

FOR THE RELIEF OF BELINDA MCGREGOR

—
JUNE 24, 1998.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
the Union and ordered to be printed
—

Mr. SMITH of Texas, from the Committee on the Judiciary,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany S. 1304]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the bill (S. 1304) for the relief of Belinda McGregor, having considered the same, report favorably thereon without amendment and recommend that the bill do pass.

PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

This bill would deem Belinda McGregor to have been selected for a diversity immigrant visa for fiscal year 1998.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE LEGISLATION

Belinda McGregor, a citizen of the United Kingdom, filed an application for the 1995 Diversity Visa program. Her husband, a citizen of Ireland, filed a separate application at the same time. As the spouse of an Irish citizen, Ms. McGregor was eligible for the diversity program. Ms. McGregor's application was among those selected to receive a diversity visa in 1995. When the National Visa Center received the application, the clerk erroneously assumed that Belinda McGregor was not eligible for a visa because of her United Kingdom citizenship, and attempted to remedy the problem by replacing Ms. McGregor's name in the computer with that of her husband, an Irish citizen.

Mr. McGregor was informed that he had been selected in the diversity program, and that additional documents were required. He sent the additional documents. When the National Visa Center received his completed information, it was discovered that his wife's name had been replaced with his and the application was placed

back in her name. The National Visa Center never informed Ms. McGregor that she had been selected and as a result she never provided the requisite information before the September 1995 deadline. Her visa number was given to another applicant.

Ms. McGregor was unfairly denied the 1995 diversity visa due to a series of errors by the National Visa Center. Unfortunately, the Center does not have the legal authority to rectify its mistake, and a private bill is needed to allow Ms. McGregor the visa to which she was entitled in 1995.

HEARINGS

The Committee's Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims held no hearings on S. 1304.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

On June 11, 1998, the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims met in open session and ordered favorably reported the bill S. 1304, without amendment by voice vote, a quorum being present.

On July 16, 1998, the Committee on the Judiciary met in open session and ordered reported favorably the bill S. 1304 without amendment by voice vote, a quorum being present.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

In compliance with clause 2(1)(3)(A) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee reports that the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, are incorporated in the descriptive portions of this report.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM AND OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

No findings or recommendations of the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight were received as referred to in clause 2(1)(3)(D) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY AND TAX EXPENDITURES

Clause 2(1)(3)(B) of House rule XI is inapplicable because this legislation does not provide new budgetary authority or increased tax expenditures.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

In compliance with clause 2(1)(3)(C) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee sets forth, with respect to the bill, S. 1304, the following estimate and comparison prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office under section 403 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974:

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, July 20, 1998.

Hon. HENRY J. HYDE,
*Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost estimate for S. 1304, an act for the relief of Belinda McGregor.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Mark Grabowicz.

Sincerely,

JAMES L. BLUM
(For June E. O'Neill, Director).

Enclosure.

S. 1304—An act for the relief of Belinda McGregor

S. 1304 would grant permanent residence to Belinda McGregor. CBO estimates that enacting this legislation would have no significant impact on the federal budget. S. 1304 could have a very small effect on fees collected by the Immigration and Naturalization Service, which are classified as direct spending, so pay-as-you-go procedures would apply.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. This estimate was approved by Paul N. Van de Water, Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to rule XI, clause 2(1)(4) of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee finds the authority for this legislation in Article 1, Section 1, Clause 8 of the Constitution.