

a visionary leader, a committed public servant, and a cherished friend—former Utah Governor Norman “Norm” Howard Bangerter. As Utah’s 13th Governor, Norm established himself as one of the strongest leaders to ever hold public office in our State.

Norm’s roots were deeply entrenched in the west side of the Salt Lake Valley, and he often referred to himself as a “humble farmer and carpenter” who learned the value of hard work from a young age. His parents, William and Isabelle Bangerter, instilled in their 11 children a strong moral compass and a desire to help others—virtues he carried with him throughout his life.

Norm first entered politics in 1974 when he ran for the Utah House of Representatives. He gained a surprise victory, which put him on a path of strong representation and leadership for his constituents. Norm served 10 years as a State representative, including 4 years as the speaker of the house.

During Norm’s first term as Governor, Utah faced formidable challenges. Never one to shrink from duty, Norm confronted these challenges head-on, exhibiting the exceptional judgment and foresight that would distinguish him as our State’s chief executive. In making these difficult decisions, Governor Bangerter always sought to do what was right over what was politically expedient. He laid a strong framework for his governance, which included “the three e’s”—education, economic development, and efficiency in government. Later in his tenure, he added a fourth “e”—the environment.

After Governor Bangerter won reelection in 1988, the difficult decisions of his first term began to bear fruit. Utah had raised its profile as a fiscally well-managed State, and the success of the Governor’s economic development projects encouraged several prominent companies to relocate or expand in Utah. The Bangerter administration cut budgets, created jobs, expanded the economy, and provided a foundation for fiscal responsibility that still exists today.

Although public service was important to Norm, his family was always paramount. In 1953, he married Colleen Monson, who was his loyal friend and constant companion through nearly 58 years of marriage until she passed away in 2011. Together they raised 7 children and were grandparents to 30 grandchildren and 31 great-grandchildren. In 2012, Norm married Judy Schiffman, who was a dear friend and support to Norm and his family. His daily life was always spent with family by his side. Family time was sacred and essential to Norm, and he firmly believed that family was the most important component of life.

Norm not only served willingly in the public arena, he also served diligently in his church, assuming several important leadership positions in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He served for 18 years as a

bishop and as a stake president, and later presided with his wife, Colleen, over the Johannesburg, South Africa Mission from 1996 to 1999. After his missionary service, Norm spent many hours each week volunteering in the LDS Church’s Jordan River Temple. His life was an example of compassion and service, modeled after our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Throughout my years of public service, I have had the privilege of knowing, working with, and learning from Governor Norm Bangerter. We spoke often, and I could always count on him to share with me his no-nonsense wisdom and his passionate advice. Our conversations were always spirited, and they played an indispensable role in my own public service. He fought for what he believed in with great determination and fervor, and he was never afraid to express his opinions. I appreciated our conversations more than he probably knew, and I will miss his sage advice and loyal friendship.

Elaine and I will greatly miss our dear friend, Governor Norm Bangerter. The impact he made on Utah cannot be overstated. He led during difficult times and was a steadfast anchor for our State. He was also a noble servant of our Heavenly Father, and a strong, loving husband, father, and grandfather to his cherished family. He left an indelible impression on me and on all those who had the privilege of knowing him.

TRADE ADJUSTMENT ASSISTANCE ENHANCEMENT ACT

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am joined by my colleague Senator RON WYDEN in introducing the Trade Adjustment Assistance, TAA, Enhancement Act of 2015. This legislation would reauthorize trade adjustment assistance programs to help American workers who lose their jobs as a result of foreign competition. These programs are an investment in the American worker and are essential to helping those who are negatively affected by international trade to get the skills and training to prepare for jobs in other industries.

The Trade Adjustment Assistance Enhancement Act of 2015 would cover affected workers in the manufacturing, service, and agricultural sectors. In addition to covering workers whose jobs shift to countries with which the United States has a Free Trade Agreement, the bill would also extend to job losses from non-FTA countries, such as China or India. It would make eligible for assistance those who have been laid off due to unfair foreign subsidies or dumping practices, as long as the lay-off occurs within 1 year of an affirmative injury determination by the International Trade Commission.

Our bill would also authorize an investment of up to \$575 million per year to train workers in new, in-demand skills, thereby providing them with the opportunity to find lasting employ-

ment that will ensure greater economic stability in years to come. It would also provide extended unemployment insurance for those enrolled in an approved training program. For older workers seeking quick reemployment, our bill would provide wage insurance to cover up to 50 percent of the wage differential between the old job and the new job. It would also provide assistance to those who must commute a greater distance or relocate altogether to find new employment.

Under our bill, farmers, fishermen, and aquaculture producers would also be eligible for targeted training and assistance programs designed to help increase their competitiveness. The bill would further clarify that fishermen and aquaculture producers may receive TAA benefits whether they are competing against farmed or wild-caught fish or seafood imports.

Small, rural communities in my home State of Maine have been hit hard by closures or partial shutdowns of mills, manufacturing plants, or other businesses that, in many cases, represent a large portion of jobs in the surrounding communities. In the past year, the communities of Lincoln, Millinocket, and Bucksport have experienced such devastating job losses. Moreover, the second and third-order economic effects on other businesses is significant. When these jobs are abruptly lost on such a massive scale, entire communities and the surrounding area are devastated. In times of such great upheaval, the laid off employees, who lost their good jobs through no fault of their own, need the time, support, and resources to learn new skills and seek viable employment opportunities.

TAA programs have made a tremendous difference in the lives of those working in trade-affected industries in Maine, such as the pulp and paper manufacturing, lobster, and blueberry industries. In fiscal year 2013, more than 700 Mainers benefitted from these programs, which led to an employment retention rate of more than 90 percent. In the last year alone, the Department of Labor approved TAA benefits for the hundreds of workers who lost their jobs with the closures of the Verso Paper mill in Bucksport, the Lincoln Paper and Tissue mill in Lincoln, the Great Northern Paper mill in East Millinocket, and the UTC Fire and Security plant in Pittsfield. Previously, TAA benefitted former employees of the Great Northern Paper mill in Millinocket when it closed, in addition to lobstermen and wild blueberry producers who needed help increasing the competitiveness of their unique commodities. Recently, I had the opportunity to visit Eastern Maine Community College and tour its Fine Woodworking and Cabinet Making Shop. I met with a group of students formerly employed at the Bucksport Verso Paper mill, who now have the opportunity to learn a new skill because of the funds available through TAA.

TAA has been vitally important in helping Maine workers, and those across the Nation, who have been harmed by trade get the skills and training they need to prepare for jobs in other industries. Reauthorization of trade adjustment assistance programs must be a part of the national trade policy debate, and I am pleased that the Senate recognized the importance of TAA by approving the bipartisan amendment that I authored to the Budget Resolution related to reauthorizing TAA. I urge my colleagues to support the bipartisan Trade Adjustment Assistance Enhancement Act of 2015 to continue crucial investments in the American worker and protect them from unfair trade practices and increased imports.

VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE ACT

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I support the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Act. Each year, tax payers across the country utilize accountants, tax software, and lawyers as they prepare their returns. For millions of low-income families, high-cost, high-tech tax assistance is not an option. As a result, the families most in need of tax preparation assistance—low- and moderate-income families, including elderly and disabled taxpayers—will fail to file their taxes or miss out on valuable tax credits.

The IRS created the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, VITA program in 1969 to assist individuals and families in submitting their Federal tax returns. For decades, this program operated predominantly with the resources and facilities of community partners. In 2007, Congress created a demonstration program awarding matching grants to VITA sites to serve additional low-income individuals and families. Since 2008, the VITA grant program has grown to over 200 grant recipients but is still only able to fund about two-thirds of grant applicants.

During the 2014 Federal income tax filing season, VITA programs filed approximately 1.7 million tax returns. Of those 1.7 million returns, more than 551,000 claimed the Earned Income Tax Credit as part of nearly \$2.5 billion in tax refunds that went to VITA tax filers. In addition, VITA programs improve accuracy in the return process and reduce IRS costs by e-filing. In 2014, VITA program tax returns were e-filed 96 percent of the time, compared to 86 percent for the rest of the population.

Funding for the VITA program remains insufficient to meet demand and has not been made permanent. The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Act would ensure that volunteers and non-profits across the country can continue to provide essential tax preparation services each spring by creating a permanent matching grant program for VITA sites. The act would also build on the success of the VITA program by

creating a National Center to Promote Quality, Excellence, and Evaluation in Volunteer Income Tax Assistance. Through the center, VITA's many sites would have a mechanism to share best practices and create a more efficient and sustainable program to serve a large number of low- and middle-income families.

I ask that my colleagues join me in supporting working families by cosponsoring the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Act.

RECOGNIZING SANOFI'S PENNSYLVANIA EMPLOYEES

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the contributions to global public health by the Pennsylvania employees of Sanofi. Yesterday, at the White House, they were presented with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office's Patent for Humanity award, in recognition of the development of a patented chemical and industrial process for producing semi-synthetic artemisinin, which is used in the creation of combination therapies, ACTs, treating malaria.

Malaria is one of the most deadly infectious diseases in the world, with 200 million cases in almost 100 countries. In 2013, an estimated 584,000 people died from malaria. This parasitic infection most significantly burdens countries with the highest rates of poverty. In Africa, where 90 percent of all malaria cases occur, one child dies every minute from the condition.

Artemisinin is an important anti-malarial drug derived from the sweet wormwood plant in Asia and Africa, but weather and other factors can yield an uncertain supply of natural artemisinin, threatening patients' access. Thus, developing semi-synthetic artemisinin will enable a stable supply of high-quality medication at affordable prices on a no-profit, no-loss model, lead to a stronger supply chain, and place more ACTs in the hands of the most vulnerable patients. Sanofi hopes to produce annually an average of 50 to 60 tons of artemisinin, which will produce 80 to 150 million ACT treatments.

This project to produce semi-synthetic artemisinin began in 2007, and involves a partnership with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the University of California Berkeley, the global health charity PATH, Sanofi, and Amiry's. I would like to commend in particular Alain Werner, Robert Sebbag, and Philippe Charreau of Sanofi who led the organization's work on this important project. Sanofi's achievement is only one example of a rich history of dedicating its resources to combat the world's most deadly diseases. Their work on malaria dates back to the 1930s. More recently, Sanofi, which has 112,000 employees and retains core strengths in human vaccines, animal health, consumer healthcare, diabetes, and rare diseases, created its Access to Medicines pro-

gram to improve access to healthcare in the poorest countries.

As the Senate continues to work on legislation to speed the development of therapies, I ask my colleagues keep in mind the important incentives and intellectual property protections that encourage scientists, such as those responsible for this breakthrough, to create lifesaving medicines for patients worldwide.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

PROPOSED AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA CONCERNING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY—PM 14

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with accompanying papers; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to subsections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)) (the "Act"), the text of a proposed Agreement for Cooperation Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the People's Republic of China Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (the "Agreement"). I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the Agreement, and an unclassified Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement (NPAS) concerning the Agreement. (In accordance with section 123 of the Act, as amended by Title XII of the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-277), two classified annexes to the NPAS, prepared by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, summarizing relevant classified information, will be submitted to the Congress separately.) The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretaries of State and Energy and a letter from the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission stating the views of the Commission are also enclosed. An addendum to the NPAS containing a comprehensive analysis of China's export control system with respect to nuclear-related matters, including interactions with other countries of proliferation concern and the actual or suspected nuclear, dual-use, or missile-