

BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I would like to speak today about the importance of Federal investment in biomedical research. There are many reasons to invest in biomedical research, but the two most important reasons are very simple: biomedical research saves lives, and it is good for Pennsylvania's economy and the Nation's economy. A thriving biomedical sector creates jobs, and we simply cannot afford, from a public health or economic standpoint, not to support biomedical progress.

I have been a strong and vocal advocate for Federal funds to support biomedical research, including funding for the National Institutes of Health—NIH. In 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013, I authored a letter in support of funding for the NIH; the letter in 2013 was signed by a bipartisan group of 51 Senators.

In 2012, Pennsylvania researchers received \$1,431,589,539—\$1.4 billion—in grants from the National Institutes of Health; the State is ranked fourth in the Nation for the number of grants awarded. The funding in 2012 supported over 3,400 competitive grants to almost 100 Pennsylvania companies or universities; in turn, these grants supported thousands of jobs across the State—an estimated 2,500 in state jobs and total employment impact of over 24,000 jobs.

Long-term deficits are not sustainable, and government spending must be reduced; however, we should not indiscriminately slash funding for good programs, like medical research, that benefit Pennsylvanians, ensure our global competitiveness and invest in our economic future. I have been a champion for the continued growth of the National Institutes of Health, NIH, which drives progress of biomedical research.

While the United States has been the world leader in medical research, other nations such as China are dramatically ramping up their investment in medical research, creating new competition and threatening America's dominance in the field. We must continue to invest in medical research and maintain the capacity we currently have to support work that benefits all Americans.

We risk a scenario in which promising young researchers, seeing the struggles of their mentors and older colleagues to secure funding for their work, will choose a different path, putting a whole generation of scientists at risk. That capacity, that talent, once lost will not easily come back. Failure to invest in research now is a failure to invest in our own future, and is incredibly shortsighted. We must work to support the basic research that has the potential to lead to major advances in medical treatments and improved outcomes for patients.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING NIGHTFORCE OPTICS

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as National Small Business Week comes to a close I would like to rise today to recognize Nightforce Optics of Orofino, ID, an inspirational small business that has grown and expanded in spite of the economic challenges of the last half decade. Founder Dr. Ray Dennis is an avid hunter and shooter from Australia who had a dream of manufacturing and selling riflescopes of unmatched quality in the United States. His dream led him on a search for a location to help make this vision a reality. Dr. Dennis was ultimately drawn to the beautiful city of Orofino in my home State. A friendly business climate, an enthusiastic labor base, and close proximity to major shipping centers made Orofino, ID the perfect place to establish Nightforce Optics.

In 1999, Nightforce Optics started with four employees occupying a small manufacturing facility. Today, Nightforce Optics employs over 100 people and has expanded their Orofino headquarters to a 35,187 square foot facility. Nightforce is committed to hiring a local workforce, as well as attracting specialized craftsmen and women to Idaho. Throughout this time, the company has delivered the utmost quality, performance, and craftsmanship of their products to customers. This dedication became self-evident as hunters, marksmen, police, and military users have come to revere Nightforce Optics as a top-tier brand in the industry.

Companies like Nightforce represent a critical part of the economy and even national security for the United States. Nightforce riflescopes produced in Orofino, ID have been used by U.S. servicemen in operations all around the globe. It is my opinion that the U.S. military should always have available the best in quality and technology, and it is in small businesses like Nightforce Optics that we often find the innovative ideas and determination that can make these products available.

By 2011, Nightforce underwent a \$1 million expansion, resulting in improved manufacturing and research and development capabilities. This investment has directly led to the company's recent introduction of new, innovative products that otherwise might never have been developed.

Although we hear over and over again that the national climate for promoting small business needs to improve, it is refreshing to hear that a sportsman from Australia with an idea and motivation relocated to Idaho to build his dream. Every year, thousands and thousands of products come from Orofino, ID with a label reading "Made in USA." I commend Dr. Ray Dennis for investing in American entrepreneurship and to Nightforce Optics for representing a small business with in-

genuity and local ties that I am proud to honor as Idaho's Small Business of the Day.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 11:10 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WOLF) has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 475. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to include vaccines against seasonal influenza within the definition of taxable vaccines.

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

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN):

S. Res. 181. A resolution recognizing the sesquicentennial of West Virginia and commemorating its history, people, and culture; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KING, and Mr. BROWN):

S. Res. 182. A resolution congratulating the American Dental Hygienists' Association on the 100th anniversary of the profession of dental hygiene and commending its work to improve the oral health of the people of the United States; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 380

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 380, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and update the National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative for grants to address the problems of individuals who experience trauma and violence related stress.

S. 647

At the request of Mr. NELSON, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr.

RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 647, a bill to modify the prohibition on recognition by United States courts of certain rights relating to certain marks, trade names, or commercial names.

S. 709

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 709, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, leading to better care and outcomes for Americans living with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

S. 710

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 710, a bill to provide exemptions from municipal advisor registration requirements.

S. 878

At the request of Mr. FRANKEN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 878, a bill to amend title 9 of the United States Code with respect to arbitration.

S. 981

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 981, a bill to direct the Federal Trade Commission to prescribe rules prohibiting deceptive advertising of abortion services, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 172

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 172, a resolution designating the first Wednesday in September 2013 as "National Polycystic Kidney Disease Awareness Day" and raising awareness and understanding of polycystic kidney disease.

AMENDMENT NO. 1183

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. CORKER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. AYOTTE), the Senator from Nevada (Mr. HELLER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. KIRK), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. PRYOR), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1183 proposed to S. 744, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1506

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr.

PORTMAN) and the Senator from Louisiana (Ms. LANDRIEU) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1506 intended to be proposed to S. 744, a bill to provide for comprehensive immigration reform and for other purposes.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 181—RECOGNIZING THE SESQUICENTENNIAL OF WEST VIRGINIA AND COMMEMORATING ITS HISTORY, PEOPLE, AND CULTURE

Mr. ROCKEFELLER (for himself and Mr. MANCHIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 181

Whereas Alexander Spotswood, Lieutenant Governor of Virginia, led a westward expedition in 1716, claiming land beyond the Allegheny Mountains for King George I;

Whereas early settlement of present-day West Virginia began in the Eastern Panhandle, with development of western areas to follow;

Whereas slave abolitionist John Brown launched an ill-fated raid on a United States arsenal in Harpers Ferry in 1859 and was later convicted of treason, conspiracy, and murder in nearby Charles Town, inflaming anti- and pro-slavery factions in the North and the South;

Whereas citizens in the region opposed the decision of Virginia during the Civil War to secede from the United States;

Whereas West Virginia was admitted to the Union by Congress on June 20, 1863, following a proclamation by President Abraham Lincoln, making it the only State created from the Civil War;

Whereas the bold decision of those first West Virginians resonates today with the words of the official State motto, "Montani Semper Liberi", meaning "West Virginians Are Always Free";

Whereas West Virginia is the only state located entirely within the Appalachian Mountains;

Whereas the industries in West Virginia are wedded to its land, supplying 15 percent of the coal in the United States, forging steel, producing timber, and fostering a present-day boom in natural gas production, and to its innovations including burgeoning biometrics and automotive industries;

Whereas the workers of West Virginia are the salt of the earth and set hard work as a cornerstone of a life rich with pride, especially its miners who daily travel deep underground to mine the coal that keeps the United States humming;

Whereas the sense of patriotism in West Virginia runs deep and true, as the State has the highest number of men and women per capita serving the United States in the Armed Forces and a population of veterans wholly dedicated to making sure all who serve are supported;

Whereas the communities in West Virginia exemplify the phrase "neighbor helping neighbor";

Whereas the awe-inspiring landscapes of the Mountain State grant residents and tourists the chance to climb mountains, fish streams, hunt in forests, raft rapids, and traverse trails, making tourism one of the pre-eminent economic drivers of the State;

Whereas West Virginia is home to the longest steel arch bridge in the world, the New River Gorge Bridge, which spans 1,815 feet over the New River Canyon, and the highest

peak in the State is Spruce Knob, sitting at 4,861 feet above sea level;

Whereas West Virginia has seen important inventions, including the first steamboat, the first iron furnace, the first electric railroad, the first glass plant, and the first pottery plant;

Whereas the heritage of West Virginia can be felt in its handmade creations, from quilts and woodwork to dinnerware and paintings, heard in its mountain music, from hometown jamborees to fiddle-playing on front porches and songs from well-worn hymnals, and enjoyed in its unique cuisine, from pepperoni rolls to wild ramps and buckwheat cakes with sausage;

Whereas many icons hold their roots in West Virginia, from General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson to Nobel Prize-winning author Pearl S. Buck, educational leader Booker T. Washington, Mother's Day founder Anna Jarvis, and Brigadier General Charles "Chuck" Yeager; and

Whereas, during a rainy centennial celebration on the front steps of the Capitol of West Virginia in Charleston on June 20, 1963, President John F. Kennedy proclaimed, "The sun does not always shine in West Virginia but the people always do": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) observes the sesquicentennial of West Virginia; and

(2) celebrates the remarkable heritage and contributions of the people of West Virginia.

SENATE RESOLUTION 182—CONGRATULATING THE AMERICAN DENTAL HYGIENISTS' ASSOCIATION ON THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PROFESSION OF DENTAL HYGIENE AND COMMENDING ITS WORK TO IMPROVE THE ORAL HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. KING, and Mr. BROWN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 182

Whereas the first dental hygiene education program was established in 1913 and early graduates worked in schools providing direct access to oral health care to school children;

Whereas the American Dental Hygienists' Association is the largest national organization representing the more than 150,000 licensed dental hygienists in the United States;

Whereas, in order to become licensed as a dental hygienist, an individual must graduate from one of the 335 accredited dental hygiene education programs in the United States and successfully complete a national written exam and a State or regional clinical exam;

Whereas, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the dental hygiene profession is one of the fastest growing health care professions, with employment of dental hygienists expected to grow 38 percent between 2010 and 2020;

Whereas dental hygienists are prevention specialists who understand how the connection between oral health and total health can prevent disease, treat problems while they are still manageable, conserve critical health care dollars, and save lives;

Whereas new research continues to demonstrate that oral health is a vital element of overall health;

Whereas dental caries (more commonly known as tooth decay) are the single most