

ACCESS TO CARE PROBLEMS IN
THE MEDICARE PROGRAM**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this year, physicians and other skilled health care professionals absorbed a 5.4 percent cut in Medicare reimbursements. The cut went into effect in January, and the signs of access problems are already showing.

Since rural physicians already receive less reimbursement for services provided to Medicare patients than urban physicians, this is a critical issue.

Medicare patients in this Member's Congressional District are finding it increasingly difficult to find a physician. Some physicians will not accept patients who are 60 years old, because they are nearing Medicare-eligibility age.

Lincoln, the second largest city in Nebraska, has a population of 225,581. We have 27 internists. According to estimates, only five to seven of these internists are accepting new Medicare patients. Where are new Medicare patients supposed to go to obtain the health care services they need when these internists cannot accept any more Medicare patients? Will these Medicare patients end up in hospital emergency rooms to obtain necessary health care services? Will they go untreated?

The House passed corrective legislation already on June 28, 2002. The Senate has not acted. We cannot throw our hands up in the air, and give up. We cannot leave our senior citizens behind. We must protect our senior citizens and preserve access to physician services.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GERMAN-AMERICAN FULBRIGHT EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

HON. JOHN BOOZMAN

OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make note of the 50th Anniversary of the German-American Fulbright Educational Exchange Program.

Our former colleague, Senator J. William Fulbright, was a champion of education and cultural exchange. In 1946, Senator Fulbright passed legislation creating the Fulbright Program, an international educational exchange program.

Prior to that, the German-American Fulbright Program was created based on an agreement signed in 1952 by the US High Commissioner, John J. McCloy, and the German Chancellor, Konrad Adenauer. The German-American Fulbright Program is an educational exchange organization funded by both the German and American governments that seeks to promote academic excellence and cultural understanding between the United States and Germany through scholarly exchanges.

Since its inception, the German-American Fulbright Program has played a leading role being both the largest and most varied Ful-

bright program in the world. The year 2002 marks the 50th Anniversary of the creation of the bilateral German-American program.

I am proud that this program of peace and education stemmed from the work of Senator Fulbright, a fellow Arkansan. It has fostered not only educational exchange but symbolizes the strength of the alliance between our nations.

Mr. Speaker, Senator Fulbright best described this excellent program when he said, "The Fulbright Program aims to bring a little more knowledge, a little more reason, and a little more compassion into world affairs and thereby to increase the chance that nations will learn at last to live in peace and friendship."

I yield back the balance of my time.

IN HONOR OF ORCHARD SCHOOL OF SCIENCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Today, I rise to honor the Orchard School of Science Elementary School in Cleveland, Ohio for affording me the opportunity to visit with young students during my Third Annual Back-to-School Tour on Monday, September 23rd and Monday, September 30th of 2002. I would like to offer special thanks to Cleveland School Municipal District CEO Barbara Byrd-Bennett, Superintendent Debra Brathwaite and Principal Mary Ann Knapp for their leadership and kind hospitality. The tour was an educational experience for all who were in attendance.

Orchard School of Science Elementary School has set forth major academic goals for the year, which include fostering improvement of the safe school environment; improving the passage rate on the reading/writing, science, mathematics and citizenship portions of the Fourth Grade Proficiency Test and/or the Off-Grade Proficiency Test by 6.5 percent. Recent accomplishments from last year include all grades making improvement gains on the reading portion of the Proficiency Test and the Off-Grade Proficiency Tests; a \$12,000 teaching grant to take fifth grade students camping; and students being able to attend the Space Camp in Orlando, Florida.

I commend the Orchard School of Science Elementary School for its commitment to education and will continue to fight for increased funding to improve the quality of public education for all students.

HONORING MARY CIANCIO AND THE ADAMS COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Adams Community Mental Health Center for their outstanding service and to honor one of their earliest and staunchest supporters, Mary Ciano.

Adams Community Mental Health Center is one of the most respected mental health serv-

ice providers in the Denver-metro area. ACMHC has been providing high quality care to low income families and individuals in Adams County since 1957. They have given the gift of hope to over 115,000 members of the community. ACMHC provides counseling to people who are having a difficult time dealing with life stress. They give people the tools they need to stop hurting themselves, their families and their communities. Countless people in the community owe a huge debt of thanks to ACMHC for helping loved ones and healing families. They provide an invaluable service to the community because helping people to lead mentally healthy lives uplifts the entire community.

One person who believed this implicitly was Mary Ciano. Mary Ciano is one of the most respected citizens in Adams County history. Growing up, Mrs. Ciano had to overcome many trials and tribulations. She overcame painful family tragedies. With dignity, she fought racism as she worked tirelessly and in her always-gentle way, to overcome prejudice against Catholics, against Italian-Americans, against people with disabilities and on behalf of community service. There is little doubt that these experiences helped shape her into the strong, compassionate altruist that she became. She helped the March of Dimes, the American Cancer Society and the Colorado Easter Seals, in addition to many other organizations.

She had a special interest in helping people with mental illness. One of her top priorities was the Adams Community Mental Health Center. She was one of the Center's earliest supporters and sat on the Board of Directors for a number of years. The largest annual fund-raiser for the Center is the Mary Ciano Memorial Golf & Tennis Tournament, the Tournament raises over \$100,000 annually and was organized by her son, Don Ciano, in 1981. ACMHC has honored her importance to the Center by naming its administrative building the Mary Ciano Memorial Building.

The support of Mary Ciano was instrumental in helping to establish the Adams Community Mental Health Center. The Center has been of paramount importance to its community. The care that they have provided has given individuals hope and uplifted the community in the process. I ask my colleagues to join me today in thanking ACMHC for their good work and honoring the life of Mary Ciano. Our community is better because of them.

RECOGNIZING SENATOR FRANK MADLA'S 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great humility to honor a friend and colleague, Texas Senator Frank Madla, as he marks 30 years of dedicated service to our community as a state legislator. I had the privilege to serve with him in the Texas House of Representatives and then work with him when he moved on to the Texas Senate. Even today, Senator Madla and I continue to work together to improve the lives of our mutual constituents.

I remember when Frank Madla first won his seat in the Texas House. I had only recently

graduated from his alma mater, St. Mary's University in San Antonio, and was at the beginning of my own career. His was in full swing, a career that includes not only politics, but also teaching and providing home health services. We are fortunate that Frank Madla has dedicated so much of his life and heart to us.

Frank Madla has distinguished himself greatly these past 30 years as a leader in many areas. He has served on numerous committees, been honored by scores of organizations as "legislator of the year," and has distinguished himself as a dedicated servant of his constituents. Senator Madla has been an outspoken advocate of improving access to quality health care services, working especially hard to make sure that children have access to the care they need. He is proud of his efforts to simplify Medicaid so that more people can enroll, create incentives to encourage more health care providers to move into underserved areas, and improve the care provided in Texas' nursing homes.

Along with health care, Senator Madla has made improving education for Texas' children a top priority. With the determination for which he is known, Senator Madla successfully led the charge to bring a four-year university to the Southside of San Antonio. In the next few years, I look forward to the grand opening of the Texas A&M campus in San Antonio, making the dream of higher education available to his neighbors and constituents. Whether helping at-risk students stay in school or improving the incentives for retaining high quality teachers, Senator Madla has been there for us.

Greatness can be measured in many ways. Frank Madla has demonstrated greatness in his steadfast dedication to the people he represents, placing the future of our children at the forefront of his agenda. I look forward to many more years of working together with Senator Madla as he tackles the challenges that confront our state.

MISS AMERICA 2003 ERICKA
HAROLD

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce and congratulate Miss America 2003, Erika Harold. Raised in Urbana, Illinois, Erika has succeeded in every stage of her life and as a personal friend of her family, I know she has the support and determination to succeed in everything she puts her mind to. As the National Spokesperson for the Teen Victims Project of the National Center for Victims of Crime, the National Spokesperson for Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, a member of the National Board of Directors for the Center of Youth as Resources, and a member of the Advisory Board for Peace Games, Erika's leadership and determination have proven invaluable in her ambition to end crime and violence against children. The amount of pride our community and I feel right now is immense in knowing that Erika has been crowned Miss America 2003 and I cannot think of a more deserving person to carry this honor and be a role model for every citizen; female and male, young and old. Erika has

most recently attended the University of Illinois where she was named Phi Beta Kappa and a Truman Scholarship finalist. Her ambition of pursuing a career in the fields of Public Interest Law and Public Policy was given a huge boost when she was recently accepted into the Harvard School of Law. However, as a result of her new endeavor as Miss America, Erika will place her education on hold for a year and pursue her duties as Miss America and her goal to "Empower Youth Against Violence". Erika recently wrote in a letter to USA Today, "As Miss America 2003, I am issuing a national call to action, challenging every segment of American society to take a proactive, comprehensive approach to eradicating this culture of degradation and indifference". I not only ask for you, my colleagues, to take this time to congratulate Erika, but I call you to stand hand in hand with her, supporting her, working with her, and finding inspiration in her, as we continue to move this country forward until our nation is truly and completely one of hope, peace, and unity. Let us take heed in the lessons we can learn from her and so many other of our citizens; that we should live our daily lives with a strong will, a loving heart, and a fearlessness to change that which we know is wrong.

INTRODUCING AIRLINE WORKER RELIEF ACT

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 16, 2002

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today I and 28 of my colleagues from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee have introduced the "Airline Worker Relief Act," legislation to deal with inequities in our treatment of companies in the aviation industry, on the one hand, and their employees on the other. While we have given \$15 billion of financial assistance to the aviation industry to help them recover from the impact of September 11, we have not given any relief to industry workers who lost their jobs as a result of September 11. Now legislation is being developed to help the aviation industry to weather the difficulties it will face if there is a war with Iraq. Regrettably, the bills which have been developed do not include relief for displaced aviation industry workers. My bill will establish a framework for providing this relief.

Although the events of September 11 had effects throughout our economy, the effects on the aviation industry were direct and far-reaching. The airlines were totally grounded for several days and realized no revenues while incurring hundreds of millions of dollars in expenses. Even after the industry resumed flying, passenger traffic was slow to recover because of public anxiety over security. The events of 9/11 have also added to the industry's expenses, including a billion dollars a year in increased insurance costs, and loss of substantial revenues because of security limitations on the carriage of freight and mail. A coming war with Iraq is also likely to have a significant impact on the industry, including increased fuel costs, loss of revenue from the reluctance of passengers to fly, and from need of our military to use the airlines' aircraft to carry troops and equipment to the war zone.

Shortly after September 11, Congress responded to the aviation industry's financial problems by passing a \$15 billion package of direct assistance and loans. More recently, legislation has been reported by the Aviation Subcommittee of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure to provide airlines with low cost war risk insurance from the federal government, enhanced opportunities to carry freight and mail, and loan guarantees to assist the carriers in coping with any major increases in fuel costs resulting from a war with Iraq.

While I have supported these efforts to aid the industry for the problems created by terrorism and war, I and many of my colleagues are deeply disappointed that there has not been the same fair treatment of aviation industry employees who have also suffered from terrorism and war.

Aviation industry workers, including employees of airlines, aircraft manufacturers and suppliers, and airports, have suffered unprecedented job loss and economic uncertainty. Some 100,000 airline employees are out of work or facing imminent lay-off. Another 30,000 Boeing workers have been laid-off, along with 51,000 additional aerospace employees. And with bankruptcies looming large, the staggering job losses may grow.

The issue of aiding aviation employees is not new. When we passed the \$15 billion assistance bill soon after September 11, I, and many of my colleagues, insisted that if the airline companies were to be afforded relief, so should employees who had lost their jobs. The Republican leadership told us that there was no time to develop a consensus proposal on employee relief, but on the House floor, Speaker HASTERT promised prompt consideration of employee relief, including financial assistance, ability to retain health insurance, and training for new careers. Regrettably, the leadership has not followed through, and the House has never considered assistance for displaced airline employees.

Mr. Speaker, if the airline industry is entitled to special relief because it has suffered disproportionately from terrorism and war, its displaced workers are equally deserving of relief. My bill will help to redress the imbalance, and help the industry's employees cope with difficulties arising from events outside their control.

My bill provides unemployment benefits, training, job search assistance, and healthcare assistance for airline workers displaced from their jobs as a result of reductions service by air carriers and closures of airports caused by the terrorist attack on September 11, 2001, security measures taken in response to the attacks, or a military conflict with Iraq authorized by the Congress. Benefits would be extended to employees of airlines, airports, commercial aircraft manufacturers and airline suppliers.

To summarize the benefits in greater detail: *Unemployment Benefits:* This bill would extend the Temporary Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of March 2002 and provide an additional 13 weeks of benefits for eligible aviation workers who have already exhausted their initial 13 weeks of benefits.

Training: In the present economy, many laid off aviation workers will be unable to return to the industry in which they are employed. Under my bill, individuals who would not be expected to return to their jobs within the aviation industry would be eligible for retraining