

I urge my colleagues to join us in support of this important legislation.

A TRIBUTE TO REDONDO BEACH COUNCILMAN BOB PINZLER

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Ms. HARMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bob Pinzler for his outstanding service to the citizens of Redondo Beach, California.

As a member of the Redondo Beach City Council for the past eight years, Bob demonstrated a profound commitment to civic service. He is known as a relentless advocate of better city government. He championed more effective use of technology by municipalities. He fought for infrastructure improvements and community development projects whose positive impacts have been felt throughout the City of Redondo Beach and indeed the entire South Bay.

Responding to his constituents' concerns about increased noise, pollution and traffic resulting from proposed expansion of Los Angeles International Airport, Bob worked with me and other civic leaders and elected officials on a task force shaping a regional approach to solving Southern California's air transportation needs. Our work continues, but Bob has made an invaluable contribution. I know that we will continue to work together on this issue.

In addition to his service on the Redondo Beach City Council, Bob is the current State League Director of the League of California Cities and was President of the League's Los Angeles County Division. He is the past president of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments. He is a member of the Regional Council of the Southern California Association of Governments and was vice-chair of the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Project.

Bob is a friend and an ally. I extend my very best wishes to him and his wife Arlene as they move into an exciting new chapter of their lives. It has always been a privilege to work with Bob and I invite my colleagues to join me in commending his exemplary public service.

ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE

HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I want to express concern about the increasing challenges facing health care providers, both hospitals and long-term care providers. Pressed by continued government underfunding, inadequate managed care payments, exploding professional liability costs, growing numbers of uninsured, and workforce shortages, these providers are struggling to meet community needs. Access to care is being threatened.

At the Federal level, we have been trying to right the wrongs created when the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 cut millions of dollars in Medicare payments to hospitals. We have

made progress to return some of this money, but more must be done.

And to succeed, we need the continued support of all elements. I've spoken with Pennsylvania hospital administrators about efficiency, and Pennsylvania now has the second most cost-efficient system in the Nation. Costs in Pennsylvania acute care hospitals are 6 to 7 percent below their expected costs. Also I've spoken with Governor Ridge and Pennsylvania legislators about growing problems with nurse shortages, long-term care, and care for children and pregnant women and encouraged more support from the Commonwealth to help meet costs and address these problems.

In addition, a special independent Pennsylvania Legislative Budget and Finance Committee study released recently shows that hospitals' financial condition continues to deteriorate, and that Pennsylvania is paying only 74 cents for each dollar of Medical Assistance care provided.

The study reveals Pennsylvania hospital margins have deteriorated markedly since 1997, with total margins dropping to 2.4% in 1999 and operating margins averaging only .03%. Nationwide, total hospital margins in 1999 were 4.65% and operating margins were 1.07%.

The low margins in Pennsylvania's hospitals are not due to cost inefficiency since costs in Pennsylvania acute care hospitals are 6 to 7 percent below their expected costs. Pennsylvania hospitals are the second most cost efficient in the nation.

And add to the overall cost problem the fact that professional liability costs will go up this year a minimum of 35 to 50 percent and that we have a decreasing payment-to-cost ratio of commercial insurers, and a growing uninsured rate, the writing is on the wall. No organization can continue to survive and provide all the services our citizens need.

On the long-term care side, two reports delivered last week to the Pennsylvania Intra-Governmental Council on Long-Term Care revealed that Pennsylvania and long-term care providers must find new ways to raise the pay and status of long-term care workers or face an extended workforce crisis. There is a worker shortage across the "spectrum of elder services" that affects access to care and quality of care for our elderly. Turnover rates are skyrocketing. If we do not get a handle on this problem today, we will have a vulnerable population of seniors counting on a broken system that can't deliver.

Over one-third of long-term care providers reported serious problems finding and keeping direct-care workers. More than 40 percent of private nursing homes and home-care and home-health agencies report a serious problem with either recruitment or retention of workers.

We have Area Agencies on Aging with growing waiting lists because people can't arrange home services for needy clients. Nursing homes are looking to temp agencies to fill vacancies among staff aides, and between one-third and one-fourth of the long-term care workforce in the state have less than one year's experience with their employer.

Currently about 94,000 Pennsylvanians are employed by more than 3,400 providers to

help dress, feed, bathe and transport frail elderly persons. Low pay and low respect are to blame. Combine these issues with a growing demand for services and we find long-term care providers in a major dilemma.

We have the second largest senior population in Pennsylvania and an ever-growing number of seniors over the age of 80. Access to healthcare and all forms of long-term care are critical. Pennsylvania leaders, Congress and health care professionals must all work together to resolve these problems.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE HONORABLE ADRIAN C. SANCHEZ

HON. ROBERT A. UNDERWOOD

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 4, 2001

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to make note of the recent passing of the Honorable Adrian C. Sanchez, a distinguished member of the Eleventh, Twelfth and Thirteenth Guam Legislatures. He leaves behind his widow, Young, his children Doris, Diana, Josephine, and Adrian.

Senator Sanchez was born on September 26, 1919 in the village of Hagåtña—the son of Simon Angeles and Antonia Cruz Sanchez. A product of the Guam public school system, he attended Padre Palomo Elementary, Leary Middle School and Seaton Schroeder Junior High School. He later received an Associate's Degree in Public Administration from the University of Guam and a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from the Western States University.

His diverse and distinguished career began prior to World War II when he worked as a surveyor for the local Department of Records and Accounts. Between 1936 and 1938, he was employed as a school teacher by the Department of Education. He enlisted in the United States Navy in 1938 and served until his retirement in 1964. While in the Navy, he had the chance to serve in various capacities. He was the School Administrator for the Northern Marianas immediately after World War II and he also served as a member of the President's staff from 1958 until 1964. A veteran of World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, he attained the rank of Master Chief Petty Officer—the highest enlisted rank in the United States Navy.

Upon his retirement, Senator Sanchez came back to Guam and was employed as the Assistant Director for the Department of Public Health and Social Services. Prior to his election to the Guam Legislature in 1970, he also served as Director of the Guam Department of Corrections and Deputy Director of the Guam Department of Public Works.

Senator Sanchez held office for three consecutive terms. As a Senator, he was known for his dedication towards the proliferation of the local culture. He is credited for having a day set aside to commemorate Guam's initial contact with European culture. Through his efforts, Discovery Day is now a local holiday celebrated with much fanfare in the village of Umatac.