

outpatient self-management training services which teach people with diabetes how to properly care for their disease and avoid unnecessary medical complications. Second, Medicare would cover the costs of blood-testing strips as durable medical equipment.

Many of you should recognize this package of preventive benefits. It is the same as the benefits we included in the Democratic alternative Medicare proposal that was considered on the House floor earlier this year. In addition, the coalition budget proposal includes a similar package of benefits. President Clinton has also included a preventive benefits package in his new Medicare proposal.

Congress is currently facing the daunting task of making the most dramatic changes to Medicare ever contemplated. We keep hearing the words "Medicare reform" in relation to the variety of plans being put forth at this time. My contention is that if we are to accomplish real Medicare reform, we must make needed improvements to the program.

Medicare is 30 years old and its benefit package shows its age. What I am proposing with these new benefits is not a major cost item for the program. Of course there will be an upfront investment in these new screening procedures—and we expect that cost to be around \$2 billion over the next 7 years based upon CBO analysis of earlier versions of the bill. However, this is a small price to pay at the beginning compared to the benefits Medicare will reap in the long run by covering such procedures. As we all know, preventive medicine saves money as well as lives. Early identification of a disease allows less costly, more effective treatment techniques to be used.

For example, in the area of colorectal cancer, the second deadliest cancer in this country, 138,000 new cases will be diagnosed and 53,300 people will die from this disease this year. Most of these people will be Medicare beneficiaries. These patients often suffer through years of chemotherapy, surgery and hospitalization. In fact, the most recent data has shown that colorectal cancer has led to over 125,000 Medicare hospital admissions in one year. Each of these admissions led to costly diagnostic, surgical and medical therapeutic interventions. Surely, it is both more cost effective and more medically appropriate to prevent than to treat this disease.

To continue using colorectal cancer as the example, this disease is one of the most preventable and curable types of cancer when detected early. Most colorectal cancers develop from benign polyps. Finding and removing these polyps reduces the risk of developing cancer by 90 percent.

Screening for colorectal cancer and other preventive services included in this bill must be covered by Medicare if we hope to stem rising health care costs. We must not continue to be "penny wise and pound foolish" by covering the expensive treatments and ignoring preventive services. These efforts are supported by broad-range of organizations representing consumers and health professionals. The following organizations have endorsed our bill: the American Cancer Society, the American College of Gastroenterology, the American Gastroenterological Association, the American Nurses Association, the Digestive Disease National Coalition, the American Diabetes Association, the American Association of Clinical Urologists, the American Foundation for Urologic Disease, the American

Urological Association, the American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy, the Cancer Research Foundation of America, the Association of American Cancer Institutes, the Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses, and the United Ostomy Association. I have also attached a letter to the congressional leadership signed by 15 organizations supporting the identical provisions included in my bill.

It is my hope that this legislation will be used as a model for the preventive benefit package that should be added to Medicare as we seek to reform the system. I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this bill and look forward to continuing to work on this important issue as Congress grapples with the difficult task of reforming Medicare.

NOVEMBER 16, 1995.

Hon. ROBERT DOLE,
Majority Leader U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR DOLE AND SPEAKER GINGRICH: In crafting the future Medicare system, the 104th Congress would be remiss to overlook the most significant key to the future health status of our nation's citizens—preventive health services. The undersigned organizations urge you to include preventive services coverage for Medicare recipients during the Reconciliation Conference.

When details of the draft Republican health plan first became known this summer, we applauded the foresight of Congressional policymakers for including Medicare payments for a small number of proven preventive health services. While we recognize the fiscal constraints dominating this first round of Budget Reconciliation decisionmaking, we urge your reconsideration of the critical omission of colorectal cancer screening, mammography expansions, pap smears and pelvic examinations, prostate cancer screening and reimbursement for diabetes care and education. We believe strong bipartisan support exists for including these limited preventive benefits under Medicare.

In revamping Medicare, now is the time to provide reimbursement for:

Annual mammography screening services for all women over the age of 49, without a twenty percent copayment.

Pap smear and pelvic exam screenings as well as clinical breast examinations for female Medicare beneficiaries, without copayments.

Colorectal screening services for Medicare beneficiaries, including screening of fecal-occult blood testing, flexible sigmoidoscopies and colonoscopies.

Prostate cancer screening for men.

Diabetes care and education, specifically the coverage of outpatient self-management training services and blood testing strips for diabetics.

We strongly urge that you include the above screening services as part of the revamped Medicare program. In the long run, providing preventive services to Medicare beneficiaries will save not only money, but more importantly lives. The Senate and House are uniquely poised to better the lives of millions of Medicare beneficiaries who stand so much to lose or gain from this historic legislative opportunity.

We respectfully request the opportunity to meet with you at your earliest convenience to discuss including these preventive benefits in the final package.

Sincerely,

American Cancer Society, American College of Gastroenterology, American Diabetes Association, American Foundation for Urologic Disease, American

Public Health Association, Cancer Research Foundation of America, Digestive Disease National Coalition, Families Against Cancer Terror (FACT).

National Breast Cancer Coalition, National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship, The Oncology Nursing Society, The Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses, The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, United Ostomy Association, The V Foundation.

A TRIBUTE TO HEMAYETUDDIN

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 1995

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of the very finest diplomats with whom I have had the pleasure of working during my tenure as former chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee on Asia and the Pacific.

Hemayetuddin is truly an outstanding diplomat. He represents his country with dignity, pride, and warmth. His knowledge of the workings of the U.S. Congress and the American body politic would be impressive for a citizen of this country, nonetheless for a foreign diplomat. It was through cooperation with His Excellency Ambassador Hemayun Kabir and his very able Minister Hemayetuddin that our Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held the very first hearing ever on "The Other South Asia—Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and Afghanistan."

Perhaps Hemayet's greatest contribution to diplomatic life in Washington is his passion for his native Bangladesh. It was through Hemayet and Ambassador Kabir that my staff and I first learned of the tremendous economic reforms and opportunities for American business in Bangladesh. It was from Hemayet and his colleagues that I learned of Bangladesh's commitment to a secular, pluralistic society. And it was from Hemayet and Ambassador Kabir that I learned of the tremendous commitment Bangladesh has made to improve child labor practices in a nation struggling to develop.

While Hemayetuddin is unquestionable a diplomat of the highest caliber, he is also one of the finest gentlemen it has been my pleasure to work with in Washington. He, his lovely wife, Zeenat Jahan, and their beautiful children have indeed left their mark on this town.

I know my colleagues and I on the House International Relations Committee will miss Hemayetuddin and Zeenat. We wish them well at their new post in Beijing. All of us who know and admire Hemayet fully expect to see him back in Washington as his Nation's Ambassador some day.

FOOD AID MUST CONTINUE, H.R.

2775

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have worked long and hard on the issue of world hunger. Key U.S. Government initiatives, like the Food for Peace and Food for Progress

Programs, are the cornerstones of our efforts to wipe out hunger.

Recently, the Department of Agriculture and the Agency for International Development approached my committee, asking to extend the authorities of these programs which are set to expire at the end of this year. While a new farm bill would be the preferred way of extending the life of these programs, it is becoming clear that will not be possible during this session of Congress. I have been working with Chairman ROBERTS and Chairman LUGAR hopefully to preserve these programs while a new farm bill is finalized.

Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing a bill that has been cosponsored by the ranking Democratic member of our committee, Mr. HAMILTON of Indiana. It protects authorities for programs that directly save lives. For example, one-third of all Bosnians depend on this program for food. We can all agree that keeping the food flowing to Bosnia is a key part of our peace efforts in that region of the world.

This bill will extend the authority of the title II minimum tonnage requirements, the Food Consultative Group, the Food for Progress Act, and the authorities for Agricultural Exports to Emerging Democracies under the Food, Agriculture and Conservation Trade Act of 1990.

This bill is needed to keep these life-saving programs functioning while a new farm bill is finished. As chairman of the International Relations Committee, I will call on my committee to mark up this bill shortly. I will also work with the Agriculture Committees of both House and Senate as well as the administration to seek its swift passage in the Congress.

I request that the full text of H.R. 2775 be inserted at this point in the RECORD.

H.R. 2775

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

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES UNDER PUBLIC LAW 480.

(a) LEVELS OF ASSISTANCE FOR TITLE II.—
(1) MINIMUM ASSISTANCE.—Section 204(a)(1)(E) of the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954 (7 U.S.C. 1724(a)(1)(E)) is amended by striking “for fiscal year 1995” and inserting “for each of the fiscal years 1995 and 1996”.

(2) MINIMUM NON-EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE.—Section 204(a)(2)(E) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1724(a)(2)(E)) is amended by striking “for fiscal year 1995” and inserting “for each of the fiscal years 1995 and 1996”.

(b) FOOD AID CONSULTATIVE GROUP.—Section 205(f) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1725(f)) is amended by striking “1995” and inserting “1996”.

(c) EXPIRATION DATE FOR ASSISTANCE.—Section 408 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1736b) is amended by striking “1995” and inserting “1996”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES UNDER THE FOOD FOR PROGRESS ACT OF 1985.

(a) EFFECTIVE AND TERMINATION DATES.—Section 1110 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (known as the “Food for Progress Act of 1985”; 7 U.S.C. 1736o) is amended in subsection (k) by striking “1995” and inserting “1996”.

(b) ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE IN ADMINISTRATION OF FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—Section 1110 of such Act (7 U.S.C. 1736o) is amended in subsection (l)(1) by striking “1995” and inserting “1996”.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITIES FOR AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO EMERGING DEMOCRACIES UNDER THE FOOD, AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION, AND TRADE ACT OF 1990.

Section 1542(a) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C.

5622 note) is amended by striking “1995” and inserting “1996”.

CROATIA'S VIOLATION OF HELSINKI PRINCIPLES

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 13, 1995

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. Speaker, after nearly 4 years of war, the leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia have made a tangible commitment to peace. The Dayton peace agreement is, as Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic stated, an unjust peace, but less unjust than the continuation of war. We can be hopeful, though, that the peace can be more just if there is international resolve to keep the signatories to the agreement in line with the commitments they have undertaken, not only in Dayton but, more broadly, in the OSCE and in international law.

Most of us recognize that the chief concern in this regard will be the adherence to the agreement on the part of the Serb militants who have engaged in aggression and genocide against non-Serbs, and have undertaken a massive propaganda campaign to garner support from the Bosnian Serb population. However, there is a real cause for concern regarding the recent policies and actions of Croatia, and the Bosnian Croats over whom it exercises control.

For example, since retaking last summer territory occupied by Serb militants, Croatian authorities have tolerated and even encouraged the harassment of fleeing Serbs, the looting and burning of their property, and the killing of dozens of Serbs—many elderly—who remained behind, in their homes. I commend my colleague and fellow Helsinki commissioner, FRANK WOLF, for taking the lead in raising this issue here in Congress.

Croatia held elections in October of this year in an effort to capitalize on military successes. By severely cutting back the representation of the Serb community in the parliament, the electoral process sent departed Serbs the message that they are not welcome back. At the same time, they sought to sway the loyalties of Croats from Bosnia and Herzegovina by giving them large representation in parliament. While observers concluded the elections to be free, controls on the media and other subtle manipulations of the electoral process made them less than fair.

Croatia states its readiness to cooperate with the International Tribunal in the Hague where alleged war criminals from the former Yugoslavia are to be tried, but in reality the Croatian Government has refused to do so. One indicted Bosnian Croat general, Tihomir Blaskic, was transferred to the Croatian Army rather than surrendered to the court, while Ivica Rajic, a Bosnian Croat commander indicted for his role in the slaughter of civilians at the village of Stupni Do; was just released from custody by Bosnian Croat authorities who were holding him for unrelated reasons.

Last Sunday's newspaper reported on the massive burning and destruction of property in Croat-controlled parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina that are to become parts of the Serb entity under the Dayton agreements.

These actions, Mr. Speaker, are an outrage. As chairman of the Helsinki Commission, and

as a Member of Congress who condemned the Serb aggression to which the international community allowed Croatia to be a victim, I nevertheless find these acts in violation of Helsinki principles to be inexcusable. Tactically, they do more to validate the fears of the average Serb than the most efficient propaganda machine, and damage Croatia's image abroad. Strategically, they feed on a cycle of hate, and ensure that Croats will again someday be the victims of that cycle. Morally—above all, morally—they are reprehensible, and deserve our condemnation.

Beyond this expression, we should consider, for the new year, the implications of these policies on our relations with Croatia. If the burning, looting, and killing go on; if the indicted are not surrendered; if intolerance continues to dominate Government policy; then we cannot maintain the good, friendly relations with Croatia that we may nevertheless want. Our State Department may want to consider diplomatic action, such as the recalling of ambassadors, and possible economic actions as well.

Let there be no mistake about it, Serb aggression remains the main problem in the former Yugoslavia. That does not mean we can turn a blind eye to the violations of others.

VETERANS HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS, AND EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS BENEFITS ACT OF 1995

SPEECH OF

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 12, 1995

Mr. FARR. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the House of Representatives voted for legislation to ensure continued assistance to our Nation's veterans. I voted for this bill, the Veterans Housing and Employment Rights Benefits Act, which would permanently extend programs which provide invaluable assistance to our Nation's veterans and military retirees.

The bill would extend a number of important home-loan programs. One such program permits veterans to negotiate for favorable interest rates and terms for mortgages. Another service allows veterans to get mortgage loans with interest rates fixed by the Department of Veterans Affairs. A third program extended by the bill allows veterans to secure mortgages for energy-saving improvements to their homes.

All of these services allow veterans, who often do not have the collateral or financial resources normally needed to purchase a home, a chance to pursue the American dream of owning and maintaining their own home.

Other programs reauthorized by the bill include the Homeless Veterans Employment Program, and the VA program providing housing assistance to homeless veterans. It also makes changes to current law to help veterans further and prevent discrimination against veterans—such as a measure ensuring that employers cannot force employees to use their vacation time to participate in military training programs.

I thank my colleagues, Chairman BOB STUMP and Representative SONNY MONTGOMERY, for bringing this important legislation to