

STATEMENT SIGNATORIES—Continued

| Name | City and state | Population |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------|
| Carl Amento | Hamden, CT | 57,581 |
| John DeStefano | New Haven, CT | 123,626 |
| Dannel P. Malloy | Stamford, CT | 117,083 |
| Michael Jarjura | Waterbury, CT | 107,271 |
| Michael Paulhus | Windham, CT | 22,857 |
| Rocky Randels | Cape Canaveral, FL | 8,829 |
| Jeff Perlman | Delray Beach, FL | 60,020 |
| Thomas Bussing | Gainesville, FL | 95,447 |
| Joy Cooper | Hallandale, FL | 34,282 |
| Mara Giuliani | Hollywood, FL | 139,357 |
| James Weekley | Key West, FL | 25,478 |
| Gary Frankel | North Lauderdale, FL | 32,264 |
| John Marks | Tallahassee, FL | 150,624 |
| Shirley Clarke Franklin | Atlanta, GA | 4,112,646 |
| Patsy Jo Hillard | East Point, GA | 39,595 |
| Jeremy Harris | Honolulu, HI | 395,327 |
| Arlene Mulder | Arlington Heights, IL | 76,031 |
| Lorraine Morton | Evanston, IL | 74,239 |
| Ralph W. Conner | Maywood, IL | 26,987 |
| Scott King | Gary, IN | 631,362 |
| Chuck Oberlie | Michigan City, IN | 32,900 |
| Jerry E. Abramson | Louisville, KY | 693,604 |
| Keith Villere | Covington, LA | 8,483 |
| C. Ray Nagin | New Orleans, LA | 484,674 |
| Thomas Menino | Boston, MA | 589,141 |
| John Yunits | Brockton, MA | 94,304 |
| Michael Sullivan | Cambridge, MA | 101,355 |
| Michael McGlynn | Medford, MA | 55,765 |
| David Cohen | Newton, MA | 83,829 |
| Kelly Gay | Somerville, MA | 77,478 |
| John Madden | Williamstown, MA | 8,424 |
| Bryan K. Knedler | Mount Rainier, MD | 8,498 |
| Kathy Porter | Takoma Park, MD | 17,299 |
| Michael Hurley | Belfast, ME | 6,381 |
| Jim Cloutier | Portland, ME | 64,249 |
| Ivan Fende | Chocoma, MI | 7,148 |
| May Hamman-Roland | Apple Valley, MN | 45,527 |
| Elizabeth Klautz | Burnsville, MN | 60,220 |
| James Jadin | Dayton, MN | 4,699 |
| Gary Doty | Duluth, MN | 86,228 |
| Jeff Kagermeier | Mankato, MN | 32,427 |
| R.T. Rybak | Minneapolis, MN | 353,395 |
| Karen Anderson | Minnetonka, MN | 51,301 |
| Carol Wilcox | Morris, MN | 5,068 |
| Ardele Brede | Rochester, MN | 85,806 |
| Carolyn Gentilini | Virginia, MN | 9,157 |
| Harvey Johnson | Jackson, MS | 184,256 |
| Mike Kadas | Missoula, MT | 57,053 |
| Charles R. Worley | Asheville, NC | 68,889 |
| Michael Nelson | Carrollton, NC | 16,782 |
| Kevin Foy | Chapel Hill, NC | 48,715 |
| William V. Bell | Durham, NC | 187,035 |
| Michael Fahay | Omaha, NE | 399,357 |
| Michael Blastos | Keene, NH | 22,563 |
| Walter Hoernan | Rochester, NH | 26,461 |
| Joseph Doria, Jr. | Bayonne, NJ | 61,842 |
| Joseph Scarpelli | East Orange, NJ | 76,119 |
| Robert Bowser | Fair Lawn, NJ | 69,824 |
| David L. Ganz | Kearny, NJ | 31,637 |
| Alberto Santos | Maplewood, NJ | 40,513 |
| Victor de Luca | Montgomery Twp, NJ | 23,868 |
| Louise Wilson | Newark, NJ | 17,481 |
| Sharpe James | Trenton, NJ | 273,546 |
| Douglas Palmer | Albuquerque, NM | 85,403 |
| Martin Chavez | Las Vegas, NV | 448,607 |
| Oscar Goodman | Buffalo, NY | 1,563,282 |
| Anthony Masiello | Hempstead, NY | 292,648 |
| James Garner | Ithaca, NY | 56,554 |
| Alan J. Cohen | Lake George Village, NY | 29,287 |
| Robert Blais | Mount Vernon, NY | 985 |
| Ernest Davis | Niagara Falls, NY | 68,381 |
| Irene Elia | Rochester, NY | 55,593 |
| William Johnson | Saratoga Springs, NY | 1,098,201 |
| Ken Klotz | Syracuse, NY | 26,186 |
| Matthew Driscoll | Akron, OH | 147,306 |
| Donald Plusquellic | Garfield Heights, OH | 694,960 |
| Thomas Longo | Toledo, OH | 30,734 |
| Jack Ford | Ashland, OR | 313,619 |
| Alan DeBoer | Corvallis, OR | 19,522 |
| Helen Berg | Portland, OR | 49,322 |
| Vera Katz | Harrisburg, PA | 529,121 |
| Stephen Reed | Providence, RI | 48,950 |
| David Cicilline | Charleston, SC | 173,618 |
| Joseph P. Riley, Jr. | Austin, TX | 96,650 |
| Gus Garcia | Dallas, TX | 656,562 |
| Laura Miller | Denton, TX | 3,519,176 |
| Euline Brock | Fort Worth, TX | 80,537 |
| Mike Moncrief | Houston, TX | 502,369 |
| Lee Brown | Kingsville, TX | 4,177,646 |
| Filemon Esquivel, Jr. | San Antonio, TX | 25,575 |
| Ed Garza | San Marcos, TX | 1,144,646 |
| Robert Habingreither | Salt Lake City, UT | 661,890 |
| Rocky Anderson | Chesapeake, VA | 181,743 |
| William Ward | Edinburg, VA | 199,184 |
| Daniel Harshman | Virginia Beach, VA | 813 |
| Meyera Obendorf | Bellingham, WA | 433,461 |
| Peter Clavelle | Bellingham, WA | 38,889 |
| Mark Asmundson | LaConner, WA | 67,171 |
| Don Wright | Mount Vernon, WA | 761 |
| Skye Richendfer | Oak Harbor, WA | 26,232 |
| Patricia Cohen | Olympia, WA | 19,795 |
| Stan Biles | Redmond, WA | 42,514 |
| Rosemarie Ives | Seattle, WA | 45,256 |
| Greg Nickels | Spokane, WA | 563,374 |
| John Powers | Tacoma, WA | 195,629 |
| Bill Baarsma | La Crosse, WI | 193,556 |
| John D. Medinger | Madison, WI | 51,818 |
| Dave Cieslewicz | Milwaukee, WI | 208,054 |
| John Norquist | Wauwatosa, WI | 596,974 |
| Theresa Estness | Wauwatosa, WI | 47,271 |
| Gerald Bach | Wisconsin Rapids, WI | 18,435 |

STATEMENT SIGNATORIES—Continued

| Name | City and state | Population |
|------|----------------|------------|
| | | 46,722,006 |

¹ Initial signatories.

RECOGNIZING THE MANY ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE HAMMOND COUNCIL PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2004

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great honor and pleasure that I stand before you today to recognize the many accomplishments of the Hammond Council Parent Teacher Association (PTA) as it celebrates the PTA's 2004 Founders' Day. This very important occasion will be celebrated on Friday, February 13, 2004 at the Dynasty Banquet Hall in Hammond, Indiana.

The National PTA was founded in 1897 by Ms. Alice McLellan Birney and Ms. Phoebe Apperson Hearst. In 1970, the National Congress of Colored Parents, which was founded by Ms. Selena Sloan Butler, joined the National PTA. Due to the vision and determination of these women, the organization has taken the lead in promoting the welfare of children throughout the country.

The Hammond Council PTA was chartered on April 30, 1945 as a member of the Indiana PTA and the National PTA. Being a member of the state as well as national PTA, the Hammond Council has provided continuous support and resources to local families which focus on the health and education of children. The Hammond Council has continued the legacy of the PTA's founders through many projects such as Hammond's Survive Alive Program which has developed and saved the lives of many students and their families.

Each year, the Hammond Council also recognizes the top ten students from the four Hammond high schools through a special scholarship program. The recipients are honored in partnership with the School City of Hammond and the Hammond Rotary Club. Along with their leadership in their local community, members from the Hammond Council have also gone on to serve as officers for the Indiana PTA. Some of the local leaders include, past President Ms. Beverly Zawadski, the current President Ms. Marilyn Jones, the President Elect Ms. Dee Jones, and the Secretary Ms. Pat Taylor.

Each year in February, the PTA celebrates Founders' Day to recognize the accomplishments and dedication of teachers, volunteers, administrators, and community leaders who have made a positive impact on their community. During the celebration on Friday, February 13, the Hammond Council PTA will announce its 2004 winners of the 15th Volunteer of the Year Award, the Outstanding Local Unit Award, and the Membership and National PTA Lifetime Achievement Awards.

Mr. Speaker, as this time, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring and congratulating the Hammond Council PTA and all its members as they celebrate the 2004 Founders' Day. Their many great accomplishments and service to the chil-

dren of the Hammond community, as well as throughout the state, is worthy of the highest commendation.

TRIBUTE TO ELROY "CRAZYLEGS" HIRSCH

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2004

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the great life of Elroy "Crazylegs" Hirsch. On January 28, 2004, Wisconsin lost a true state icon, but Crazylegs leaves his rich legacy in the hearts of all Wisconsinites.

Elroy Hirsch was born in Wausau, WI and grew into an incredible high school athlete while playing football and basketball at Wausau High School. He was such an accomplished high school player that in 1998 he was inducted into the National High School Hall of Fame.

After high school, he became a standout halfback for the University of Wisconsin Badgers during the 1942 season. The Badgers finished the 1942 season 8–1–1 and were ranked third nationally by the AP. Hirsch was key to the 1942 victory over top-ranked Ohio State by throwing one touchdown pass and recording more than 200 total offensive yards. It was during this season that he earned the name "Crazylegs" after a reporter wrote that "his crazy legs were gyrating in six different directions all at the same time."

Due to his assignment with the United States Marine Corps, Hirsch continued his collegiate athletic career with the University of Michigan, and went on to play professionally for the Chicago Rockets from 1946–1948 and then with the Los Angeles Rams from 1949–1957. After a record setting career with the NFL, he was named to the NFL's All-Time All-Star team.

Following his time as General Manager with the Los Angeles Rams, Hirsch returned to Wisconsin and the university where he started his collegiate athletic career. When he arrived as Athletic Director, the Badgers' athletic program was struggling. He was committed and successful in turning around the athletic program in his 18-year role at the University of Wisconsin. During the years following his retirement, Hirsch was the Wisconsin Badgers biggest fan.

Despite living in various communities across the United States during his accomplished career, it was evident that his home was truly with the people of Wisconsin and Wisconsin athletics, as with every autograph he signed "always a Badger."

INTRODUCTION OF THE LONG TERM CARE HOSPITAL MORATORIUM ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2004

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Long Term Care Hospital Moratorium Act. This bill places a moratorium on the

growth of costly Medicare Long Term Care Hospital (LTCH) beds until enough information is available to determine whether continued growth is required to meet the needs of our seniors and people with disabilities.

The number of these facilities has increased substantially from 109 to 300 in the past decade and Medicare expenditures directed to these facilities have grown from \$398 million in 1993 to an anticipated \$2.3 billion in 2005. The recent 275% increase in facilities and over 500% increase in Medicare expenditures are dramatic. It is time for Congress to question whether this rapid growth reflects a true increase in clinical need or just a means to game robust profits from Medicare.

LTCHs are one of four types of post-acute settings that are reimbursed under Medicare. Patients in these facilities have medically complex conditions that include ventilator dependency, multiple medical system failures, complicated infectious conditions, wound care and post-surgical recuperation. These patients generally have stays in these facilities of 25 days or more. Currently, only 1 percent of Medicare beneficiaries discharged from acute hospitals are transferred to LTCHs. These facilities are the most expensive on average of all the post-acute alternatives with a base rate cost per patient episode being \$35,700.

The growth in the long term care hospital sector is being fueled by large for-profit companies that are reporting significant revenue increases and robust profit margins. Their margins are significantly higher than those for acute hospitals and skilled nursing facilities. Wall Street recognition of the industry's positive financial outlook is likely related to the 300 percent increase that has been posted this year in the stocks of these publicly-traded companies.

Recent data from the non-partisan Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) suggests that there may also be substantial overlap between the types of patients being treated in LTCHs and skilled nursing facilities; despite LTCHs costing 4–5 times more. The potential for LTCHs to substitute for less costly skilled nursing facilities is exacerbated by the fact that there is currently no clinical patient admission criteria under Medicare for LTCHs.

A review of the LTCH Medicare provider network raises a number important public policy questions. These questions include:

Is there evidence of clinical need to support the rapid growth in LTCH facilities?

Is the current Medicare payment system inappropriate or is the reimbursement amount excessive for LTCH services?

Are LTCHs and skilled nursing facilities clinical substitutes? If so, are there clinical criteria that can be developed to determine which patients require LTCHs vs. skilled nursing facilities?

This legislation simply places a moratorium on the future growth of this provider network category until these questions are answered. The Secretary of Health and Human Services may terminate this moratorium upon obtaining adequate information to address these questions and implementing any required changes to the Medicare payment system for these services. The Secretary is also required to submit a report to Congress at least one month prior to terminating the moratorium specifying the rationale and evidence supporting the termination.

It is appropriate for Congress, who is responsible for providing fiscal oversight of

Medicare, to enact this legislation. Both MedPAC and the Health and Human Services' Office of the Inspector General are already investigating aspects of these issues. The LTCH and skilled nursing home industries, patient advocacy groups and other relevant sources can offer additional data. Using the data obtained during this moratorium, the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Congress can make an informed decision on what interventions are necessary within the LTCH industry to both ensure beneficiaries are receiving the treatment they require and that Medicare funds are being prudently spent.

U.S. NEEDS SPACE BASED MISSILE DEFENSE

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 10, 2004

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, today I submit the following article from *Vital Speeches* into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. "U.S. Needs Space-Based Missile Defense" is a speech given by my highly respected predecessor, Representative Bob Schaffer.

[From *Vital Speeches*, Oct. 15, 2003]

U.S. NEEDS SPACE-BASED MISSILE DEFENSE
ADDRESS BY BOB SCHAFFER, FORMER U.S. CONGRESSMAN FROM COLORADO, DELIVERED TO THE COUNCIL FOR NATIONAL POLICY, COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO, SEPTEMBER 26, 2003

Thank you, Ambassador Cooper. Good afternoon ladies and gentlemen. I have been a long-time admirer of Ambassador Hank Cooper since before I went to Congress in 1996. As a Member of Congress, I relied on the Ambassador's judgment and vision for guidance when considering questions of America's defense against those who would threaten our liberty.

The district I represented, up until January of this year, in Congress was essentially the entire eastern half of Colorado—very rural. Consequently, the committees to which I was assigned in Congress had to do with agriculture, natural resources and education. I served on no committees that had direct involvement with national defense, foreign affairs or military preparedness.

But as one who represented a constituency of broad interests, I endeavored to learn as much as I could about national defense. And the more I learned about the very real threat America faces with respect to long-range missile attack, the more I became convinced that there are not enough leaders in Congress paying attention to this vital national security concern.

As Ambassador Cooper mentioned, my interest led me around the world meeting with parliamentarians and defense leaders of other nations. I made eight trips to Russia, as many to Ukraine, and others to Asia, Central Asia, and Europe.

Since September 11th, America has been focused on combating terrorism in Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere. We have been reorienting our national defense to address the weakness exploited by the terrorists who killed Americans on American soil, and toward protecting Americans abroad from similar potential attacks. This, of course, is necessary and exactly what we should be doing.

America is not focused enough on conventional threats.

Let me explain my concern for national security through an analogy of home security.

As homeowners, we put the toughest lock, where, on the front door, right? Well, the burglars have figured out how to get in through the windows. In response, we are now fortifying our windows, doubling them up, and locking down the smaller points of access. This makes perfect sense.

However, my friends, we are leaving the front door wide open to conventional attack from potential threats far more sophisticated and direct than the terrorists of rogue nations. We can't forget that countries like China still maintain arsenals of long-range ballistic missiles targeted at American cities like the one we're in right now. From their current launch sites, these missiles are just a half-an-hour away from their American targets. Once launched, we have no defense against them.

Good leadership is essential.

As a suggestion, I was asked to speak on what it will take for us to build the effective defenses we need, to defend us from the increasing threat and proliferation of ballistic missiles of all types, whether short-range, intermediate-range, and long-range, capable of attacking our homes and cities.

Two words will do. Good leadership.

In one way, the current Bush administration has displayed good leadership in its missile defense program. It has exerted the will to deploy a missile defense as seen in its decisions to withdraw from the 1972 ABM Treaty, deploy a National Missile Defense system, and increase funding.

As a result of President Bush's leadership, the 1972 ABM Treaty resides in the dustbin of history. As a result of President Bush's leadership, the United States stands on the verge of deploying a National Missile Defense system, which is expected to reach initial operation in the next few years.

It may be helpful to review some highlights of the National Missile Defense program, if only to point how Americans not only have the desire to defend themselves from ballistic missile attack, they also have the commitment and ability to build a defense.

Highlights include how:

In early September Northrop Grumman submitted a bid to compete for the Missile Defense Agency's Targets and Countermeasures prime integration program, valued at more than \$1 billion for an initial four-year program. The Bush administration takes the issue of mid-course-phase decoys and countermeasures seriously.

In August this year, progress was reported on the construction of a \$900 million sea-based X-band radar, which will be home ported at Adak, Alaska, in the Aleutian Islands superceding earlier plans to build a ground-based Xband radar on Shemya Island, also in the Aleutians.

This sea-based X-band radar will be self-propelled, using a semi-submersible oilrig being modified at shipyards in Brownsville and Corpus Christi. The radar will weigh 50,000 tons and be 390 feet long and 250 feet high. Scheduled to begin operation in 2005, this sea-based X band radar will hand off ballistic missile tracking information to interceptors located at Fort Greely, Alaska, and Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Also in August, Orbital Sciences Corporation test launched from Vandenberg a prototype of the three-stage booster to be used in the ground-based interceptor for our National Missile Defense system.

President Bush's plan calls for deploying by 2004, four ground-based interceptors at Vandenberg, and six groundbased interceptors at Fort Greely, increasing the number of ground-based interceptors deployed at Fort Greely to a total of 20 by the end of 2005.

Contracts have been let for pouring concrete for the missile silos at Fort Greely, and