

Congratulations to Karrie, Michael and Bill. All of their stories are moving and inspiring, and many others can look up to their examples of personal strength and determination. Their stories will encourage others to never give up, and they may be comforted in knowing that no matter what is thrown their way, they can overcome it and carry on their lives with a positive outlook.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise reluctantly in opposition to H.R. 976. There is no doubt that the State Children's Health Insurance Program, or SCHIP, which expires at the end of this fiscal year, needs to be reauthorized. Millions of children across the country, including 120,000 in North Carolina's Health Choice, depend on SCHIP to provide cost-effective and high-quality health services. This health care makes a difference to the development of at-risk children and to their leading healthy adult lives. Unfortunately, in its current form, this legislation will excessively burden the Second Congressional District of North Carolina.

By singling out tobacco for a huge tax increase, the provisions of this bill will cost North Carolina's citizens a great deal in direct cost increases. Researchers at North Carolina State University estimate that North Carolina's economy would lose at least \$540 million a year through the tax's indirect impact as well. North Carolina's tobacco farmers grow a legal crop. These hard-working farm families have suffered greatly from transformations in the global economy. Because my district is the second largest tobacco producing district in the country, this bill disproportionately affects my constituents who work hard to be able to pay their bills and provide a better life for their children. This just doesn't pass the fairness test.

I have been a long-time supporter of SCHIP. As a member of the House Budget Committee, I am proud that we provided for an increase of \$50 billion for SCHIP, not just the \$35 billion reflected in the compromise we are considering today. I support reauthorizing and strengthening SCHIP, but North Carolina's citizens pay more than their share for the benefits they receive in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I want children to receive the health care they need. However, as the bill stands, I must vote no today, and hope that we can come up with a better, more balanced plan in the future.

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORIC NIKE
MISSILE BASE PH-07, RICHBORO,
BUCKS COUNTY, PA

HON. PATRICK J. MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, it is my great privilege to rise

before you today to commemorate the Richboro Bucks County Nike Missile Base PH-07 and the many brave individuals who staffed this base during the cold war. Set in historic Bucks County, Pennsylvania, the now closed base was operational during the cold war in order to protect Philadelphia from Soviet missile attacks. Now, 30 years later, these same individuals are working to ensure this base receives recognition through the Pennsylvania Historical Museum Commission's Historic Site Program.

In a time when fear of missile attacks plagued the entire country, the military built the Nike missile base in our quiet Philadelphia suburb. Currently, the base lies dormant beneath batting cages and other sites from a modern community. Children run over it, unsure of exactly what it is. Though many are unaware of its significant cultural and historical importance, the missile base still retains much of its former integrity. The workers employed there during the cold war underwent extensive military training and carried a strong sense of camaraderie and pride for their country. They worked together to ensure the base was efficiently run and to protect Philadelphia from an imminent Soviet attack.

Madam Speaker, for these reasons, on October 5, 2007, this site will become part of the Bucks County Historical Society. The efforts of the great people who worked here will be forever remembered in a timeless plaque that describes the role of this base and the importance it held for our country during trying times. I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking those who worked tirelessly to make this honor possible and those who fought to protect our community. Madam Speaker, I proudly recognize the Nike missile base for its historical significance.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, September 25, 2007

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2007. Truly, we face a health care crisis in this country—in the richest country on Earth, 46 million Americans do not have health insurance, including 9 million children. Today's bipartisan, bicameral compromise is not a perfect solution to that problem, but is a decisive, strong step towards covering uninsured kids and fulfilling our moral obligation to our children.

In my home State of Virginia, the CHIP program, known as FAMIS or Family Access to Medical Insurance Security, currently provides coverage to 137,642 low-income children each year. The current population survey estimates that 171,642 children in Virginia remain uninsured, and the CHIP Reauthorization Act will help us cover 74,200 of these children in Fiscal Year 2008. The CHIP Reauthorization Act will ensure that these children have access to high quality health insurance, including the preventative services that children need to be healthy and successful in school and later in

life. This bill will provide dental and mental health benefits on par with medical and surgical services—truly ensuring that the whole child's health is provided for.

The CHIP Reauthorization Act does not increase the deficit, through a 61-cent-per-pack increase in the Federal excise tax on cigarettes. In my view as chairman of the Congressional Prevention Caucus, an increase in the Federal tobacco tax is sound public health policy. On the one hand, it provides a reliable revenue source to offset the costs of expanding coverage to low-income children. On the other, given that 70 percent of health care spending in the U.S. can be attributed to chronic diseases, many of which are linked to smoking, measures which reduce tobacco use, particularly among young people, are responsible ways to improve public health and reduce the overall costs of our healthcare system.

The CHIP Reauthorization Act also addresses a serious problem arising from the implementation of the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005. Opponents of this responsible, commonsense, humane adjustment claim that language in the 2005 Deficit Reduction Act (DRA) that imposed harsher citizenship verification requirements on State Medicaid programs is the only barrier protecting taxpayer dollars from being spent on healthcare for illegal immigrants. Empirical evidence from the first 9 months of the implementation of this rule demonstrates, in fact, that nothing could be further from the truth.

First and foremost, existing Federal law and provisions in the CHIP Reauthorization Act prevent Federal funds from being spent to provide benefits for illegal immigrants. Section 605 specifically states that "nothing in this act allows Federal payment for individuals who are not legal immigrants." Illegal immigrants have never been eligible for Medicaid, and nothing in the CHIP Reauthorization Act would change that fact.

Secondly, the DRA requirements have overwhelmingly failed to meet their objective—producing cost savings for the Medicaid program. Instead, they have imposed substantial additional costs on taxpayers while reducing health care benefits available to poor children. Wait times have skyrocketed, and measures to streamline the application process have been rendered impossible. In the first 9 months of the implementation of this requirement, six States spent a combined \$16.6 million in State and Federal dollars, and found just eight undocumented immigrants out of a pool of 3.6 million Medicaid applicants. The DRA requirements have effectively led States and the Federal Government to spend millions of dollars in additional administrative expenses, funds which have ultimately been put to use denying care to tens of thousands of otherwise eligible American children.

Third, these draconian requirements, which are far stricter than those employed by other government programs, have caused tens of thousands of U.S. citizen children to lose health insurance coverage. In Virginia, there was a net decline of more than 11,000 children enrolled in Medicaid during the first nine months of implementation. Had growth in enrollment continued at the same rate it had during the previous 2 years, the State would have seen an increase of 9,000 poor children in the program during this same time period. Kansas has seen a net decline of 14,000 children. The Virginia State Medicaid Office has

identified a total of two undocumented immigrants during this period; meanwhile, 20,000 poor children have gone without health insurance. Data from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities suggests that these children are overwhelmingly African American, hardly the demographic results we'd expect if our colleagues were correct in suggesting that tens of thousands of illegal immigrant children were being denied coverage.

The debate about reauthorizing SCHIP should be about the public health and improving the health of our children. In a recent survey, 90 percent of parents applying for Medicaid for their children indicated that they have no other health coverage available. Allowing state flexibility in citizenship verification is sound public health policy that would enable thousands of American children access to vital health services to help them live better, healthier, and more productive lives. Because Medicaid is now the single largest cost to state taxpayers, we ought to make a concerted effort to support state flexibility. Twenty-four Senators signed letters to Chairman BAUCUS asking him to include this measure in the Senate's bipartisan SCHIP bill, and 51 other House Members joined me in requesting that Chairman DINGELL include this provision in the House version. I thank the Committees for including this important provision in this landmark legislation.

Reauthorizing SCHIP is sound public health policy—research shows that children who have access to health insurance are substantially more likely to access key preventative services, miss fewer days of school due to illness, get better grades, and continue to have superior outcomes later in life. Moreover, the financial benefits of covering children vastly outweigh the costs—one need only compare the cost of a visit to a primary care provider to the cost of a night spent in the emergency room. But above all, covering all our children is a moral imperative—it is the only possible humane, responsible course of action. I urge a yes vote on the underlying bill, and furthermore, would urge the President, in the strongest possible terms, not to veto this vitally needed, responsible legislation to cover the most vulnerable members of our society: our children.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CITY OF CLINTON, NORTH CAROLINA, FOR THEIR 2007 ALL-AMERICA CITY DESIGNATION

HON. MIKE McINTYRE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. McINTYRE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the community and citizens of Clinton, North Carolina, for being named an All-America City by the National Civic League. Clinton has earned a place among the ranks of more than 500 other communities across the country that have achieved this distinction. In honor of this accomplishment, I am entering into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD this special tribute which details the extraordinary efforts made by the people of Clinton and the strong example they have set for other cities in North Carolina and our Nation to follow.

Fully incorporated in the year 1822, Clinton has become a community dedicated to progress, development, and civic engagement. It has become a community committed to a strong system of values and faith. And it is this powerful combination that has helped earn the City of Clinton its All-America designation.

Three community projects in particular set Clinton apart from the other cities in the competition.

First, through the Technology Project at the Butler Avenue School, both students and adults have been given greater access to computers and the World Wide Web. After-school programs and "how-to" classes can now give underserved segments of the community access to modern-day technologies and the advantages that come with them.

Second, the March to a Million campaign raised over \$2 million in donations in just 3 months from professionals, corporations, churches, civic clubs, teachers, alumni associations, and other citizens to help pay for the construction of a new Clinton High School. Students even sold Valentines to help pay for the auxiliary gym, auditorium, and academic programs that could not have otherwise been built and implemented.

Third, the city of Clinton has tackled the obesity crisis head-on by implementing the Fitness Renaissance program in school physical education classes, as well as building a Center for Health and Wellness. These two efforts have given the citizens of Clinton the proper tools to begin and maintain a healthy way of life.

The city of Clinton will be recognized and congratulated for their designation as an All-America City on October 24, 2007, here in Washington, DC. Its citizens are to be commended for this accomplishment. May God bless the people of this great community for the very positive example they have set for the cities around our great Nation.

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE TOWN OF BAILEY, NORTH CAROLINA

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 26, 2007

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the centennial celebration of the town of Bailey, NC, in my Congressional District. Bailey was settled in the 18th century and became a charter town in Nash County in 1908. Bailey was named for the first settler in the township, Drewey Bailey.

Bailey is predominately a farming community. A feed mill and lumber mill are located in the town to meet the needs of the agrarian surroundings. There are several established merchants orientated to supplying the farm community with all needed supplies for the agricultural industry. It is estimated that about 80 percent of the town's income can be accounted to farmers in the area. One of the first merchants in Bailey was Malachi Bissette. His store was one of the largest in the area. It was quite typical of the general store carrying "everything needed from birth to death, farm supplies, groceries, clothes, and coffins." Several of the first buildings of the town are still occupied.

Bailey has two garment factories—the Bailey Garment Plant and Quality Textiles—which employ 150 persons combined. The leading non-agricultural industry of the area in Neverson Quarry of the Superior Stone Company. The Quarry came into existence in 1913 by an act of Congress. In that year Congress authorized a harbor of refuge for ships in case of storms at Cape Lookout on the North Carolina coast. This necessitated the erection of two long sea walls behind which ships could seek protection. Furnishing stone for this breakwater lead to the opening of the Quarry.

In 1948, the company changed its name to Bryan Rock and Sand Company. Under this and the Superior Stone Company leadership, the quarry has become one of the largest and most modern granite crushing plant, in the South. There is an average of two train loads of stone shipped from the quarry daily. This large shipment makes Bailey the fourth largest freight origination point on the Norfolk and Southern Railroad. Economically, the Bailey community benefits from this increased stone output. Approximately 100 workers are regularly employed, with local labor being used when possible.

Civic life has always been an important part of the community. For many years there has been a masonic lodge in the town. In the early fifties, the masons constructed a building for their own use and for the recreational use of the town. Other established civic organizations include the American Legion and Ladies Auxiliary, the Lions Club, the Order of Eastern Star and Chamber of Commerce.

Bailey has been host to several leaders on both the national and international level. President Harry S. Truman made a visit to the city when he was in office. In 1954, Bailey was host to President and Madame Bayar, President of the Republic of Turkey, and the staff of approximately 35 aides and press representatives. After Bayar's visit, officials of the high school and the staff of the school paper were entertained at the Turkish Embassy in exchange for the hospitality offered the president when he visited the town.

Madam Speaker, Bailey has a rich history that makes it one of shining stars of Nash County and the State of North Carolina and I am proud to have the honor of representing this great town. It is fitting that we take a moment today to honor the centennial celebration of the town of Bailey.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2007

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

Ms. McCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Amendments Act.

It is critical that the FDA has the authority and resources it needs to protect the health and safety of American families. Recent highly-publicized tragic events linked to prescription drugs, such as Vioxx, have highlighted the importance of the mission of the FDA and the improvements necessary to ensure its effectiveness.

This bill strengthens the FDA's oversight of drug safety by establishing a new program