

wearing a bulletproof vest. His testimony left no doubt that this is an issue of life and death.

Just this week we were reminded again of the importance of bulletproof vests for law enforcement officers. A police officer in Alexandria, VA, Kyle Russell was shot in the chest during a traffic stop. According to Chief David Baker of the Alexandria Police, Officer Russell's vest saved his life. What was a very tragic situation was prevented from being made worse due to Officer Russell's bulletproof vest. This event, in a city close to the Nation's Capitol, should be another reminder to Members of Congress about why this program is so important. Where Congress can help State and local jurisdictions equip their officers, there should be no hesitation to do so.

I regret that due to objections we were not able to include with the reauthorization a waiver system for those jurisdictions that have suffered a natural disaster or severe budget shortfalls. The waiver would have given those jurisdictions a way to keep their officers protected, regardless of whether they can meet the law's matching requirement. The waiver legislation also would provide authority to the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance at the Justice Department to waive the grant program's matching requirement in cases of fiscal hardship. If a jurisdiction cannot meet this requirement, it is unlikely it can afford to purchase vests on its own. I hope the next Congress will be allowed to consider these important provisions. I do not wish to return to the days when law enforcement officers were required to purchase their own vests, or simply go without. With tighter budgets and a troubled economy, it makes sense to give the Bureau of Justice Assistance the authority and the flexibility to ensure that no jurisdiction is excluded from such critical assistance simply because it can't afford to meet the matching requirements.

We know that body armor saves lives, but the cost has put these vests out of the reach of many of the officers who need them. This program makes it more affordable for police departments of all sizes. Few things mean more to me than when I meet Vermont police officers and they tell me that the protective vests they wear were made possible because of this program. This is the least we should do for the officers on the front lines who put themselves in danger for us every day. I want to make sure that every police officer who needs a bulletproof vest gets one.

We do not thank our Nation's law enforcement officers enough for the sacrifices they make in order to protect all of us. But the actions the Senate has taken today in passing this legislation is a strong step forward in demonstrating Congress' commitment to supporting the men and women who serve us so well. I hope the President will quickly sign this reauthorization into law.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6045) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PROVIDING FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ELECTRONIC RECEIPT OF PAYMENT STUBS

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 1073, H.R. 6073.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6073) to provide that Federal employees receiving their pay by electronic funds transfer shall be given the option of receiving their pay stubs electronically.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6073) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AUTHORIZING FUNDING TO CONDUCT A NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR STATE AND LOCAL PROSECUTORS

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6083 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6083) to authorize funding to conduct a national training program for State and local prosecutors.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6083) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RYAN HAIGHT ONLINE PHARMACY CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2008

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6353, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6353) to amend the Controlled Substances Act to address online pharmacies.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate will pass the Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act, H.R. 6353—an important bipartisan bill that will create new tools for Federal law enforcement to prosecute those who bill illegally sell drugs online, and allow State authorities to shut down rogue online pharmacies even before they get started.

Earlier this week, the House of Representatives passed this important legislation. Earlier this year, the Senate passed a version of this bill, and I am glad that today it has once again given its unanimous support to this bill. I hope that the President will promptly sign this measure into law.

Senator FEINSTEIN has been a leader on this issue, and she and others have shown a strong commitment to combating illicit drug trafficking by online predators. I also thank Representative STUPAK and all of those who worked on this bill in the House. Through their hard work and diligent efforts, we have a strong bipartisan bill that includes important modifications and clarifications that will protect our children, and grandchildren, from purchasing illegal dangerous drugs online. I hope this bill will help reduce the prevalence of rogue online pharmacies in our society.

We are a nation in the midst of a technological revolution. In the digital age, the Internet has provided Americans with better access to convenient and more affordable medicine. Unfortunately, the prevalence of rogue online pharmacies has also made the Internet an increasing source for the sale of dangerous controlled substances without a licensed medical practitioner's valid prescription. Online drug traffickers have used evolving tactics to evade detection by law enforcement and circumvent the proper constraints of doctors and pharmacists.

Last year, the Judiciary Committee held a hearing on this issue. We heard compelling testimony from Francine Haight, a mother whose teenage son died from an overdose of painkillers he purchased online from a rogue pharmacy. We also heard from Joseph Califano, the former Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Both strongly supported legislation to fill a gap in existing law and help protect young people from illicit drugs online.

Following our hearing, the Internet Drug Advisory Committee held a briefing for the Judiciary Committee on this matter. We heard from various members of the Internet community on how the private sector may effectively collaborate with the public sector to combat the sales of dangerous drugs online. These private sector groups will be vital in that effort, and we were happy to receive the benefit of their insights.

I understand full well the growing danger that illegitimate online pharmacies pose to youth. As the longtime cochair of the Congressional Internet Caucus, I know that the Internet offers tremendous benefits, but I also understand that dangerous and addictive drugs are often only a click away. As a former State's Attorney in Vermont, I will never forget how much successful prosecutions depend on whether the investigators and lawyers charged with protecting the public from crime have the right tools to do so. That is why we are in urgent need of this bill. No matter how dedicated we are to solving a problem, if the laws are not clearly and sensibly drafted, no justice will be done.

This legislation does many important things. First, the bill requires the Drug Enforcement Administration report to Congress on recommendations to combat the online sale of controlled substances from foreign countries via the Internet and on ways that the private sector can assist in this effort. A key ingredient in diminishing the impact of rogue Web sites on American citizens is combating the international aspect of this problem, and strengthening the public-private sector collaboration can help provide a solution.

Second, the legislation narrows the U.S. Sentencing Commission directive to ensure that the most dangerous prescription drugs abused online are treated more severely than less harmful prescription drugs. This addition will ensure that the Commission has clear guidance to issue the guidelines necessary to hold those individuals who peddle dangerous prescription drugs to minors online accountable.

Third, the bill protects legitimate retail drug chains with online Web sites for customers seeking refills on prescriptions, by exempting them from the bill's requirements. This ensures that the bill does not target legitimate pharmacies that provide Vermonters and other Americans with access to needed medicines, nor does it burden legitimate pharmacies with additional registration and reporting requirements.

I believe this legislation will be even better with these changes. I am confident that this legislation will strengthen our Nation's ability to effectively combat online drug trafficking. It also furthers the goals of drug enforcement and deterrence, while also providing Congress with additional oversight tools.

The administration supports this bill—and that is the right thing to do.

I know that our hard working men and women at the Drug Enforcement Agency need the added tools this bill will offer to assist their efforts to combat rogue online pharmacies. Even more, our children and grandchildren need the safety and security of operating online free from drug dealers seeking to trick them into purchasing dangerous controlled substances.

I urge the President to promptly sign this bill into law.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues for supporting the Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act.

This is the House companion legislation to the Senate bill that I originally introduced, with Senator SESSIONS, to protect the safety of consumers who wish to fill legitimate prescriptions for controlled substances over the Internet, while holding accountable those who operate unregistered pharmacies.

Today, Congress took the first important step in stemming the tide of online drug trafficking. Perhaps more importantly, Congress took the first steps toward ensuring that children and teens no longer overdose, or worse die, after purchasing controlled substances without a prescription from rogue Internet pharmacies.

This bill will do the following:

Bar the sale or distribution of all controlled substances over the Internet without a valid prescription;

Require online pharmacies to display on their Web site a statement of compliance with U.S. law and DEA regulations—allowing consumers to know which pharmacies are safe and which are not;

Clarify that rogue pharmacies that sell drugs over the Internet will face the same penalties as people who illegally sell the same drugs on the street;

Increase the Federal penalties for illegally distributing controlled substances;

And create a new Federal cause of action that would allow a State attorney general to shut down a rogue Web site selling controlled substances.

In addition, I would like to clarify that the Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act of 2008 regulates practices related to the delivery, distribution, or dispensing of a controlled substance by means of the Internet. The act does not address the delivery, distribution, or dispensing of any noncontrolled substance by the Internet or any other means.

This bill does not infringe upon the powers of the Department of Health and Human Services and its Secretary with respect to noncontrolled substances. Nor does it infringe upon the traditional power of the States to regulate the practices of medicine and pharmacy with respect to the prescription of noncontrolled substances.

Delivery, distribution, or dispensing of noncontrolled substances, approved by the Secretary of Health and Human Services or the regulatory bodies of the States, are not affected by the act. The

Senate Committee report reflects Congress's intent related to this issue and is applicable to H.R. 6353.

In closing, I wish to share the story of this bill's namesake, Ryan T. Haight. Ryan was an 18-year-old honor student from La Mesa, CA, when he died in his home on February 12, 2001. His parents found a bottle of Vicodin in his room with a label from an out-of-State pharmacy.

It turns out that Ryan had been ordering addictive drugs online and paying with a debit card his parents gave him to buy baseball cards on eBay.

Without a physical exam or his parents' consent, Ryan had been obtaining controlled substances, some from an Internet site in Oklahoma. It only took a few months before Ryan's life was ended by an overdose on a cocktail of painkillers.

Ryan's story is just one of many. Rogue Internet pharmacies are making it increasingly easy for teens such as Ryan to access deadly prescription drugs. This bill is the first step against that terrible tide. It creates sensible requirements for Internet pharmacy Web sites that will not impact access to convenient, oftentimes cost-saving drugs.

I thank my House and Senate colleagues for passing this important bill. I also specifically thank Representatives BART STUPAK, LAMAR SMITH, JOHN CONYERS, MARY BONO MACK, and JOHN DINGELL, and Senators SESSIONS and LEAHY for their hard work and leadership in securing the passage of this bill.

I urge the President to sign this important legislation.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements relating to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6353) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AUTHORIZING CERTAIN ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO PARCELS OF REAL PROPERTY

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6524, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill H.R. (6524) to authorize the Administrator of General Services to take certain actions with respect to parcels of real property located in Eastlake, Ohio, and Koochiching County, Minnesota, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the