

HONORING DR. PADMANABHAN ``DAN'' MUKUNDAN

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SPEECH OF
HON. DANNY K. DAVIS OF ILLINOIS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THURSDAY, APRIL 23, 2009

- Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, on February 5, 2009 the City of Chicago and the nation lost an inspirational leader in community health, Dr. Padmanabhan ``Dan'' Mukundan. Dr. Mukundan, or ``Dr. Dan'' as he was warmly known, was a pioneering force in community medicine in Chicago for nearly 40 years. Dr. Dan held a lifelong commitment to caring for the medically underserved and he believed passionately in providing the highest quality of medical care to all persons regardless of health status or ability to pay.

- Dr. Dan opened his first practice on Chicago's South Side in the 1970s, and in the early 1990s he joined ACCESS Community Health Network where he served as the Medical Director. His drive and enthusiasm for quality community health care attracted other dedicated medical providers into the field and into ACCESS, which is now the largest community health center organization in the nation. With Dr. Dan's support, ACCESS has grown to operating over 50 health centers serving over 215,000 patients annually in the greater Chicago area. Today, ACCESS is regarded as a national leader in providing quality primary and preventive medicine to uninsured and underinsured patients. Dr. Dan's work was essential to enabling ACCESS to build a unique community health infrastructure in the Chicagoland area, an infrastructure leveraged through partnerships to provide patients access to the specialty, diagnostic and inpatient services they require. In addition, he expanded the scope of ACCESS's program to include mental health and social services.

- On Saturday, April 25, family, friends, colleagues and patients of Dr. Dan will gather to remember his life and his accomplishments. I extend my heartfelt condolences to Dr. Mukundan's family and to those who will gather in his memory, including Donna Thompson, Linda Shapiro and other members of the ACCESS leadership team.

Dr. Mukundan's work had an indelible impact on the fabric of health care in Chicago's underserved communities and today I rise to recognize, and to direct my colleague's attention to, this great Chicagoan.