

mean their brothers and sisters. I have been amazed at some of the comments I have heard on the floor of the Senate about what is not nuclear family.

What else is this about? This is about the right of a U.S. citizen to apply for their mother and father. That is what the amendment of the Senator from Connecticut is all about, the right of a U.S. citizen already to apply. Do everything right. Pay your taxes, serve your community, serve your country, you want to have a right, which you have under the law today, to simply bring your father and mother, or either one depending if they are not both alive, the opportunity to be reunited with you, a nuclear family, be reunited with you because you need them, be reunited, as the Senator from Connecticut says, because you have a child and now there is the opportunity to have the love and care a grandparent can offer, to create a sense of family, which is the essence of stability in our communities. Of any faith, it is the very core.

What we see in the underlying bill is an elimination for the most part, a significant right of U.S. citizens dramatically reduced. The Senator's amendment actually will allow not for everybody. It still will have a certain degree of limitation because last year we gave 120,000 visas to parents. The Senator—which I think is reasonable—has looked at the historic average, and this says this is the amount that at least generally has taken place in family reunification of a U.S. citizen claiming their parents.

When I hear chain migration, how dehumanizing. Chain migration, it makes me think of a bunch of paper clips hanging together. Chain migration, is that what we have come to? Parents are part of a little chain? There is this concern that they will be able to claim someone else. Who can they claim if they are being claimed by their son or daughter? That's it. You can't claim anybody else. Chain migration. How easy it is to try to take something that has so much significance in our lives and dehumanize it. Chain migration? No, this is about family reunification. It is the core of what our society is all about. It is what we hear speeches about all the time in terms of strengthening families. Families will be strengthened when they are together, not torn apart.

In the universe of visas, this is very small, but it has a big consequence. Therefore, I salute the Senator from Connecticut for offering the amendment. I am proud to join with him when he offers it at the appropriate time. I hope we are not going to now say that parents are not part of the nuclear family.

I yield the floor.

Mr. DODD. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COLEMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1158 TO AMENDMENT NO. 1150

Mr. COLEMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendment be set aside, and I call up amendment No. 1158.

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

The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Minnesota [Mr. COLEMAN], for himself and Mr. BOND, proposes an amendment numbered 1158 to amendment No. 1150.

Mr. COLEMAN. I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to facilitate information sharing between Federal and local law enforcement officials related to an individual's immigration status)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ INFORMATION SHARING BETWEEN FEDERAL AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

Subsection (b) of section 642 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1373) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) Acquiring such information, if the person seeking such information has probable cause to believe that the individual is not lawfully present in the United States.”.

Mr. COLEMAN. Madam President, following the attacks of 9/11, we made a promise to the American people to make this country safer. We identified on all levels cracks in our system. Most alarming, we found that intelligence agencies were not talking to one another. We found that when the left arm doesn't know what the right arm is doing, the consequences can be disastrous. The gathering of intelligence is not an abstract concept that only happens on the streets of Afghanistan or Iraq. It happens every day on the streets of Duluth or St. Paul, MN. Our local law enforcement agencies are on the front lines of our communities and often know exactly what is happening on our streets.

Sadly, in what is reminiscent of pre-9/11 days, municipalities have identified a loophole in the law—or in many ways I don't even call it a loophole, they have simply circumvented Federal law and have banned the practice of officers inquiring about a suspect's immigration status, allowing cities throughout the country to become what are called sanctuaries for illegal immigrants.

My amendment seeks to end the practice of sanctuary cities. These are cities that seek to evade their obligations under section 642 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant

Responsibility Act of 1996. That law expressly prohibits any Federal, State, or local government entity from preventing a law enforcement officer from sharing information with the Federal Government regarding the immigration status of a person with whom they come in contact.

The law is very clear. Section 642, subsection (b) states:

no person or agency may prohibit, or in any way restrict—

In any way restrict—

a Federal, State, or local government entity from doing any of the following with respect to information regarding the immigration status, lawful or unlawful, of any individual:

It goes on to say, you cannot restrict “sending such information to, or requesting or receiving such information from, the Immigration and Naturalization Service.” You cannot restrict, in any way, “maintaining such information.” You cannot, in any way, restrict “exchanging such information with any other Federal, State, or local government entity.”

So that is what the law states.

Several cities have passed ordinances or issued executive orders forbidding local law enforcement from even asking the question as to whether a person is in the United States lawfully, and thereby evading their legal responsibility to report their suspicions to the Federal Government.

In other cases, police department policies forbid or severely restrict their officers from asking a person about immigration status.

Essentially, the philosophy is “don't ask, don't tell”—don't ask suspects about their immigration status, so then you don't have to follow the dictates of the Federal law. These cities have decided the rule of law does not apply to them.

Scores of law enforcement officers have chafed at the gag order. I had a meeting last week with law enforcement officers from Minnesota in my office, and they mentioned this. They mentioned the frustration they have with what they think is their responsibility to report if they think somebody is not here legally, that—who knows?—this person could be somebody who had been deported before, and that is a felony. They are absolutely prohibited from even asking the question or having the conversation.

Many say they routinely come in contact with dangerous persons they know have been deported already—they know it—yet their local sanctuary policy is to prevent them from being able to do anything about it.

Supporters say sanctuary policies are intended to be humanitarian because they allow illegal immigrants to cooperate with the police without fear of deportation. But the consequences of these policies are anything but for the law-abiding members of these communities: in some cases, dangerous criminal aliens remaining on the streets, muzzled law enforcement officers, and scarce local resources being wasted on