

The other thing we have to do, in my view, is to get rid of this tax on the middle class by taxing health care benefits. Mr. President, you will recall that a year ago we were in a highly controversial and difficult Presidential campaign. One candidate, who happened to have lost that election—a Member of the Senate, Senator McCAIN—came up with a plan that was exactly—or very close to it—to what we are talking about today. Then-Senator Barack Obama, who won that election, came up with a different plan, because he said that wasn't a good idea. Well, how do you think millions of American workers are going to feel when they say: Wait a second, the guy who won told me he was against taxing health care plans, and now we are adopting the program of the guy who lost. How do the American people who voted in that election have faith in their elected officials if we do exactly what we said we would not do?

So I believe we have to move toward a progressive way of funding this health care plan. As I stand here right now, this plan has a lot of good stuff in it, but there are a lot of problems in it. I very much look forward to the opportunity to be able to offer a number of amendments to strengthen this bill. It is very important to the people of Vermont and to people all over this country that not only I but the Presiding Officer and other Members have a right to offer amendments. Because if this bill gets whizzed right through, and is not as strong as it possibly can be, I think we will not have done the job we need to do.

Mr. President, with that, I yield the floor.

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, as chairman of the Special Committee on Aging, the plight of vulnerable seniors is a subject of great concern to me. The committee is charged with uncovering problems that endanger the health and welfare of older adults and developing policy to prevent seniors from becoming victims of fraudulent scams and abuse.

During this Congress, I have been fortunate to be joined by my colleagues, Senators LINCOLN and HATCH and STABENOW, in advancing policy to reduce elder abuse. The Senate health care reform bill now includes both the Elder Justice Act and the Patient Safety and Abuse Prevention Act, and we will do our utmost to see that they become law.

Today I am pleased to continue the effort to protect America's vulnerable seniors by introducing an amendment that combines two very valuable bills, the Elder Abuse Victims Act and the National Silver Alert Act. Both have been passed by the House of Representatives.

Elder abuse is a sad scourge on our society, often hidden from sight by the victims themselves. Even so, experts conservatively estimate that as many as 2 million Americans age 65 and older have been injured, exploited or other-

wise mistreated by someone on whom they depend for care or protection.

As Federal policymakers, it is time that we step forward and tackle this challenge with dedicated efforts and more vigorous programs that will make fighting elder abuse as high a priority as ongoing efforts to counter child abuse.

It is in this spirit that I am offering an amendment to give the Department of Justice a roadmap for how to establish programs to bolster the frontline responses of state and local prosecutors, aid victims, and build a robust infrastructure for identifying and addressing elder abuse far more effectively than we do today.

We need to provide assistance to our courts, which would benefit from having access to designated staff that boast particular expertise in elder abuse. Specialized protocols may be required where victims are unable to testify on their own behalf, due to cognitive impairments or poor physical health. And there is a great need for specialized knowledge to support successful prosecutions and enhance the development of case law. Today, many state elder abuse statutes lack adequate provisions to encourage wide reporting of abuse and exploitation, more thorough investigations and greater prosecution of abuse cases.

For the victims of elder abuse, many of whom are physically frail and very frightened, we must do much more. First and foremost, we must be more responsive. Not too long ago, it was difficult to even get an abuse case investigated. While that is starting to change, we have much work ahead. For example, sometimes emergency interventions are necessary, particularly if the older person is being harmed at the hands of family members or trusted "friends." It may be necessary to remove the older adult from his or her home to a temporary safe haven. To do this, we must build a much more robust system of support.

And there is more we must do to assist vulnerable seniors who may not be abused, but who are nonetheless vulnerable because they suffer from cognitive impairment. As the prevalence of dementia rises in our aging society, we have a special responsibility to ensure that those who "go missing" from home are returned promptly and safely. This is the purpose of the second part of the amendment, which proposes to create a national program to coordinate State Silver Alert systems.

The Amber Alert system, on which the Silver Alert Act is modeled, was created as a Federal program to rapidly filter reported information on missing children and transmit relevant details to law enforcement authorities and the public as quickly as possible. Using the same infrastructure as Amber Alerts, 11 States have already responded to the problem of missing seniors by establishing Silver Alert systems at very little additional cost. These programs have created public no-

tification systems triggered by the report of a missing senior. Postings on highways, radio, television, and other forms of media broadcast information about the missing senior to assist in locating and returning the senior safely home. Now we have an opportunity to finish the job and create Silver Alert programs across the country.

Both of the provisions in this amendment are strongly supported by the Elder Justice Coalition. I ask my colleagues to support this amendment, and by doing so to markedly reduce the risk of harm to our most vulnerable citizens.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, it appears I am going to be closing tonight.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont is recognized.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO VIDA CHAN LIN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Vida Chan Lin. The Las Vegas Asian Chamber of Commerce recently named Vida Chan Lin as their first female president. For many years, Lin has been an advocate for Nevada's Asian Pacific Islander American, APIA, community. Her early exposure to the complexities of business and the APIA community has cultivated the passion and talent necessary for success.

Vida Chan Lin moved to Las Vegas in 1994 and began developing her career as an insurance sales representative. Within a few years, Lin pursued her entrepreneurial interests and launched an insurance agency named V&J Insurance. The company was committed to providing outstanding service and education to Asian and minority communities in Nevada. Vida Chan Lin's success continued when she was named vice president after a merger between V&J Insurance and Western Risk Insurance.

Vida Chan Lin's continued involvement and dedication with supporting local community and business organizations resulted in a significant partnership that benefits families and businesses across Nevada. Lin has also advanced local business endeavors through her work with the Asian Chamber of Commerce, ACC, and the OCA Las Vegas Chapter. During her tenure in ACC, she helped develop annual events such as the Chinese New Year Community Achievement Awards Dinner, Bill Endow Golf Tournament, and Asian Business Night. Her help with the OCA Las Vegas Chapter resulted in two national events to be held in Las Vegas for the first time—the

OCA National Convention and the National Asian Pacific American Corporate Achievement Awards.

Being a leader in the Asian Pacific Islander American community has provided Vida Chan Lin an opportunity to affect younger generations. Her positive attitude and passion for APIA issues brought forth an inspiration within our youth to provide for their communities. Lin promotes and ensures that the voice of APIA youth is heard. She continues to dedicate time for students involved in the OCA Las Vegas Chapter and ACC by engaging them in entrepreneurial development opportunities such as the Clark County Summer Business Institute.

As she continues to advance her career and charitable interests, Vida continues to give great care to her family. Las Vegas is better as a place because of dedicated people like Vida Chan Lin. Vida's dynamic ambition reminds me of a quote from one of this country's greatest Presidents. Teddy Roosevelt once said:

The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; because there is not effort without error and shortcomings; but who actually strives to do the deed; who knows the great enthusiasm, the great devotion, who spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement and who at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly. So that his place shall never be with those cold timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

Vida is not a timid soul. She strives for success with her family, career, and community.

I know that Vida Chan Lin and the Las Vegas Asian Chamber of Commerce have a bright and blessed future. I congratulate Vida on being the first woman to lead the Asian Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce.

REMEMBERING ALBERT E. DIX

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, all of the Commonwealth of Kentucky has suffered a great loss with the recent death of Albert E. Dix. A fourth-generation journalist, Al Dix moved to Frankfort, Kentucky's State capital, to become publisher of *The State Journal* in 1962, a post he would keep until his retirement in 1996. Known for being a mentor to aspiring journalists, Al Dix helped train scores of individuals who went on to work at papers with much larger circulations. But he was more than just one of Kentucky's finest journalists. As one of his former press foremen put it, "He treated all employees really well, just like they were his family. He was a really good person all around."

Indeed, Al Dix leaves behind a legacy as not only a superb publisher but as a pillar of his community. While I could say much more about my friend Al Dix, I think it appropriate for me to share with my colleagues a recent account of

Al's life, which was published by *The State Journal* on December 3, 2009. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the State-Journal, Dec. 2, 2009]
FORMER PUBLISHER AL DIX REMEMBERED AS
CARING LEADER

(By Charlie Pearl)

Journalists, bankers, politicians, educators and others today paid tribute to Al Dix as a sensitive and caring publisher who was dedicated to improving the community but kept his good works private.

Dix died at his home in Frankfort Tuesday morning of pancreatic cancer. He was 80. Services will be 2 p.m. Friday at South Frankfort Presbyterian Church with visitation at noon. Burial will follow at Frankfort Cemetery.

Richard Wilson, who retired from The (Louisville) Courier-Journal as its higher education reporter, got his first job in newspapers with *The State Journal* under Dix in 1963 and 1964.

"That helped me immensely during a nearly 40-year career in journalism," Wilson said. "Much of the reason for that was Al, who was unquestionably a reporter's publisher. He was encouraging, respected quality work and openly shared his enthusiasm for its appearance in the newspaper."

"While he may have held strong views on many subjects, he never permitted them to permeate *The State Journal's* news columns and he respected those who believed otherwise. He also frequently took a personal interest in his employees and their well-being, both professionally and personally."

Bruce Brooks, retired executive vice president at Farmers Bank, said he always considered Dix "a dear friend. He was a little bit of a mentor to me."

"He was always willing to be a listening board for any situation. He was free with his advice and usually it was pretty sound and analytical."

Brooks said Dix was master of ceremonies at various functions, "and was really, really skilled at it. And he always had an open checkbook for a worthy cause. He would walk the walk and talk the talk."

Former City Commissioner Pat Layton said Dix encouraged her to start her real estate career.

"He had a lot of insight of what was going on in the community," Layton said. "It wasn't because he was publisher of a newspaper but because he really loved his community."

"He was truly a leader. But a lot of people didn't know about the many things he did for Frankfort because he was very private about it. He was a silent supporter. When there was a need, he was there and stepped right up front. He was a special guy."

State Sen. Julian Carroll, who was governor while Dix was publisher, said, "Al was a great community-minded leader. Although he was a Republican and I'm a Democrat, he was always very nice and cordial to me. I considered him to be one of our outstanding citizens."

Bob Roach, a retired school teacher and former city commissioner and county judge-executive, said Dix "was certainly interested in young people and education, and he believed in excellence. He was a prince of a fellow."

While teaching at Franklin County High School, Roach said he took groups of students to Washington, D.C., for 25 years to participate in a North American Invitational Model United Nations program, "and we could always count on him for a donation."

By sponsoring an annual State Journal All-Academic Banquet, Dix encouraged students to excel in the classroom, Roach said, "and he encouraged teachers by recognizing them as well."

Dix could also be a confidant, Roach said.

"You could go talk to him about an issue and you knew it would always be in confidence," Roach said. "And I knew his advice would be on target."

Attorney Bill Kirkland, a former Paul Sawyier Public Library president, said Dix was on a special gifts committee during fundraising for the new library and he came faithfully to every meeting.

"He had numerous contacts in the community and personally added immeasurably to the quality of the library through the gifts he solicited."

"He was a person of intellect, humor, good personality and good judgment. There was never a kinder soul and more generous person in the community."

Kirkland said their friendship spanned four decades.

"About 40 years ago, we played one-wall handball at the old YMCA on Bridge Street. I knew him first through his connection with South Frankfort Presbyterian Church, and through a few Republican endeavors. He certainly was a conservative after my own heart."

"He had extraordinary compassion and was interested in literacy, education, good government and ethical behavior."

Bruce Dungan, retired president of Farmers Capital Bank Corporation, said when Dix first came to Frankfort from Ohio, "I could tell he was here to be a friend of Frankfort. He was very thoughtful of people."

"He was here to help people, charities, government and his church. He worked so hard at charities. He would call me and say what I had given last year, and then say, 'Don't you think you ought to raise it a little this time?'

"If it hadn't been for Al, the YMCA (on Broadway) may never have happened. He kept pushing everybody. He did whatever he could to improve Frankfort. He was one of the greatest guys in Frankfort that I know of. We're going to miss him. I sure will."

Irvine Gershman, a retired downtown merchant, said Dix "coming here from Ohio was probably one of the best things to happen to Frankfort. He was always willing to do things for other people."

"He and his family have contributed so much to this community. When I would call on him for a little help (to various charities), he would just say, 'How much do you need?'"

Gershman's wife, Priscilla, said Dix "was a precious jewel. He will be sorely missed by everyone."

Russ McClure, a former vice president of Morehead State University, said he was "under the gun a lot of times" while serving as Finance Cabinet secretary to Carroll and assistant budget director to Bert Combs when they were governors.

"One thing I could always count on was Al being straight up and fair," McClure said. "He was always straightforward with his questions and always accurate in his reporting of my answers and the facts."

The Rev. John Hunt, retired pastor of South Frankfort Presbyterian Church, said he has fond memories of getting to cover one of the launches of the Gemini space program in the early 1960s for *The State Journal* because of Dix.

"He knew of my interest in science and he credentialled me," Hunt recalled.

When Hunt got to Cape Canaveral, bad weather caused the flight to be postponed, so he figured he would have to miss the experience because he would need to get back to Frankfort for Sunday church services.