

more Americans will be denied their basic right to health care. The Catholic Health Association represents facilities across this country that provide a safety net for uninsured and underinsured citizens in need of medical care. Led by the Reverend Michael D. Place, its president and chief executive officer, CHA is working actively to increase awareness of this crisis. I urge all my colleagues to heed their timely call to action.

[From the Baltimore Sun, Feb. 19, 2002]

RESCUE THE UNINSURED FROM SEA OF UNCERTAINTY

(By Michael D. Place)

WASHINGTON.—In Manchester, N.H., a 6-year-old girl arrives at Catholic Medical Center unable to eat for several days because of medical complications from dental pain.

Why the wait? The little girl's family did not have health insurance.

This child, and so many others across the country, represent the crisis of vulnerability endured by 38 million Americans without any health insurance.

While the girl in Manchester was fortunate enough to live in proximity to a Catholic health facility with high quality emergency care, there are 22 million Americans who live in rural areas that the federal government calls "health profession shortage areas."

Many of these citizens are without health insurance and without access to medical care of any kind. They are at the apex of this health care crisis of vulnerability.

As we struggle to cope with burgeoning numbers of uninsured across the country, rural areas highlight a disturbing trend of funding "drift"—a drift away from subsidized health care coverage for the poor, the unemployed and the disabled.

Rural hospitals were hit hard by the Balanced Budget Act of 1997. It has been estimated that of the \$118 billion that the law directed to be cut over five years, \$16.8 billion was cut from Medicare funds intended for rural areas. Legislation in the past two years has restored only about \$3.8 billion of this money.

For skeptics who believe that rural health care may not be as vital as has been reported, a quick look at a sample state's mortality statistics may be convincing.

In Illinois, rural death rates from all causes from 1992 to 1996 were 1,106.7 deaths for every 100,000 people. This figure compares with 853.8 deaths in Illinois' urban areas.

Sadly, the rural patient base tends to be older, poorer and less medically privileged. For such patients, the small rural hospital is indeed a lifeline in need of preservation.

Whether in rural or urban areas, our cities have no shortage of uninsured and desperate families. In Des Moines, Iowa, a single Catholic hospital—Mercy Medical Center—operates a free clinic through its House of Mercy program. More than 600 people a month come in without insurance, many with acute illness.

In the South Bronx, the Dominican Sisters Family Health Services is a safety net provider in what has been designated the nation's poorest congressional district. Hospital admission rates in that community for children with asthma and pneumonia—conditions that can be prevented with adequate primary care—are five to seven times the rates in more affluent areas of New York City.

Emergency access to basic health care is a stopgap. The emergency room or free clinic is not a substitute for health insurance coverage for access to the same health-care services enjoyed by the more privileged in our society.

And such access is critical not only to ensuring quality of life but also term of life.

The heart or cancer patient, treated early and with our best tools, can be offered a much different prospect than the critical care patient who arrives without benefit of early therapy.

During this congressional legislative session, it is increasingly important that we tackle the health care needs of our nation's uninsured. When Congress failed to adopt an economic stimulus package in February, the growing numbers of the recently unemployed and uninsured were dealt a dose of legislative paralysis.

Added to the diminishing set-asides for the "permanent" uninsured, the health care outlook for our nation's poor, uninsured, and under-served population is truly bleak.

We must and can do better.

American society must ensure that each person has access to affordable health care. At a crossroads moment, let us engage in a new national conversation on systemic health care reform, a dialogue from Main Street to Pennsylvania Avenue.

It is time for our nation's public and private leadership, health care providers and faith-based groups to come together and to join all Americans in a search for real and meaningful solutions to this health care challenge.

CONGRATULATING REVEREND BOBBY RAY MORRIS

HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2002

Mr. GRAVES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Reverend Bobby Ray Morris of Lawson, Missouri. Reverend Morris has been the pastor of the Lawson Assembly of God Church for the past 42 years, providing spiritual leadership to generations of Missourians.

In addition to caring for his congregation, Reverend Morris is a positive influence on the community of Lawson. During his distinguished tenure, 25 individuals became pastors, youth leaders, and missionaries. The dedication and guidance of Reverend Morris enabled these individuals to answer their calls to the ministry.

This well-loved and respected man of God is retiring on March 16. Although the Reverend will relinquish his role as leader of the Lawson Assembly of God Church, he will remain a spiritual leader in the community and continue to guide and inspire future generations. Please join me in honoring Reverend Bobby Ray Morris for his life of service to the community of Lawson.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2002

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote number 46 on H. Con. Res. 305 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes".

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2002

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I had to travel to my Congressional District for an important event on February 28, 2002. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall 46.

HONORING ABRAHAM FROST

HON. PETER DEUTSCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2002

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the memory of Abraham Frost, who came to this country from Poland in 1912. Mr. Frost was an individual who was constantly in awe of everything he saw in the United States. For his entire life, he had a deep appreciation for the opportunities this great nation provided to him, and truly enjoyed his work and time spent raising his family. Mr. Frost marveled at the development of modern conveniences such as automobiles and airplanes. He was truly captivated with the possibility of realizing the American Dream. Abraham Frost died in 1976 in Miami Beach, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, the accomplishments of Abraham Frost are a testament to his dedication and his passion for life. He leaves a lasting legacy for both his family and friends.

HUNTING MADE EASY

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2002

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I encourage you to read the Time Magazine article entitled "Hunting Made Easy" which describes the "slaughter" of "captive animals to mount their heads on a wall."

It is a very disturbing article which also raises the question, "Should Congress step in?" The answer is a resounding yes. You can step in by cosponsoring H.R. 3464, the "Captive Exotic Animal Protection Act of 2001", a bill to combat the unfair and inhumane practice of "canned hunting." Even hunters are objecting to this gruesome practice.

HUNTING MADE EASY

(By Jeffrey Kluger)

The exotic Corsican ram trotting about the 100-yard-long pen in central Pennsylvania paid little mind to the men approaching across the field. People were always walking in and out of the pen, as often as not with food for the flock. So the ram didn't resist when the men drove all the animals toward one end of the enclosure. It was only when the first arrow—fired from just yards away—struck it in the haunch that it realized something was up. The ram hobbled off and was struck by a second arrow, then a third. It stood for a moment staring beyond the fence line and then settled onto its haunches, bleeding. A gunshot to the abdomen finished it off—preserving its head as a trophy.

It has never been easy being an animal at the business end of a hunt, but these days it's hard being the hunter too. Dwindling ranges and herds make the ancient business of stalking prey an increasingly difficult proposition. The answer for many Americans is to shift their shooting grounds from the wild to one of the country's growing number of hunting preserves.

By almost any measure, hunting preserves are enjoying a boom. Up to 2,000 may exist in the U.S., with 500 in Texas alone. Many advertise on the Internet and in hunting magazines, and all offer the same thing: the chance to bag a trophy, with none of the uncertainty of hunting in the wild. "No kill, no pay" is the promise many make.

Of course, making good on that guarantee requires bending the prey-and-predator rules. Animals at some preserves are so accustomed to humans that they wander into range at the sound of a rattling feed bucket. Elsewhere they're confined to small patches of woods where they can't elude hunters for long. At others they may never even make it out of their cages before being shot.

Most troubling, it's not just prolific-as-rabbits deer and other common prey that are being killed in such canned hunts, as they're sometimes called; it's rarer creatures too. All manner of exotics—including the Arabian oryx, the Nubian ibex, yaks, impalas and even the odd rhino, zebra or tiger—are being conscripted into the canned-hunt game and offered to sportsmen for "trophy fees" of up to \$20,000.

Not surprisingly, these hunts have their critics. A handful of states ban or restrict the practice, and a pair of bills are pending in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives to prohibit the interstate sale of exotic animals for hunts. Supporters of the hunts object, arguing that exotics are bred in sufficient numbers to support the industry and that many surplus zoo animals could not survive in the wild anyway. Even to some outdoorsmen, however, canned hunts are beginning to look like no hunt at all. "I started hunting when I was 7 and didn't kill my first deer until I was 16," says Perry Arnold, 52, of Lake City, Fla. "What they got going on now, that ain't hunting. That's a slaughter."

A slaughter is precisely the way canned-hunt foes frame the practice, and the killing of the Corsican ram is not the only horror they point to. The Humane Society of the United States tells stories of its own: the declawed black leopard that was released from a crate, chased by dogs and shot as it hid under a truck; the domesticated tiger that lounged under a tree and watched a hunter approach, only to be shot as it sat. "Canned hunts are an embarrassment," says California Representative Sam Farr, sponsor of the House bill.

What makes the problem hard to police is the sheer number of exotic animals for sale. There are about 2,500 licensed animal exhibitors in the U.S., and only 200 of them belong to the American Zoo and Aquarium Association, which condemns the sale of exotics to hunting ranches. Even unaffiliated zoos might be reluctant to wade into the canned-hunt market, but many do so unknowingly, selling overflow animals—often products of too successful captive-breeding programs—to middlemen, who pass them into less legitimate hands. The crowding that can result on the ranches leads to animals' being killed not just by hunters but also by diseases that occur in dense populations.

If zoos have trouble keeping track of exotic animals, Washington doesn't even try. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service can intervene only if animals are federally protected or if the hunt violates a state law and interstate commerce is involved. Since many cases don't meet those criteria, the animals are essentially orphaned by the feds.

Still, not all hunts on preserves provoke an outcry. Many ranch owners keep exotic animals out of their collections or conduct hunts on grounds that give prey a sporting chance. The Selah Ranch in Austin, Texas, is a 5,500-acre spread covered by Spanish dagger and prickly pear, often with no sign of the elusive animals that live there. "There are a lot of exotic animals on this place that die of old age," says Mike Gardner, owner of San Miguel Hunting Ranches, which runs Selah.

Here too, however, the odds can be stacked in the hunters' favor. Deer are often lured to feeding stations, where they are serenely unaware of the men in the stilt-mounted tin shack 75 yards away. Such lying in wait—or "shooting over bait"—is legal in Texas and defended by hunters. "It promotes a clean kill," says Gardner. Other sportsmen are troubled by the practice. Stan Rauch of the Montana Bowhunters Association believes that fed animals are tame animals and should thus be off limits. "Animals become habituated to people when they depend on us for food," he says.

Even preserves with no baited killings and lots of room to roam may be less of a square deal than they seem. "If a ranch advertises itself as having 3,500 acres, you need to know if that space is open or broken down into pens and whether there's protective cover or the ground is clear," says Richard Farinato, director of the Humane Society's captive-wildlife protection program.

Concerns such as these are promoting governments to act. More states are being pressed to ban or restrict hunting in enclosures. The House bill, which parallels one introduced in the Senate by Delaware's Joseph Biden, would not drop the hammer on the hunts but would give Washington a way to control the animal traffic.

But the new laws could come at a price. In Texas alone, the hunt industry brings in \$1 billion a year; a crackdown could hurt both good ranches and bad. "Cattle prices have stayed the same for 40 years," says Gardner. "To hold on to acreage, you've got to have other sources of income." Safari Club International is worried that since hunting areas are so different, it may be impossible to pass a law that covers them all. "There's no standard to say what is and what isn't fair," says club spokesman Jim Brown. "You know it when you see it."

But there may be a deeper standard than that. If the hunting impulse is as old as humanity, so is the sense of what it truly means to chase and bag an animal. Nature may have intended humans to hunt, but whether it meant to toss ranches, pens and feeding stations into the mix is a question hunters must ask themselves.

YOUNG PEACEBUILDERS ACT OF 2002

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2002

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Young Peacebuilders Act of 2002, a bill intended to help young people from regions of conflict around the world learn about conflict resolution, communication, and leadership. The legislation aims to get at one of the root causes of terrorism by enabling young people to interact with each other and gain a greater understanding of their cultures and their differences.

The goal of the Young Peacebuilders Act is to help international youth learn the value of

working together to solve problems, break down barriers and mistrust, and avoid the cultural misunderstandings that have plagued their parents' generation. My hope is that the program this bill would establish can be part of a solution that will prevent another September 11 from ever happening again.

The bill would establish a program in the State Department for youth from regions of conflict around the world. The program would provide for visits in the United States of 90 days or less for training in conflict resolution and mutual understanding. Non-profit organizations and other organizations as determined by the Secretary of State would provide training, with the State Department working in conjunction with the Attorney General to establish criteria for eligibility.

With this program, Americans would have another opportunity to respond to President Bush's call for national and community service. I believe that groups like Seeds of Peace and Outward Bound, where I was an educator and director in Colorado for 20 years, could be vehicles for developing leaders of tomorrow and stewards of peace.

At the Colorado Outward Bound School, I saw first-hand how young people developed strong character and leadership skills by working in the outdoors. Our young people are our greatest resource and our future. Building peace requires an investment in new generations of young people around the world. In light of the violence and turmoil in the Middle East and the September 11 attacks, it is clear that this modest investment has never been so timely or needed more urgently.

I look forward to working with my colleagues in the House to move forward with this important initiative, and I am attaching a fact sheet on this bill.

A TRIBUTE TO JODI J. SCHWARTZ

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 5, 2002

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in tribute to Jodi J. Schwartz, who will be honored on Thursday, March 14, by Kolot: The Center for Jewish Women's and Gender Studies. Jodi's kindness and generosity have made her a dear friend. Her extraordinary ability, inexhaustible devotion, and charismatic personality have made her a leader in the Jewish community.

A partner at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen and Katz, Jodi still finds time to serve in a leadership capacity for a host of diverse community organizations, including the Jewish Agency for Israel; American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee; the Commission on the Jewish People, a New York UJA-Federation group dealing with the unity and diversity of the Jewish people; Israel Policy Forum; United Jewish Communities; Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services; Jewish Community Relations Council; and the Jewish Council for Public Affairs.

Jodi's appreciation for Jewish causes surfaced while first visiting Israel in the late 1980's with the Young Leadership Cabinet of the United Jewish Appeal. During her fellowship at the Wexner Heritage Foundation in 1990-91, she gained a more robust appreciation for Jewish philosophy and principles. Jodi