

Medicare losses with payments from other payors because of their high Medicare patient loads. With such low margins, Medicare dependent hospitals are faced with only two choices: either close or reduce services. In either case, the ultimate losers will be the Medicare beneficiaries these hospitals serve.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and ask that this bill and these remarks be inserted into the RECORD.

H.R.—

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Medicare Dependent Hospital Relief Act of 1995".

SEC. 2. DEVELOPMENT OF SEPARATE APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE INCREASES FOR MEDICARE DEPENDENT HOSPITALS AND OTHER HOSPITALS BY THE PROSPECTIVE PAYMENT ASSESSMENT COMMISSION.

(a) DEVELOPMENT OF SEPARATE APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE INCREASES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Prospective Payment Assessment Commission established under section 1886(e)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(e)(2)) (in this section referred to as the "Commission") shall, in accordance with paragraph (2), develop for fiscal year 1997 and each fiscal year thereafter separate applicable percentage increases described in section 1886(b)(3)(B) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(b)(3)(B)) for Medicare dependent hospitals and subsection (d) hospitals which are not Medicare dependent hospitals.

(2) EQUALIZATION OF MEDICARE MARGINS.—The Commission shall develop separate applicable percentage increases under paragraph (1) such that, if such factors were in effect, the estimated average annual Medicare margins of all Medicare dependent hospitals in furnishing inpatient hospital services to Medicare beneficiaries in such fiscal year would be equal to the average annual Medicare margins of all subsection (d) hospitals which are not Medicare dependent hospitals in furnishing inpatient hospital services to Medicare beneficiaries in such fiscal year.

BUDGET NEUTRALITY.—The Commission shall provide that the separate applicable percentage increases developed under paragraph (1) would, if in effect, not result in aggregate payments under section 1886 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww) to Medicare dependent hospitals and subsection (d) hospitals which are not Medicare dependent hospitals for the furnishing of inpatient hospital services in a fiscal year in excess of the aggregate payments under such section to such hospitals in such fiscal year if such factors were not in effect.

(b) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning in March 1996, the Commission shall, in each of the Commission's March reports to the Congress required under section 1886(e)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(e)(3)) include—

(A) the separate applicable percentage increases developed by the Commission under subsection (a)(1) for the upcoming fiscal year; and

(B) recommendations on methods to ensure that Medicare beneficiaries who receive services furnished by Medicare dependent hospitals have the same access and quality of care as Medicare beneficiaries who are furnished services by subsection (d) hospitals which are not Medicare dependent hospitals.

(2) ANNUAL REVIEW OF MEDICARE MARGINS.—The Commission shall develop the recommended methods under paragraph (1)(B) after annually reviewing the average Medicare margins in Medicare dependent hospitals and the impact of such Medicare margins on the Medicare dependent hospitals' overall profit margins.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act, the following definitions apply:

(1) MEDICARE BENEFICIARY.—The term "Medicare beneficiary" means an individual who is entitled to benefits under part A of title XVIII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395c et seq.).

(2) MEDICARE DEPENDENT HOSPITAL.—The term "Medicare dependent hospital" means any subsection (d) hospital—

(A) that is not classified as a sole community hospital under section 1886(d)(5)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(5)(D)); and

(B) for which not less than 60 percent of its inpatient days were attributable to Medicare beneficiaries during 2 of the last 3 preceding fiscal years for which data is available.

(3) MEDICARE MARGIN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "Medicare margin" means for a fiscal year the ratio expressed as a percentage equal to—

(i) the difference between all Medicare revenues paid to a hospital for the operating costs of inpatient hospital services in a fiscal year and all Medicare program eligible expenses for such operating costs for such fiscal year (as shown by each hospital's HCFA 2552 report submitted annually to the Health Care Financing Administration); divided by

(ii) all Medicare revenues paid to the hospital for the operating costs of inpatient hospital services for such fiscal year.

(B) OPERATING COSTS OF INPATIENT HOSPITAL SERVICES.—The term "operating costs of inpatient hospital services" has the meaning given such term in section 1886(a)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(a)(4)).

(4) SUBSECTION (d) HOSPITAL.—The term "subsection (d) hospital" has the meaning given such term in section 1886(d)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(1)(B)).

IN RECOGNITION OF THE SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN ANCHORAGE NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES AND THE NATIONAL BANK OF ALASKA

HON. DON YOUNG

OF ALASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 1995

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate both the Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Services and the National Bank of Alaska for being nationally recognized by the Social Compact in its 1995 Outstanding Community Investment Awards program for their partnership achievement: the rehabilitation of a historic downtown property into a mixed-use rental and retail development. ANHS and NBA were selected from over 160 applicants from across the country for their highly effective and innovative community investment strategies.

The project, known as the Loussac-Sogn Limited Partnership, marked a series of firsts in Anchorage: National Bank of Alaska [NBA] was the first financial institution in Alaska to purchase historic and low-income housing tax credits, Loussac-Sogn was the first housing built downtown since 1980, and it was the first limited partnership between a nonprofit and financial institution to provide for the housing needs of low-income individuals.

The shortage of affordable housing in Anchorage is critical. Significant increases in number of low- and moderate-income resi-

dents and a concurrent loss of almost 1,000 substandard housing units between 1988 and 1990 created the severe shortage. A decline in per capita income caused by a shift in the economy from oil-based jobs to service jobs also contributed to the problem. The affordable housing available in the Loussac-Sogn Single Rental Occupancy [SRO] building is helping alleviate the situation.

Located in Anchorage's downtown business district, this historically significant, 42,000 square foot art moderne structure was rehabilitated and preserved according to national historic standards. The building will be placed on the National Historic Register in 1996. It includes retail businesses on the ground floor and 52 renovated and furnished single room occupancy housing units on the upper floors. Residents, very-low income adults, will stay at Loussac-Sogn as the first step in a continuum of housing provided by Anchorage Neighborhood Housing Services [ANHS]. Support services, provided through a case management system, will also help the residents more successfully bridge a transitional period before finding permanent, independent housing.

The project could not have been completed without NBA's leadership and participation throughout the process. They assisted with the complex acquisition of the land and building. The bank convinced the landowner that the creation of low-income housing would be within its purpose as a charitable organization, and then they negotiated with the building's owners to settle litigation so that it could sell the property to ANHS at a reasonable price. NBA also provided funds in acquisition and renovation equity and a construction loan with \$1.55 million in financing through the Alaska Housing Finance Corporation. The additional financing needed to complete Loussac-Sogn was obtained through taxable bond financing and grants from the local historic preservation nonprofit, the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle. NBA also stepped in with needed support when ANHS assumed the role of general contractor in order to address unexpected hazardous materials abatement requirements.

The Loussac-Sogn SRO is an asset and enhancement of downtown Anchorage. The residents take an active part in the community and focus on particular problems such as crime prevention. Thanks to Loussac-Sogn, businesses have learned about the positive effects of low-income housing.

TRIBUTE TO JESS DAMESWORTH

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 1995

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, it has become widely accepted in our Nation that when people become unemployed through no fault of their own, there should be a bridge for them and their family until a return to remunerative work.

It took considerable effort to weave that principle into America's economic fabric and it has taken constant effort to maintain it.

Jess Damesworth has been in the center of that endeavor. As unemployment compensation director for the United Automobile Workers for over a decade, he has devoted his

high energy and substantial talents to his work. Thousands and thousands, inside and outside of the UAW, owe a debt of gratitude to Jess' dedication. He has worked with industry to make the system work more effectively.

On Thursday, May 18, a retirement dinner will be held to honor Jess' years of service. There will be words of praise from leadership and rank an file. Both will have witnessed the good efforts of Jess Damesworth. As someone who has been privileged to work with Jess over the last decade, I heartily join in the accolades to him.

CONGRATULATIONS TO DRUG-FREE SCHOOLS

HON. JACK FIELDS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 1995

Mr. FIELDS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to learn that four schools located in my congressional district are recipients of this year's Drug Free Schools Award, presented annually by the U.S. Department of Education.

The four schools—Ehrhardt Elementary School, Strack Intermediate School, Dueitt Middle School, and Tomball Intermediate School—were among just 98 schools nationwide to be so recognized. Winning this award attests to the hard work and concern of the students, faculty and administrators of these four schools, as well as to the hard work and concern of the parents of the students attending those four schools.

In particular, I would like to congratulate Heather Maedgen, principal of Ehrhardt Elementary School in Klein; Gary Jones, principal of Strack Elementary School in Klein; Rosalind Keck, principal of Dueitt Middle School in Spring; and Dr. Lee Weeditz, principal of Tomball Intermediate School. Their leadership in eliminating drugs and alcohol from their schools, and in creating a positive learning environment, has inspired educators and students alike to work together for the common good.

America's Goals 2000—a series of educational goals to which President Bush committed our nation—includes a commitment that "by the year 2000 every school in the United States will be free of drugs, violence, and the unauthorized presence of firearms and alcohol, and will offer a disciplined environment conducive to learning."

Mr. Speaker, the four schools located in my congressional district that have received the Drug Free Schools Award are well on their way to achieving that goal of a drug-free, alcohol-free and nonviolent environment in which teachers can teach and students can learn. Again, I congratulate everyone associated with those schools—students, administrators, faculty members and parents—on this tremendous, and well-deserved honor.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE FACTS

HON. JACK METCALF

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 1995

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, while discussing the massive Federal debt and annual

budget deficits of over \$200 billion at a recent town hall meeting in Oak Harbor, WA, I used a Member of the other body as an example of the old guard in Washington, DC. I criticized him for his opposition to the Balanced Budget Amendment, his reputation for securing questionable spending projects for West Virginia, and his unwillingness to cut wasteful Federal spending.

I then said in a light-hearted vein at the town hall meeting that because of this, the Member should be tarred and feathered. Historically, since the late 1800's, tarred and feathered has been a humorous reference, meaning community outrage at a person who violates the general good of the community. I have never, nor would I ever, seriously advocate mob violence toward anyone.

A more important note, in my mind, however, is the misinformation regarding a remark, made from the audience, that the Member should be shot. At the time of the comment I was speaking and thus did not hear nor was I aware of what had been said. Had I heard the statement at the time, I would have condemned it on the spot.

Political rhetoric is one thing, but threatening violence is quite another. I have always condemned senseless acts of violence and have worked to enact laws ensuring swift and sure punishment for those who break the law.

My comments were intended to illustrate the abuses of the old, outdated political process, certainly not to support the use of violence.

IN APPRECIATION OF THE COMMITMENT OF WILLIAM REES HARRIS TO THE SALISBURY VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE SERVICE

HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 1995

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and appreciation that I rise today to commend Rees Harris, a lifelong resident of Salisbury, CT, for his generosity and leadership in forming the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service in 1971.

Rees is known throughout the northwest corner of Connecticut for his vision of community life and his commitment to and support of programs that support the needs of the residents of the small towns, like Salisbury, that comprise the northwest corner. In 1971, through Rees' personal generosity, the Salisbury Volunteer Ambulance Service was established. Today, Rees will be honored by the board of trustees of the service in recognition of his dedication and compassion for his neighbors and for contributing to the quality of life they all enjoy.

In a small, tight-knit community such as Salisbury, many good deeds are accomplished, as neighbor helps neighbor in a quiet fashion. Rees is a humble man, a gentleman who has earned the respect of his peers for his unending concern for all those who call home the very special community of Salisbury, CT.

I know Rees finds deep, personal satisfaction through helping others, and on behalf of my Salisbury constituents, I express appreciation for his contributions to the lives of many

and for strengthening the services and institutions on which the community relies.

TRIBUTE TO GILBERT MURRAY

HON. FRANK RIGGS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 1995

Mr. RIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to a very special person, who was recently taken away from us by a cowardly and desperate act. Gilbert Murray, president of the California Forestry Association, was killed on April 24, 1995, by a mail bomb at his office in Sacramento, CA.

Gil touched many lives, both professionally and personally. He dedicated his life to protecting the forests, which he learned to love as a child. He continued to explore and enjoy the outdoor world as an adult. He taught his family to love and appreciate nature in all its majestic forms—exploring mountain peaks, churning rivers, tropical reefs, snowclad hillsides, glaciers, and deep blue lakes.

Born on June 18, 1947, Gil spent most of his childhood in Southern California. After serving in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1967–70 in Vietnam, he returned to the United States to marry his childhood sweetheart, Connie.

Gil spent most of his professional life devoted to forestry issues. After graduating from the University of California at Berkeley in 1975 with a degree in forestry, he went to work as a dirt forester for Collins Pine Co. in Chester, CA. Through the years he worked in several organizations involved in forestry, eventually rising to the presidency of the California Forestry Association.

What is unique and special about Gil is the incredible amount of love and affection that his friends and family have for him. Devoted to his job, he never lost sight of the people around him. His family was always his first priority. Perhaps his young niece stated it best, "He was just the best person in the world."

Mr. Speaker, I hope all Members will join me in saluting Gilbert Murray and condemning his assassination. Gil was indeed a special person, and we can all best respect his life by advancing his ideals now that he is gone.

GOP SAVES MEDICARE

HON. STEPHEN E. BUYER

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 16, 1995

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, Medicare is in dire need of improvements. Medicare part A will go bankrupt by 2002; in just 7 years. Medicare part B, has already begun to lose money. Medicare is our forth largest Federal budget item, consuming 12 percent of the budget.

If the Medicare system is not reformed now, we may not have a program to reform in the very near future. Since 1992, Medicare has been paying out more money in claims than it has received in payroll taxes. These services must be run in a more responsible and fiscally prudent manner while maintaining Medicare's quality.