

comprehensively reforming our immigration system, I have a solemn obligation and a constitutional prerogative to make sure that the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, accomplishes that mission. In furtherance of that obligation and that prerogative, I—indeed Congress—must count on DHS cooperation to provide any relevant information I and this body request.

Unfortunately, in connection with the Senate's effort to craft legislation to help secure our borders, the former DHS Secretary unjustifiably refused to provide such information. The information I asked for was intended to let Congress and the American people judge for themselves if progress is being made to protect our borders from illegal entry. To date, I never received that information from this administration.

So first during his confirmation hearing and then in writing, I asked Mr. Johnson to commit to me that, if confirmed as the new DHS Secretary, he would provide me that same information. Unfortunately, on grounds that I find to be specious and unacceptable, he declined. On the basis of his response, I can only conclude that, if confirmed, the level of cooperation between DHS and me, particularly on the vitally important issue of border security—when comprehensive immigration remains such a vitally important issue—would remain business as usual, and that is unacceptable. It is unacceptable to me and to the people who interests I am committed to representing.

For this reason, I have no choice other than to oppose Mr. Johnson's nomination.

I have known Jeh for some time. I have respect for his work while General Counsel for the Department of Defense. In particular, I applaud his efforts in the development of the Department of Defense's policy regarding the use of deadly force in connection with counterterrorist operations and other important defense and national security issues.

But what I have seen all too frequently is the inability or unwillingness of appointed officials within this administration to free themselves from the unelected, unpointed, political staff in the West Wing that put political expediency ahead of meaningful governance. I can have no tolerance for another Secretary who will act as nothing more than a road block on behalf of those with a political agenda and is either unwilling or unable to provide transparency into the actions of this department and its components.

Congress, particularly those of us who are the border, has the right to have that information. It is our responsibility and obligation to our constituents. I have constituents in my State who every night, there are people who are crossing their border illegally. I have constituents that every day, drug smugglers are going across their property and their homes. They certainly

have the right, as citizens, to know what measures need to be taken in order to control our border.

Earlier this year, the Senate passed a comprehensive immigration bill with 67 votes that included unprecedented increases in spending to help secure the border. The information we based these spending increases on came directly from leadership within the Border Patrol, and I believe it will be successful. But the American people deserve to have more than my faith in the efforts of the Border Patrol as to whether the border is made secure. Our constituents are relying on us to finally secure the border but also be good stewards of their tax dollars and to have the capabilities to ensure their money is being used wisely and if not, to make the appropriate adjustments.

When developing this legislation, we requested information from Secretary Napolitano that I believe would have helped make the legislation stronger and potentially garner more support from my Republican colleagues. This information was never provided to us, I believe, for solely political reasons but has ultimately harmed our ability to get comprehensive immigration reform legislation signed into law.

This is the source of my disappointment with Mr. Johnson: His refusal to commit to provide the information necessary would prevent Members of Congress from making reasonable and informed decisions that serve the American people. And Mr. Johnson did so under circumstances that other Members of this body have sought—and obtained—commitments of cooperation.

For example, here is what Secretary Kerry said in response to a request for answers regarding the Benghazi raid: “[H]ere's what I say to you. After 29 years here—in my 29th, I respect the prerogatives of the United States Senate and the members of Congress. You represent the American people, you're the other branch of government, you have the right to know what took place. And I have an obligation commensurate with the, you know, regulations and classifications and privacy and other things that are at play here, to help you get the answers, and we'll do that.”

And what did I get from Mr. Johnson? “If I am confirmed . . . I promise that addressing your letter will be a top and immediate priority for me.”

For years, we were told that apprehensions are down and the border is more secure. In reality, we all knew that the economy was the primary driver in reducing potential illegal border crossers. In the last 2 years, with slight improvements in the economy, we have seen a 20 percent increase in the number of apprehensions. Does that mean the border is less or more secure?

For years DHS has been telling us they are developing a border security index in a shift away from using apprehensions as the sole measure of success

and to get a true measure of security along the border. We have been waiting 3 years with no sign that the index will be made public. All indications are the development of the index has been shelved.

Until Congress is provided greater information on the capabilities and deficiencies of the Department of Homeland Security's abilities to secure the border, Congress will not be able to determine if the border is secure.

I regret that Jeh Johnson has refused to commit to providing this information to Congress, and I do not support his nomination.

TRIBUTE TO KAREN PONZURICK BROWN

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the outstanding work of an invaluable member of my staff. Karen Ponzurick Brown, who is really quite young, has already reached 25 years of service on Capitol Hill, and she has chosen to retire. For 7½ years, she has worked tirelessly in a job that calls for 24/7/365 attention. I cannot thank her enough for her dedicated assistance. And I also thank her husband Paul who has shared his wife's attention with me for these many years.

Karen came to work for me at a time when technology was rapidly changing for the position that she held. While she had never worked in this type of capacity before, her sharp mind and intuitive sense quickly assessed how to put together a system that ensured Idahoans received priority attention on my schedule. She has been instrumental in creating efficiencies and effective processes in our office and in my time. Karen is conscientious, structured and hardworking. She was accessible to anyone who needed her and was a mentor to many of our staff. Her calm demeanor has soothed many agitated callers seeking appointments. Her sense of decorum has provided me and my staff with a greater sense of professionalism. Her ability to anticipate challenges has saved the day many times over. I have great respect for her thorough, diligent and well-thought-out approach to tackling any problem, and I will truly miss having her input on the many challenges that are encountered in our everyday workplace.

But above all her professional qualities, Karen has been a great friend and trusted advisor, and there are no words strong enough to express my gratitude for that friendship, which I hope will continue. No matter the challenges at hand, she always strives to meet and exceed expectations. Karen has been a great asset to me, my staff, Idahoans and countless others throughout her two and a half decades of committed public service. Thank you, Karen, for your dedication. Your confident and strong guidance will truly be missed, and I wish you all the best. Retirement has been a tough choice for you, but I know that you are at peace with that

decision, and you are certainly young enough to enjoy it!

TRIBUTE TO VINCENT FORLENZA

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, Senator HATCH and I join together today to recognize the contributions of Vincent A. Forlenza, chairman, CEO and president of BD, in establishing and leading AdvaMedDx, an important new voice for the role of medical diagnostic tests in patient care.

BD, the leading global medical technology company, has a strong presence in both Maryland and Utah as do other companies in the medical device and diagnostics sectors. We understand firsthand the growing importance of diagnostics to power medical discoveries and transform patient care.

Mr. HATCH. The diagnostics sector spans thousands of different kinds of tests, from blood tests for cholesterol to new genetic tests that identify cancer variants and match patients to the most appropriate drugs. Diagnostic tests facilitate evidence-based medicine, improve quality of care, promote wellness, enable early detection of disease and often reduce overall health care costs.

In short, diagnostics play a critical role in the health care system and are an essential part of quality patient care. While these tests account for only about 2 percent of health care spending, they influence the large majority of the health care decisions made each and every day.

Ms. MIKULSKI. The impact of diagnostics, however, is not always well understood by patients, policymakers and, sometimes, even physicians. In 2010, Mr. Forlenza played an instrumental role in bringing together a group of leading diagnostics manufacturers to form a new trade association, AdvaMedDx, whose core mission is to create an understanding of the role diagnostics play in the health care system and help foster patient access to innovative, safe, and effective tests. Soon after the founding of the AdvaMedDx, Mr. Forlenza assumed the role of chairman of the board of directors, a position he has held for the last 3 years.

Mr. HATCH. During Mr. Forlenza's tenure as chairman, AdvaMedDx doubled the size of its membership and established itself as a credible voice on health care policy in Washington and around the world. Under Mr. Forlenza's leadership, the diagnostic industry has worked with a range of stakeholders to pursue initiatives that aim to reform and modernize the diagnostics regulatory and payment environment in order to keep pace with innovation and the changing health care landscape. AdvaMedDx works not only with Members of Congress and key public health agencies but also with organizations ranging from patient advocacy groups to cancer research societies to the World Health Organization.

Ms. MIKULSKI. As part of its contribution to the policy dialogue,

AdvaMedDx has organized Capitol Hill briefings at which leaders in the field of diagnostics have shared insights and current developments on topics including women's health, cancer diagnostics, antibiotic resistance, and infectious diseases. Just a few weeks ago, AdvaMedDx and the American Association for Cancer Research held a daylong symposium on personalized medicine and companion diagnostics, keynoted by the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration and the Director of the National Institutes of Health.

Mr. HATCH. AdvaMedDx also has established itself as a global leader, driving collaboration with allied associations in Europe, Canada, Brazil, Japan, and Australia.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. Forlenza has been a tireless champion for the power of diagnostics to promote wellness, improve patient outcomes and advance public health. The success of AdvaMedDx in a few short years is in large measure due to this vision that he brought to the organization.

Mr. HATCH. Congratulations to Vince on his accomplishments during his tenure as AdvaMedDx chairman, and best wishes to AdvaMedDx for many future successes.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DR. RAY DOLBY

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Dr. Ray Dolby, a trailblazing engineer, entrepreneur, and pioneer in the field of sound who passed away on September 12, 2013. He was 80 years old.

Born in Portland, OR and raised in the San Francisco Bay area, Ray Dolby was a dedicated tinkerer from a young age, always curious about how things worked. As a high school student, he worked after school for the electronics company Ampex Corporation, playing a key role in developing Quadruplex, the world's first commercially successful video tape recorder, which revolutionized the world of television broadcasting.

After graduating from Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering, Ray began a doctoral program in physics at Cambridge University in England, receiving his doctorate in 1961. The next year, his life changed: He met the love of his life, Dagmar, who was also at Cambridge studying as a summer student, and the two married in 1966 and had two beautiful sons, Tom and David.

In search of adventure, Ray spent 2 years traversing India as a technical adviser for the United Nations, working with the Indian Government to establish a new national laboratory focusing on the development of scientific and industrial instruments. Buoyed by his research in India, Dolby returned to England in 1965 and founded Dolby Laboratories, which he moved to San Francisco in 1976.

Throughout his career, Ray Dolby pioneered many of the most significant developments in sound and audio design. Early on, he invented noise-reduction technology that eliminated the hiss that had marred earlier forms of tape recorded sound and in the 1970s introduced Dolby Stereo, which allowed movie studios to record films in multi-channel surround sound. The innovation of surround sound played a pivotal role in allowing theatergoers around the world to enjoy the sound effects in such groundbreaking movies as "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" and "Star Wars" and innumerable other popular films produced in the decades that followed. Since then, Ray Dolby and Dolby Laboratories have pioneered a multitude of technologies in noise reduction, audio and video processing, live sound, and digital cinema, and won multiple Emmys and Academy Awards for their work.

While Ray is often recognized first and foremost for his revolutionary work in the field of sound, he and his wife Dagmar are also known as leaders in San Francisco's philanthropic community. They gave generously to numerous causes and organizations, supporting everything from stem cell research to performing arts. I extend my deepest condolences to Ray's loving wife Dagmar; his children, Tom and David, and their spouses; and his four grandchildren. Dr. Ray Dolby will be deeply missed, but his legacy of generosity and innovation will live on in the countless lives he touched.●

REMEMBERING ELIZABETH DENEBEIM

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the memory of Elizabeth "Libby" Denebeim, a pillar of the San Francisco community, who passed away on November 15, 2013. She was 83 years old.

Libby was born and raised in the Midwest and graduated from the University of Missouri, where she met the love of her life, Robert Denebeim. After getting married, Libby went on to obtain a master's degree in education and taught elementary school in Tampa, FL, while Robert completed his service in the U.S. Air Force.

In 1956, the couple moved to the San Francisco Bay Area. Libby had always been dedicated to public service, and in San Francisco she became a leader in the community. She worked on behalf of so many agencies and organizations dedicated to improving education, mental health, the arts, and family services, including the San Francisco Board of Education; the San Francisco Mental Health Association; the Mayor's Advisory Council on Families, Children and Youth; the Mayor's Criminal Justice Council; San Francisco Head Start; and Jewish Family and Children's Services.