

1395yy(e)(2)(A)(ii) is amended by inserting "clinical social worker services," after "qualified psychologist services."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 1861(hh)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(hh)(2)) is amended by striking "and other than services furnished to an inpatient of a skilled nursing facility which the facility is required to provide as a requirement for participation".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section apply as if included in the enactment of section 4432(a) of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997.

THE RETIREMENT OF MARGE HOSKIN AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF QUINEBAUG-SHETUCKET HERITAGE CORRIDOR, INC.

HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute of Marge Hoskin of Plainfield, Connecticut upon her retirement as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc. Marge is an extraordinary American who has worked for more than two decades to preserve and promote the historic, natural and cultural resources of eastern Connecticut.

I first began working with Marge in the late 1980s. She was one of the leaders of a grassroots group in eastern Connecticut exploring how communities could preserve and promote the history of the region. Marge and the other members of this group had vision of the future. A vision built on the region's rich heritage as a world-wide center for textile production and incredible network of rivers anchored by the Quinebaug in the east and the Shetucket in the west. By the time Marge and her colleagues began developing this vision, the mills which line the rivers from Thompson through Willimantic to Norwich, some of them the largest and most productive in the world in the late Nineteenth and early Twentieth centuries, were silent, ghostly shells deteriorating with each passing day. Many feared these magnificent structures—monuments to the industrial prowess of the United States and the ingenuity and hard work of generations of people from eastern Connecticut—would be lost forever, relegated to the history books and old snapshots.

Marge, and others in this small, but committed group, believed that the mills could be preserved, could be redeveloped and could be transformed into engines of economic growth once again. They envisioned linking communities and citizens across the region using a natural resource which had always brought them together—the rivers. They developed this vision with the knowledge that economic development, historic preservation and environmental protection can go hand-in-hand.

Between 1989 and 1994, Marge Hoskin devoted countless hours to making this vision, embodied in the Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers National Heritage Corridor, a reality. She traveled from one corner of eastern Con-

necticut to the other explaining the concept and the goals it was designed to achieve. She came to Washington to testify in support of legislation I introduced to establish the Corridor. Marge also originated an event which has become synonymous with the Quinebaug and Shetucket Heritage Corridor—the Walking Weekend. Walking Weekend, held every year since 1990 during Columbus Day weekend, has educated tens of thousands of people from across eastern Connecticut and New England about the region through a series of walks highlighting our history, natural resources and culture. Marge celebrated with countless other residents of my district when President Clinton signed legislation formally establishing the Corridor in November 1994.

Following enactment of this law, Marge played an active role in creating a non-profit entity—Quinebaug-Shetucket Heritage Corridor, Inc.—designed to coordinate efforts to achieve the goals of the act. Marge has served as Chairman, Vice Chairman and Director of the corporation. In these leadership positions, she has continuously demonstrated an ability to forge consensus from very diverse views. She has led by quiet example constantly striving to do what is best for the region. She has given of herself in so many ways and is unquestionably one of the reasons the Quinebaug and Shetucket National Heritage Corridor is a success today.

Marge has been widely recognized for her service to the community. She was named "Woman of the Year" in 1997 by the Northeastern Connecticut Professional and Business Women's Association. She received the "Civic Achievement Award" in January 1999 from the Northeastern Connecticut Chamber of Commerce. In addition, she has been honored with several awards from the Association of Northeast Connecticut Historical Societies. These awards are a testament to Marge's dedicated service, commitment to the region and penchant for delivering results.

Mr. Speaker, all of us involved with Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers National Heritage Corridor look forward to working with Marge for many years to come. We remain secure in the knowledge that she will continue to play an important role in an endeavor she has done so much to make successful. I know I speak for many people across eastern Connecticut when I say—thank you Marge.

IN HONOR OF MARY ANN KOSTER
CLEVELAND MUNICIPAL COURT

HON. STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, Mary Ann Koster is the Director of Scheduling at Cleveland Municipal Court, whose Administrative Judge Larry Jones nominated her in recognition of 25 years' service. Under her supervision, the office schedules all civil and criminal cases on the personal dockets of the Court's judges and collates and reports case statistics for use by the Court internally and for reports by the Court to the Ohio Supreme Court.

Mary Ann takes pride in the title "Public Servant" and strives to do her best for the Court and its personnel, and, especially, for the public served by the Court.

Married to Don Koster for almost 20 years, Mary Ann lives in Columbia Station. She has raised and exhibited roses at all levels of competition. She looks forward to bringing the national fall convention of the American Rose Society to Cleveland in the year 2001 and will, in 1999, stand for examination for Consulting Rosarian and Judge.

IN MEMORY OF VICTOR M. GRAY

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death of Victor M. Gray of California, Missouri.

Victor Gray was born July 15, 1912, in Hendrick, IL, a son of Homer F. and Anna Burrus Gray. He was a graduate of the University of Missouri, where he earned a bachelor's degree in agriculture in 1937.

Gray's career in public service and agriculture began immediately after his graduation from the University of Missouri. From 1937 to 1948 he worked for the Agricultural Extension Service. After his initial service to the state of Missouri, Gray worked in the private sector, owning and operating a farm machinery company for two years. Victor Gray was a livestock marketing specialist with the Producer's Livestock Marketing Association-National Stockyard, Illinois, and manager of the Farm Bureau Service Co. from 1953 to 1957. He served as director of the Missouri Department of Agriculture's Feed and Seed Division in 1957 and, in 1959, became the Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture's Feed and Seed Division in 1957 and, in 1959, became the Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture until 1963. He was the director of legislative programs for Missouri Farm Bureau from November 1963 until he retired in August 1977.

Victor Gray served as the executive secretary of the Missouri Association of Fairs and was a member of the Board of Governors of the American Royal Livestock Show in Kansas City, Mo. He was the past President of American Lung Association-Western Division; past chairman of the County Soil and Water Conservation Districts; former vice president of the County Farm Bureau; and former chairman of the Missouri Hazardous Waste Committee. He served as district representative of the Missouri Farm Bureau Rural Health and Safety Committee.

Victor Gray was an active member in the community. A member of the Gamma Sigma Delta agricultural fraternity, he received the Award of Merit from the society's Missouri chapter and the State Star Farmer Award from the Missouri FFA. He was a 50-year member of the California Lodge 183, A.F. & A.M., and the Royal Arch Masons Chapter in California. He was a member of the United Methodist Church of California.

Gray was preceded in death by his wife, Anna in 1991. He is survived by his niece,

Sandra Gray Dietzel; three great-nieces, two great-great nieces and three great-great nephews. I know that this body joins me in expressing sympathy to the family of this great Missourian.

TEACHER INVESTMENT AND
ENHANCEMENT ACT

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, providing a high quality education to our children is my highest priority. The key to achieving this goal is having high quality teachers. It is for this reason I am reintroducing my measure today from last Congress, the Teacher Investment and Enhancement (TIE) Act, along with my colleagues, Representatives HORN, POMEROY and PAUL.

While it is important to know how to teach, it is equally if not more important to know what you are teaching. However, many teachers are teaching "out-of-field" and, therefore, are not sufficiently knowledgeable in their subject area. The TIE Act addresses this problem by providing secondary teachers the incentives to return to college to take courses in the classes they teach. This will be accomplished by doubling the current Lifetime Learning Tax Credit for tuition expenses for the continuing education of secondary teachers in their fields of teaching. This increase would allow such teachers to receive up to a \$4,000 tax break for college tuition costs.

It is pivotal to ensure teachers are well-educated. Offering more education opportunities for our teachers is an investment in our children and one we cannot afford not to take. I strongly encourage my colleagues to cosponsor this important piece of legislation and work for its passage.

WHY I INTRODUCED THE
BALANCED BUDGET AMENDMENT

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, when I ran for the United States Congress, I campaigned on virtually one single issue—balancing the budget.

Whenever I speak on the matter, I think of my friend Delmar Burhenn. His family works hard to make ends meet on their Baca County farm located in the extreme southeast corner of Colorado.

I savor every chance I get to speak with Delmar. He has opinions about everything—retirement, the reliability of farm equipment, saving for a vacation, and so on.

During my first term in Congress, we balanced the budget, reduced taxes and improved education. During the 106th Congress, we want to build on these achievements by preserving Social Security, giving families like Delmar's more tax relief, and permanently balancing the budget.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

Of these, the most pressing issue is balancing the federal budget permanently. That's why I introduced HJR 1, the Balanced Budget Amendment Reduction of 1998, on the first day of session. Even while the Republican-led Congress exercises fiscal discipline in Washington, I believe the only way to protect families like Delmar's is by making it a requirement federal books remain balanced forever.

Some are unaware Congress balanced the federal budget last year. We did. In fact, we delivered the first balanced budget since 1969, a big step in the right direction. But that was simply a temporary victory that can be lost with the political winds. The Balanced Budget Amendment I propose guarantees the federal budget will be balanced each year to come.

Under my proposal, the only time the budget could be broken is by affirmative vote of a three-fifths super majority in both the House and the Senate. This super majority would be too high a hurdle for frivolous, spur-of-the-moment impulse spending. Congress would only be able to spend more than income warrants during times of real need like national emergencies and war.

The Balanced Budget Amendment would also help us accomplish one of my top priorities for the 106th Congress, preserving and protecting Social Security for future generations. Right now the federal government "borrows" from the Social Security surplus in order to pay for other numerous federal programs such as education, Medicare, and transportation. Even by conservative estimates, without an end to this "borrowing," we can count on Social Security running deficits by 2012, and headed toward bankruptcy in the early 2020's.

With a permanently balanced budget, the federal government will be forced to prioritize money for these programs and others important to Coloradans. By reducing the amount we borrow to meet today's federal debt obligation, we pay less interest on the national debt each year.

Even with all of these incentives to pass the Balanced Budget Amendment, it won't be easy. There are still too many big spenders in Washington who are adept at creating new expensive programs for every problem. Under the Balanced Budget Amendment, liberals won't be able to continue their free spending ways without considering the long-term consequences to Colorado families like Delmar's.

It's time to stop runaway government spending. Coloradans balanced their checkbooks every day, knowing they can't spend money they don't have. I don't think there's any reason to expect less of the federal government.

By passing the Balanced Budget Amendment, Delmar will be assured bureaucrats in Washington will have to worry about making ends meet just like he does.

THE THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE
TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT

HON. PAUL RYAN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, three years ago, the President signed into law the

Telecommunications Act of 1996. I was not a member of Congress then. But I had been, I would have supported the goals of the act to create an environment where new technologies, consumer choices and jobs would flourish.

Today, I am frankly disappointed that those goals have largely not been met. There is local phone competition because local phone companies have opened their markets. However, due to the manner in which the FCC has implemented the act, new local competitors are "cream skimming" and are providing service to predominantly businesses, not residential customers. Due to the FCC's implementation of the act, local phone companies are still tangled in a thicket of FCC regulations and are unable to provide consumers with more choices in long distance service. And advanced telecommunications services, which provide American households benefits including fast internet access, are not reaching millions of consumers. In fact, in one region of the country (which has sadly become known as the "No High Speed Internet Access Zone"), not a single citizen has high-speed internet access.

Mr. Speaker, the act is not the problem, the FCC's implementation is. The Federal Communications Commission has disregarded the intent of Congress, and in my view, consumers are suffering. It's time to designate, and let the marketplace do its job.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDIGAP
ACCESS PROTECTION FOR SENIORS
ACT OF 1999

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 9, 1999

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that will restore to thousands of our nation's seniors access to an essential element of comprehensive medical care—prescription drugs.

Prescription drugs are the single largest out-of-pocket medical expense for the elderly, and for many the greatest cause for worry. To secure prescription drug coverage, as well as other benefits not part of the basic Medicare package, many seniors have chosen to join HMOs during the past few years.

But October 2, 1998 signaled a turning point for them. You may recall that was the deadline for HMOs to notify the Health Care Financing Administration whether they would continue to participate in Medicare+Choice in 1999. Well, more than 100 plans nationwide decided to either end their participation with Medicare entirely, or to cut back their service areas. As a result, 440,000 Medicare HMO enrollees in 22 states were abandoned by their Medicare HMO.

More than 300,000 Medicare beneficiaries had a prescription drug benefit and lost it on December 31st. More than 70,000 beneficiaries were left with no Medicare HMO option whatsoever. Not only has the number of plans offering the drug benefit shrunk considerably from last year, it is expected to be even lower when HMOs submit their proposals to HCFA for next year.