

While all veterans who are subject to the concurrent receipt offset are unfairly penalized, my bill would begin to rectify the injustice which falls most heavily on our older veterans. This bill will promote fairness and equity between military retirees and Social Security retirees by reducing the amount of this offset by 50 percent at age 65 and eliminating it entirely at age 70.

Military retirees who have given so much to the service of our country and suffered disease or disabilities as a direct result of their military service do not deserve to be impoverished in their older years by the concurrent receipt penalty.

I commend Mr. BILIRAKIS, an original cosponsor of this bill, for his efforts to address the problems caused to our military retirees by the statutory prohibition on concurrent receipt of military retirement pay and benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. I urge my other colleagues to support this bipartisan effort to promote fairness for our Nation's older military retirees.

SELMA GOMEZ—WHITE HOUSE  
FELLOW FOR 1998–1999

**HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 1999*

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate my constituent, Ms. Selma Gomez of Miami, Florida for her service as a prestigious White House Fellow for 1998–1999.

The daughter of Cuban refugees in Miami, Ms. Gomez has an outstanding record of academic achievement, business leadership and community service which made her well qualified for this high honor. She earned four degrees from Harvard University including a PhD in decision sciences and has taught at the University of Miami's engineering department. In addition to extensive community service, Dr. Gomez also excelled in the business world as the president and founder of Applied Consulting Services Corp. after serving as a senior manager at KPMP Peat Marwick LLP.

Assigned to the State Department, Dr. Gomez specialized in the critical Y2K issue. She has traveled around the world on fact-finding missions regarding the Y2K problem, as well as representing our nation at the G–8 Year 2000 Working Group and the Year 2000 meeting of international Y2K coordinators at the United Nations. A leading highlight of her fellowship was briefing Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and other top State Department officials on Year 2000 Challenges and Responses.

I am honored to recognize Selma Gomez for her outstanding work as a White House Fellow. Her service in this position makes all of us in South Florida very proud.

INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO  
STOP FINANCIAL HEMORRHAGE  
OF NATION'S PREMIER TEACH-  
ING HOSPITALS

**HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 1999*

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am today introducing legislation to stop the cuts in Medicare's indirect medical education (IME) program. Identical legislation is being introduced in the Senate today by Senator MOYNIHAN of the Senate Finance Committee.

IME payments are extra payments made to teaching hospitals for the fact that they are training the next generation of doctors, and that the cost of training a young doctor—like any apprenticeship or new person on the job—is more expensive than just dealing with experienced, older workers. The young person requires mentoring, orders more tests, and makes mistakes unless closely supervised. It is natural that a group of young residents in a hospital will reduce a hospital's efficiency and increase its costs. Medicare should help pay for these extra "indirect" costs, if we want—as we surely do—future generations of competent, highly skilled doctors.

The Balanced Budget Act took the position that the extra adjustment we pay a hospital per resident should be reduced from 7.7 percent in FY 1997 to 5.5 percent in FY 2001. This provision was estimated to save about \$6 billion over 5 years and \$16 billion over ten—in addition to about another \$50 billion in hospital cuts in other portions of the BBA.

Mr. Speaker, these cuts are too much. The nation's teaching hospitals, which do so much to serve the uninsured and poor, and which are the cradle of new clinical research and technical innovation, are hemorrhaging red ink.

Our bill stops further scheduled cuts in the IME, freezing the adjustment factor at 6.5 percent rather than letting it fall to 5.5 percent, and saving teaching hospitals about \$8 billion over ten years that would otherwise be taken from them.

I hope this legislation will receive early consideration. The situation is, as a hospital ER would say, STAT.

Mr. Speaker, I would also note that we should pass other legislation to help our Nation's hospitals: HR 1103 is a bill I introduced to 'carve out' disproportionate share hospital payments from the amount we pay HMOs and give that money directly to the DSH hospitals when an HMO uses those hospitals. Today, Medicare HMOs are paid as if they use DSH hospitals, but they frequently avoid the hospitals that serve the uninsured because they are more expensive hospitals—thus pocketing the DSH payment and leaving the DSH hospital with empty beds.

We must also correct a technical error in the BBA which capped the amount we pay psychiatric and rehabilitation hospitals (so-called TEFRA hospitals) but failed to adjust the cap for higher wage costs in urban areas. The result is severe hardship for such hospitals in urban areas. At the first opportunity, I will try to amend the BBA to correct this drafting error.

COMMENDING WHITE HOUSE FEL-  
LOW, DR. STEPHEN ENGLAND OF  
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA

**HON. BRUCE F. VENTO**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 12, 1999*

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Dr. Stephen England of St. Paul, Minnesota. Dr. England has served this year as a distinguished White House Fellow.

The White House Fellowship Program was created in 1965 to employ the talents of outstanding individuals in various areas of public service. White House Fellows explore issues of both global and nationwide significance while working closely with influential leaders in government. The nearly 500 alumni of the program have gone on to become leaders in all fields of endeavor, fulfilling the fellowship's mission to encourage active citizenship and service to the nation. This program is extremely competitive, choosing individuals who have demonstrated excellence in community service, leadership, academic and professional achievement. It is the nation's most prestigious fellowship for public service and leadership development.

As a White House Fellow for the U.S. Department of Education, Dr. England assists in the Safe and Drug-Free School program. This program provides support to governors for a variety of drug and violence prevention activities focused primarily on school-age children. He also oversees the creation and implementation of Project SERV, a federal program designed to assist states and local education agencies in managing school crises attributable to violence. In addition, Dr. England assists in a new federal coordinated grants program that distributes community-wide grants for safer schools and communities.

Dr. England is a pediatric orthopedic surgeon at Gillette Children's Specialty Health Care and the Shriners' Hospital in St. Paul, where he focuses on children with special health care needs. He is also an assistant professor of orthopedic surgery at the University of Minnesota. Dr. England lectured nationally and internationally on pediatric and adolescent health topics. He serves on numerous state commissions addressing the health issues of children with disabilities. As part of a medical mission in Ecuador, Dr. England has made a lasting impact on many lives by operating on children with cerebral palsy. He has also demonstrated his commitment to public service by founding the Children's Health Enrichment Program in St. Paul, which teaches African-American teenagers about health topics and provides mentoring and academic guidance. Dr. England received a BA in biology from the University of Minnesota, an MD from Cornell University Medical College and an MA in public health from Johns Hopkins University.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me today in commending Dr. Stephen England for his distinguished leadership in community endeavors and for his service as a White House Fellow. His accomplishments and civic contributions have earned him recognition as an outstanding member of the St. Paul community.