

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE COMPREHENSIVE LONG-TERM-CARE ACT OF 1995

HON. DOUGLAS "PETE" PETERSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 1995

Mr. PETERSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, in recent weeks, much has been said in this Congress about deficit reduction. Integrated into the debate on balancing the Federal budget is the fate of two of the most important social programs this Nation has ever created: Medicare and Medicaid. Tens of millions of Americans rely on at least one of these programs, and in many cases both, to meet even their most basic health care needs.

Unfortunately, the skyrocketing cost of health care in this country, coupled with America's changing demographics, has caused a dramatic and unsustainable growth in the cost of these programs. It is simply indisputable that we can never make more than a dent in the budget deficit facing our children unless we seriously address reform of our health care system. Clearly, Medicare and Medicaid need reform now.

Some in this Chamber seem to believe they have a quick and easy solution to the problems confronting these programs. However, many of us here in this body understand in our hearts that there is no easy solution. Our choices are difficult, and many are politically unpopular. Simply making draconian cuts in Medicare in order to meet arbitrarily chosen budget targets is not sound policy, nor is packaging Medicaid up into a block grant and shipping it off to the States.

For this reason, I am today introducing the Comprehensive Long-Term Care Act of 1995. This bill compliments H.R. 2071, the Health Care Improvement Act, which I introduced in July of this year. That bill, which makes sensible reforms to the American health care system and the acute care side of Medicaid, currently has 14 cosponsors.

The Long-Term Care Act makes bold reforms to the long-term care side of Medicaid by adding a new home- and community-based program, and expanding eligibility those with incomes up to 100 percent of the Federal poverty level. The nursing home and institutional portion of the Medicaid Program will be similar to the current Medicaid Program, with eligibility expanded to those with incomes up to 100 percent of poverty. Also, improvements are made with regard to the financial and disability eligibility determination criteria for all beneficiaries, as well as in the asset spend-down protections and personal needs allowance.

Importantly, this bill also contains unprecedented tax relief for the purchase of private long-term care insurance. Under the Comprehensive Long-Term Care Act, private long-term care insurance premiums are tax-deductible, and employer-provided long-term care insurance is excluded from an employee's taxable income. And funds drawn from a retiree's IRA or 401(k) trust plan that are used for the

purchase of long-term care insurance will not be subject to taxation. These bold changes will go a long way toward lowering future Federal expenditures on public long-term care programs by ensuring that the number of Americans with private long-term-care insurance is greatly expanded.

These incentives for the purchase of private long-term care insurance assure that public funds for Medicaid are directed at those who need them the most—those who cannot afford to pay for themselves. The new State funding distribution formula will also ensure that every State receives an equitable amount of Federal funding based on the State's number of eligible beneficiaries and ability to match the Federal share.

It is my hope that the introduction of this bill will help move the debate about how to lower the cost of Medicare and Medicaid in the direction of serious reform—not arbitrary cuts. I encourage my colleagues to join me in this effort.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD C. BRAMWELL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 1995

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the accomplishments and contributions of Richard Bramwell, president, CEO, and cofounder of Shinda Management Corp., a Queens-based real estate management company.

Mr. Bramwell is directly responsible for building a business that employs in excess of 40 employees. His company provides management and accounting services for over 3,000 residential apartment units. Shinda Management Corp. has specialized in the management of large multifamily housing developments, and has developed a stellar reputation as specialists in workout and other distressed properties.

Mr. Bramwell earned a bachelor's degree from Hofstra University and is a New York State real estate broker. He is a certified public housing manager and a member of the New York Association of Realty Managers and the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials. I am pleased to highlight the accomplishments of Mr. Richard Bramwell.

A TRIBUTE TO JOE J. WEBB

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Joe J. Webb for his leadership and commitment to Indiana's electric cooperative

industry as he concludes his tenure as president of the Indiana Statewide Association of Rural Electric Cooperatives, Inc.

In December Mr. Webb will complete his second year as president of the Indiana Statewide Association. He has had a long and distinguished career with Indiana's electric cooperative industry. He has been a member of the Clark County REMC board since 1973 and a director of Indiana Statewide since 1988. He served as the association's secretary-treasurer from 1989 to 1991 and as its vice president from 1991 to 1993.

Mr. Webb is dedicated in all his efforts to the betterment of rural Indiana and has made a difference in the lives of those in his community and throughout the State. He is charter president and lifetime member of the New Washington Optimist Club. He is past elder and member of the board of trustees for the Trinity United Presbyterian Church in New Washington. He participates in a number of events which benefit local charities and is especially proud of his work for the Center for Lay Ministries in Jeffersonville. The center offers a food pantry for the needy and provides vouchers for people who cannot pay their bills.

Joe Webb has been a leader and a model citizen. He is richly deserving of the praise and recognition of his fellow Hoosiers.

PRESIDENT CLINTON AGREES WITH REPUBLICANS ON CRACK COCAINE

HON. GERALD B.H. SOLOMON

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 1, 1995

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, after 3 years President Clinton finally did something right in the war on drugs. Yesterday he signed into law legislation denying the Sentencing Commission's recommendation on crack cocaine. President Clinton reaffirmed that offenses involving crack cocaine deserve more severe punishment than those involving powder cocaine.

Failure to reject the Sentencing Commission's proposal would have led to an increase in the use of crack and an increase in the number of people addicted to crack cocaine. Today in the United States, according to the Partnership for a Drug Free America, one out of every 10 babies born in the United States is born addicted to drugs, and most are addicted to crack cocaine.

I agree with some of what has been said about the equal treatment of crack and powder cocaine, but instead of lowering the penalties for crack offenses, as the Sentencing Commission proposes, we should simply increase the punishment for powder offenses to the same level as crack cocaine.

In the 1980's, the crack epidemic devastated American cities, causing the twin problems of addiction and drug-dealing crime. Crime skyrocketed between 1985 and 1990,

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