

We build upon Medicare's colonoscopy benefit by allowing average risk beneficiaries the option of a colon cancer screening every ten years. This policy comports with American Cancer Society guidelines, and will ensure that average risk beneficiaries have another tool at their disposal to detect colon cancer.

We provide relief for Medicaid disproportionate share hospitals. These hospitals provide uncompensated care to the poorest in our Nation. We should recognize the value of those services. I want to thank Ed Whitfield and Brian Bilbray from the Commerce Committee for their tireless effort on this piece of the legislation.

This bill does not just help the seniors and disabled in our country, but also our most vital resource: our children. I want to talk about the changes we made to SCHIP. We created the program in the BBA 97. As a result of this provision, over two and half million children have health insurance today who might not otherwise have it.

Unfortunately, more than half the states have been unable to spend the 1998 dollars we thought they would. This concerns me.

One of the reasons states have not been able to spend their money is because we restricted the way in which money could be used for outreach. We said you get money for outreach, once you start enrolling children. Many states told us they could not enroll the children unless they had the money to do outreach first.

This legislation gives states money up front for outreach and allows them more time to spend their money. At the same time, those states that have spent all of their money will be given additional sums in recognition of their early and successful implementation of their SCHIP programs.

I also want to talk about Medicare+Choice. Yes, we do provide relief for health plans participating in the Medicare+Choice program. Seniors have asked us for choice in selecting their Medicare coverage. Seniors across the country should have choice, not just those in large metropolitan areas. Our Medicare+Choice provisions are targeted at rural areas to allow seniors in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the same choices as seniors in New York City enjoy.

I also want to highlight the adoption tax credit provisions in this bill. My wife and I are adoptive parents. At the beginning of the 106th Congress, I sponsored the Hope for Children Act (H.R. 531) in order to allow more families and children to experience the happiness my family has been blessed with over the years. The Hope for Children Act enjoyed the co-sponsorship of 280 of our colleagues. I am gratified my bill enjoyed broad, bipartisan appeal and am very proud that major provisions of the Hope for Children Act are in this bill.

The adoption tax credit provisions increase the non-special needs tax credit to \$6,000 in 2001, \$7,000 in 2002, \$8,000 in 2003, \$9,000 in 2004, and \$10,000 in 2005. The tax credit for special needs is increased to \$8,000 in 2001, \$10,000 in 2002, and \$12,000 in 2003 and years thereafter. Also, the income eligibility for the tax credit is doubled from present law. For all taxable years after December 31, 2000, this bill provides a full credit for all adjusted gross incomes under \$150,000 and the credit is gradually phased out for incomes between \$150,000-\$190,000.

This legislation strengthens the American family by making adoption more affordable. Adoption is expensive and every penny spent helping these adopting families now will be returned tenfold in the future contributions of the children who ultimately benefit from the tax credit. These families are willing to put themselves on the line to give a child a chance for a real future.

Passage of this bill will unquestionably make a tremendous impact in the lives of adopting families, the least of which is to encourage those who are intimidated by the cost of adoption to move forward in opening their hearts and homes to a child in need of a loving home. We will make a meaningful difference in the lives of thousands of children upon passage of this bill.

#### TRIBUTE TO CONGRESSMAN RON PACKARD UPON HIS RETIREMENT

SPEECH OF

**HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, October 25, 2000*

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my friend and colleague from California, Ron Packard. After 18 years of service and dedication to his constituents and his country, Ron is retiring. While I join my colleagues in wishing him all the best as he dedicates himself to some well deserved time with his family, I also know that the House is losing a valued and trusted Member.

Ron Packard's career has been marked by fairness and bipartisanship. In his various roles on the Appropriations Committee, Ron has always gotten the job done. That's not always an easy task when it comes to funding the government, but Ron has done it with integrity, dignity, and purpose.

Ron's career has been marked with distinction since the beginning. Even the method of his election was notable. Ron is one of only four Members of Congress ever to have won their first election as a write-in candidate, but that's not surprising. He had experience as a businessman, a school board member, a city councilman, and mayor. He knew then what he knows now citizens' needs are best met on the state and local level by people who understand them rather than by Washington bureaucrats.

This is the legacy Ron Packard will leave behind. It is characterized by hard work, honesty, bipartisanship, leadership, patriotism, and strength. It will serve as an example for future legislators as they do the people's business. I join my colleagues in wishing Ron a fond farewell and a happy retirement.

IN HONOR OF MUNAWAR HUSSAIN

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 27, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Munawar Hussain, a neighbor, an entrepreneur and a friend, who serves as a fine example of what a little ambition and hardwork can bring. This remarkable man

gives us all hope that the American dream is still alive and well.

Mr. Hussain's story begins in 1955 in Lalamusa, Pakistan where he was born and raised. After spending most of his young life in Pakistan, Hussain realized that he wanted more for himself. At the age of 26, Hussain made the decision to come to America. Bravely, with only one dollar in his pocket, he made the long trip to the U.S. alone, without the comfort of family and friends. All he carried with him were the hopes and dreams of capturing some of the opportunity and prosperity that he knew existed in the United States.

Hussain originally settled down in New York City, where he remained for 15 years. However, the expense of living in New York proved to be a heavy burden on Hussain. He worked as a mechanic, a taxi driver, and a limousine driver just to make ends meet. In 1996, Hussain and his brother, who had joined him in America in 1991, decided to move to Cleveland, Ohio. Together they agreed that a life in Cleveland held more promise for them than struggling to survive in the Big Apple. Shortly after arriving in Cleveland, Hussain made a choice that would permanently change his life for the better. With little money saved, Hussain used credit cards to purchase a 7-Eleven franchise. For four years, he worked diligently to save enough capital to buy the 7-Eleven store and bring it under his private ownership. Just last week, his goal became a reality, when the sale of the 7-Eleven became final. Hussain and his brother now independently own and operate the store, which Hussain has renamed "Zishan Food Store" after his son.

Today, Hussain still lives in Cleveland along with his wife of 15 years and their four children.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my fellow colleagues to join me today in honoring Mr. Munawar Hussain. This kind, hard-working man should be commended for his dedication and drive to succeed. He truly serves as an inspiration to us all.

#### OLDER AMERICANS ACT AMENDMENTS OF 2000

SPEECH OF

**HON. WILLIAM F. GOODLING**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, October 24, 2000*

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today in support of the Older Americans Act Amendments of 2000. It has taken a lot of hard work and a long time to reach this point. In fact, the last time this bill was authorized was in 1992.

First, I would like to take a moment and thank several of my colleagues who have worked many, many hours to reach a bipartisan agreement and to bring this bill to the Floor.

Since February of last year, Ranking Member Clay, Subcommittee Chairman MCKEON, Congressman MARTINEZ and Congressman BILL BARRETT have been hard at work crafting a bipartisan proposal, which provides for the needs of older Americans and which makes several overdue changes in the Older Americans Act.

The fruits of their labor were rewarded earlier this month, when we reached a bipartisan