bill, the Children's Health Insurance Provides Security or ''CHIPS'' Act, will help America's children get the preventive health care they need to become healthy adults.

Over 10 million children in this country—a country where over 1 million children a year are being born into poverty—are currently without health insurance. If parents can't afford to purchase health insurance, and cannot afford to pay health bills, those bills do not go away. No, Mr. Speaker, we all pay for the uninsured.

Arkansas recognizes that uninsured children need to receive coverage. Recently, our State enacted a law that is very similar to the legislation we introduced today. In Arkansas, children in families up to 200 percent of the Federal poverty level will have affordable, accessible health insurance.

Arkansas has proved that we can solve the problem of uninsured children in a fiscally responsible manner, as part of a balanced budget. Arkansas is required by State constitution to balance its budget each year, and yet it has set aside $11 billion to provide health insurance by expanding its Medicaid program.

The legislation we introduced today is an investment in America's future. It is preventive medicine. Think about it—we can provide health insurance for children for only $700 a year. That's equal to the cost of just one day in the hospital for a child. Or, we can ignore this opportunity to invest in prevention and end up spending hundreds or thousands of dollars down the road when a child is hospitalized.

I am proud to be part of this effort today, and I believe that this measure should be an integral part of balanced budgets offered by both Democrats and Republicans this year. This legislation has bipartisan, bicameral support and I urge my colleagues to include its provisions in our Nation's budget.

A TRIBUTE TO DORRIE THURMAN

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today I take this opportunity to pay tribute to a great American who gave consistently of herself for the betterment of her community, her city, and her country.

Dorrie Thurman was a community activist in Chicago's Uptown neighborhood where she worked for many years on behalf of the poor and disadvantaged members of our society. She was a member of several welfare rights organizations and eventually became president of The Voice of the People, an affordable housing development corporation.

Dorrie was a strong proponent of the philosophy that ''you cannot lead where you don't go and you cannot teach what you don't know.'' Therefore, she lived in a building owned and operated by The Voice of the People.

The Chicago Tribune wrote, ''in her heyday, little Dorrie Thurman was a community leader in Uptown; the kind of big-hearted activist who once sprouted in Chicago like wildflowers in a vacant lot.''

Ms. Thurman leaves a great legacy of involvement, determination, and belief that people can make a difference. Her vibrancy, spirit, and willingness to give of herself made her a unique person who will always live as a part of the history of Uptown and as a part of the history of the advocacy for poor people throughout America.

HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN U.S. TERRITORY

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 1997

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, over two dozen Members of Congress have joined in introducing H.R. 1450, urgently needed legislation to stop the inexcusable pattern of labor and human rights abuses in the United States Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands [CNMI]. The full extent of those systematic abuses was detailed in the report released last week by the Democratic staff of the Committee on Resources, Economic Miracle or Economic Mirage: The Human Cost of Development in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prominent human rights and religious groups including Human Rights Watch, the Asia Pacific Center for Justice and Peace, and the United States Catholic Conference, as well as national labor organizations, are unified in their support of the Insular Fair Wage and Human Rights Act of 1997. This bill would mandate needed reforms in the CNMI's minimum wage and immigration policies. H.R. 1450 sends a strong message to the CNMI Government that these continued abuses will not be tolerated on United States soil.

I welcome the following April 28, 1997 editorial from the Honolulu Star-Bulletin in support of this important legislation. The editorial accurately refers to reports that mistreatment of CNMI laborers has been well documented for years, and the CNMI Government has been unwilling to provide satisfactory protections to these thousands of guests to the United States.

This editorial as well as the strong support of the Hawaii congressional delegation and the many organizations in Hawaii including the Filipino Coalition for Solidarity, the United Filipino Council of Hawaii, the Oahu Filipino Community Council, the Aloha Medical Mission, and the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Union, Local 5, is critical to achieve reform in the CNMI.

The Department of the Interior has urged Congress to take swift action on this issue. It is my hope that the administration, the Congress, and the strong coalition of interest groups will be successful in bringing about reform in the CNMI this session of Congress.

[From the Honolulu Star-Bulletin, April 28, 1997]

CONGRESS SHOULD ACT ON NORTHERN MARIANAS

Patience with the Northern Marianas government is running out in Washington. A group of Democratic members of the House of Representatives, including Hawaii's members, is seeking expansion of federal control of the islands to deal with abuses of foreign labor. These reportedly include forced prostitution, drug activity and labor practices likened to slavery.

Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., has introduced a bill to raise the minimum wage in the Northern Marianas to the federal level, institute federal control over immigration and require garment manufacturers to comply with federal labor laws. Hawaii Reps. Neil Abercrombie and Patsy Mink are among the 25 co-sponsors.

The Northern Marianas were formerly part of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. They became a U.S. commonwealth in 1976 after the people approved that status in a plebiscite. As a commonwealth, the islands have limited autonomy but are still under U.S. control.

Complaints about employer mistreatment of foreign labor have been heard for years. Two years ago an official of the Interior Department's Office of Territorial and International Affairs told a meeting organized by Hawaii Filipino leaders that the reported violations of human rights in the Northern Marianas ''have no place in a place that flies the U.S. flag.'' The official spoke in Honolulu en route back to Washington from an inspection trip to Saipan, capital of the Northern Marianas.

Miller charges that the human-rights violations continue in the islands despite criticism by Congress and federal agencies. He says, ''These workers are not free.'' His bill has the support of Filipino organizations in Hawaii. Filipinos comprise the largest group of foreign workers in the islands, but there are also workers from China, South Korea and Japan.

A bill to federalize the Northern Marianas' minimum wage passed the Senate last year but died in the House. Miller's bill is worthy of support in view of the inability of the commonwealth government to deal with the problem. These abuses need not and should not be tolerated because the Northern Marianas have commonwealth status.

HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. ROBERT A. WEYGAND

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 30, 1997

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Armenian community in Rhode Island, I would like to take the opportunity to recognize and commemorate the Congressional observance of the 82d anniversary of the Armenian Genocide, a solemn, yet historically significant event.

We honor today the 1.5 million victims, who were massacred at the hands of the Ottoman Turks, and express our condolences to their descendants. The world has chosen to ignore this tragedy and because we must ensure that history does not repeat itself, we need to properly acknowledge the horrors of the Armenian Genocide.

The Armenian Genocide was launched when efforts led by the Ottoman Empire led to the eradication and destruction of the Armenian people. As a result, over 300,000 people died in 1895 and 30,000 in 1909 before the West eventually interceded. The tumultuous events of World War I allowed the Turks to launch their next assault on the Armenian community. The period of 1915–23 marks one of the darkest periods of modern times—the first example of genocide in the 20th century. On April 24, 1915, 200 intellectuals, political and religious leaders from Constantinople were executed by Turkish officials. Throughout an 8-year period, Armenians were driven from their homes, forced to endure death marches, starved, and executed in mass numbers.