

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON GIANCARLO NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of J. Christopher Giancarlo, of New Jersey, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, with respect to those nominations confirmed, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table.

The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. I thank the Chair.

(The remarks of Mr. SANDERS and Mr. BLUMENTHAL pertaining to the introduction of S. 2422 are located in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I thank the Presiding Officer, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

CFTC CONFIRMATIONS

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, the Senate has now approved three nominations to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission. The CFTC is an important independent agency with a mission to provide oversight of the futures, swaps, and options markets, protecting market participants from fraud and manipulation. The agency ensures safety and soundness of the market and makes sure that hedgers, such as farmers and ranchers or manufacturing companies, can manage risks appropriately, and there needs to be confidence in those markets and in the oversight of those markets. The Commissioners confirmed today will not only help protect those markets but finish the implementation of reforms contained in the Wall Street Reform Act.

Earlier today I spoke about Sharon Bowen's qualifications, and I was very pleased to see the Senate approve her nomination. Now I wish to talk about the other two CFTC Commissioners appointed by the President who were also confirmed by the Senate just a few minutes ago.

For the role of CFTC Chairman, President Obama has selected Timothy Massad. Mr. Massad has a sterling record of public service. Three years ago he was confirmed unanimously by the Senate to serve as the Department of Treasury's Assistant Secretary for Financial Stability. In that position Mr. Massad oversaw the winddown of the Troubled Asset Relief Program. He devoted himself to helping homeowners who were struggling to stay in their homes while helping communities where vacant houses were a blight to neighborhoods. It is a tribute to Mr. Massad's leadership that the banks that benefited from TARP have repaid nearly every dollar.

At the Treasury Department Mr. Massad not only made good on his responsibility to ensure a positive return to American taxpayers, he did so with complete transparency.

During Mr. Massad's testimony before the Agriculture Committee, he emphasized that need for strong enforcement to ensure public confidence in our markets, which is so very important. He demonstrated an understanding of how markets must provide hedging and price discovery for end users.

Mr. Massad demonstrated that he will be an advocate for strong international regulatory standards in a global derivatives market. Throughout the course of his career in the private sector and then in the public sector, Mr. Massad has earned a reputation as a consensus builder, a tireless worker, and a protector of the public interest. I have no doubt Mr. Massad will continue his excellence in his role as CFTC Chair.

The second nominee chosen by President Obama is Christopher Giancarlo. Since 2000, Mr. Giancarlo has worked in companies that focused on swaps markets regulated by the CFTC. For most of that time Mr. Giancarlo has been a senior executive at the interdealer broker, GFI Group.

At his confirmation hearing, Mr. Giancarlo talked about how the futures and swaps markets must serve the needs of farmers and other end users. He recognizes the central role that commodities play in our Nation's economy.

Like Mr. Massad Mr. Giancarlo understands the important lessons of the financial crisis. For example, in his remarks Mr. Giancarlo emphasized the value of transparency in the swaps markets. He agrees with the provisions in the Wall Street Reform Act that allow robust oversight of U.S. swaps intermediaries, while at the same time Mr. Giancarlo talked about the importance of balanced regulatory oversight in open and competitive markets. In short, Mr. Giancarlo is a pragmatist. This is a quality that will serve him well as a CFTC Commissioner.

I congratulate not only Mr. Giancarlo but Mr. Massad and Ms. Bowen on their confirmations today. I have every expectation that they will work well with all of the stakeholders involved in the vitally important work of the CFTC. This will ensure that CFTC is fulfilling its mission of protecting the public, which is the bottom line.

In Congress we must also do our part to protect these markets and make sure the CFTC has the resources it needs to do its job, and that means having both the staff and technology in place so the CFTC can perform its work. We have given them so much more work with the new legislation, so we need to make sure they have the resources to do what we have asked them to do.

The agency must be able to keep up with the markets they are overseeing.

They can't do that if they don't have the funding they need, and this will be a priority for me as we seek to update the CFTC and its abilities to protect consumers and market participants. We have 21st century markets and we need a 21st century CFTC to oversee them.

The Senate Agriculture Committee is beginning its work on a CFTC reauthorization bill. The approval of today's nominees and our upcoming work on this legislation will help make sure the Commodity Futures Trading Commission is fully empowered to do everything that we and the public are relying on them to do.

Again, I congratulate all of those confirmed today. I thank my colleagues for their support, and I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, 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.

APPROACH TO OPIOID ADDICTION

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, it is no secret that communities across the country are struggling to break the cycle of addiction to powerful opioids, including heroin. We are now seeing addiction creep into neighborhoods and communities of all sizes, both rural and urban. My home State of Vermont has not been spared, and it in fact has attracted much attention for its struggles with addiction. However in many ways, Vermont is ahead of much of the Nation when it comes to responding to the opioid epidemic. We long ago recognized the problem, and communities in Vermont have spent the better part of a decade coming together to address opioid addiction.

In March I had the privilege of chairing a field hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee in Rutland, VT. It was the fourth time in the past 6 years that I brought the committee to Vermont to explore issues related to drug abuse. I heard powerful testimony discussing how communities are responding to addiction, rethinking decades-old approaches to prevention, treatment, and law enforcement efforts. Dr. Harry Chen, the Vermont Department of Health commissioner and a career emergency room physician, described what it means to recognize

addiction as a public health issue, expanding evidence-based prevention and treatment services to all corners of the State.

Vermont hospitals are also rethinking best practices in light of this epidemic. Recently, the Office of National Drug Control Policy published an article entitled “How a Vermont Hospital Fights the American Opioid Epidemic.” The article was authored by Dr. Stephen Leffler, the chief medical officer at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, VT. In the article, Dr. Leffler describes how Fletcher Allen is on the leading edge of modernizing health care practices to minimize abuse and addiction, while still providing necessary pain management. The hospital provides clear, standardized protocols for treating pain, defines a maximum daily dosage as guided by the latest research, and measures patients’ risk for addiction. This approach ensures consistency in treatment and may help to stem the flow of prescription opioid users from sliding into addiction.

The approach described in Dr. Leffler’s article could potentially serve as a model for the rest of country, and I would encourage other States grappling with addiction to look at what Fletcher Allen is doing in Burlington. If we are to find legislative solutions that may finally break the cycle of opioid addiction, then surely we must carefully consider promising, novel approaches such as this. I ask unanimous consent that Dr. Leffler’s article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From The Office of National Drug Control Policy, May 9, 2014]

HOW A VERNONT HOSPITAL FIGHTS THE AMERICAN OPIOID EPIDEMIC
(By Dr. Stephen M. Leffler)

Over the course of my more than 20 years as an emergency physician, I have seen thousands of patients with painful conditions. During that same time, I have witnessed the remarkable evolution of modern pain medication—its potential and its pitfalls. We can now help patients manage both short-term and long-term pain. Yet, while medications—particularly opioids—have helped us heal patients, we have also seen their detrimental effects, chief among them addiction.

Opioids can be very helpful for patients with conditions such as broken bones and kidney stones, and they are also useful after many types of surgery. They may also be used to treat those with chronic pain—people who experience pain carrying out normal, daily functions of life that others take for granted. Used for short periods of time at the proper dosage, opioids are safe medications and excellent choices for a wide variety of acute painful conditions.

While opioids work well for pain control, they have a number of potentially serious side effects: They can hinder or stop breathing, cause constipation, result in drowsiness, and act as central nervous system depressants. That’s why your doctor tells you it is not safe to drive after taking opioids.

Another devastating side effect is addiction. The body develops a tolerance to opioids and, after only a couple of weeks,

may require higher doses to control pain. Over time, increasing doses of opioids may be needed to manage the same level of pain. Patients may develop dependence—their bodies will crave it. They will exhibit a strong desire or compulsion to take the drug for reasons beyond simple pain control. At this stage, if they stop taking opioids, they will experience withdrawal. This is how opioid use can lead to addiction and all its inherent problems for the individual and society.

As providers, our responsibility is to carefully manage the side effects of opioid therapy. Dependence, tolerance, and addiction must be discussed with patients, and a careful well-planned strategy is crucial for their extended use of opioids.

That is exactly what we are doing at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, Vermont. Recently, providers and pain management experts from multiple specialties (Anesthesia, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Surgery) converged to standardize how we care for patients with painful conditions and to develop best practices for our patients.

What did we do? Here is an overview:

Systems Approach. We built standardized protocols so that patients will get similar treatment in various settings. We believe this standardization will help our patients and providers. There will be clear, defined expectations and goals for treating our patients’ pain.

New Rules & Tools. We use processes and tools such as pain agreements with patients and surveys to assess how patients are functioning with their pain and to measure their risk for addiction.

Defining Maximum Daily Dosage. We are one of the first hospitals in the country to define the maximum daily dose of opioids. Research shows that beyond certain doses, patients experience no additional benefit. We know that very high doses of opioids increase the risk of dangerous side effects but offer no additional pain control.

This approach helps ensure that we are more reliable and consistent in our approach to pain in our patients and that our patients will know what to expect from their providers.

Gil Kerlikowske, then-Director of ONDCP, recently visited Fletcher Allen Health Care to discuss our new approach and tools. He lauded our systems-level strategy and our standardized protocols. I believe that the current dialogue in Vermont and elsewhere on how to better manage opioid abuse will be productive and lead to changes across the country in how these drugs are prescribed and how acute and chronic pain is managed. Fletcher Allen Health Care is on the leading edge of this transition and could be a model for other health systems managing this complex issue. I hope that sharing our practices here is the first step toward being that model.

TRIBUTE TO LOIS R. HATFIELD

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, last month, Lois R. Hatfield received the 2014 Business Woman of the Year award from the Somerset Business and Professional Women’s Club. I wish to honor this exemplary citizen and to recognize her tremendous career as an educator.

Lois took her first job in 1951, teaching grades one through eight at a one-room school house called Union Ridge School in the Jabez portion of Wayne County. She continued to devote herself to education in Kentucky for the

remainder of her career, which lasted over 60 years.

Her accomplishments over the years are many. In 1978, she became the principal of her alma mater, Nancy Elementary, making her the first female principal in the history of the Pulaski County School System. She has also served as president of the Alpha Delta Kappa Educational Sorority, precinct chair for the Pulaski County Republican Party, and president of the Pulaski County Republican Women’s Club.

Officially in retirement since 1997, Lois has a hard time staying away from the classroom and still serves when needed as a substitute principal or teacher. The fire that burns within her, propelling her to educate the children of our Commonwealth, has not waned in the slightest degree since she began her career in education.

Lois’s dedicated commitment to her community and its children deserves the praise of this body. Therefore, I ask that my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in recognizing Lois R. Hatfield and her many accomplishments in the field of education.

The Commonwealth Journal recently published an article detailing Lois Hatfield’s career and her receipt of the 2014 Business Woman of the Year award. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Commonwealth Journal, May 11, 2014]

2014 BUSINESS WOMAN OF THE YEAR: LOIS R. HATFIELD IS THE RECIPIENT OF THE AWARD

A Pulaski County woman with a passion for education is the recipient of the 2014 Business Woman of the Year award from the Somerset Business and Professional Women’s Club.

Lois R. Hatfield was presented the award Tuesday at the May membership meeting of the Somerset-Pulaski Chamber of Commerce.

Hatfield was born in Faubush and graduated from Nancy High School in 1947.

Her teaching career spans more than 60 years and with all her educational achievements she has never grasped the meaning of retirement.

Working her way through college, Hatfield received her Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Eastern Kentucky University in 1961 and later received her master’s degree in elementary education with an emphasis in early childhood education from EKU in 1972.

She began her distinguished professional career in education in 1951 when she taught grades one-eight at Union Ridge School, a one-room school house in the Jabez portion of Wayne County.

In 1958 she began working with the Pulaski County School System teaching first-eighth grades at Anderson School, which was eventually consolidated into Nancy Elementary.

In 1978, she was promoted to principal of Nancy Elementary, making her the first female principal in the history of the Pulaski County School System.

Hatfield officially “retired” in 1997 while serving as K-6 supervisor in the Pulaski County School District, a position she had held since 1988.

She didn’t stop. Since retiring, Hatfield has served as a reading consultant and home-bound instructor for the Pulaski County