

to Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services have also endorsed the bill. Finally, business organizations including the National Restaurant Association and the American Health Care Association have also encouraged this bill's passage.

When we talk about H-1B visas, we are usually talking about giving immigration benefits to people who are going to have high-paying, high-tech jobs. Everybody wants to do that. We worked to get that out of the Judiciary Committee.

But I would say to those who are holding up the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act, don't think only of people in high-tech, high-paying jobs. Think of the needs of ordinary workers.

It seems that the immigration concerns of everyday families have been ignored day after day in this Congress. I am talking about people who are not going to be in executive positions, and who cannot afford lawyers or anything else they want. I am talking about men and women who work for an hourly wage, who try to raise their families, who go to church, who want to see their children go to school, who want to live the American life, the American dream.

My grandparents came to this country. They did not speak a word of English. But they raised a family. They raised six children, including my mother. They started a small business. They had a grandson who ended up in the Senate. But they also had six children. They weren't wealthy. My grandfather came here not speaking a word of English, with his brother, and they started a stone shed. Then when they had enough money to afford to send back to Italy for their wives and their children, they did. It was the American dream. People still have that dream. We should help them, especially in this case.

There are also important due process issues that need to be fixed if America wants to retain its historic role as a beacon for refugees and a nation of immigrants. But in this Congress, even humanitarian bills with bipartisan backing have been completely ignored, both in the Judiciary Committee and on the Senate floor. The bipartisan bills that have suffered from the majority's neglect include both modest bills designed to assist particular immigrant groups and larger bills designed to reform substantial portions of our immigration and asylum laws. Bills to assist Syrian Jews, Haitians, Nicaraguans, Liberians, Hondurans, Cubans, and Salvadorans all need attention. Bills to restore due process rights and limited public benefits to legal permanent residents have been ignored.

The Refugee Protection Act, a bipartisan bill with 10 sponsors that I introduced with Senator BROWNBACK, has not even received a hearing in the Judiciary Committee, despite my request as Ranking Member. The Refugee Pro-

tection Act addresses the issue of expedited removal, the process under which aliens arriving in the United States can be returned immediately to their native lands at the say-so of a low-level INS officer. Expedited removal was the subject of a major debate in this chamber in 1996, and the Senate voted to use it only during immigration emergencies. This Senate-passed restriction was removed in what was probably the most partisan conference committee I have ever witnessed. The Refugee Protection Act is modeled closely on that 1996 amendment, and I hope that it again gains the support of a majority of my colleagues.

As a result of the adoption of expedited removal, we now have a system where we are removing people who arrive here either without proper documentation or with facially valid documentation that an INS officer suspects is invalid. This policy ignores the fact that people fleeing despotic regimes are quite often unable to obtain travel documents before they go—they must move quickly and cannot depend upon the government that is persecuting them to provide them with the proper paperwork for departure. In the limited time that expedited removal has been in operation, we already have numerous stories of valid asylum seekers who were kicked out of our country without the opportunity to convince an immigration judge that they faced persecution in their native lands. To provide just one example, a Kosovar Albanian was summarily removed from the U.S. after the civil war in Kosovo had already made the front pages of America's newspapers.

The majority has mishandled even those immigration bills that needed to be passed by a date certain to avoid significant humanitarian and diplomatic consequences. In the most egregious example, the Senate failed to pass a bill to make permanent the visa waiver program that allows Americans to travel to numerous other countries without a visa. The visa waiver pilot program expired on April 30, and the House passed legislation to make the program permanent in a timely manner, understanding the importance of not allowing this program—which our citizens and the citizens of many of our closest allies depend upon—to lapse. The Senate, however, simply ignored the deadline and has subsequently ignored numerous deadlines for administrative extensions of the program.

I am well aware that immigration is just one of the many issues that Congress must address. Indeed, there may be some Congresses where immigration needs to be placed on the backburner so that we can address other issues. But this is not such a Congress. It was only four years ago that we passed two bills with far-reaching effects on immigration law—the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act and the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act. There are still many aspects of those laws that

merit our careful review and rethinking. Among many others, Senators KENNEDY, MOYNIHAN, and DURBIN have been actively involved in promoting necessary changes to those laws, in an attempt to rededicate the United States to its historic role as a leader in immigration policy. But their efforts too have been ignored by the majority.

In the limited time we have remaining, I urge the majority to just bring up the Latino and Immigrant Fairness Act and have a vote on it. We know we could pass it if we could only be allowed to have a vote. Let's show the kind of fairness that America wants to show. Let us be the beckoning country that it was to my grandparents and my great-grandparents.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ENZI. I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for the transaction of routine morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEDICARE HOME HEALTH

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, it is absolutely critical that Congress take action this year to address some of the unintended consequences of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, which has been exacerbated by a host of ill-conceived new regulatory requirements imposed by the Clinton administration.

The combination of regulatory overkill and budget cutbacks is jeopardizing access to critical home health services for millions of our Nation's most frail and vulnerable senior citizens.

Tonight, the Senator from Wisconsin and I are taking the opportunity to talk about this very important issue. The Senator from Wisconsin has been a real leader in helping to restore the cuts and to fight the onerous regulatory requirements imposed by the administration which have affected home health care services across the Nation.

I also want to recognize that there have been many other Senators who have been involved in this fight. I am going to put a list of the cosponsors to the legislation that I have introduced into the RECORD.

I ask unanimous consent a list of cosponsors, which exceeds 50 Senators, be printed in the RECORD, reflecting the contributions many of our colleagues have made to this fight.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

COSPONSORS OF S. 2365

Spencer Abraham, Wayne Allard, John Ashcroft, Max Baucus, Robert F. Bennett, Jeff Bingaman, Christopher S. Bond, Barbara Boxer, Sam Brownback, Conrad R. Burns.

Lincoln D. Chafee, Max Cleland, Thad Cochran, Kent Conrad, Michael DeWine,