

THE HEALTH CARE SAFETY NET
IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2001

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. UPTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the Health Care Safety Net Improvement Act of 2001. This legislation reauthorizes the Consolidated Health Centers program, the National Health Service Corps, and several programs vital to access to care in rural America. It also provides statutory authority for and direction to the Health Resources and Services Administration's Office for the Advancement of Telehealth and provides for a study on overcoming the barriers that many migrant farm workers and their families experience in seeking health care services as they move from state to state. Taken together, these programs and activities will help to strengthen our nation's health care delivery system by improving access to care and quality of care in our rural and inner-city medically underserved communities.

Health centers are located in 3,000 rural and urban communities throughout the country and provide quality primary and preventive health services to over 10 million low-income and uninsured patients. With the number of uninsured in this nation growing by more than 100,000 per month, it is estimated that 53 million people will lack health insurance by 2007. Health centers have played and will continue to play a vital role in addressing this serious problem.

We are fortunate in my Southwest Michigan district to have two strong networks of community and migrant health centers providing care to over 40,000 people. These centers and the people they serve benefit greatly from the doctors and dentists who are participating in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment program.

As Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee's Telecommunications and the Internet Subcommittee and a senior member of its Health Subcommittee, I have been particularly interested in the role that rapidly emerging telehealth technologies can play in increasing access to care and quality of care in rural and inner-city America. I was pleased to work with my colleagues on the Committee to include provisions in the Health Care Safety Net Improvement Act formally authorizing the Office for the Advancement of Telehealth (OAT). The OAT is currently the focal point for the telehealth activities and programs across federal agencies. It was instrumental in the formation of the Joint Working Group on telemedicine, for which it provides both leadership and staffing.

One of the greatest barriers to recruiting physicians to our rural communities is the sense of isolation they may feel in their practices. Telehealth services can address that barrier by linking rural primary care physicians and their patients with specialists in major medical centers across the nation. Further, one of the looming threats to access to care and quality of care is the growing shortage of nurses, pharmacists, and clinical laboratory personnel. Telehealth services can address this problem by bringing education and training programs right into local communities.

I hope everyone will join me today in strongly supporting the Health Care Safety Net Im-

provement Act. This bipartisan, thoughtful and innovative legislation will improve access to care and quality of care for millions in urban and rural America.

IN HONOR OF DARREN PEARSON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Darren Pearson in recognition of his community service as well as his successful real estate businesses in Brooklyn and Queens, NY.

Mr. Pearson's businesses include a full-service real estate firm, apartment building management, and construction and maintenance. Before becoming involved in real estate, Darren worked as an account executive for Amergold Corp. He also worked for Vanguard Oil as a fuel salesman in the commercial and barge departments. His duties included fuel sales to Con Edison, PSE&G, and LILCO. He was subsequently promoted to director of public relations for Vanguard and was responsible for the home oil transfer program, which provided oil to needy families at either a discount or no cost. His success in that position led to his promotion to vice president of procurement and industrial sales for Vanco Oil Co., a subsidiary of Vanguard.

Darren is active in the Brooklyn and Manhattan communities. He is the chairman of the Men's Caucus for Congressman TOWNS, a member of 100 Black Men, Inc., and New York State Senator David Patterson's Progressive Professional Network. As a young businessman, Darren hires and trains college-bound students as trainees in real estate management and office administration.

Mr. Speaker, Darren Pearson is a young entrepreneur committed to working with his community and promoting opportunities for others. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving this recognition, and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this remarkable man.

IN HONOR OF ERNEST A. SAMPSON
III

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Ernest A. Sampson, III, in recognition of his dedication to his community.

Ernest A. Sampson, III, was born in New York City. He is the youngest of three children born to Fay and "the late" Ernest Sampson. He received his early education in the New York City Public School System. He graduated from Cardinal Hayes High School in the Bronx, and went on to receive his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Funeral Service Administration from St. John's University in 1986. During his junior year, he attended the American Academy McAllister Institute. During his senior year, he apprenticed at his grandfather's funeral home "The James H. Willie Funeral Home, Inc."

Ernest is a Master Mason hailing from African Lodge 459#63 in Brooklyn, NY. He re-

ceives his religious instruction from the Lord Jesus Christ through Archbishop Roy E. Brown, Pastor of Pilgrim Assemblies International.

Ernest with the support of his mentor, James H. Willies, established Sampson Funeral Service in March of 1993. Being committed to community service, he conducts numerous seminars, educating people on city burial programs and what do when the Lord calls someone home, Ernest has also spoken at several public schools to young children on their career day. In early 2001, Ernest cited by the Mayor and Councilwoman Annette Robinson as a "Man Of Courage." Ernest is the proud husband of Debbie Sampson and the proud father of Ernest IV, Sheniqua, Alyssia, Tiara and his spiritual daughter, Alexis.

Mr. Speaker, Ernest A. Sampson, III is a hard working man of God, dedicated to his family and his community. As such he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable man.

STATEMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE
NURSE REINVESTMENT ACT

HON. JOSEPH R. PITTS

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this important legislation, the Nurse Reinvestment Act, to help relieve America's nursing shortage.

Every American should be concerned about the growing shortage of nurses. Just as more Americans are reaching their golden years, fewer nurses are graduating from nursing schools to provide them the quality health care they earned and deserve.

Less well known, but of equal severity and concern, is the fact that there is a shortage of nurse anesthetists in America. Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists, or CRNAs, provide 65 percent of anesthetics in the U.S., and are the sole anesthesia provider to 70 percent of U.S. rural hospitals. They are the military's predominant anesthesia provider, especially on U.S. Navy ships and at forward-deployed locations, serving our men and women in uniform as we are united in America's war on terror. They are registered nurses, who go on to complete masters-level education and certification in nurse anesthesia, and are considered a type of advanced practice nurse, licensed to practice in all 50 states. America's 28,000 CRNAs meet the most stringent continuing education and recertification requirements in anesthesia care. And with all this, the Institute of Medicine reported in its landmark survey of medical errors, *To Err Is Human*, that anesthesia care is 50 times safer than 20 years ago.

And there are not enough CRNAs today. The growth in the number of Medicare-eligible Americans compounds the growth in the number of surgical procedures requiring anesthetics. A 2001 survey of nurse anesthetist managers reported a 250 percent increase in CRNA vacancies among those managers reporting vacancies just since 1997. America's 83 accredited schools of nurse anesthesia are graduating more CRNAs, just not enough to keep up with growing demand. In real life, this

means surgeries get delayed, operating rooms lie unused, and hospitals and patients suffer, for a lack of a sufficient number of nurse anesthetists. We simply need to educate more of them.

This important legislation helps relieve the nursing shortage, and the CRNA shortage, in several important ways. It expands the authorization of the existing Nurse Loan Repayment program, so that nurses, including CRNAs, can work off their obligations in a greater range of health care sites with shortages, such as rural hospitals, Ambulatory Surgical Centers, and Critical Access Hospitals. It authorizes scholarships for nurses, including CRNAs, who agree to work in shortage areas. It provides important new incentives to educate nursing faculty, and to reach out to young people with the information they need to consider nursing as a positive, challenging, and life-changing career that is both economically secure and flexible.

This is only the beginning of our work on relieving this critical shortage. In 2002, Congress is due to consider reauthorizing of existing nurse education programs, Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act. I hope that as we reauthorize the Title VIII programs, we can look for creative ways to expand the number of nurses in America, while growing our ranks of advanced practice nurses such as nurse anesthetists.

I want to thank several Members for their excellent work on this bill; Chairman BILLY TAUZIN and Ranking Member JOHN DINGELL of the Energy and Commerce Committee and Chairman MICHAEL BILIRAKIS and Ranking Member SHERROD BROWN of the Subcommittee on Health, as well as Congresswomen KELLY and CAPPAS, original cosponsors of this legislation.

IN HONOR OF RAYMOND T.
PEEBLES

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Raymond T. Peebles in recognition of his commitment to using his architectural skills to keep building his community in a positive direction.

Raymond T. Peebles is a long time resident of Brooklyn. He is also a registered architect in New York and Connecticut. He sees his profession as serving the various communities of New York City. Established in 1972, his firm, Peeble Architect PC, has worked with community groups in the design of new housing developments, churches, and the renovation and rehabilitation of brownstones. Over the years the firm has expanded its expertise to include health facilities, cabarets, and multi-use structures. To fulfill the demand for childcare centers and houses of worship, Mr. Peebles created a division of his firm exclusively for the design and construction of churches and day care centers.

Community groups that have worked successful with Mr. Peebles include the Northeast Brooklyn Housing Development, West Harlem Group Assistance, Prince Hall Mason and Miracle Makers, Inc. Raymond is active in professional organizations such as the American In-

stitute of Architects where he is a corporate member, and the Brooklyn Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. He also serves on the Metrotech Advisory Board, and the Mayor's Small Business Advisory Board as well as the Association of Minority Businesses & Contractors.

Raymond is also active in his community serving on Community Board #9 and on the Board of the Magnolia Tree Earth Center. His goal is to establish an entrepreneurial environment for creative self-development with the community.

Mr. Speaker, Raymond T. Peebles is a successful businessman who has a vision for his community and he is acting on that vision. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly community oriented business leader.

IN HONOR OF VIVIAN YVETTE
BRIGHT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Vivian Yvette Bright in recognition of her tireless work and dedication on behalf of her church and her community.

Vivian Yvette Bright wears numerous hats. She is committed to the never-ending fight for her community and the development of our youth. She believes that it is important to try and do as much as you can for as many as you can for as long as you can. This is illustrated by her exhaustive list of associations. Vivian is a life member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. and past President of Delta Alpha Zeta Chapter; life member of the National Council of Negro Women; Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Cypress Community Day Care Center; Trustee of Addiction Research & Treatment Center/Urban Research Institute; member, Board of Directors of the Brooklyn NAACP; Community Board #5 Vice President and Chair of the Land Use Committee; President of the Leadership Council of Open Communities of Brooklyn, Inc.; Business Manager of the Concerned Women of Brooklyn—among many other affiliations. In addition, since 1989, she has served as the Business Administrator and Director of the Community and Family Life Center of the Berean Missionary Baptist Church.

Vivian has also received countless awards for her outstanding work—some of which include: Brooklyn Navy Yard Community Leadership; the Lucille Rose Humanitarian Award—NAACP; Governor Carey International Year of the Child Award; New Horizons Village Homeowners Leadership Award; as well as a long list of awards from New York's many distinguished elected officials.

Vivian is a remarkable woman with unbelievable stamina; her many successes and honors come from hard work and a strong education. She received her Masters of Science in Human Resources Management from the New School for Social Research; she graduated in the first class of the Pratt Institutes Community Economic Development Program; and also holds a BS in accounting; Vivian is also listed in "Who's Who of American

Women". On top of her many other accomplishments, Vivian is a proud wife and mother receiving constant support from her husband of 42 years, Lonnie Bright and their children, Gary, Teresa, Marvin, Jamal, and Tiffany.

Mr. Speaker, Vivian Yvette Bright is a tireless leader in her community. As such, she is more than worthy of receiving our recognition. I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable woman.

EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS
HONORING THE CREW AND PAS-
SENGERS OF UNITED AIRLINES
FLIGHT 93

SPEECH OF

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 5, 2001

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be a cosponsor of this resolution memorializing the heroic crew and passengers of United Airlines Flight 93.

On September 11, as the fourth hijacked airplane, United Flight 93, flew west and then southeast, the passengers called friends and family on the ground. They learned the terrible news: hijackers had crashed three other airplanes into the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon. They knew their plane would also be turned into a fearsome weapon.

The hijackers underestimated the indomitability of the American spirit. We may never know the whole story of the events on Flight 93 after the hijackers seized control. However, the phone calls and the cockpit voice recorder have given us the heart of it: the passengers and crew knew they had to act, and they did. They talked, and they prayed, and then they rushed the cockpit to try to stop the hijackers. A few minutes later, the plane crashed to the ground in rural Pennsylvania.

The nation salutes the crew and passengers of Flight 93 for their bravery in the face of overwhelming danger and almost certain death. If the flight had continued on its path toward the Nation's Capital, many more lives would have been lost. We might also have lost either the U.S. Capitol or the White House, the most powerful symbols of our nation, and known the world over as symbols of the world's greatest democracy.

I especially wish to acknowledge the heroism of Mark Bingham from San Francisco. Six feet five inches tall, Mark had played rugby in college. At thirty-one years old, he was CEO of his own public relations firm. On the street late one night, he had wrestled a gun from the hands of a mugger. He was a risk-taker, a man who lived life to the fullest. I had the opportunity to join his partner, Paul Holm, and his family and friends in celebrating his life at a memorial service in San Francisco. Our hearts go out to them for their loss of this brave man.

House Concurrent Resolution 232 expresses the sense of the Congress that the United States owes its deepest gratitude to the passengers and crew of Flight 93, and calls for the placement of a memorial plaque on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol. It is with both great sadness and deep appreciation that I cast my vote for this resolution.