

England Journal of Medicine, September 3, 1998.

Our results suggest that the goal of providing high-quality care may be better approached by the use of limited financial incentives based on the quality of care and patients' satisfaction than incentives that reward physicians for restricting access to specialty care or for squeezing in a greater number of visits per day. Policies that emphasize the former approach may enhance satisfaction with the U.S. health care system on the part of both patients and their physicians.—“Primary Care Physicians' Experience of Financial Incentives in Managed-Care Systems,” by Grumbach, et. al., in The New England Journal of Medicine, November 19, 1998.

. . . HMO managers believed that the impact of withhold accounts, bonus payments, and risk pools are subject to thresholds below which little or no effect is expected. For example, more than 90 percent of respondents reported no noticeable effect on the ordering behavior of physicians at risk as individuals if the level of withheld funds is below 5 percent of total HMO payment. Conversely, most respondents (nearly four-fifths) believed that there would be a noticeable effect when withholding represents 5-30 percent of total HMO payment. . . .”—“HMO Managers' Views On Financial Incentives And Quality,” by Hillman, et. al., in Health Affairs, Winter 1991.

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. REDUCING THE MAXIMUM FINANCIAL RISK FOR PHYSICIANS PARTICIPATING IN MEDICARE-CHOICE PLANS.

Section 1852(j)(4)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-22(j)(4)(A)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating clause (iii) as clause (iv); and

(2) by inserting after clause (ii) the following new clauses:

“(iii) The organization does not operate the plan in a manner that places a physician or physician group at a financial risk that exceeds 20 percent as of January 1, 2002, 15 percent as January 1, 2002, and 10 percent of January 1, 2003, of potential payments.

“(iv) Potential payments mean the maximum payments possible to physicians or physician groups including payments for services they furnish directly, and additional payments based on use and costs of referral services, such as withholds, bonuses, capitation, or any other compensation to the Physician or physician group.

“(v) Potential payments do not include nuses and other compensation that are based on the quality of care furnished, improved outcomes preventive care rates, patient satisfaction or committee participation.

IN HONOR OF ISAIAH THOMAS AND THE AMERICAN ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 12, 1999

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Isaiah Thomas, a colonial patriot, printer and publisher on the 250th anniversary

of his birth and in tribute to the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts, an internationally recognized library of American history and culture.

Isaiah Thomas was a leading publisher of his day and was credited with more than 400 titles. The quality of his work received commendation from none other than fellow printer and patriot Benjamin Franklin. Thomas began his career as a printer's apprentice and established a printing operation in Worcester, Massachusetts in 1775 when the British occupation of Boston drove him from that city. He served actively in the War for Independence at Lexington and Concord. Through his newspaper, “The Massachusetts Spy”, and numerous other publications, the colonists of New England learned of the events of their day. Through his writings and publications, Isaiah Thomas played an important role in the revolutionary movement by informing and inspiring fellow patriots. Thus, on the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the birth of Isaiah Thomas, we gratefully acknowledge the contributions of this great colonial patriot, printer and publisher.

I also rise to acknowledge the proud history and valuable contribution of the American Antiquarian Society in Worcester, Massachusetts founded in 1812 by Isaiah Thomas. The American Antiquarian Society is both a learned society and a major independent library which is internationally recognized as one of the finest repositories of early American printed materials in the world. The American Antiquarian Society library today houses the largest and most accessible collection of printed media and graphic arts materials printed through 1876 in what is now the United States, as well as manuscripts and other reference materials related to all aspects of American history and culture before the 20th century. As the American Antiquarian Society launches a capital campaign to make possible its continued mission, I rise to gratefully acknowledge its history, valuable contributions to scholarly research and the preservation of our history, and to commend its efforts to make possible similar resources for future generations.

IN RECOGNITION OF
OPERATIONSMILE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 12, 1999

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of a humanitarian and medical relief organization that is in the midst of the largest-ever worldwide surgical relief—a mission that will enable some of the world's neediest children to smile for the very first time. At the same time, I would like to recognize four members of one of New Jersey's leading associations that have helped to make this mission possible.

The humanitarian organization is OperationSmile, a group of volunteer surgeons and others who focus on correcting cleft lips, cleft palates, and other facial deformities. Their World Journey of Hope '99 is nine-week international mission for 18 developing coun-

tries that will transform the lives of more than 5,000 children.

The trip is made possible through the generous contributions of many companies, including four member companies of the Health Care Institute of New Jersey, an organization that promotes awareness of the research-based pharmaceutical and medical technology industry in New Jersey. Two of the companies, Johnson & Johnson and Warner Lambert, are charter sponsors of this mission. Two other companies, Becton Dickinson and Wyeth-Ayerst, contributed surgical supplies for the mission.

Founded in 1982 by cosmetic surgeon William P. Magee, Jr., MD, OperationSmile volunteers have provided free surgery to more than 45,000 children in 17 countries, including the United States. In addition to free medical treatment and aftercare, OperationSmile trains local medical professionals and provides vital medical equipment. Doctors and nurses in these countries continue the efforts after the volunteer team has left.

In addition to performing the miraculous task of transforming lives of children who would often otherwise be doomed to a lifetime of rejection and social cruelty, OperationSmile transform the live of volunteers who receive the gift of knowing that they have truly made a difference and have brought people together around the world.

Similarly, the four companies mentioned earlier who have contributed to this effort have gone beyond the scope of “business as usual” to achieve a larger mission, improving the health and well being of people the globe. They are to be commended for their support of this shared vision: the right of every human being to receive necessary health services.

I am proud to recognized the work of OperationSmile, and I thank Becton Dickinson, Johnson & Johnson, Warner-Lambert, and Wyeth-Ayerst for their role in continuing the work of this wonderful organization.

A TRIBUTE TO FATHER
MARCELLIN CHAMPAGNAT

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 12, 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and achievements of Father Marcellin Champagnat (1789-1840), Founder of the Marist Brothers of the Schools.

Born in France in 1789, Marcellin Champagnat grew up in an isolated rural area, where education was in a sorry state. Remembering his own intellectual deprivation as a child, he insisted to his companions, “We must have Brothers, to catechize poor children and give them a basic education!” That conviction became the driving force in his life and led to the foundation of a new teaching congregation in the Catholic church, the Marist Brother of the Schools.

He began his dream in 1817, with two young parishioners, one that was illiterate and the other only fifteen years old. Dividing his time between his parish duties and his two new disciples he began to succeed little by little and by 1824, he had been released from