

Withdraw from your rush of life
To this peaceful chapel in the dome,
Away from all stress and strife.

Renew your faith by the altar there
Look to God for strength and wisdom,
In the wonderful power of prayer.

While I understand that this poem, which Mrs. Leonard penned some years ago, may have been included in the RECORD on an earlier day—during the Nation's bicentennial—it is my firm belief that we need this kind of reminder every now and then. I commend Mrs. Leonard's words to my colleagues and I thank Mrs. Leonard both for writing them and for agreeing to share them with the Nation.

INNOVATIVE, COST-SAVING LEAD POISONING PROGRAM

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 1995

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to share information on a new, innovative treatment and prevention system for lead poisoning, conceived in Baltimore, that is achieving far better results for greater numbers of children, at a dramatically lower cost than traditional treatments. Approximately 15 percent of the children in the United States, that is one in every six under 6 years of age, have high levels of lead in their blood. I urge my colleagues, whose constituents face this problem, to take note of this treatment model and consider endorsing the approach in their own districts.

The sad truth is that, even though lead poisoning is entirely preventable, it is the No. 1 environmental disease that threatens children in our country. The long term effects of lead can cause learning disabilities, hyperactivity, impaired hearing and speech, even brain damage.

Most children are treated for lead poisoning on an outpatient basis and receive chelation therapy. Children with dangerously high levels of lead in their bodies are treated on an inpatient basis. The good news is that traditional treatments are usually reimbursed by insurance companies and provide necessary relief to the children. The bad news is that traditional treatment has not focused on the root cause of lead poisoning: the child's environment. This often leads to multiple poisonings and very costly medical care for each child. This revolving door syndrome is traumatic for the child and family, frustrating for care providers and costly to the payors.

An exciting new model, called the Community Lead Poisoning Prevention and Treatment Center, created by the Kennedy Krieger Institute, a leading speciality pediatric facility located in Baltimore, MD, offers a leap forward in lead poisoning treatment and a significant reduction in costs to State and Federal Government.

The key elements to the model are:

Kennedy Krieger Institute provides a community-based setting for chelation therapy, a renovated rowhouse conveniently located near the outpatient clinic. This is important because it allows children to be treated in a home-like setting, ensures that they live in a lead-free environment—thus avoiding repeated poisoning—and it costs much less than in-hospital treatment.

Kennedy Krieger Institute uses a comprehensive case management approach, addressing not only treatment but also correction of the child's home environment. The institute will facilitate the family's relocation to a lead-free environment or abatement of lead in the family's current dwelling. This crucial, commonsense component in treating a wholly environmental disease has been absent from traditional treatment. Kennedy Krieger Institute's comprehensive approach also includes community outreach and education regarding sources and negative effects of lead poisoning, abatement, nutrition, and proper household cleaning techniques.

Kennedy Krieger created a partnership with the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene [DHMH] to secure a waiver from Medicaid. DHMH pays a years capitated rate to Kennedy Krieger, a fixed amount well below normal inpatient costs. DHMH does not limit its authorization of dollars to medical treatment only. Recognizing the institute's expertise in treating lead poisoning, the department allows these experts flexibility to prescribe a mix of services appropriate to the individual child and family. The department frees the experts to do what is right for the child, focusing on prevention and reducing the revolving door syndrome. Isn't it refreshing to see a government agency act sensibly, removing constraints for real, lasting results for these children?

The results have been striking. Since the program's inception in the summer of 1994, 150 children from 133 families have been enrolled; 95 percent of the children have lower blood lead levels at the second visit than at the enrollment visit and continue to have lower blood lead levels; 84 percent of the families who brought their children to the Kennedy Krieger Institute for their second visit now live in lead safe environments; and 60 families have participated in educational programs, and a team of six individuals is being trained in the first Lead Patrol class to educate their communities about lead poisoning issues.

Substantially improved results are only the beginning. When the historical costs of treating children with lead poisoning are applied to the current group of children enrolled in the program and compared with the current costs to payors, the program costs represent 37 percent of the historical costs. During its first year of operation, the total cost savings will reach \$2 million, of which the State of Maryland will save between \$500,000 and \$1 million. Not only has Kennedy Krieger reduced the costs of treating lead poisoned children, it has also improved upon the quality of care given.

I have simplified my explanation of the program in the interest of time. There is so much more to this exciting program, and I urge you to encourage your local pediatric hospitals and health departments to contact the Kennedy Krieger Institute. In the interest of children across the Nation, the institute will be happy to share information and work with local organizations to replicate the model in towns and cities where lead poisoning is such a tragic, yet preventable problem.

THE TENTH AMENDMENT

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 6, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, August 16, 1995, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

THE TENTH AMENDMENT

This year has witnessed a remarkable revival of the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It was until recently perhaps the least known, and least understood, of the ten amendments contained in the Bill of Rights, but now it comes up regularly in my meetings with constituents and public officials. It is invoked most commonly in support of arguments to protect states' rights and return more power from the federal government to the states.

The Tenth Amendment to the Constitution states: "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." What precisely the amendment means has been the subject of debate for over two hundred years.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The Founding Fathers were divided on the significance of the Tenth Amendment. The delegates to the Constitutional Convention did not include such language in the original Constitution because they thought it was not necessary. According to this view, the Constitution gave the new federal government specific powers, such as the powers to tax and regulate interstate commerce; and powers not granted to the federal government could not be exercised by it, and were therefore reserved to the states.

But fear of central authority was widespread and there emerged strong support, during the ratification process, for an explicit guarantee that the states should retain control over their internal affairs. Hence, the Tenth Amendment was included in the Bill of Rights. Some Founding Fathers, such as James Madison, viewed the Tenth Amendment as merely rhetorical—a provision intended to allay public fears about new federal powers, without limiting those powers in any substantive way. Others, like Thomas Jefferson and other states' rights advocates, viewed it as the bulwark against abuse of federal powers.

The Supreme Court has over the years changed its approach to the Tenth Amendment. Early on the Court paid little heed to it. Subsequent Courts, however, invoked the Tenth Amendment to curtail powers expressly granted to Congress, particularly the powers to tax and regulate interstate commerce. But then the tide turned again. During the Great Depression, in the face of mounting public opposition and a hostile President Roosevelt, the Court retreated, affirming the Social Security Act and other New Deal laws. The Court thereafter tended to defer to Congress in the exercise of its constitutional powers.

REVIVED INTEREST

The Tenth Amendment has made a striking comeback in the last year. The Supreme Court invoked the amendment in the course of striking down a federal law banning gun possession near a school on the ground that Congress had overstepped its constitutional authority to regulate interstate commerce. Members of Congress have also acted in the name of the Tenth Amendment to rein in federal powers and return more responsibilities to the states.