government can and should do more to support ongoing research efforts. Specifically, I support an increased financial commitment to biomedical research, which is necessary to find a cure for cancer.

To that end, I have endorsed a proposal to double federal funding for the National Institutes for Health over the next five years. I have also authored legislation to provide additional funding for NIH research efforts. The bill, H.R. 3563, the Biomedical Research Assistance Voluntary Option (BRAVO) Act, would allow taxpayers to designate a portion of their federal income tax refund to support biomedical research through the National Institutes of Health.

Last year, Congress approved \$40 million in funding for prostate cancer research within the Department of Defense. I was pleased to support this measure when it was considered by the House of Representatives. I also supported a recent effort to increase funding by joining Representatives SHERROD BROWN, BILL GOODLING and a bipartisan coalition of my colleagues in requesting \$60 million for this important program in the Fiscal Year 1999 appropriations measure.

In March, my Subcommittee held a hearing on the process for setting research priorities at