

from the Santa Clarita Valley Junior and Senior High Schools are recommended by teachers and principals based on their observations of the student exhibiting positive behavior.

The students that are selected exhibit the qualities that we are looking for in future leaders of our nation. These students, many of whom have had previous problems of one sort or another, have made remarkable improvements in many different areas. I am pleased to honor these students today here on the House floor.

On June 2, 1999 the "Hero of the Week" program honored 47 members of my community for their outstanding activities that truly made them heroes in our neighborhood. These students have faced serious obstacles and, in many cases, faltered in the face of adversity. However, none of these students gave up. Their hard work and determination have truly earned them the title "Hero" in our community.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to conclude these remarks by listing the 47 students honored by the city last week. I congratulate them and the sponsoring organizations for such a wonderful, positive program.

#### HERO OF THE WEEK HONOREES

Neal Abrams, Canyon High School  
 Jose Avila, Arroyo Seco Jr. High School  
 Monica Barajas, Placerita Jr. High School  
 Allison Barlow, La Mesa Jr. High School  
 Adrian Becerra, La Mesa Jr. High School  
 Chris Butterrick, Sierra Vista Jr. High School  
 Brett Cain, Arroyo Seco Jr. High School  
 Raymond Cano, Hart High School  
 Anthony Cisneros, Sierra Vista Jr. High School  
 Keith Farley, Canyon High School  
 Dylan Foley, Placerita High School  
 Sheryllene Go, Saugus High School  
 Ashley Hope, Sierra Vista Jr. High School  
 Jared Kennedy, Arroyo Seco Jr. High School  
 Kristian Kimoto, Hart High School  
 Russell King, Arroyo Seco Jr. High School  
 Johnny Lara, Hart High School  
 Chris Lockwood, Valencia High School  
 Selena Lopez, Saugus High School  
 Ashlie Madden, Placerita Jr. High School  
 Luis Marin, Placerita Jr. High School  
 Ana Medrano, Bowman High School  
 Denika Mercado, Saugus High School  
 Charissee Miranda, La Mesa High School  
 Michele O'Kray, La Mesa Jr. High School  
 Emily Osborne, Arroyo Seco Jr. High School  
 Andrew Pacheco, Bowman High School  
 Jimmy Perry, Canyon High School  
 Erik Plessner, Saugus High School  
 Brittney Potes, Hart High School  
 Marina Preciado, Saugus High School  
 Najji Qammou, Bowman High School  
 Mike Raiman, Sierra Vista Jr. High School  
 Daniel Rettig, Saugus High School  
 Jorge Rodriguez, Bowman High School  
 Danielle Sozio, Canyon High School  
 Sean Pennala-Taylor, Sierra Vista Jr. High School  
 Denny Tucker, Valencia High School  
 Adriana Varela, Saugus High School  
 Jorge Vargas, Hart High School  
 Rene Vasquez, Placerita Jr. High School  
 Jaclyn Vigeant, Arroyo Seco Jr. High School  
 Danielle Walters, Sierra Vista Jr. High School  
 Joe Young, Sierra Vista Jr. High School  
 Megan Young, Placerita Jr. High School  
 Oscar Zapata, Canyon High School

MASSACHUSETTS SENIOR ACTION  
 COUNCIL DOCUMENTS HARM  
 DONE BY MEDICARE CUTS

### HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 1999

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, during the Congressional recess, I spent a very useful two hours at the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth meeting with a large number of older people at a rally called by the Massachusetts Senior Action Council. One of the very impressive aspects of that rally was a series of short, poignant examples given by members of the Council of the terrible harm that is being done by the cut backs in Medicare that we are now inflicting on older people, most of which are a direct result of the terribly mistaken legislation adopted by Congress and signed by the President in 1997.

Younger people reading this might not be aware of a central fact: as currently constituted, Medicare includes no payment for prescription drugs. We in Massachusetts used to have a law which required that HMOs provide prescription drugs, but that was crudely abolished by the 1997 so-called Balanced Budget Act as part of the effort to cut Medicare to make funds available for other purposes. And that bill also required for the same reason severe cut backs in home health care. I ask that these examples of the terrible damage that is being done by the 1997 Act be printed here, in the hopes that it will influence our colleagues to join those of us who are seeking to undo the grave error Congress made in 1997 in cutting Medicare.

TESTIMONY GIVEN AT THE MASS. SENIOR ACTION COUNCIL RALLY TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT MEDICARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY, JUNE 1, 1999

Armando and Alexandria Demelo live in Fairhaven. They are 75 and 78 years old. They both have life threatening medical conditions. Their prescription drug costs are currently \$6,000 per year.

William Kirby lives in East Wareham. He is 83 years old. He has emphysema. His prescription drug costs are over \$800 per month.

Arthur and Mary Travassos live in Fall River. They both have serious health problems and Arthur is currently in the hospital. They were lucky enough to be able to switch out of their HMO in time to another plan which is now closed. Between the two of them they pay over \$7,000 yearly in prescription drug costs.

Del Silvia worked as a stitcher in the Fall River mills for 37 years. She is 63 years old. She is on nine prescription drug medications in order to keep her lungs functioning. Before Del got out of her Medicare HMO she had over \$10,000 in prescription drug costs per year.

An 84 year old Portuguese woman who lives in New Bedford was admitted to the hospital in the middle of the night with severe cramping in her abdomen. Thank God she did not have a serious obstruction. Her HMO denied payment for her care in the hospital.

An 85 year old woman from Southeastern Mass. was discharged from the hospital after an operation for colon cancer. She had been in the hospital a full month. She was approved by Medicare for only 4 home health visits.

A 73 year old woman from Fall River returned from the hospital after knee surgery.

She was denied home health services by her HMO.

Loretta Lamond from New Bedford passed away last year. She was 85 years old. She was diabetic and blind and could not fill her own insulin needles. Medicare cut off her nurse who came to the house to assist her with the needles.

These are only a few of the countless stories we hear every day. The sickest and most vulnerable—those who can not always speak for themselves are hit the hardest.

Something must be done!

LEGISLATION TO EXTEND MANDATORY COVERAGE OF THE INDEPENDENT COUNSEL LAW TO JUSTICE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES

### HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 14, 1999

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to require the U.S. Attorney General to call for the appointment of an independent counsel to investigate allegations that Justice Department employees engaged in misconduct, criminal activity, corruption, or fraud. The bill is similar to legislation I authored in the last three Congresses.

The independent counsel provisions of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 require the Attorney General to conduct a preliminary investigation when presented with credible information of criminal wrongdoing by high-ranking executive branch officials. If the Attorney General finds that further investigation is warranted or makes no finding within 90-days, the Act requires the Attorney General to apply to a special division of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the appointment of an independent counsel. The Act also gives the Attorney General broad discretion in seeking the appointment of independent counsel with regard to individuals other than high ranking executive branch officials. However, the Attorney General is not required to do so in such cases.

My bill amends the Act to treat allegations of misconduct, corruption or fraud on the part of Justice Department employees in the same manner as allegations made against high-ranking cabinet officials. My goal is to ensure that, when there is credible evidence of criminal wrongdoing in such cases, these cases are aggressively and objectively investigated.

I am very concerned over the growing number of cases in which Justice Department employees have been accused of misconduct, corruption or fraud. In several cases I have personally investigated, innocent men fell victim to overzealous or corrupt federal prosecutors. No action has ever been taken against the prosecutors.

The 1992 Randy Weaver incident that took place in Ruby Ridge, Idaho is perhaps the most notorious and disturbing example of Justice Department employees, in this case, high-ranking officials, acting in a questionable manner, and receiving no punishment other than disciplinary action. In the Randy Weaver case, an unarmed woman holding her infant child was shot to death by an FBI sharpshooter acting on orders from superiors. Former FBI deputy director Larry Potts allegedly approved the decision to change the rules of engagement