

to communicate better with the rest of the world. She explained that he never would do anything to harm them.

Judy Gross tells me that Alan is a family man. He is a very devoted son who called his mother every morning. She is 88 years old and fears she may never see him again. She is emotionally distraught about Alan's situation, and this is translating into a decline in her physical health.

There are times that we come to the House floor to engage in impassioned policy debates. There are times when we argue amongst ourselves about the right direction for U.S.-Cuba relations. Now is not one of those times.

Madam Speaker, today, on the eve of the one-year anniversary of Alan Gross' imprisonment, I stand in this chamber to plea for Alan's release. Not just for Alan's sake, but for the sake of his wife, his mother and his two daughters, I urge the Cuban government to immediately release Alan Gross.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NATIVE HAWAIIAN MEDICAID COVERAGE ACT OF 2010

HON. MAZIE K. HIRONO

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2010

Ms. HIRONO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Native Hawaiian Medicaid Coverage Act of 2010. This legislation is a companion to S. 52, which was introduced earlier this year by Senator DANIEL K. INOUE.

This legislation would allow for 100 percent coverage under the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percent (FMAP) formula for Native Hawaiians who are Medicaid eligible and access care from Federally Qualified Health Centers or through the Native Hawaiian Health Care System.

Native Hawaiians, like American Indians and Alaska Natives, are an indigenous, native people. Currently, states receive a 100 percent FMAP reimbursement for health care services provided through Indian Health Services facilities. The bill I am introducing today would bring parity in the treatment of our country's Native peoples.

Congress has previously recognized the unique and historical relationship between the United States and the indigenous people of Hawaii. I ask for my colleagues' continued support for the health and wellbeing of Native Hawaiians.

HONORING RORY KENNEDY

HON. PATRICK J. KENNEDY

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2010

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Rory Kennedy, my cousin, for delivering the keynote address at the opening of the Robert F. Kennedy Community Schools Complex in Los Angeles, California on September 13, 2010. Named after U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy, Rory's father and

my uncle, the schools are devoted to social justice. Rory's work on behalf of the young people of Los Angeles is simply remarkable.

On September 13, the six pilot schools that make up the Robert F. Kennedy Community Schools Complex began instructing students in grades kindergarten through 12 on its campus located in the Pico-Union/Korea Town neighborhood of Los Angeles. The schools are located on the site of the former Ambassador Hotel and because of the historic nature of the site, there were legal challenges to converting the site to a school. Community members and organizations, including RFK-12, came together to advocate for a local school. In 2005, the Los Angeles Unified School District School Board and Superintendent Roy Romer appointed the Robert F. Kennedy Commission to provide recommendations on how to memorialize Senator Kennedy's life. The commission was chaired by former California Supreme Court Justice Cruz Reynoso, and included a number of civic leaders.

The Commission's major recommendation called for a social justice theme to permeate the curriculum, extending from kindergarten through high school that would reflect Senator Kennedy's commitment throughout his public life.

The schools activities include: the creation of a foundation guided by an Advisory Committee that will help to fund social-justice related activities and act as a resource for the schools on establishing relationships with community service groups outside the school locally and in the larger world, a speakers program, a fellows program that will bring emerging and established leaders to the school, and the creation of a public park recalling the inspirational speeches by the Senator and others.

The pilot schools are innovative small schools that have charter-like autonomy over their budget, curriculum and assessment, governance, schedule and staffing, but are part of the public school system.

Rory has been instrumental in the improvement of public education in Los Angeles. I wish her all the best as she continues her important work on behalf of young people. She will continue to carry my own admiration, and that of all who have had the privilege to work with her.

RECOGNIZING FOUND CARE HEALTH CENTER AS THE FIRST FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER LOOK-ALIKE IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 2, 2010

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize FoundCare Health Center (FoundCare) in West Palm Beach, Florida, which recently received Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) Look-Alike status. As you know, the FQHC Program is administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the Department of Health and Human Services and des-

ignates health centers that provide essential primary and preventive health care services to low-income, medically underserved, and vulnerable populations that traditionally have limited access to affordable services and face the greatest barriers to care. FoundCare's mission to provide health care services to all people, regardless of their ability to pay, is to be lauded.

The designation of FoundCare Health Center as the first FQHC Look-Alike in the State of Florida is a true testament to health care reform and expanding access to affordable, quality health care for all. At a time when millions of Americans are unemployed and uninsured, FoundCare provides an invaluable service to the community and is a vital component in our nation's health care network. The sad reality is that more than a quarter million children and adults in Palm Beach County are uninsured. To make matters worse, 60 percent of the uninsured are eligible for some type of insurance program but are not enrolled. It is unconscionable that so many families and individuals continue to suffer when help is available to them.

FoundCare provides essential primary and preventive health care services to those who might otherwise forgo medical care for themselves and their children. To best meet the needs of its patients, it operates with expanded hours to accommodate families, provides multilingual services in English, Spanish, French and Creole, employs efficient electronic medical records systems of care, and will soon also provide dental and pharmacy services. Furthermore, FoundCare helps individuals navigate the application process for Medicare, Medicaid, Florida KidCare, and other programs, and, together with Project Access partners, makes sure that patients can also access the specialty care they need. When fully funded, FoundCare has the capacity for more than 10,000 unduplicated patients per year. This is truly remarkable.

I have had the privilege of being involved with this visionary project from the start and am continually amazed by the extraordinary dedication and compassion of the men and women who work at FoundCare. Since it opened its doors in January 2009, FoundCare has provided access to quality health care for over 2,400 new uninsured and underinsured Palm Beach County residents. Currently, 77 percent of FoundCare's patients, who range in age from infancy to 84 and are nearly two-thirds female, do not have health insurance. In addition, more than 70 percent of patients have incomes below the federal poverty level. They visited FoundCare an average of nearly three times per year for various health concerns, including hypertension, diabetes, infectious disease, asthma, obesity, and women's health.

Madam Speaker, FoundCare's commitment to improving community health is an inspiration to us all. There is no doubt in my mind that, at this rate, it will soon become a Federally Qualified Health Center. As we recognize FoundCare's tremendous success, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member of the FoundCare team for all the hard work that they continue to do on behalf of their community and the health of our nation as a whole.