

I would appreciate your sharing this letter with your Board of Directors and in particular with the Board's Corporate Integrity Committee.

Sincerely,

PETE STARK,
Member of Congress.

IN HONOR OF NEW YORK STATE
ASSEMBLYMAN DENIS BUTLER
ON HIS RETIREMENT AFTER
TWENTY-FOUR YEARS IN OFFICE

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to New York State Assemblyman Denis Butler, who is retiring this year after twenty-four years of service in the New York State Assembly, where he has represented the residents of his native Queens, New York district superbly.

First elected in 1976, and reelected every year since, Assemblyman Butler has led a remarkably distinguished career in the State Assembly, where he rose to the rank of Assistant Speaker Pro Tempore in 1993. He has served as a senior member of the Assembly labor and Aging Committees, and currently serves as a member of the Rules, Analysis and Investigations, Economic Development, and Oversight Committees. He is also the Chairman of the Subcommittee on the Special Problems of the Aging as well as the Chairman of the Assembly Queens Delegation.

Assemblyman Butler has been a champion of the aging, disabled, and underprivileged, and has worked tirelessly for the working men and women of his district. With the support of the Assembly leadership, Assemblyman Butler created SCRIBE (Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption), which has helped low income seniors remain in their homes. Additionally, he was a prime sponsor of EPIC, New York's prescription drug buy plan, which has helped thousands of elderly new Yorkers pay for necessary medication.

Assemblyman Butler has also been extremely active in civic affairs and has worked alongside local community activists on a wide range of issues, from improving educational and youth programs, to strengthening the local police presence. His caring guidance and enthusiasm have truly made his neighborhood a more pleasant place to live and work. Assemblyman Butler's service in Albany has been extraordinarily beneficial to his Queens, New York constituents, and I applaud him on such an esteemed career.

Assemblyman Butler began his career in politics after completing his education, which included a significant amount of time at seminary school, and working as an account executive and sales manager in the fields of television and radio broadcasting. Throughout his years serving his community in the legislature, time and again. Assemblyman Butler has proven to be a community-driven and compassionate legislator. He is one of the original founders of the 114th Auxiliary Police Corps, the past president of St. Joseph's Home School Association, and has also served as a member of the St. Joseph's Parish Council. For twenty-eight years, Assemblyman Butler has organized the annual Toys for Tots Drive.

Assemblyman Butler has been honored by numerous organizations, among them, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2348, the Long Island Chapter Knights of Columbus, and the Federation of Italian-American organizations of Queens, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to pay tribute to such a respectable man. Assemblyman Butler has demonstrated that the work of a legislator is not only a rewarding opportunity for the person in office, but also immeasurably helpful to local communities. Assemblyman Butler has served as an enormously valuable resource and public servant to his Queens constituents and I am sure his services will be missed.

TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE
WILLIAM L. CLAY, SR.

SPEECH OF

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 27, 2000

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I stand here this evening to acknowledge the accomplishments of one, United States Representative WILLIAM CLAY, my friend and colleague.

WILLIAM CLAY, United States Representative from the 1st Congressional District of Missouri, was first elected to Congress in 1968. He has served in these hallowed chambers for 15 succeeding Congresses from 1969 through January 2001.

His commitment to public service has been lifelong. His work includes serving as Alderman in St. Louis and serving as Education Coordinator, Steamfitters Local No. 562. Mr. CLAY, throughout his business and professional life, has always been a people's fighter, championing the cause for those left out, the voiceless and the poor.

Representative CLAY, senior member, Missouri congressional delegation, currently serves as Ranking Member, House Education and Workforce Committee. He also served as Chairman, Committee on the Post Office and Civil Service in the 102d and 103d Congresses. Representative CLAY was the chief architect of H.R. 1, the Family and Medical Leave Act, a major piece of legislation. In addition, it was Representative CLAY who worked tirelessly to have the Hatch Act reform bill signed into law.

Representative CLAY's work in the areas of education, labor and workforce will stand long after he leaves Congress. His work to ensure equal access to education and to promote educational excellence are testaments to his belief in providing opportunities for all Americans. In addition, Representative CLAY has boldly stood, where many others would not, to ensure fair wages as well as safe, healthy working conditions for American workers.

In 1969, Representative CLAY and twelve other African American representatives of the 77th Congress joined together to form the "Democratic Select Committee." This committee was later renamed the Congressional Black Caucus. Founding members included Representatives WILLIAM CLAY, Shirley Chisholm, George Collins, JOHN CONYERS, Ronald Dellums, Charles Diggs, Augustus Hawkins, Ralph Metcalfe, Parren Mitchell, Robert Nix,

CHARLES RANGEL, Louis Stokes and Walter Fauntroy. Representative CLAY, through the Congressional Black Caucus, worked and dedicated himself to removing barriers and helped to mold a Nation to its higher calling for a government "of the people, for the people and by the people."

Representative CLAY has authored two books, *To Kill or Not To Kill* (published in 1990) and *Just Permanent Interests* (published in 1992). Moreover, Mr. Speaker, Representative CLAY has also founded the William L. Clay Scholarship Fund, a fund that presently enrolls fifty-six students in twenty-one different schools.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I recognize a Statesman, an educator, businessman, author, and more importantly, a father and husband to Carol Clay for 43 years. I stand today to personally thank him for his friendship, guidance, love and his long-time friendship with my predecessor, Congressman Louis Stokes. Congressman Stokes gave me the opportunity that I possess today and now I am able to bask in the sunshine too!

Mr. Speaker, I stand to recognize and to say thanks to the outstanding Representative from the 1st Congressional District of Missouri, my friend, Representative WILLIAM LACY CLAY, Sr. Mr. Speaker, America is better off . . . , this Congress is better off, . . . , the Congressional Black Caucus is better off . . . because of Representative WILLIAM LACY CLAY, Sr. I salute you and America salutes you.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2614,
CERTIFIED DEVELOPMENT COM-
PANY PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS
ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, in an effort to ensure that our nation's seniors will continue to have access to quality health care, Congress is again providing a financial infusion into our nation's Medicare program.

I want to ensure that the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) implements the provisions of this Medicare "giveback" bill in accordance with congressional intent. Section 111 of this legislation would help alleviate the high out-of-pocket payment our seniors face today in hospital outpatient departments. HCFA has previously interpreted this provision in a manner that may result in a beneficiary paying more for a procedure done on an outpatient basis than they would pay if the procedure were done on an inpatient basis. I believe this interpretation of the Balanced Budget Relief Act (BBRA) of 1999 fails to carry out congressional intent.

While I am pleased that this year's bill would gradually begin to diminish these overcharges to our seniors, HCFA should interpret Sec. 111 on a "per incident" or "per procedure" basis or seniors will not be able to fully avail themselves of the help we have tried to include for them in this bill. Under HCFA's narrow interpretation of this provision in the BBRA of 1999, seniors may be faced with paying two or more separate copays for the same procedure and would likely pay less out-

of-pocket if they had the same procedure done in an in-patient hospital. I do not believe that was Congress' intent when the beneficiary copay limitation was first enacted last year.

There is no reason seniors in my district should check into a hospital overnight for a procedure because of the exorbitant copay they would face if it were done on an outpatient basis. HCFA should revise its interpretation accordingly to include all the services provided to a beneficiary in the course of an outpatient visit as envisioned by this year's Medicare "giveback" legislation.

CARDIAC ARREST SURVIVAL ACT OF 2000

SPEECH OF

HON. TOM BLILEY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 26, 2000

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H.R. 2498, the Public Health Improvement Act of 2000. This package, referred to by many as the "minibus," is composed of a number of different, but all very worthy, proposals designed to improve our public health infrastructure.

The first title of the bill, the Public Health Threats and Emergencies Act, strengthens the nation's capacity to detect and respond to serious public health threats, including bioterrorist attacks and disease-causing microbes that are resistant to antibiotics. Few things are more important than the ability to quickly and effectively respond to outbreaks of infectious diseases and bioterrorism.

Also in the bill, thanks to the good work of the Chairman of the Health Subcommittee, Mr. BILIRAKIS, is the Twenty-First Century Research Laboratories Act. This bill responds to the fact that while our nation possesses the best research institutions in the world, the infrastructure of many of these facilities is outdated and inadequate. The bill authorizes the NIH to make grants to build, expand, remodel and renovate our nation's research facilities.

The bill contains a number of other meritorious provisions. We reform the certification process for organ procurement organizations, providing them with due process and better performance-based measures; we provide better support for our nation's clinical researchers, so that we continue to attract and retain leaders in patient-oriented research; and we require the NIH to enhance research efforts for Lupus, Alzheimer's Disease, and Sexually Transmitted Diseases.

I'd be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the hard work of my colleague, the gentleman from Florida, Mr. STEARNS, on the Cardiac Arrest Survival Act, which is critical life-saving legislation. Sudden cardiac arrest kills more than 250,000 Americans every year. Many of these lives could be saved by immediate defibrillation. In our Committee investigations, we found that counties with defibrillation programs were able to save up to 57% of cardiac arrest victims. The legislation by Mr. STEARNS would protect good Samaritans who use defibrillators to help save the lives of our fellow Americans. It also encourages widespread use of defibrillators by removing the threat of unlimited and abusive lawsuits, and by establishing guidelines for the placement of defibrillators in Federal buildings.

In conclusion, I must note the hard work that went into this bill on both sides of the aisle, and in both bodies. This bill could not have been finalized without the dedication and efforts of Senator BILL FRIST and my colleague MIKE BILIRAKIS, and they are to be saluted, as is the minority. This is a good bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 4577, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, October 29, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I support the motion to instruct on Medicare+Choice being offered by the gentleman from New Jersey.

This motion will allow Medicare+Choice organizations to offer Medicare+Choice plans under Part C of Title XVIII for a minimum contract period of three years and to maintain the benefits specified under the contract for the three years.

At the time the Medicare+Choice Program was being developed, it seemed like a revolutionary concept that would greatly expand services available under Medicare, while keeping overall costs down. Regrettably, for far too many seniors, Medicare+Choice has become a false choice and a cruel joke.

In theory, Medicare+Choice sounded like a good program. Private health maintenance organizations (HMOs) would enter into contracts with the Health Care Financing Administration to provide services to seniors who signed up for membership. These services were included in various benefit plans, the content of which varied with the premium price. The higher the premium, the more services it offered. It bears noting however, that many of the benefits packages initially came with little or no premium cost to the individual senior. Moreover, many of these plans offered extensive benefits for such little cost, including prescription drug coverage. It sounded too good to be true. As history would show, this was precisely the case.

Within the first year, many of the HMOs recognized that providing health coverage for seniors, especially prescription drug benefits, was a highly expensive matter. Once the books were balanced, it became apparent that the cost of providing these services was not being offset by the per patient reimbursement being offered by HCFA. Being creatures of profit, the various HMOs began to take one of two courses of action. They either received permission to drastically raise their premium rates, as much as 1,500 percent in some cases, or they conveyed their intent to HCFA to withdraw their services from areas which they deemed to be unprofitable, usually suburban and rural counties.

My region, the 20th Congressional District of southeastern New York has been devastated by this process. When the Medicare+Choice Program was started, there were approximately six HMOs for seniors in my district to choose from. Today, none remain in Sullivan

County, two small plans exist in Orange County and the remaining plans in Rockland and Westchester Counties have sharply raised their premiums.

This is inexcusable. Our seniors deserve to be able to sign up for a plan with the knowledge and comfort that it will not be ripped out from under them after a year's time. The current system simply presents seniors with false hopes.

The fault for this situation lies with: HCFA, for not offering reasonable floor reimbursement rates, the HMOs, for seeking unreasonably high profits above patient care, and with the Congress, for failing to attach any punitive measures to HMOs that pull out of certain counties when they arbitrarily decide they will not meet their projected profit margin.

Mr. PALLONE's motion is a good first step toward solving this problem even though it represents the bare minimum of what the Congress should do to address this crisis. Last year, the Congress sent \$1.4 billion in additional funds to HMOs so that they would remain in the Medicare+Choice Program. Yet no accountability provisions were attached. The result was further pullouts this year. The House did the same thing last week with the Balanced Budget Act (BBA) giveback legislation that was incorporated into the tax bill; additional funds for HMOs with no strings attached. I predict this latest action will meet with the same results.

For the sake of those seniors who have been left out in the cold by their Medicare+Choice providers, I urge my colleagues to vote for this motion, and restore some common sense and basic accountability to this broken program.

IN HONOR OF DR. HERBERT B. ANDERSON, PASTOR OF THE BRICK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 31, 2000

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Herbert B. Anderson, the Pastor of the Brick Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, New York, on his retirement after twenty-two years of service to the church. Dr. Anderson will be honored for his many years at the church at a Festival Service of Worship this upcoming November.

Dr. Anderson, recently confirmed to become Pastor Emeritus after his retirement, has dedicated his life to the Presbyterian Church. After graduating from Chicago's McCormick Theological Seminary in 1954, Dr. Anderson began his career as a young pastor at the First Presbyterian Church in Harrison, Arkansas. After five years in this position, he moved onto the Southminister Presbyterian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he served as pastor for eight years. He then began preaching at the First Presbyterian Church in Lake Forest, Illinois, where he remained from 1967–1978 until he moved to the Brick Presbyterian Church, where he has remained.

Throughout his many years as a pastor, Dr. Anderson has served as a member and leader of numerous religious organizations. Since 1993, Dr. Anderson has been the Chairman of