

lawyer due to the accusation of anti-revolutionary activities against the Castro regime. Two years hence, she traveled to the United States in search of freedom and stability for her family and obtained employment as a bookkeeper and clerk in New York City.

The topic of education has been particularly important throughout Dr. Sanchez's career. She completed coursework at Columbia University that resulted in an 8-year assignment as a social worker. In 1974, Dr. Sanchez earned a masters degree in education from Montclair State College. She became a guidance counselor at East Side High School in Newark, NJ where she has facilitated the educational development of students for the past 20 years.

Community activism has been a hallmark of Dr. Sanchez's existence. In 1977, she joined the New Jersey Chapter of the National Association of Cuban-American Women [NACAW] because she believed that Cuban-American women need to participate in the professional and political world. Dr. Sanchez has served as president of the State chapter of NACAW and is currently its national president. She has accomplished much in the area of community service, including the founding of an annual toy distribution on Three Kings Day to foster the continuation of Spanish traditions, the establishment of the Elena Mederos Award, which recognizes the contribution of women to the advancement of the Hispanic community, and a yearly visit on Easter Sunday with a group of associates to children in the Jersey City Medical Center and an AIDS group home to bring them the joy of the holiday season.

It is an honor to have such an outstanding and considerate individual working on behalf of the residents of my district. Dr. Sanchez epitomizes the immensely positive influence one woman can have on the lives of others in her community. I am certain my colleagues will rise with me and honor this remarkable woman.

"SHE HAS NO IDEA WHAT'S GOING ON AROUND HER—HER PARENTS ARE BECOMING ALL TOO AWARE"

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I've just received a particularly moving letter about the problems facing American families in the era of managed care.

Today, I introduced legislation which will address some of the problems mentioned in the letter—in this case, timely appeals of coverage decisions and provision of specialty care locally. But there is clearly much, much more to do. Managed care companies—by making the kind of heartless decisions described in this letter—are sowing the wind. They should not be surprised if they reap the whirlwind.

Dr. Courtney's letter follows:

CHILD NEUROLOGY, INC.,
NEURODIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY
Mishawaka, IN, August 21, 1996.

Hon. FORTNEY PETE STARK,
House of Representatives, Cannon Office Building,
Washington, DC

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE STARK: Today was another in a string of very frustrating and

sad days. It was different from others in that the players made themselves so obvious. Often I have no one in particular to rail against. Today was different.

Stephanie is 16 months old. About 8 months ago she was abused at the hands of her day care worker. Looking at her MRI, only about 50 percent of her brain is left to perform the functions that it takes the rest of us 100% to accomplish. She may never behave appropriately. She will never think efficiently. She struggles through her week of therapies against the backdrop of seizures brought on by the beating she endured.

Her loving parents, having had a terrible time with conceiving Stephanie, were initially the prime suspects in her abuse. I was called to work with them shortly after they arrived at the hospital. The mother and father were then told that Stephanie was in a coma. They were not told that all the rest of us knew; Stephanie might not survive. The swelling of her brain, coupled with her seizures, might end her life. They could see that she had been damaged, but could not understand why anyone would want to accuse them of injuring someone they loved. They were accused anyway. So, in addition to having to weather their child's life and death fight, the parents had to face multiple meetings with social workers, psychologists, doctors, workers from the child protective agency, and a detective from the state police.

Now, 8 months later, I am looking at Stephanie's MRI and listening to her father tell me that their managed care company wants them to take her to Indianapolis to a panel-approved specialist, rather than the one that has been taking care of her since her admission to the hospital. The local specialist is boarded in the same specialty area as the one in Indianapolis and, in fact, is boarded in areas above and beyond the Indianapolis specialist. The HMO's position was clearly stated to the father as financially driven. The local specialist is not on their panel and they are not interested in establishing a relationship with him—even though he is willing to see the child for the same rate as the Indianapolis specialist and is only 20 minutes from the parent's home. It didn't end there.

The father, distraught by his continuing ordeal with the HMO, complained to his employer's personnel department about the treatment his daughter is receiving. He was subsequently pulled aside by his employer's Vice President and told that there were 80 other employees that he had to think about. If he "kept complaining about the insurance they had chosen, he could start looking for another job!"

This happens day after day. HMO's seem to be content as long as people are healthy. They define exclusions to coverage more extensive than the scope of that which they will cover. Mental health benefits, supposedly available, are almost impossible to have approved. The level of concurrent review is embarrassing for the patient and exhausting for the health care provider. The number of times this review occurs without the physician reviewer ever meeting or touching the patient is beyond belief. The medical reviewer almost never sees the patient. Moreover, diagnoses of the care-givers are constantly called into question or second-guessed by people employed by the insurance company without specialty training in our area of expertise, not licensed to practice, not trained in health care at all, and who are always advocates for the company and never advocates for the patient.

Within the last several years, you introduced and successfully passed an amendment to prevent doctors from operating medical businesses outside of their specialty area and outside of their total ownership (Stark). The

public interest is threatened by a doctor referring a patient to another business for the purpose of their own financial gain. However, managed care companies can create panels of "providers" whose contracted fees are based lower than the otherwise prevailing rates. The managed care company directs the patient to the panel doctor who charges the managed care company less and is rewarded for providing less. This occurs for the purpose of the financial gain of the managed care company. To be simple, this style of behavior clearly violates the intent behind your amendment. These care limitations, in turn, increase the managed care company's profits, resulting in higher salaries for middle and upper management.

As a provider of health care, I see the soul of my field, and medicine in general, being corrupted by improper and mephistophelean pacts with MBA's more concerned with numbers than they are about the patients. I know how the CEO in the managed care company would expect to be treated if it were his or her daughter whose MRIs were on my wall. They would never send their child 130 miles away for care that could be provided better locally. They would seek expensive and regular treatment for their tragically injured daughter. Our only hedge against a worsening condition for a child like this is to provide her with consistent and professional care. The best care, if available, is always local. These interventions may improve the child's future independence. They may improve her parent's will to continue to build their family.

Assurance against abuse on the part of insurers should be mandated. Insurance companies and managed care companies should be held accountable by holding them medically and legally liable for the medical decisions that they make under the guise of "financial decisions." They should not be allowed to operate outside of "safe harbors" without regulation. Insurance companies should not be in the business of making medical decisions which affect patients * * * it exemplifies an inherent conflict of interest. This basic and fundamental conflict of interest is a state both unethical and immoral.

In the meanwhile, Stephanie is sleeping in her father's arms. She has no idea what's going on around her. Her parents are becoming all too aware.

Sincerely,

JOHN C. COURTNEY, Psy. D.
Clinical Neuropsychologist,
Treasurer, Indiana Psychological Association.

TRIBUTE TO DAN STILL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, service in the field of public and mental health is demanding and admirable. Dan Still has been performing work in this arena for his entire career, a career which began with the U.S. Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control [CDC] working on the epidemiology of communicable diseases. Subsequently, he accepted an assignment with the New York City Department of Health and served as the administrative director of childhood lead poisoning and control, and later as the deputy administrator of the Department of Health.

When the New York City Health Services Administration was dissolved, Mr. Still assisted in the establishment of the Department of Mental Health Retardation and Alcoholism

Services. He was later appointed assistant commissioner for administration, with a subsequent promotion to deputy commissioner for management and budget.

Mr. Still has extensive expertise in the financing of community mental hygiene programs and helped develop and implement numerous reforms of the system in New York State, culminating in the Community Mental Health Resources Act of 1993, landmark legislation that reinvests mental health funding from State psychiatric facilities to community services.

Dan is married to Lydia Still, an early childhood teacher, and they have two children in college. Mr. Still is active in an array of community activities and civic organizations. I am pleased to commend him for his efforts and contributions.

HONORING JAMES BONNER

HON. SONNY CALLAHAN

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Speaker, when Alabama was redistricted a few years ago, Wilcox County was taken from the 1st District and put in the 7th District. While I am no longer privileged to represent the people of Wilcox County here in the House of Representatives, I obviously made a lot of friends there over the years, and I still value those friendships very much.

One of those friends is James Bonner. James is a man who tells it like he sees it, which in this day and time is a rare quality indeed. And if you are lucky enough to count James as your friend, you know you've got a friend for life.

James was recently honored with a front page tribute in his hometown newspaper, the Wilcox Progressive Era. The headline of the story tells it all—"James Bonner: One of Camden's living legends."

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to submit for the RECORD the entire article on James Bonner, written by our mutual friend, M. Hollis Curl, the editor and publisher of the Progressive Era. And while I'm at it, I'd like to join Hollis in adding my thanks, too, to James, for all he has done for so many people. Keep it up, James, for many more years to come.

JAMES BONNER: ONE OF CAMDEN'S LIVING LEGENDS

If you're among Camden's younger residents—below 40—or a newcomer, chances are you don't know a whole lot about the elderly gentleman you've seen making his way along Broad Street each morning with the help of an aluminum walker and under the watchful eye of his driver or secretary.

If you're a native of Camden—one of the oldtimers—you know the gentleman as Mr. James Bonner. If you do know him chances are, small town's being what they are, that you have strong opinions about him; just as he certainly does about you.

Yes, sir, James Bonner is a forceful, opinionated individual. If he likes you, you have a friend forever. And no one is ever likely to know the breadth of his benevolence. James has helped failing businesses, folks with catastrophic illnesses, and he has sent numer-

ous kids to school. He has a big, big heart. We just hope he doesn't take offense at our noting the softer side of his personality!

On the other hand, if he doesn't like you you can at least take comfort in the fact that your transgression has merited you the considerable wrath of a formidable adversary! James doesn't waste his time on petty individuals.

We heard a fellow say the other day that "James Bonner would wrestle a circle saw when he was younger". That's true as far as it goes. Actually, James Bonner will take on any foe right now. Eighty-plus years have not diminished his zest for espousing causes and pursuing them to satisfactory conclusions.

In the old days—when Bonner Brothers consisted of his late brothers Billy and Josiah Robins (James' twin) the trio were genuine movers and shakers in the Wilcox County community.

Land, timber and minerals were their primary focus but they dabbled in other things too. Billy, it is said, did yeoman duty while Jo Robins—who was Probate Judge at the time of his death—handled lawyering. Nobody ever doubted, though, that James Bonner was the thinker in that trinity.

But things have changed somewhat. Time—and better than eighty years—mandate a few changes. But none have been mental. James Bonner is as sharp today as he was back in 1929 when he left Wilcox County to attend Erskine College.

When he returned in the early 30's he taught school at Oak Grover near Pine Hill. He was at one time principal of that school and the one at Lower Peach Tree.

When World War II broke out James volunteered as a buck private in the Army Air Corps. He quickly advanced to corporal and it wasn't long before his superiors sent him to Officer Candidate School at Miami Beach.

After graduating as a lieutenant, James went to Wright Field in Ohio. A brief stint at the intelligence school in Harrisburg, PA, earned him the position of Post Intelligence Officer at what was to become Wright-Patterson AFB.

It was about then, with the war in full swing, that James recalled that his grandfather CSA Major James Bonner had been a courier during the War Between the States. That bit of family heritage prompted him to volunteer for often dangerous duty in the Courier Service.

As a courier stationed in San Francisco, James traveled all over the war-torn world under direct order from President Franklin D. Roosevelt. He delivered invasion maps and decoding equipment to forces fighting in the South Pacific, Australia, India and etc. It was while in New Guinea delivering these maps to General Douglas MacArthur that his ship was torpedoed by the Japanese. Luckily, the torpedo was a dud and did not explode.

Once, while waiting on the airstrip at the Pacific island of Biak, the Japanese bombed the strip while James was on the flight line. It was there that he met Col. Bill Darwin (who now lives in Camden) who was in charge of the anti aircraft unit guarding the field. James says he recalls vividly watching Bill's men repel the Japs.

James' recollection of WWII also includes memories of Lt. Gen. David Godwin Barr, of Nanafalia. Gen. Barr was MacArthur's assistant and directed the bombing of Japan and the destruction of the Japanese fleet. Barr's air unit also carried out the mission of dropping the Atomic bombs that ended the war.

After the war, James remembers, Col. R.R. "Fritz" Carothers, of Oak Hill and Camden (Mayor at one time) was assigned the job of

special courier to carry pictures and information directly to President Harry Truman.

A sad memory for James was the death of a Camden native—a young prisoner of war—who was murdered by the Japanese a week after the Peace Treaty was signed aboard the deck of the battleship Missouri.

Following the war, James' courier unit was instrumental in delivering the documents throughout the world to countries which became part of the United Nations.

When James Bonner returned to Camden after the war he was confident that his military duty had been fulfilled. But it was not to be. He was called back to active duty during the Korean War to serve with the Strategic Air Command at Barksdale AFB. Legendary general Curtis LeMay was his commanding officer.

James eventually did retire, with the rank of Major, and has devoted his time to business—and worthy causes—ever since.

From a civic standpoint, James Bonner is the only surviving member of the original Industrial Board which helped pave the way for MacMillan Bloedel's coming to Wilcox County.

And it was with the help of fellow civic leaders John Webb, W.J. Bonner, Mrs. Clyde Miller and others that the Solomon Brothers sewing plant came here and is now the oldest local industry still operating with a steady payroll.

James also worked with the late Dr. Shannon "Shine" Hollinger, DVM, in securing a \$1 million bond issue for the establishment of Camden Mills on the Bypass. The facility presently houses IKS Services.

Yes, James Bonner has witnessed many changes over the years. Some have been good and others not so good. He is particularly disappointed by the fact that state politicians have not kept the promises they made during the last election.

But from a civic standpoint it might be good that all the promises haven't been kept. That means that James Bonner will stay motivated to be a part of the things that make Camden and Wilcox County better.

Thanks James. Keep on Keeping on!

85TH NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 26, 1996

Mr. THOMPSON. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to make note of and salute the upcoming 85th National Day of the Republic of China [ROC] on Taiwan which will be celebrated on Thursday, October 10, 1996.

I wish the ROC every success in its adoption and implementation of a pragmatic diplomacy; and its work toward a greater international voice and acceptance in the world community. We should all recognize that this is a country which has made a truly impressive effort to improve its position and gain recognition in the world community—becoming the world's 19th largest economy and 7th largest U.S. trading partner.

On this very special day to the ROC, I extend my congratulations to both the President of the ROC, Dr. Lee Teng-hui, and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative in the United States, Dr. Jason Chih-chiang Hu.