

Pat Murphy is the true example of a hard-working wife and mother. In addition to her work as a volunteer in many political elections and her tireless support of causes that she strongly believes in, Pat also worked for more than 38 years with NAPA-Genuine Parts Company until her retirement three weeks ago, on April 3, 1998.

Ray Murphy deserves recognition for his hard work and dedication to our community. After working for the railroad, the Standard Unit Parts Company, the Checker Cab Company and the City of Chicago, Ray began a 22-year career with the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County that ended on November 19, 1992. Only a month later, Ray took on yet another challenge and started working at the Cook County Sheriff's office, where he stayed until his retirement on February 27, 1998. In addition to his professional accomplishments, Ray is also the President of the Hamburg Athletic Association and is a member of the Irish Fellowship.

Mr. Speaker, it is people like Pat and Ray, hard-working and dedicated community members who make a difference in our lives and constitute the backbone of our society. Their strong family values and commitment to hard work and honest living is what this great country is all about. Their legacy is celebrated today and will certainly continue on with their children John and Margaret and their grandchildren Dennis, Amanda and Patricia.

Today I salute them and their wonderful contributions to their community in the city of Chicago and wish them continued happiness, health and success in their future endeavors. May they continue to pursue their love for travel and embark on many exciting and safe trips to their favorite destinations.

COMMEMORATION OF THE 83RD
ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARME-
NIAN GENOCIDE

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, as we near the dawn of a new millennium, many people have begun reviewing the events of the past 1,000 years. In the year 1000, Europe was only just beginning to rise from the Dark Ages, but the advances of the Enlightenment were still centuries away. Life was still brutish and short, marked by random violence and terrible scourges. We like to look at history and see a steady improvement in the condition of mankind. We would prefer to believe that humanity today bears little resemblance to the near-barbarism that marked the last millennial change.

Sadly, as we narrow our focus and look back at the 20th Century, we see that many of the horrors that marked the 10th and 11th Centuries still exist in our world. This century has seen horrors on a scale that even the cruelest leaders of the beginning of this millennium could not have imagined. Tens of millions of people have been savagely murdered in this century. It is more disheartening that many in the present day continue to hide or diminish events of sheer terror.

In our lifetime, we have seen the genocide of Stalin, of Mao, of Hitler, of Pol Pot, and a large number of less known despots.

While the term genocide did not come into common use until after the Nazi-run Holocaust against the Jews, the practice is rooted in the efforts of the Turks to destroy the Armenian people 83 years ago. At that time, the Ottoman Empire began a movement that would ultimately kill more than 1.5 million Armenians and leave deep scars upon those who survived—scars that continue to exist today.

What is so disheartening is that not only did this travesty occur, but today the effort to cover up or diminish this awful event continues. Mankind is capable of forgiveness, but it requires an acknowledgment by the guilty party of that guilt and a desire for contrition. Unfortunately, the Government of Turkey wants to escape its guilt by blaming the Ottomans and has made no effort at contrition. This stands in stark contrast to Germany, which could have tried to shirk its guilt by blaming the Third Reich. It did not. It accepted responsibility for the truth. Turkey should do the same.

Turkey not only denies responsibility for its past action, but has continued efforts to cause hardship in Armenia by blocking U.S. assistance from reaching Armenia and generally trying to obstruct closer relations between the United States and Armenia. Turkey is our ally and has helped further U.S. and European security. It would be unfair to leave this unacknowledged, but it would also be unfair to ignore a serious issue that does affect our mutual relations. By accepting its responsibility, Turkey can help show that while horrible events still take place, mankind has advanced to the point that we acknowledge and atone for such awful actions.

Mr. Speaker, I want to extend my appreciation to the Members of this body who have done so much to prevent the world from forgetting the atrocities of 83 years ago, and to the many Armenian-American organizations throughout the nation—and in particular in California—for their good work on behalf of the Armenian-American community and to foster close ties between the United States of America and Armenia.

THE STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH
INSURANCE PROGRAM INTEG-
RITY ACT OF 1998

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join today with my California colleagues, Representatives HENRY WAXMAN, GEORGE MILLER, ROBERT MATSUI, ANNA ESHOO and TOM LANTOS; and with Representative SHERROD BROWN, the ranking Democrat on the Commerce Health and Environment Subcommittee, to introduce the State Children's Health Insurance Program Integrity Act of 1998.

This legislation is simply a technical correction to the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) legislation passed by Congress last year—but it is an important technical correction. The bill would protect the integrity of state CHIP programs by eliminating the potential for direct conflict of interest problems caused by a health plan playing dual roles in a state CHIP program. Under this bill, a state

would be prohibited from allowing a health plan to simultaneously administer and participate in the state CHIP program.

This legislation was developed in direct response to events that occurred during the Health Care Financing Administration's (HCFA) review and approval process of California's CHIP program (called Healthy Families).

Under California's program, the administrative vendor will perform a wide variety of functions including: providing trained staff on the program's toll free telephone lines, making eligibility determinations and redeterminations, collecting premiums, enrolling and disenrolling members, transmitting enrollment information and updates to participating health plans, administering the annual open enrollment process, and the list goes on and on. These are clearly functions over which a participating health plan has tremendous interest and will certainly attempt to influence in any system.

California's CHIP program design would have permitted a private health plan to serve as both the administrative vendor and a participating health plan. Initially, California did select a private health plan to be the administrative vendor of the CHIP program. That plan would have run the program (and performed all of the above-mentioned functions) while also participating as a health plan option for low-income children.

We firmly believe that a system of such a nature is inherently biased. And, at a time when there are numerous alternatives to selecting a health plan with a financial interest in that market, it is a bias that can be easily avoided.

Our concern regarding California's choice of the administrative vendor was alleviated when the private health plan pulled out of the contract and the State selected a non-health plan entity as the new administrative vendor. We introduce our legislation today to be sure that no other states attempt to develop biased programs.

Our reasoning for the need for such clarifying legislation is reinforced by looking at another provision in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (BBA). The BBA allows state Medicaid programs to choose private enrollment brokers to handle the day-to-day enrollment functions of their Medicaid programs. However, in allowing these enrollment brokers, the law clearly stipulates that the enrollment broker be free of any conflicts of interest. Specifically, the law requires that, "The broker is independent of any such entity and of any health care providers (whether or not any such provider participates in the State plan under this title) that provide coverage of services in the same State in which the broker is conducting enrollment activities."

Our new legislation would apply the same conflict-of-interest standard that exists in the Medicaid enrollment broker law to the CHIP law.

This is an important bill that would protect the integrity of CHIP programs around the country. And, we look forward to working with our colleagues for passage of the State Children's Health Insurance Program Integrity Act this year.