

may cover hundreds of items across a wide price range. Within a billing code, Medicare pays an average cost based on a complicated formula. Billing codes can be confusing for equipment suppliers and are easily manipulated by unscrupulous suppliers.

UPNs will help revolutionize the way Medicare pays for medical equipment and accounts for the program's spending. The bill will improve Medicare in three important ways.

First, UPNs will help Medicare reduce fraud and abuse by identifying exactly what equipment is being supplied. Inspectors will be able to verify precisely what equipment was billed for and whether it was provided.

Second, UPNs will cut waste by allowing Medicare to pay an accurate price for individual items, instead of wasting money by paying a higher average price when less expensive items are supplied.

Third, UPNs will make the program simpler and fairer for suppliers. They will eliminate the confusing billing codes and ensure that suppliers receive a fair price for all products, instead of overpaying for some and underpaying for others.

I am proud to be introducing this bill with Rep. AMO HOUGHTON of Corning, an outstanding legislator known for his important contribution to health care issues. I would also like to note that this legislation has already been endorsed by Health Industry Distributors Association and the National Association for Medical Equipment Services.

The current system is wasteful and vulnerable to abuse. UPNs are a common-sense solution to make Medicare a wise health consumer on behalf of older Americans, taxpayers, and medical equipment suppliers alike.

NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1998

SPEECH OF

HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, February 11, 1998

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 927, the National Sea Grant College Program Authorization. We have needed to re-authorize the Sea Grant Program since 1995 and I want to applaud Representatives SAXTON, YOUNG, ABERCROMBIE and FARR for their leadership on this increasingly important issue:

Mr. Speaker, the Sea Grant Program was established in 1966 to improve the conservation, management, and utilization of marine resources. Modeled after the highly successful Land Grant College Program, Sea Grant has become a National leader in conducting marine research. This research is conducted at 29 designated Sea Grant colleges but the program disseminates their findings to over 300 hundred colleges and universities across the country. One of these Sea Grant designees is the University of Maryland which is located in my District. Maryland is a leader in living marine and estuarine resources research and I can attest to quality of the research conducted through the program.

As a Member from a coastal district, I am acutely aware of the problems confronting our

marine environment. This spring and summer we saw how critically important research is with the outbreak of *Pfiesteria* in the upper Chesapeake Bay. At the time of the outbreak, we were not certain about the most basic facts about the organism, exactly what conditions triggered it to become lethal, how it attacked fish, and the potential danger this organism posed to humans.

The Chesapeake Bay, Mr. Speaker, is not only a National ecological treasure but is one of the most abundant and productive places to conduct research. In addition to *Pfiesteria*, the Bay has seen the oyster population, which is so vital ecologically and economically, threatened by Dermo and MSX viruses. Sea Grant has been the leader in the Oyster Disease Research Program and fully six million dollars per year is specifically earmarked in the re-authorization for oyster and *Pfiesteria* study.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all my colleagues to support this legislation to reauthorize this critically important environmental program.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today and for the rest of this week, the U.S. Senate is considering bipartisan campaign finance reform legislation. This is an issue whose time is long overdue. I rise today to applaud the Senate leadership for their willingness to allow a vote to come to the floor of the Senate. This does not mean that passage of a reform bill is guaranteed. It is, however, a significant step forward.

Mr. Speaker I have documented over the past six months the need to schedule a vote on the floor of the House. I have spoken daily about the importance of this issue to the people of my district. There is little more I can say to convince you to move this issue forward and give Members of Congress an opportunity to make their position known to the public.

I simply ask that as we consider a light legislation schedule this week we find some time to bring to a vote a true bipartisan campaign finance reform bill. The Senate has demonstrated leadership on this issue, it is now our turn. The people of my district will not accept "no" for an answer.

HONORING JOHN B. PERERA

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of John B. Perera, for his dedication to worthy causes, his numerous years of service, and for his devotion to the continuance of humanity.

Born in New York City, Mr. Perera, because of his staunch Quaker faith, executed his military duties in the Korean War by doing social work in Mexico and El Salvador for the government. He studied at Ohio State University and held many jobs before finally arriving in Cleveland to work as a truck driver for a food cooperative. Unfortunately during his tenure as

a truck driver, Mr. Perera acquired a respiratory illness that led to his retirement on disability.

Mr. Perera's retirement can be seen as a blessing though. Mr. Perera took advantage of his retirement to pursue causes relevant to the survival of the human race and the advancement of human rights. He served on numerous councils and committees, most notably the Sierra Club, Coalition for a Clean Environment, and the American Lung Association. Mr. Perera testified in front of state committees to stop the dumping of nuclear waste, championed the issues of improving low-income housing and women's rights, and demonstrated for causes he strongly believed in such as the environment and health care.

Mr. Perera's activism portrays him as a model American citizen. His peaceful demonstrations in support of his most cherished values and issues will never be forgotten. He leaves behind two sons, one daughter, his father, four grandchildren, a brother, three sisters, and a legacy of true patriotism.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in saluting the life of Mr. John B. Perera.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH F. DUFFY

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 24, 1998

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention Joseph F. Duffy of the Diocese of Paterson, New Jersey. Joe is being honored on Sunday, February 15, 1998 on the occasion of the 28th Annual Murray House Dinner Dance.

Joe is currently serving as Executive Director of Catholic Family & Community Services (CFCS). As Executive Director, he is responsible for the delivery of social services to clients in Morris, Passaic and Sussex Counties, and oversees a budget of \$6.5 million. These services include assistance to emotionally troubled children and adults, persons with disabilities, individuals with AIDS, the elderly, homeless, jobless, refugees, immigrants, and persons seeking to adopt.

Additionally, Joe is also Executive Secretary for Social Ministries. In this capacity, Joe is responsible as CEO of CFCS and oversees the activities of four other Social Services Agencies and the Department of Parish Social Ministries. He directs Social Ministries with a budget of \$25 million.

Joe's impressive resume does not stop here. Before joining CFCS in April of 1997, Joe served as Vice-President of Long-Term and Ambulatory Care Services, Assistant Vice-President of Long Term Care Services, and in many capacities with the Diocese of Paterson's Department of Persons with Disabilities. He also served as a Co-Director and House Parent at the Murray House from September of 1971 to June of 1976.

In addition to his administrative skills and experience, Joe has vast educational and teaching experience. He is currently service as Field Instructor at Rutgers University's Graduate School of Social Work, a position he has held before in the late 1970's and mid-1980's at Rutgers, Fordham University, Ramapo College, Fairleigh Dickinson University, and William Paterson College. Joe has also served as