

Director and CEO of the Addict Rehabilitation Center (ARC) which began in 1957, at first as a small day program which met in the Manhattan Christian Reform Church. Mr. Allen is an inspiring man who has brought much needed assistance, love, and care to the addicts of our community, taking the steps to bring them back into the folds of society.

Even without his accomplishments in terms of giving back to the world, Mr. Allen's personal story of struggle and growth is enough in itself to merit this tribute. Mr. Allen was himself a heroin addict, and had pushed away his family, friends, and all of his emotions in order to maintain his negative relationship with his drug of choice. After ten years of hopelessness and lack of connection with the world around him, Mr. Allen made the toughest decision addicts are faced with: to get help for his problem. He had the support of his wife, Mary, who pushed him to join a treatment facility in Kentucky. It was there that Allen overcame his previous anger and contempt for religion, and he began to pray to God to help him through his struggle. With an amount of work unimaginable to those who have never dealt with addiction, Allen overcame his dependence on heroin. His journey is an inspiring one, and I am honored to call Mr. Allen my friend.

Yet Mr. Allen's fight did not end here. In addition to facing the daily battles recovered addicts must face throughout their lives, Mr. Allen took the next step to help others dealing with similar struggles. His life crossed paths with that of another dear friend and civil rights leader, the late Reverend Dr. Eugene S. Callender of the Manhattan Christian Reform Church, and he immediately volunteered to assist the Reverend with a church-sponsored narcotics rehabilitation program. Since that day, Mr. Allen has not paused in his goal of helping other addicts change their lives around. As founder of the Addict Rehabilitation Center, he transformed the small church-funded program into a successful, far-reaching organization. Under Allen's loving and committed leadership, ARC has served thousands of people dealing with substance abuse, and the hope he brought to these people's lives will forever remain in their hearts.

HISTORICAL RECORD ON PASSAGE OF AFFORDABLE CARE ACT AND RELATED HEALTHCARE FUNDING IN AMERICAN SAMOA

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to include, for historical purposes, information on the passage of the Affordable Care Act and related healthcare funding in American Samoa.

[Press Release, Mar. 25, 2010]

HOUSE PASSES FINAL VERSION OF HEALTH CARE LEGISLATION, INCLUDES INCREASE IN MEDICAID AND HEALTH INSURANCE EXCHANGE FOR AMERICAN SAMOA

Congressman Faleomavaega announced today that by a vote of 220-207 the U.S. House of Representatives passed the final version of H.R. 4872, the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010. The bill now goes to President Obama for signature.

"As a result of this historic legislation, for the next 9 years American Samoa will receive an increase of \$180 million in its total Medicaid spending cap for a total of \$285.5 million," Faleomavaega said. "American Samoa will continue to receive the 5% increase in its Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) that was signed into law by the President this past Tuesday. This means that the American Samoa Government (ASG) will pay 45% of the Medicaid costs while the federal government pays 55%."

"This legislation continues to provide \$1 billion for the Territories to participate in the Health Insurance Exchange program. Each of the Territories will be afforded the option to participate or transfer their allocation to their Medicaid program. In this case, if American Samoa chooses not to participate in the Exchange by 2014, the Territory will receive an additional \$18.75 million for its Medicaid program."

"Between 2004 and 2008, ASG has received an estimated \$106 million in direct and indirect federal grant funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. As you may know, ASG receives an additional \$23 million per year from the federal government for the operations of its local government. ASG continues to be the only State or Territory that receives federal funding for the operation of its local government and more than \$7 million per year of these operating funds, provided by the Department of Interior, are allocated for LBJ and healthcare in the Territory."

"With the hundreds of millions provided to ASG from the federal government for healthcare in American Samoa, I have every confidence that the Fono, together with the local administration, will work to establish a solid program in place for our residents who deserve affordable quality healthcare under the law."

"Again, I want to thank President Obama and those involved for making health care affordable for all Americans and for working with the Congressional Delegates to make certain that the Territories were included in this historic legislation," Faleomavaega concluded.

[Press Release, Apr. 30, 2012]

FALEOMAVAEGA STANDS WITH DEMOCRATIC COLLEAGUES TO FIGHT FOR TERRITORY'S MEDICAID FUNDING

Congressman Faleomavaega today announced that he will continue to work with his Democratic colleagues in Congress to ensure that critical funding for American Samoa's Medicaid program is not affected by Republican proposals to significantly reduce federal healthcare funding for the five U.S. Territories.

The Republican proposed cuts to American Samoa's Medicaid program originated in the House Committee on Energy and Commerce which oversees healthcare issues. The legislation, put forward by Republican Chairman Fred Upton, seeks to repeal a provision of Affordable Care Act (ACA) that provided \$6.3 billion in additional funding for Medicaid in the territories from FY 2011 to FY 2019, and increased the territories' Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) from 50% to 55%. The proposal follows the Republican's own directive in the FY 2013 budget approved by the House last month that required the Energy and Commerce Committee to submit legislation to reduce the deficit by \$96.76 billion over the next decade.

In a letter to Chairman Fred Upton, dated April 20, 2012, Congressman Faleomavaega, along with his colleagues from the U.S. Territories, Pedro Pierluisi (Puerto Rico), Donna Christensen (U.S. Virgin Islands), Madeleine Bordallo (Guam), and Gregorio

"Kilili" Camacho Sablan (Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands), voiced their strong opposition to the proposed cuts. Another letter to Chairman Upton, dated April 25, 2012, from all Democratic members of the House Natural Resources Committee, led by Ranking Member Edward Markey and including Congressman Faleomavaega, denounced the Republican proposed legislation. Furthermore, Representative Donna Christensen of the U.S. Virgin Islands, a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, offered an amendment to block the Republican proposal in the Committee. But the amendment was defeated on a party-line vote of 30 to 21. The bill passed in Committee on April 25, 2012 and is expected to be considered by the full House in the coming weeks.

"While I understand the need for fiscal reform and the important work we must do in Congress to reduce the deficit, I do not believe that any budget alternative should be taken out on America's most vulnerable populations," Congressman Faleomavaega stated.

"The residents of the five U.S. Territories, numbering more than 4 million, have historically received unequal treatment under the Medicaid program in comparison to the States. For example, some of the country's poorest states receive upwards of 80 percent in their federal matching requirement (FMAP) for Medicaid and do not have a mandated funding cap on their Medicaid program. The Affordable Care Act, passed in 2010 without a single Republican vote, sought to address some of these disparities. While it did not fully close the inequality gap, it did provide a major step forward for the Territories. Out of the \$6.3 billion in additional funding to the Territories, the ACA increased American Samoa's Medicaid funding to a total of \$285.5 million over the nine year period from FY 2011-FY 2019, compared to \$105 million without the legislation."

"The Affordable Care Act was a major step forward for American Samoa and the U.S. Territories, but this Republican bill only seeks to reverse our progress towards equality under the Medicaid program. If this bill were to be enacted, American Samoa's FY 2012 funding cap of approximately \$28 million will revert back to a pre-ACA ceiling of approximately \$10.6 million next year," said Congressman Faleomavaega.

"At this time, I, along with my fellow Territorial delegates will continue to work hard to ensure that this bill does not become law. It is highly unlikely that the Senate will pass or the President will sign into law such a bill that would repeal such important funding for our Territories."

"As stated in our joint Territorial letter to Chairman Upton, this proposal has sent 'a terrible message of exclusion to our constituents' by proposing to cut every single dollar of our new funding under the Affordable Care Act. The President's Administration has offered several alternatives to deficit reduction, and like my Democratic colleagues from the Territories as well as our Territorial governors, I do not believe that taking important funding away from our needy healthcare systems in the Territories is a good solution to the deficit."

"I thank my colleagues for their tireless advocacy on behalf of more than 4 million residents in the U.S. Territories, and I ensure the people of American Samoa that we will continue to fight hard to protect the Territory's Medicaid funding," Faleomavaega concluded.

[Press Release, Jan. 13, 2014]

CONGRESSMAN FALDOMAVAEGA APPLAUDS
CMS DECISION TO INCREASE MEDICAID
FMAP FOR ELIGIBLE TERRITORIES

Congressman Faleomavaega today issued the following statement in response to a decision by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to increase the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage (FMAP) for eligible U.S. Territories.

“I am pleased to hear today of CMS’ decision to offer each US Territory the opportunity to receive increases to the federal Medicaid matching rate provided by the Affordable Care Act (ACA). CMS’ announcement today provides for each eligible Territory to receive two increases to their FMAP. CMS will send a letter to Medicaid directors in the five U.S. Territories outlining the specific information needed to determine the eligibility of each Territory. According to CMS, one potential increase will be determined by whether a Territory fulfills the requirements for an ‘expansion state’ matching rate. The other increase will be a temporary (2 year) 2.2 percentage point increase for all expenditures in jurisdictions that do not claim any ‘newly eligible’ matching funds. CMS has also determined that both increases will be available to Territories that meet the criteria for ‘expansion state’ designation. CMS will be reaching out to each

Territory similarly to each of the States and the District of Columbia.

“From the outset of negotiations leading up to the passage of the Affordable Care Act, one of the key issues for the U.S. Territories was to increase the FMAP for each Territory. Along with my colleagues from the U.S. Territories, I have continuously voiced American Samoa’s desire for state-like treatment in which our FMAP is set according to per capita income to reflect our true ability to share in financing Medicaid services. The ACA increased the Territories’ FMAP from 50 to 55 percent federal share. The ACA also gave American Samoa a \$180 million increase in the Territory’s Medicaid statutory cap over a nine year period, from 2011 through 2019, lifting the overall cap to \$285.5 million in Medicaid funding. However, while the increase in funding caps were a victory for the Territories, the fact of the matter is, the ability of the Territories to draw down on this additional federal funding is limited because of the required FMAP.

“I thank Secretary Sebelius, Administrator Marilyn Tavenner, and their team for their work and outreach to American Samoa and our fellow Territories. While full parity by statute is still a goal to be realized for the Territories, I am pleased nonetheless that the most recent decision by CMS will provide an opportunity for Territories to receive an increased FMAP, pending eligibility.”

HEATHER SCHNEIDER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 3, 2014

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Heather Schneider for receiving the 2014 City of Golden Mayor’s Award of Excellence.

The City of Golden honors Heather for her dedication to supporting and improving the Golden community. She is a Golden native and mother of three young children. In addition to working part-time at an engineering firm, Heather is also a graduate of Leadership Golden, a founding member of the Golden Young Professionals, and an enormous advocate for the Golden School Foundation where she has been instrumental in helping to raise money and awareness for the needs of our public schools through marketing the Golden Gallop.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Heather Schneider for this well-deserved recognition by the City of Golden.