

condition, each year about 54,000 will die; another 1.3 million will live but could greatly benefit from hospice and palliative care.

Historically, hospice reimbursement guidelines, in Medicaid and most private plans, have required that patients forego all life-saving care before they can be admitted to hospice. They have also required the patient to be within the last 6 months of life. However, this does not work with pediatric patients for whom aggressive treatment is sought and life-expectancy cannot be estimated.

Families should not be expected to give up on hope for a cure in order to receive that help. Because of the unpredictable course of many serious childhood illnesses, it is often very difficult for doctors to know when a child is within 6 months of death. Parents should not have to choose between hospice care and the hope for a cure. Parents should not have to keep their child in a hospital or other facility simply because insurance will not pay for the child to receive the same care, at a lower cost, at home.

The most critical time for children and family members is at the point of diagnosis—when they need the intensive support and guidance that hospice and palliative care programs can provide.

Since 1997, CHI has worked with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, to set up the Program for All-Inclusive Care for Children and their Families, CHI PACC. CHI PACC programs provide a continuum of care for children and their families from time of diagnosis, with hope for a cure, through bereavement, if needed.

With Congressional support, a total of 18 States are already benefiting from this initiative through CHI PACC programs in six States and two regions. States currently implementing CHI PACC are Colorado, Florida, Kentucky, New York, Virginia, and my home State of Utah, which will be among the first to implement this model.

Utah has been one of the leaders in this effort. Utah's Department of Health has spearheaded the effort in Utah, and the Primary Children's Medical Center in Salt Lake City, UT has been a central point of developing these pediatric palliative services to assist families from the point of diagnosis.

The New England Region is also preparing to implement CHI PACC to serve six States—Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. The Colorado program extends to patients in six additional States—Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota and Wyoming. In Pennsylvania, the Department of Defense is working to adopt the CHI PACC model for its health care system. The goal of all of these efforts is to prove the effectiveness of the CHI PACC model so that it can be adopted universally through Medicaid, S-SCHIP and private insurers.

As we approach Memorial Day, it should be noted that Children's Hospice International is a living memorial to Ensign Alan H. Armstrong and his shipmates lost aboard the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans during the conflict in Vietnam. Armstrong is the brother of CHI Founder Ann Armstrong-Dailey. I deeply appreciate Ensign Armstrong's service to our country.

I commend Children's Hospice International on its 22nd anniversary as it seeks to remove the roadblocks in private and public insurance programs that prevent these children and their families from receiving the care and support they need.

I too believe in the vision that Ann Armstrong-Dailey, along with original honorary board members Barbara Bush, and Senators Claiborne Pell and Robert Dole, put forth 22 years ago when they launched this very important effort to provide dignified care and support to children with life-threatening conditions and their families.●

NATIONAL HISTORY DAY 2005

● Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, today I wish to say a few words about National History Day. For the past 25 years, National History Day has provided students in grades 6–12 with opportunities to study different periods or trends in American history. National History Day is a year-long educational opportunity for students to examine a period of American history closely through extensive research, development of exhibits and presentations, and multimedia documentaries. This year's national competition topic is "Communication in History," and the competition will be held on the campus of the University of Maryland in June.

I am especially proud of the students from my State of North Dakota who have been selected to participate in this program this year. These students participated in the North Dakota State competition and were selected to represent the State in the national competition. They include Edward Gallegos, Kelbi Clarke, Lyndsie Cossel, Sejal Parikh, Sarak Shirek, Amirah Ahmed, Amber Guseman, Annah Klamm, Meghan Graham, Katie Sanner and Amanda Malm from Grand Forks. They also include Erin Droske, Aaron Christianson, Jessica King, Micah Gilleshammer and Sarah Lunde of St. Thomas. These students represent the Schroeder Middle School and Red River High School in Grand Forks and the St. Thomas Public School in St. Thomas, ND. I congratulate them and wish them much success in the national competition.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:10 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced the the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 29. An act to protect users of the Internet from unknowing transmission of their personally identifiable information through spyware programs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 32. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide criminal penalties for trafficking in counterfeit marks.

H.R. 606. An act to authorize appropriations to the Secretary of the Interior for the restoration of the Angel Island Immigration Station in the State of California.

H.R. 744. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to discourage spyware, and for other purposes.

H.R. 849. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain public land in Clark County, Nevada, for use as a heliport.

H.R. 1101. An act to revoke a Public Land Order with respect to certain lands erroneously included in the Cibola National Wildlife Refuge, California.

H.R. 1499. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow members of the Armed Forces serving in a combat zone to make contributions to their individual retirement plans even if the compensation on which such contribution is based is excluded from gross income, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2046. An act to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to limit premium increases on reinstated health insurance on servicemembers who are released from active military service, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2066. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to establish a Federal Acquisition Service, to replace the General Supply Fund and the Information Technology Fund with an Acquisition Services Fund, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 89. Concurrent resolution honoring the life of Sister Dorothy Stang.

H. Con. Res. 149. Concurrent recognizing the 57th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel.

H. Con. Res. 153. Concurrent resolution welcoming His Excellency Hamid Karzai, the President of Afghanistan, on the occasion of his visit to the United States in May 2005 and expressing support for a strong and enduring strategic partnership between the United States and Afghanistan.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 29. An act to protect users of the Internet from unknowing transmission of their personally identifiable information through spyware programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 32. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide criminal penalties for trafficking in counterfeit marks; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 606. An act to authorize appropriations to the Secretary of the Interior for the restoration of the Angel Island Immigration Station in the State of California; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 744. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to discourage spyware, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 849. An act to provide for the conveyance of certain public land in Clark County, Nevada, for use as a heliport; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.