

be questioned. I stand behind our President who, it is clear, painstakingly reached this difficult decision. I stand behind this Nation, at a time which calls upon us to cooperate with each other and be united in our resolve to promote and protect democracy.

TREATMENT OF CHILDREN'S DEFORMITIES ACT

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Treatment of Children's Deformities Act, legislation that prohibits insurers from discriminating against children born with deformities by denying coverage of reconstructive surgery. Children should not only be provided reconstructive surgery to improve the function of a part of the body, but also should be given the opportunity to face the world with a normal appearance. Insurers would like for you to think that such surgery is merely cosmetic—parents of children dealing with the physical and psychological effects of such deformities would beg to differ.

Today, approximately seven percent of American children are born with pediatric deformities and congenital defects such as birth marks, cleft lip, cleft palate, absent external ears and other facial deformities. A recent survey of the American Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons indicated that over half of the plastic surgeons surveyed have had a pediatric patient who in the last two years has been denied, or experienced significant difficulty in obtaining, insurance coverage for their surgical procedures.

Some insurance companies claim that reconstructive procedures that do not improve function are not medically necessary and are, therefore, cosmetic. America's physicians recognize an important difference between reconstructive and cosmetic surgery to which this bill calls attention. The American Medical Association defines cosmetic surgery as being performed to reshape normal structures of the body in order to improve the patient's appearance and self-esteem. They define reconstructive surgery as being performed on abnormal structures of the body caused by congenital defects, developmental abnormalities, trauma, infection, tumors or disease.

The Treatment of Children's Deformities Act acknowledges the importance of the AMA's definitions and requires that managed care and insurance companies do the same. The problems that Americans across the board are experiencing with various managed care companies who place cost over quality care are infuriating enough, but when it affects the physical and emotional well-being of children, Congress must be willing to put our foot down.

Please join me in defending the needs of children with deformities and congenital defects and their families by cosponsoring this important bill.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO LEOPOLDO "CONDO" GONZALES

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a husband and father, a veteran and war hero, and a member of the San Diego community who died on November 7, 1998, at the age of 75.

Leopoldo "Condo" Gonzales was born to Sophia and Francisco Gonzales on October 7, 1923. In 1941, he met Connie Briones, and they were married on July 14, 1943.

Condo joined the Army in 1942 to serve his country in World War II. He served with the 63d Engineer Battalion in Europe until the end of the war, and received the Campaign Medal, three Bronze Stars, and two Victory Medals.

Condo and Connie began their family with the birth of their first child, Robert, in 1946. Joining Robert was his brother, Frank, in 1948 and sister, Margie, in 1952.

After the war years, Condo worked for the Cannery and Cudahy Meat Packing Company. He was a member of Masonry Union Local No. 89 and worked for several construction companies before his retirement.

Condo and his family lived in the Linda Vista area of San Diego for many years before moving to their farm in Lakeside, CA. Condo enjoyed gardening, and his farm was full of watermelons, corn, and animals. In 1956, they moved back to San Diego, to the Sierra Mesa area. In his retirement years, Condo enjoyed especially his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

His was a wonderful life. He was a man who did his duty to his country, who raised his family well, and who contributed to his community. He is survived by Connie, his wife of 55 years, as well as his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. My thoughts and prayers go out to his wife and family and to the larger community that was touched by his presence.

TRIBUTE TO PHILADELPHIA COLLEGE OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE ON ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. CHAKA FATTAH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my enthusiastic congratulations to Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM), which this year celebrates its Centennial anniversary. For 100 years, PCOM has served as a national leader in the training of exceptional physicians. Today, the College is the largest osteopathic medical school in the United States, and graduates more primary health care physicians than any other medical school in the nation. PCOM was recently praised for its strong emphasis on primary care and early clinical exposure in the Princeton Review's 1998 Guide, "The Best Medical

Schools." In addition, the College was awarded the highest possible ranking in the 1998 "Primary Care Scorecard," which ranks osteopathic medical schools according to the number of students entering primary care fields, and the presence of a family practice division within the College.

PCOM's success in educating high quality physicians is directly attributable to its interdisciplinary curriculum, and "Doctors from Day One" philosophy. While students are thoroughly trained in the science of medicine, they are also schooled in the humanistic application of their trade. Clinical experience beginning early in a student's career sets a tone, which values both a thorough assessment of a patient's medical symptoms, and an ability to discern the social, economic, and other individual factors which also play a role in determining a patient's health and wellness. This integrated approach to the practice of medicine is reinforced during the required four months students spend staffing the College's rural and urban health care facilities, which serve Philadelphia's underserved populations. Clearly, PCOM boasts a unique tradition of medical education.

PCOM has an exciting year ahead. Construction of its new Student Activity Center, a comprehensive exercise facility, will be completed this summer. The Student Activity Center underscores the College's commitment to its mission by encouraging its students and faculty to practice the good health habits that they advise their patients to practice. A book commemorating PCOM's 100 years of medical education has been published, with a special introduction by former United States Surgeon General C. Everett Koop. Two historical exhibits on display at the College throughout the year present photographs and papers, which document PCOM's proud history and the emergence of osteopathic medicine as a medical practice. PCOM will also be a 1999 Philadelphia sponsor of the nationally acclaimed Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation "Race for the Cure."

Mr. Speaker, and fellow Colleagues of the House, please join me in extending our gratitude to Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine for its 100 years of outstanding medical leadership and service to our nation. May PCOM's distinguished tradition of medical education continue to thrive for the next 100 years and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR LADY OF CHALDEANS CATHEDRAL, MOTHER OF GOD CHURCH

HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 6, 1999

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to recognize a parish that has dedicated 50 years to the service of God and community. On Friday, January 8, 1999, Our Lady of Chaldeans Cathedral, Mother of God Church will celebrate its Golden Jubilee Anniversary.

Located in Southfield, Michigan, Our Lady of Chaldeans Cathedral has been a center of religious and social activity for 50 years. During