

On behalf of the Twenty-Second District of Texas, congratulations to the City of Sugar Land. Thank you for keeping our little piece of Texas beautiful.

TRIBUTE TO BRIAN
VANDERHEIDEN

HON. DAVID YOUNG

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Mr. YOUNG of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Brian Vanderheiden of the Earlham High School Track Team for winning the class 1A Shuttle Hurdle State Championship.

Brian, along with his three teammates, finished the shuttle hurdle race in first place with a time of 1:00.23 at the 2015 Iowa 1A State Track and Field Championships. Brian has dedicated his time and talents to achieving a single goal and I commend him for his hard work and determination. This group of young men came together to achieve great success.

Mr. Speaker, the example set by Brian and his teammates demonstrates the rewards of hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am honored to represent him in the United States Congress. I know all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives join me in congratulating him on a job well done, and wishing him nothing but continued success in all his future endeavors.

THE STATE-BASED UNIVERSAL
HEALTH CARE ACT OF 2015

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will give states the tools they need to guarantee the health security of their citizens. The State-Based Universal Health Care Act of 2015 establishes a new procedure through which states may apply for a waiver of federal law in order to design and implement single-payer health care systems. This will allow states to achieve universal coverage and control costs by removing greed and inefficiency from the system.

One of the many achievements of the Affordable Care Act is its provisions that grant states the authority to innovate in their health care systems. Under Section 1332 of the law, a state may apply for a State Innovation Waiver that will provide it with control of federal dollars that otherwise would have been spent on premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions for its residents. Through this waiver, a state may design a system to cover its residents, so long as benefits are at least as comprehensive and affordable as those offered by Qualified Health Plans available on the Exchanges.

However, even with this flexibility, numerous barriers limit states' ability to design true single-payer systems. Existing waivers are narrow in scope, requiring states to seek out imperfect and convoluted solutions to circumvent federal limitations. A sweeping preemption provision in the Employee Retirement Income

Security Act (ERISA) denies states authority to regulate employer-sponsored health plans. And, due to the complexities of our existing federal health programs, it is essentially impossible for a state to design a single benefit package that can be administered simply and efficiently on behalf of all of its residents.

The State-Based Universal Health Care Act removes these barriers. It builds upon the ACA's State Innovation Waiver by offering states new tools that will allow them to truly innovate in health care. Under this legislation, a state may apply for a Universal Health Care Waiver that will grant it authority over federal health care dollars that otherwise would have been spent on the state's residents. To the extent necessary to design a universal system, a state may waive provisions of federal law relating to the following:

The rules governing premium tax credits and cost-sharing reductions, as provided for in existing waiver authority under Section 1332 of the ACA.

Provisions necessary for states to pool funds that otherwise would be spent on behalf of residents enrolled in Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, TRICARE, and the Federal Employee Health Benefits Program.

ERISA's preemption clause, which currently forbids states from enacting legislation relating to employee health benefit programs.

Any state seeking a Universal Health Care Waiver must design a system that covers substantially all of its residents. The benefits that each citizen receives must be at least as comprehensive and no less affordable than what would have been provided under any federal health programs for which its residents otherwise would have been eligible. Once enacted, the state plan must be publicly administered, and it may not add to the federal deficit.

The Affordable Care Act was a landmark achievement and a strong first step toward achieving health security in this country. However, we still have a tremendous amount of work left to do. The United States spends by far the most per capita on health care, yet we fail to achieve superior outcomes or even guarantee coverage as a basic human right. Insurance companies are a powerful force in our economy, enjoying billions in profits and growing power in the marketplace. Meanwhile, hospitals are consolidating at an astonishing rate, raising new questions about the quality of patient care and the future of medicine. What's more, we have failed to make meaningful efforts to combat the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs, threatening patient access to treatments and the financial sustainability of the entire system.

As we explore ways to build upon the successes of the ACA, it is critical that we look for creative solutions to the challenges that still exist. Granting states tools to design single-payer systems will help spur necessary innovation, achieve universal coverage, and control costs. It is time to take this next step as we continue to move forward in our historic effort to guarantee the health security of every American.

IN HONOR OF MR. JAMES A.
McMULLEN, SR.

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 28, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to a truly outstanding citizen of our community, Mr. James Allen McMullen, Sr. Mr. McMullen passed away on Sunday, July 26, 2015 at the age of 75 in his home in Columbus, Georgia. Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Friday, July 31, 2015 at Beallwood Baptist Church in Columbus, Georgia.

A Georgia man through and through, Mr. McMullen was born in Columbus, Georgia and after graduating from Jordan Vocational High School in Columbus in 1958, he attended Georgia Southwestern College, now Georgia Southwestern State University, in Americus, Georgia. Following his graduation from college, he joined the United States Army and served in Germany.

Upon his return from Europe in 1961, Mr. McMullen began his career in funeral service, graduating from the Dallas Institute of Mortuary Science in Dallas, Texas in 1964. He worked locally for many years and in 1987, he and his family established the McMullen Funeral Home in Columbus.

For more than 50 years, Mr. McMullen served thousands of families in the Columbus area through the difficult time that follows the loss of a loved one. In order to provide the best service he could, Mr. McMullen was a member of Selected Independent Funeral Homes, the Georgia Funeral Directors Association, and the National Funeral Directors Association. Despite battling cancer for the last three years of his life, Mr. McMullen continued to work at the funeral home until a month before his passing. To him, this was not just his job, but an opportunity to serve others at a time when they need it the most.

A member of the Beallwood Baptist Church and the Lions Club for over 40 years, Mr. McMullen proved himself a leader in the community as well as in the workplace. He was named Lion of the Year in 1973, District 18-E governor of Lions International in 1976, and Chairman of the Georgia Sight Conservation Committee. His leadership extended to serving on the Board of Directors of the Georgia Lions Eye Bank and what is now known as the Chick-Fil-A Bowl. He also served for more than 36 years as chairman for the educational trip to Washington sponsored by the Lions Club. This annual trip has carried more than 40,000 fifth- and sixth-graders to the nation's capital, demonstrating once more the grand impact Mr. McMullen had on countless lives.

Dr. Maya Angelou once said, "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." The people of Columbus will never forget how Mr. McMullen heartened the brokenhearted and consoled the inconsolable. We are once again confronted with the loss of a loved and respected leader in this community, but we are comforted by his great legacy of service, which will endure for years to come.

Mr. McMullen achieved much in his life but none of this would have been possible without