

be presented with the Enterprise of the Year Award. For their outstanding contributions to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond, these honorees will be recognized at an induction ceremony taking place on Monday, May 15, 2023, at Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana. The Honorable Eric Holcomb, Governor of the State of Indiana, will serve as the keynote speaker for this special event.

Jeff Good is the founder and owner of Good Hospitality Services. Jeff founded the company in the 1990s, building basic budget motels in numerous Indiana towns. Under Mr. Good's steadfast direction, the company continued to expand throughout the years, eventually refining its building procedures. Today, Good Hospitality Services builds mostly Hilton and Marriott hotels throughout Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, and Florida. In the future, the successful company plans to develop in the Carolinas, Georgia, Tennessee, and Texas and will continue to remain active in Northwest Indiana and throughout the Midwest.

Richard Pellar is the Chief Executive Officer of Crown Corr, a building-enclosure contractor based in Gary, Indiana. Crown Corr has assisted in the building of numerous structures throughout the country, including sports stadiums, airports, hospitals, and skyscrapers. Some notable projects include SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles, Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, O'Hare International Airport, Los Angeles International Airport, and the Museum of Pop Culture in Seattle, to name a few. Crown Corr is currently working on a new hospital at Ohio State University and an Indiana University hospital in Indianapolis. Under Mr. Pellar's outstanding leadership, Crown Corr thrived due to the relationships it has with the labor unions and its strong emphasis on investing in its employees.

Jeanne Robbins is the President of Munster Steel Co., Inc., a fabricator of structured and miscellaneous steel that is known for its bascule bridges. Based out of Hammond, Indiana, Munster Steel works on steel framing for schools, hospitals, highrises, train station platforms, and industrial facilities. Some remarkable projects include the skyboxes at Wrigley Field and the former Comiskey Park in Chicago, the Wells Street drawbridge, the Washington Wabash CTA station, the McCormick Place pedestrian bridge, and the Ravinia Pavilion, to name a few. An incredibly successful leader, Ms. Robbins strives to provide quality products while maintaining a safe and productive work environment for its valued team.

Rick Urschel is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Urschel Laboratories, a global leader in industrial food-cutting technology, located in Chesterton with a research and development team located in Valparaiso, Indiana. Under Rick's direction, Urschel Laboratories continues to flourish in its industry due to its innovative ideas and willingness to try new things. In addition, Mr. Urschel gives much of his time and efforts to charitable endeavors, serving on numerous boards and capital campaigns throughout the community of Valparaiso and beyond.

Karen Lauerma, Lake County Indiana Economic Alliance President, is being honored posthumously by the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame. Throughout her successful career, Karen brought countless employment opportunities, numerous economic development projects, and multi-million-dollar investments to the region. For her tire-

less support and commitment to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond, Karen Lauerma served as an inspiration to us all and is worthy of the highest praise.

The recipient of the Enterprise of the Year Award is Chester, Inc., a diversified agricultural services company based in Valparaiso, Indiana. Chester, Inc. started out as a popcorn business that changed the way popcorn was sold. Throughout the years, the company diversified and shifted its focus and attention. Today, Chester, Inc. provides farmers with irrigation systems and grain bins and is expanding into commercial construction projects throughout the region. Chester, Inc. recently celebrated its 75th Anniversary last year, and its great success is attributed to the business relationships it has been able to develop and maintain over many years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in commending these dedicated leaders and organizations upon their induction into the Northwest Indiana Business and Industry Hall of Fame. For their influence, innovation, and dedication to the community of Northwest Indiana and beyond, the inductees are worthy of the highest praise.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2023*

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, severe storms delayed my flight on May 9, 2023, and I missed that evening's suspensions.

Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 203, and YEA on Roll Call No. 204.

#### RECOGNIZING VIETNAM WAR HERO SERGEANT EARL "BUTCHIE" SCHUSTER

#### HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2023*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, today we recognize a hero in our community, Sergeant Earl "Butchie" Schuster, who valiantly served our country in Vietnam. Here at the pregame ceremony at Sahlen Field in Buffalo, thousands of Western New Yorkers will learn of Sergeant Schuster's fortitude and gain an appreciation of his commitment and service.

Born and raised in South Buffalo, Sergeant Schuster was born in 1948 and graduated from South Park High School. Butchie was drafted into the United States Army where he completed basic training. He then joined the 5th Infantry during the Vietnam War.

While serving in Vietnam, Butchie was involved in several battles, served as a "Tunnel Rat," and was ultimately wounded by the enemy in April of 1969. He received medical treatment before returning to combat with his fellow soldiers. He received the Bronze Star Medal for his bravery and heroic service and the Purple Heart for the injuries he sustained in battle. He was also awarded the Army

Commendation Medal, Combat Infantryman Badge, National Defense Service Medal, Air Medal, Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze service stars, and the Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal with 1960 Device.

Butchie was honorably discharged from active duty in 1970 and returned home where he began his 42-year career as a Local 6 Union Ironworker in Buffalo. Fittingly, in the mid-1980s, Butchie was one of the first ironworkers to begin construction on Sahlen Field—the location at which we honor him today.

Please join me in thanking Sergeant Schuster for his outstanding service to our country. He joined our military at a time of heightened tension in our nation, and as so many of his family and loved ones here today know, this type of appreciation is long overdue. I know his children, Brian and Wendy are watching today with love in their hearts. Butchie represents the very best of our Vietnam veterans, and it is my distinct honor to join our entire community in thanking him for his devotion to duty.

#### RECOGNIZING MATTHEW CEJA FOR HIS PUBLIC SERVICE ON BEHALF OF THE 39TH DISTRICT OF CALI- FORNIA

#### HON. MARK TAKANO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2023*

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of my longtime staffers, Matthew Ceja. Matt's career in my office spanned over five and a half years, a time in which I have had the honor of watching him grow into each new role.

A proud, born-and-raised Inland Empire native, Matt joined my office at the very beginning of his career on the Hill as an intern. From there he grew into every role from staff assistant to legislative assistant, tackling each new position with great aptitude and enthusiasm.

As a staffer, Matt has been unfailingly dependable. His work on energy and environment issues for the office addressed some of my constituency's most immediate concerns, and his passion for the Inland Empire is always at the core of his work. Matt's commitment to progressive values reflected his approach to each of his portfolio issues, and I am grateful for his depth and breadth when working with me to craft policy.

What makes Matt truly a standout as both a staffer and a coworker is that he possesses qualities that are impossible to teach: his kindness, his generosity, and natural inclination towards mentorship. To every younger staffer that has come to my office after him, Matt has been a source of advice and encouragement. He is everyone's first friend and biggest cheerleader, and he has played a major role in creating the kind of warm, welcoming, and inclusive environment in my office that any Member of Congress would be lucky to have.

Although he will be leaving my office, I am glad that he will not yet be departing the Hill and wish him the best of luck in his new role. The Inland Empire is lucky to have an advocate like him in our corner.

INTRODUCTION OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS MEDICAID  
EQUIVALENCE ACT

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO  
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2023*

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, Medicaid funding for the Marianas was \$6.5 million when I first came to Congress in 2009. This year, the Medicaid block grant is \$66 million. We have made significant progress.

But the Marianas is like the runner who begins the race 400 yards back from everyone else's starting line.

In 1983, when limited Medicaid block grants for the territories were established in law, the Marianas lacked congressional representation. The impact was evident: our grant was the smallest.

In subsequent years, though the grant increased with the percentage of inflation or congressional action, that built-in disparity between the Marianas and other territories was perpetuated.

The result is today American Samoa receives \$24 million more in Medicaid funding than the Marianas despite having the same population and income. And American Samoa is able to offer more healthcare services to more low-income residents as a result. In 2021, the American Samoa Medicaid program served nearly 38,000 residents whereas the Marianas Medicaid program served 17,000.

The time has come to level up and provide funding for the Marianas equivalent to a territory with virtually the same population and incomes.

The legislation I am introducing today does just that. It provides for a Marianas Medicaid grant that matches what American Samoa receives and corrects a historical disparity in Medicaid funding that began when the Marianas had no voice in Congress.

This legislation is not simply an action to rationalize the funding for Medicaid. The legislation also is a response to the very real shortfall in Medicaid funding for the Marianas that our Governor Arnold I. Palacios reported to me in April. I am including his letter in the RECORD.

Funding for fiscal 2023 has already been allotted. So, today's legislation will not aid this year's shortfall. But today's legislation will help ensure that in future years, low-income residents in the Marianas and American Samoa have equivalent access to federally funded healthcare.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANAS ISLANDS, OFFICE OF THE  
GOVERNOR,

*Saipan, MP, April 4, 2023.*

Re Financial Shortfall.

Hon. ARNOLD I. PALACIOS & Lt. Governor  
DAVID M. APATANG,  
Governor, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan, MP.

DEAR GOVERNOR PALACIOS & LT. GOVERNOR APATANG: In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and through temporary authorities provided during the National Public Health Emergency (PHE), the Commonwealth Medicaid Agency (CMA) expanded coverage for

up to 30,000 additional CNMI residents, providing vital healthcare access to over 45,000 individuals today. The PHE concludes on May 11, 2023, and although Medicaid expenses will gradually decrease, we still anticipate a financial shortfall by the end of fiscal year 2023 due to the impact of the PHE.

The CNMI's federal Medicaid funding is capped annually by statute, in section 1108 of the Social Security Act. The CNMI Government bears the responsibility for services to Medicaid beneficiaries when federal funds are exhausted. Despite permanent increases to CNMI's Medicaid cap through the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2020, our current funding of \$65,870,000 for fiscal year 2023 is insufficient given the expenditure trends observed in fiscal year 2022 and as of March 30, 2023.

Medicaid expended approximately \$18 million of ARPA funds appropriated by the CNMI Government in addition to the \$63 million of the 1108 Funding for Fiscal Year 2022. As a result of the additional appropriations, CNMI Medicaid did not experience a shortfall. As of March 30, 2023, Medicaid has expended 61% of its Fiscal Year 2023 section 1108 allotment. No other funding sources are available today to supplement the shortfall.

The CNMI Medicaid's Section 1108 funding is expected to be depleted before the current fiscal year's end, which threatens our ability to continue providing essential healthcare services to Medicaid beneficiaries. Additional funding is crucial to prevent provider closures, suspension of services and loss of healthcare access for beneficiaries, and increased burden on the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC), which will become the sole provider available to Medicaid beneficiaries when federal funds run out. Moreover, the CNMI's existing shortage of specialty care services will be exacerbated, compromising current and future patients' access to off-island treatments.

We initially projected a \$10 million shortfall in Section 1108 funding; this projection has since been revised to \$4.8 million as of March 30, 2023, following the announcement of a date certain for the PHE's conclusion and additional guidance from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). However, this figure may change due to monthly uncertainties in services rendered and accounts receivables. It may also change if monthly payments made to CHCC are adjusted based on any revisions made to the Certified Public Expenditure methodology post-PHE.

While the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 has permanently secured CNMI's Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP) at 83%, the 6.2% increase provided by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act will be phased out, resulting in higher local shares for CNMI. Additionally, as we have learned from your FY 2023 revised budget message transmitted to the Legislature on March 8, 2023, Community Disaster Loan funds are no longer available to support the CNMI's local match requirement for Medicaid. Insufficient local matching funds jeopardizes our ability to utilize federal funds.

To avoid the fast-approaching fiscal cliff and the healthcare crisis that will follow, the Commonwealth's Medicaid program is in urgent need of two critical interventions in the current fiscal year:

- 1) a waiver of the local match requirement; and
- 2) additional federal funding of at least \$4.8 million, based on current projections.

These measures are essential to address our outstanding and anticipated obligations for the remainder of the fiscal year and will

ensure the continued provision of vital healthcare services to our constituents.

Please feel free to contact me for further discussion.

Sincerely,

VICENTA BORJA,  
Acting Medicaid Director.

RECOGNIZING HEREDITARY  
ANGIOEDEMA AWARENESS DAY

**HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 11, 2023*

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize May 16th as Hereditary Angioedema Awareness Day and to call attention to challenges and opportunities faced by this patient community. Angioedema (HAE) is a rare, severe, and potentially life-threatening genetic condition in about 1 in 10,000 to 1 in 50,000 people. HAE symptoms include painful and disabling episodes of edema, or swelling, in all body parts including the abdomen. Throat swelling can close the airway and cause death by asphyxiation. While minor trauma or stress may trigger an attack, swelling often occurs without a known trigger. Symptoms of hereditary angioedema typically begin in childhood and worsen during puberty. Untreated individuals may have an attack every 1 to 2 weeks with most episodes lasting 3 to 4 days.

HAE used to be associated with an incredibly high mortality rate, but recent breakthroughs in medical science have taken the condition from a death sentence to a manageable chronic illness. With the advent of innovative therapies, HAE patients no longer experience disability and dependency, but rather live full, productive, and largely suffering-free lives. HAE affected individuals require near constant access to life-saving care and medication and additional research advancements are needed to sustain progress toward an elusive cure.

Loss of productivity at work and school is one of the many side effects of those suffering from HAE, particularly when it is not managed correctly and comprehensively. In an earlier survey conducted by the U.S. Hereditary Angioedema Association, 57 percent of patients reported as not having equal advancement in career pathways and 48 percent stated they did not achieve the educational level that they wanted.

With significant improvements in care and outcomes, HAE patients now sometimes face arbitrary barriers to accessing care and therapies. Some of these barriers are related to a lack of information and awareness about rare disease experiences in general. Other barriers are related to problematic coverage policies, such as fail first protocols, access to copayment and charitable assistance, and prior authorization requirements. I look forward to working with my colleagues to continue to improve coverage and access and lowering out-of-pocket costs for patients with rare and chronic illnesses.

I call on my colleagues to continue to support efforts to advance medical research, improve coverage and access, enhance patient care, and join me in recognizing May 16th as Hereditary Angioedema Awareness Day.