Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my grave concerns with the bill before us today. I have seen firsthand and know well the vital role that churches, mosques, synagogues and other religious institutions play in our communities. I believe, however, that both H.R. 7 and the Democratic substitute offer us a false choice and fail to protect our constitutional rights.

For more than 200 years, the U.S. Constitution has protected religious freedom by upholding each American’s right to free exercise of religion. With public funding comes public scrutiny and accountability. Also, the provisions of H.R. 7 will inevitably put the federal government in the position of choosing one religion over another in awarding federal grants and contracts. Despite the fact that the bill assures us that the awarding of charitable choice funds would not constitute an “endorsement” of a certain religion, it takes little to imagine what will happen when a federal agency is forced to choose between two equally meritorious grants from different religious groups. Even worse will be the consequences when a cabinet secretary, by fiat, turns the program into a “voucher.” A more egregious violation of the Establishment Clause can hardly be imagined.

**EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS**

I cannot state strongly enough my belief that religious organizations are an important part of our social fabric and provide absolutely vital services to people in need. Those services already can be provided by religious organizations in a way that is constitutionally sound. I encourage my colleagues to take this bill back to the drawing board and build on that record of service.

**HONORING OTELLO AND CAROLYN MASSONI ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY**

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Wednesday, July 25, 2001**

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to extend my sincere congratulations to two outstanding community members and my good friends, Otello and Carolyn Massoni, as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Married for a half century, they are a wonderful couple who have both served our community in Wallingford, Connecticut.

Perhaps best known for their incredible working relationship, Otello and Carolyn are a true inspiration for any couple. They have worked on a wide variety of projects—always together—through their most popular are their beautiful reproductions of Faberge Eggs and fabulous dollhouses.

Their dollhouse hobby began when Otello was recuperating from a surgical procedure. Working from a kit, Otello has built a number of breathtaking buildings in a wide variety of architectural styles. Carolyn took on the responsibility of decorating the houses. From hand-made curtains trimmed with lace to the smallest details on a reproduction of a Sears catalog, no detail has been overlooked. Victorian, Gothic, Colonial and Tudor styles, as well as some cottages, a gazebo, and even a brick outhouse, Otello and Carolyn’s collection is truly impressive.

Intimate detail, unparalleled patience, love and care—characteristics similar to the traditional ingredients thought to be included in marriage—have gone into each of the delicate reproductions of Faberge Eggs that decorate the Massoni’s home. This remarkable hobby has drawn much attention to Otello and Carolyn’s creative talents. With each taking on a different task, they are not only creating beautiful enamels, but cherished memories. Featured in local newspapers on a variety of occasions, Otello and Carolyn’s work has sparked the imaginations of many in area communities.

In addition to their creative hobbies, Otello and Carolyn have always been active in the Wallingford political arena. Their outstanding work with the Democratic Town Committee has benefitted many local elected officials, including myself. Their tireless efforts have gone a long way in bringing a strong voice to local residents and their interests.

Enjoying their retirement years together, Otello and Carolyn have found what may be the key to a successful marriage—teamwork. Whether with their hobbies or in the community, it is a rare moment not to see these two working together. It is with great pride that I rise today to join family and friends in congratulating my dear friends Otello and Carolyn Massoni as they celebrate their 50th Anniversary. My very best wishes to them for many more years of health and happiness.

**Tribute to State Senator Regis Groff**

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**Wednesday, July 25, 2001**

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man considered, after twenty years of service to be the “Conscience of the Colorado Senate.” As a State Senator Regis Groff was a man who never backed down from a fight and always stood up for what he believed in. Although he often stood alone, he never hesitated to do what he believed was right.

As an African-American political leader from West, Regis was often pitted against the forces of discrimination, a battle in which he was consistently outnumbered. He pushed for Colorado to divest itself from business relationships with the apartheid regime of South Africa, and was a strong voice for enhancing voter registration. When it wasn’t popular, he was also a voice for rational gun control. He was responsible for carrying Senate legislation in Colorado designating the birthday of Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. as a state holiday.

Regis Groff’s convictions earned him respect from both sides of the aisle. One former colleague remarked, “there would be a hush when Regis went to the microphone.” The former Colorado Senate President, a member of the opposing party, said, “Regis was the most fun and challenging person to debate at the microphone of anyone I served with in the legislature.”

I would ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a great and dedicated public servant. I am including a recent edition of the Denver Post that recognizes the significant contributions of Regis Groff to the people of Colorado.

**WHATSOEVER HAPPENED TO … REGIS GROFF?: FORMER “CONSCIENCE OF COLORADO” SPEAKS FROM SIDELINES**

(By James E. Meadow)

The former “Conscience of the Colorado Senate,” the man who spent 20 years fighting—and mostly losing—the good fight is staring out the window of the clubhouse of the Park Hill Golf Course sympathetically watching grown men flail at a little white ball. Most retirees assume their golf game will be just as much better, much better, but it doesn’t happen that way,” says Regis Groff. He flashes his trademark megawatt smile as he adds, “At least it didn’t happen to me. But then I only play one-third as much golf as I want to.”

Not that he’s complaining, because these days life is better than just OK for Groff. For one, he looks a decade younger than his 66 years, almost too youthful to be the grandfather of four. For another, he takes a winter hiatus in Las Vegas every year.