

Since 1977, Maryland hospitals have been paid on the basis of the rates established by the HSCRC, ensuring that Maryland's health costs are kept low, and that its health system is tailored to the needs of its citizens. Under Hal's leadership, the State of Maryland has saved over \$47 billion since 1976. The HSCRC has been essential in ensuring that each hospital in Maryland provides comprehensive care that includes assistance for the underinsured, as well as incorporating teaching and research programs into the structure of the hospital center.

As Executive Director of the HSCRC, Dr. Cohen ushered the organization through its first 15 years. He worked to ensure that the agency would work well with Maryland hospitals, the Maryland State Legislature, and most importantly, for Maryland's citizens in a transparent and accountable fashion. The independent nature of the HSCRC allows the agency the ability to advocate for and support a legislative agenda, and Dr. Cohen used this ability over the length of his career to fight for fair and sustainable pricing structures that support hospitals and patients.

The system set up by the HSCRC was so well-conceived that it has succeeded for nearly 35 years. All-payer rate setting is now being discussed by many leading health economists as an effective way to control the unsustainable growth in health care costs.

Dr. Cohen's base of knowledge has been widely sought. He has served on three Federal committees, and he was a founding appointee to the Prospective Payment Assessment Commission—ProPAC. He has also served as a member of the National Committee on Rural Health, the National Committee of Vital and Health Statistics, and he served as Commissioner of the Maryland Health Care Access and Cost Commission from 1993 to 1998. As Commissioner, he played a key role in improving quality and expanding health care access, by initiating HMO report cards to evaluate quality and establishing a small group market system to make insurance more affordable for small businesses.

In 1985, 2 years before he would step down as the Executive Director of HSCRC, he founded Hal Cohen, Inc., a health care consulting firm located in Baltimore, MD to offer consulting services in the areas of hospital financing and public policy. He has served clients from every corner of the industry and all over the country, from the Federal Government to private insurers, from HMOs to self-insured companies.

In addition to his significant and long-lasting professional impact, Dr. Hal Cohen is known throughout Baltimore as a loving husband and father. Hal and his wife, Jo, have been married for more than 50 years, and their family has grown to include their children—Robb, Gail, David, Heather, and Amy—and their five grandchildren—Lizzie, Alex, Max, Zhi, and Olive.

Dr. Cohen's extensive work will continue to make Maryland a better place

to live. His essential leadership was crucial in building the HSCRC as a force for fairness in health care pricing and for expanding patient access to health care. I thank him for his long service, and I congratulate him on his many years of putting the people of Maryland first—he is a public servant of the highest caliber, and I am proud to call him my trusted advisor and dear friend.●

#### TRIBUTE TO NANCY BERGMANN

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, my colleague Senator JIM RISCH joins me today in recognizing Nancy Bergmann's retirement after 26 years of dedicated and effective service.

For the past 18 years, Nancy has represented the Idaho National Laboratory, INL, in promoting economic development, expanding technology business sectors and creating understanding about the nuclear and energy missions at INL. Nancy is a well-known and endearing figure in Idaho's high-technology business community. During her career, she has made a significant impact in helping small businesses, nurturing entrepreneurs, and aiding communities in increasing their technology business base. Previously, she initiated Idaho's Hispanic Youth Symposium while managing INL's diversity program in human resources, which also was recognized by President George H.W. Bush for excellence. With more than 30 years of involvement in serving United Way and community service, Nancy also has been appointed to more than 25 boards and commissions, including the Idaho Rural Partnership, Idaho TechConnect, and many more.

Nancy has also been instrumental in organizing regional economic development offices throughout Idaho. In addition to serving on the National United Way Board of America, Nancy has been named INL's Woman of the Year, Idaho's Business Woman of the Year, and 2008 Idaho Business Review Woman of the Year. On November 18, 2011, the Southern Idaho Economic Development Organization honored Nancy for a decade of support by establishing the Nancy Bergmann/INL Math & Science Scholarship, managed by the College of Southern Idaho Foundation.

We wish Nancy an enjoyable retirement and a wonderful time with her family, including five granddaughters. We hope that retirement will provide Nancy with more opportunities to enjoy Idaho's magnificent sunsets. Congratulations to Nancy for achieving this milestone, and thank you, Nancy, for your outstanding service to Idaho communities.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE CHILDREN'S HOME SOCIETY

● Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise to give a voice to the countless children in need of good homes all across this country and to recognize an orga-

nization in my State that helps provide these children with a safe environment and a nurturing family.

The Children's Home Society has served West Virginia for 115 years. This organization has 12 locations all across our State that work to meet one critical mission: finding homes for children who don't have a loving place to live.

I have always said the best investment we can make in our country is an investment in the next generation, and that starts with making sure each of our children has a place to call home. That is why the work of the Children's Home Society is so important.

More than 400 children in my home State of West Virginia are currently living in a foster home. For many of them, it is the first time they have received a safe place to live and loving care. The Children's Home Society has worked tirelessly on their behalf. Their programs range from emergency shelters to foster and adoption services and mentoring. The organization exists to help care for, protect, and nurture children, as well as strengthen and protect families.

The Children's Home Society has also worked vigorously to build awareness throughout our State. This fall the organization hosted the Footsteps for Foster Kids Festival, an event created to illustrate the need for foster families in West Virginia and recruit families who can provide loving homes for children. All day long, children and families had opportunities to participate in various activities at the festival, including paddle boat races and fishing competitions. More than 400 people attended, and the Children's Home Society was able to reach out to new families interested in opening their homes to children in need.

In fact, the idea for the Footsteps for Foster Kids Festival first came from our young people, when 10 area youth called the Band Together Organization worked with the Children's Home Society to make the day a true success. They are an inspiring group, and we are all proud of their efforts and service to the community.

I would like to congratulate the Children's Home Society for their legacy of impressive and meaningful work and thank the Band Together Organization for the commitment they have demonstrated to improving the lives of children. Your example serves our State and our Nation well.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

##### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:12 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2192. An act to exempt for an additional 4-year period, from the application of the means-test presumption of abuse under chapter 7, qualifying members of reserve components of the Armed Forces and members of the National Guard who, after September 11, 2001, are called to active duty or

to perform a homeland defense activity for not less than 90 days.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. INOUE).

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1944. A bill to create jobs by providing payroll tax relief for middle class families and businesses, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4186. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Daniel J. Darnell, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4187. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4188. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting the report of (9) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of major general, in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4189. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions involving U.S. exports to Saudi Arabia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4190. A communication from the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, FY 2012 (P.L. 112-55); to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-4191. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Fluorescent Lamp Ballasts" (RIN1904-AB50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4192. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Direct Heating Equipment" (RIN1904-AC56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4193. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Bidding by Affiliates in Open Seasons for Pipeline Capacity" (RIN1902-AE39) received in the Office of

the President of the Senate on December 1, 2011; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4194. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "U.S. Department of Energy Fiscal Year 2010 Methane Hydrate Program Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4195. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; South Carolina; Negative Declarations for Applicability of Groups I, II, III and IV Control Techniques Guidelines; and Applicability of Reasonably Available Control Technology for the Portion of York County, South Carolina within Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill, North Carolina-South Carolina 1997 8-Hour Ozone Non-attainment Area" (FRL No. 9495-7) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 22, 2011; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4196. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Treasury Inflation-Protected Securities Issued at a Premium" ((RIN1545-BK46) (TD 9561)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4197. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2011 Base Period T-Bill Rate" (Rev. Rul. 2011-30) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2011; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4198. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2011 report (covering trade in calendar year 2010) relative to the impact of the Andean Trade Preference Act on U.S. trade and employment; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4199. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the implementation of the Danger Pay Allowance for Damascus, Syria; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4200. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed amendment to a manufacturing license agreement to include the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services for the manufacture and sales of Weapon Mount Component for a Stabilized Remotely Operated Weapons System (SRWS) Gimbal components in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4201. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the status of the Government of Cuba's compliance with the United States-Cuba September 1994 "Joint Communique" and on the treatment of persons returned to Cuba in accordance with the United States-Cuba May 1995 "Joint Statement"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4202. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act, the certifi-

cation of a proposed manufacturing license agreement to include the export of defense articles, including, technical data, and defense services for the manufacture Raytheon Designed Radios and the incorporation of Have Quick I/II Electronic Counter Counter-Measure (ECCM) Software Object Code to government end-user Turkey; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4203. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medical Loss Ratio Requirements under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act" (RIN0938-AQ71) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4204. A communication from the Program Manager, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medical Loss Ratio Rebate Requirements for Non-Federal Governmental Plans" (RIN0938-AR35) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 2, 2011; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4205. A communication from the Special Advisor to the Secretary of the Treasury for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report by the Federal Reserve Board Office of Inspector General regarding the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau for the period from April 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4206. A communication from the Chairman and President of the Export-Import Bank, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semi-Annual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4207. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, U.S. Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report and the Postal Service management response to the report for the period of April 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4208. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to unvouchered expenditures; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4209. A communication from the Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semi-Annual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2011 through September 30, 2011 and the Administrator's Semiannual Management Report to Congress; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4210. A communication from the Chief Privacy Officer, Privacy Office, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Privacy Office Fourth Quarter Fiscal Year 2011 Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4211. A communication from the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a Quarterly Report to Congress on the activities of the Department of