

Third, Medicare only pays for anti-rejection drugs for transplants performed in a Medicare approved transplant facility. However, many beneficiaries are completely unaware of this fact and how it can jeopardize their future coverage of immunosuppressive drugs. To receive an organ transplant, a person must be very ill and many are far too ill at the time of transplant to be researching the intricate nuances of Medicare coverage policy.

The bill that I am introducing today, the "Comprehensive Immunosuppressive Drug Coverage for Transplant Patients of 2000 Act" would remove these short-sighted limitations. The bill establishes a new, easy to follow policy: All Medicare beneficiaries who have had a transplant and need immunosuppressive drugs to prevent rejection of their transplant, would be covered as long as such anti-rejection drugs were needed.

As Congress considers further improvements to the Medicare program, I urge my colleagues to support this important effort to ensure patients waiting on the organ transplant have access to the anti-rejection drugs that are so needed.

HONORING ALBERTUS MAGNUS
COLLEGE ON THEIR 75TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2000

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to congratulate Albertus Magnus College on its 75th anniversary. With the purchase of a New Haven mansion renamed Rosary Hall, the Dominican Sisters of Saint Mary of the Spring founded Albertus Magnus in 1925. Since then, the Albertus Magnus community has become a landmark in the city of New Haven.

Initially a women's college, Albertus Magnus has expanded its program base to meet the needs of a our changing community. Dr. Julia McNamara, President of Albertus Magnus, has served as the driving force behind these innovations. Her dedication to students, commitment to excellence, and creative energy have been the key to the renaissance at Albertus Magnus. The New Dimensions Program is an excellent example of how Albertus Magnus has created new and innovative programs to open the doors of education to a broad spectrum of students. Introduced only six years ago, the New Dimensions Program is an alternative education program that allows working adults to obtain their Associate's, Bachelor's, and Master's degrees in Management at an accelerated pace convenient to their schedule. This nontraditional program has allowed hundreds of working men and women to further their education while continuing in their careers.

In addition to its dedication to educational opportunity and academic excellence, Albertus Magnus is a tremendous resource to the New Haven community. Administrators, faculty and students are involved with service organizations throughout the city—demonstrating a deep commitment to enriching our neighbor-

hoods and making a real difference in the community. As a host site for the 1995 World Special Olympics, Albertus opened its campus to thousands of children and families who traveled to New Haven to participate in the games, playing an instrumental role in the success of that extraordinary event.

Albertus Magnus College, though small in comparison to other local schools, is rich in history and committed to providing its students with the skills and confidence necessary for future success. Over its 75-year history, Albertus Magnus has continually dedicated itself to providing its students with an exceptional college experience. I was privileged to be asked to teach international politics in the 1970's at the college, and I thoroughly enjoyed this experience. Recently graduating the largest class in its history, Albertus Magnus has succeeded in fulfilling the dreams of the Dominican Sisters of Saint Mary of the Springs—creating a collegiate environment that successfully challenges students to realize their full potential as scholars and as human beings.

It is my great honor to join with the administrators, faculty, students, alumni, and community members who have gathered this evening to express my heartfelt congratulations on the 75th anniversary of Albertus Magnus College and extend my best wishes for continued success.

INTRODUCING MIDDLE EAST
PEACE THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS
ACT, H.R. 5272

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 25, 2000

Mr. Gilman. Mr. Speaker, because many of my colleagues and I remain extremely concerned about the possibility that Yasser Arafat and the PLO will declare a Palestinian state unilaterally, I am introducing legislation today that would underscore the need for a negotiated settlement between the two parties.

The Peace Through Negotiations Act of 2000 recognizes that resolving the political status of the territory controlled by the Palestinian Authority is one of the central issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Palestinian threat to declare an independent state unilaterally constitutes a fundamental violation of the underlying principles of the Oslo Accords and the Middle East peace process. That threat continues unabated.

Accordingly, the bill I am introducing today would establish that it is the policy of the United States to oppose the unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state, and that diplomatic recognition should be withheld if one is unilaterally declared. The bill would also prohibit all U.S. assistance to the Palestinians except for humanitarian aid, and would downgrade the PLO office in Washington, D.C.

Additionally, the measure would encourage other countries and international organizations to join the United States in withholding diplomatic recognition, and would authorize the President of the United States to withhold payment of U.S. contributions to international or-

ganizations that recognize a unilaterally declared Palestinian state.

Mr. Speaker, over eighteen months ago, Congress spoke with one voice about the prospects of a unilateral declaration of statehood by the Palestinians. Non-binding legislation adopted by both houses stated that "any attempt to establish Palestinian statehood outside the negotiating process will invoke the strongest congressional opposition."

The Peace Through Negotiations Act is a measured, but legislatively binding response to that possibility. Accordingly, I urge my colleagues' cosponsorship and strong endorsement of this landmark legislation (H.R. 5272) and request that the text of the legislation be printed at this point in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

H.R. 5272—A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR A UNITED STATES RESPONSE IN THE EVENT OF A UNILATERAL DECLARATION OF A PALESTINIAN STATE

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Peace Through Negotiations Act of 2000".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Resolving the political status of the territory controlled by the Palestinian Authority is one of the central issues of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

(2) The Palestinian threat to declare an independent state unilaterally constitutes a fundamental violation of the underlying principles of the Oslo Accords and the Middle East peace process.

(3) On March 11, 1999, the Senate overwhelmingly adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution 5, and on March 16, 1999, the House of Representatives adopted House Concurrent Resolution 24, both of which resolved that: "any attempt to establish Palestinian statehood outside the negotiating process will invoke the strongest congressional opposition."

(4) On July 25, 2000, Palestinian Chairman Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Barak issued a joint statement agreeing that the "two sides understand the importance of avoiding unilateral actions that prejudice the outcome of negotiations and that their differences will be resolved in good-faith negotiations".

SEC. 3. POLICY OF THE UNITED STATES

It shall be the policy of the United States to oppose the unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state, to withhold diplomatic recognition of any Palestinian state that is unilaterally declared, and to encourage other countries and international organizations to withhold diplomatic recognition of any Palestinian state that is unilaterally declared.

SEC. 4. MEASURES TO BE APPLIED IF A PALESTINIAN STATE IS UNILATERALLY DECLARED.

(a) MEASURES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning on the date that a Palestinian state is unilaterally declared and ending on the date such unilateral declaration is rescinded or on the date of a signed negotiated agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Authority under the terms of which the establishment of a Palestinian state is mutually agreed upon, the following measures shall be applied:

(1) DOWNGRADE IN STATUS OF PALESTINIAN OFFICE IN THE UNITED STATES.—

(A) Section 1003 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1988 and 1989