

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 1 day after enactment.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2876 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2875

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment to the substitute which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2876 to amendment No. 2875.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "1 day" and insert "2 days".

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the substitute amendment No. 2874 to H.R. 3979, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Harry Reid, Jack Reed, Patrick J. Leahy, Thomas R. Carper, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Christopher A. Coons, Tom Harkin, Cory A. Booker, Tom Udall, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Barbara Boxer, Angus S. King, Jr., Christopher Murphy, Al Franken, Bernard Sanders.

AMENDMENT NO. 2877

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the bill at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2877 to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 2874.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 3 days after enactment.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2878 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2877

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2878 to amendment No. 2877.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "3 days" and insert "4 days".

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH AMENDMENT NO. 2879

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a motion to commit H.R. 3979, but it also has instructions, and that is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] moves to commit the bill to the Committee on Finance with instructions to report back forthwith with the following amendment numbered 2879.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end, add the following:

This Act shall become effective 4 days after enactment.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on that motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2880

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the instructions at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2880 to the instructions of the motion to commit H.R. 3979.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "4 days" and insert "5 days".

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on that amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2881 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2880

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. REID] proposes an amendment numbered 2881 to amendment No. 2880.

The amendment is as follows:

In the amendment, strike "5 days" and insert "6 days".

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I have a cloture motion at the desk, and I ask that the Chair order it reported.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on H.R. 3979, an act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that emergency services volunteers are not taken into account as employees under the shared responsibility requirements contained in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

Harry Reid, Jack Reed, Patrick J. Leahy, Thomas R. Carper, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Christopher A. Coons, Tom Harkin, Cory A. Booker, Tom Udall, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Barbara Boxer, Angus S. King, Jr., Christopher Murphy, Al Franken, Bernard Sanders.

Mr. REID. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill 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.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on the matter before the body before the quorum call was ordered, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorums required under rule XXII be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

MINIMUM WAGE FAIRNESS ACT— MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 250, S. 1737, the Minimum Wage Fairness Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 250, S. 1737, a bill to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage and to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend increased expensing limitations and the treatment of certain real property as section 179 property.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 404

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I shortly am going to make a unanimous consent request on S. Res. 404, a resolution I submitted honoring the life and legacy of Cesar Chavez. This resolution has been blocked by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle every time it has come up for the last 7 consecutive years—every time.

Now, today, on what would have been Cesar Chavez's 87th birthday, I ask my Republican colleagues to find it in their hearts to honor a man who really made a difference in our country. Frankly, I do not understand their reluctance. I do not understand their obstructionism. I do not understand how they can look back at that time in history, at the sacrifices Cesar Chavez made for our country, asking for nothing more than fair treatment and justice.

I realize it is uncommon to make a live unanimous consent request for a

commemorative resolution, but if Republicans are going to object yet again—for an eighth year in a row—to honoring, in my view, a great American hero, I really want it to be on the record. I think Republicans need to answer to the American people as to why, as a party, they can agree to passing resolutions honoring World Plumbing Day or congratulating the Penn State Dance Marathon—both Senate resolutions that were adopted this month by unanimous consent—but insist on standing in the way of honoring a civil rights trailblazer who changed the course of our Nation's history.

Cesar Chavez was a man before his time, and he deserves proper recognition. He dedicated his life to fighting for equality, justice, and dignity—not only for Hispanic farm workers but for all workers in the United States. Yet our friends on the other side cannot find it in their hearts to honor him. I have to ask why. Why can't they simply say yes, he was an extraordinary man who gave of himself for his cause and deserves to be remembered and honored by the U.S. Senate?

The President of the United States proclaimed today, March 31, 2014, as Cesar Chavez Day. Over 10 States honor his life and legacy each year on this day. The Secretary of the Interior established a national monument in his honor, and across the country you will find schools, parks, streets, libraries, and other public facilities named after Cesar Chavez as well.

So I implore Senate Republicans to reconsider denying Cesar Chavez's legacy for an eighth year in a row. Adopt this commemorative resolution by unanimous consent. Give Cesar Chavez the recognition he so deserves. That is all we ask—nothing more.

This year there is a new movie chronicling the life of Cesar Chavez—a life lived with honor and dignity and decency for the betterment of all of us. The film is long overdue. That life, that dedication, that spirit will always be missed.

He was born near his family's farm in Yuma, AZ. When he was 10, in the hard times of the Depression, the family lost their farm, like millions of Americans, and they became migrant farm workers, laboring in vineyards across the Southwest, where he learned of the injustice and hardship of a farm worker's life. He never left those fields. He never left the land. He never turned his back on the people who worked it. And the rest is history.

Robert Kennedy called him one of the most heroic figures of our time. I think it is because Cesar Chavez understood and believed in one fundamental truth. He always said: "The fight is never about grapes or lettuce; it's always about people."

He was right. And that fight continues today. The struggle for fairness and dignity for every American goes on, and Cesar Chavez was and is its inspiration. He certainly is an American hero but most definitely a hero to the

Hispanic community. He paved the way for the contributions of Hispanic Americans—for innovative progress and social improvements. If there is one man who redefined leadership, it is Cesar Chavez.

I think my colleagues need to know that the community stands with me today and stands firmly behind my resolution honoring the life and legacy of Cesar Chavez.

Mr. President, I have a list—and in the interest of time, I will not read it—of 37 national Hispanic and labor organizations that all support the resolution. I ask unanimous consent to have that list printed in the RECORD.

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

2014 CESAR CHAVEZ RESOLUTION (S. RES. 404)

ENDORSEMENTS
(LIST IN PROGRESS)
LATINO ORGANIZATIONS

1. Aspira
2. Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network
3. Cuban American National Council, Inc. (CNC)
4. Farmworker Justice
5. Friends of the American Latino Museum
6. Hispanic Federation
7. Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU)
8. Latino Justice PRLDEF
9. Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA)
10. League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
11. Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)
12. MANA, A National Latina Organization
13. National Alliance of Latin American & Caribbean Communities (NALACC)
14. National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund
15. National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives (NAHFE)
16. National Council of La Raza (NCLR)
17. National Hispanic Environmental Council (NHEC)
18. National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL)
19. National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA)
20. National Hispanic Media Coalition (NHMC)
21. National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA)
22. National Institute for Latino Policy (NILP)
23. National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH)
24. SER Jobs for Progress National, Inc.
25. Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP)
26. U.S. Hispanic Leadership Institute (USHLI)
27. US Mexico Foundation
28. National Latino Farmers & Ranchers Trade Association
29. Minority Business RoundTable

LABOR GROUPS

1. AFL-CIO
2. American Federation of Government Employees
3. American Federation of Teachers
4. Communications Workers of America (CWA)
5. International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots

6. International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers

7. International Union, United Automobile, Aerospace & Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW)

8. Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association.

Mr. MENENDEZ. We all eagerly await the day when politics will no longer preclude its passage.

Cesar Chavez's profound legacy and lasting influence can be reduced to three words—the motto of the United Farm Workers—that recall his fight for justice and have echoed from the fields of Delano, CA, across America all the way to the White House: "Si se puede." These three words, while simple in nature, harbored the power to move entire communities from the dark shadows of injustice toward a brighter light of hope. These three words represent at their very core the spirit that breathes life into Americans' struggle for a better life.

As the leader of the first successful farm workers union in the United States, he fought to ensure those working tirelessly to provide Americans with food received the benefits they deserved. Nonetheless, his service extends far beyond our agricultural fields and provides inspiration to those working to improve human rights, empowering workers, regardless of race or ethnicity. His countless efforts to ensure equality, justice, and dignity for all people in the United States are a testament of his leadership and success—a success that can only be measured by the lasting impact he has made toward ending workplace discrimination, unsafe and unfair working conditions, low wages, and child labor. He was more than just a farmer with a vision. He was a civil rights leader who embodied the pursuit of justice that continues to inspire millions of Americans today.

So I come to the floor today to honor the life and achievements of Cesar Chavez, to ask my Republican colleagues to put aside their politics and do what is right by a man whose life and legacy deserve the recognition of this Nation—one Nation and one Congress.

Let's stand together and recognize the accomplishments of a great American hero but, most importantly, let's honor the values that make our country great—the values of tolerance, hope, and freedom, upon which this country was founded. And let's always remember, as Chavez said, the fight is always about the people.

With that, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 404, the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I would note that the resolution has not come out of the Judiciary Committee and

that Senator VITTER, who has filed an amendment to the resolution, asks that that amendment be accepted or voted on, which has been not agreed to. The amendment would say a couple things.

One:

Whereas Cesar Estrada Chavez strongly believed in enforcing immigration laws, thereby reducing the deleterious effects of inexpensive labor on the wages of farm workers in the United States, as recognized by the Congressional Budget Office in the June 2013 report entitled "The Economic Impact of S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act.

... And he offers this "whereas," a second one:

Whereas Cesar Estrada Chavez recognized the importance of a secure southern border with Mexico, through citizen participation in the enforcement of immigration laws, by encouraging members of the United Farm Workers of America to contact the Immigration and Naturalization Service to report instances of illegal labor. . . .

So that not having been accepted, I would ask that be accepted. It is at the desk. I ask it be agreed to prior to adoption of this resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from New Jersey so modify his request?

Mr. MENENDEZ. Reserving the right to object, this is not about Cesar Chavez. This is about immigration. I know my distinguished colleague has a different view about immigration than I do. I know Senator VITTER, for whom he is offering this amendment, also has a different view.

The Senate has spoken on the question of immigration. Sixty-seven Senators, two-thirds of the Senate has already sent an immigration reform bill to the House of Representatives. So while we may have different views, that is not the issue of Cesar Chavez. In my view it is an injustice to his memory to offer such an amendment. That is why I will have to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. SESSIONS. I would object and would note I do have a different view on these issues. With regard to the impact of S. 744, had it passed, it would have been adverse to farmworkers who are in this country working hard, need pay raises, and need better job opportunities. I think these are important parts of Mr. Chavez's career. It seems to me that the Senator would be pleased to accept that, but I understand we have a disagreement. I express my respect for Senator MENENDEZ and his leadership on the Foreign Relations Committee, but we disagree on this subject.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I have a deep respect for Senator SESSIONS. But I will just simply say this is the 8th year, the 8th year in which under some figleaf—before they could hide through their objections. But this

is really a fig leaf. The Senate has expressed itself on immigration reform. This is not about immigration reform. This is about Cesar Chavez. This is about a man who led boycotts across the country to bring to justice the rights of farmworkers and of all workers across the land.

There is no bigger supporter, by the way, than the United Farm Workers, which he helped build, create, and today is one of the strongest voices for that immigration reform.

It is, from my view, shameful that we can pass commemorative resolutions on some of the most insignificant issues, but on the life of someone who changed the course of this country for millions of Latinos who understand that life and history and would want to see that life commemorated, that there can be a continuing objection for 8 years. I will keep coming each year to the floor to make this happen. At some point it will.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Before the distinguished Senator from New Jersey leaves, I wish to thank him for his diligence and advocacy on behalf of a distinguished American. I can say, as chair of the agriculture committee, without the work of Cesar Chavez, without those who toiled in the fields picking the fruits and vegetables and providing the backbone of the agricultural workforce, we would not have an agricultural economy in many places in this country.

To say on the date of his birth that we recognize Cesar Chavez is something that is straightforward and ought to be happening and should have happened 8 years ago.

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CARE

Mr. President, today marks the culmination of a long fight to improve community mental health care in our country. Last Thursday the House of Representatives passed the Protecting Access to Medicare Act, which includes a demonstration project based on the Excellence in Mental Health Act that my friend and partner from Missouri ROY BLUNT and I authored.

I wish to recognize Senator MARIA CANTWELL, who is one of our cosponsors who is on the floor, for her wonderful, passionate support and voice helping us get this done. I wish to thank our House sponsors. This is a House-Senate Republican-Democratic initiative. Who says we cannot work together when we want to get things done?

Congresswoman MATSUI, a Democrat from Hawaii; Congressman LANCE, a Republican from New Jersey, were our sponsors. We also had significant partnership and advocacy from Congressman TIM MURPHY, a leader in mental health in the Congress, a Republican from Pennsylvania.

I wish to thank SUSAN COLLINS who, as a Senator from Maine, has been a passionate advocate as well and Sen-

ator JACK REED, who has worked with me for years on this legislation. He and I were partners for a long time to get this done. I wish to thank the chairman of the Ways and Means Committee in the House, Chairman CAMP, and Chairman UPTON for working with us, both from my home State of Michigan—for working and partnering with us.

I wish to thank the Speaker and Majority Leader REID, who put together a proposal, not what most of us would have liked to have seen in terms of permanently fixing this issue of the SGR or Medicare reimbursement for physicians, but even in looking at a fix for just 1 year, they came together and supported our vision for positively moving forward on a demonstration project to increase community mental health services.

Certainly, last but not least, I wish to thank Senator RON WYDEN, who has been there since day one and now as chairman of the Finance Committee has been unequivocal in his passionate support for what we are doing. I wish to thank Chairman WYDEN for his leadership and support.

Our legislation is a landmark step forward for community mental health funding, one of the most significant advances we have seen in decades. This bill will improve the lives of people all across the country by providing funding to create 24-hour emergency psychiatric services and higher standards and funding for community care.

We authored this bill because mental illness touches all of our families in some way, one out of four Americans. For me, it was my father who suffered from bipolar disorder and was not diagnosed for at least 10 years when I was growing up. I saw the impact on my dad, the most loving, wonderful father someone could have, on my mom, on my brothers, our whole family, as we struggled to figure out what was going on and get him the help and support he needed.

When he finally was accurately diagnosed and received the right treatment and support, got the right tools to manage this disease, he was able to go back to work and live a happy and rewarding life for the rest of his life. Similar to my dad, too many people who need treatment do not get it, including one-third of all people living with mood disorders and more than half of those with severe mental diseases.

That is because in this country we treat mental health and physical health differently. If you have diabetes, you monitor your sugar levels, you take insulin to manage your disease. You go on with your life as you are managing your disease. If you are bipolar, meaning you have a chemical imbalance in the brain, you may receive zero treatment, maybe lose your job or worse your family, maybe end up in jail or on the streets.

Diabetes and bipolar disorders are both chemical imbalances in different

parts of the body. Both deserve treatment. People deserve to be able to get effective treatment for both. Both are treatable—both are treatable. The same is true for schizophrenia and many other behavioral diseases. There is hope when people get help.

There is treatment available and from that the ability to manage diseases, as we do for so many physical diseases that people have. This bill which we just passed in the Senate will make it more likely to happen that people can get the treatment and support they need. This bill makes great improvements in the way we treat mental health care as well. It will expand access, make sure people get treatment at a higher quality level, because just as we do with federally qualified health centers, we are now creating federally qualified behavioral health clinics.

If you meet higher standards, you get higher reimbursements and therefore more services available. This legislation authorizes eight States to be designated to receive enhanced funding for community mental health services, based on meeting high-quality standards for services, as I said before, for the designation of federally qualified behavioral health clinics.

This is voluntary. States will compete to be designated as one of the eight demonstration States. I expect many States and communities across the country to be working together to do that. I fully expect this demonstration project will save lives and save money to communities in every State that is housing people in jails who should be getting the treatment they need in the community in order to manage their diseases and live productive lives.

It has taken a long time to get here. The fight began 50 years ago, when President John F. Kennedy called on Congress to create a new type of health care facility that would improve the quality of mental health care in the community—in the community—and reduce stigma. He pushed Congress to take action on mental health care because he had a vision to bring mental health treatment out of institutions and into communities across America.

Following his lead, Congress sent him the Community Mental Health Act. It was the last bill he signed before he was murdered in Dallas. It is one of the most important bills that he signed. Senator BLUNT and I spoke on the Senate floor last fall to commemorate the 50th anniversary of that bill's signing because it marked a major change in the way we treat mental health.

Unfortunately, over the past few decades, instead of increasing funding for mental health services, we have seen cut after cut after cut. We are seeing the consequences. Inpatient facilities all across the country have closed their doors, but they have not been replaced by services in the community. Too often we are turning the emergency

room or worse to jails or prisons as our primary mental health treatment facilities.

As Cook County, IL, Sheriff Tom Dart testified in the House of Representatives just last week, “The unfortunate and undeniable conclusion is, that because of dramatic and sustained cuts in mental health funding, we have criminalized mental illness in this country.”

The ER and the jails are not the place to treat mental illness. We can do better than that in this country. We have now taken a major step to do that. Our families deserve better. That is why our former colleagues Senator Pete Domenici and Senator Paul Wellstone, a dear friend to so many of us and whom we miss dearly, and later another dear friend, Senator Ted Kennedy, whom we also miss dearly, a towering figure on so many issues, joined together with Senator Kennedy's son, Representative PATRICK KENNEDY, and wrote the bipartisan Mental Health Parity and Addiction Act. They wanted to make sure we had parity in how insurance companies treat mental and physical health. That bill became law finally in 2008. It was a huge step forward.

I was proud to offer mental health parity in the Affordable Care Act, which was the next big step forward. Today we voted on the final step in mental health parity in the community, the ability to get funding for quality mental health care services the same way we fund quality community health services.

I have met and heard from so many people who personally felt the effects of mental illness and who wanted us to pass this bill so they and others could get the treatment they need.

One of those people who joined us—in fact, today at a press conference, flew in from Michigan—is Malkia Newman, who lived for over 30 years with undiagnosed bipolar disorder. She finally got the treatment she needed through the Oakland County Community Mental Health Authority in the Detroit suburbs.

She recovered, is now managing her illness, and is the board chair of the very same mental health board community she turned to for help so she can help others. Her message to Congress is: “Please pass this bill so everyone can get the mental health help they need.”

Not everyone is as lucky as Malkia, though. There are many who still need our help, which is why what we have done today is so important.

Today, one in four returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan is in some need of some form of mental health care treatment. I recently heard from Marcia in Dearborn about her friend.

She said:

My friend bravely served two tours in Iraq for this country. Before he left for war, he was so outgoing and all he wanted was to put a smile on everyone's face. He had the biggest heart of anyone I know.

But when he came home from war with PTSD, her friend was in trouble.

Marcia writes:

What is done for these men and women when they come home? They go to war, they see things no one should ever see and do things no one should ever do, and they're expected to return home and live normally?

Her friend killed himself after suffering from PTSD for 8 years. Marcia's friend is only 1 of the 22 veterans who take their own lives every single day in America. This is where our bill comes in. This bipartisan bill expands access to mental health care, working with outpatient VA clinics, working with community mental health centers, and federally qualified mental health centers, all working together. I thank so much the Iraq and Afghanistan veterans for being with us every step of the way, advocating, all of the veterans organizations that have been so supportive. This bill will create a broad range of mental health services, such as 24-hour crisis psychiatric services in communities that are selected, integrated preventive screenings, integrated treatment for mental illness and substance abuse, and expanded peer support and counseling for families and patients alike.

It allows community mental health centers to finally be reimbursed the same as physical health providers. We are finally saying that as a country we are going to treat illnesses from the neck up, the same way we treat illnesses from the neck down.

Instead of merely talking about mental health in the wake of tragedies such as the Navy Yard in Washington last fall that took 13 lives or the tragedy at Sandy Hook, we have taken action this evening.

Mental health isn't a partisan issue. Senators Domenici and Wellstone understood it just as Senator BLUNT, Senator CANTWELL, Senator COLLINS, and I understand.

Senator Wellstone isn't here to see the progress we have made, but he once said:

Politics is not about power. Politics is not about money. Politics is not about winning for the sake of winning. Politics is about the improvement of people's lives.

That is exactly what we are doing, improving people's lives and creating hope and opportunity for people to get the help they need to live long, successful lives.

I thank all of our colleagues for working together to get this done. It will be something, as we move forward, of which we can all be proud.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate as in morning business for less than 15 minutes.

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, first I wish to address legislation that passed the Senate earlier this evening. The sustainable growth rate is such an important issue to the people from the

State of Kansas. I come from a State in which senior citizens are a very prevalent portion of our population, and access to health care is so dependent upon whether Medicare reimburses a physician, a hospital, a home health care agency or a nursing home in an adequate amount. I fear that in the absence of that adequate Medicare reimbursement we will see a lot fewer doctors, and hospital doors will close.

I have been an advocate of and in fact I never voted to create the sustainable growth rate, and I suppose I should explain what that is. In the broadest of terms it means there is a formula that ultimately reduces the reimbursement a physician receives under Medicare. It has become a very dramatic issue. This year I believe it is around a 24 percent reduction that will occur April 1, tomorrow, if the sustainable growth rate formula is not altered.

The reality is that Congress has altered that formula to avoid those reductions, because we know when a health care provider is not compensated in a way that covers the cost of providing the service, most likely we are going to have fewer health care providers. Hospitals will not be there, physicians will no longer be in practice, and, particularly in areas of our country that are rural where, again, a significant portion of the population is senior citizens whose medical bills are paid, in part, through Medicare.

My discouragement, my dissatisfaction, is once again the Senate has demonstrated its dysfunction by passing a very short-term fix to this long-term problem. If history is any indication, we will be back 1 year from now in the same predicament. We have made alterations 16 times previously. This is the 17th time in which we have done a short-term fix to a long-term problem. To me, it is one more symptom of our inability as a Senate to function in a way that benefits the American people: in this case, patients who are served by physicians who will be harmed.

In instances across Kansas, our hospitals are now employers of physicians, and so they have entered into a contract with a physician. When the reimbursement rate for the physician is reduced, it means less revenue to the hospital and a tighter squeeze to the many hospitals that barely hang on by a thread.

I express my appreciation to Senator WYDEN, the chairman of the Finance Committee, for his efforts to find a long-term solution, a permanent repeal of the SGR and again express my willingness to him and to others to work with Democrats in the Senate, to work with Republicans in the Senate, to find the necessary numbers of us who will come together to support legislation that would permanently end the SGR, and that we would not be then asked a few months from now to come back once again to solve the problem.

We know the problem is there. We know we will have to find a solution. The consequences of failing are so

great, but we were unwilling to take the necessary steps today to pass a permanent repeal and an elimination of the SGR formula.

Again, to Senator WYDEN, he and I have had conversations since last Thursday about my willingness to have conversations with Republican Members of the Senate to find the necessary votes to pass legislation for a permanent repeal. I expressed that offer again to Senator WYDEN, that we are still interested in doing that, and that the country, its health care providers and their patients, deserve better than what we were able to do today.

REMEMBERING THE MULL FAMILY

I turn to a story about a very special Kansas family. Unfortunately, it is a sad story.

I often describe to my friends and colleagues in Washington, DC, how special Kansas is and in a special way how we live our lives there.

Families are important. The values of family run deep in our communities. We have neighbors who care for each other and we all know each other one on one, name by name, family by family. We know where they go to church, we know what schools their kids are in, and we know how their families are doing. When tragedy strikes, the entire community is shaken.

I pay tribute today to a family from north central Kansas, the Mulls. Glenn Mull and his wife Elaine, their daughter Amy Harter and their granddaughter Samantha Harter were traveling to the National Cattlemen's Beef Association trade show in Nashville on February 3 when the plane they were in crashed during its second landing attempt. The jet went down about 10 miles from the airport in Bellevue, TN.

I saw on the Internet a Bellevue resident, who I don't know. She wrote this tribute to Glenn Mull, the pilot.

She said:

Glenn had reached the most bustling section of our community at the busiest time of the day. . . . He would have seen hundreds of homes with cars in the driveway. A Kroger packed with shoppers. An assisted living community. And an enormous YMCA, where hundreds of families were streaming in and out to swim in the indoor pool, exercise and take classes. Glenn didn't know this, but school was cancelled for our kids . . . so a larger number than usual were at the Y with their parents. Some experts are saying now that the last-second sharp turn Glenn made in the seconds before the plane crashed indicates that he made a heroic decision to hit the one spot in the immediate vicinity where no one on the ground would be hurt. . . . Glenn managed to spare all of their lives.

The Bellevue resident went on to describe her own community as one which is "filled with people who shared Glenn's obvious affinity for family." She said that Bellevue residents:

. . . are all talking about Glenn Mull, the hero, who we believe had the extraordinary courage and presence of mind to save our families, even as he realized he couldn't save his own.

Glenn was born in Great Bend and raised on his family farm near there,

where his parents instilled in him a strong work ethic and a sense of integrity. He went on to graduate from Kansas State University with a business degree, and K-State is where he met his wife Elaine. They moved back to north central Kansas to grow the three-generation family farm and eventually to raise their three children. He promoted his life's work through representation of Kansas farmers and ranchers in organizations such as the Kansas Livestock Association and the National Cattlemen's Beef Association.

Glenn and Elaine were well respected not only in the cattle industry but also in their community for their generous commitment to improving the lives of their neighbors. As a founding board member of Pawnee Valley Community Hospital Foundation, one of Glenn's top priorities was improving health care in Larned, KS. Their hospital was faced with potential closure in 2009 until efforts were made by the city of Larned and community members such as Glenn to solve the problem and to keep the hospital doors open. For rural communities such as Larned, access to the types of health care facilities offered by Pawnee Valley Community Hospital is essential to their community's future.

Elaine, his wife, had a tireless heart for service and volunteered in a number of organizations, including the Fort Larned Historical Society, the Larned Hospital Auxiliary, the Santa Fe Trail Center, Larned Music Club, 4-H, Girl Scouts, and was a K-State trustee, just to name a few of her activities.

She played the piano and taught Bible study classes at Grace Community Church in Great Bend where the pastor said that he loved to talk with Glenn about the weather, which is a very common Kansas conversation, and that he always used the farmer's expertise to analyze the day.

The pastor said:

He knew exactly how much moisture we had and what we needed, whether this was good for the wheat versus the milo and how it might affect the feed yards.

The pastor continued:

There has been talk that Glenn behaved in a very heroic way. I have no idea whether that is true, but I will tell you that he is the kind of guy who would absolutely have done the right thing.

Glenn and Elaine's legacies of selflessness, philanthropy, and leadership undoubtedly live on. I have met many people in my life, and I don't know that I have ever met a couple with more optimism, with more care and concern for other people, with a sense that things will be better tomorrow, and that the idea that hard work and living your life with integrity and as a companion to your Creator, would mean that good things would happen for you and your family.

Amy Harter, their daughter, and her family lived in a house on the Mulls' land and worked in the family business, while she and her husband Doug raised their children, Chase and Samantha.

Sixteen-year-old Samantha, the granddaughter, was killed in that plane crash. She was described by one of her classmates at Larned High School, which has a student body of about 300, as a silly girl but a serious enough one to be a member of the honor choir. She would have the most energy in the honor choir practice at 7 in the morning. She would either be there—tired—with caramel rolls her mom had made or laughing and having fun.

Kansans know what it means to persevere, and certainly the Mull family has persevered through many difficulties. No farmer or rancher escapes that in our State. We embrace our State's motto—"Ad astra per aspera"—"To the stars through difficulties." During difficult times we often see the very best in people—as in Glenn's decision to save lives in Tennessee when he couldn't save himself or his family.

Amidst the loss of Glenn and Elaine, their daughter and granddaughter, and the suffering of this Kansas community, what stands out is the outpouring in Larned and Great Bend in central Kansas of care and compassion shown by their friends and neighbors but also by the residents of Bellevue, NE, who were united in their care and concern for this family they never knew.

Glenn, Elaine, their daughter Amy, and granddaughter Samantha will be greatly missed, and all we can do now is model our lives after the lives they led and ask that God comfort them, their families and be a source of support for all who knew them as we go through this continued time of grief.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Kansas for his remarks and extend my sympathies to the family. I thank the Senator for his rendition of his State's fortitude. My State is working with fortitude right now too in the Oso-Darrington mudslides, and perseverance is a good word.

So I thank him.

Mr. MORAN. I thank my colleague.

EXCELLENCE IN MENTAL HEALTH ACT

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, we took an important step today to improve the lives of millions of Americans who deal with mental illness. I am talking about the Excellence in Mental Health Act, which was included in the provisions of the legislation we just passed this evening.

I thank my colleagues, Senators STABENOW and BLUNT, for their leadership on this bill. Senator STABENOW just gave a very passionate history of why she has been so involved with this issue. People may not realize that she has been working on this since 2005. So I thank her for that leadership because around here it takes time to get things done, and she has never forgotten how important this is for those with mental illness and the loved ones and family members who care about them.

This legislation was bipartisan legislation, and that certainly helped us get

the bill passed. It was something I was happy to cosponsor with Senator STABENOW when we worked it through the committee and then also when we tried to get it included in this latest package. So I am proud to be here tonight to thank her and Senator BLUNT for their leadership in getting this done.

This legislation improves access to community health centers and leads to better quality of care. It will give access to those participating States that are fortunate enough to be in this first phase of a pilot program, and it will help local governments and health care systems that are all plagued by these challenges. Most importantly, it will help save lives.

Community mental health treatment centers are struggling because they are trying to meet the demand and do so within the balance of their budgets. According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness, States have cut more than \$1.6 billion in mental health funds since 2009. So here we are with a very pervasive problem and budget tightening, which, obviously, causes big challenges. What are those challenges? Basically too many people falling through the cracks.

Nationally, more than half of those with serious mental disorders don't get the treatment they need to lead productive healthy lives. In my State, the State of Washington, 55 percent of those with mental illness are not getting treatment. That translates to 500,000 people who are not getting the help they need, according to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration. When they reach a crisis point, it is not just a burden on them and their families but on our communities, our hospitals, and our criminal justice systems. As a result, our jails and our emergency rooms have become the mental health clinic of last resort.

As the Tacoma News Tribune wrote in a recent editorial, "Jails and prisons have become our de facto mental institutions."

Not only is that approach ineffective, it is also extremely expensive. It means local governments spend more for housing and court services and medication and treatment of the mentally ill while in their custody. For emergency rooms it means they fill up with mentally ill patients they are often ill equipped to deal with.

In Washington we have seen a dramatic rise in psychiatric boarding—or warehousing. Boarding happens when involuntarily committed patients must wait for hours in a hospital emergency room because psychiatric facilities have no open beds.

A recent investigation by the Seattle Times found that boarding has become routine in our State, "traumatizing thousands of mentally ill residents, wreaking havoc on hospitals, and wasting millions [in] taxpayer dollars." Patients are "frequently parked in hallways or bound to beds, usually given medication but otherwise no psychiatric care."

This report is the basis of why this legislation is so important. The report also talked about financial costs. Boarding costs Washington State's health care system \$10.5 million a year, according to the State.

I believe we can do better, and this legislation helps us do that. We can support proven models that improve efficiency and reduce spending. One such model is this legislation we just passed—community-based care that focuses on prevention, early intervention, and coordination between providers. All of that is why the legislation is so important. It helps increase efficiency while bolstering the community health centers with increased Medicaid support.

It will also enable the State to improve the quality and range of services. It requires the State to certify community mental health centers and meet higher standards. Some of those services would be things such as 24-hour crisis management, screening assessments and diagnosis, outpatient mental health substance abuse services, outpatient primary care screenings to monitor the indicators of health conditions, peer support and counseling, better coordination with veterans' clinics, acute care hospitals, and inpatient psychiatric and substance abuse services.

All of these are missing in our communities, and oftentimes those individuals end up, as I just said, in either the emergency room of a hospital or in a jail. Currently, there are no standards for mental health services in community health facilities. States that will participate in this program will be able to get a Medicaid reimbursement equal to what federally qualified health centers receive for primary care services.

This is so important, and something Senator STABENOW mentioned—putting this on equal footing. More than 50 mental health, medical, and law enforcement groups and organizations supported this important legislation because it is what they need to help do their job in these communities. Some of those organizations that supported this legislation are the National Sheriffs' Association, the National Association of Police Organizations, the American Psychological Association, the American Medical Association, and the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

In Washington we have seen how some of these community-based services are paying off. In rural central Washington, the counties of Yakima, Kittitas, and Klickitat have reduced their hospitalization through strengthening outpatient services and investing in early intervention programs, such as community treatment teams that meet with patients in their homes.

This region in my State now has the lowest per capita psychiatric hospitalizations, according to an editorial in the Seattle Times just last week. This demonstration project builds on what we already know can be successes.

Clearly, we have a lot of work to do, but this important legislation will help us be smarter about community-based care that will keep people out of the emergency rooms and out of our jails, keeping them from becoming the mental health clinics of last resort.

As Chris Imhoff, an official with the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services, remarked:

It's exciting for a community when something like this happens. . . . It helps us not strand people with psychiatric emergencies in emergency rooms, which is a good thing.

That is why this legislation is taking us in the right direction. So again, I thank the Senators from Michigan and Missouri for their leadership on this legislation. It is so important we got it passed, and, hopefully, now it will move towards the President's desk and implementation.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. CANTWELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

WORLD WATER DAY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, March 21 was the 21st anniversary of World Water Day. On this day, we call attention to the centrality of water in our lives and communities, and we recognize the vital work that must continue to ensure that every person has access to clean water and sanitation.

The acute challenges in improving access to clean water and sanitation in developing countries are well known. Nearly 800 million people lack clean water and more than 2 billion people are without basic sanitation. In a world of increasing water scarcity and climate unpredictability, the risks associated with an unstable water supply will only intensify. A wide assortment of global health and development challenges can be traced directly, or indirectly, to a lack of access to clean water and integrated water resource management.

In recent years, the depth and pervasiveness of these problems have gained increasing attention. In 2000, the U.S. signed the Millennium Development Goals, one of which seeks to halve the number of people without access to clean water and basic sanitation by 2015. This attention has also led to the formation of international partnerships such as Water and Sanitation for All in 2012, of which the United States is an active member. As projections stand now, the MDG clean water target has already been met while there is still a long way to go in reaching the sanitation goal by 2015.

The United States has long been a leader in supporting efforts to improve global access to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and water resource

management. The Paul Simon Water for the Poor Act of 2005, a bill which I strongly supported, was the first major legislation enacted to make access to clean water and sanitation a U.S. foreign policy priority. Each year, as chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on the Department of State and Foreign Operations, I have included increasing amounts of funding to implement the Paul Simon Act.

We should reflect on the legacy of the late Senator Simon and take a moment to recognize and appreciate his contributions to making clean water a development priority. His work is carried on through the programs and policies of the legislation that bears his name.

On World Water Day, we should also recognize the indispensable work that has been done by governments, NGO's, and private companies to provide access to clean water and sanitation. I have visited Haiti three times in recent years to inspect the work of rebuilding crucial infrastructure, shattered by the earthquake. My wife Marcelle worked for many years as a registered nurse. In 2012 she saw, firsthand, some of these vital clean water and sanitation initiatives. A nonprofit organization, Pure Water for the World, based in Rutland, VT, implements a sustainable model for clean water programs in developing countries by building low-cost water filtration systems, installing latrines to improve sanitation, and providing hygiene education in local communities.

We must also realize how much work is still left to do in this area of development, and understand that to tackle 21st century problems we need innovative solutions. The release of the U.S. Agency for International Development's new water strategy last year was an important step, especially with its focus on sustainability and enhanced monitoring and evaluation of projects.

I will continue to support USAID's work to carry out its mission and the strategic objectives in the water strategy. More than \$365 million was included for WASH programs in the 2014 omnibus appropriations bill that was signed into law on January 17. Congress should also pass the Water for the World Act, which would give USAID additional tools to address these critical issues.

Lastly, I want to highlight the theme of this year's World Water Day, which is "water and energy." The links between water and energy cannot be ignored. Nearly eight percent of all global energy is used to transport, pump, and treat water for a variety of consumers, while energy generation and transmission also requires massive water resources. With more than a billion people also lacking access to electricity, we need to address both these issues together.

World Water Day reminds us how fortunate we are in the United States to be able to turn on a faucet and have clean water, because for many hun-

dreds of millions of people this luxury is not close to a reality. While we have made progress in bringing clean water and sanitation to millions across the world, there is still much work to be done.

GUN SHOW LOOPHOLE

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, on March 14, 2014, a popular teacher named Michelle Wilcox got into an argument. People get into arguments all the time. It is part of life. But this argument ended, as all too many do around our Nation, in tragedy: suddenly, the man with whom Ms. Wilcox had been arguing pulled out a firearm, chased after her, shot her, and left her body in a grassy patch near a preschool.

In this case, as in so many others, the presence of a gun turned an ordinary altercation into a horrific murder. Had a firearm not been present, Ms. Wilcox might have been able to walk away that fateful morning—frustrated, angry, but alive. Instead, she was murdered, her husband of 12 years now awaits trial, and their child has lost its mother. A momentary bad decision ended one life and has irrevocably changed so many more.

We may not know if anything could have prevented this tragedy, but we do know that this grim scene repeats itself all around our Nation, almost every day. Statistics compiled by the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence show an indisputable correlation between domestic violence incidents and firearms: that, for instance, abused women are "five times more likely to be killed by their abuser if the abuser owns a firearm." Other statistics indicate that domestic violence assaults involving a gun are "23 times more likely to result in death" than those involving other weapons, and that over "two-thirds of spouse and ex-spouse homicide victims in a 28-year span were killed with firearms." And in 2011, almost two-thirds of women killed with guns were killed by their intimate partners.

These sad figures show the importance of keeping firearms out of the hands of domestic abusers. But all too often, our Nation's system to prevent such dangerous individuals from getting guns fails. It failed in the case of Christen Naujoks, a student at the University of North Carolina. For a brief time in 2004, Ms. Naujoks dated another student, John Peck, before ending the relationship. Mr. Peck had previously been convicted of sexually assaulting another woman, and as a result was legally prohibited from purchasing a gun. This didn't stop him, however, from exploiting a loophole in current law that allows individuals to purchase guns from private sellers' without undergoing a background check. Mr. Peck bought an assault rifle from a private seller, and on June 4, 2004, murdered Ms. Naujoks by shooting her 11 times in front of her apartment building. Three days later, Mr.