

On behalf of the Amish, I wish to thank Chairman THOMAS, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. ENGLISH for working hard to include this technical yet important, provision for the Amish.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL
GROUND WATER ASSOCIATION

HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. TIBERI. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure for me to recognize the efforts of the National Ground Water Association, which is headquartered in my district in Westerville, Ohio. NGWA is sponsoring National Ground Water Awareness Week, which begins May 6.

Each spring, NGWA sponsors Ground Water Awareness Week to educate the public about this precious national resource. Ground water is not only the source for much of our drinking water, but is also utilized in agriculture, commercial and industrial production and thermoelectric energy generation. It is also the single biggest source of water for irrigation in our country.

The National Ground Water Association is a not-for-profit professional society and trade organization representing all segments of the groundwater industry. Its over 16,000 members include the world's leading ground water scientists and engineers, drilling contractors, manufacturers and suppliers.

Association members will be using Ground Water Awareness Week to participate in a variety of activities and events. I want to thank them for their efforts to preserve, protect and safely utilize this most valuable resource.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF RICHARDSON PREYER, FORMER MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

SPEECH OF

HON. F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER, JR.

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 25, 2001

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Madam Speaker, it is with sadness that I note the death of a former colleague and a great North Carolinian, Mr. Lunsford Richardson Preyer, who died of cancer on April 3 at the age of 82.

Born in Greensboro, North Carolina, Rich attended college at Princeton University and law school at Harvard. He served honorably in World War II, earning a Bronze Star from the Navy for his courage at Okinawa. It was this courage and his absolute respect for the law and for people that caught the eye of President John F. Kennedy, who named him to a U.S. District Court judgeship in 1961.

In 1968, Rich successfully ran for Congress, where he served until 1980. Although my time with him in the House was brief, I know that Rich served the people of North Carolina's 6th District with distinction. He lived during a tumultuous time in our nation's history when racial discrimination was widespread. African Americans were frequently subjected to legal, social and economic oppression. However, Rich emerged through all that by displaying a remarkable moral integrity, tolerance, and support for racial diversity and human rights.

As a member of Congress, Rich won the respect of both Republicans and Democrats for his dignity, intelligence, and integrity. He chaired the House Select Committee on Ethics, crafting the Congressional code of ethics. He also served on the House Select Committee on Assassinations, helping to investigate the deaths of President Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Two years after my election to Congress, Rich left the House. He and his wife Emily—who passed away in 1999—returned to Greensboro where they both continued to touch the lives of their many friends and neighbors in the community.

Our nation lost a caring and visionary legislator with the death of Rich, and it is fitting that we pay tribute to his life and legacy today. My wife Cheryl and I would like to express our condolences to Rich's surviving family in this time of sorrow and sadness, and they will be in our prayers.

IN HONOR OF CLAIR DUCKHAM
AND THE DAYTON CYCLING CLUB

HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, April 28 marked the 95th birthday of Dayton Cycling Club co-founder Clair Duckham of Dayton, Ohio. Mr. Duckham still rides his bike 44 miles every Sunday from his Dayton home to Troy, where he dines with his friends, the "Gray Wolves."

2001 marks the 40th anniversary year of the Dayton Cycling Club, founded in 1961 by Mr. Duckham and Horace Huffman. Today, the Dayton Cycling Club has over 700 members, and schedules rides for almost every day of the year.

I would like to salute Mr. Duckham on his birthday. His energy and vitality serve as an inspiration to all.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MEDIKIDS
HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 2001

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues Representatives Charlie Rangel, George Miller, Jim McDermott, John Conyers, Barney Frank, Sherrod Brown, John Tierney, Sheila Jackson-Lee, Dennis Kucinich, William Coyne, Karen Thurman, and John LaFalce today to introduce the MediKids Health Insurance Act of 2001, which would provide universal health for our nation's children through a new Medicare-like national program with benefits tailored toward children. Senator Rockefeller is introducing a companion bill in the Senate.

Children are the least expensive segment of our population to insure, and maintaining their health is integral to the future of our society. We can not allow children to go without basic health care because they are uninsured. They will be more likely to require both avoidable hospitalizations and emergency care. In addition,

lack of health care as a child can lead to the need for more intensive and unnecessarily costly care later in life. Providing health care coverage to children impacts much more than just their health—it impacts their ability to learn, their ability to thrive, and their ability to become productive members of our society.

In the past several years, we have achieved a remarkable consensus to address the millions of children without health insurance in America. The result has been the expansion of Medicaid and the implementation of S-CHIP. But, despite these efforts, there are still over 10 million uninsured children. Clearly, much more can and should be done to guarantee the coverage of all children in the United States. It is unconscionable for our society to allow children to go without health care coverage because they are stuck in the gap between being eligible for public programs like Medicaid and their parents' being able to afford reliable coverage.

MediKids will provide health insurance for all children in the United States regardless of family income. The program is modeled after Medicare, but the benefits are tailored toward children. MediKids is financed like the Medicare Part B program with families paying a premium of 25% of the value of the program and the rest financed through general revenues. Premiums for MediKids would be collected each year when their parents' file their taxes. There is also a generous low-income subsidy for families phasing out at 300% of poverty.

Parents who have other coverage for their children—employer sponsored, individual marketplace, S-CHIP, Medicaid or whatever, could maintain that coverage. But, if something happens and that coverage is no longer available, their children could always rely on MediKids for coverage. If the family moves, MediKids follows the children across state lines. And, no longer would kids get caught with no health insurance coverage if their parents are climbing out of welfare.

Enrollment in MediKids is simple with no complicated paperwork or re-determination hoops to jump through. When children are born or immigrate to this country, the parents are automatically given a MediKids insurance card and information on the benefits. For those children who are already born, the bill authorizes presumptive eligibility and enrollment at outstationed sites such as Disproportionate Share Hospitals and Federally Qualified Health Centers to simplify outreach efforts. Once the program is fully phased in no outreach will be needed because enrollment into the program will be automatic.

Our legislation is supported by both children's advocates and the doctors who care for children. Groups that support the legislation include: the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Children's Defense Fund, the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Consumers Union, Families USA, the March of Dimes, the National Association of Community Health Centers, the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems, the National Health Law Program, and NETWORK: a Catholic Social Justice Lobby. These providers and children's advocacy groups are united around the concept that children deserve access to continuous health insurance. MediKids meets that goal.

It's time we make this investment in the future of America by guaranteeing to all children

the health coverage they need to make a healthy start in life. In a country awash in surplus, there is no excuse for any of our children to grow up without health care coverage. A small investment in our children's health will go much further than a huge tax break for those who are already well off. I look forward to working with my colleagues and supporting organizations for the passage of the MediKids Health Insurance Act of 2001.

Below is a short summary of the legislation:

ENROLLMENT

Every child born after 2002 is automatically enrolled in MediKids, and those children already born are enrolled over a 5-year phase-in as described below. Children who immigrate to this country are enrolled when they receive their immigration card. Materials describing the program's benefits, along with the MediKids insurance card, are issued to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of each child. Once enrolled, children remain enrolled in MediKids until they reach the age of 23.

Parents may choose to enroll their children in private plans or government programs such as Medicaid or SCHIP. During periods of equivalent alternative coverage, the MediKids premium is waived. However, if a lapse in other coverage occurs, MediKids automatically covers the children's health insurance needs (and a premium will be owed for those months).

PHASE-IN

Year 1 (2003)=the child has not attained age 6
 Year 2 (2004)=the child has not attained age 11
 Year 3 (2005)=the child has not attained age 16
 Year 4 (2006)=the child has not attained age 21
 Year 5 (2007)=the child has not attained age 23

BENEFITS

The benefit package is based on the Medicare and the Medicaid Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment (EPSDT) benefits for children, and includes prescription drugs. The benefits will be reviewed annually and updated by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to reflect age-appropriate benefits as needed with input from the pediatric community.

PREMIUMS, DEDUCTIBLES, AND COPAYS

Families up to 150 percent of poverty pay no premiums or copays. Families between 150 percent and 300 percent of poverty pay a graduated premium up to 5 percent of their income and receive a graduated refundable tax credit for cost sharing. Parents above 300 percent of poverty are responsible for a small premium, one-fourth of the annual average cost per child. Premiums are collected at income tax filing. There is no cost sharing for preventive and well childcare for any children.

FINANCING

Congress would need to determine initial funding. In future years, the Secretary of Treasury would develop a package of progressive, gradual tax changes to fund the program, as the number of enrollees grows.

STATES

Medicaid and S-CHIP are not altered by MediKids. These programs remain the safety net for children until MediKids is fully implemented and appropriately modified to best serve our nation's children. Once MediKids is fully operational, Congress can revisit the role of these programs in covering children.

To the extent the states save money from the enrollment of children into MediKids,

states are required to maintain those funding levels in other programs and services directed at the Medicaid and S-CHIP populations. This can include expanding eligibility for Medicaid or offering additional services. For example, states could expand eligibility for parents and single individuals, increase payment rates to providers, or enhance quality in nursing homes.

INTRODUCTION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SAFETY REIMBURSEMENT ACT OF 2001

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
 IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 3, 2001

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today I reintroduce the District of Columbia Public Safety Reimbursement Act of 2001 with some urgency. The city has become the focal point not only of the large number of standard national events that come annually, but of an ever-increasing number of volatile, even violent and disruptive events. The District, which has recently revived from a serious fiscal crisis, will be seriously disadvantaged by the federal government itself if the city must continue to take on the financial burden of the national demonstrations of people who come to this city because of the federal presence. The bill is strongly supported by the District, especially by D.C. Police Chief Charles Ramsey, whose officers are deflected from fighting serious crime, and by Mayor Tony Williams, who must also commit the resources of many other agencies when national events occur here.

The annual contribution authorized by this bill would reimburse the District for the considerable services the Metropolitan Police Department (MDP) and other D.C. agencies provide every year to cover the many national events and activities that occur here because the District is the national seat of government. One need only consider some of the event and demonstrations held in recent years to understand what offloading similar federal costs would do to any large city. Examples are too numerous to detail, but here are some examples. Of the cities where the International Monetary Fund (IMF) demonstrations were held, the District was the only one where significant violence and disruptions did not occur. Last year, Congress was so impressed and relieved about the city's handling of the IMF demonstrations that it passed a version of the bill I am introducing today on a one-time basis and awarded the District \$4.4 million that partially reimbursed the city. Another prominent example points up how the cost of federal events has been transferred to the taxpayers of the District of Columbia. A ragtag gang of racists and anti-Semites calling themselves the American Nationalist Party (ANP) came to Washington in August 1999. The District government was left to pick up the tab of \$500,000 for police protection for the demonstrators and for the pro-human rights groups who rallied against the ANP on the Mall as well as at another location to counter the Nazis. The enormous expense had to be incurred because of the huge reaction to the announcement of the NAZI demonstration, even though only a half-dozen actually showed up. City police and agencies had to spend local taxpayer dollars in any case.

From the Million Man March to the federal Millennium event at the Lincoln Memorial, similar events, large and small, of every variety occur with great frequency and cannot proceed without the work of our police force and city agencies. The MPD is at the center, from the extensive logistical preparations to the on-duty time guarding and facilitating the event itself.

The right to assemble is a precious constitutional right. It is available to all and must be protected for all. However, those who come here seek the attention of the national government, not the D.C. government, and the cost should be borne, by American taxpayers, not D.C. taxpayers.

Further, residents see our police every time the President moves outside the White House complex because all traffic stops while our police line the streets to assure the President's safe passage. The Congress itself frequently uses our police department—from the annual State of the Union address, when officials and citizens converge on the Hill, to unusual events, such as the funeral following the tragic killing of the two Capitol Police officers almost three years ago. Cabinet officials, the President, and Members of the House and Senate, not to mention other federal officials and agencies all use the MPD as if it were a hometown police force they had bought and paid for. Actually they pay nothing. In countless ways on a daily basis, federal officials and tourists alike get excellent D.C. police protection free of charge. The District cannot continue to plan for ever larger numbers of demonstrations on an ad hoc basis with insufficient funds. The Congress needs to award the funds in advance to assure that the District budgets sufficient funds in advance to manage these events safely and professionally.

The bill I introduce today places financial responsibility where it belongs. There are two important grounds for this bill, one statutory and the other historical precedent. The statutory basis is the 1997 Revitalization Act, where the District of Columbia traded the federal payment for a much larger federal assumption of stat costs. However, the Congress nevertheless preserved the right of the District to receive a federal contribution. The Act provides: "The unique status of the District of Columbia as the seat of the government . . . imposes unusual costs and requirements which are not imposed on other jurisdictions and many of which are not reimbursed by the federal government." The Revitalization Act (Section 11601) therefore allows "for each subsequent fiscal year [after FY 1998], such amount as may be necessary for such contribution."

The second basis for a designated public safety contribution is historical precedent. Separate from the annual federal payment, the Congress has traditionally appropriated to the District additional funds for public safety purposes. Amounts have ranged from five million dollars to 30 million dollars, depending on the need and public safety issues arising in the particular year. Such funds have been appropriated for national events in other jurisdictions as well. Two years ago, Congress included five million dollars to help cover police costs during the WTO meeting in Seattle. Here in the District, there has always been a consistent congressional understanding that police work in the nation's capital necessarily involves the federal and national interest and deserves special and unique support. Thus, I