



CHILDREN'S HOSPICE INTERNATIONAL

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BIPARTISAN LEADERS LAUD CHILDREN'S HOSPICE INTERNATIONAL DURING ITS 22ND ANNIVERSARY WEEK

***Pay Special Tribute to CHI Honoree – Ensign Alan Armstrong and Others Lost on the
USS Frank E. Evans – During Memorial Day Weekend***

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Children's Hospice International (CHI), a nonprofit Alexandria-VA based organization, received strong bipartisan support for its landmark work on behalf of 10 million U.S. children this week during its celebration of 22 years of service in the health care community.

The organization was founded in 1983 by Ann Armstrong-Dailey. It was recognized by U.S. Senator Robert Bennett, R-UT and U.S. Representative Jim Moran, D-VA for its efforts on behalf of the approximately 10 million U.S. children who are living with serious chronic illnesses.

“Since 1983, Children's Hospice International has been a champion of children with life-threatening conditions – and their families – by calling for the U.S. healthcare system to do more to meet both their medical and their emotional needs,” said Moran in a U.S. House floor speech on May 24, 2005.

Both Moran and Bennett have been staunch supporters of CHI and its programs on behalf of children in need. Other prominent supporters include former U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, R-KS, the late U.S. Senator Claiborne Pell, D-RI, and former First Lady Barbara Bush, who served as members of its founding Honorary Board.

“I commend Children's Hospice International on its 22nd anniversary. I look forward to participating in the 17th CHI World Congress in my home state of Utah later this year,” said Bennett in a May 24, 2005 statement. The international forum – which will be hosted by CHI and cosponsored by children's hospice and palliative care programs in Colorado and Utah – will take place from September 29 – October 2, 2005 in Salt Lake City.

The Congressional leaders praised the ongoing efforts of CHI in the health care community, which include education and training support for pediatric health care providers; technical assistance for children's hospice programs; a toll-free help line for families in need; and other valuable services.

CHI is also working with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to facilitate a newly developed model of hospice and palliative care for children. The new model is designed to work with government to provide better quality care for younger patients from the time of diagnosis, with hope for cure, through bereavement, if needed.

Historically, hospice and reimbursement guidelines in Medicaid and most private insurance plans require that patients forego all life-saving care before they can be admitted to hospice, and that the patient be within the last six months of life. Those guidelines do not work with younger patients in pediatric care, who benefit from intensive support at the time of diagnosis and often seek aggressive medical treatment.

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In this year's federal budget, CHI has applied for additional funding to further develop and expand the new model of care in the states. With the support of U.S. Congressman Murtha of Pennsylvania, the Department of Defense is also working on this model program to be piloted at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

"As we approach Memorial Day, it should be noted that Children's Hospice International is a living memorial to Ensign Alan H. Armstrong and his shipmates lost aboard the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans during the conflict in Vietnam. Ensign Armstrong was the brother of CHI Founder Ann Armstrong-Dailey," said Bennett.

"I deeply appreciate Ensign Armstrong's service to our Country. And I too believe in the vision that Ann Armstrong-Dailey, along with original honorary board members Barbara Bush, and Senators Claiborne Pell and Robert Dole, put forth 22 years ago when they launched this very important effort to provide dignified care and support to children with life-threatening diseases and their families," said Bennett.

CHI Founder and CEO Armstrong-Dailey added: "We are so gratified to receive this bipartisan Congressional support, which validates the importance of the needs of these children and families we have served for 22 years. It also underscores the mission of Children's Hospice International, which is proud to extend its programs and services to U.S. military families in their time of need."

CHI is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization founded in 1983 to ensure appropriate hospice and palliative care for children with life-threatening conditions and their families worldwide.

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