

to 10, which is totally unrealistic, and, even more importantly, on the posting rule where the employers were asked to post proorganization posters within the break rooms in their companies. Both times the courts threw them out and said the NLRB has reached too far.

It is my hope the same thing would happen here again. But in the meantime, I want to encourage the Senate to allow us to bring S. 1843 to the floor and have this debate. In the free enterprise system, in the tedious economy we have today in this country, the last thing we need is to begin changing labor law and pitting organized labor against management in an adversarial type of way.

This example at Bergdorf Goodman today is an example of the National Labor Relations Board doing in regulation what we ought to be doing in legislation on the floor of the Senate. My biggest concern is that now it seems as if the administration's leadership in every Department has determined if we can circumvent the legislative body and through regulation do what we cannot do on the floor, we will forget about the House, we will forget about the Senate, and it will be the executive and judicial branches that run the United States of America. That is not good for our country, and that is wrong.

So I am going to call on the Senate and ask our leadership to let us bring this bill to the floor, to let us debate it and see if we want to change 75 settled years of labor law and unbalance the playing field between management and labor. I do not think we do.

I am sorry to rush to the floor after just hearing this information, but I think it is so important we nip it in the bud; that we let the playing field remain balanced, and we not turn over the operation of settled labor law to an NLRB that, quite frankly, seems to have run amok as far as I am concerned.

Mr. President, I appreciate the opportunity to speak and yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the Pikeville Medical Center for its continued commitment to providing superior medical care to the people of Kentucky.

Pikeville Medical Center has been named National Hospital of the Year, making it the only repeat winner of this prestigious award. The 261-room hospital has over 2,000 employees, including more than 270 physicians and residents, and its superior facilities, equipment, and staff have drawn in qualified medical professionals from around the country.

In January 2011, Pikeville Medical Center became affiliated with Cleveland Clinic's Heart Surgery Program, which has been ranked number one among heart programs in the United States for 16 years. This recent affiliation has allowed PMC to provide cutting-edge technology and treatments to its patients.

Prior to receiving this award, Pikeville Medical Center was named 12th in the Nation of Top 100 Best Places to Work by Modern Healthcare Magazine and first on the Best Places to Work in Kentucky list by the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce. Individual units of the Medical Center have also received recognition. The Heart Institute is one of the first 10 hospitals in the United States and the first in Kentucky to reach the highest distinction awarded by the Society of Chest Pain Centers, and the Stroke Center is one of 10 Kentucky recipients of the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get with the Guidelines—Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. Along with this, the Leonard Lawson Cancer Center was awarded the "Outstanding Achievement Award" 2 years in a row.

While the Pikeville Medical Center has much to be proud of, it continues to strive for excellence. The hospital recently completed a \$10-million emergency department expansion and renovation, and is currently undergoing a \$100-million construction project to provide new offices and outpatient surgery units. This is all part of the organization's mission to "provide quality regional health care in a Christian environment."

Mr. President, I would like to ask at this time for my colleagues in the Senate to join me in recognizing the Pikeville Medical Center. There was recently an article published in eastern Kentucky's local periodical magazine, the Sentinel-Echo: Silver Edition, highlighting the center's many successes. I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD said article.

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

[From the Sentinel-Echo: Silver Edition, Nov. 2011]

#### PIKEVILLE MEDICAL CENTER

Pikeville Medical Center, now affiliated with Cleveland Clinic Heart Surgery, is the nation's only repeat winner of the National Hospital of the Year. President and Chief Executive Officer Walter E. May has always encouraged PMC employees to dream big and big things will happen. After winning the award, he said, "It doesn't get much bigger than this. This is like winning the Super

Bowl, the NCAA Final Four or the World Series for a hospital."

As a true leader and innovator in the health care industry, Pikeville Medical Center continues to raise the bar of excellence. Currently employing more than 2,000 people, PMC has hired over 550 employees just during the past year. PMC is a 261-bed facility, and a \$100 million construction project is under way, producing 1,500 temporary jobs and 100 permanent jobs. The new medical office building will house nine floors of office and clinical space for outpatient surgery, exam rooms and primary and specialty care physicians, and the enclosed parking garage will have space for more than 1,000 cars.

The combination of first class facilities, the best equipment available and a highly motivated support staff has enabled Pikeville Medical Center to recruit some of the nation's most qualified physicians. More than 270 credentialed professionals—physicians and residents—are authorized to practice medicine at Pikeville Medical Center, and the number continues to grow. Over the past year we have recruited over 30 physicians and added six new services. Among the newer service lines are: gynecological oncology, otolaryngology, rheumatology, pediatric endocrinology, hand surgery and nephrology.

#### THE HEART INSTITUTE

According to the American Heart Association, heart disease is the #1 killer of Americans, making heart health a top priority for Pikeville Medical Center. In January 2011, Walter E. May addressed a standing room only crowd during a special called press conference and announced Pikeville Medical Center is now affiliated with Cleveland Clinic's Heart Surgery Program.

The Cleveland Clinic heart program has been ranked #1 in the nation for the last 16 years by U.S. News and World Report. The affiliation has enhanced PMC's opportunities to provide new treatments and therapies to patients and has accelerated Pikeville Medical and Cleveland Clinic's mutual accomplishments in leading cardiac surgery care. Currently, PMC staff is attending training at Cleveland Clinic and enhancing their abilities to deal with complex medical situations, while utilizing new technologies and innovations. The two facilities are also sharing surgical outcome data and research.

In addition to the affiliation with Cleveland Clinic's heart surgery program, PMC continues to make great strides in heart care:

One of the first 10 hospitals in the nation and the first hospital in Kentucky to be designated a Level III Accredited Chest Pain Center, the highest distinction given by the Society of Chest Pain Centers

The cath lab has celebrated the 10th anniversary of the first cath procedure performed at PMC.

Median "door-to-balloon" time averages around 65 minutes (well below the standard of 90 minutes set by the American Heart Association and the Joint Commission).

The heart team is comprised of Cardiologists, Interventional Cardiologists, Cardiothoracic and Vascular Surgeons and an Electrophysiologist. PMC's Heart Institute operates offices throughout the region in Pike, Mingo and Johnson Counties.

#### STROKE CENTER

Pikeville Medical Center has received the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association's Get With The Guidelines®-Stroke (GWTG-Stroke) Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. Only 10 hospitals in KY have earned this accreditation, and no other KY hospital east of Lexington has earned this prestigious distinction.

The award recognizes PMC's commitment and success in implementing excellent care

for stroke patients, according to evidence-based guidelines. To receive the award, PMC achieved 85 percent or higher adherence to all GWTG-Stroke Quality Achievement indicators for two or more consecutive 12-month intervals and achieved 75 percent or higher compliance with six of 10 GWTG-Stroke Quality Measures, which are reporting initiatives to measure quality of care.

"With a stroke, time lost is brain lost, and the Get With the Guidelines-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award demonstrates PMC's commitment to being one of the top hospitals in the country for providing aggressive, proven stroke care," said Dr. Naveed Ahmed, Medical Director of Pikeville Medical Center's Stroke Unit. "We will continue to provide care shown in scientific literature to quickly and efficiently treat stroke patients with evidence-based protocols."

#### LEONARD LAWSON CANCER CENTER

Once again, Pikeville Medical Center's Leonard Lawson Cancer Center received the "Outstanding Achievement Award" from the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons. PMC is one of only three hospitals in the state of Kentucky to ever achieve this award, and is the only hospital in Kentucky to be honored twice and consecutively.

PMC has been recognized by the Commission on Cancer of the American College of Surgeons for offering: The full scope of multi-disciplinary services required to screen, diagnose, treat, rehabilitate and support patients with cancer and their families; A high quality, comprehensive team approach by cancer care professionals; Complete range of state-of-the-art services and equipment; Access to information about new treatment options and ongoing cancer trials; Access to prevention and early detection programs, cancer education and supportive services.

The cancer center has also instituted program enhancements and improvements including opening a new Paintsville Oncology Clinic, offering genetics counseling and opening a gynecological oncology service.

"The Cancer Center at Pikeville Medical Center is not just a group of employees, they are a team. They continually strive to provide excellent quality care. One of their goals is to provide a special kind of friendship along the way. A friendship that starts with a disease as serious and devastating as cancer and evolves, during their time at PMC, into a special relationship we refer to as the PMC family," said Roxanne Hale, Director of the Cancer Center.

#### EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

In preparation for achieving Level II Trauma Center certification, Pikeville Medical Center has completed a \$10 million emergency department expansion and renovation. This new facility encompasses nearly 23,000 square feet, includes two trauma bays, three triage bays, provides physiological monitoring and a 32" flat screen tv in every room and has CT scanning and digital x-ray on-site.

Over the past year, PMC's ED patient satisfaction scores have reached nearly 100%, and while the new facility is impressive, it's PMC's employees who make this recognition possible.

#### THE JOURNEY OF EXCELLENCE CONTINUES

Pikeville Medical Center's employees are guided by the mission statement "to provide quality regional health care in a Christian environment." "This is more than just a slogan," said Chief Operating Officer Juanita Deskins, "it is a prescription for the work lives of our employees." It is primarily because of this work ethic that PMC regularly

receives recognition and awards, such as: 12th in the nation of the top 100 Best Places to Work by Modern Healthcare Magazine (the second year in a row PMC made the top 100 list); the number one hospital in the state on the Best Places to Work in Kentucky list, compiled by the KY Chamber of Commerce; three employed physicians listed among the nation's Best Doctors; for the third consecutive year PMC has been selected as a Hospital of Choice; Patient Satisfaction Award from the Pike County School District Superintendent; the prestigious Excellence Award from the Kentucky Center for Performance Excellence, following the strict criteria set forth by the nationally-acclaimed Malcolm Baldrige Award; the Insight Award for outstanding service in Inpatient Oncology and Inpatient Rehabilitation; the gold seal of approval from the Joint Commission for Primary Stroke Centers.

While those accolades are impressive, Pikeville Medical Center will not rest on its laurels. There is always room for improvement and our institutional vision has not yet been fully realized—our journey is not over.

Pikeville Medical Center will continue to improve and grow, and will always pursue excellence. Technology will evolve and we will continue to recruit the country's best doctors and add specialty services to assure the best health care possible for our patients. In the words of Walter E. May, "We aren't trying to provide health care that's 'as good as' anyplace else . . . we're working to provide health care that's better than these patients could get anywhere else. At Pikeville Medical Center, we're proud to say . . . we're still the one!"

### VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT

#### TRANSPORTATION COSTS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask permission to engage in a colloquy with the Senator from Vermont, Mr. LEAHY. I would like to address a problem that affects many women who are victims of domestic violence. We have addressed a variety of important concerns with the Senate's recent passage of the Violence Against Women Act, and I hope the House will promptly pass that important, bipartisan bill. A major barrier for women seeking services in New Hampshire and across the country is lack of transportation. As chairman of the Judiciary Committee and author of the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, you may have encountered this issue also.

Mr. LEAHY. I thank the Senator from New Hampshire for bringing attention to this important issue and for all her hard work addressing issues of domestic and sexual violence. As a Senator and a prosecutor, I have found that transportation is a particular problem for victims of domestic and sexual violence who live in rural areas.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. You know well the issues facing rural communities in Vermont, as I do in New Hampshire. Domestic violence occurs as frequently in rural areas as it does in cities, and many women in rural settings do not have access to a car or public transportation.

Mr. LEAHY. This presents a real safety risk for women.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. It does. When you are a woman in a violent situation, not

having access to transportation is more than an inconvenience, it can be life threatening. One woman in Atkinson, NH, called the local crisis center for transportation because her husband would not let her have access to the car keys and controlled the family's finances entirely. She was simply trapped.

Mr. LEAHY. Would you agree that the availability of transportation is critical to making sure all women have access to the services provided by crisis centers, shelters, and other service providers?

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Yes, that is exactly right. The Violence Against Women Act provides support for important services like medical treatment, counseling, shelter, and legal assistance to seek protective orders. Clearly women need to be able to get to these centers in order to take advantage of these important resources.

Mr. LEAHY. Have you found that transportation is something that crisis centers are currently able to provide?

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Many crisis centers that receive grants from VAWA do use their general funds to assist women with transportation costs who could not otherwise afford them. I believe that is a use of funds consistent with the intent of Congress to expand services to all women and families who are victims of domestic violence. Do you agree?

Mr. LEAHY. I agree that helping women access these services is absolutely consistent with the intent of the Violence Against Women Act.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. And I thank the Senator for including language in the reauthorization of VAWA recently passed by the Senate that further clarifies that transportation services are an acceptable use of VAWA funds. The bill adds language in the new victim services definition in section 3 to include "other related supportive services" and in section 102(a) adds "other victim services" to the victim services purpose area in the grants to encourage arrest policies and enforcement of protection orders. Both of these changes would provide even more ability than under current law for VAWA grants to cover crucial transportation services.

Mr. LEAHY. I agree that this language is intended to cover a variety of crucial victim services including transportation services.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I also appreciate the bill's new language emphasizing the importance of providing services to women in rural or geographically isolated areas. Identifying this particularly vulnerable population will be helpful for those centers which focus services on women and families in these isolated areas. I believe this provision makes clear the intent of Congress to supplement the costs of reaching these women and bringing them to safety.

Mr. LEAHY. I agree that is one of the intents of section 202, which focuses on enforcement of domestic violence,