

tackling the question of why this disease is here, what are the origins of this condition.

Research is critical in supporting development tools, interventions, and evidence-based services to help provide a quality of life for people in the autism spectrum.

Over the last year, researchers funded by NIH have made significant advances in understanding the onset of autism. They have learned that brain changes that contribute to autism occur even during pregnancy and continue through the first years of life. They have also concluded that some of the possible signs of autism may begin to appear within the first 6 months it can be identified. The work at the NIH in understanding the problem cannot be understated, but far more needs to follow to better comprehend autism.

Congress also has responsibilities. One is providing resources to the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control, and we need to do that. My friend Senator DURBIN has introduced legislation that would focus on ways we can provide more help that is badly needed. With sequestration and the other cuts which have taken place it has been unfair to these two agencies.

The Achieving Better Life Experience Act—also known as the ABLE Act—would improve the quality of life for individuals with autism and other disabilities through tax-advantaged savings accounts. These special savings accounts would help disabled Americans and their loved ones plan for the future by setting aside money to cover future expenses, including education, housing, therapy, and rehabilitation.

I am a sponsor of the ABLE Act and proud to stand with all advocates in celebrating today World Autism Awareness Day.

#### UKRAINE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, yesterday afternoon a bipartisan majority in the House of Representatives passed Senate legislation to provide loan guarantees to Ukraine and to impose sanctions on certain Ukrainian and Russian officials.

This legislation comes at a time when Ukraine's future hangs in the balance between democracy and dictatorship. The brave Ukrainians who protested across the country and at Maidan square have shown an inspiring determination to defend their freedom. Many of them endured the brutal attacks of riot police, snipers, and below freezing temperatures. Some died in the mayhem. President Putin, who has long demonstrated his disregard for international law and human rights in his own country, has now extended that sphere of repression to Ukraine by violating its sovereignty and strong-arming its citizens.

This legislation exemplifies our support for a free and democratic Ukraine. The new government will face every

imaginable economic, political, and security challenge, but the country's interim leaders have already indicated a willingness to implement austere reforms to put their country on the right track. It is important that during this time of uncertainty the people of Ukraine know that they have the full support of the United States and the international community.

In addition to the loan guarantees which will be available immediately to help facilitate the development of a more resilient economy, the legislation authorizes funds for democracy and security assistance in future years. It also imposes sanctions against various Ukrainian and Russian officials who have been identified as principles in the subversion of democracy in Ukraine and who have treated the public treasury as their own personal bank account. While efforts to recover stolen assets will not restore the entire amount that has disappeared, it will further expose President Yanukovich and other corrupt officials for the criminals that they are.

I do want to say that I am very disappointed that domestic politics prevented inclusion of provisions, included in the version of the bill that was reported by the Foreign Relations Committee, authorizing U.S. support for reforms and participation in the quota increase at the International Monetary Fund. These reforms have been widely recognized as important for global economic stability, for maintaining U.S. leadership at the IMF, and for our efforts to maximize international assistance for Ukraine. Unfortunately, the House Republican leadership decided that partisan politics at home is more important than U.S. leadership in an international organization that we were instrumental in creating.

Ukraine and Russia have a shared history, but it is clear that the people of Ukraine see their future with Europe. That is why it is imperative that we support them at this critical time, and that we send a strong message to President Putin that there are real consequences to the use of brute force to violate the territorial integrity of Russia's neighbors.

As chairman of the appropriations subcommittee that funds our assistance for Ukraine, my subcommittee will not only provide the budget authority to pay the subsidy cost of the loan guarantees, we will also look for other ways in fiscal year 2015 to protect it and its neighbors from further Russian aggression.

#### VERMONT COMMISSION ON WOMEN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the Vermont Commission on Women this year celebrates its 50th anniversary. Established in 1964 by Vermont Governor Philip Hoff, the commission was established in response to a challenge presented by President Kennedy, urging every State in the country to create such commissions "to encourage

women to use their abilities, and to reduce discrimination against women." I am proud that Vermont's is one of the oldest continuously operating commissions in the United States.

The commission's work is fueled by 16 volunteer commissioners, a team of advisors and a small but energetic staff. By advocating for new State laws and strengthening old ones, the commission has fought to reduce gender discrimination, achieve pay equity, support families and create job opportunities for women in my home State. Just last year, the commission was a strong force in strengthening provisions of Vermont's Equal Pay Act, so that women move closer to the reality of receiving equal pay for equal work. The law also extended protections so that employees could ask coworkers about their pay, and perhaps learn of disparities, without fear of retaliation.

I have no doubt the commission's ongoing efforts have helped Vermont women narrow the gender pay gap, to 84 cents for every dollar earned by a man. Vermont is leading the way in this area: the national level finds women earning 77 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts. I am grateful to the commission for its ongoing support for the Paycheck Fairness Act, which the Senate will consider in the coming weeks.

The commission also serves as a needed source of information. Its handbook, *The Legal Rights of Women in Vermont*, serves as a valuable guide for women who may find themselves in need of advice on matters such as adoption, employment rights, housing and divorce. The commission also conducts research, coordinates conferences and workshops, and engages in partnerships, all in the interest of furthering gender equality.

Despite the great strides that have been made over five decades in Vermont and across the Nation, we know that many discriminatory issues affecting women still exist today, and that the need for the commission's work is still critical.

The State of Vermont is very fortunate to have such a strong group advocating for women's rights. I have been proud to work with the Vermont Commission on Women for over 15 years on Vermont's Women's Economic Opportunity Conference, an annual event in Vermont that brings women of all different backgrounds together to talk about the challenges facing women in the work place.

I am proud to acknowledge and honor the Vermont Commission on Women as it celebrates 50 years of leadership and achievement.

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent from votes during today's session. Had I been present, I would have opposed the motion to table the Reid amendment to H.R. 3979 and I would have supported the motion

to table the Vitter motion to appeal the ruling of the Chair.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING JIMMY NEWTON, JR.

• Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I come to the floor with a heavy heart to honor the memory of Chairman Jimmy Newton, Jr. of the Southern Ute Tribe. Chairman Newton was a tireless advocate for his fellow tribal members and passed away on Tuesday, April 1, 2014.

Chairman Newton began his career in public service in 2003 and was a strong and dedicated leader for a new generation. He was one of the youngest people ever to serve as tribal council member, vice chairman, and acting chairman before he was elected chairman of Southern Ute in 2012. Chairman Newton leaves behind a legacy of deep respect for Southern Ute culture and tradition.

I know I speak for our entire Colorado community when I extend my deepest sympathies to the Newton family and the Southern Ute tribe during this difficult time.●

##### TRIBUTE TO SAMUEL DEMAIO

• Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, today I recognize Samuel DeMaio, the dynamic director of the Newark Police Department. A driving force for reform, Sammy is one of those people who talks the talk, walks the walk, and does both to the benefit of the community at large.

Samuel Anthony DeMaio was born on December 25, 1966, in Newark, where he was raised with his younger sister Sherri by his father Carmine, a Newark police officer, and his mother Marysue. In 1986, on what he would later say was "one of the happiest days in my life," Sammy followed in his father's footsteps and began his career with the Newark Police Department at the age of 19.

A hard worker from the start, Sammy proved his dedication and skill by consistently becoming the youngest officer to hold each position as he ascended the ranks of the Newark Police Department. His focus on transparency, officer training, and collaboration made our communities safer and more unified. It is that dedication and openness that helped set our community on its upward trajectory, and it is why his shoes will be so hard to fill.

Sammy was in and of the community. He is a cop's cop who is respected by everyone in the department, from rank and file to top brass. Sammy is held in high esteem in the greater community, from the city council that unanimously voted to appoint him, to once-skeptical community leaders won over by his commitment to transparency and accountability.

Sammy took great pride in collaborating with and incorporating the com-

munities he policed. He began conducting the officers' roll call out on the street in an effort to change the way the officers and residents viewed each other. When I started Newark's Super Summer program, aimed at keeping kids out of trouble during the summer months, Sammy was right there with me. He founded the Annual Youth Public Safety Academy, a hands-on, joint project of the City of Newark's Police and Fire Departments in conjunction with the Essex County Prosecutor's Office, where participants learned how to report crimes, prevent fires, and resist criminal activity.

Sammy retired from the police department on February 21, 2014, after 28 years on the Newark police force. These years of service were spent exclusively in New Jersey's largest municipal police department, and were marked by exemplary dedication to the best interests of the community and his fellow officers. When considering on the day of his retirement, Sammy said, "This is probably the saddest day I'm going to have in my life."

It is an honor to formally recognize the contributions that Sammy DeMaio made to the citizens of Newark throughout his career in law enforcement, to thank him for his tremendous service, and to wish him happiness in a well-deserved retirement.●

##### KICK FOR CANCER TOURNAMENT

• Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate the participants in the "Kick for Cancer" charity martial arts tournament which is held annually in Gilmanton, NH. Since its founding the tournament has raised more than \$120,000 to benefit the Central New Hampshire Visiting Nurses Association & Hospice, helping this critical community resource serve 350 patients and their families each year. I am happy to report this year marks the 25th anniversary of the Kick for Cancer Tournament, which draws participants to our great State from all around the country.

The tournament was founded thanks to the hard work of Dr. Georganne Verigan, a long-time teacher and leader in the martial arts community. She founded the Kick for Cancer tournament to teach her students the importance of giving back to their communities, and also to demonstrate that giving can be fun and exciting. As evidenced by the popularity of the tournament, Dr. Verigan's lesson clearly resonates with young martial arts students.

On behalf of the people of New Hampshire I would like to thank Dr. Verigan for her selfless work to improve the availability of home and hospice care, and her efforts to impart the value of community service onto a generation of young citizens. I look forward to hearing of the continued growth and success of the Kick for Cancer Tournament.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:58 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4152) to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 1557. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize support for graduate medical education programs in children's hospitals.

S. 2183. An act United States international programming to Ukraine and neighboring regions.

At 1:05 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2413. An act to prioritize and redirect NOAA resources to a focused program of investment on affordable and attainable advances in observational, computing, and modeling capabilities to deliver substantial improvement in weather forecasting and prediction of high impact weather events, such as those associated with hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, floods, storm surges, and wildfires, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4005. An act to authorize appropriations for the Coast Guard for fiscal years 2015 and 2016, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agreed to the following concurrent resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 88. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

H. Con. Res. 92. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition.

##### ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 1557. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize support for graduate medical education programs in children's hospitals.

H.R. 4152. An act to provide for the costs of loan guarantees for Ukraine.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

##### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 4:45 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 2183. An act United States international programming to Ukraine and neighboring regions.

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