

no health education about preventive strategies or ways to manage chronic illness. Compared with insured children, uninsured children are up to eight times less likely to have a regular source of care, four times more likely to delay seeking care, nearly three times less likely to have seen a provider in the past year, and five times more likely to use the emergency room as a regular place of care. There is no question that insurance is key to maintaining health.

Imagine one hundred children from Texas standing in front of you. Fifty-four of these children are insured through Private/Employer-based programs. Twenty-two are covered through Medicaid. Twenty-four are uninsured. This equals to about 1.4 million of the 6 million children in Texas without health insurance.

Now imagine one hundred children from all over the country standing in front of you. Sixty-four of these children are insured through Private/Employer-based programs. Twenty-one are covered through Medicaid. Fifteen are uninsured.

Why is it that Texas' percentage of uninsured children is higher than the national's average? The reason is due to a Texas government that chooses not to take advantage of government funding that will allow many children to be insured. As a matter of fact, Texas can expand its Medicaid coverage to the age of eighteen and cover those whose income is up to 300% of the Federal Poverty Level. Presently, Texas only covers children up to the age of eighteen and to those whose income is 100% of the Federal Poverty Level with Title XXI funds. If Texas expands Title XXI eligibility to only 200% Federal Poverty Level, like it has the choice to, then an additional 483,000 uninsured children would be eligible for insurance coverage. Over half of all states have expanded coverage to 200% or beyond.

Most states have expanded health insurance coverage to children using Title XXI funds. This coverage is provided through Medicaid expansions and/or separate insurance programs. Ten states offer Medicaid to those with an income up to 150% Federal Poverty Level. Texas falls within this category. Texas falls at the bottom. Our children fall at the bottom.

This should simply not be the case. The Texas government must not only strive to improve its average compared to the national average, but it must also strive to ensure all of its children adequate health care. The opportunity for Texas to make change is now. The Texas leadership must now show compassion to its future and provide a means for them to live healthy lives.

HONORING GAIL NOLIN

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, as a former teacher, it gives me great pleasure to rise before you today on the behalf of the Waterford, Michigan School District, who will be honoring one of their own. On June 14, members of the

school district, as well as family and friends, will gather to honor the career of Ms. Gail Nolin, who is retiring after 34 glorious years.

In 1966, Gail Nolin began her career with Waterford Schools, teaching third, fourth, and fifth grades at Cooley Elementary School. Gail's tenure at Cooley lasted 18 years. Gail brought with her many unique and creative opportunities for her students to learn, including painting a large map of Michigan in the school parking lot, and constructing a large rocket ship. Many times, she incorporated art and music in her lessons, giving her students early exposure to fine arts and a well-rounded curriculum. She later moved up to teach upper elementary, where she involved parents in presenting technology to students, and helped pilot the district's first elementary computer network, acting as systems operator with Gladys Baker.

In 1991, Gail began a new role within the District, that of Technology Consultant. She diligently worked along with Dick Elsholz and Randy Gross to implement a program that would allow third grade to fifth grade teachers to integrate computer technology into their curriculum. She served as a member of the Institutional Technology Planning Committee, and co-chaired the first elementary technology plan.

Gail not only had an accomplished academic career, but a political career that has spanned nearly three decades.

A member of the Waterford Education Association, Michigan Education Association, and National Education Association, Gail has always remained a member in good standing and a role model for her peers. She has served the WEA as a member of its Human Rights Commission and Negotiations Committee, as well as other leadership roles with the union. As a member of the MEA, Gail has been an executive officer since 1985, and also sits on the Staff Retirement Board and Legislative Committee. She has operated as the MEA representative to the NEA on several occasions.

Gail's strong belief in our democratic system has allowed her an audience with not only members of Congress, but senators, Cabinet members, and several presidents, on issues such as Title I and equal rights. Gail was invited to the White House by President Carter to participate in discussions regarding the drafting of women into the military.

These experiences also led her to a stint as an assistant to Congressman Bob Carr, and the opportunity in 1993, where President Clinton met and bowled with her eighth grade students.

Mr. Speaker, Gail Nolin is my educational colleague and my friend. For many years, I have benefitted from her insight, as has the entire Waterford community over the course of the last 34 years. She has always been a fighter for education, for she believes that a strong educational background is the basis toward improving the quality of life. I ask my colleagues to please join me in congratulating Gail Nolin on her retirement, and wishing her the very best in her future endeavors.

HONORING MR. MICHAEL HARVEY

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize an exceptional man, Michael Harvey. In May, Mr. Harvey traveled to Washington D.C. to receive the "Star of Life" award, the highest honor presented to paramedics. Mr. Harvey received the award because of his dedicated service to his community and his fellow man as a paramedic. Mr. Harvey embodies the goals that this award stands for and we all can learn from the proud example he has set.

As you know Mr. Speaker, paramedics work tirelessly and selflessly to serve their fellow man. Mr. Harvey and his fellow paramedics are expected to perform in difficult—even perilous—situations on a daily basis. Mr. Harvey's service and sacrifice in his field clearly merit both the "Star of Life" award and the respect and admiration of this great body.

It is obvious why Mr. Harvey was chosen as the recipient of the "Star of Life" award. I think that we all owe him a debt of gratitude for his service to the State of Colorado. Due to Mr. Harvey's dedication, it is clear that Colorado is a better and safer place in which to live.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you and congratulations to Mike Harvey on this outstanding accomplishment. Your community, state and nation are all very proud of you, Mike. Keep up the good work.

SALUTE TO URSULA SHERMAN
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 7, 2000

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, today I salute, congratulate, and honor Ursula Sherman.

Ms. Sherman has been a founding and active Board member of Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency (BOSS) for more than 29 years.

Ms. Sherman came to California in 1938 after her family spent five years in Paris as refugees from Nazi Germany. She learned the importance of volunteerism as an undergraduate at the University of Wisconsin and during her year as a researcher at the Nuremberg trials, where she fully grasped the concept that there but for the grace of God go I.

Ms. Sherman became an advocate for youth as a children's librarian and University of California at Berkeley visiting lecturer. In her "other" vocation as a community activist organizer, she worked hard at integrating Berkeley schools in the late sixties. She and members of the Jewish Community organized the Hillel Streetwork project, which later became Building Opportunities for Self-Sufficiency or BOSS. This organization continues to serve the homeless and mentally-disabled populations in the East Bay, thanks to her leadership 29 years ago.

In addition to her work in BOSS, Ms. Sherman is also a past or current board member