

EDM 220 - ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

13.11.2007

Gerrard, Neil

That this House notes the commitment by the Home Office and the Department of Health to a joint review of overseas visitor access to the National Health Service, now due for publication in December 2007; recalls the findings of the Joint Committee on Human Rights' Tenth Report of Session 2006-07 that the current arrangements for overseas visitor access deny healthcare to vulnerable individuals, including asylum seekers and their children, resulting in various breaches of the European Convention on Human Rights; applauds the Trade Union Congress's NHS Together campaign to defend the achievements of the free NHS; and supports the charity coalition campaign co-ordinated by the charity Medact against any measures that would compel general practitioners, and other primary care staff, to be forced to charge refused asylum seekers or other vulnerable foreign nationals for NHS care.

Note:

Early day motions (EDMs) are formal motions submitted for debate in the House of Commons.

While very few EDMs are actually debated they help publicise the views of individual MPs, drawing attention to specific events or campaigns, such as our own and demonstrating the extent of parliamentary support for a particular cause or point of view – hopefully against mandatory denial of primary care.

In the event that we can attract 100 plus signatures (about a sixth of the membership of the House) by the time of the review publication in December it will be a sign to the Government and the media that there is serious concern among MPs about the impact of these proposals.

Please write to your MP as soon as possible. You can find out who your MP is by going to www.theyworkforyou.com

Please circulate as widely as possible encouraging others to write.