

what their budget will be for the current year and for the year to come. The 6 million veterans who are projected to seek VA care will not have to worry about whether their local VA clinic will have to go months without a proper budget, as they did in the past.

We now turn to the important task of overseeing the implementation of the new law and standing by should VA or the Administration ask for appropriate funding. We are currently working on the first budget with advance appropriations under the new authority, and I have been pleased with what has been a smooth transition.

At this point last year, many other veterans' initiatives were pending—for veterans in rural areas, for the caregivers of wounded warriors, and for women veterans—to name a few. All of these proposals, along with others, were wrapped into one important package—the Caregivers and Veterans Omnibus Health Services Act. While this was a bipartisan bill from the beginning, its passage was far from assured. Isolated Members of Congress sought to block the bill at several stages, citing fears of cost and change. Resolute that it would be change for the better and that its cost is, in fact, a cost of war, the supporters of this bill prevailed last month when President Obama's signature made it law.

This new law's many provisions were reviewed by this body before we voted for them, so I will not again go into all of the details. Instead, I will highlight just a few of the changes in the new law:

For the families caring for wounded warriors, it brings an unprecedented permanent program to train, certify, and financially support them. With this important change, VA recognizes that the families of disabled veterans should be treated as partners, not ignored.

For a growing number of women veterans who served our Nation honorably, it brings changes to help VA adapt to their needs. These include an authorization for VA to provide health care for a woman veteran's newborn child for up to one week; a mandate for VA to implement a pilot program to provide child care and adjustment care to women veterans; and a requirement that VA train mental health providers to treat military sexual trauma.

For veterans in rural areas, the new law brings programs and reforms to break down barriers between them and the care they deserve. To name a few, these include travel reimbursements for veterans treated at VA facilities; grants for veterans service organization transporting veterans from remote areas; an expansion of telehealth options for veterans; and provisions promoting collaboration with community organizations and providers such as the Indian Health Services.

The bill makes other important changes, from eliminating copayments for catastrophically disabled veterans to strengthening VA's ability to re-

cruit and retain first-class health care professionals. These valuable changes and others are now law, thanks to the support of Congress and the President.

As I noted at the outset, these measures, which demonstrate Congress's gratitude to our troops abroad and veterans at home, are the best way we can honor those who gave their lives in service to their country. While much remains to be done, as we pause this Memorial Day, we can recall the significant changes over the past year.

I close by expressing once more my gratitude to the patriots who are with us in the flesh and in spirit, and to the nation and the national ideals that unite us all.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, as you are aware, on Memorial Day citizens across our great country pause to reflect on our fallen heroes. American hearts swell with pride as men and women everywhere stand just a little bit taller when hearing our National Anthem, and they feel a lump in their throat at the sound of a bugle playing taps. We stand proud and remember our Nation's sons and daughters who no longer stand with us but whose names and memories remain forever preserved in our hearts. On Memorial Day, our Nation weighs and respects the price of our freedom.

We can and we should learn from those Americans who went to war but never returned home. For them, service meant accepting the risk that they might not have a chance to enjoy the freedom their service protects. They selflessly chose to serve anyway. For the fallen, honor meant the privilege of wearing a U.S. military uniform and a chance to earn the respect that it garners around the world despite the risk that it might make them a target for those who mean us harm. For them, selflessness meant answering a call for help from a fellow soldier, without hesitation, even if chances were high that it would be their final act.

These timeless qualities of service, honor, respect, and selflessness form the bedrock of military service in a free society. On Memorial Day, we commemorate those who lived according to these principles so that we might assemble in this Chamber and across the land as free people, safe under the umbrella of protection that their brothers and sisters continue to provide around the world today.

It is appropriate that on Memorial Day, we should set aside our differences and unite as Americans—a unified nation with one common voice to honor our fallen. Let us celebrate that we are a free nation, a proud nation, a nation guided by principles and universal truths. And although we may disagree on many things, we do so peacefully and lawfully. Even in tough times such as these, we remain a beacon of light around the world for those who can only imagine a life of freedom as they struggle to survive under the grip of tyranny and oppression. Today we remember the men and women who

kept that beacon lit and consider the gravity of their sacrifice.

As a nation, we must also remember that with every fallen soldier there is a family left behind. We should appreciate with compassion and respect their enduring sacrifice and provide for them the support and gratitude they deserve. Ours is a grateful nation.

Often quoted is our Declaration of Independence that proclaims "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." It is those who have answered that call to service who ensured that our gift of liberty is not only unalienable, it is also enduring.

#### REMEMBERING DR. GEORGE TILLER

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, 1 year ago this week, Dr. George Tiller, a provider of critical reproductive health services, was shot to death while at church in Wichita, KS. The anniversary of his death serves as a solemn reminder of the violence that reproductive health professionals face today.

Unfortunately, like so many of his colleagues who treat women across this country, Dr. Tiller faced years of constant harassment, intimidation and death threats. These acts of violence eventually culminated in his murder.

We know, however, that Dr. Tiller's murder is not an isolated incident. A pattern of intimidation, threats and violence against reproductive health providers exists in this country and must end.

Since 1993, eight clinic workers have been murdered in the United States. During that time period there have been thousands of reported acts of violence against providers of reproductive health care including bombings, arson, death threats, kidnappings and assaults. As the Tiller murder demonstrates, we simply cannot tolerate any form of harassment and threats to health care providers and their patients.

I remember clearly 10 years ago tomorrow—May 28, 2000—when the Concord Feminist Health Center in my home State of New Hampshire was the victim of an arson attack. The facility suffered extensive damage, costing tens of thousands of dollars to repair. Thankfully, no one was injured in the attack. It was not merely the cost of the repairs that was so troubling—what was troubling was that this act of hate and intimidation left the community feeling fearful and uncertain. No one should live with that fear and certainly not because they provide critical health care services to women.

I recently heard the story about a reproductive health center director in Colorado who reports that he often wears a bulletproof vest in public. He said: "I walk out of my office and the first thing I do is look at the parking garage that the hospital built two

doors away and see if there is a sniper on the roof. I basically expect to be shot any day. . . . It's a war zone. . . . It's very frightening and it ruins your life''.

Now, I recognize that there is a deep divide on the issue of reproductive freedom. And I recognize that there are many heartfelt feelings on both sides of the aisle and even within my own caucus. But, no matter which side of this debate you are on, we should all be able to agree that violence is never the answer.

So today I urge all my colleagues to join me in condemning the kind of senseless violence that led to the death of Dr. George Tiller.

#### NATIONAL CANCER RESEARCH MONTH

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize May as National Cancer Research Month. This year, nearly 1.5 million Americans will be diagnosed with cancer and more than 500,000 will die from the disease. Of course, when we talk about cancer, we are referring to more than 200 diseases but taken together, cancer remains the leading cause of death for Americans under age 85, and the second leading cause of death overall.

In my capacity as a member of the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, I have spent my career fighting alongside my colleagues to provide increased funding for medical research to ensure that organizations like the National Institutes of Health have the ability to continue their critical lifesaving work. It remains my hope that, as the NIH continues to provide us with new and innovative research and treatments, we will continue to provide them with the resources they need.

As a person directly affected by cancer, I believe we must continue to strengthen our Nation's commitment to this lifesaving research for the health and well-being of all Americans. The nation's investment in cancer research is having a remarkable impact. Discoveries and developments in prevention, early detection, and more effective treatments have helped to find cures for many types of cancers, and have converted others into manageable chronic conditions. The 5-year survival rate for all cancers has improved over the past 30 years to more than 65 per cent, and advances in cancer research have had significant implications for the treatment of other costly diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, Alzheimer's, HIV/AIDS and macular degeneration.

I take this opportunity not only to mention the value and importance of cancer research, but also to remember the people in my life who have been touched by this disease. Last year alone, we lost not only my sister Martha, but my dear friend Ted Kennedy to aggressive forms of cancer. Like many of my constituents whose lives have

been touched by cancer, I think of them every day—and their battles strengthen my resolve to fight for better treatment and more cures.

I want to thank every one of my constituents who have come to my office to meet with my staff and me about this disease. It is no secret that cancer touches the lives of more Americans than those who are just diagnosed with it—friends and family also face the difficulty of supporting their loved ones through these hard times. I know how much time, effort and resources they expend on these trips. Many of them are sick or in recovery, or taking care of very ill loved ones, yet they still find the time to come down and share their stories with us, and I thank them for it. Their stories, anecdotes and struggles give a face to the people all across the country whose lives are touched by this important research, and hearing about them help us to do our jobs better. We could not have gotten health care reform passed without their constant efforts and support.

In commemorating May as National Cancer Research Month, we recognize the importance of cancer research and the invaluable contributions made by scientists and clinicians across the U.S. who are working not only to overcome this devastating disease, but also to prevent it. I lend my support as a father of two girls, as a husband, and as a public servant to supporting those who struggle with this deadly disease and I urge my colleagues to join me and do the same.

#### MILITARY AND OVERSEAS VOTER EMPOWERMENT (MOVE) ACT OF 2009

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, since becoming chairman of the Committee on Rules and Administration with jurisdiction over Federal elections, I have come to have a better appreciation for and deeper understanding of the obstacles and barriers that our military men and women serving abroad and at home and U.S. citizens living in foreign lands encounter when they try to vote.

As I explained at a Rules Committee hearing held in May of 2009, every couple of years around election time, there is a great push to improve military and overseas voting. But as soon as the election is over, Congress all too often forgets the plight of these voters.

But last year, Congress delivered. Our motive was simple—we wanted to break down the barriers to voting for our soldiers, sailors, and citizens living overseas. On a bipartisan basis, we agreed that it was unacceptable that in the age of global communications, many active military, their families, and thousands of other Americans living, working, and volunteering in foreign countries cannot cast a ballot at home while they are serving or living overseas. For our military, what especially moved us to act was the fact that they can fight and put their life

on the line for their country, but they can't choose their next commander-in-chief. This shouldn't happen—not in the United States of America where elections are the bedrock of our democracy.

With the 2010 elections less than 7 months away, a new law is on the books. The provisions of the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act, MOVE Act, of 2009 were incorporated in Public Law 111-84, the National Defense Authorization Act of 2010. This law will make it easier for members of our Armed Forces and citizens living abroad to receive accurate, timely election information and the resources and logistical support to register and vote and have that vote count.

Mr. President, a legislative history of the MOVE Act is as follows:

#### BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THE MOVE ACT

American citizens believe voting is one of the most treasured of our liberties and a right to be defended at any cost. It is therefore unacceptable that our military men and women serving abroad and at home, who put their lives on the line every day to defend this right, often face obstacles in exercising their right to vote.

Empirical evidence confirms that members of the military and citizens living overseas who have attempted to vote through the absentee balloting procedures that has been in place for the last 30 years were often unable to do so. The reasons were many, including insufficient information about military and overseas voting procedures, failure by States to send absentee ballots in time for military and overseas voters to cast them, and endemic bureaucratic obstacles that prevent these voters from having their votes counted. While the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, UOCAVA, enacted in 1986, created a Federal framework for both military and overseas citizens to vote it was clear that, in order to break down these barriers to voting, UOCAVA was in need of an overhaul.

A history of congressional efforts to aid military and overseas voters highlights the obstacles faced by these voters. In 1942, the first Federal law was enacted to help military members vote in Federal elections. The Soldier Voting Act of 1942 was the first law to guarantee Federal voting rights for servicemembers during wartime. It allowed servicemembers to vote in elections for Federal office without having to register and instituted the first iteration of the Federal Post Card Application for servicemembers to request an absentee ballot. Though this was a commendable first effort by Congress, the 1942 law's provisions only applied during a time of war, and barriers to voting remained. In 1951, President Truman commissioned a study from the American Political Science Association on the problem of military voting. Recognizing the difficulties faced by military members serving overseas during World War II and the Korean War in trying to vote, President Truman wrote a letter to Congress that called on our legislators to fix the problem. In response, Congress passed the Federal Voting Assistance Act, FVAA, in 1955 which recommended—but did not guarantee—absentee registration and voting for military members, Federal employees serving abroad, and members of service organizations affiliated with the military. In 1968, FVAA was amended to cover U.S. citizens temporarily living outside of the United States, thus increasing the number and scope of U.S. citizens that fell within the law's purview. In 1975, the Overseas Citizens