

## **Immigration Policy Should Reflect Concern for Environment;**

### **Don't Cut Off Aid**

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### **Body**

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To the Editor:

Re "A Better Senate Bill on **Immigration**" (editorial, May 7): You fail to acknowledge the devils in the details of this legislation.

Only 16 months ago Congress promised not to pass laws that shift costs to states without financing. While the bill claims to target only illegal **immigration**, the National Council of State Legislatures estimates that new measures to prevent legal immigrants from participating in just 10 assistance programs will put a \$744 million strain on state and local budgets. That's hypocrisy. The Constitution gives the Federal Government sole responsibility for **immigration**. Yet Congress is passing the buck to state and local taxpayers.

This bill also endangers public health by effectively barring legal immigrants from Medicaid. If a legal immigrant's sponsor can't pay for medical services and the Government refuses reimbursement, a hospital can deny nonemergency medical coverage, increasing risk of contagions and other health problems, or it can accept the patient, assume a financial loss and risk interruption in services to all.

BOB GRAHAM

U.S. Senator from Florida

Washington, May 9, 1996

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