

to a people who were denied the right to free press, by the dictatorship of Fidel Castro.

In recognition of his many achievements, I would like to applaud the hard-work and energy of Dr. Luis J. Botifoll. His dedication to the sanctity of free speech deserves all of our recognition and respect.

STATEMENT HONORING MR.
BATISTA VIEIRA AND MRS. DO-
LORES VIEIRA

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 1999

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to congratulate Mr. Batista Vieira and Mrs. Dolores Vieira on the 25th anniversary of their involvement with the Broadcast Radio Industry, a quarter-century tenure that has been marked by tremendous dedication and service to the Portuguese community in California. Because of their work, the Portuguese language, culture, traditions, and values have remained alive for the people of California in ways that would have been otherwise impossible.

For the last twenty-five years, Mr. and Mrs. Batista's "Portuguese Radio" has helped the "Portuguese of the Diaspora" living in my district and surrounding areas in Northern California to remain in close contact with the customs and lives of their friends and families in Portugal. "The Portuguese Radio" has impressed itself upon the daily lives of so many Portuguese immigrants because of the connection it brings to the nation many of these individuals still consider their cultural homeland; the sounds of Portugal broadcast over Portuguese Radio fill the homes and businesses of these people for countless hours of the day with sounds of the land they once knew, tying their old traditions and ways of life to the land that has newly become their adopted home.

Northern California, and particularly Santa Clara County, is a land of tremendous ethnic and cultural diversity, serving as it does as a home to immigrants from all areas of the globe. The cultural richness of this area is truly a result of the efforts of individuals such as Mr. and Mrs. Vieira who have worked through the Broadcast Radio Industry to preserve the beautiful traditions of Portugal in living form. The people of Northern California owe them a profound debt of gratitude.

IN RECOGNITION OF DALE DAVIS

HON. BOB RILEY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 1999

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Dale Davis of Delta, Alabama. Mr. Davis died of leukemia in July of this year, but his life is being celebrated on this date, October 25, 1999, at a meeting of the Clay County Hospital Board on which he served.

Dale Davis lived all of his life in Alabama. As an adult, he worked as a well driller. How-

ever, the real measure of a man is the influence he has on others. Dale Davis' "measure" came from his faith in God and his community involvement (most notably his service on the Clay County, Alabama, Hospital Board) as well as his devotion to his wife and two children. He was well thought of by all who knew him as evidenced by this special recognition.

Dale Davis' death at such a young age was tragic, but all who knew him rejoice in his life and offer our prayers and best wishes to his wife, son and daughter.

TRIBUTE TO PAUL PATRICK
COUGHLIN

HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 1999

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to remember a very dear friend and to mark the six month anniversary of his passing, April 23, 1999.

Paul Patrick Coughlin was an outstanding gentleman whose loyalty, warmth, and kindness touched the lives of many, many people in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Paul was a leader, tried and true. But Paul led with compassion. He lived every day of his life committed to improving his community, and to fostering opportunities not only for his own children and grandchildren, but for his neighbors through his tireless public service.

Paul served as a Selectman in his beloved town of Dedham, as a Trustee of the Massachusetts Maritime Academy, as Chairman of the Dedham Democratic Town Committee, as a Veteran's Agent in the Town of Dedham, as Assistant Sergeant at Arms in the Massachusetts Legislature, as a Deputy Sheriff in Norfolk County, as an Assistant Clerk of Courts in West Roxbury District Court, and as a loyal union member of the Communication Workers of America.

I miss Paul dearly, as does his family and the many, many friends who have been fortunate to have known him. Although his is no longer with us in person, his kindness, his spirit, and his good works will be remembered forever.

TICKET TO WORK AND WORK INCENTIVES IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. JERRY MORAN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 19, 1999

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, unfortunately, to oppose this legislation. I wholeheartedly support the original intent of this bill, and I am a cosponsor of H.R. 1180. Improving the current system to provide real choices for people with disabilities is essential. The Work Incentives Improvement Act would address the barriers to employment by improving job training and rehabilitation services and providing the health insurance which is so critical.

Unfortunately, the bill we are considering today is not H.R. 1180. The bill today includes troubling language from a substitute bill, which could cost Kansas and other states' school districts, million of dollars. Section 407 of this bill would limit Medicaid funding for school districts and their education of disabled children.

Section 407 precludes or significantly restricts the use of bundled rates. The bundling system allows schools to minimize paperwork by billing for a package of medical services, rather than for each individual service provided to each child. In May of this year, HCFA sent a letter to all State Medicaid directors prohibiting bundled rates for school based services for special education health costs. At that time, there were seven states that had HCFA-approved bundled rate systems, including Kansas. Since this announcement, I have heard from nearly every school superintendent in my district. They are extremely concerned about this rule. The administrative burden this will impose on schools will be enormous. The end result of Section 407 of this bill will be to legislate this HCFA rule. Without proper committee hearings and discussion of this issue, it is upsetting that we are forced to vote on it now. If this provision is passed, I believe we could be punishing states that are efficient and accountable. We will once again be turning our backs on our students.

When the Individuals with Disabilities Education was first passed, Congress promised that the federal government would pay 40% of the costs to schools. The federal government has never lived up to this promise and currently only pays out about 10% of the costs. Then Congress and the Administration told schools that they could seek reimbursements by Medicaid for school-based medical services for students with disabilities. HCFA told schools that it would even work with states to come up with a system of reimbursement that would not be so administratively burdensome to schools. So states and schools agree and are enthusiastic about getting more federal funds for special education costs. Yet, now both HCFA and Congress turn around and change their minds.

In order to bill Medicaid for these services, schools will now have to record each service provided. The administrative burden for small schools will keep schools from seeking this reimbursement. The time and cost will be so high that schools in my district will not be able to afford to seek a reimbursement.

So this provision is putting schools between a rock and a hard place. They do not have the resources to seek reimbursements for Medicaid, yet then their school budgets will be devastated because they cannot access these federal funds. We are bankrupting our small schools and—who pays in the end—our students. The budgets of small schools are already being drained by costs associated with special education services. Funds they should have access to for books, retaining teachers, and school modernization.

This bill will now go to a conference between the House and Senate. I hope that conferees will take this time to listen to the concerns of school superintendents and state Medicaid directors. We need their advice and input as we form this legislation. I ask that we study this issue further before we legislate a rule that could hurt our schools.