

laughter in the Montessori building that is at the very heart of building community.

And, my favorite, you will find Cee on vacation in the middle of the school year because she values balance in her life and she understands the importance of her family.

I was not surprised to learn that Cee was nominated and ultimately selected to be one of the St. Madeleine Sophie Award winners. Cee has been an amazing mentor to me and I can say from the very depth of my being that I have learned more from Cee Salberg about teaching and learning and about what it means to be a Sacred Heart educator than from any other person in my career. Cee is a woman who St. Madeleine Sophie Barat and St. Rose Philippine Duchesne would recognize as one of their own.

I want to end by reading a nice poem that was written by a member of Cee's staff.

There once was a principal named Cee
As good at her job as she could be.
She juggles admins, parents, kids and teachers,
But she'd rather be cheering in the bleachers
For the San Francisco Giants, her favorite team.

Soon, the World Series? Hey, a girl can dream!

Cee and Keir travel to many a port.
And luckily, Janet can hold down the fort.
At work and at home, Cee has a great crew.
She's the captain, she knows what to do!
For Cee to get this award, we're all very proud,

And not a bit shy to say right out loud:
She deserves this award and can pass any test.

All of us know that Cee is the best!

Cee, it is a true honor and pleasure to be your friend and your colleague. I look forward to celebrating your retirement with you in about 15-20 years.

Congratulations.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in offering our congratulations to Cee Salberg on the very special occasion of being chosen for the St. Madeleine Sophie Award, and for all she does daily to strengthen our community and our country.

SUPPORTING CAMPUS FIRE SAFETY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 6, 2009

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H. Res. 167, a resolution that supports the goals and ideals of recognizing September as Campus Fire Safety Month. This recognition would both heighten awareness and encourage improvements in the overall safety on our college and university campuses.

Since January 2000, 129 people including students, parents, and children, have died in student housing fires, many of which were preventable. Currently a majority of college students live off campus, and eighty percent of these deaths have occurred in off campus housing. One recent example is more personal for me. Over the 2008 Christmas break, there was a suspected arson at the Sigma Nu fraternity house at Texas A&M University. Thankfully, no one was residing in the house at that time, but as a Sigma Nu from my days

at Georgia Tech, my prayers continue to be with the chapter in Texas for the rebuilding of their residence.

Nationally, more needs to be done to improve campus-wide fire safety awareness programs so as to prevent the loss of life and property damage on college and university campuses. Many of these fatal fires have occurred in buildings where the fire safety systems have been compromised, are obsolete, or have been disabled by occupants. College administrations must continue to make students aware of the need for automatic fire alarm systems and the safety they provide to occupants and local fire departments.

Madam Speaker, fire safety education is imperative on college and university campuses across the nation. This resolution encourages administrators and municipalities to evaluate the level of fire safety being provided in both on- and off-campus student housing. It further calls upon them take the necessary steps to ensure fire safe living environments through fire safety education, installation of fire suppression and detection systems, and the development and enforcement of applicable codes relating to fire safety. I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution so that we can protect future generations of our nation's leaders from the devastating and potentially life threatening effects of campus fires.

GOVERNORS OF IDAHO, INDIANA, AND LOUISIANA EXPRESS CONCERNS WITH UNFUNDED MANDATES IN HEALTH REFORM

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 7, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express concerns regarding health reform proposals which would create unfunded state mandates. Legislation currently before the House would dramatically expand the Medicaid program and place over \$35 billion in new liabilities on state budgets over the next ten years. In addition, these proposals would expand the federal government's role in administering Medicaid, which would severely handcuff states' ability to run their own programs and preempt state authority to manage Medicaid eligibility and benefits.

Over the last several weeks, governors have expressed concerns over these proposals. I would like to submit for the record the following letters from the governors of Idaho, Indiana, Louisiana and Minnesota:

SEPTEMBER 15, 2009.

Hon. MIKE CRAPO,
*U.S. Senate, Dirksen Senate Office Building,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATOR CRAPO: Idaho has a proud history of fiscal responsibility, ensuring that our State government serves its proper role for the people of Idaho while staying within their financial means. As the United States Congress attempts to address the healthcare challenges facing our nation, it is important that we remain diligent in assessing the implications of our decisions, always ensuring that we take seriously our duty to safeguard the financial resources of the American public, and allocating taxpayer money in an efficient and effective manner.

As revised healthcare proposals continue appearing in Congress, the full consequences

of these reforms remain unknown and we are uncertain of the possible negative impacts on local businesses, families and senior citizens. However, it is clear that these sweeping proposals would irresponsibly shift a substantial and unmanageable financial burden to the states. Like Idaho, many states already are functioning under severely limited and strained budgets. It is certain that the burden of these reforms would be placed upon the shoulders of hardworking Americans.

The costs associated with these proposed reforms are astounding. Conservative estimates from the Idaho Division of Medicaid indicate that the bill's Medicaid eligibility proposal would increase our state share of Medicaid and the federal matching rate effective would drop in the middle of fiscal year 2011, leaving Idaho struggling to fill the void. Idaho's tax base could not support this large unfunded mandate without resorting to tax increases, including a possible increase in Idaho's already 6-percent sales tax—an irresponsible action which would do serious harm to Idaho taxpayers. The proposed reforms would impose an undue burden on citizens already struggling in this difficult economy.

It has been estimated that combined federal-state Medicaid costs in Idaho could increase by \$501 million. In addition, raising the Medicaid reimbursement rate to 110 percent of the Medicare reimbursement rate would increase total federal-state costs \$50 million more.

This proposed change in the federal reimbursement rate likely would reduce the number of plans that are offered to persons on Medicare, resulting in increased premiums and reduced services and access to service providers. Seniors in rural Idaho already have trouble finding providers who accept Medicare patients.

Should these changes be approved, that trend could continue statewide—severely limiting access to medical care for some of Idaho's most vulnerable residents. The people of Idaho have entrusted us with a responsibility to use our government resources wisely and efficiently. Imposing costly federal mandates that cannot be sustained in the long run is an irresponsible violation of this public trust. Quite simply, these proposals are financially irresponsible and would not adequately address the needs of senior citizens and other vulnerable groups.

I encourage you to join me in opposing current health care reform proposals. By ending these nonsensical debates and stopping the proposed reforms, we can move forward in a more positive, measured and reasonable direction, using common sense to find a workable healthcare solution that benefits all Americans.

As Always—Idaho "Esto Perpetua",

C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER,

Governor, Idaho.

SEPTEMBER 8, 2009.

Hon. RICHARD LUGAR,
Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR LUGAR: During your summer recess I am sure that many, if not all of you heard from your constituents regarding health care reform.

I have heard from them as well. In fact, over the past few months, I have watched Americans come forward to passionately express their anxieties about the legislation currently making its way through Congress. Their worries are well-founded.

There is no disputing the fact that aspects of American health care, such as access and affordability, truly do need to be restructured and improved. Yet, I have serious concerns about Congress's proposed solutions to these problems. In fact, I fear the current rush to overhaul the system will ultimately