

that the Committee will have completed its consideration of the legislation and that we will report a comprehensive immigration reform bill to the Senate with the recommendation that it be considered and passed. I look forward to bringing this legislation before the full Senate at the beginning of our next work period.

I note, I hope we will finish that this week. We will go very late tonight, very late tomorrow night, very late Wednesday night, all day Thursday, and all day Friday, if necessary, until we get it finished.

THE FARM BILL

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last week, the Senate Agriculture Committee once again reported to the full Senate a bipartisan farm bill, and I am pleased the Senate has turned to its consideration this week. I compliment the distinguished chair, Senator STABENOW, who has done Herculean duties. The bill before us represents nearly 2 years of hard work to satisfy the widely varied agricultural interests of this country, while supporting food assistance programs for those in need. The Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act will save \$23 billion over 10 years, which is remarkable given the fiscal restraints we face, and was overwhelmingly supported by the members of the agriculture committee by a vote of 15-5.

Unfortunately, due to the House's inaction on the Senate-passed bill last year, many farm bill programs expired, while others were temporarily extended at the end of the year, making it all the more imperative that we work together now to ensure we move ahead with a bill in the next few months. I was glad that in December we were able to delay and prevent the "dairy cliff" from roiling markets worldwide and inflating dairy prices, which would have wreaked havoc in the marketplace and on our farms. But the short-term extension of the Farm Bill is no rational way to legislate, and the last-minute extension left dozens of critical agriculture programs stranded without funding. We must not repeat that process.

The bill before us contains many of the same improvements included in the 2012 Senate-passed bill, while making important updates to reflect new fiscal realities and maintaining the integrity of the policies we worked so hard to pass last year. The Agriculture Reform, Food and Jobs Act makes an investment in American agriculture that will benefit our producers, our dairy farmers, our rural communities, our Main Street businesses, taxpayers, and consumers, all while reducing the deficit by \$23 billion.

Every Farm Bill is important to the Green Mountain State and to all the states of our nation as a matter of national security. Very few countries can boast that they can feed themselves. We have the ability to nourish 320-plus

million Americans. This represents an important part of our national security.

Agriculture is a pillar of Vermont's economy and of our Nation's economy. So it is with this farm bill that we have produced in the Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry. One of many key components of this bill, in terms of Vermont and Vermont's economy, is a significant dairy reform proposal that offers the best hope in decades of helping producers and consumers step off the dangerous rollercoaster of wild price swings in the markets in which dairy farmers must sell their time-sensitive products. I believe this is key to our consideration of a farm bill, and I know it is what farmers in Vermont are watching closely; I have been hearing from them regularly in strong support of stabilization and margin insurance working in tandem. We simply must protect our dairy farmers from the volatility of turbulent price swings with a financially sound risk management program to help farmers manage risk and margin volatility, and do so without driving up the cost to the government.

As the author of the Organic Foods Production Act, I am extremely pleased this bill continues to make strong improvements for organic agriculture. I am also pleased that the bill once again includes a policy to give the National Organic Program much-needed authority to effectively protect and enforce organic integrity. In addition to enforcing the integrity of the organic brand, I am committed to seeing that this bill treats all farmers fairly. We made great strides last year in making improvements to crop insurance so that it will adequately compensate organic producers for their losses. Similar changes are needed in the Environmental Quality Incentive Program to eliminate the unfair lower payment limit applied solely to organic farmers seeking to enroll in the program's Organic Initiative.

Another important compromise in this bill is found in the trade title, where the proposal expands the success of the Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement pilot program from the 2008 farm bill, and also increases the funds available to support strategic prepositioning, which brings food aid commodities to at-risk regions before food emergencies strike. I look forward to working with Senators to find further improvements in how we can best provide emergency food aid and international development programs that have the flexibility to react quickly in times of emergency, avoid disrupting local markets, and increase efficiency so we can save money and feed more people.

This legislation also includes support for vital anti-hunger programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, and the Emergency Food Assistance Program. Unfortunately, with so many Americans still

struggling to put food on the table, nutrition assistance and emergency feeding programs have become even more crucial. The bill also contains initiatives to encourage better health, increased access to local foods, nutrition for children and seniors, and to support self-sufficiency and food security in our Nation's low-income communities while tackling the difficult problem of "food deserts." I am also pleased that Chairwoman STABENOW included language I offered as an amendment in committee last year to make it easier for SNAP participants to buy local foods through a Community Supported Agriculture Share, CSA, membership.

But at a time when more Americans than ever before are at risk of going hungry and food pantry shelves across the country are bare, these programs could be made even stronger by dedicating more resources to help the neediest among us. I hope during our consideration of this bill we can work to increase support for the Emergency Food Assistance Program, SNAP employment and training programs, and community food projects to the level included in last year's farm bill. These programs are essential in our communities, and I hope we can invest as much in these programs this year as we did last year.

I am disappointed, however, that the bill before the Senate today once again includes \$4 billion in cuts to the SNAP program, which will predominately come from northeastern States. I understand this cut is part of a larger compromise on behalf of Chairwoman STABENOW, who has been a strong supporter of these nutrition assistance programs. Ensuring these programs can continue to serve Vermonters and all Americans in need is a key part to enacting a strong farm bill for this country.

This is why I am particularly concerned about the bill the House will consider which includes five times the cuts to nutrition assistance as the Senate bill, and \$4 billion more than the House included in their committee bill last year. These cuts will needlessly eliminate millions of low-income Americans from this program. The House bill would mean that several thousand children would lose eligibility for free school lunches. In Vermont, one in five children lives in food insecure homes and I know that number is even higher in some other States. It is shameful for any child in this country to go hungry and I hope the Senate will continue to oppose these draconian cuts to nutrition assistance.

The Senate agriculture committee's chairwoman and ranking member, and both of their staffs, should be applauded for the great work they have done to swiftly move this bipartisan bill through committee and now onto the Senate floor in record speed. I hope the Senate can once again move forward in a bipartisan way to pass the farm bill this week, and I hope the

House moves forward as well so we might reconcile our differences before the expiration in September of the current short-term extension.

KENTUCKY MILITARY ORDER OF THE PURPLE HEART

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the men and women of the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Military Order of the Purple Heart, MOPH. Membership in the MOPH is reserved for combat-wounded veterans who have been awarded the Purple Heart for their service in the U.S. Armed Forces. The members of the Kentucky MOPH have made extraordinary contributions and sacrifices in defense of the United States. Their brave and valiant actions during combat have been vital to preserving the freedom and way of life that Americans continue to enjoy today. I applaud the members of the Kentucky MOPH not only for their service to the United States but also for their steadfast commitment to their fellow combat-wounded veterans and to all of our Nation's veterans and their families.

On June 1, 2013, the Kentucky MOPH will gather in Paducah, KY, for its annual convention. In anticipation of this gathering, I would like to draw attention to two noteworthy milestones the Kentucky MOPH celebrates this year. January 2, 2013, marked the 70th anniversary of the Louisville, KY, Bluegrass Chapter 146 of the MOPH, and the Department of Kentucky MOPH will celebrate its 25th anniversary on October 22, 2013. At this time, I ask my colleagues in the Senate to join me in extending gratitude and commendations to members of the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Military Order of the Purple Heart for their dedication and service to America's military and America's veterans. America has the greatest military in the world, and the MOPH serves as a vital support system to veterans that make this a reality.

TRIBUTE TO STEVE NEWBERRY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a longtime friend and a fixture of the broadcasting industry in Kentucky and nationally, Mr. Steve Newberry. For more than 25 years, Steve, a resident of Hiseville, KY, has been a leader in Kentucky radio. He has earned the respect and admiration of his peers in the Commonwealth and throughout the country many times over. I am sad to note that next month, Steve will complete his service on the board of directors of the National Association of Broadcasters.

Over the course of his career, Steve has helped lead radio and television broadcasters on a national level, and he has had a significant impact on the broadcasting industry. This was recognized when in 2011 Steve received from his peers the prestigious National Radio Award, which is given annually to an outstanding leader in the radio industry.

Steve loved radio from an early age. He began his broadcasting career at the age of 14, when he got a job working at the local radio station in his hometown of Glasgow, KY. His parents were supportive of Steve's dream and drove him to work at that first job.

By the age of 21, Steve owned his first radio station. When he bought it, it was a 250-watt AM station that only broadcast in the daytime. Steve soon upgraded it to 500 watts and 24 hours of broadcasting a day.

Steve attended the University of Kentucky, where he received a bachelor's degree in telecommunications. While completing his senior year, he bought WKVE, an AM station in Cave City. Today he is the president and CEO of Commonwealth Broadcasting, based in Glasgow, and owns and operates 22 radio stations throughout the Bluegrass State.

As his business grew, Steve became more and more engaged in broadcasting industry matters. He was first elected to the board of directors of the National Association of Broadcasters, NAB, in 1999. He would go on to serve as part of the board's leadership, chairman of the board, and ultimately as the NAB joint board chairman, the association's top industry leadership post. Steve also served on the board of directors and executive committees for the Radio Advertising Bureau.

Steve's community service in Kentucky is equally impressive. He has served as the chairman of the Authority for Kentucky Educational Television and has worked with the Glasgow-Barren County Industrial Development Economic Authority, the Glasgow Rotary Club, and the Glasgow-Barren County Boys & Girls Club.

Steve is a past president of the Kentucky Broadcasters Association and in 2009 received their highest honor, the Distinguished Kentuckian Award. And as I already stated, Mr. President, in 2011 he received the very high honor from his peers of the prestigious National Radio Award.

It is the Commonwealth's loss that in June, Steve will end his service on the NAB board of directors. Whatever endeavors may lay ahead for him, I know he will dispatch them with the same success that has marked his career to date. I am sure his family, including his wife Vickie and his son Walker, are very proud of him.

Steve Newberry is one of Kentucky's finest broadcasters and a man of integrity. I know my colleagues in the Senate join me in congratulating him for his dedication to the radio profession, to his community, and to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

THE FAMILY ACT

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, building a family is an exciting milestone in the lives of millions of American families. Unfortunately, the road towards conceiving a child is often difficult and painful for the nearly 7 mil-

lion Americans diagnosed with the disease of infertility.

Earlier this month, men and women across the country shared their stories during National Infertility Awareness Week. This movement, organized by RESOLVE: The National Infertility Association, brings attention to the disease of infertility and encourages the public to take charge of their reproductive health. Let me take this opportunity to commend RESOLVE for its work providing community and giving voice to women and men experiencing infertility.

Over the last few decades, significant medical advancements, such as in vitro fertilization, have provided a solution for some would be parents. However, the high cost to undergo infertility care often poses an additional barrier for couples to overcome. It costs more than \$12,000 for a couple to undergo one cycle of infertility treatment and insurance coverage is often dismal. For some patients, multiple cycles are required to achieve a successful pregnancy outcome. Federal Government insurance plans do not specifically cover infertility treatments and only 15 States offer any level of coverage.

I have introduced a bill that would alleviate some of the costs associated with infertility care. The Family Act (S. 881) creates a Federal tax credit for individuals who are diagnosed with infertility by a licensed physician. A tax credit will help make this vital patient care more accessible and affordable to those who lack insurance coverage for these services.

I hope you will join me by becoming a cosponsor of The Family Act. This is a necessary step towards ensuring that all of our citizens have the ability to raise a family, without compromising their financial future.

TRIBUTE TO JANE HOLL LUTE

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today to express my deep gratitude and best wishes to Ms. Jane Holl Lute for her service as Deputy Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, over the past 4 years.

Ms. Lute arrived at DHS in April 2009 with an already impressive public service record that included over 30 years of distinguished service, including time in the U.S. Army during Operation Desert Storm. She served on the National Security Council staff under both President George H.W. Bush and President Bill Clinton. Ms. Lute held senior-level positions within the United Nations, UN, where she oversaw logistical and administrative support to UN peacekeeping operations worldwide and coordinated efforts to build sustainable peace in countries emerging from violent conflict. Her record of achievement extends to her academic accomplishments. She holds a Ph.D. in political science from Stanford University and a J.D. from Georgetown University. I would be remiss if I did not mention that she achieved many of