

stamps to deserving legal immigrants, such as the elderly and disabled. A dozen states are dipping into their own treasuries to supply food stamps. Sixteen do the same to support Medicaid services. Eighteen use state money for cash grants for those who desperately need it. Massachusetts is included in each of those categories.

Perhaps this is fine with members of Congress who would wash federal hands of any such responsibility, and who view legal immigrants as burdens at best.

But immigration policy is a function of the federal government, not of the 50 individual states.

What's happening now is that the states' where the human trauma of cutbacks is the worst have felt compelled to act on their own and at their own expense to repair the damage caused by those federal cutbacks.

It is petty and small-minded of Congress, the president and the federal government to allow this to continue. Using legal immigrants as an ideological punching bag is a political gimmick unworthy of the United States—but not evidently, of many members of Congress.

SUPPORT GROWS FOR CARVE-OUT OF DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE COSTS FROM PAYMENTS TO H.M.O.'s MEMBERS INVITED TO COSPONSOR H.R. 2701

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 1997

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, October 22, five of us introduced H.R. 2701, a bill to "carve out" disproportionate share hospital [DSH] payments from the amount Medicare pays managed care organizations, and provide it directly to the DSH hospital when an MCO patient uses that DSH hospital.

Today, I am adding Representatives MATSUI, COYNE, and MCDERMOTT to the list of co-sponsors.

To help explain the purpose of the legislation, I would like to include in the RECORD below a press release from the American Hospital Association in support of this legislation "which helps hospitals caring for large numbers of poor Americans."

I want to thank the Greater New York Hospital Association, the American Hospital Association, and the Healthcare Association of New York State for their early support.

AHA APPLAUDS BILL WHICH HELPS HOSPITALS CARING FOR LARGE NUMBERS OF POOR AMERICANS

WASHINGTON (October 22, 1997)—The American Hospital Association (AHA) added its strong support to legislation introduced today by Rep. Charles Rangel (NY) to ensure that Medicare payments meant to help hospitals caring for large numbers of low-income Americans actually reach those institutions. Other original co-sponsors included Rep. Pete Stark (CA), Rep. Benjamin L. Cardin (MD), Rep. John Lewis (GA) and Rep. Xavier Becerra (CA).

Within the Medicare program, hospitals that provide care to a large number of low-income Americans receive special payments to help serve these patients. Currently, these hospital payments are included in the rates Medicare pays managed care plans. Typically, these payments are not passed along by plans to hospitals that provide the care. The Rangel bill separates those payments

from Medicare managed care plan payments and directly pays them to the institutions that deliver this vital care in communities.

"This bill gives credit where it's due," said Rick Pollack, AHA's executive vice president. "Nearly 1,900 hospitals care for large numbers of the poor and are due these payments. This bill gives many hospitals the financial underpinnings necessary to continue providing such quality health care. It's an important step to ensure access to care for the poor."

A similar approach was included in the recent budget bill. Under the budget deal, Medicare payments to cover the costs of teaching our nation's physicians are passed directly to the hospitals that incur these expenses, and not folded into Medicare payments to managed care plans. The AHA strongly supported that measure. An AHA-supported proposal, similar to the Rangel bill, was discussed during the budget debate, but ultimately not enacted.

"We look forward to quick passage of this important legislation," said Pollack. In addition, Pollack noted that AHA will continue to seek repeal of the guaranteed 2 percent increase in Medicare managed care payments to help smooth out the still considerable variation in payment rates across the country.

The AHA is a not-for-profit association of health care provider organizations that are committed to health improvement of their communities. The AHA is the national advocate for its members, which includes 5,000 hospitals, health care systems, networks, and other providers of care. Founded in 1898, AHA provides education for health care leaders and is a source of information on health care issues and trends. For more information visit the AHA, web site at www.aha.org.

"BEAR" MILLS—STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

HON. LARRY COMBEST

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 1997

Mr. COMBEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Mr. "Bear" Mills from Midland, TX for recently receiving the 1997 Texas Elementary School Teacher of the Year Award.

Mr. Mills was an award winning columnist and radio commentator in Texas and overseas for 10 years before going back to school to obtain his teaching certificate in 1994. After several years of working with educators, including his wife Caryl, Mr. Mills decided education was right for him. Four years later Mr. Mills is the 1997 Texas Elementary School Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Mills teaching philosophy is simply, "If I'm not striving for excellence every single day as a teacher, then what right do I have to expect excellence of my students?" he says.

Being an expert in your field and a strong figure in the classroom are two things Mr. Mills believes creates a good teacher.

Mr. Mills is dedicated to strengthening the commitment to basic academics as well as educating our children in safe and nurturing environments.

I think as both parties discuss how best to improve our education system we should learn from Mr. Mills' example.

CONGRATULATING MAACO ON ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES M. TALENT

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 1997

Mr. TALENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate MAACO on the occasion of its 25th anniversary.

In 1972, Anthony A. Martino, the man who had founded AAMCO Transmissions in the mid-1950's, decided to create another franchise system for quality production auto painting and body repair. He opened a pilot center in Wilmington, DE, and despite critics who proclaimed "you could never franchise paint and collision repair," today, on the 25th anniversary of MAACO Auto Painting and Bodyworks, there are 500 MAACO franchise centers in 48 of the United States, and in Canada, Mexico, and Puerto Rico.

Next week, MAACO will celebrate the culmination of its 25 years in business at the Hotel Del Coronado in San Diego, CA, and at the same time, observe that in this its 25th year, MAACO has also achieved the painting and repair of its 10 millionth vehicle, while opening its 500th center in North America.

Tony Martino, founder and still CEO of the chain today, has always believed that with a strong operating manual and a strong system, and, in the case of MAACO, by offering the public a quality paint and body repair service at reasonable prices, you can be successful.

Since 1972, MAACO has built a \$335 million franchise system and has made hundreds of men and women successful owners of a small business that has become part of the economic engine of America. As MAACO observes its 25th anniversary, it has proven that MAACO is more than a business to its hundreds of independent MAACO operators.

HONORING DR. GORDON P. EATON

HON. THOMAS M. DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 28, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today and pay tribute to Dr. Gordon Eaton, who is an outstanding member of the Northern Virginia community. Gordon is retiring as the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) which is an agency under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Interior.

The mission of USGS is to gather information for every State in order to minimize the loss of life and property from natural disasters; to maintain water, biological, energy and mineral resources; to enhance and protect the quality of life; and to contribute to sound economic and physical development. It is the Nation's largest natural resources science and civilian mapping agency. In that role, USGS must work in cooperation with nearly 2,000 organizations across the country to provide reliable, impartial information needed by resource managers and planners. Guiding an agency with such an important and diverse mission is a difficult task requiring an individual that is both management-oriented, and has an understanding of several different scientific fields.