

acts of violence. They have greater self-esteem, more success at school, and better relationships with their friends and family.

In their testimonials, Big Brothers and Big Sisters also report a positive impact on their life. They say that they find a sense of purpose and satisfaction by helping and mentoring a young child through the difficulties of growing up. They value their experiences as highly as we value their service to the community. Thus, these relationships benefit everyone involved, including the mentor, the child, the family, and the community.

Through its One-on-One Mentoring Program and After-School Enrichment and Mentoring Program, Big Brothers Big Sisters nurtures children as they grow up both socially and academically. The After-School Enrichment program assists children in their academic life by providing after-school tutoring in an array of topics including math, science, and writing. Additionally, the program brings in guest speakers to discuss issues involving academic, social, and leadership development.

I would like to thank the many volunteers and staff who give their time and commitment to this wonderful program. Without their support, this program would not have been able to achieve the level of success it has over the past 25 years.

Madam Speaker, on this joyous and historic occasion, it gives me great pleasure to present the congratulations of my colleagues in the House to Big Brothers Big Sisters of Santa Cruz County.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA LOAN REPAYMENT EQUITY TECHNICAL AMENDMENT ACT OF 2007

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 7, 2007

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the "District of Columbia Loan Repayment Equity Technical Amendment Act of 2007." This bill will ensure that underserved communities in the District of Columbia have access to adequate health care services in selected health professional shortage areas, HPSAs, identified by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services under the State Loan Repayment Program, as Congress intended. This bill does not involve any new funds. It will make the District eligible to receive assistance through the Public Health Service Act grants system, as would already be the case if the District had a matching program. Until 2006 there was no matching program in the District thus making it ineligible to apply for assistance. This bill is revenue neutral. Adding the District of Columbia to this program will not have any effect on federal funding because the District will be required to compete for the Federal funds exactly as every other State competes for the grants.

The State Loan Repayment Program, SLRP, was implemented in 1987 in response to Section 3381 of the Public Health Service Act, which authorizes the Secretary, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to make grants to States to help recruit and retain primary health care professionals in HPSAs. Under the State Loan Repayment

Program, clinicians provide primary care health services in HPSAs in exchange for funds for the repayment of their qualifying educational loans. These individuals are fully trained and licensed primary health care clinicians dedicated to meeting the health care needs of medically underserved communities.

Under the State Loan Repayment Program, grants are made to States to operate their own loan repayment programs. Primary care health professionals who are providing a minimum of 2 years of full-time clinical services in public or non-profit facilities located in HPSAs are eligible to apply for a loan repayment. The State Loan Repayment Program is a collaboration of Federal, State, and community efforts. The Federal Government provides up to 50 percent of the funds to make loan repayment funds to primary health care professionals. The remaining 50 percent of the funding comes from State and local community resources.

The District of Columbia has 13.8 percent underinsured residents compared to 15.7 percent of individuals that are uninsured across the country. Approximately 17 percent of non-elderly adults and 10.4 percent of children are uninsured.

Today, millions of Americans lack access to health insurance. In 2005, more than 46 million persons were uninsured for the entire year. There are several reasons for the lack of health coverage for Americans among all uninsured persons under age 65, more than half were underprivileged and 34 percent lacked health coverage.

Improving the health care system is a huge priority for Congress. The Institute of Medicine found that the insurance status of parents affects the amount of health care that their children receive. By amending the Public Health Service Act, this bill would provide eligibility to the District of Columbia for the State Loan Repayment Program. It is extremely important that underserved populations have access to primary health services regardless of their low-income status. I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

SABINOSO WILDERNESS ACT OF 2007

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Sabinoso Wilderness Act of 2007. New Mexico is filled with extraordinary landscapes and, as a representative of this beautiful State, it is an honor to work to conserve these scenic and historic areas for future generations. One of New Mexico's special places is the Sabinoso Wilderness Study Area. Last year, I had the opportunity to explore this unique area on horseback. While traveling through deep canyons covered with indigenous trees such as piñon-juniper, cottonwood, willow, and ponderosa pine, it was evident that Sabinoso is an exceptional setting that deserves to be protected and accessible to all. That is why I am introducing legislation to designate as wilderness the lands in and near the Sabinoso WSA.

The Sabinoso WSA comprises approximately 20,000 acres and is situated in San

Miguel County, 40 miles east of Las Vegas, NM, and 25 miles northwest of Conchas Dam State Park. Roaming the canyons last year, I was struck by the ecological, scenic and recreational values of the area. Sabinoso overlies a thick section of colorful sedimentary rocks, typical of desert rock formations throughout the West. The area's scenic and densely vegetated landscape is also home to a rich diversity of wildlife, such as red-tailed hawks, western scrub-jays, broad-tailed hummingbirds, mule deer, bobcats, and gray foxes. All of these natural resources will provide outstanding opportunities to hunt, hike, horseback ride, take photographs, and simply experience the unspoiled lands of our ancestors.

During the 2007 session of the New Mexico State Legislature, House Memorial 53, which calls on the New Mexico congressional delegation to support the establishment of the Sabinoso Wilderness Area, was introduced by State Representative Thomas Garcia and passed unanimously by a vote of 66-0.

Unfortunately, this beautiful piece of land is currently inaccessible to the general public. Designating the area will help open it to everyone and provide access to all of these activities. Opening Sabinoso will also create important new economic development opportunities for the surrounding communities. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this legislation and creating the Sabinoso Wilderness Area so that everyone will be able to experience its natural and unique beauty for generations to come.

RECOGNITION OF ARNOLD "NUB" PORTERFIELD

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 7, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Arnold G. "Nub" Porterfield of Bluefield, WV. Arnold was a special and caring man whose commitment to his community could only be rivaled by his commitment to his family. He was a loving son, a loving husband, brother, and uncle. He was, in short, a loving man.

Anyone who knew Arnold, or "Nub" as those closest to him referred to him, could not help but be touched by his generous and caring nature. He took a special interest in the lives of others, and he often made those lives a part of his own. He had an uncanny ability to connect with people, to make them feel comfortable in his presence. He was a good friend and a great man.

Arnold was very dedicated to his country and his community. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps and served with distinction in both World War II and the Korean war. He served the city of Bluefield, WV as a postmaster, a fireman, and as the chief of police. His commitment to his community exemplified the motto of the Marine Corps, "semper fidelis", always faithful.

After retiring from this distinguished career, Nub dedicated his life to spreading his love of books and opened the Appalachian Bookstore in Bluefield. He was a man who loved to read and had a deep desire to share that passion with others. When Nub decided to retire, he