

a hospital setting will need in excess of \$1,500 in services in a given year. The Health Care Financing Administration's own words in the regulation implementing the cap, from the Federal Register of November 2, 1998, illustrate the problem:

The \$1,500 limits will reduce the amount of therapy services paid for by Medicare. The patients most affected are likely to be those with diagnoses such as stroke, certain fractures, and amputation, where the number of therapy visits needed by a patient may exceed those that can be reimbursed by Medicare under the statutory limits. Services not paid for by Medicare, however may be paid for by other payers.

But what about Medicare enrollees who cannot afford high-priced supplemental insurance policies to cover the balances? Clearly, some relief is necessary so that all patients with serious conditions have access to adequate therapy services and the opportunity to resume normal activities of daily living.

In the last Congress, I introduced bipartisan legislation that would eliminate the arbitrary therapy cap and instead pay for outpatient rehabilitative services based on the patient's diagnosis. But Congress adjourned without holding hearings on that bill. This year, we are beginning to witness the consequences of our failure to act. So today, I am pleased to join my colleagues in sponsoring the "Medicare Rehabilitation Benefit Improvement Act," which is specifically designed to provide relief to beneficiaries who need greater levels of care. This bill creates limited exceptions to the \$1,500 cap so that those patients who need additional care the most will be able to continue to receive it. The bill also requires the Secretary of HHS to study the impact of this legislation on beneficiaries and to develop alternatives to the \$1,500 limits. This will help Congress determine if the caps for rehabilitative therapy services should continue.

This legislation is a common sense approach that will permit Medicare patients who need intensive therapy services to secure the appropriate level of care for their conditions. It has the strong endorsement of several organizations, including the American Health Care Association, the American Occupational Therapy Association, the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the National Association of Rehabilitation Agencies, and the Private Practice Section of the American Physical Therapy Association. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this essential measure to restore adequate therapy outpatient rehabilitative coverage to those beneficiaries most in need.

REGARDING BLACK ORIGINAL  
INDIVIDUALS

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 1999*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in a time where our young African-American males are depicted in the news as at-risk youth, criminals, drug dealers, and high school dropouts, we forget that there are positive young men among them who are changing their environment for the better. As a matter-of-fact, many young African-American males are succeeding in our society and are

making their communities both proud and strong.

Mr. Speaker, it is with tremendous pride that I rise to pay tribute to eight young African-American gentlemen in my district who are using their energy, talent, and intelligence to serve others in their community. I truly believe that their accomplishments have cut through the dark and gloomy media depictions of African-American males.

Mr. John Kemp, Mr. Brandon Collier, Mr. Clayton Redmon, Mr. William Hudson, Mr. B.J. Armstrong, Mr. Rodrick Coaxum, Mr. Zandrian Harp, and Mr. Andre Griffin are all members of "Black Original Individuals." Better known as BOI, they formed this organization from a part of an entertainment group already established called Dream Entertainment.

BOI has been designed by these young men to take the social and financial benefits of hosting parties and turn them into a business practice that serves them and their community in a positive manner. Besides teaching them successful business skills, their operation is a great example of teamwork, strategic planning, communications skills, and volunteerism. I am confident that these young men will continue to apply these lessons throughout their lives.

Mr. Speaker, what is particularly notable of their work is that they have been using the profits to fund future enterprises and use the rest of the money to set up a scholarship fund that will be open on a community-wide basis for minorities. This is a great example of humble and positive individuals giving back to others.

Mr. Speaker, not too long ago some high school students in my area had an experience contrary to the gentlemen I cite today. During the fall, hundreds of students disrupted parts of the Dallas area with dangerous underage drinking, noise violations, littering and basic disrespect for our community.

I would like people to focus on these gentlemen as a contrast to the youth that I just mentioned. Instead of destructive parties, BOI has controlled and safe settings where fun is the focus. Instead of violating the law, BOI works within the parameters of rules. Instead of littering our community with beer cans and spreading bottles across lawns, BOI is spreading a message of positive change and service throughout our community.

Mr. Speaker, some of these young men, Mr. Collier and Mr. Redmon in particular, will be heading to college. As they prepare to write what I am sure will be another successful chapter in their lives, they are also passing down their business lessons to the youngest of their members. I commend Mr. Collier and Mr. Redmon for teaching the young for the benefit and sustenance of the group as a whole. Quite often we hear about the successful, both young and old, forgetting to pass their lessons and experiences to those who will come after them. I am pleased that this is not the case with the members of BOI.

On behalf of the constituents of the 30th congressional district, I thank BOI for their service to our community and wish them continued success.

REPORT FROM PENNSYLVANIA  
HONORING SCHNECKSVILLE COM-  
MUNITY FIRE COMPANY

**HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 18, 1999*

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to deliver my Report from Pennsylvania. Today, I would like to share with my colleagues and the American people the remarkable efforts of individuals in Schnecksville, Pennsylvania.

All across the Lehigh Valley, my wife, Kris, and I meet so many wonderful people. We learn of and hear about amazing individuals who strive day and night to make our communities better places to live.

I like to call these individuals Lehigh Valley Heroes. Lehigh Valley Heroes make a difference by helping their friends and neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, everyone involved with the Schnecksville Community Fire Company are Lehigh Valley Heroes.

This weekend, the Schnecksville Fire Company will celebrate 75 years of service to their community. For this reason, I would like to commend and applaud their efforts—both past and present—in making our community a better place.

Mr. Speaker, this concludes my Report from Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I insert the following for printing in the RECORD:

THE 1998 SCHNECKSVILLE FIRE TEAM

Richard Ruch, Keith Fenstermacher, Asst. Engineer; Steve Fetherolf, Lieut.; Todd Kern, Asst. Chief; Keith Zehner, Asst. Chief; Jason Zellner, Ronald Paulus, Scott Gicking, Rev. Michael Bodnyk, Chaplain; Ronald Dunstan, Engineer; Tim Henry, Marvin Belles, Nelson Fogle, Lieut.; Tom Hourt, Captain; Ronald Stahley, Chief; Keith Stahley, Charles Weidaw, Daniel Wehr, Jody Blose, Brad Petrahoy.

FIRE POLICE

Nelson Fogle, Karl Haas, Fire Police Captain; Roy Kern, Fire Police Lieut.; Glenn Stahley, Ronald Paulus, Robert Bold, Dennis Oels

NORTH WHITEHALL TOWNSHIP RESCUE SQUAD

Ron Rutt, Rescue Lieut.; Tom Hourt, Rescue Lieut.; Ronald Stahley, Rescue Capt.; Steve Fetherolf, Scott Gicking, Ronald Paulus, Richard Ruch, Marvin Belles, Keith Fenstermacher, Charles Weidaw, Charles Eckhart, Todd Kern, Nelson Fogle, Keith Zehner, Daniel Wehr, Robert Rudelitch, Gary Cederberg, Jamie Ebert, Mark Kaintz, Kenny Reimert, Jim Steward, Gary Frederick.

75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

George Wessner, Harold Ruch, Rose Bobin, Eleanor Kressley, Carol Wessner, Faye Ruch, John Schaeffer, Delores Wehr, Jean Horwith, Betty Moll, Ron Nederostek, Bernie Molchany, Eva Feinour, Sandy Bradley, Marie Bittner, Betty Holler, Nancy Kern, Roy Kern, Wayne Moll, Nelson Fogle, Terry Dunbar, Ellsworth Meckel, Dennis Bittner, Richrd Solt, Kathy Ruch, Richard Ruch, Diane Fries, Eleanor Stettler, June Handwerk.

OFFICERS 1924 TO 1998

PRESIDENTS' NAMES AND YEARS SERVED

J. Eric Linde, 1924-1941.

Victor Haas, 1942-1945.

David Klotz, 1946.

Raymond Baer, 1947-1948, 1950-1951.

Warren Rohrback, 1949.