

points of view. We don't know who is attending these secret meetings, and consequently, don't know who or what arguments are shaping the commissioners' opinions.

To maintain confidence in the fairness of these deliberations, the Social Security Commission should immediately stop its secret meetings. To assure the public that no special interest group is shaping the conclusions, the Commission should immediately disband these artificial groups. Sound public policy is best made with full public involvement. This bill will both strengthen the advisory committee process, as well as restore integrity to the efforts to strengthen the Social Security system.

**MEDICARE PATIENT ACCESS TO  
PHYSICAL THERAPISTS ACT OF  
2001**

**HON. PHILIP M. CRANE**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2001*

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise today with my friend and colleague, Mr. POMEROY, to introduce the Patient Access to Physical Therapists Act. This bill allows Medicare beneficiaries direct access to qualified physical therapists without a physician referral.

Currently, Medicare beneficiaries must visit a physician before being allowed to then visit a physical therapist. This burdensome requirement in Medicare is a regulation whose time has passed. The referral mandate is unnecessary and limits access to timely and medically necessary physical therapists' services. Providing Medicare beneficiaries with direct access to physical therapists is critical as Congress looks to modernize the Medicare program.

All health care consumers should have the ability to choose the health care services they want when they need it. Allowing Medicare beneficiaries to have direct access to physical therapists will help achieve that goal. Currently, thirty-four states, including my home state of Illinois, allow for direct access to physical therapists without the added cost of a physician referral. Congress must consistently balance three factors with regard to Medicare: patient safety, accessibility of services from qualified providers, and cost or financial stability to the Medicare program.

Direct access to physical therapists allows for improved access to quality health care services. A study of BlueCross BlueShield insurance claims in Maryland indicates that when a patient has direct access to physical therapists, services are not over-utilized nor do they result in higher costs for physical therapy. State boards that regulate physical therapy confirm that patient safety is not compromised by the elimination of the referral requirement. With this in mind, the policy of improved access to physical therapists is healthy for the Medicare program and its beneficiaries. It is clear that improved access to physical therapists will maintain this critical balance of patient safety, cost to Medicare program, and improved beneficiary service. Medicare beneficiaries should have the same access to physical therapists as the rest of patients in Illinois and thirty-four other states.

Providing better access to qualified physical therapists will help ensure patients receive

quality health care for all Americans. Mr. Speaker, I ask for my colleagues for their consideration and support of the Patient Access to Physical Therapists Act.

**LUMEN CHRISTI HIGH SCHOOL  
FOOTBALL TEAM, JACKSON,  
MICHIGAN**

**HON. NICK SMITH**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2001*

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call special attention to the achievements of the Lumen Christi High School football team of Jackson, Michigan. On Saturday, November 24, Lumen Christi won the Football State Championship for the second year in a row. Led by the 2001 season's coach of the year Herb Brogan, the Lumen Christi team with a record this year of 14-0, has now won 28 consecutive games, being one of the top teams in all classes in the state of Michigan.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to recognize all the 2001 Lumen Christi High School football team for their dedication to the team and their commitment to the hard work it takes to win a championship: Matt Hohne, Greg Wolvin, Kevin Coffman, Ted Piepkow, Corey Hudeley, Matt Bigelow, Drew Morgan, Adam Hudechek, Paul Gross, Travis Warner, Nate Lefere, Michael Ellis, Eric Adamczyk, Brad Chase, Justin Whitney, Michael Devine, Gaelen Callahan, Ron Davis, K.C. Kutyna, Matt Kuhl, Peni Sete, Scott Ball, Matt Ojeda, Erik Wilson, Joe Smigielski, Derek Tracy, Josh Hunt, John Gonzales, Matt Walker, Casey Thompson, Clayton Richardson, David Dailey, Nick Mangas, Andy Gorczyca, Kyle Ruge, Tim Gonzales, Thomas Dailey, Andy Foster, Mike Todaro, Kyle Martin, Johnny Fry, Andy Walsh, Rob Cole, Thomas Wheeler, Patrick Daly, Adam Bowditch, Bryce Brown, Mike Frey, Chris Putra, Chris Fouty, Nick Stieber, Joel Chase, Bryan Chase, Jeremy Schrot, Thomas Devine, Quentin Wheeler, Ryan Daniel Karasek, and Jim Devine.

Head Coach Herb Brogan was assisted by his fine coaching staff: Joe Williams, Dan Crowley, Bryan Ziegler, Pat Laughlin, Pete Lefere, Mike Armeli, Joff Marcantel, Sean Brogan, Tim Sullivan, Frank Slaby, Pat Neville, Ted Cole, Mike Tash, and Jerry Sykes, and the team managers Sara Duffy, Lisa Booth, and Crystal Carlson, and trainer Carrier Stevens.

Finally, I would like to offer my thanks and congratulations to the Lumen Christi High School community—the students, alumni, faculty, staff and all the supporters from the Jackson area. As principal Father Thomas Reiden knows well, this championship could not have been accomplished without their unshakable commitment to the team this year and the many previous years. We are proud of all the Lumen Christi players and coaches for their accomplishments.

ARTICLE BY FORMER SENATOR  
ALAN DIXON REGARDING TER-  
RORISM

**HON. WILLIAM O. LIPINSKI**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2001*

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise now to bring attention to an article written by my friend and former colleague, the Honorable Senator Alan Dixon while he was co-chair of the Anti-Terrorism caucus. His article, entitled "The Terror Next Time," is a fascinating prediction that causes us to reflect on our current situation, and gives us insights that are valuable in the war on terrorism.

Senator Dixon's advice on combating both international and domestic terrorism was truly visionary. This is apparent by the fact that more than fifteen years after articulating a plan of action for preventing terrorism, Senator Dixon's blue-print is identical in many ways to the one that is currently being employed. As Dixon wrote, we should, "convene an International Congress of Terrorism to develop cooperative, multinational programs for locating, apprehending, and bringing to justice those responsible for the deaths of thousands of innocent people. On a broader level, America must develop with its allies strategies to isolate state sponsors of terrorism, strategies to our financial and commercial ties with terrorist regimes." He continued by advocating detailed measures that need to be taken, such as suspending arms exports to nations that support terrorism, improving extradition procedures, tightening immigration laws, promoting multilateral cooperation among police and security organizations, and creating awareness, confidence, and determination amongst our citizenry. These measures, Dixon said, would preserve and protect our democracy.

Mr. Speaker, while we cannot turn back the clock to avert the tragedy of September 11th, 2001, we can take comfort in the fact that Senator Dixon's warnings and advice are currently being heeded. I pray that such wise words are never left by the wayside again, and that the good judgment, determination, and foresight of men such as Senator Dixon guide our nation, to victory over the cowardly forces that promulgate terror. If anyone is interested in reading the full article, please feel free to call my staff at 225-5701.

**TRIBUTE TO HERSCHEL FARMER  
OF SILVER SPRING, MD**

**HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, November 28, 2001*

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Herschel Farmer of Silver Spring, MD. At the end of this year Mr. Farmer will be retiring after more than 31 years of dedicated service with the United Parcel Service (UPS).

Mr. Farmer was born in Pulaski, VA, in 1947 and graduated from Pulaski High School in 1965. He began his UPS career in 1970 as a car washer. Less than 2 months later Mr. Farmer was promoted to the position of Package Delivery Driver.