

great professionalism; and I know firsthand that the President could not have found a more able successor to Ms. Schiffer. Ms. McFerran is an incredibly talented lawyer with deep knowledge of labor law. She is a person of sterling integrity and strong character. She will be a great asset to the Board.

It is my hope that by promptly confirming Ms. McFerran's nomination to fill the looming vacancy we can continue the progress that has been made recently, and begin a new era where orderly transitions on the NLRB are the norm. We should set a new precedent of confirming nominees—Democratic and Republican alike—in a timely manner.

I have no doubt that Ms. McFerran will do an excellent job in this important position. I look forward to moving her nomination expeditiously.

TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR WILLIAM J. BURNS

Mr. McCAIN. Mr. President, today I honor a truly remarkable diplomat and legendary statesman. After 33 years of service to our Nation, Deputy Secretary of State William J. Burns is retiring from the U.S. Department of State. Having served under 10 Secretaries and twice postponing his retirement, Ambassador Burns has had an enormous impact on the trajectory of U.S. foreign policy and I would like to recognize his many years of distinguished service and thank him for his tireless efforts.

Ambassador Burns joined the Foreign Service in 1982 and, within a year of joining, he had already made a name for himself as someone willing to go above and beyond the call of duty. Over the course of his 33 years in the Foreign Service, he has served in countless posts, including as Ambassador to Jordan, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, Ambassador to Russia, and Under Secretary for Political Affairs. Since 2011, he has served as Deputy Secretary of State, holding the rare distinction of being only the second career diplomat to rise to the position.

It is a testament to both his character and unique skills that nearly every person who has had the pleasure of meeting Ambassador Burns has a story to tell about it. He has deftly steered our foreign policy through countless challenges over the past three decades and handled with skill sensitive diplomatic missions that few were willing and capable of taking on. That he has one of the most distinguished tenures as a career Foreign Service officer in memory is made all the more remarkable by his modesty and humility.

Ambassador Burns embodies the mission of the Department of State at its finest. He has been a mentor for generations of Department of State personnel and is an inspiration to all public servants, myself included. America is stronger and the world a better place thanks to his service. And while the

Department of State will feel his absence, I am relieved to know that he will continue to play an important and constructive role in global affairs through his new position as president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. I thank him for his willingness to serve our country and I wish him and his family the best as they embark on a new journey.

TRIBUTE TO JENELLE KRISHNAMOORTHY

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute and to extend my thanks to an extraordinary individual, Jenelle Krishnamoorthy, who has served on my staff, with one small interruption of service, for a decade.

Jenelle came to my staff in the summer of 2003 as a fellow, later becoming a permanent staff member and eventually rising to lead my health policy team on the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. From the time she arrived, it was clear that Jenelle was an exceptional talent—one possessing not just deep knowledge of health care and public health, but also with uncommon instincts about this institution and about how to accomplish great things in an increasingly divided Congress.

Throughout my career, I have been guided by a conviction that our country does not have a health care system, but rather a sick care system. If you get sick, you get care. We spend far too much time and riches treating disease once it has occurred, and far too little preventing it in the first place. Among my first charges to Jenelle when she arrived on staff was to think about how we make America a wellness society, one in which we make the healthy choice the easy choice. How do we, I asked her, change our workplaces, our schools, our communities, our child care settings, and our health care system so that we prevent the onset of chronic disease, rather than patch and fix and treat once a person gets sick?

Jenelle responded with a broad vision of a wellness society—a vision that has guided her work, and my own, for the past 10 years. Looking back over those 10 years, the breadth of what she has accomplished is truly remarkable.

The Affordable Care Act is one of the great health laws of the last 75 years. As my designee on that bill, Jenelle secured passage of a number of groundbreaking policy changes that have changed the landscape of our health care system. In particular, Jenelle was the primary drafter of the prevention title of that bill. As a result of that, every single American can now receive recommended preventive health care services absolutely free of charge. Routine services such as mammograms, vaccinations, diabetes and cancer screenings, among other things, are now cost free, forever, because of Jenelle's work.

As part of that bill, Jenelle was also the intellectual force behind the Pre-

vention Fund, which creates a public health partnership between the Federal Government and communities across the country by providing billions of dollars for communities to invest in proven preventive efforts such as tobacco cessation, childhood obesity prevention, HIV prevention, and public health workforce development. As a result, across the country, communities, from small towns in Iowa to our largest urban centers, are working together to weave health promotion into the very fabric of our communities and the lives of our citizens.

Through her work on the Affordable Care Act, Jenelle also played a key role in expanding nutrition labeling to chain restaurants around the country, giving hundreds of millions of consumers access to critical nutrition information that they need to take control of their own health, and also successfully fought for new policies to promote breastfeeding.

Jenelle's contributions to the health of our country go far beyond the Affordable Care Act. As the health policy director for the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, Jenelle shepherded passage of the Food Safety Modernization Act, the most significant reform of our food safety system in the country in decades. This law strengthened the Food and Drug Administration with critical new authorities to protect Americans by establishing a better and more modern system for keeping our food safe from farm to fork.

And just as she did with the food safety system, Jenelle also spearheaded efforts to improve the safety and quality of drugs and medical devices. In successfully leading committee passage of the Food and Drug Administration Safety and Innovation Act, Jenelle helped ensure the safety of our drugs and medical devices, alleviate the effects of drugs shortages and manufacturing problems, and implemented long sought reform to help bring critical drugs and medical devices to patients faster.

Remarkably, these are just the highlights of Jenelle's accomplishments in the area of health policy and health promotion. Just in this Congress, Jenelle has led 16 bills into law, including bills to respond more quickly and effectively to public health disasters, to facilitate organ donation, to provide equitable funding to children's hospitals and ensure a steady supply of pediatric doctors, and to speed the approval of new sunscreens to protect Americans from skin cancer. Her efforts in the health arena in this Congress have made the HELP Committee one of the most productive in this Congress. For making me look good as the Chairman of the HELP Committee, I owe Jenelle a special debt of gratitude.

Americans take for granted the safety of our food supply and our drugs and medical equipment. When people go to their doctors and receive a free, often lifesaving mammogram, they do not

think of the reasons for it. When a smoker of several decades finally receives the help that he needs to quit so that he can watch his grandchildren grow up, he most likely does not pause to reflect on why he received free cessation services. But none of these things happened accidentally. They came to pass because of the heroic and humble efforts of a dedicated public servant, Jenelle Krishnamoorthy. For 10 years now, Jenelle has shown up for work in my office with the singular goal of improving the health of Americans. She has succeeded beyond measure. For that, I owe her my thanks, and so too do tens of millions of Americans.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, today I express my opposition to the President's plan to grant executive amnesty to 4 million to 5 million illegal immigrants residing in the United States.

By circumventing Congress on immigration and instituting his will through executive actions, President Obama is eroding the very foundation of our country and form of government. This sets a dangerous precedent where future Presidents can flout any law they happen to disagree with and alter the law without going through Congress. Each branch of government is to act as a check against the others and not sit idly by as one exercises authority it does not have. A constitutional law professor should know that.

I believe we all agree that our immigration system is broken—both the legal system which allows individuals to visit and work in our country and the failures which continue to allow others to reside illegally within our borders. The first step we need to take to fix our system is to secure our borders and bolster interior enforcement. We cannot reduce illegal immigration without better border security and entry/exit enforcement measures. We also need to ensure that we have a strong, workable employment verification system in place, because if Congress can ensure that only authorized job seekers gain employment in this country, then we remove the incentive for illegal immigration—and we cannot grant those who are here illegally amnesty.

Yet this week the President intends to circumvent the will of Congress by illegally granting amnesty to 4 million to 5 million illegal immigrants. This cannot stand. The American people do not want it, some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have advocated against it, and the President himself has said more than 20 times that he does not have the authority to take this action. I am certain that the Republicans in the Senate will take action next year when we become the majority, and I look forward to being a part of that cause.

But I must be clear: this is part of a much larger fight. I know all of my colleagues remember the unconstitutional

NLRB recess appointments the President made in 2012. In that case, the Supreme Court rejected his move, but it hasn't stopped the President from pushing forward. He has proposed a cap and tax proposal through regulation that Congress has already rejected, and I know my colleagues from coal-producing States intend to fight that EPA rule with me. I know my colleagues from Western States also intend to join me in fighting the EPA's proposed rule that could allow the administration to regulate all bodies of water, no matter how small, and regardless of whether the water is on public or private property.

This week's action is the latest step too far by the President, and I will continue to fight executive overreach—including amnesty by executive order—whether by targeting rampant, unaccountable Federal spending, working to reverse illegal executive orders with legitimate Federal laws or using the Congressional Review Act to reject the President's actions. I will be looking closely at every option.

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT ACT OF 2013

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I would like to thank Chairman HARKIN, Ranking Member ALEXANDER, and sponsors Senator MIKULSKI and Senator BURR for their tremendous work to bring the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 2014 to passage. I thank all of my colleagues in the House and Senate who helped get us to this point.

As many of my colleagues have commented, it is well past time that we take up a reauthorization of this important legislation. The Child Care and Development Block Grant, CCDBG, has not been reauthorized since 1996. In the nearly two decades since, our understanding of early childhood development, and the importance of high-quality child care and early learning, has expanded dramatically.

Investing in high-quality early learning opportunities such as child care and pre-K sets children on the path to success. This bill updates Federal standards to ensure that the Federal Government is supporting high-quality child care for low-income children. The legislation we have passed sets a new standard for child care in America, making sure that Federal dollars are going to providers who are committed to providing child care that meets certain criteria, such as health and safety standards.

Many of these changes reflect proposals I have put forth in previous Congresses to improve the Child Care and Development Block Grant, such as the Starting Early, Starting Right Act. I am encouraged that we were able to reach consensus on many of the provisions I have supported in the past, and that they are represented in this bill.

I would have liked to go further. I believe we need to increase our investment in high-quality child care, and

make it easier for child care providers to access training and education opportunities that will help them become better at caring for children and helping them learn. I would like to increase the incentives for States to invest in quality ratings and improvement systems, QRIS, which encourage child care providers to make continuous improvements in the quality of the care they provide and the facilities they use, often through financial incentives such as higher reimbursement rates when a certain quality level is reached.

While the authorized appropriations levels in this bill represent a 16% increase over the next 6 years—we still have a long way to go. Nationwide, the number of children served with CCDBG funding from 2012 to 2013 fell by 47,500 children. In Pennsylvania, nearly 2,800 fewer children were served. The important provisions for health, safety, and quality in this bill are not without their cost, and Congress must fully fund them. No family, child care provider, or State should have to make a choice between serving more children or providing quality care. We owe our most vulnerable children no less.

Even with the continued need for more funding, I still believe this legislation represents a significant improvement over current law and major progress for families. For the first time, we are requiring all States to develop robust health and safety standards, and to institute a consistent background check system for child care providers.

We are requiring States to formally coordinate their early learning programs, to improve service coordination and delivery. We are allowing children who qualify for a subsidy to receive a year of care before their eligibility is re-determined, promoting stability and continuity for the entire family and encouraging the child to develop strong relationships with his or her teachers and peers in child care.

We are increasing the investment in quality, from the 4 percent per year currently required in law to 9 percent within 5 years, and including a separate set-aside for infants and toddlers. Quality is a continuum, and a continual investment; it is not a one-time purchase, it is something we need to support and sustain.

I thank Chairman HARKIN, Ranking Member ALEXANDER, and Senator MIKULSKI and Senator BURR again for all of the work that they and their staff have done to get us to this point. When Congress works together children and family in this Nation all benefit. With the President's signature, parents can rest a little easier knowing that when they leave their child at child care, they will receive great care.