

standards for financial data and assist in making Government-wide spending more accessible. The Administration appreciates the bill's support for establishing data standards and we additionally appreciate the bill's statement of confidence in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Department of Treasury (Treasury). The Administration is currently working to improve Federal spending transparency. For example, we will soon roll-out a refreshed USAspending.gov with better search capabilities and functionality to manipulate the data and issue guidance to improve USAspending.gov's data quality. Additionally, we completed the transition of USAspending.gov to the Department of Treasury to take advantage of its core functions on agency financial reporting and ongoing work with other initiatives related to transparency in Federal spending.

To implement the legislation, Executive branch agencies will need to work to redesign the structure of existing financial systems, adopt new data standards, and review future budgetary requests to ensure compliance with the new definitions. However, the legislation does not provide funds to OMB, Treasury, or any agency to develop and implement new data standards under the timeframes prescribed. Without specific appropriations, this bill's requirements would require that agencies either divert agency resources from other mission critical activities, or implement requirements based on current funding and the timeframes that permits.

Also, the bill requires agencies to report information by "program activities." The FY 2015 President's Budget includes 1,275 executive budget accounts that track Federal agencies' spending. Currently, Executive Branch agencies' Federal financial systems are not designed to report by "program activity" as defined by the legislation. "Program activities" can and do change from year to year as a result of Congressional or other action. To avoid public reporting of information that is incomplete or potentially inaccurate, Executive Branch agencies will implement these requirements initially through reporting at the budget account level. We commit to implement the statute by working on efforts to report below the budget account level in a manner that clearly links to the spending data in agency financial systems. We share a common goal with data transparency, however, OMB needs to ensure that our approach considers the realities of the funding environment and reflects how funds are currently tracked through the budget process and in agency financial systems.

We look forward to working with you to pursue our shared goal of improving Federal spending transparency.

Sincerely,

BETH COBERT,  
Deputy Director for Management,  
Office of Management and Budget.

#### SCRIPPS FLORIDA INSTITUTE

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I rise to recognize an important meeting taking place this week at the Scripps Research Institute in my home State of Florida that coincides with Older Americans Month. Leaders in the field of aging and medical research are gathering at this internationally renowned research facility to discuss their latest research at a symposium, the first of its kind, entitled, "Therapeutic Approaches for Extending Healthspan: The Next 10 Years."

Headquartered in California, the Scripps Institute has long been recognized as a leader in biomedical sciences. Establishing an additional Scripps research facility in Florida in 2009 represents an extension of this tradition of world-class research excellence to our State. Scripps Florida is working on finding answers to some of the most critical biomedical questions that confront us today through six academic departments targeting the areas of cancer biology, chemistry, infectious diseases, molecular therapeutics, neuroscience, and the relationship between metabolism and aging. Hopefully, this symposium will lead to a series of gatherings where experts can forge collaborative partnerships and work toward improving the quality of life for aging adults.

Over the past decade, Scripps has advanced existing knowledge on aging-related diseases such as blindness, atherosclerosis, deafness, and amyloid diseases that cause Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and Huntington's Diseases, among others. This forum will focus on novel research in the field of aging and establish a path for research into the next decade. Though the field shows enormous promise for the future, barriers still exist in translating research into clinical applications. Experts participating in this symposium will discuss how to overcome these challenges to provide meaningful medical solutions for our aging Nation.

As chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, I am aware of the daily challenges faced by many older Americans. Like the roundtable hosted by the Aging Committee last October to discuss the state of aging research, I believe these opportunities to bring our Nation's best scientists, physicians, and researchers together are essential if we are going to conquer aging-related diseases such as Alzheimer's and dementia. As such, we must continue to support research that drives innovation, advances current knowledge, and encourages collaboration among our Nation's greatest thinkers.

As the number of older Americans continues to grow, we must support research efforts that provide paths to treatment or prevention so our Nation's seniors can enjoy living out their golden years with dignity.

#### REMEMBERING ISAAC GREGGS

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished former Southern University Director of Bands who passed on April 28, 2014, at the age of 85 in Baton Rouge, LA. Dr. Greggs was the third child born in Shreveport, LA on January 22, 1929 to Sarah and Isaac Greggs. Dr. Greggs was baptized in the Bethel Baptist Church in Frierson, LA and later joined the Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in Baton Rouge. He was a visionary, who created and led the Southern University Marching Band, affectionately

known as the Human Jukebox for 36 years.

Dr. Greggs graduated from Central Colored High School in Shreveport, LA and at 15 years of age enrolled in Southern University and A & M College in Baton Rouge, LA, where he received a B.S. in music education. He received a M.S. in music education from Vander Cook College in Chicago, IL. Later, he entered the University of Peru to complete his doctorate degree in music. He was then drafted into the U.S. Army. His service in the Army was honored with and dedicated to playing in the Army band, 4th Division, 4th Infantry, APO 39, and to playing early morning reverie. While in Germany, he received the Occupational Medal.

After his return from service in the U.S. Army, he began teaching at J. S. Clark Junior High School and Notre Dame High School in Shreveport, LA. He and his family later moved to Baton Rouge, LA where he taught and directed the band at the Southern University Laboratory School. During his tenure at Southern University, Dr. Greggs directed countless future band directors, musicians, and myriad of industry leaders outside of music. He attracted thousands of students to Southern, who were drawn as a result of his unmatched leadership and lyrical genius. Under his leadership, the Human Jukebox performed at six Super Bowls, four Sugar Bowls and three Presidential inaugurations. His grueling practices were well known throughout Louisiana and the discipline that Dr. Greggs instilled in his musicians produced exceptional results year end and year out. Dr. Greggs retired in 2005.

With pride, the State of Louisiana honored Dr. Greggs in 2013 by inducting the legendary band leader into the Louisiana Black History Hall of Fame for his commitment to serving African American students for nearly four decades. He was also the recipient of the Key of Life Award at the 31st NAACP Image Awards; an award created in honor of Stevie Wonder and presented each year to a musician who embodies Wonder's "inner vision."

Dr. Isaac Greggs was a true inspiration to all that had the great privilege of knowing him. I am grateful and honored to have known him. He will be greatly missed. My deepest condolences go out to his wife of 58 years, Rose Audrey Metoyer Greggs; his children: Audree Greggs Vaughn (Percy), Colette Greggs, Dedrick Jon Greggs (Carla), and Mark Eric Greggs (Tricia); grandchildren: Kirsten Vaughn Watson (Benjamin), Kory Greggs Vaughn MD, Jamal Greggs Russell, Kyle Greggs Russell, Daniel Isaac Greggs and Casey Daniel Greggs; great-grandchildren Grace Makayla Watson, Naomi Love Watson, Isaiah Benjamin Watson and Judah Seth Watson, and a host of other relatives, family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents: Sarah and Isaac Greggs, brother Edmond and sister Ellen Greggs.

His legacy could not end without, "It's gonna be alright; just make it right."

It is with my heartfelt and greatest sincerity that I ask my colleagues to join me along with Dr. Isaac Gregg's family in recognizing the life and many accomplishments of this incredible musician, leader, and mentor, as well as his lasting impact throughout the Nation.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### SIOUX COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State, and it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Sioux County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Sioux County worth over \$1.2 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$21.6 million to the local economy.

Of course my favorite memory of working together has to be working on the community health center. The Promise Center in Sioux County has opened doors and created opportunities for accessible care for so many Iowans in this region. I am encouraged by the progress in Northwest Iowa, and I look forward to learning how this center has transformed the community.

Among the highlights:

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Northwest Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects, including improved roads and

bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Sioux County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Sioux County, I have fought for funding for Northwestern College for nursing training and arts projects worth \$490,000, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

School grants: Every child in Iowa deserves to be educated in a classroom that is safe, accessible, and modern. That is why, for the past decade and a half, I have secured funding for the innovative Iowa Demonstration Construction Grant Program—better known among educators in Iowa as Harkin grants for public schools construction and renovation. Across 15 years, Harkin grants worth more than \$132 million have helped school districts to fund a range of renovation and repair efforts—everything from updating fire safety systems to building new schools. In many cases, these Federal dollars have served as the needed incentive to leverage local public and private dollars, so it often has a tremendous multiplier effect within a school district. Over the years, Sioux County has received \$720,933 in Harkin grants. Similarly, schools in Sioux County have received funds that I designated for Iowa Star Schools for technology totaling \$20,000.

Agricultural and rural development: Because I grew up in a small town in rural Iowa, I have always been a loyal friend and fierce advocate for family farmers and rural communities. I have been a member of the House or Senate Agriculture Committee for 40 years—including more than 10 years as chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee. Across the decades, I have championed farm policies for Iowans that include effective farm income protection and commodity programs; strong, progressive conservation assistance for agricultural producers; renewable energy opportunities; and robust economic development in our rural communities. Since 1991, through various programs authorized through the farm bill, Sioux County has received more than \$11 million from a variety of farm bill programs.

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to en-

gage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Sioux County has recognized this important issue by securing more than \$800,000 for the Community Health Center.

Disability Rights: Growing up, I loved and admired my brother Frank, who was deaf. But I was deeply disturbed by the discrimination and obstacles he faced every day. That is why I have always been a passionate advocate for full equality for people with disabilities. As the primary author of the Americans with Disabilities Act, ADA, and the ADA Amendments Act, I have had four guiding goals for our fellow citizens with disabilities: equal opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency. Nearly a quarter century since passage of the ADA, I see remarkable changes in communities everywhere I go in Iowa—not just in curb cuts or closed captioned television but in the full participation of people with disabilities in our society and economy, folks who at long last have the opportunity to contribute their talents and to be fully included. These changes have increased economic opportunities for all citizens of Sioux County, both those with and without disabilities, and they make us proud to be a part of a community and country that respects the worth and civil rights of all of our citizens.

This is at least a partial accounting of my work on behalf of Iowa, and specifically Sioux County, during my time in Congress. In every case, this work has been about partnerships, cooperation, and empowering folks at the State and local level, including in Sioux County, to fulfill their own dreams and initiatives. And, of course, this work is never complete. Even after I retire from the Senate, I have no intention of retiring from the fight for a better, fairer, richer Iowa. I will always be profoundly grateful for the opportunity to serve the people of Iowa as their Senator.●

##### BUENA VISTA COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my