

thirds of all nursing home residents in the state. While the U.S. Senate HELP proposal and the House bill call for the creation of a new voluntary federal insurance program for community-based long-term care services, the Congressional Budget Office has questioned the long term viability of this provision. Any federal health care reform discussion must include a combined federal and state approach to the financing and provision of Medicaid and long term care services.

Lack of health insurance is the greatest barrier to accessing health care. With nearly four million Floridians currently lacking health insurance, our state has launched initiatives designed to reduce that number and assist those who need prescription medication. Many of these programs can serve as examples to our nation. I have attached a brief summary outlining several of these successful programs Florida is using to address the health care needs of our residents, while targeting ways to reduce costs to our health care system.

The partnership between our state and our federal government is critical in enabling Florida to serve its residents, and I stand ready to work with you to address those issues which are most essential in health care reform: access and affordability. Our goal should remain clear: maintaining a high quality health care system which allows individuals to get treatment when they need it. I hope I can count on your support to work together on solutions to improve care at the same time as providing sustainability in essential programs like Medicaid through sound financing options at the state and federal levels. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

CHARLIE CRIST,
Governor, Florida.

TRIBUTE TO CEE SALBERG—RECIPIENT OF 2009 ST. MADELEINE SOPHIE AWARDS, SACRED HEART SCHOOLS

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Ms. Cee Salberg, a recipient of the prestigious St. Madeleine Sophie Award from Sacred Heart Schools. Established in the year 2000, the St. Madeleine Sophie Award honors individuals in the Sacred Heart community who have made a sustained and significant contribution to the Schools and embody the Goals and Criteria of a Sacred Heart education. The individuals honored are selected by a committee comprised of the senior administrative team in conjunction with the Chair of the Board of Trustees and are honored at a reception and at the Mass of the Holy Spirit, the first all-school liturgy of the school year. The recipients will be VIP guests at various SHS events throughout the year and featured in their alumni magazine, *The Heart of the Matter*, for their commitment to the mission of Sacred Heart education.

This year, Cee Salberg was chosen along with two other distinguished recipients to be recognized with the Award for her tireless work as an educator as well as to the Goals and Criteria of Sacred Heart Schools. Her award was presented by Mr. James Everitt, who gave this speech at the Awards Ceremony in tribute to Cee:

I am still a little unclear as to why Cee Salberg asked me to introduce her for this prestigious award. I cannot figure out if she asked me to do her this honor because I don't actually work in the pre-school and Kindergarten so, therefore, I don't really know how she behaves on a daily basis. Or, if it is because she knows that I am afraid of her and that it is unlikely that I will share anything other than the most positive sentiments about her. In any case, tonight we get to celebrate a wonderful and a brilliant educator.

I am so thrilled to be able to introduce Cee Salberg for the St. Madeleine Sophie Award tonight. As I understand it, this award is given to those who have committed themselves to Sacred Heart Schools and who embody the Spirit of St. Madeleine Sophie Barat. For those of you who know Cee it is clear to you why she is the winner of this award. Put quite simply . . .

Cee has the vision of Sophie.

Cee has the courage of Sophie.

Cee has the generosity of Sophie.

Cee has the direct communication style of Sophie.

And most importantly, Cee has the single-hearted love of children that we believe is the most important characteristic of Sophie's own life and legacy.

I believe it is this last characteristic that has landed Cee here this evening. Cee has a single-hearted love of children that is awe inspiring for those who work closely with her and for those whose children have been in the pre-school and kindergarten. If you speak to children who attended our Montessori program they will tell you that they love Ms. Salberg. One high school student told me that Ms. Salberg is the kindest woman that she knows.

However, let me get something clear from the beginning. I am not suggesting that Cee is touchy-feely or that she has never been accused of being aloof or unfriendly. She is in fact, sometimes scary for parents and other adults. As Rich Dioli recently said to me, "Cee may not say hi to every parent who walks through the door but she knows every kid by name and she is the best educator we have." I have several funny anecdotes about times when Cee has scared me but I will save those for her retirement roast in about 15 years.

After Cee invited me to introduce her, which I am sure she is now regretting, I started asking people about her and why they felt that she should be the recipient of this award. I had a great time. People feel very strongly about Cee and almost every person I spoke with, particularly those that work in the preschool and kindergarten, made it clear that they are thrilled that she is receiving this award. And they feel strongly about her for four reasons: because she loves scotch, because she loves the San Francisco Giants, because she keeps chocolate stocked in the faculty room and, most importantly, because everything she does—every day—is about the children that walk through the doors of the Montessori building. I was tempted to summarize what people said about Cee but perhaps I should just report some of the thoughts that Cee's colleagues have about her. . . .

Cee has always been available to me when I needed advice, a sounding board, or a kind shoulder on which to cry. She has helped me navigate the Sacred Heart experience. She has been a constant beacon for all of us.

Cee has a loving and giving heart. She is committed to the mission of the school; to economic, social, and ethnic diversity and she is an educational leader that works very closely with her teachers to ensure that the students are being loved and having success in the classroom.

Cee travels the world to learn about other cultures and enhances her own life to better understand humanity.

Cee is kind.

Cee believes in our mission and does everything possible to instill the mission of the school in the children.

Each decision Cee makes is for the children.

Although some say she is not warm and fuzzy—my entire family adores her. She is there for the children and that is what matters.

Cee cares about every child in her school—no matter what.

Cee teaches the children independence, respect, kindness, understanding, and thoughtfulness—everything a parent wants in a child.

Cee is not a woman of many words but she hears all.

Cee always has the perfect outfit for every occasion; classy and elegant.

Cee will bend down and pick up every last scrap of litter under the lunch tables.

Cee is organized, efficient and thrives on order—the preschool runs like a well oiled machine under her control.

Cee is a blessing; a wonderful leader for the parents, children and her staff—I feel proud to be a member of her staff.

Cee has always based her goals for the Montessori on the Goals and Criteria.

Cee has led us to be a faculty that values professional growth, love of God and one another, and social justice.

Cee encourages teachers to keep up on all the newest information in teaching and often gives us professional articles, internet sites, and always encourages us to attend classes and workshops.

Cee has a professional commitment to get to know each student at the Montessori. She spends from 12:15p.m. to 1:00 p.m. at recess each day, observing and interacting with the children.

Cee always encourages early intervention when students are having difficulties socially, emotionally, or academically.

Most importantly Cee has dedicated her years here to boost our financial aid, based on her value of social justice. We now have many wonderful students who would not have been able to attend Sacred Heart without Cee's dedication to financial aid increases.

I am guessing that by now you have gotten the point. Cee is wonderful. In fact, she sounds almost perfect. So, let me share with you some of her shortcomings. Just kidding Cee.

I do, however, want to share with you how I feel about Cee Salberg.

It is unlikely that you will ever hear Cee give a speech about God, St. Madeleine Sophie Barat or the Mission of the School. It would surprise me to find Cee in a large group talking about the latest instructional strategies or arguing about pedagogical methods. It is rare that you will find Cee making loud protests against injustice. It is unusual to hear Cee gossiping about a colleague or undermining the work of her peers. I can almost guarantee that you won't find Cee creating arbitrary policies that prevent a child's growth.

But in my experience you will . . .

Find Cee hugging her students and making sure that they feel loved.

Find Cee allocating resources for teacher development and creating an environment at the Montessori in which student interest drives student learning and achievement.

Find Cee fighting for financial aid and non-tuition related financial aid so that all students have access to a Sacred Heart education.

Find Cee confronting parents and colleagues who do things that don't build community. And, you will find the kind joy and

laughter in the Montessori building that is at the very heart of building community.

And, my favorite, you will find Cee on vacation in the middle of the school year because she values balance in her life and she understands the importance of her family.

I was not surprised to learn that Cee was nominated and ultimately selected to be one of the St. Madeleine Sophie Award winners. Cee has been an amazing mentor to me and I can say from the very depth of my being that I have learned more from Cee Salberg about teaching and learning and about what it means to be a Sacred Heart educator than from any other person in my career. Cee is a woman who St. Madeleine Sophie Barat and St. Rose Philippine Duchesne would recognize as one of their own.

I want to end by reading a nice poem that was written by a member of Cee's staff.

There once was a principal named Cee
As good at her job as she could be.
She juggles admins, parents, kids and teachers,
But she'd rather be cheering in the bleachers
For the San Francisco Giants, her favorite team.

Soon, the World Series? Hey, a girl can dream!

Cee and Keir travel to many a port.
And luckily, Janet can hold down the fort.
At work and at home, Cee has a great crew.
She's the captain, she knows what to do!
For Cee to get this award, we're all very proud,

And not a bit shy to say right out loud:
She deserves this award and can pass any test.

All of us know that Cee is the best!

Cee, it is a true honor and pleasure to be your friend and your colleague. I look forward to celebrating your retirement with you in about 15-20 years.

Congratulations.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in offering our congratulations to Cee Salberg on the very special occasion of being chosen for the St. Madeleine Sophie Award, and for all she does daily to strengthen our community and our country.

SUPPORTING CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H. Res. 167, a resolution that supports the goals and ideals of recognizing September as Campus Fire Safety Month. This recognition would both heighten awareness and encourage improvements in the overall safety on our college and university campuses.

Since January 2000, 129 people including students, parents, and children, have died in student housing fires, many of which were preventable. Currently a majority of college students live off campus, and eighty percent of these deaths have occurred in off campus housing. One recent example is more personal for me. Over the 2008 Christmas break, there was a suspected arson at the Sigma Nu fraternity house at Texas A&M University. Thankfully, no one was residing in the house at that time, but as a Sigma Nu from my days

at Georgia Tech, my prayers continue to be with the chapter in Texas for the rebuilding of their residence.

Nationally, more needs to be done to improve campus-wide fire safety awareness programs so as to prevent the loss of life and property damage on college and university campuses. Many of these fatal fires have occurred in buildings where the fire safety systems have been compromised, are obsolete, or have been disabled by occupants. College administrations must continue to make students aware of the need for automatic fire alarm systems and the safety they provide to occupants and local fire departments.

Madam Speaker, fire safety education is imperative on college and university campuses across the nation. This resolution encourages administrators and municipalities to evaluate the level of fire safety being provided in both on- and off-campus student housing. It further calls upon them take the necessary steps to ensure fire safe living environments through fire safety education, installation of fire suppression and detection systems, and the development and enforcement of applicable codes relating to fire safety. I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution so that we can protect future generations of our nation's leaders from the devastating and potentially life threatening effects of campus fires.

GOVERNORS OF IDAHO, INDIANA, AND LOUISIANA EXPRESS CONCERNS WITH UNFUNDED MANDATES IN HEALTH REFORM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express concerns regarding health reform proposals which would create unfunded state mandates. Legislation currently before the House would dramatically expand the Medicaid program and place over \$35 billion in new liabilities on state budgets over the next ten years. In addition, these proposals would expand the federal government's role in administering Medicaid, which would severely handcuff states' ability to run their own programs and preempt state authority to manage Medicaid eligibility and benefits.

Over the last several weeks, governors have expressed concerns over these proposals. I would like to submit for the record the following letters from the governors of Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana and Minnesota:

SEPTEMBER 15, 2009.

Hon. MIKE CRAPO,
U.S. Senate, Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR CRAPO: Idaho has a proud history of fiscal responsibility, ensuring that our State government serves its proper role for the people of Idaho while staying within their financial means. As the United States Congress attempts to address the healthcare challenges facing our nation, it is important that we remain diligent in assessing the implications of our decisions, always ensuring that we take seriously our duty to safeguard the financial resources of the American public, and allocating taxpayer money in an efficient and effective manner.

As revised healthcare proposals continue appearing in Congress, the full consequences

of these reforms remain unknown and we are uncertain of the possible negative impacts on local businesses, families and senior citizens. However, it is clear that these sweeping proposals would irresponsibly shift a substantial and unmanageable financial burden to the states. Like Idaho, many states already are functioning under severely limited and strained budgets. It is certain that the burden of these reforms would be placed upon the shoulders of hardworking Americans.

The costs associated with these proposed reforms are astounding. Conservative estimates from the Idaho Division of Medicaid indicate that the bill's Medicaid eligibility proposal would increase our state share of Medicaid and the federal matching rate effective would drop in the middle of fiscal year 2011, leaving Idaho struggling to fill the void. Idaho's tax base could not support this large unfunded mandate without resorting to tax increases, including a possible increase in Idaho's already 6-percent sales tax—an irresponsible action which would do serious harm to Idaho taxpayers. The proposed reforms would impose an undue burden on citizens already struggling in this difficult economy.

It has been estimated that combined federal-state Medicaid costs in Idaho could increase by \$501 million. In addition, raising the Medicaid reimbursement rate to 110 percent of the Medicare reimbursement rate would increase total federal-state costs \$50 million more.

This proposed change in the federal reimbursement rate likely would reduce the number of plans that are offered to persons on Medicare, resulting in increased premiums and reduced services and access to service providers. Seniors in rural Idaho already have trouble finding providers who accept Medicare patients.

Should these changes be approved, that trend could continue statewide—severely limiting access to medical care for some of Idaho's most vulnerable residents. The people of Idaho have entrusted us with a responsibility to use our government resources wisely and efficiently. Imposing costly federal mandates that cannot be sustained in the long run is an irresponsible violation of this public trust. Quite simply, these proposals are financially irresponsible and would not adequately address the needs of senior citizens and other vulnerable groups.

I encourage you to join me in opposing current health care reform proposals. By ending these nonsensical debates and stopping the proposed reforms, we can move forward in a more positive, measured and reasonable direction, using common sense to find a workable healthcare solution that benefits all Americans.

As Always—Idaho "Esto Perpetua",

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER,

Governor, Idaho.

SEPTEMBER 8, 2009.

Hon. RICHARD LUGAR,
Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LUGAR: During your summer recess I am sure that many, if not all of you heard from your constituents regarding health care reform.

I have heard from them as well. In fact, over the past few months, I have watched Americans come forward to passionately express their anxieties about the legislation currently making its way through Congress. Their worries are well-founded.

There is no disputing the fact that aspects of American health care, such as access and affordability, truly do need to be restructured and improved. Yet, I have serious concerns about Congress's proposed solutions to these problems. In fact, I fear the current rush to overhaul the system will ultimately