

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SUPPORTING H.R. 1375, THE PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION DIRECTLY ACT

HON. GUS M. BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1375, the Provide Accurate Information Directly (or PAID) Act which includes an important provision amending the Medicare Secondary Payer Act. That provision facilitates expanded communication between the Medicare program and insurers and self-insured entities settling liability, no-fault, and workers' compensation claims with Medicare beneficiaries who may be covered by a Medicare Advantage (Part C) Plan or Medicare Prescription Drug (Part D) Plan. This is important for Medicare beneficiaries, who today resolve claims around a car crash or a slip and fall, but because of the way the law works can later be sued by a Medicare Advantage Plan for repayment. It has happened before—the PAID Act will fix that problem and allow beneficiaries to sleep at night knowing that they have fully resolved their claims.

Congress amended the MSP statute in 2007 through Section 111 of the MMSEA to require parties to a dispute (known as "Primary Plans") to report settlements, judgments and awards to Medicare, called "Section 111 Reports." That allowed Medicare to seek recovery from settling parties under the Act when Medicare paid for health care because other payment was not available or reasonably expected to be available. While that program has been successful for the Medicare fee-for-service program, where the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has the claims data for recovery, it has not been as successful for the Part C and Part D programs, where CMS does not have the Part C and Part D claims data and cannot recover for payments that have been made. To compound the problem, settling parties are often unable to identify the correct Part C or Part D plan to be able to coordinate benefits should they choose to do so. The PAID Act closes that critical information gap, by having CMS communicate the Part C and Part D plan identification to settling parties in response to a Section 111 Report. CMS has that data and can provide it.

Congress is aware that for the last eight years CMS has provided all Section 111 Reports to the Part C and Part D Plans, and Congress expects that CMS will continue to do so after this legislation is enacted. Further, the existing MSP statute and regulations impose specific requirements on CMS, and on Part C and Part D Plans, to pay for claims in some situations, to not pay for claims in other situations, and to pursue recovery of claims when appropriate. Nothing in this legislation is intended to change any of those obligations or requirements, and Congress expects Part C and Part D Plans to continue to seek recovery of claims by timely notifying settling parties

when a payment has been made that should be reimbursed, consistent with the CMS notice procedures. This legislation is only intended to provide more information to the settling parties, so that they have the ability to coordinate with Part C and Part D Plans earlier if they so choose.

Congress has afforded CMS 18 months to implement this law and urges CMS to move with all deliberate speed to both implement its own system changes and coordinate with all Primary Plans throughout the implementation process. Regular communication and coordination will be critical to ensuring that Primary Plans are aware of the data exchange requirements that CMS plans to implement, and to ensure that Primary Plans are prepared as quickly as possible to utilize the data CMS will be providing under this law. By involving all stakeholders throughout the implementation process, CMS can implement our intention that the needed Plan identity information be available for parties to coordinate benefits as quickly as possible.

I urge my colleagues to support this fix.

URBAN FARMING

HON. KWANZA HALL

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. HALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on the importance of urban farming.

Urban Farming first had its start during World War II where it supplied over 40 percent of produce.

But in recent days, it is making a comeback, and just in time. As our population grows, it is unrealistic to expect that urban farming will meet all of our food needs.

But, it will most certainly make a dent. But it will also do other things. It will encourage healthier diets, which is a much-needed skill for many in urban areas, who often resort to fast food and other conveniences of big city life.

It will also do must erode the large caloric diets that many in cities follow. Urban farming also bolsters local communities by bringing folks together, which itself foster greater collaboration and understanding of other people.

It can deliver produce at a lower cost, leaving families to spend on other costs of living, like housing.

It can also be good for the environment, as it can reduce CO2 emissions attendant with transporting food from faraway farms to urban centers.

And, it can also be another source of minority entrepreneurship by encouraging ownership of these farming centers with those who live in the buildings where the food is grown.

There are many benefits to this practice and I hope that we can take advantage of them in the days ahead.

IN HONOR OF JAYME ORR RHODES

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jayme Orr Rhodes of Blair County, Pennsylvania for her service to Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District on the 2020 U.S. Service Academy Nomination Committee.

Nominating exceptional candidates to attend our nation's service academies is one of my most important responsibilities in Congress. During this process, I rely on members of the Service Academy Nomination Committee, which is comprised of dedicated volunteers who have served our nation with distinction.

Jayme is one of nine academy alumni who graciously volunteered their time to meet with and evaluate perspective nominees for the Class of 2025. As a graduate of the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, Jayme knows firsthand the qualities and dedication that are critical for succeeding at the academies. She provided wise counsel and expertise throughout the nominating process, and I am grateful for her time and commitment.

Jayme Orr Rhodes is an outstanding Pennsylvanian and American, as well as an excellent role model for future academy students. On behalf of the 13th District of Pennsylvania, it is my honor to recognize Jayme for her service to our community and our nation.

EAGLE SCOUTS

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. DUNN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize three exceptional students from Florida's Second Congressional District who will soon earn the esteemed Eagle Scout rank.

Corey Phelps and Sean Farnsley, of Port St. Joe, Florida, recently completed their community service projects to meet the requirements for the Eagle Scout rank.

Sean's Eagle project was to build a butterfly garden and reflecting area at the Constitution Convention Museum State Park in Port St. Joe.

Corey's project was to build a flag deposit box out of steel for the John C. Gainous Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10069.

This is the first time in Troop 347's existence that two scouts have become members of the 2020 Gulf Coast Council Eagle Class.

It has also been approximately twenty-four years since Port St. Joe has had its last Eagle Scout.

But they weren't the only ones making history.

Macey Hartman of Chiles High School in Tallahassee, Florida will be a part of the national inaugural class of female Eagle Scouts.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

During the Halloween weekend, Macey completed her Eagle Scout community service project, where she built four benches along the 1.75-mile Centerville Pedway in Tallahassee.

She will join the first wave of young women to achieve the highest scouting rank.

These students are making great strides towards bright futures.

I commend them for taking on this challenge and for giving back to their communities.

HONORING THE CAREER OF JUDGE
MARTHA WALSH HOOD

HON. JOHN KATKO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. KATKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career of Judge Martha Walsh Hood, who has been a New York Family Court Judge in Onondaga County for 20 years. Judge Walsh Hood has been a dedicated public servant and a strong advocate for Central New York families throughout her career, and I am honored to know her.

After graduating from Syracuse University College of Law in 1979, Judge Walsh Hood began a long and respectable career as a lawyer. In 2000, Judge Walsh Hood was appointed as a Family Court Judge for New York's fifth judicial district and was subsequently designated as an acting State Supreme Court Justice. Additionally, she was the Presiding Justice of the Onondaga Integrated Domestic Violence Court, which she helped found, until June of 2005.

Throughout her career, Judge Walsh Hood has displayed a strong commitment to preserving the integrity of the law and advocating for the children and families of Central New York. She has repeatedly demonstrated the strength of her character through her fairness, unmatched work ethic, and her dedication to public service. During her time at the New York Family Court, she helped create and organize the annual National Adoption Day celebration in Central New York. Each year on National Adoption Day, judges from courts around Central New York volunteer to finalize numerous adoptions and celebrate their new families while raising awareness of the thousands of children in foster care. Judge Walsh Hood generously volunteers each year to organize this important event as a demonstration of her commitment to Central New York families.

Outside of her career, Judge Walsh Hood is a dedicated wife to her husband, Paul, and a loving mother to her two children.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing the distinguished career of Martha Walsh Hood. A dedicated public servant, I wish Judge Walsh Hood the best in her retirement.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF
HON. JUDGE ERNESTINE S. GRAY

HON. CEDRIC L. RICHMOND

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. RICHMOND. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the retirement of the Honorable Judge

Ernestine S. Gray who served as a judge in the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court in New Orleans for over 35 years.

A native of South Carolina, Judge Ernestine S. Gray was educated in Orangeburg before graduating from Spelman College in 1971 and Louisiana State University Law Center in 1976. Prior to her election to the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, Judge Gray was involved in private practice. During her career in public service she worked in the Louisiana Attorney General's office focusing on antitrust law issues and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) as a trial attorney.

From the beginning of her career, Judge Gray has dedicated herself to the juvenile justice system. She demonstrated that commitment through her work at the Baton Rouge Legal Aid Society where she presided over several family law cases. Judge Gray also held various president level positions at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, National CASA, and the local YWCA amongst others. Currently, she serves as the president of the Pelican Center for Children and Families.

A highly respected public servant, and member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Judge Gray is the recipient of numerous awards including the 2018 American Bar Foundation Outstanding Service Award, the 2013 City Business Leadership in Law Award, the 2011 Louisiana Association of Black Woman Attorney's Trailblazer Award, the 2008 Honorary Membership for the Louisiana Chapter of the Order of the Coif, the 2004 recipient of Spirit of Crazy Horse Award Reclaiming Youth International, the 2002 Albert Elias Award for Advancement of Compassionate Care of Troubled Youth, the National Council on Crime and Delinquency Prevention, and the 1995 American Bar Association Franklin D. Flaschner Judicial Award.

Judge Gray had an extraordinary judicial career and truly made a substantial impact on the lives of children and families in New Orleans. We cannot match the sacrifices made by Judge Gray, but surely we can try to match her sense of service. We cannot match her courage, but we can strive to match her devotion.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate the retirement of the Honorable Judge Ernestine S. Gray.

RECOGNIZING NOLAN MEJIA AS
CONSTITUENT OF THE MONTH

HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize local Carlsbad teen, Nolan Mejia, as my December Constituent of the Month. As the COVID-19 pandemic spread in our communities, 17-year-old Nolan saw an opportunity to ease the struggles of his neighbors and friends. After witnessing his own grandparents have nearby family members do their grocery shopping, he worried for those that did not have anyone to do the same for them.

Feeling inspired by his own family's kindness, Mejia started the Grocery Grab service. Run by himself and a few of his classmates from Sage Creek High School in Carlsbad, the

free grocery shopping service is designed to accommodate those who are immunocompromised and advised to stay at home to prevent exposure to COVID-19. So far, the group has delivered over 7,000 items to various seniors in the community, with any tips received for their services donated to the San Diego COVID-19 Community Response Fund.

While the pandemic continues to impact our communities in North County San Diego and South Orange County, it is absolutely vital that we embrace teamwork and togetherness. I am incredibly encouraged by the enthusiasm and charity of Nolan and his Grocery Grab staff for rising to the moment on the behalf of those CA-49 residents in need. In order to get through this unprecedented time, it's important that we support our most vulnerable neighbors. I am deeply grateful for Nolan's service to our District, and I am proud to recognize him as my Constituent of the Month.

IN HONOR OF ROD EDMINSTON

HON. JOHN JOYCE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rod Edminston of Blair County, Pennsylvania for his service to Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District on the 2020 U.S. Service Academy Nomination Committee.

Nominating exceptional candidates to attend our nation's service academies is one of my most important responsibilities in Congress. During this process, I rely on members of the Service Academy Nomination Committee, which is comprised of dedicated volunteers who have served our nation with distinction.

Rod is one of nine academy alumni who graciously volunteered their time to meet with and evaluate perspective nominees for the Class of 2025. As a graduate of the United States Military Academy in West Point, New York, Rod knows firsthand the qualities and dedication that are critical for succeeding at the academies. He provided wise counsel and expertise throughout the nominating process, and I am grateful for his time and commitment.

Rod Edminston is an outstanding Pennsylvanian and American, as well as an excellent role model for future academy students. On behalf of the 13th District of Pennsylvania, it is my honor to recognize Rod for his service to our community and our nation.

IN HONOR OF REP. GREG WALDEN

HON. SUZANNE BONAMICI

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 17, 2020

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the people of our home state of Oregon to honor my friend, colleague, and fellow Oregon Duck, GREG WALDEN, for his twenty-two years of service in the U.S. House of Representatives. Congressman WALDEN's call to service did not start in this chamber—and it will not end here. GREG WALDEN and I share similar paths. We both attended the University of Oregon School of