

## Statement on Senator G. Kent Conrad's Decision Not To Seek Reelection *January 18, 2011*

For more than 20 years, Kent Conrad has been a tireless advocate for the people of North Dakota. During that time, he has shown an unmatched dedication to putting our country on a sound fiscal path and a commitment to meeting our Nation's energy challenges. He has also been a good friend to me,

and while I am saddened to see him leave the Senate, I look forward to working with him during the next 2 years on the important issues facing our country. Michelle and I thank Senator Conrad for his leadership and service and wish him and his family all the best in their future endeavors.

## Statement on the Death of R. Sargent Shriver, Jr. *January 18, 2011*

I was deeply saddened to learn about the passing of Sargent Shriver, one of the brightest lights of the greatest generation. Over the course of his long and distinguished career, Sarge came to embody the idea of public service. Of his many enduring contributions, he will perhaps best be remembered as the founding Director of the Peace Corps, helping make it possible for generations of Americans to serve as ambassadors of good will abroad. His loss will be felt in all of the communities

around the world that have been touched by Peace Corps volunteers over the past half century and all of the lives that have been made better by his efforts to address inequality and injustice here at home. My thoughts and prayers are with Robert, Maria, Tim, Mark, and Anthony, and the entire Shriver family during this sad time.

NOTE: The statement referred to the children of R. Sargent Shriver, Jr.

## Statement on the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act *January 18, 2011*

Today, the American people have greater health security than they did a year ago. Because of the Affordable Care Act, Americans no longer have to live in fear that insurance companies will drop or cap their coverage if they get sick or that they'll face double-digit premium increases with no accountability or recourse. Small businesses across the country can take advantage of a new health care tax credit to offer coverage to their employees, and children suffering from an illness or preexisting condition can no longer be denied coverage. Parents now can add their adult children up to age 26 to their health plans, and all Americans on new plans can access preventive care to keep them healthy with no additional

out-of-pocket costs. Older Americans are seeing better benefits, lower prescription drug costs, and a stronger Medicare. And the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office reports that improvements in health care delivery system as a result of this law will reduce Federal deficits by over a trillion dollars in the next two decades.

So I'm willing and eager to work with both Democrats and Republicans to improve the Affordable Care Act, but we can't go backward. Americans deserve the freedom and security of knowing that insurance companies can't deny, cap, or drop their coverage when they need it the most, while taking meaningful steps to curb runaway health care costs.