

A similar argument for slack in the system comes with teaching. Teaching hospitals are pressing their faculties to take on greater loads of patients to bring in more money, said Dr. Daniel D. Federman, dean for medical education of Harvard Medical School. A doctor under pressure to spend time in a billable way, Federman said, has less time to spend teaching.

"Good teaching stops to ask the question 'Why?—Why is this patient anemic?'—and explore the science," Federman said. "That gets squeezed now.

"If you don't ask 'Why?,' nothing moves forward," he added.

The Boston teaching hospitals generally deny that the money squeeze is affecting patients' quality of care, students' quality of education or research. But they say that if the current losses swell as expected, deterioration in all three will inevitably follow.

The Boston hospitals' plight may be partly their fault for competing so hard with each other, driving down prices, some analysts say. Though some hospitals have merged in recent years, Boston is still seen as having an oversupply of beds, and virtually all hospitals are teaching hospitals here.

Whatever the causes, said Stuart Altman, professor of national health policy at Brandeis University and past chairman for 12 years of the committee that advised the government on Medicare prices, "the concern is very real."

"What's happened to them is that all of the cards have fallen the wrong way at the same time," Altman said. "I believe their screams of woe are legitimate."

Among the cards that fell wrong, begin with managed care. Massachusetts has an unusually large quotient of patients in managed-care plans. Managed-care companies, themselves strapped, have gotten increasingly tough about how much they will pay.

Boston had also gone through a spate of fat-trimming hospital mergers, closings and cost cutting in recent years. Add to the troubles some complaints that affect all hospitals: expenses to prepare their computers for 2000, problems getting insurance companies and the government to pay up, new efforts to defend against charges of billing fraud.

But the back-breaking straw, hospital chiefs say, came with Medicare cuts, enacted under the 1997 balanced-budget law, that will slash more each year through 2002. The Association of American Medical Colleges estimates that by then the losses for teaching hospitals could reach \$14.7 billion, and major teaching hospitals will lose something about \$150 million each. Nearly 100 teaching hospitals are expected to be running in the red by then, the association said last month.

For years, teaching hospitals have been more dependent than any others on Medicare. Unlike some other payers, Medicare has consistently compensated them for their special missions—training, sicker patients, indigent care—by paying them extra.

For reasons yet to be determined, Altman and others say the Medicare cuts seem to be taking an even greater toll on the teaching hospitals than had been expected. Much has changed since the 1996 numbers on which the cuts were based, hospital chiefs say; and the cuts particularly singled out teaching hospitals, whose profit margins used to look fat.

Frightening the hospitals still further, President Clinton's next budget proposes even more Medicare cuts.

Not everyone sympathizes, though. Complaints from hospitals that financial pinching hurts have become familiar refrains.

Critics say the Boston hospitals are whining for more money when the only real fix is broad health-care reform.

Some propose that the rational solution is to analyze which aspects of the teaching hospitals' work society is willing to pay for, and then abandon the Byzantine old Medicare cross-subsidies and pay for them straight out, perhaps through a new tax.

Others question the numbers. Whenever hospitals face cuts, said Alan Sager of Boston University, "they claim it will be teaching and research and free care of the uninsured that are cut first."

If the hospitals want more money, Sager argued, they should allow independent auditors to check their books rather than asking Congress to rely on a "scream test."

For many doctors at the teaching hospitals, the screaming is preventive medicine, meant to save their institutions from becoming ordinary.

Medical care is an applied science, said Dr. Allan Ropper, chief of neurology at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, and strong teaching hospitals, with their cadres of doctors willing to spend often-unreimbursed time on teaching and research, are essential to helping move it forward.

"There's no getting away from a patient and their illness," Ropper said, "but if all you do is fix the watch, nobody ever builds a better watch. It's a very subtle thing, but precisely because it's so subtle, it's very easy to disrupt."

#### A TRIBUTE TO MARCY VACURA SAUNDERS

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Marcy Vacura Saunders, the first woman to serve as Labor Commissioner in the State of California. Ms. Saunders' much deserved appointment to this position is an important milestone for working people and to Californians, and a tribute to her remarkable career and lifelong commitment to organized labor.

Ms. Saunders began her professional life as a flight attendant, and achieved the esteemed rank of Acting Chairperson of the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants. She led a successful National Boycott of Conscience against TWA's Carl Icahn. In 1987, Ms. Saunders joined the Building and Trades Council of San Mateo County. In 1993, she became the first and only woman in the United States to be elected Business Manager of a building trades council.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Saunders' tireless and unwavering efforts on behalf of the Council membership have assured the gainful employment of countless Californians and improved the quality of life of many Bay Area families. In 1994, under Ms. Saunders' leadership, the Building and Trades Council stimulated a stagnant economy in the City of East Palo Alto through the formation of the East Palo Alto Building & Trades Alliance. In 1996, she helped to obtain resolutions from 12 cities and the County of San Mateo supporting California's prevailing wage laws.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. Saunders has demonstrated a tireless commitment to our com-

munity through her extraordinary volunteer service to organizations such as the United Way, the San Mateo County Convention & Visitors Bureau, the San Mateo County Exposition & Fair Association Board, the San Mateo County Commission on the Status of Women, the Redwood City Library Foundation, the San Mateo County/Redwood City Chamber of Commerce, the Soroptimist International, the San Mateo County Economic Vitality Partnership, the Shelter Network, LEADERSHIP San Mateo/Foster City/Burlingame/Hillsborough, START (San Mateo Recruitment and Training), and the Private Industry Council.

Ms. Saunders has been recognized for her selfless service as the recipient of the Soroptimist International's Women Helping Women Award, the Woman Of Economic and Social Development Award, the San Mateo County Labor Council C.O.P.E. Award, the United Way Labor Leadership Outstanding Volunteer Award, and the Mary Moshey Outstanding Community Volunteer Award. In 1994, Ms. Saunders was inducted into the San Mateo County Women's Hall of Fame as a tribute to her extraordinary achievements.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Marcy Vacura Saunderson's exemplary professional and personal accomplishments, Governor Gray Davis selected her as the Golden State's top advocate for working people. I commend and pledge my continued support to a most remarkable woman, whom I am honored to call my friend, and whom San Mateo County is proud to call its own—California State Labor Commissioner, Marcy Vacura Saunders.

#### TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 6, 1999

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I speak in honor of our nation's teachers, especially in appreciation for the teachers of our children in Guam. In addition to being our children's instructors, they are also our children's counselors, mentors, and friends.

Teachers run in my family's blood. My father was a teacher, and so is my mother. My wife and I are teachers, and my daughter is also a teacher.

It is a vocation with such truthful and honorable intent that it attracts a diverse following. We have teachers who are idealists and strive to continually engaging young minds in mental, social and cultural challenges to teachers who are realists secure in their knowledge that for our nation to progress, our children must be provided the best books and resources possible.

Teachers are a hardy lot. They experience setbacks such as budget cuts, increasing class sizes, decrepit school buildings and outdated textbooks, yet they persevere.

In a way, all of us are teachers. In our daily lives we are constantly showing our children or our colleagues how to accomplish certain tasks or how to view certain issues. But it takes a special person to make teaching their

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life's vocation. You must have a buoyant spirit, a gentle touch and an infinite amount of patience.

I would like to take this opportunity to especially congratulate one of these exemplary individuals on Guam, Ms. Barbara Gilman. She is Guam's 1999 Teacher of the Year and provides her excellent skills to the students of John F. Kennedy High School as their Physical Education instructor. It is not enough that Ms. Gilman has been featured in publications and the media, she has also won numerous awards on Guam such as the 1998 Outstanding Pacific Educator and a Resolution from the 24th Guam Legislature. Ms. Gilman's experiences are diverse. She is not only a current member of Phi Delta Kappa, the Guam Track and Field Association and the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance, she is also involved in staff development leadership activities such as the current chair of the Fifth Guam Teacher Forum, a coordinator and presenter at the 1998 Women in Sports Day, and the 1995-1996 chair of the Governance Committee in Goals 2000. Ms. Gilman is an accomplished teacher and community leader. With 30 years of quality teaching experience under her belt, it is small wonder that she is being honored this year as Guam's Teacher of the Year.

I had a meeting with Ms. Gilman and she expressed to me the concerns teachers from all over the nation have expressed during their conference here in Washington in April. Among their concerns are students' equal access to education resources and funding, the improvement of teaching conditions through reduced class sizes and increasing access to equipment and communications, the encouragement of teacher development and leadership through the creation of teacher forums and mentoring programs, and the promotion of public understanding of involvement in educational issues such as school safety and certification.

The concerns listed by the Teachers of the Year are already addressed by President Clinton's plans to improve our nation's educational system. With the collaboration of Congress and under the leadership of Secretary Richard Riley, one of our nation's foremost educators, the U.S. Department of Education has implemented the first phase of its Class Size Reduction Initiative, a policy that sets out to hire 100,000 new teachers over the next seven years.

In light of the recent rash of school violence, the Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative grant program is timely. The program would fund 50 communities for up to three years to link existing and new services and activities into a comprehensive community-wide approach for violence prevention and child development.

The teachers and children on Guam will certainly benefit from these programs, and I will work hard to ensure that Congress will continue to support these programs.

Again, to America's teachers, I congratulate you on this special occasion. To our Guam teachers, you deserve our sincerest gratitude for your leadership and guidance in our island's schools. To Ms. Barbara Gilman, thank you for your dedication to our island's children and for exemplifying the values and talents of a true teacher and mentor.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SHEEPSHEAD BAY CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 1999*

Mr. WEINER. I rise today to invite my colleagues to pay tribute to the First Baptist Church of Sheepshead Bay on the occasion of its Centennial Anniversary.

The members of the First Baptist Church of Sheepshead Bay have long been known for their commitment to community service and to enhancing the quality of life for all New York City residents.

This is not only a festive happening, it is a chance for all of us to celebrate and pay tribute to a group of individuals who have dedicated their lives to spreading the word of God and to providing spiritual comfort to their friends and neighbors.

Knowing that the men of the Sheepshead Bay Race Track and their families needed a place to worship, Mother Maria J. Fisher held prayer meetings either in her parlor or in the front rooms of charitable community residents. The First Baptist Church of Sheepshead Bay, which was formally incorporated by the State of New York in 1901, was organized on May 21, 1899 by Mother Fisher and the Reverend George O. Dixon of Alexandria, Virginia. Members who attended the Church's organizational session included: Messrs. Joseph Braxton, Tom Greene, William Jackson and Mesdames Edna Adams, Jessie Bogart, Bertha Greene, Anne Johnson, Ida Shaw, Susie Tucker, and Mary Woods. Members who were not already Christians were converted and baptized in the Concord Baptist Church of Brooklyn, New York.

Upon their return to Sheepshead Bay, they joined forces with Mother Fisher to create the First Mission. The site of the Mission was on the corner of Avenue X and East 15th Streets. An old ice box was used for the Pulpit and the members donated lamps and chairs for the Church to use. When it was difficult to meet at the Church, members would convene at the home of Mother Fisher, who lived at 2362 East 15th Street.

Mrs. Lena McMillian served as the Mission's first organist while Mesdames Sarah Lowe, Alice Robinson, Fannie Winston, Bertha Greene, Fannie Brown and William Forehand raised their voices to the Lord in the Mission's first choir. While serving as the Church's first Sunday School Superintendent, Mrs. Fannie Winston started the tradition of providing area youngsters with the moral precepts that they would need to grow into law-abiding adults.

The members of the First Baptist Church of Sheepshead Bay have long been known as innovators and beacons of good will to all those with whom they come into contact. Through their dedicated efforts, they have each helped to improve my constituents' quality of life. In recognition of their many accomplishments on behalf of my constituents, I offer my congratulations to the First Baptist Church of Sheepshead Bay on the occasion of its Centennial Anniversary.

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CENTRAL NEW JERSEY CONGRATULATES JOHN STEMLER III, EWING KIWANIS POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

**HON. RUSH D. HOLT**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 1999*

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Stemler III of Ewing Township, who is being honored by the Ewing Kiwanis Club as the Police Officer of the Year on Friday, May 7, 1999.

This award is bestowed upon him by his peers in recognition of his constant willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty.

In February of 1994, he began his employment with the Ewing Police Department as a Communication Operator. After graduating from the Trenton Police Academy Basic Training Course, he was sworn in on August 16, 1994.

After being sworn into office, Officer Stemler was assigned to the Patrol Bureau where he rose to become a Field Training Officer. Officer Stemler is also a member of the Police Department Tactical Response Team. He has excelled with many letters of commendation for his outstanding work as a police officer.

Officer Stemler is a graduate of the Ewing Public School system and a lifelong resident of Ewing Township.

Mr. Speaker, Officer Stemler is a great example for Central New Jersey. I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognizing him.

## INTRODUCTION OF THE YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION PACKAGE

**HON. PETER A. DeFAZIO**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 6, 1999*

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce legislation today to help combat the growing problem of youth violence in America. I began this effort last year in response to the needs identified following shooting at Thurston High School, in my hometown of Springfield, Oregon.

This legislation is designed to prevent youths from turning to violence by providing adequate crisis intervention and support services and to limit opportunities for troubled kids to obtain firearms. Politicians talk a lot about helping kids, but when it comes to putting money on the table, programs that invest in our children continue to go underfunded. We must do better, or we will continue to see tragedies like those in Littleton, Springfield, Jonesboro, Edinboro, West Paducah, and Pearl. My package will boost funding for prevention and intervention programs that have a proven track record for helping at-risk kids and families in crisis.

Following the Thurston shootings, community leaders, educators, law enforcement and medical professionals as well as Thurston students and their families worked to develop an action plan identifying several grant programs that address specific needs in our communities. However, to develop new initiatives