

MARKUP REPORTS

House Subcommittee Nudges Immigration Change Forward

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Over reservations expressed by a key Republican, the House Judiciary Immigration Subcommittee moved a bill forward Thursday that would prevent the summary deportation of foreign spouses of deceased American citizens.

In reporting the bill by voice vote to the full committee, the panel is attempting to correct what House Judiciary Immigration Subcommittee Chairwoman **Zoe Lofgren**, D-Calif., cited as a glitch in existing law that requires automatic deportation of noncitizen spouses whose petitions for permanent status or citizenship are pending after the death of the immigrant's U.S. spouse. This could include wives or husbands of American military members killed in combat.

Although he said his mind could be changed on the issue, Immigration Subcommittee ranking member **Steve King**, R-Iowa, opposed the motion to move the bill to full committee on grounds that he needed more information about the number of persons who could be affected by the measure. He also expressed doubt about the wisdom of passing "blanket legislation the covers all eventualities and cases, regardless of circumstances, rather than looking at it through the lens of individual cases."

by David Hess