

Pro and Con HIV exclusion policy is reasonable

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Body

WASHINGTON - The Clinton administration has informed Americans that it will propose dropping **HIV** infection from the list of diseases that exclude affected aliens from entering the United States.

The Senate responded by passing, 76-23, legislation to ensure that aliens infected with the AIDS virus will not be admitted as permanent residents of the United States.

The legislation also provides that the restriction may be waived for visitors who come to visit relatives, to seek medical treatment, to attend conferences or for other short-term purposes. In addition, there has always been in the law a waiver for immigrants who come to join close family members here.

AIDS is an illness that can result in medical costs of \$ 100,000 or more for each patient, according to estimates. It seems likely that alien **HIV**-infected persons may become "public charges" after their admission to the United States. For this reason, the American Medical Association has opposed the admission of such persons into the United States as permanent immigrants.

The Senate-passed legislation provides for a thorough study by the administration of the potential health-care costs of admitting immigrants infected with the AIDS virus. The Senate is also to study the issues before we change our **policy**. There is much work and education of the public yet to be done here. Believe it.

Alan Simpson is a Republican senator from Wyoming. This article appeared first in The Washington Post.

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