

of operating a personal vehicle while performing an important service in the pursuit of a greater good.

To achieve this end, my legislation would exclude from gross income any reimbursement received for the use of a volunteer's car while assisting a charitable group, limited only by the cap the Internal Revenue Service sets each year regarding business driving. This treatment would be available only for services provided without compensation and drivers would be required to maintain sufficient records to substantiate the charitable use of their vehicles. Finally, this bill drops the requirement that charitable groups report these reimbursements to the IRS, removing an administrative and paperwork burden that detracts resources from their larger purpose.

Each day, thousands of Americans lend a hand in providing transportation services to a multitude of organizations engaged in good works. These activities include assisting individuals with their routine grocery shopping, providing the use of a four-wheel drive vehicle to transport home-visit nurses during inclement weather, delivering meals as part of a holiday food drive, helping individuals to keep their medical appointments, and many more similar activities.

These volunteer drivers are donating their time and their talents, not their vehicles, and accepting reimbursement for the use of that car, incidental to their time and talent donation, is a reasonable act, which should not result in an additional tax liability. Today, when it comes to driving a personal vehicle, our tax code makes a distinction between business and charitable uses. This distinction is a mistake; it is a serious disincentive to charitable activities, and it should be corrected. I encourage my colleagues to support the continued efforts of our charity-minded constituents by cosponsoring the Charitable Driving Tax Relief Act of 2009.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2, Children's Health Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2009. This bill will ensure that health coverage continues for the 7 million children currently covered under the Children's Health Insurance Program, and will extend coverage to an additional 4 million children who are currently uninsured. Without the legislation, the CHIP would end on March 31, 2009.

CHIP provides health care coverage for children in families that earn too much to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to afford private insurance. In 2007, more than 240,000 children in North Carolina received health coverage through North Carolina's CHIP, NC Health Choice for Children. Under the legislation, North Carolina's allotment would increase by 81 percent over the current level from \$136 million to \$245 million. North Carolina has 296,000 uninsured children, the sixth-largest number in the country. Two-thirds of uninsured

children in North Carolina live in a home where at least one parent works full time.

As North Carolina's former Superintendent of Public Instruction, I have seen first hand that healthy children are better prepared for learning and success. The Children's Health Insurance Program ensures that America's children are as healthy and productive as possible and that they can grow up to fulfill their potential. Untreated illnesses can have long-term consequences, and access to health care can head off expensive treatments down the road. As a Nation, we must protect our most vulnerable citizens.

I still regret that the bill will be funded by a tobacco-tax increase. The tax in H.R. 2 falls disproportionately on North Carolina, and on the Second District in particular. I understand the burden this will place on farmers who work hard to build a better life for their own children, and I will continue to work to support these families as they adjust to transformations in the global economy. However, with one out of eight children in North Carolina lacking health insurance I will vote for this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for the children of America's working families.

CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE
PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION
ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 14, 2009

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong, unwavering, and steadfast support of the reauthorization of SCHIP to provide healthcare for millions of uninsured children. SCHIP is a critical safety net for children. As Chief Justice Thurgood Marshall once said, "The measure of a country's greatness is its ability to retain compassion in times of crisis." Providing healthcare for low-income children, especially during this economic crisis, reflects a commitment to the least among us as well as sound economic policy. A healthy child is prepared for school and life. A healthy child does not require costly emergency room visits. I applaud House leaders for including mental health parity and dental coverage for children.

In Fiscal Year 2007, SCHIP provided health care to over 345,000 children in Illinois. Unfortunately, due to overwhelming need, Illinois faced a shortfall in federal spending last year. This bill does much to address this gap. Specifically, in addition to preserving coverage for the 7 million children currently in the program, this bill expands coverage to another 4 million children in need.

I want to briefly mention the efforts of Chicago Public Schools in helping low income families overcome many of the barriers that often prevent them from enrolling in SCHIP. The Children and Family Benefits Unit assisted approximately 60 schools in a recent 12 month period, helping over 4,200 families' complete applications to enroll into the Illinois CHIP, including Medicaid. I am proud of this effort in Chicago, and I am pleased that this bill will continue to support such programs.

In closing, this bill will provide much-needed health care for low-income children in Chicago, Illinois, and the nation, and I look forward to this bill being signed into law in the near future.

THE IRAQI REFUGEE AND INTERNALLY
DISPLACED PERSONS HUMANITARIAN
ASSISTANCE, RESETTLEMENT, AND SECURITY
ACT OF 2009

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Madam Speaker, I rise today with my good friend and colleague, Congressman JOHN DINGELL and almost 15 original cosponsors in strong support of the Iraqi Refugee and Internally Displaced Persons Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement, and Security Act of 2009, a bill which I am reintroducing for the 1st Session of the 111th Congress.

The comprehensive legislation I am introducing today addresses this crisis and the potential security break-down resulting from the mass influx of Iraqi refugees into neighboring countries and the growing internally displaced population in Iraq, and also facilitates the resettlement of Iraqis at risk.

The plight of Iraqi refugees and IDP's is worsening by the day. It is heartbreaking to hear the stories of families who fled for their safety, are now unable to work and have subsequently depleted their savings in order to survive.

I believe that the United States has a moral obligation to take the lead and provide a 'humanitarian surge' in responding to this crisis. The future of the Middle East depends on it.

I would like to thank Congressman DINGELL for his continued leadership in the House of Representatives on this issue and for his help in drafting this legislation as well as the other original co-sponsors supporting this bill. As I have said on many occasions, this must not be a partisan issue, but rather Congress and the Administration have an obligation to work together before the Iraqi refugee crisis further destabilizes the region.

I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation, which will provide much needed relief for Iraqi refugees and IDP's. I call on the leadership of the House to support this bill.

REMEMBERING MAJOR JOHN P.
PRYOR, MD

HON. JOHN H. ADLER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 15, 2009

Mr. ADLER of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, on Christmas Day, 2008, an enemy mortar round struck the living quarters of Major John P. Pryor, MD, in Mosul, Iraq where he was stationed while on his second tour of duty as an Army Reservist. Major Pryor died of his wounds.

Major Pryor was widely recognized as one of our country's finest trauma surgeons. On the battlefield, he fought to save the lives of