

cap that are expressing an interest to help in this regard. I hope I will have their support on this amendment. Let's get it done. I think it is important for Medicare beneficiaries to know they are not at risk of losing the opportunity for their physician to treat them under the Medicare system.

If we do not take care of the SGR problem, that is a real, real concern of Medicare beneficiaries, as to whether their physicians will be available for them. The same thing is true with the therapy cap. Let's remove this uncertainty. Let's get it fixed. We have the opportunity to do that. So I would urge my colleagues to support my efforts that are supported by AARP and many of the outside groups.

Let's vote for the SGR bill but also vote for the amendment I will offer with Senator VITTER that will permanently fix the therapy cap. We will have a chance to do that I hope either later tonight or tomorrow.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TRIBUTE TO FEDERAL EMPLOYEE MATTHEW O'NEILL

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I do not know if I am going to be able to have time to get into this. For the last several months this year, I have been taking time 1 day a month to talk a bit about an employee in the Department of Homeland Security. Of all the Departments in the Federal Government—the largest Department—it has the lowest morale. We have been working hard with them to do something about that.

We are doing small things that nonetheless is to remind everybody that folks in the Department of Homeland Security, in some cases, risk their lives, invest their lives in trying to make sure we have a life and a good life and a safe life. They are worthy of our praise. What I am going to do tonight—unless I get run off the floor because of other business—I want to talk about one of them.

As the Presiding Officer knows, the Department was recently the center of a budget battle on Capitol Hill. For weeks, it was unclear if the Department was going to face a shutdown, another short-term continuing resolution or receive the full-year funding they needed. Fortunately, Congress did its job and sent a clean funding bill for the rest of the fiscal year to the President's desk.

The employees are grateful for that and certainly I am as well. While the Department's employees and leadership can now return to their focus on

keeping America safe from threats our country faces, we should not ignore the harm the latest debate inflicted on the already low morale of employees at the Department.

More than 200,000 men and women work for the Department of Homeland Security, really just to do one mission; that is, to create a safe, secure, and resilient place where the American way of life can thrive. Many of those employees, again as I said earlier, put their lives on the line every single day.

Whether these employees are securing our borders, securing our skies, responding to natural disasters or bolstering our defenses in the cyber world, few other Federal agencies and employees touch the lives of so many Americans on a daily basis more than do the employees of the Department of Homeland Security. There is no question that they deserve to be treated better than the way Congress has been treating them lately.

That is one of the reasons why over the past few months I have been coming to the floor to recognize the work of at least a few of the many exemplary Department of Homeland Security employees.

In February, I spoke about Ramiro Garza, Jr., a Border Patrol agent at U.S. Customs and Border Protection. I had the opportunity to meet Mr. Garza early in February in McAllen, TX, while on a visit to the Mexican border in South Texas with Senators RON JOHNSON and BEN SASSE. In the past summer, Mr. Garza played an instrumental role in quickly setting up an emergency operations center and processing facility, which he now runs, to help Customs and Border Protection better manage unaccompanied minors and families apprehended along the southern border.

Today, I rise to speak about another dedicated and outstanding employee of the Department of Homeland Security. His name is Matthew O'Neill. Matthew is employed as a special agent within the U.S. Secret Service.

Over the past several months, there have been incidents, including some as recently as this month, that have again raised serious questions about the Agency and its ability to fulfill its responsibilities. The Agency's leadership is still addressing these incidents and taking steps to implement reforms to improve the Agency from the inside out.

So while it is important for us to usher in a new chapter for the U.S. Secret Service, it is important also that we shine some light on some brave men and women at the Agency who continue to serve our country and carry out their missions with distinction. Special Agent Matthew O'Neill is one of the many hard-working public servants whose day-to-day work deserves special recognition.

We live in a world that has become increasingly digitized. Nearly all Americans, including Members of this Chamber and me, are spending more

and more of our time online, whether it is to do our banking, our shopping, communicating with loved ones or simply getting our work done on a day-to-day basis.

Americans' ability to go online in a safe and secure environment is at the core of Special Agent O'Neill's work. You see, agents in the U.S. Secret Service are not only responsible for protecting the President, the First Family, and other dignitaries as well, some agents, such as Special Agent O'Neill, do their work in cyber space—not outer space but cyber space. And there in that cyber space are criminals who are elusive, and the threats they pose to us are sophisticated and many.

Put simply, Agent O'Neill's job is to target cyber criminals taking aim at the American consumer, businesses, and our national community online.

Financial crime has evolved dramatically in the nearly 20 years since Special Agent O'Neill began his career with the Secret Service. Not that long ago, criminals would go to a bank, perhaps maybe a jewelry store or a convenience store, to steal money and maybe some other valuables.

Today, they don't even need to go outside to steal items of great value from businesses, from the Federal Government or from the rest of us consumers and regular citizens. Criminals just need access to the Internet. These data breaches are disruptive to our economy. They cause worry and confusion for millions of American consumers and for businesses. But thanks to his dedication and expertise, Special Agent O'Neill has helped the Federal Government to try to stay ahead of the curve and keep our most sensitive information and our property secure.

Special Agent O'Neill is originally from Dumfries, VA. He graduated from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA—that makes him a Duke—before joining his career with the Secret Service in 1998 in the New Haven, CT, office. From 2003 to 2007, he served in the Vice Presidential and Special Services Division in Washington, DC.

However, it is while serving in his current role, one primarily performed in cyber space, that Special Agent O'Neill has become one of the top cyber warriors defending our security online. In this position, he has helped to lead a number of complex transnational cyber crime investigations. These investigations have focused on crimes ranging from hacks into check-out lanes at brick-and-mortar stores to the online sale of stolen, personally identifiable information, such as Social Security numbers.

In one investigation, Special Agent O'Neill identified Web site portals that sold the personal information of approximately 30 million Americans to other cyber criminals, potentially putting victims at risk for identity theft or credit card fraud or worse.

To uncover the criminals running and participating in this scheme, Special Agent O'Neill sought and executed

over a dozen Federal search warrants, made numerous undercover purchases, and painstakingly examined nearly 40,000 emails.

As a result of an extensive investigation, Special Agent O'Neill was able to trace the source of the stolen data to an individual in South Vietnam. In 2013, the culprit was arrested for his crimes. Since the investigation, Special Agent O'Neill has been able to identify and arrest over 20 other criminals who worked in conjunction with the culprit by illicitly purchasing the stolen data.

In addition to breaking up that complex network, Special Agent O'Neill's work has also thwarted attacks involving everyday transactions, saving businesses and saving consumers from financial harm. For example, he played a critical role in identifying, tracking, and identifying three Romanian nationals who were planning to hack into the computer system of a major fast food franchise with more than 25,000 restaurants in the United States.

Time and again, Special Agent O'Neill's supervisors and colleagues have noted his commitment and dedication to duty, including his willingness to work at all hours of the day and night to track criminals who use the Internet with malicious intent.

In 2012, he was recognized as the Investigator of the Year by the International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators. In 2013, he was honored by the Secret Service as its Special Agent of the Year for his efforts, and in 2014, he received the Department of Homeland Security Secretary's Meritorious Service Award.

But Special Agent O'Neill's service doesn't end with his work at the Department of Homeland Security. When he is not combatting cyber crime, he is serving his neighbors and community by volunteering for a local charity that provides financial assistance to families dealing with cancer. The charity also provides scholarship money for the continuing education of oncology nurses.

I thank Special Agent O'Neill's family for sharing him with his community and his Nation. We are a safer country because of him.

In closing, the actions taken by Special Agent Matthew O'Neill attest to this critically important work done by thousands of individuals across the Department of Homeland Security every single day. These men and women are courageous, dedicated, and exemplary Federal employees who selflessly serve our country year in and year out.

Like Special Agent Matthew O'Neill, these unsung heroes and heroines walk among us every day, protecting us from the unknown or from the unexpected. And more often than not, the good work they do goes unnoticed—but not today.

Special Agent O'Neill, thank you. Thank you for your dedication to this country. Thank you for your tireless service to all of us.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that at 7:10 p.m., the Senate proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2, which was received from the House, and that the only amendments in order be the following: Cornyn amendment No. 1114, repeal individual mandate; Democratic amendment No. 1115, extend SCHIP; Lee amendment No. 1116, motion to strike; Democratic amendment No. 1117, women's health; Cotton amendment No. 1118, fee schedule; Democratic amendment No. 1119, therapy; that following the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote in relation to the amendments in the order listed, that all amendments except the Cotton and Lee amendments be subject to a 60-vote affirmative threshold for adoption, the bill then be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended; further, that there be 2 minutes equally divided between the votes and that the votes after the first be 10 minutes in length.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. REID. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, the reason we are not moving forward more quickly is we first had to get some of the holds lifted, and we were able to do that on both sides, and we wanted to make sure there would be no cuts in the physicians payments.

We thought if we finished this by early sometime tomorrow, noon or thereabouts, that the payments would not be cut but we don't have that assurance yet. So we are going to have to go ahead. If something comes from the Office of Management and Budget or the White House that that would not happen, we can allow people to go to the events they have around town.

In the meantime, I agree with the Republican leader, we should go forward. If something happens during some of these votes so we can finish them tomorrow, fine. But in the meantime, to protect not only the physicians but their patients, we should move forward on this legislation now.

I have no objection.

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

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, just briefly, the point to remember here is that at midnight, roughly 5 hours from now, CMS will begin to cut payments to doctors who treat Medicare patients. If we do not act tonight, these cuts of 21 percent will be real.

I yield the floor.

MEDICARE ACCESS AND CHIP REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to the consideration of H.R. 2, which the clerk will report by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2) to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Medicare sustainable growth rate and strengthen Medicare access by improving physician payments and making other improvements, to reauthorize the Children's Health Insurance Program, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

AMENDMENT NO. 1114

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I call up my amendment and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mr. CORNYN] proposes an amendment numbered 1114.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To repeal the individual mandate)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. . RESTORING INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY.

Sections 1501 and 1502 and subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) of section 10106 of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (and the amendments made by such sections and subsections) are repealed and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be applied and administered as if such provisions and amendments had never been enacted.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 2 minutes of debate equally divided prior to a vote in relation to amendment No. 1114, offered by the Senator from Texas, Mr. CORNYN.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, Speaker BOEHNER and Leader PELOSI have negotiated a package which enjoyed broad bipartisan support in the House. The one missing element is a pay-for for the so-called doc fix, for the sustainable growth rate fix. What my amendment does is offer that pay-for so that this is a deficit-neutral bill if it is adopted.

In order to find that pay-for, we would repeal the individual mandate. The latest CBO score shows it would save as much as \$400 billion. It hasn't been scored this year, so the number may be off a little bit, but there is more than an adequate amount of money to offset the deficit caused by this permanent doc fix.

I ask my colleagues to join me, along with then-Senator Barack Obama in 2008 in his campaign against Hillary Clinton, who when he was running for the Democratic nomination campaigned against the individual mandate.

Let's make that reality.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I urge colleagues to oppose this amendment. What Senator CORNYN seeks to do is to strike an idea that originally came