

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, it has often been said that life is short, and the nearly 60,000 patients who are currently on a waiting list to get organs know just how precious time is. Sadly enough, only 20,000 people this year will receive an organ transplant, and just today, nine people will lose their lives because a match was not found.

Today, I congratulate constituents who recognize the importance of organ procurement: folks like Donnie Coker, president of the Transplant Foundation of Miami; Elleay Compton, executive director; Jeffrey Barash, Miami-Dade County president; and transplant surgeons at the University of Miami, such as Joshua Miller, Andreas Sazis, Si Fan, and Patricia Carroll.

On November 4, this committee will host Miami's fifth annual "That's Life Gala" where funds will be raised for services, for research, and for education on the need for organ procurement. There is no greater gift than the gift of life.

Like my noble constituents, we must encourage this giving and leave a lasting legacy by working to increase donors across our district and throughout our land. I thank the University of Miami for their great gift of life.

CALLING ON MEMBERS TO INCLUDE PROVISIONS OF IMMIGRATION FAIRNESS ACT IN FINAL COMMERCE-JUSTICE BILL

(Mrs. CHRISTENSEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I am here this morning to call on my colleagues to include the provisions of the Immigration Fairness Act in the final Commerce-Justice bill. In my district as in all of yours, we have families that have been awaiting reconciliation with their loved ones for years. Families need to be together.

It is also unreasonable for someone to be made to leave the country to apply for a change of status here. It creates undue hardship, and it just makes no sense. We witness even in our small community the different ways that immigrants in the Caribbean are treated by Federal agencies. Illegal entries from the other side of the globe get preferential treatment compared to, for example, Haitian immigrants from our own region.

Lastly, we have asked for years for a shopping visa so our Caribbean neighbors could visit the U.S. Virgin Islands for short periods. The visa waiver program has been made permanent, and the Caribbean is still waiting.

The provisions of the bill would finally bring fairness to the process, support families and finally see our neighbors from the Caribbean, Liberia and Central America treated fairly. It must be a part of the conference report.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

(Mr. GOSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today not as the chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence but as a representative of thousands of men and women concerned about the tragedy of breast cancer. I also rise as someone who has seen family members and friends deal with this terrible disease. Congress passed a good bill a few weeks ago, one that will ensure that the poorest Americans will receive needed help in the prevention and treatment of breast cancer. Next stop, the Rose Garden to commend everyone who worked to make this a reality, Republican and Democrat alike. But now we learn there will be no Rose Garden signing ceremony, and the advocates and volunteers who fought for this bill will not get their deserved celebration and recognition in the sun.

Why? Because the President has decided that it would be "awkward" to host and recognize at the White House the bill's sponsor, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO), who happens to be running against his wife for the Senate seat in New York.

I took the President at his word in February when he said that breast cancer is an issue that, quote, "transcends political boundaries." It does. Like so many times before with the Clinton-Gore administration, I believed them. That was a mistake.

MORE BORDER PROTECTION NEEDED

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, the news says that Mexican narcoterrorists have put contracts on American agents and border patrol. Unbelievable. The news says the Fuentes Gang will pay millions of dollars to kill our agents. Why not? Think about the billions of dollars they are making in heroin and cocaine sales in America.

And what are we doing about it? The drug czar wants more halfway houses, more counselors, more cops. Beam me up. We got more narcotics in America, and it is coming in faster than Viagra into Niagara. It is time to use the military wisely at our border.

I yield back the bull's-eyes on the backs of American drug agents.

RUSSIAN ARMS SALES TO IRAN

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, there is no greater sponsor of terrorism in the

world than the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iran has taken Americans for hostages, given weapons to suicide bombers, and taken the lead in the movement to wipe Israel off the face of the earth. There is no government more radical, more extremist, or more dangerous to our national interests.

So why did Vice President AL GORE cut a deal with the Russians to allow weapons sales to Iran? AL GORE himself when he was Senator introduced the Iran-Iraq Arms Nonproliferation Act in 1992. And now he winks and nods to Viktor Chernomyrdin, letting him know it is okay to violate American national interests.

Mr. Speaker, the recent bombing of the U.S.S. *Cole* demonstrated again how serious a threat terrorism is to America and her allies. It is a violation of law to tell Russians it is okay to sell arms to Iran. Worse, it places American lives at risk. And now they are trying to hide it from Congress. We expect better judgment from a man who wants to be our President.

REPUBLICAN MEDICARE CORRECTIONS BILL IS WRONG APPROACH

(Mr. GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, at midnight last night the House leadership came up with a Medicare corrections bill that reminds me of someone who can mess up a one-car funeral. At the end of September, the Committee on Commerce considered and passed a bipartisan bill that would restore funds for both Medicare and Medicaid programs. The bipartisan Committee on Commerce bill froze DSH payments so our hospitals could benefit. It established a minimum payment floor for community health centers. It delayed across-the-board cuts for home health care reimbursements and allowed States to provide CHIP coverage for legal immigrant children and pregnant women. It would have provided some more funding for HMOs.

Our bill was a balanced bill. But what do we have now with this midnight concoction? We have a bill that is skewed to the HMOs. To give 47 percent of the money in this bill to HMOs that only serve 15 percent of our seniors does not help another senior, and it does not help them get any more HMO coverage either. It is frustrating.

I have a county that the HMOs have bailed out except one. You know what we want? If they are going to get more money, they need to agree to cover seniors more than for one year and leave them stranded like they have in Harris County and Houston, Texas. We do not need to give a penny to them until they will agree to cover our seniors.