Survivors include: Helen Halford Barnes Ross, Dawn Ross Hollingsworth, Lauren Hollingsworth, Jessa Hollingsworth, Michael Hollingsworth; stepchildren: Bettis Richister, Charlene Barrett, and Maree Shay; 9 stepgrandchildren, 22 stepgreat-grandchildren, and 6 stepgreat-great-grandchildren.

PROTECTING THE MEDICAID SAFETY NET ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my strong support of H.R. 5613, the Medicaid Safety Net Act of 2008. This important legislation will prevent the implementation of seven Medicaid regulations before April 2009. Passage of H.R. 5613 is vitally important to my home state of New York. These regulations are estimated to cut Medicaid funding by nearly $20 billion over five years and will impact payments for safety net providers, hospital clinic services, rehabilitation services, graduate medical education and case management services. In my home district, the New York

City Health and Hospitals Corporation, HHC, the largest municipal hospital system in the country, would lose over $500 million a year, 10 percent of the HHC budget. To give perspective, HHC operates 11 acute care hospitals and more than 80 community clinics which serve 1.3 million patients, 400,000 of whom are uninsured.

Another of the proposed regulations would eliminate Medicaid funding for graduate medical education, GME. My district is a center for graduate medical education. If the GME proposed regulation goes into effect, the impact would be devastating to New York teaching hospitals which educate a disproportionate number of our nations doctors. New York trains one of every seven doctors in the country. The loss of Medicaid funding for physician training would be $590 million a year for all of the hospitals in New York City and $675 million a year for all of the hospitals in New York State. Reducing the GME would not only dramatically impact New York, it would negatively impact the entire country which relies on New York trained doctors.

We must not rush to cut services to beneficiaries. Instead, Congress must have the opportunity to thoughtfully and deliberately evaluate what is happening in the States and address any concerns.

HONORING MS. JENNIFER HANSON

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Jennifer Hanson for her service to our community.

Jennifer Hanson, an educator with the Boulder Valley School District, has been an instrumental leader in the development of online safety protocols for our local schools and communities. Ms. Hanson has played an active role in uniting our educators, business leaders, law enforcement officials and parents in a collaborative effort to protect our youth from online predators. Jennifer Hanson should be commended for her leadership and commitment to enriching our children's educational opportunities in a safe and dynamic online environment.

Jennifer Hanson was recently presented with The Spirit of Online Safety Award in appreciation of her work as the President of the Internet Safety Foundation. The Internet Safety Foundation mentored nine youths in their creation of a cutting-edge public awareness campaign about safe online practices. The culmination of their hard work will have a positive impact on our communities for years to come.

Upon graduation summa cum laude from the Metropolitan State College of Denver, Jennifer taught in the Cherry Creek Public Schools for seven years. She completed her master's degree work at Adams State College in educational technology leadership and would lend her expertise as an active participant for Project Safe Childhood and Qwest's Online Safety Coalition. Ms. Hanson has also played a vital role in the establishment of the Internet Safety Summit; a statewide assembly focused on giving our communities the knowledge and tools necessary to protect our children from the dangers of the World Wide Web.

Our nation owes a debt of gratitude to Jennifer Hanson for her willingness to devote herself for the betterment of our children's education and safety.

PROTECTING THE MEDICAID SAFETY NET ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 22, 2008

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to H.R. 5613, legislation halting the implementation of a package of new Medicaid rules. The proponents of H.R. 5613 are correct that halting some of these rules will protect needed Medicaid reimbursements for health care providers. However, some of the rules that H.R. 5613 blocks address abuses of Federal Medicaid dollars that should be halted. Greater efforts to ensure Medicaid resources are properly spent will help those health care providers most in need of continued support from the Medicaid program, since a Medicaid dollar lost to fraud and abuse is a dollar that cannot be spent helping hospitals and physicians provide health care to the poor.

Had members been given the opportunity to offer amendments, we could have fashioned a bill that would have protected needed reimbursements for legitimate health care expenditures while addressing legitimate concerns about misuse of Medicaid funds. Unfortunately, the House leadership chose to deny members the ability to improve this bill, and have a meaningful debate on how to ensure Medicaid's financial stability without denying care to those dependent on the program, by putting this bill on the suspension calendar.

According to some estimates, failure to implement the proposed regulations could cost the already financially fragile Medicaid system as much as 10 billion over the next several years. Yet, the sponsors of this bill refuse to make a serious effort to address these costs. Mr. Speaker, instead of rushing H.R. 5613 into law, we should be looking for ways to shore up Medicaid by making cuts in other, lower priority programs, using those savings to ensure the short-term fiscal stability of federal entitlement programs while transitioning to a more stable means of providing health care for low-income Americans. I have been outspoken on the areas I believe should be subject to deep cuts in order to finance serious entitlement reform that protects those relying on these programs. I will not go into detail on these cuts, although I will observe that in recent weeks this Congress has authorized billions of new foreign aid spending, yet today we are told we cannot find the money to address Medicaid's long-term financial imbalances.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5613 may provide some short-term benefit to Medicaid providers, however, it does so by further jeopardizing the long-term fiscal soundness of the Medicaid program. Thus, this passage of this bill will ultimately damage the very low-income Americans the bill aims to help.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, I was not present on April 22, 2008. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on the following rollcall votes: Rollcall No. 205, Rollcall No. 206, Rollcall No. 207.

A TRIBUTE TO SAM HILL

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 23, 2008

Mr. MCINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Sam Hill of Wilmington, North Carolina, for his 51 years of service on the Wilmington Fire Department.

Since Hill joined the Wilmington Department in February 1957, he has improved and strengthened the department, which has nearly doubled in size. Hill has overseen construction of numerous new stations, and even helped to design new facilities. Most importantly, he has protected and served his community, often putting his own life on the line to save others. Many are impressed by his dedication and courage, and his strong religious faith; Hill is an also an ordained Advent minister. In recognition of his dedication to public service, Hill was recently inducted into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, North Carolina's highest civilian honor.

Madam Speaker, let us honor Sam Hill's inspirational commitment to his fellow citizens as his tenure as Fire Chief comes to a close. May his 51 years of enduring service remind us of what it means to be dedicated to one's community.