

and contact information for consumers should a problem arise. Again, I urge my colleagues support and cosponsorship of this important consumer protection bill.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE PROTECTION ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT E. ANDREWS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

Mr. ANDREWS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in strong support of the "Children's Health and Medicare Protection Act of 2007" (CHAMP or H.R. 3162) and would like to take this opportunity to thank the distinguished chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, Mr. JOHN DINGELL for the inclusion of my State Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) small employer buy-in proposal. He is a good friend and an invaluable leader in providing adequate health insurance to all of America's children.

Today, it is estimated that of the 9.4 million uninsured children, 7 million of them are eligible for SCHIP, but are not enrolled. Furthermore, approximately 37 percent of the 6.6 million children currently enrolled in SCHIP have parents who work in businesses with fewer than 100 employees. Due to the high cost of health insurance in the private small group and individual market, many of these parents do not have access to affordable health insurance for themselves. To help cover these parents and enroll the 7 million uninsured children eligible for SCHIP, I believe that one viable solution is for Congress to provide small employers access to buy into a public health care program, such as the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

With the support of Chairman DINGELL, the CHAMP Act does just that—it establishes a demonstration program for up to 10 States to offer employers and their employees the option to buy into a State's children's health insurance program.

In order for a State to participate in the demonstration program it may not impose a waiting list, enrollment cap, or any other enrollment limitation on low-income children at or below 200 percent of the Federal poverty level (FPL). As for the employer qualifications, 50 percent of his or her workforce must comprise of full-time employees with family incomes at or below 200 percent of the poverty line. Furthermore, eligible employees must have at least one eligible SCHIP child in their family.

If an employer agrees to participate, the program requires the employer to make a contribution no less than 50 percent of the premium toward the family coverage. The employee is required to make a contribution no greater than 5 percent of their entire income of the premium toward family coverage. The SCHIP funds used to cover the eligible children are the only allowable SCHIP funds that may be applied toward the family coverage. At the State's discretion, any remaining cost of the family coverage may be covered by the employer or the State. Specifically, the State may use its own funds or apply an access fee to the employer for utilizing the purchasing pooling power of their children's health care program.

As the CHAMP Act moves to conference, I hope my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will view this demonstration as one viable solution to addressing the health care crisis. Again, I thank Chairman DINGELL for his outstanding leadership and support. At the end of the day, I am confident we will accomplish our goal of insuring as many children as possible.

REDUCING BARRIERS TO EDUCATION ACT OF 2007

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Reducing Barriers to Learning Act of 2007. Students come to school with diverse academic and non-academic needs. A student may have trouble reading, or have a chronic health condition or a disability. Students may have hearing problems or problems with their eyesight. They may have behavior problems. Some children may have experienced a tragedy or have family problems. They may live in poor conditions or be subject to violence in their homes or communities.

It's abundantly clear that many students face severe barriers to learning. In order to reduce these barriers and help our children succeed in the classroom and in the community we must find a way to positively affect their social and emotional well being. A child is only prepared to learn when he or she is healthy and strong, both mentally and physically.

Unfortunately, 20 percent of the 53 million children in school will, at some point, meet the criteria for a diagnosable mental illness at a level of impairment that requires some type of intervention. Thus, there is the potential that over 10 million children will need some type of help to meet the goals relating to emotional well-being in the No Child Left Behind legislation.

The school can be an important site where the health and education risks of students may be identified. Early identification and intervention addressing a student's social and emotional health is essential. Many important services are provided by school counselors, nurses, psychologists, social workers, therapists, and many others. These individuals, commonly referred to as pupil services personnel, are lifelines to our children.

Unfortunately, very little attention is paid to these personnel and the services they provide for struggling students. In fact, there is a shortage of school mental health positions. Current recommended ratios are 250 students per counselor; 400 students per social worker; and 1,000 students per psychologist. Unfortunately, reality does not match recommendations. Current national averages are 488 students per counselor and over 1,600 students per school social worker and psychologist.

In Iowa, during the prior school year, 40 districts out of 365 did not have a school counselor. The State legislature recently reconstituted the mandate that every district have "a" counselor and included goal language that staffing levels work toward no more than 1 counselor for every 350 students. The ratio of students per school social worker is 2000 to 1.

These shortages jeopardize a schools ability to provide broad-based mental health services

to students. Unfortunately, very little attention is paid to these personnel and the services they provide for struggling students. This appears to be largely a reflection of a lack of leadership at the national, state, and local level.

The Reducing Barriers to Learning Act of 2007 takes necessary steps toward increasing student access to critical services so that we can better address the nonacademic needs of students and reduce barriers to learning.

The bill creates a grant program for State Education Agencies to build the capacity of Local Education Agencies to develop programs and personnel dedicated to removing barriers to learning. These grants will help recruit and retain coordinators at the local level; establish and expand instructional support services programs; and provide technical assistance regarding the effective implementation of instructional support services programs.

The bill also establishes an Office of Specialized Instructional Support within the U.S. Department of Education. This office will administer, coordinate, and carry out programs and activities concerned with providing specialized instructional support services in schools. The office will provide technical assistance to State education agencies and State specialized instructional support coordinators, if any. It will also improve cross-agency coordination of services and programs supporting students who face barriers to learning.

Finally, the bill simply clarifies conflicting terminology, definitions, and roles of specialized instructional support personnel. The personnel are known as "pupil services personnel" in the ESEA and as "related services personnel" in the IDEA, despite the fact that they are exactly the same professionals. This difference in terminology continues to cause confusion for school districts. Establishing one common statutory term would ease this confusion and would more accurately reflect the nature and purpose of the services that these professionals provide to students in schools.

Knowing who is available to support struggling students in schools is essential. Connecting students in need with a professional who can assist them and be accountable to them is the only way to know that we will leave no child behind. The Reducing Barriers to Education Act of 2007 will take necessary steps toward increasing student access to critical support services and I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this important legislation.

HONORING THE CAREER OF JACK EDISON OF PLYMOUTH, INDIANA

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the career of Plymouth High School boys' basketball coach, Jack Edison. After 34 years, 545 wins, 18 sectional titles, 9 regional crowns, 4 Final 4 appearances, 3 state finals, and 2 state titles as head coach of the Plymouth Pilgrims, Coach Edison has retired.

This beloved coach finished his final season with a second state title, making him the ninth winningest coach in Indiana's legendary high

school basketball history. His impressive career also includes his 2005 induction into Indiana's Basketball Hall of Fame. Those who know him personally describe him as having a strong passion to teach, both in the classroom and on the court. The key to his successful coaching career was leading the team with both class and dignity while thoroughly preparing for every opponent, regardless of their record. This style set an example that has followed many of his players and helped them build strong futures. When asked what he will miss the most, it was no surprise that Coach Edison answered, "I will miss the players, the bonding, the camaraderie, and the challenge of preparing for the battle coming up." Though he will no longer sit courtside for the basketball games, Coach Edison plans to continue teaching social studies and physical education at Plymouth High School.

So, today, on behalf of the citizens of Indiana's Second District, I thank Jack Edison for his years of unselfish dedication. As he retires from 34 years as beloved head coach of Plymouth High School's boys' basketball team, I pay special tribute to a man who has served as a role model for countless young men and whose positive influence will continue to be seen for many years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MENOMINEE HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. BART STUPAK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. STUPAK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to a legendary team that made my hometown of Menominee, Michigan, proud. Forty years ago, an exceptional Menominee High School basketball team made history, under the coaching leadership of Bob Krysiak.

The 1967 Menominee High School basketball team won the Michigan Class B State Basketball Championship in March of 1967. Coach Krysiak's team faced a great deal of adversity during the season, which made winning the State championship seem like an impossible dream. The team was young, with a junior and two sophomores in the starting lineup.

Moreover, the team's season was plagued with personnel difficulties and other challenges. Early in the season, Coach Krysiak was forced to remove one player from the team for disciplinary reasons. At mid-season, one of the starters was declared ineligible and all games played in the first half of the season had to be forfeited.

Menominee lost the second to the last game of the season to Peshtigo High School, a team that was not, at that time, regarded as a basketball powerhouse. Faced with these daunting circumstances, the Menominee basketball team had little hope of winning even one postseason playoff game.

Despite these difficulties, Menominee would persevere and prevail. Under Bob Krysiak's leadership, Menominee won the district championship in Iron Mountain, Michigan. Shortly thereafter, the team won the regional championship in Marquette, Michigan, earning a trip down State.

After dominating a team from Standish-Sterling, Menominee faced the number one ranked

team in the State, Lansing O'Rafferty. The game was played on Lansing O'Rafferty's home court on St. Patrick's Day in the State semi-finals.

By clinching a hard fought victory from O'Rafferty, Menominee earned the right to face Ypsilanti Willow Run, which was widely regarded as a team superior in strength and skills to Menominee.

Madam Speaker, according to those who were there, Coach Krysiak spent much of the 12 hours between games talking to other coaches, to gather scouting information on Willow Run. Willow Run was a bigger, stronger, faster team than Menominee, but Coach Krysiak prevailed in the finals by outsmarting his opponents. He coached his team to lure Willow Run's top player into foul trouble, which proved to be the deciding factor. The game remained in flux and undecided until the final seconds and a thrilling finish.

Menominee was not favored to win the district tournament, the regional tournament, or any of the final three games down State. Menominee is the only team to win a State championship after having entered the State tournament with a losing record. In all regards, Menominee was truly the quintessential "underdog."

Despite Menominee's underdog status, the community of Menominee rallied behind the basketball team.

Twenty bus loads of students, teachers, and fans rode yellow schoolbuses nearly 500 miles from Menominee to East Lansing to watch Menominee play the final two games. They were there in the final moments when Menominee clinched the championship and made this small town in Michigan's Upper Peninsula proud.

Madam Speaker, in all of America, high school athletics are important to a community's identity. However, in small towns and rural communities, high school athletics become all the more important. This weekend, my hometown, the small town of Menominee, Michigan, will celebrate the 40th anniversary of Menominee High School's unexpected Class B High School basketball championship.

As the Menominee community comes together to honor the 1967 Menominee Maroons, I would ask that the entire U.S. House of Representatives join me in saluting the 1967 Menominee basketball team of Pat Miller, Fred Matz, Dewey Bellisle, Dale Englund, Joe Gypp, Dave Haglund, Skip Heckel, Bob "Cubby" Johnson, Bill Jones, Joe Kaufman, Bill Kelley, Jay Nelson, Merle Russell and Rick Stultz, as well as Coach Krysiak. The people of Menominee, Michigan remain grateful to the team and the coach for their inspired and improbable championship, 40 years ago. Today, I am proud to enter their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

H. RES. 482

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today I rise in strong support of H. Res. 482. This resolution expresses the House of Representatives support for the power-sharing government in Northern Ireland,

all leaders and parties involved in making this agreement a reality, and the elections that were held on May 8, 2007.

As an American with Irish ancestry, I had the honor to travel to Northern Ireland to meet with women, both Catholic and Protestant, who continue to work tirelessly to move peace forward. It has also been my great pleasure to host and mentor women from Northern Ireland in my congressional office, as they take part in parliamentary workshops through the International Women's Democracy Center.

The negotiations, subsequent efforts and implementation of the Good Friday Agreement, also known as the Belfast Agreement, demonstrate the ability of people to come together and achieve partnership out of conflict. Moving peace forward in Northern Ireland, as well as in other areas of the world, requires confidence in the judicial system to ensure justice and fairness for all citizens and confidence in the ability to enforce the laws that are passed.

History has proven that in order to achieve an accomplishment as monumental as this the willingness to compromise by parties involved is key to attaining a positive result. With Parliamentary elections held recently the government of Northern Ireland has begun to see the fruits of its labor. So many others like former Senator George Mitchell and Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair should be incredibly proud of the hard work to bring peace and end the conflict.

The United States stands with the people of Northern Ireland in their search for democracy, justice, and peace. My hopes and prayers are with the people of Northern Ireland as they continue on this journey. I am proud to stand in support of this resolution, and in support of efforts to strengthen democracy and rule of law in Northern Ireland. I urge my colleagues to join me.

HONORING NEVADA'S FINEST

HON. DEAN HELLER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 3, 2007

Mr. HELLER of Nevada. Madam Speaker, the State of Nevada that I represent is home to 6 of the finest soldiers that I have ever met. On my recent trip to Iraq, the last week of July 2007, I had the honor to meet and talk with SGT Anthony Monger, SPC Richard Cook, PFC Joshua Campbell, SSG John Tripp, SPC Lacy Montgomery, and PFC Cory Ward.

As we all know, war is never easy and the people who make the greatest sacrifices during these difficult times are the brave men and women of our Armed Services. Very often this means service members are deployed for extended periods of time away from their friends, family, and children. America must remain committed to our soldiers, and I pray for the safe return of every Nevadan and soldier of the United States.

Generations of Nevadans will enjoy greater peace and security because of the tireless sacrifices of soldiers like Anthony, Richard, Joshua, John, Lacy, and Cory. I am honored to have met these soldiers and commend their service and bravery.