

OREGON HOME HEALTH CARE AND
MEDICARE

HON. GREG WALDEN

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2012

Mr. WALDEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address the House about an issue of particular importance to seniors and health care patients in Oregon's 70,000 square-mile Second District: access to home health care. Some counties in my largely rural district are without a single hospital or physician, meaning finding care can be difficult. Fortunately, however, each of the 20 counties in the district does have skilled, dedicated home health providers willing to care for those in need.

Ninety-six percent of all Medicare spending goes toward patients with more than one chronic disease, and sixty-six percent of the program's funds are used for those with five or more chronic conditions. With ten thousand new Medicare beneficiaries added every day, we must work to ensure the program's long-term sustainability.

Fortunately for Medicare, home health care providers go above and beyond to deliver high-quality, clinically effective, efficient care, and many medical treatments that were once offered in hospital or nursing home settings are now being safely and more cost-efficiently provided in patients' homes. Further, the home health and hospice industry helps fuel the economy with nearly 1.5 million jobs nationwide.

I have seen first-hand the compassionate and highly skilled care home health nurses provide to patients. My wife Mylene and I have seen it on a personal level with our own families, and talked to numerous Oregonians who are grateful for the opportunity to recover in their own home with their spouse and loved ones by their side.

In addition to being good for patients, home health is also good for federal taxpayers. When seniors choose home health, they stay in their own beds, pay their own utilities, do their own laundry, and provide for their own meals. This is also often supplemented by family members who help keep them safe and well in the place they most want to be—their home. When Medicare covers the costs of room and board and 24 hour care in more expensive institutional settings, taxpayers spend thousands of dollars they would otherwise save in home health settings.

Unfortunately, however, for the majority of compassionate, skilled home health providers truly dedicated to the patients they serve, a narrow sliver of operators are tarnishing their good work. MedPAC has found that a small number of bad actors in just 25 counties nationwide are disproportionately taking advantage of Medicare beneficiaries and taxpayers.

According to MedPAC's figures, the total number of home health providers in these top 25 highest spending counties rose from 290 in 2005 to 775 in 2009, an increase of over 167 percent. During this time, Medicare payments to these providers went from \$592 million to \$1.6 billion, a 163 percent increase in taxpayer spending.

In Oregon during that same time period, the total number of providers, as well as overall Medicare reimbursement, actually decreased. These figures confirm what many of us in Or-

egon have been saying for years: when it comes to waste, fraud, and abuse in the health care system, Oregon providers as a whole are not the problem.

So while no State is 100 percent without fault, and while every provider should make it their goal to act only in the best interest of their patients, these figures have shown us the main source of abuse. Therefore, any future home health proposal should target these higher spending counties rather than indiscriminately harming the good players in the industry. Isolating and rooting out fraud simply makes sense for providers, patients, and taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, while we can always do more to ensure access to health care services in rural areas like Oregon's Second District, I take comfort in knowing that there are many home health providers willing to serve seniors in Oregon and elsewhere. Because of these dedicated providers, patients receive the care they need in the comfort of their homes, with their families and loved ones at their side.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DAVE THOMAS FOUNDATION FOR ADOPTION

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 25, 2012

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption on the occasion of its 20th anniversary.

The Foundation was established in 1992 by Dave Thomas as a public charity with one primary goal: to help every child in foster care find a loving, permanent family. Throughout its history, the Foundation has set forth on a mission of dramatically increasing the number of adoptions of waiting children.

For 20 years, the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption has committed itself to finding permanent families for the more than 100,000 children waiting in the United States foster care system.

The Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption awards grants to public and private adoption agencies all across the country. Last year these grants totaled more than \$8 million and focused on supporting adoption professionals who implement proactive, child-focused recruitment programs targeted exclusively on moving the longest-waiting children from foster care into adoptive families. This signature program is Wendy's Wonderful Kids (WWK).

The results from an empirical five-year case study on WWK were released in October, 2011. The research showed that children in the program are up to three times more likely to be adopted.

The Foundation also supports employers through the Adoption-Friendly Workplace program, is a founding member of National Adoption Day, and is a proud partner of the annual television special, *A Home for the Holidays*.

The Foundation is an accredited charity of the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance, Standards for Excellence certified, and has received the highest possible rating on Charity Navigator. The Foundation has helped more than 3,000 children find their forever families and provided information and support to tens of thousands of potential adoptive families.

For these reasons, I am proud to applaud the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption and its dedicated staff for their extraordinary contributions to the people of Ohio's 12th Congressional District and throughout the United States.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, June 26, 2012 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 27

10 a.m.

Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 2345, to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to permit the Government of the District of Columbia to determine the fiscal year period, to make local funds of the District of Columbia for a fiscal year available for use by the District upon enactment of the local budget act for the year subject to a period of Congressional review, S. 2178, to require the Federal Government to expedite the sale of underutilized Federal real property, S. 2170, to amend the provisions of title 5, United States Code, which are commonly referred to as the "Hatch Act" to eliminate the provision preventing certain State and local employees from seeking elective office, clarify the application of certain provisions to the District of Columbia, and modify the penalties which may be imposed for certain violations under subchapter III of chapter 73 of that title, S. 2234, to prevent human trafficking in government contracting, S. 2239, to direct the head of each agency to treat relevant military training as sufficient to satisfy training or certification requirements for Federal licenses, H.R. 915, to establish a Border Enforcement Security Task Force program to enhance border security by fostering coordinated efforts among Federal, State, and local border and law enforcement officials to protect United States border cities and communities from trans-national crime, including violence associated with drug trafficking, arms smuggling, illegal alien trafficking and smuggling, violence, and kidnapping along and across the international borders of the United

States, and S. 3315, to repeal or modify certain mandates of the Government Accountability Office.

SD-342

Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Frank Paul Geraci, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York, Fernando M. Olguin, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Malachy Edward Mannion, and Matthew W. Brann, both to be a United States District Judge for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, and Charles R. Breyer, of California, to be a Member of the United States Sentencing Commission.

SD-226

Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine health and benefits legislation.

SD-124

10:30 a.m.

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Derek J. Mitchell, of Connecticut, to be Ambassador to the Union of Burma, Department of State.

SD-419

2 p.m.

Foreign Relations

To receive a closed briefing on Syria.

SVC-217

3 p.m.

Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine S. 1897, to amend Public Law 101-377 to revise the boundaries of the Gettysburg National Military Park to include the Gettysburg Train Station, S. 2158, to establish the Fox-Wisconsin Heritage Parkway National Heritage Area, S. 2229, to authorize the issuance of right-of-way permits for natural gas pipelines in Glacier National Park, S. 2267, to reauthorize the Hudson Valley National Heritage Area, S. 2272, to designate a mountain in the State of Alaska as Mount Denali, S. 2273, to designate the Talkeetna Ranger Station in Talkeetna, Alaska, as the Walter Harper Talkeetna Ranger Station, S. 2286, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Farmington River and Salmon Brook in the State of Connecticut as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 2316, to designate the Salt Pond Visitor Center at the Cape Cod National Seashore as the "Thomas P. O'Neill, Jr. Salt Pond Vis-

itor Center", S. 2324, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate a segment of the Neches River in the State of Texas for potential addition to the National Wild and Scenic River System, S. 2372, to authorize pedestrian and motorized vehicular access in Cape Hatteras National Seashore Recreational Area, S. 3300, to establish the Manhattan Project National Historical Park in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, Los Alamos, New Mexico, and Hanford, Washington, and S. 3078, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to install in the area of the World War II Memorial in the District of Columbia a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the United States on June 6, 1944, the morning of D-Day.

SD-366

JUNE 28

9:30 a.m.

Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine innovative non-federal programs for financing energy efficient building retrofits.

SD-366

Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine The Law of the Sea Convention (Treaty Doc. 103-39), focusing on perspectives from business and industry.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the need for privacy protections, focusing on industry self-regulation.

SR-253

Finance

To hold a joint hearing with the House Committee on Ways and Means to examine tax reform and the tax treatment of capital gains.

HVC-210

Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 285, for the relief of Sopuruchi Chukwueke, S. 1744, to provide funding for State courts to assess and improve the handling of proceedings relating to adult guardianship and conservatorship, to authorize the Attorney General to carry out a pilot program for the conduct of background checks on individuals to be appointed as guardians or conservators, and to promote the widespread adoption of information technology to better monitor, report, and audit conservatorships of protected

persons, and the nominations of Terrence G. Berg, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Jesus G. Bernal, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California, Lorna G. Schofield, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York, and Danny Chappelle Williams, Sr., of Oklahoma, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma, Department of Justice.

SD-226

2:15 p.m.

Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider H.R. 443, to provide for the conveyance of certain property from the United States to the Manilaq Association located in Kotzebue, Alaska, H.R. 1560, to amend the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo and Alabama and Coushatta Indian Tribes of Texas Restoration Act to allow the Ysleta del Sur Pueblo Tribe to determine blood quantum requirement for membership in that tribe, H.R. 1272, to provide for the use and distribution of the funds awarded to the Minnesota Chippewa Tribe, et al, by the United States Court of Federal Claims in Docket Numbers 19 and 188, S. 134, to authorize the Mescalero Apache Tribe to lease adjudicated water rights, S. 1065, to settle land claims within the Fort Hall Reservation, S. 2389, to deem the submission of certain claims to an Indian Health Service contracting officer as timely, and S. 3193, to make technical corrections to the legal description of certain land to be held in trust for the Barona Band of Mission Indians.

SD-628

2:30 p.m.

Intelligence

To hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

3 p.m.

Foreign Relations

African Affairs Subcommittee

To hold hearings to examine economic statecraft, focusing on embracing Africa's market potential.

SD-419

JULY 12

10 a.m.

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine creating positive learning environments for all students.

Room to be announced