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Finally Holbrook has led the University into strong partnerships in the community, especially with renowned research institute Battelle, which includes the Metro High School for students interested in science, technology, engineering and math, the Urban Arts Center, WOSU@COSI (a collaboration of the university's public media stations and the Center for Science and Industry), and the Battelle Center for Mathematics and Science Education Policy at the John Glenn School of Public Affairs. These partnerships and initiatives are already bearing fruit, and their impact and importance will only increase down the road.

It is truly a pleasure to have worked with President Holbrook over the last five years and to have joined her in efforts that increased the prominence and reputation of a great institution. The Ohio State University is a better place because of Holbrook's leadership, and for that, all Buckeyes are forever in her debt. Go Bucks. Beat Michigan.

INVEST IN EDUCATION, INVEST IN THE FUTURE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, forty years ago, the U.S. was number one in the world in high school graduation rates. Today it ranks 17th.

About 1/3 of the students who enter 9th grade each fall will not graduate from high school with 4 years, if at all now in 2007. High school students living in low-income families drop out of school at 6 times the rate of their peers from high income families. Dropout rates are especially high in communities of color: Only about 55 percent of African Amer-

ican students and 52 percent of Hispanic students graduate on time from high school with a regular diploma, compared to 78 percent of white students. In my hometown of Oakland, CA, the dropout rate for Black males is 74 percent.

In this country, there are about 2,000 high schools that produce the majority of dropouts. Six million students throughout America are currently at risk of dropping out of school. Students who fail to graduate from high school are more likely to participate in criminal activity than students who do graduate. Likewise, students with low levels of achievement in high school are more likely to engage in crime than students with high levels of achievement.

For example, the Harvard University Civil Rights Project and the Urban Institute Education Policy Center conducted a study on K-12 schools in California. The center estimated that Oakland's 52 percent dropout rate costs the state \$14 billion in lost wages, crime and jail time.

Investing in education would save millions of dollars in crime-related expenditures annually, not to mention ensuring a quality of life that young people deserve or America's standing in the world.

The statistics are staggering and tell the story. Approximately 75 percent of state prison inmates did not complete high school. High school dropouts are 3.5 times more likely than high school graduates to be arrested in their lifetimes. And a mere one percent increase in high school graduation rates would save approximately \$1.4 billion in costs associated with incarceration costs, or about \$2,100 for each male high school graduate.

We must do better by our children. Nothing less than the future of this country is at stake. That is why I am committed to effective reform that can transform high schools and keep students at the greatest risk of dropping out on the path to graduation.

I'm proud to support authorizing legislation that will soon be introduced which will help address some of the reforms that are needed and that is why I'm proud to be an advocate on the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education subcommittee working to appropriate funding to address the crisis in dropouts that our country is facing. Clearly, we need increased investments in programs that keep kids in school and learning.

School counseling bill: On the Labor, Health and Human Services subcommittee, I worked with my colleagues to include \$61.5 million for elementary and secondary school counseling in the FY08 bill that is currently working its way through our committee. This is a 77.5 percent increase in a program that the President would have eliminated. These funds enable school districts to hire academic counselors, psychologists, and social workers. The additional resources will be targeted to improving and expanding academic and mental health counseling to middle and high school adolescents. This significant increase is a tremendous step toward addressing the crisis in counseling in our schools.

After School programs: Another critical tool we have in our arsenal to fight drop out and to keep kids off the street and for preventing youth violence is our nation's after school programs. The fact of the matter is that between 3-6 p.m. the rate of juvenile crime triples.

On LHHS subcommittee, we were able to provide a \$125 million increase over FY07 lev-

els for a total of over a billion dollars for the 21st century community learning centers. This program is a formula grant to states which in turn distribute 95 percent of the funds on a competitive basis to local school districts, community based organization and other organization for after school activities that make sure that young people have alternatives to getting into trouble.

UPWARD BOUND/Trio and Gear UP: I want to echo the comments of my colleagues here tonight about the problems we are fighting as it relates to the Absolute Priority regulation and the concerns over the loss of funding for numerous previously funded grantees including 30 percent of our HBCU's and Mills College in my district. I know that working together we will resolve these critical issues and I want to specifically thank BOBBY SCOTT and GWEN MOORE for their leadership on the Education committee and on this issue.

We all understand just how critical these programs that provide a variety of outreach and support services to encourage low-income students to enter an complete college. That is why I'm pleased our LHHS subcommittee was able to provide a \$40 million increase in funding for the TRIO programs and a \$20 million increase for the GEAR UP program.

It is time that our policy and funding priorities take a new direction for our children. That means investing in education. When we do that, we invest in our future.

RECOGNIZING THE LEADERSHIP AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF KAREN HOLBROOK DURING HER TENURE AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is a distinct honor for the central Ohio delegation to rise today to commend the leadership and accomplishments of Karen Holbrook during her tenure as the President of The Ohio State University. Holbrook became Ohio State's 13th president in October, 2002, and has served the University and the greater university community nobly for five years by guiding Ohio State towards ever-increasing prominence in research initiatives and funding, higher academic standards, and enhanced community partnerships.

Ohio State has steadily risen in national rankings of universities since 2002, climbing to 19th among the nation's public universities in U.S. News and World Report's 2007 edition of "America's Best Colleges." Under Holbrook's watch, the quality of the student body has also increased dramatically. Fifty-two percent of Ohio State's incoming freshmen in the fall of 2007 are expected to be in the top 10 percent of their high school class and 90 percent will be in the top 25 percent. Average ACT scores have also increased. Thanks to better-prepared incoming students and a nationally recognized First-Year Experience program, freshman-sophomore retention has risen to 91.5 percent, well above the average among similar universities.

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INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDICARE MEDICAL NUTRITION THERAPY ACT OF 2007

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. BECERRA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the bipartisan Medicare Medical Nutrition Therapy Act (MMNTA) of 2007. This legislation is cosponsored by my friends and colleagues Representatives MICHAEL CASTLE (R-DE), DIANA DEGETTE (D-CO) and MARK KIRK (R-IL).

The MMNTA of 2007 authorizes Medicare to expand the use of medical nutrition therapy to treat any disease for which empirical research has shown clinical value. The American Dietetic Association has endorsed this important legislation.

In 2000, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) of the National Academy of Sciences found that medical nutrition therapy is effective as part of a comprehensive approach to the treatment and management of the following conditions: diabetes, heart failure, kidney failure, dyslipidemia (a total cholesterol condition as well as other abnormalities in blood lipid levels) and hypertension. In response to this study, Congress allowed Medicare to reimburse medical nutrition therapy for beneficiaries with diabetes and renal diseases.

Specifically, the benefit Congress added includes an initial assessment of a beneficiary's nutrition and lifestyle, nutrition counseling, information regarding managing lifestyle factors that affect diet and follow-up visits to monitor the beneficiary's progress. Medicare covers three hours of one-on-one counseling services the first year, and two hours each year after that. The benefit provides additional treatment hours when the beneficiary's condition, treatment, or diagnosis changes and a physician refers the beneficiary. A physician must prescribe these services and renew them yearly if continuing treatment is needed.

In 2004, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) released a report that reiterated that medical nutrition therapy is effective as part of a comprehensive approach to the management and treatment of dyslipidemia (referred to as hyperlipidemia in the HHS report) and hypertension. This study's corroboration of IOM's earlier findings demonstrates that many Medicare beneficiaries who could benefit from this treatment cannot access it through Medicare.

Moreover, expanding the use of medical nutrition therapy has the potential to be a cost effective means of providing health care. Recently, the Pfizer Corporation piloted a 6-month nutrition and exercise intervention program for employees with hyperlipidemia. The study concluded that this intervention reduced Low-density Lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol 12 months later. And, the participating employees had their risk for heart disease reduced by 19 percent. The intervention could save an estimated \$728,722 annually if offered to the entire Pfizer population.

Unfortunately, the method that Congress established to determine eligibility for medical nutrition therapy is flawed. Congress specified in law which diseases should receive medical nutrition therapy instead of leaving that judgment to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) as is the custom for other benefits provided by the program.

CMS has the experts and infrastructure to make these important decisions based on empirical research. As part of its administration of the Medicare program, CMS determines the items and services that are reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis or treatment of an illness or injury suffered by Medicare beneficiaries. CMS makes national coverage determinations by evaluating medical literature and data and information on the effectiveness and appropriateness of medical items and services that are being considered for Medicare coverage. During this process, the public has the opportunity to provide comments. In some cases, CMS' own research is supplemented by an outside assessment and/or consultation with a Medicare Evidence Development & Coverage Advisory Committee (MedCAC). A MedCAC consists of outside experts who supplement CMS career staff examination of an issue. These committees examine the strength of available evidence and make recommendations to CMS on coverage decisions.

By passing this legislation, Congress would increase access to medical nutrition therapy to Medicare beneficiaries through a thoughtful and scientific approach. I urge my colleagues to support this bill and ensure that Medicare beneficiaries have the appropriate access to medical nutrition therapy.

CONGRATULATING JIMMIE GOLDEN ON HIS 80TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is an honor for me to rise today to commemorate the 80th birthday of Mr. Jimmie Golden. Mr. Golden is a highly-regarded figure and establishment in the "McDonald's Coffee" group, and his contributions to the group are immeasurable.

The McDonald's Coffee group meets every morning in Milton, a city in my district in Northwest Florida. It is there that a regular group meets to discuss news and current affairs, and Jimmie Golden is a consistent presence. Jimmie is not just there to listen, though—his knowledge in both domestic and foreign affairs is vast. His awareness of the events going on, how the past has affected these events, and the possible implications for the future is worldly by any standard. Those that listen to his input pay close attention as they know Jimmie puts a lot of thought and knowledge into what he says.

Jimmie Golden is not only a great contributor of knowledge and information; he is also a great listener. This listening is not just at the McDonald's Coffee group, either. Jimmie is someone always willing to help others, and he would bend over backwards to better the life of another. Calling Jimmie a humanitarian could be an understatement; he would help every single person if he could. In fact, his service in the United States Navy protecting the freedom our country enjoys accomplished that goal.

Madam Speaker, it is not often enough that a person of Jimmie Golden's caliber comes along, and I am grateful that he calls Northwest Florida home as we recognize and congratulate him on his 80th birthday. Our Nation is a better place because of people like Jimmie.

IN MEMORY OF ROY P. LEWSADER, JR.

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor S. Sgt. Roy P. Lewsader, Jr. of Clinton, Indiana, who died on June 16, 2007. While fighting for our country in Afghanistan, a rocket-propelled grenade detonated near his vehicle in Tarin Kowt.

Roy was born in Terre Haute, Indiana. He joined the U.S. Army in 1988 and served until his death as part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

To serve our country in the U.S. military is an honorable and noble profession. Roy's service to our country in life, as well as in death, epitomizes what it means to be an American hero.

During his more than 13 year service to our country, Roy distinguished himself as soldier and leader. He received the Bronze Star and Purple Heart, as well as the Army Achievement Medal three times and the Army Commendation Award.