

largest minority group, the Roma, and violates international law.

The Helsinki Commission, which I now chair, flagged this problem in a report in 1994. More recently, in early April, the Council of Europe and the UNHCR each released reports on the Czech Republic. Although the reports differ in their specific mandate and analysis, their final conclusions are consistent: The current Czech citizenship law, both as drafted and applied, violates international standards. In particular, both reports found that—contrary to the previous assertions of the Czech Government—the Czech law has created both de jure and de facto statelessness. The Council of Europe report used particularly pointed language, noting that while some of the practices associated with the implementation of the law “might have been lawful under the Czech law of 1967. * * * [they] clearly do not meet European legal standards.” Moreover, according to the recently released State Department country report, some who are affected by this law have been deported, contrary to the assurances I had previously received from Czech officials.

I appreciate that efforts have been made to improve the citizenship law and strengthen its association with international human rights norms. In particular, I understand an amendment to the law was passed on April 26. That amendment, however, fails to address the fundamental shortcomings of the law.

For example, it appears that former Czechoslovaks who were long-term residents of the Czech Republic must still make cumbersome applications and pay so-called administrative fees in order to be considered for citizenship in the only homeland they have ever known. In addition, it has been reported that the amended law gives the Ministry of Interior complete discretion to require those applicants to have a clean criminal record. It seems to me that this would be like telling charter 77 dissidents that of course they have a right to free speech—provided they got a waiver from the Ministry of Interior before exercising it. In short, even as amended, the Czech citizenship law still stands in violation of the Czech Republic's international commitments.

In a few weeks, Czechs will return to the polls to elect a new parliament. In that context, the significance of the citizenship law is all the more poignant: those wrongly denied citizenship are also wrongly denied the right to vote.

Mr. Speaker, I do not understand what benefit the Czech Government sees in maintaining provisions of this law that have generated international criticism. Those who have criticized this law, including the Helsinki Commission, are not proposing that the Czech Republic adopt dual citizenship; we are not proposing that former Czechoslovaks who were or are permanent residents in Slovakia be given citizenship; and we are not saying that the Czech Republic does not have a right to protect its borders. Instead, a finite number of people, all of whom are, by definition, permanent residents in the Czech Republic anyway, must have their citizenship restored if the Czech Republic is to bring its law into conformity with the international standards it has adopted.

DR. JIMMY SIMON RECEIVES JOSEPH W. ST. GEME, JR., LEADERSHIP AWARD

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Dr. Jimmy Simon, one of the preeminent practitioners of pediatric medicine in the United States. I join with the American pediatric community, who honored Dr. Simon here in Washington last week with the Joseph W. St. Geme, Jr., Leadership Award for Distinguished Service in Pediatrics, in expressing our most heartfelt gratitude for his work and continued leadership.

It is extremely important to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of great Americans like Dr. Simon. Dr. Simon has not only been an excellent physician and teacher for 40 years, he has also provided for a bright and productive future for the field of pediatrics.

Dr. Simon, born and raised in San Francisco, CA, is currently the chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine in Winston-Salem, NC. Shortly after completing his medical and postdoctoral training, Dr. Simon served his country with distinction as a captain in the Air Force. He has been a physician and professor at the University of Oklahoma School of Medicine, at the Kern County General Hospital in Bakersfield, CA, at the University of Texas Medical Branch, and, since 1974, at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine.

Dr. Simon has served in numerous public service and policymaking capacities throughout his long and productive career. Through his wide-ranging memberships in professional organizations, Dr. Simon has helped develop a vision for pediatric medicine in the 21st century.

The Joseph W. St. Geme, Jr., Award is an annual award given to a practicing pediatrician who has contributed to an extraordinarily broad range of areas of pediatrics and who has created a future for pediatrics. I am extremely pleased that Dr. Simon has been recognized for possessing these outstanding qualities.

Dr. Jimmy Simon has shown us that one person dedicated to a cause can make a difference. Dr. Simon inspires us all to strive for excellence out of love for one's profession and all the benefits it can bring. I invite my colleagues to join me in expressing our appreciation of Dr. Simon's remarkable career.

TOM TRACY: DISTINGUISHED IRISH-AMERICAN LEADER

HON. ROBERT K. DORNAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. DORNAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the honorable achievement of a good friend and fellow Irish-American, Tom Tracy. Tom recently received the 1996 Distinguished Leadership Award by the American Ireland Fund. The award acknowledges an American of Irish heritage whose lifetime accomplishments personify the spirit of the Irish

immigrants who contributed to making our Nation the greatest in the history of mankind.

I am especially proud of Tom because I share his Irish roots. I value my ancestry because it has given me a feeling of being connected to a long history of a people in love with life. The Irish have suffered mightily through history, but the essence of life is to persevere and conquer the challenges that life presents. Irish-Americans like Tom Tracy have excelled at that task.

Tom has been associated with about 28 Irish-related organizations, including many devoted to achieving peace in Northern Ireland. Over the last 5 years, Tom has spent much time and money trying to work towards that peace.

I also share one of Mr. Tracy's other passions: our Catholic Church. We have both been dedicated to strengthening and protecting the church and our particular dioceses. Mr. Tracy has been deeply involved in the Diocese of Orange, CA, where he has served on key committees and numerous other Catholic organizations, including the effort to gain sainthood for Father Junipero Serra.

I thank Tom for his many contributions. He honors all Irish-Americans for his dedication and his good will.

THE AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE POLICY AND RESEARCH

HON. WILLIAM M. THOMAS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, as the chairman of the Ways and Means Health Subcommittee, I want to take this opportunity to comment on the Budget Committee's report language relating to the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research [AHCPR] that was included with its discussion of the major discretionary health programs funded under function 550. The report language refers to the committee's objections to AHCPR's role in the development of outcomes research-based clinical practice guidelines and the need to better integrate survey and data collection efforts at a number of agencies, including AHCPR. This is an important goal but think it is important to note that AHCPR has already addressed the two issues raised in this report.

First, in the area of clinical practice guidelines, AHCPR has been responsive to the committee's concerns. The Agency took this criticism seriously, engaged in a dialog with the health care community, and announced last month that it will no longer directly support the development of clinical practice guidelines. Instead, AHCPR will concentrate on its strength, the development and assessment of the scientific evidence that physicians, health plans, and other providers need so that they, not AHCPR, can develop guidelines or other quality improvement strategies. This approach will provide physicians and health plans with the information they need to develop better, evidence-based guidelines, without the implication that the Federal Government is telling them how to practice medicine.

Second, the agency has been responsive in attempting to minimize their overlap with other Health and Human Services agencies in the area of the data collection. Despite the fact

that AHCPR has only a small, but important, role in the area of data collection, the Agency took the lead in proposing a major restructuring of its medical expenditure survey to eliminate areas of duplication with other HHS surveys. The new medical expenditures panel survey that they are now undertaking reflects those survey integration efforts. I agree with the committee that it is important that the other agencies of the Department explore greater integration of their survey and data collection efforts; AHCPR has stepped up to the plate on this issue and their contribution should be acknowledged.

In light of the responsiveness of AHCPR to our concerns, I think it is time to move forward. We have seen major reform and restructuring at this Agency and now we need to let it get on with its mission of identifying what works and what is cost-effective in health care. Its research has already demonstrated that better quality care can cost less if clinicians and patients have the information they need to make more informed choices. This research is crucial to our committee's efforts to reform and save the Medicare Program and we now need to let them do their job.

COSPONSORSHIP OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM LEGISLATION

HON. THOMAS M. FOGLIETTA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. FOGLIETTA. Mr. Speaker, I recently overcame a challenge in the Pennsylvania Democratic primary, where, we believe, my opponent was able to spend more campaign funds than my campaign spent. I came away from that campaign with the certain belief that we spend too much time concentrating on campaign fundraising and that there is too much money in the political process. We must reform the way we finance our political campaigns. I have signed the discharge petition to require the Republican majority to do what they do not want to do: bring campaign finance reform legislation to the floor.

I come to the floor today to announce that I am cosponsoring two pieces of campaign finance reform legislation.

First, I am cosponsoring the Meehan-Shays-Smith campaign finance reform bill. This bill would make fundamental changes in the way we fund our campaigns. The sponsors of the bill should be applauded for the contribution they have made in moving this debate forward.

I am also cosponsoring SAM FARR's American Political Reform Act. While the two bills are similar in important respects, but there are aspects in the Farr bill that I prefer. First, it better recognizes the constitutional infirmity in banning political action committees by setting expenditure limits, restricting PAC contributions in the mix of total contributions and lowering the maximum contributions from individual PAC's. Second, it does not contain the in-State, in-district requirements, included in the Meehan-Shays-Smith bill. Those of us who seek to run in poor districts, especially challengers, would be sorely handicapped by this limitation. Moreover, it would put entities like Emily's List and the groups that come together to fight for the State of Israel out of business,

for all practical purposes—these groups have genuine first amendment interests. Third, it correctly restricts bundling but carves out a responsible exception for PAC's that do not lobby.

I hope that the Republican leadership will see the light and work with us to reform the political process.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO BOB WINTERS

HON. JAMES A BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, a good education is an important tool to prepare for a successful future. Without excellent educators to provide our future generation with the kind of education they need to succeed in our technical job market, our country would not be the great Nation it is today. The people who teach or develop innovative teaching tools are the key to our continuing success. Over his 36 years as an educator, administrator, and visionary, Bob Winters has used his skills to improve the education system locally and nationally. In recognition of how much this community appreciates and acknowledges his dedication to education, they are honoring him on Friday, May 17, 1996.

Bob Winters graduated from Detroit Southeastern High School and received his B.A. in education from Wayne State University. After graduation, he began his lifelong commitment, not only providing the best education to his students, but also working to improve education for students all over the country. Bob taught social studies, history, and English in Ferndale, MI, for 5 years.

Knowing the importance of education, he returned to school to receive a masters degree from Michigan State University. Using this new knowledge, he became the assistant principal at a junior high school in Birmingham, MI. In this position he coordinated a new approach to teaching called team teaching. This new approach encouraged teachers to work and plan curriculum together to help students understand the connection between subjects. Each teacher brings his or her strengths to the school curriculum to provide students with the best possible curriculum.

Recruited to share this new teaching technique with others, Bob moved to upstate New York in 1970 to serve as the associate director of a regional educational planning center to advise other schools on implementing team teaching on a national level. Always trying to improve the education system, Bob moved to Washington years later to serve as the Senior Associate to the National Institute of Education. He shared his research and planning of the \$50 million experimental schools program as a consultant and conference planner at the National Rural Experimental Schools Conference, Little Rock, AR.

Eager to return to educating on a personal level, Bob moved back to Michigan to serve as the deputy superintendent and director of instruction for the East Lansing Public Schools. In 1979, he became the superintendent of Essexville-Hampton Public Schools where he has served for the past 17 years. As superintendent he made several significant

changes in the area including allowing student representation on the board of education and implementing substance abuse-drug awareness programs. Bob also served as a member of the Michigan Association of School Administrators [MASA] 1985 to 1987 and served as president, secretary-treasurer and served on the legislative committee.

Bob is also active in his community and is a member of the Alliance for Bay County Schools, Bay Area Chamber of Commerce legislative affairs committee, Bay Medical Center, Delta College Community advisory board, Partnership for Kids Committee, and United Way to Bay County.

Bob could not have achieved these great accomplishments without the support of his wife, Kay. As an avid golfer and member of the Saginaw-Bay Yacht Club, Bob will have many activities to keep him occupied in his retirement. He is also a member of the Bay City Players, a barber shop quartet, and is active with the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartet Singing in America.

Mr. Winters is a shining example of the ability of individuals to improve our society. He is the embodiment of the finest qualities expressed in the word "citizenship." I commend Bob for his lifelong achievements and I urge my colleagues to join me in extending him our best wishes in his retirement.

NEPTUNE HIGH SCHOOL NAVAL J.R.O.T.C. UNIT MILITARY BALL AND AWARDS CEREMONY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 16, 1996

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker on Friday, May 31, 1996, at the Waterview Pavilion in Belmar, NJ, the Neptune High School Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps unit will hold its Military Ball and Awards Ceremony.

It is with great honor that I pay tribute, on this day, to the Neptune High School Naval JROTC unit. Existing since 1977, this 4-year program is designed to teach high school students leadership and citizenship. To achieve this, the program stresses self-discipline, patriotism, and high self-esteem. All of this is practiced within the organization and administrative structure of the U.S. Navy.

The Neptune High School JROTC boasts a membership of 103 members with 47 of its members recently completing a 3-day mini-boot camp training weekend at Fort Dix, NJ. On November 20, 1995, the unit successfully completed their 1005-96 Navy area manager inspection with an overall grade of outstanding. I would like to take this opportunity to applaud these outstanding young men and women for their commitment and allegiance to the JROTC and also for their overall outstanding grade.

Mr. Speaker, this ceremony is an important event, not just for the proud members of the JROTC but for all of us. It should remind us all of the importance of citizenship and patriotism and what it means to be an American.