



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 113th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 160

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2014

No. 42

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 13, 2014.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2014, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Madam Speaker, the young lady in the white dress in this picture is a role model for all young people. Her whole family are role models. They are the family you want living on your street.

They always shovel and salt their driveway. Their house is always spotlessly clean, and all of the children are on the honor roll. They make me proud to live in Chicago.

Liz and her three older siblings are all U.S. citizens. When Republicans say

to me that President Obama is not enforcing the immigration laws, I think of Liz's face.

When the President says there is nothing more he can do to keep immigrant families together, I think of her face, too. When citizens say to me that it really doesn't matter whether they vote or not, I want them to think of Liz.

Liz has a father who is facing deportation. He has lived in the United States for more than 20 years and raised a beautiful, healthy, upstanding American family.

But LUIS—I hear my Republican colleagues say to me—all of this deportation nonsense is in your head. The administration is fudging the numbers to make it look like they are enforcing the law, the Republicans say.

But hundreds of thousands of American families are being split up. Over a 2-year period, according to Applied Research Center, 200,000 parents of American citizens, like Liz's parents, were deported.

And I hear my colleagues in the Judiciary Committee talk about Latinos—especially immigrant Latinos—that they are all criminals and drug cartel kingpins; and, therefore, we have to arrange our entire immigration system as if they are all violent felons.

But what about Liz and her family? Liz is not a drug kingpin in her fourth grade class. Her parents and her siblings are not meth heads and meth chemists, but the random deportation wheel landed on them; and according to Republicans, they are willing to sue the President in Federal court if he takes action to spare this father of four American citizen children from deportation.

But LUIS—I hear my Democratic colleagues say—for several years, President Obama has instituted programs at Homeland Security to help families, removing noncriminals and parents and DREAMers from the deportation queue.

And, indeed, the President and Homeland Security constantly talk about how many gangbangers and hardened criminals they are removing from the country; but that doesn't change the reality for Liz or her family. That doesn't change the fear that families, like Liz's, face every day.

People who have lived here peacefully and raised a proud American family are just a broken taillight or an unlucky encounter away from losing everything, losing their children.

And what about going out and coming back in "the right way," as the Republicans always suggest? Despite 20 years in the U.S., despite four U.S. citizen children in his family who are willing to petition for their dad, Congress, two decades ago, made it impossible for this family to ever live together in the U.S. legally, unless we change the law again.

But Republicans refuse to allow a vote on immigration reform when they know a majority of Members of the House of Representatives would vote to allow families, like Liz's, to continue living together and prosper.

Sorry, Liz. Politics is more important than an American family or two or 200 American families or even 200,000; and the President has said he cannot do more to alleviate the fear that American kids, like Liz, face.

The political price of helping Americans, like Liz, is too high. It is shameful that the Speaker of the House and the President of the United States are putting politics and election calculations ahead of Liz's family.

To Liz, the solution is clear. If you will not act, she will. She said recently:

No child should ever have to be separated from their parents. When I grow up, I want to be a U.S. Senator because I want to be in a position to help people when they need it and pass laws that are good for people.

I wish my colleagues felt the same way this young lady, Liz, feels. I don't

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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