

people to work 16 quarters, or approximately four years, before they can become eligible for food stamps.

Importantly, restoring benefits to legal immigrant children will also help reach citizen children. Over 85 percent of immigrant families are "mixed status" and include at least one citizen child. Seventy-four percent of those families left the food stamp program from 1994 to 1998.

Once someone has come in legally, and has worked hard to support this economy, they should be entitled to a little support for their families and their children. They should be eligible for food stamps. While we're working at keeping children and families safe, let's not forget that adequate food is the first step.

Support the Baca Motion to Instruct the Conferees.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 23, 2002

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, "You give but little when you give of your possessions," the Lebanese poet Khalil Gibran once wrote. "It is when you give of yourself that you truly give." Danny Thomas lived this truth. His generosity of spirit endures at the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital forty years after he established this essential institution.

"As a member of the Professional Advisory Board since 1996, I was honored to work with Danny Thomas to further the Hospital's mission. It is one of the world's leading centers of research and treatment for life-threatening childhood illnesses, particularly cancer. Remarkably, no child pays for St. Jude's services. I am proud that the American Lebanese Syrian Associated Charities raise the funds to cover all costs of patient care."

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2646, FARM SECURITY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Ms. DeGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support of restoring food stamp benefits to legal immigrants, recently arrived children, the disabled and refugees. This is the right thing to do, it is the decent thing to do and I urge my colleagues to act today to accomplish this.

Legal Permanent Residents pay taxes and their labor helps to drive our economy. Food stamps can provide these needy families with a temporary safety net during difficult times.

Food stamps provide a crucial safety net that allows working men and women to feed their families during hard times. Hunger does not limit itself to American citizenship; therefore, we should not create a policy to systematically deny food assistance to needy immigrants in this country.

Immigrants come to this country to work hard and make a better life for themselves and their family. Cutting off needed benefits to those who legally reside in this country is both unnecessary and cruel. I have both co-sponsored and voted for legislation to restore the benefits to legal immigrants since I was first elected to Congress.

Most of the legal immigrants in this country are employed. These workers, like all other residents, pay taxes. In many cases, they are the fathers, mothers, sisters, and brothers of American citizens. Their labor helps to drive our economy and they deserve help when they need it.

Immigrant workers can also be the most vulnerable during an economic downturn. Prior to September 11th, the Hispanic unemployment rate was rising faster than the national average. The terrorist attacks and subsequent economic impact only worsened the situation for

Latinos in this country. Food stamps are not a permanent fix; they are a temporary means to provide the neediest people the most basic resource to survive.

I will continue to fight for equal rights and just treatment for immigrants throughout my tenure in Congress.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2646, FARM SECURITY ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. DONNA M. CHRISTENSEN

OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 18, 2002

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support of the Baca motion to instruct conferees and urge my colleagues to support its adoption.

My colleagues, President Bush proposed the restoration of food stamps for legal immigrants who have been in this country for five years in his fiscal year 2003 budget. Following the President's lead, our colleagues in the other body voted overwhelmingly to include the President's proposal in the Senate version of the Farm bill.

We are here tonight however, because our colleagues on the other side of the aisle on the conference of the Farm bill regrettably voted to block the Bush proposal to restore food stamps for legal immigrants and supported a more stringent proposal instead; which would make it virtually impossible for immigrant families to qualify for food stamp benefits. The opposition to the President's proposal will prevent more than 50,000 people from benefiting from a program that helps poor families feed their children.

Restoring food stamp benefits for low-income legal permanent residents and children is the right and responsible thing to do.

I urge my colleagues to support the Baca motion to instruct.