

Monument, Kris Eggle, was shot and killed while chasing Mexican drug smugglers last summer. Eliminating the majority of illegal border traffic would make it easier to track down and prosecute criminals like Chris Eggle's killer.

The vast majority of those entering the country illegally are looking for the opportunity to work hard and improve their lot in life, not to commit terrorist acts. According to statistics provided by the Border Patrol, only 1 percent of those apprehended on the southwest border are come into the U.S. to commit crimes.

Permitting those already present in the United States to participate in the program would also encourage millions of currently undocumented workers to register with the government. Shrinking the undocumented population would provide less cover for terrorists who do enter the country and attempt to blend in.

A temporary worker program would deal a severe blow to the black market that currently supports illegal immigrants as well. The demand for people smugglers, fraudulent documents, and other enterprises that facilitate illegal immigration would be greatly reduced.

Mr. Speaker, regularizing the flow of undocumented migrants entering the country will greatly improve our Nation's border security, help us fight the war on terrorism, and redirect resources that have not been used effectively through our current immigration policy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time of the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

CONGRESS SHOULD SUPPORT AN INDEPENDENT COMMISSION TO INVESTIGATE THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S DISTORTION OF EVIDENCE OF IRAQ'S WMD PROGRAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, a grass-roots organization called moveon.org has an online petition right now seeking an independent commission to investigate the Bush admin-

istration. I will read it. "Congress should support an independent commission to investigate the Bush administration's distorting of evidence of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction program."

They are supporting H.R. 2625, a bill sponsored by the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), that would create an independent commission that would look into the intelligence that led up to certain representations that the Bush administration has made.

People want answers to questions. So what we are doing for the next several nights, some of us, is reading some of these letters and comments that have come as a result of this on-line petition.

These are the ones that have come from Illinois. Out of 320,000 people who signed the petition, there were thousands of comments. These are the ones from Illinois, and I would like to read just a few of them.

I think my colleagues will find that what these letters do is question the intelligence that was provided, or question the representations that were made, but do not question the integrity. I think my colleagues will agree with that.

I am reading now. "My son is a reservist who has been called into active duty on account of the war on Iraq. This is the second time since 9/11 that he has had to put aside his college studies and go on the front line to serve our country. Considering his sacrifice alone, he and I need to know the truth about why he assisted in the war effort." That is from Patricia from Woodridge, Illinois.

"Two of my sons are in the military. They told me, 'Mom, we have to do what we are commanded. It is your responsibility to help make sure we are only asked to do what is morally and ethically right.' That is why I urge Congress to thoroughly investigate the events leading to the war in Iraq." That is from Marge in DeKalb, Illinois.

"Two of my best friends are sergeants in the U.S. Army. They signed up and put their lives on the line to protect and defend our country for people like me. We owe it to them to make sure that when we ask them to put their lives in danger the reasons are just, valid, and truthful. I cannot imagine how the families of the servicemen and women who died in Iraq must feel now, knowing that, perhaps, their sons, daughters, spouses, moms and dads died not because they were defending us against a true threat but because of political or financial reasons. Let us investigate this fully and give our service members the dignity they deserve," says Jennifer from Chicago.

"As the mother and mother-in-law of a son and son-in-law sent to Iraq to risk their lives, it is important to me that an independent commission investigate our actions in Iraq and the reasons presented for doing so. We may be the most powerful Nation the world has ever known, but we have acted like

cowards and weaklings. We have an obligation to be an uplifting role model to other nations. Instead, this government has chosen to reiterate the bully mentality. We raise our children to find positive ways to resolve disagreements and conflicts. Why? This government says that being the biggest and toughest guys gives you the right to stomp on whoever you want. Who will our children listen to?" From Marlena in Chicago.

"My father is a veteran," says Trisha from McHenry Illinois, "like his brother, his father, and his uncles. My mother's brothers are veterans, like their uncles. While many prominent members of this administration can claim no legitimate military service, it is terrible to think that they may have sent our men and women to Iraq for false reasons and that you would let them get away with it. Our servicemen and women are risking their lives for us, and it is our duty to make sure it is not for reasons other than what this administration has led us to believe. Your duty in this matter is not to your political party. Your duty is to the American people and to the Armed Forces who serve this country. An independent, bipartisan commission is warranted in this matter."

And Trisha adds, "Also, if you are going to keep passing resolutions supporting our Armed Forces, please stop cutting their benefits, give them a raise, and be nicer to veterans."

"My brother is a member of the Illinois National Guard," says Penny from Freeport, "and is currently serving our country in Iraq. I fear that he is risking his life under false pretenses. It is not only our right but our responsibility as American citizens to hold someone liable and seek the truth. We need to establish an investigative commission as soon as possible."

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1472

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 1472.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

MISAPPROPRIATIONS OF TAXPAYER FUNDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FEENEY. Mr. Speaker, there are several gentlemen from Florida here tonight, including my cohort and friend MARIO DIAZ-BALART, along with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) and a lot of the Republican freshman class. We have been very concerned, as we review the last 5 or 6 or 8 years' worth of Federal spending, about some, really, misappropriations that are going on. It is very both-