

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,

stalking and child abuse laws for victims and families in rural areas. Transportation is a necessary component of enforcing these laws and protecting vulnerable women. I am concerned, as I know you are, about what women do when they are in a dangerous situation and do not have transportation to get away.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. That is a real problem. Many women initially rely on the police or an ambulance to remove them from unsafe situations, but their problems continue once they reach a shelter or crisis center. They have no way to get to court for hearings related to protective orders, child custody and divorce. One of the directors of the crisis center in Berlin in the North Country of New Hampshire spends at least 25 percent of her time taking women to and from court. Due to recent State budget cuts, the closest courthouse is 45 minutes away. That is a significant investment of time and money.

Mr. LEAHY. It certainly is. And the Violence Against Women Act aims to provide financial support for communities that need it most so they can continue to keep women safe.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I thank the Senator from Vermont for engaging in this colloquy to address the importance of providing transportation services to women and families in need. I thank him, too, for his leadership on the reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act. It has helped so many women over the years, and I know it will continue to save the lives of women in New Hampshire and across the country.

FACEBOOK'S TAX DEDUCTION

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, tomorrow will be a day in tax history—when Facebook goes public, it will get a \$16 billion tax deduction, which is the largest tax deduction ever taken by any corporation exploiting the stock option tax loophole.

Facebook's recent filings in anticipation of its upcoming stock offering provide new facts about its plans to use stock option tax deductions, not only to help it avoid future taxes for years and years to come, but to get a refund of taxes it has already paid.

Facebook's recent registration statement shows that, due to hundreds of millions of stock options handed out to its founders and top executives, it plans to claim stock option tax deductions worth a whopping \$16 billion. That is more than twice as much as estimates a few months ago, and many, many times larger than the stock option expenses shown on Facebook's ledgers.

Facebook is a booming, successful company. Its securities filing boasts of double-digit increases in Facebook's average revenue per user, citing a 32-percent increase in 2010 and another 25-percent increase in 2011, with "growth across all regions." Despite trumpeting those revenue increases to investors,

Facebook is planning at the same time to tell Uncle Sam it has no taxable income, offsetting its revenues with stock option tax deductions.

Facebook's \$16 billion stock option tax deduction is so huge, it will enable Facebook to claim a \$500 million refund of taxes paid over the prior 2 years and wipe out this year's tax bill. The company says it will also use its deduction to create a "net operating loss" that can be used to eliminate its profits and its taxes for up to 20 years into the future.

As with so much of our Tax Code, it is not the law breaking that shocks the conscience, it is the stuff that is allowed. For years, my Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations has identified this stock option tax loophole and tried to explain its cost, its unfairness, and why the loophole should be closed. Facebook's \$16 billion tax deduction brings the issue into sharp focus.

This profitable corporation will stop paying any Federal corporate income taxes, simply because it gave hundreds of millions of stock options to its executives. It will go from a corporate citizen that paid its taxes, to one that not only pays no taxes to Uncle Sam on its profits, but gets a tax refund.

Some Facebook defenders claim the company's nonpayment of taxes is offset by the taxes paid by its executives. But first of all, Facebook demands and receives government services that its executives don't—from patent protection to cybersecurity to trade enforcement. Second, the fact that executives pay taxes doesn't mean corporations shouldn't pay taxes. Facebook should be paying its fair share, and it is only through a tax loophole that it won't be. Adding insult to injury is that one of its founders recently renounced his U.S. citizenship just to avoid paying his taxes.

Facebook is an American success story. Its ability to use a stock option loophole to zero out its U.S. tax bill, despite ample profits, makes no sense. It also isn't fair to the rest of American taxpayers who will have to pay more because Facebook pays nothing.

In these tough economic times, Congress needs to make choices about where to spend taxpayer dollars. The stock option tax deduction, as demonstrated by Facebook, fuels excessive executive pay, shifts the tax burden from corporations to other taxpayers, and enables profitable corporations to get out of paying a dime toward the country that helped make their success possible.

What could our Nation do with the billions of dollars it will lose when Facebook uses the stock option loophole? Well, we could reduce the Federal deficit. Or we could pay for programs to help kids go to college or programs that protect our seniors and veterans, put cops on the beat or teachers in classrooms.

The stock option loophole should have been closed long before

Facebook's stock option bonanza. But surely the case of Facebook illustrates to the Senate, to the Congress, and to the American people why we should close this loophole. If Congress were to enact the Levin-Sherrod Brown bill, S. 1375, it would close an unjustified corporate tax loophole that boosts executive pay at the expense of everybody else.

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF USDA

Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Department of Agriculture.

I believe Thomas Jefferson said it best in a letter to George Washington in 1787. Jefferson wrote: "Agriculture is our wisest pursuit, because it will in the end contribute most to real wealth, good morals, and happiness."

In 1862, the 37th Congress and President Lincoln established the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and 150 years later, agriculture is still a pillar of the American economy.

From wheat fields in Montana, to dairy farms in Wisconsin, to grocery stores in New York City, 1 in 12 jobs is linked to agriculture and forestry. In Montana it is one in five for agriculture alone.

Agriculture is one of the few U.S. business sectors to boast a trade surplus of \$34 billion last year.

Because of our Federal farm policies, Americans have access to the safest and most affordable food in the world. Americans spend less than 7 percent of their disposable income to feed their families, compared with almost 25 percent in 1930 or as high as 28 percent in Russia today.

The farm bill, which is set to expire this September, provides a responsible risk management system that ensures American farmers and ranchers can keep putting food on our tables even in times of drought, flooding, and other disaster. It provides conservation tools to protect the land we love and depend on for generations to come. It focuses resources to help beginning farmers and ranchers get their foot in the door, promotes U.S. products overseas, invests in research, and helps struggling families put food on the table.

Last month, the Senate Agriculture Committee passed the Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act of 2012 with a bipartisan vote of 16 to 5.

I want to underscore the word "reform." Times are tough. We cannot afford business as usual anymore.

After spending the last year talking directly with Montana farmers and ranchers about their priorities, I can tell you no one understands this better than they do.

So the Senate Agriculture Committee worked directly with producers to strengthen what works and cut out what doesn't. Together we came up with a responsible plan to cut spending by \$23 billion while still providing a strong risk management program for farmers and ranchers. That is right,