

causing unnecessary illness and hospitalization. The sentiments that will be shared tonight have been echoed in citizen congressional town hall meetings my democratic colleagues and I have held in 93 cities across the country. The response to our call for stories was tremendous, and the uninsured turned out in great numbers. Colleagues, we must not forget that for every story we hear tonight, there are thousands, even millions of stories that will go unheard.

What follows are excerpts from letters I have received.

(1) Kate L. wrote: I was left with \$70,000 in uncovered medical bills as a result of an episode of severe depression ten years ago. This coverage deficit was not the result of a miserly employer; I was the President of an environmental consulting firm and I chose the policy. I reviewed more than 10 policies and was surprised to find that they all severely limited mental health coverage through higher deductibles and co-pays and restrictive annual and lifetime maximums. The policy we purchased was great for everything except it had a separate \$750 deductible, 50/50 co-pay, \$1,500 annual outpatient maximum and \$2,500 inpatient maximum for mental health treatment.

My bills started to pile up as my psychiatrist and I tried numerous medications and combinations of medications. Because my doctor was concerned about my suicidal behavior, he recommended that I be admitted to a hospital while we continued to experiment with medications. Although I was in the hospital for eight weeks, I spent my inpatient maximum after only several days. It took me over five years to pay of the \$70,000 I owed and the stress of the financial burden slowed my recovery. In addition, the medication that I take to treat my illness costs approximately \$800 per month. I was recently forced to leave a job I loved with a small consulting firm because they could not provide the insurance coverage I needed.

(2) Mrs. White wrote: I am an Army mom, who can't afford health insurance while my husband and I agonize over our son's precarious fate. The psychological and emotional toll on us both is paralyzing. While I frantically look for a job, I still must support my mother and sister financially. I pay \$300 monthly for catastrophic health insurance, but cannot afford prescription drugs, lab tests, and specialist visits. I cannot survive with these stresses for much longer.

(3) Jo L. wrote: I have a brain tumor. Naturally, the health insurance industry has labeled me as having a "pre-existing" condition and will not provide my coverage. I pay \$255 a month for 5 pills to subdue my tumor. For the time being, I am paying for this out of pocket, but I need a permanent solution.

Even health care providers in my District have written to express their concerns.

Dr. Scott wrote: As a physician in Michigan I see many patients with no health care and it saddens me. Many people who cannot afford health care will delay going to any health care provider if injured, or shorten treatment plans due to the lack of funds. Many insurance companies have raised premiums out of reach here and even Medicaid and Medicare have decreased coverage due to the lack of funding. We need to rally together to get every citizen health care. By doing this we can help eliminate discrimination in health care and this can lead to eliminating other forms of discrimination.

How many stories do we have to read before Congress realizes that it is time for change? We can do better for our citizens. My bill, H.R. 676 and National Health Care is the answer.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN MICHAEL  
CRILEY, MD

**HON. JANE HARMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2006*

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, everyday, people's lives depend on the quick reaction and competent care of emergency medical technicians and paramedics. Whether it is an automobile accident, heart attack, drowning or gunshot wound, EMTs and paramedics provide vital attention as they care for and transport the sick or injured to a medical facility.

The modern EMT and paramedic programs across the nation would not exist without the significant contributions of Dr. Mike Criley.

Dr. Criley developed the Los Angeles County Paramedic Program in 1969. The program trains first responders to provide critical life support to heart attack victims. Pre-hospital advanced cardiac care was a major innovation in the field of emergency medical services. It was also controversial, as it placed firefighters in a medical role, something both firefighters and many in the health field resisted.

But the program showed its value when paramedics were dispatched to provide onsite medical services after the 1971 Sylmar earthquake. The next year, the television show 'Emergency!' followed the experiences of two fictional Los Angeles County Fire Department paramedics. This legitimized the effort and led to communities across the country instituting their own paramedic training programs modeled after Dr. Criley's innovation.

As a result of Dr. Criley's efforts, the Los Angeles County Paramedic Training Center is named in his honor.

Dr. Criley also discovered a valuable life-saving technique known as cough CPR. He documented that coughing during cardiac arrest or life-threatening heart rhythm disorders pumps oxygenated blood to the brain and maintains consciousness while help is summoned.

Dr. Criley has also been instrumental in training over 100 cardiologists and has taught cardiology to over 6,000 medical students and residents throughout his career. He has developed interactive multimedia programs in three languages that are used around for medical and nursing education programs around the world.

Throughout his distinguished career, Dr. Criley has served on the faculty of two of the nation's most prestigious medical institutions. After serving as Director of Cardiac Catheterization Laboratories at Johns Hopkins Hospital, he returned to his native California to join the faculty at the UCLA School of Medicine. He is now Chief of Cardiology at Los Angeles County Harbor-UCLA Medical Center where he continues to care for patients, teach, and perform research.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to share how proud I am to have Mike Criley working in one of my district's premier biomedical research facilities, the Los Angeles

Biomedical Research Institute at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. His contributions have saved many lives in Los Angeles, and across the Nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO LAWRENCE  
T. WONG

**HON. JON C. PORTER**

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2006*

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lawrence T. Wong and his associates at Arcata Associates, Incorporated for their being honored by the United States Small Business Association, as Prime Contractor of the Year for Region IX.

Under Mr. Wong's leadership, as President/CEO of Arcata Associates, the organization has maintained its commitment to quality and excellence. The Prime Contractor of the Year for Region IX award honors the organization for the outstanding goods and services that they have provided the government and industry as prime contractors. Arcata Associates being awarded the Small Business Association Prime Contractor of the Year for Region IX award is a testament to this commitment. Mr. Wong's hard work, innovative ideas, dedication to the community and professional excellence has led to his being celebrated by the Small Business Association.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to honor Lawrence T. Wong and his associates at Arcata Associates, Incorporated for their outstanding success. I congratulate them for the recognition they have so rightly earned, and thank them for their contributions to our Nation's economy and communities.

HONORING COMMUNITY  
ALTERNATIVES KENTUCKY

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 2, 2006*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Community Alternatives Kentucky, an exceptional organization in my Congressional District that delivers community-based supportive services to persons with disabilities.

The noble mission of Community Alternatives Kentucky is to enhance the lives of the individuals they serve by helping them become active members of their communities and realize their personal goals. They provide a wide range of day-to-day residential and employment services to assist disabled individuals with health needs, personal care, physical and speech therapy, transportation, house-keeping, recreation and other personal management services.

Community Alternatives of Kentucky advocates self determination, civil rights, and community inclusion for people with special needs and developmental disabilities. They play an important role in local communities, promoting an inclusive quality of life that allows all people, regardless of personal challenges, to reach their potential as happy and productive members of society.