

enroll, prohibited, or similar public service announcements. In other words, the policy of the VA is to withhold information from veterans regarding the services that they are legally entitled to.

Now, I call this the new "if they do not ask, we will not tell" policy. If the veterans do not ask what services they are entitled to under the law, the VA policy is that we will not tell them. And, furthermore, we will prohibit our health care providers from reaching out to sick or disabled veterans and telling them what this body has provided under the law for them. This is shameful. I ask how the American people can tolerate and why the administration would institute such a policy that says to America's veterans that they may be entitled to certain services legally, health services, but we are prohibiting. Think of that, we are prohibiting our network providers from giving veterans information that they deserve, that they need to know in order to get the services that they are legally entitled to receive. This is shameful.

I call upon the administration and I call upon those of us who are Members of this body to hold this administration accountable for this shameful act. I wonder how many veterans who have served this country and paid with their health and their bodies understand what this administration is doing to them.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 22) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

##### H. RES. 22

*Resolved*, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following committees:

Committee on Agriculture: Mr. Stenholm of Texas.

Committee on Appropriations: Mr. Obey of Wisconsin.

Committee on Armed Services: Mr. Skelton of Missouri.

Committee on the Budget: Mr. Spratt of South Carolina.

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Mr. George Miller of California.

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Mr. Dingell of Michigan.

Committee on Financial Services: Mr. Frank of Massachusetts.

Committee on Government Reform: Mr. Waxman of California.

Committee on International Relations: Mr. Lantos of California.

Committee on the Judiciary: Mr. Conyers of Michigan.

Committee on Resources: Mr. Rahall of West Virginia.

Committee on Science: Mr. Hall of Texas.

Committee on Small Business: Ms. Velazquez of New York.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Mr. Oberstar of Minnesota.

Committee on Veterans Affairs: Mr. Evans of Illinois.

Committee on Ways and Means: Mr. Rangel of New York.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 23) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

##### H. RES. 23

*Resolved*, That the following Member be, and is hereby, elected to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct:

Mr. BERMAN of California.

The resolution was agreed to.

The motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, today we have successfully debated and passed a bill to provide an extension of unemployment benefits to millions of Americans who find themselves out of work. This is a laudable activity for us to be involved with and I was proud to be able to support that particular piece of legislation.

I find, however, that we are soon going to be debating another piece of legislation that is referred to as an economic stimulus package, and during the course of that debate we will undoubtedly be talking about the number of jobs that need to be created in the United States in order for our economy to get moving again. All of these things I support and I believe need to be done, but I also believe that there is something which has been left out of the equation and left out of the discussion when it comes to jobs and providing economic benefits for American citizens. I underline the word "citizens" because what has happened over the course of the last decade is that we have allowed into this country, illegally we have allowed into this country between 8 and 13 million people. We do not know for sure, of course, because they came without our permission. They came across the borders. We are told that they are here working and taking jobs no other Americans would take.

Mr. Speaker, I get many, many letters from people in my district who are out of work and they tell me that they would take any job available to them. There are steelworkers out of work, factory workers up and down the East Coast, all across the rust belt, these people are willing to take any job

available; but, of course, other people have gotten there before them. But, who are these people? Up to 13 million of them are people who are not citizens of this country.

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We import them. Of course it is true that many businesses hire people who are here illegally, even knowingly hire people who are here illegally because they believe they will work for less, they will work under conditions that perhaps other people would not. We take advantage of many people. They are oftentimes manipulated by unscrupulous employers once they get here.

This is all bad, it is all illegal, but we ignore it and we suggest that we have to do something else to provide jobs for people who are here. But why do we not look at the fact that if we secure our own borders, if we ask people who are here illegally to return to their country of origin, that we would immediately provide millions of jobs for American citizens? Only we would not have to spend another dollar; we would not have to appropriate any more money.

Today it was 7 or \$8 billion for the extension of unemployment benefits, but doing what I ask, and that is to secure our borders, to identify people who are here illegally and deport them. This does not really cost all that much. That is what the Federal Government should be doing. That is our role and responsibility, to secure the border, to know who is coming into this country, for how long and for what purpose. We choose not to do that. We choose not to do that because there are political implications there, and there are political ramifications of such a decision. If we were to actually defend our own borders and control the process so that people coming into this country would do so in a legal process, we would, of course, diminish the flow of illegal immigrants. That would upset the Democrats because they would say that this would impede their ability to gain potential voters, knowing that many immigrants, especially illegal immigrants, would flock to the Democratic Party.

On the other hand, we have the Republican Party which says that if we were to secure our own borders, if we were to stop the flow of illegal immigrants into the country, that would impede the ability of businesses to hire cheap labor. Both of these reasons are, I think, bogus. They do not reflect what we should be doing in this body and, that is, to uphold the law. We should be demanding that the INS, we should be demanding that this administration uphold the law and that we address the issue of border patrol, increasing border patrol and also putting the military on the border which is absolutely necessary in order for us to achieve any degree of security on our borders and on our coastline. That is imperative. But we refuse to do it. We are fearful of doing it.