bravely for freedom’s cause. I know that those who seek the true meaning of duty, honor, and sacrifice will find it in dedicated servants like Marine Corporal Randal Rosacker.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot fully express my deep sense of gratitude for the sacrifice of this young Marine and his family. Throughout our history, men and women in uniform have fought our battles with distinction and courage. At the dawn of this new century, the United States military has once again been called to defend our freedom against a new and emerging threat. Marines like Randy embody America’s determination to lead the world in confronting that threat, and Marine Corporal Rosacker’s devotion to that cause will not be forgotten. Randy has done all Americans proud and I know he has the respect and admiration of all of my colleagues here today.

SMALLPOX, EMERGENCY PERSONNEL PROTECTION ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF
HON. DENNIS MOORE
OF KANSAS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 31, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4613.

It is imperative as we prepare our communities for biological and chemical warfare that we do all that we can to encourage health professionals and those who are asked to take the smallpox vaccine. For example, members of the armed services and the civilian population should be vaccinated understand the risks of the smallpox vaccine. It would also promote a strong screening and follow-up regime, and includes language that will alert workers to the most likely side effects and speed up the qualification process. This proposal provides greater security, both psychological and financial, for health care workers and other first responders who are being asked to take this vaccine to help their communities.

It is a shame that the House leadership would not allow this substitute to be debated on the floor. I believe that bringing up such an important legislation on the suspension calendar, which is ordinarily reserved for non-controversial legislation, is a thinly-veiled partisan ploy. This important issue deserves a robust debate. Nurses, first responders, and other health care professionals who volunteer to take the smallpox vaccine, at great risk to themselves and their families, deserve more than lip service and empty promises.

We, who live in our Nation’s Capital and are taxed without representation, feel a special affinity to any other group that is denied the full rights and privileges, which most United States citizens enjoy. While any straight married couple may petition for permanent residence for a spouse and his or her children, Lesbians and Gays cannot petition for permanent residence for their life-partners.

I remind the House that we have the ability to correct these inequities: passage of the “No Taxation Without Representation Act” and the “Permanent Partners Immigration Act.”

I ask this House to join me in welcoming the members of the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force to Washington, DC.

LESMON AND GAY IMMIGRATION RIGHTS TASK FORCE ANNUAL MEETING

SPEECH OF
HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON
OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 3, 2003

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force, which holds its Annual Meeting this weekend in Washington, DC. The LIGRTF advocates for the rights of HIV positive immigrants, persons seeking asylum because of sexual orientation, and bi-national couples.

The Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force grew out of a small group of Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund attorneys, who, in 1993, held a meeting at the New York City Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center. Over 50 persons attended and expressed interest in forming a group to address immigration issues affecting lesbians and gays.

In December 1994, the LIGRTF was incorporated in New York City. The LIGRTF began publishing The Status Report the following year. Implementation of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 in 1997 increased the need for Gay and Lesbian specific immigration services. By 1996 in 1997 increased the need for Gay and Lesbian specific immigration services. By 1998 the LIGRTF advocated for the rights of HIV positive immigrants, persons seeking asylum because of sexual orientation, and bi-national couples.

In December 1994, the LIGRTF was incorporated in New York City. The LIGRTF began publishing The Status Report the following year. Implementation of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 in 1997 increased the need for Gay and Lesbian specific immigration services. By 1998 the LIGRTF ceased being an all-volunteer organization and in 1999 the LIGRTF hired its first attorney. The LIGRTF has grown from one chapter to an international organization with 19 chapters in the United States, including Washington, DC and Europe.