

by the Small Business Administration—SBA. This small update will enable more minority and women-owned businesses to compete for infrastructure work. This amendment had widespread support in the aviation construction industry including from the U.S. Women's Chamber of Commerce, the Airport Minority Advisory Council, the National Association of Minority Contractors, and I was pleased to see it unanimously supported in this legislation.

I also joined colleagues on the floor and through my role on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation to move the legislation forward on policies that embrace innovation and help the United States maintain global leadership when it comes to embracing new technology and integrating UAS into the national airspace.

From a floor amendment with Senator INHOFE that will improve the safe use of UAS to examine and maintain our critical infrastructure to amendments I championed in committee that will move the United States forward on new applications of micro-UAS, we took important strides forward. This technology has the power to enhance search and rescue, deliver humanitarian aid, improve agriculture practices, and news-gathering. I introduced the Commercial UAS Modernization Act to help advance this technology and was pleased to see many of our ideas incorporated in this reauthorization.

This legislation also includes provisions to bolster the use of test sites and further important research initiatives that will benefit safety, infrastructure, and aviation technology. New Jersey is home to the FAA's William J. Hughes Technical Center in Atlantic City and a UAS test site in Cape May. These sites play a key role in advancing aviation research and technology, and this legislation includes important provisions that ensure New Jersey will remain a leader in advancing aviation safety and R&D.

Lastly, I would like to discuss an area that is ripe for further congressional action: the Transportation Security Administration—TSA. The FAA reauthorization takes some steps towards stronger security, but more work needs to be done to advance our Nation's security, and TSA plays a critical role to these endeavors. I will continue to fight for accountability and further resources to this important entity that plays such an important role in keeping travelers safe and secure. We must ensure there are adequate resources and top-notch technologies deployed to our airports and our surface transportation systems.

Again, I thank my esteemed colleagues in Senate leadership and Senators THUNE and NELSON for their efforts on this important legislation. I know this will make a difference to my constituents in New Jersey and to people across the country.

Thank you.

OLDER AMERICANS ACT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2016

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, recently the Senate marked a significant achievement—the final passage of the bipartisan reauthorization of the Older Americans Act—and now the President has signed it into law.

This act provides seniors access to home-delivered meals, like Meals on Wheels; seniors centers; transportation, like rides to the senior center and the grocery store; and meals served at senior centers and churches. Other services include caregiver support, preventive health services, job training and support, elder abuse prevention, and the long-term care ombudsman.

In 2012, Tennessee served 2.4 million meals to seniors through Older Americans Act programs.

This reauthorization also will make a few important improvements.

One, it will provide States, area agencies on aging, and service providers with information and technical assistance in collaboration with relevant Federal agencies, on providing efficient, person-centered transportation services, including across geographic boundaries.

That means that when a senior who lives Kentucky and wants to come see her doctor just over the border in Tennessee, it is easier for her to get that ride.

Two, this bill addresses the tragic issue of elder abuse with provisions for the prevention of abuse, neglect, and exploitation. It bolsters services that address elder justice and exploitation of older individuals, including financial exploitation, which can be devastating to a senior's ability to stay independent and in his own home.

Three, this bill ensures States receive funding based on their senior population. Senator RICHARD BURR worked hard with me on this, and we have him to thank for this update.

This bill is the product of several years of bipartisan collaboration and compromise. This legislation protects and strengthens the underlying law's many vital programs. I look forward to seeing S. 192 signed into law, and now I would like to yield to my colleague, Senator BURR.

Mr. BURR. I would also like to thank my colleagues, particularly Chairman ALEXANDER, Ranking Member MURRAY, and Senator SANDERS, for their partnership in working with me to reauthorize the Older Americans Act. I am pleased that our efforts have resulted in sending a strong reauthorization of the Older Americans Act to the President's desk. The reauthorization of these critical support programs for seniors has been a process that each of us has been actively involved in over the last few years, and I am proud to see this bipartisan piece of legislation on its way to becoming law.

I want to focus on a key aspect of this reauthorization for my constitu-

ents—the change in the funding formula. In 2010, the Government Accountability Office, GAO, determined that the formula responsible for the allocation of State funding in the OAA was broken. It took us 6 years to act, and I am pleased to see this important change included in the OAA reauthorization, allowing funds to be directed where they are most needed. This is a commonsense, but critical change for better ensuring that the dollars are following the needs.

This change is especially important for North Carolina's seniors. The change in the formula calculation will increase resources for these programs in North Carolina and other States where seniors have moved since the last reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, a decade ago. As more and more seniors make North Carolina their home, this will help ensure that resources are being more fairly allocated based on the needs of seniors today and in the future, which is a key aspect of helping some of our most vulnerable seniors age with the dignity and respect they deserve.

I often hear from my constituents—area agencies on aging, PACE program directors, and North Carolinians themselves—about the benefits that come from the programs authorized by the Older Americans Act. The continuation of these programs, which provide meals, caregiver supports, and help seniors stay in the comfort of their homes and local communities longer positively impacts the lives of millions of seniors every day. With the passage of this legislation, almost 2 million North Carolina seniors may be able to benefit from State and local programs that provide needed support for them and their families. I am proud to have fought on behalf of North Carolina's seniors for the improvements reflected in this reauthorization bill, and I look forward to continuing to work to improve the quality of life for my constituents.

Mr. ALEXANDER. In addition to providing grants to States for senior social and nutrition services, this reauthorization also aims to continue protecting vulnerable elders from abuse by ensuring access to abuse screening and prevention through efforts like the Senior Medicare Patrol, SMP, program, which helps train seniors to recognize and protect themselves from Medicare and Medicaid fraud. The most recent inspector general report noted that the program had educated over 3.5 million beneficiaries, reached 27 million people, and saved about \$106 million.

The programs authorized by this law provide critical services to help Americans live with dignity well into their later years, but these services also provide a significant return on investment for taxpayers.

They help decrease the increasing cost pressures on Medicare and Medicaid. These programs that help seniors stay healthy, independent, and living

in their own homes also are helping seniors stay where they want to be—and that is less expensive for taxpayers than if these seniors were instead in nursing homes.

Mr. ENZI. I would also like to highlight the National Resource Center for Women and Retirement as a highly successful program run by the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement—known to most as “WISER”—a non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring the security of women's retirement income through outreach, partnerships, and policy development. The staff and programs at WISER have provided important and effective trainings and education in my home State of Wyoming, as well as around the country.

Mr. ALEXANDER. For more than 50 years, the Older Americans Act has been effective in large part because these successful programs are funded through flexible grants to States. States know best what services will be most beneficial for their residents to live healthier, more independent lives as they age.

I want to thank Senator MURRAY for working with me on this bill in our committee.

I want to thank Senator COLLINS, whose leadership on the Special Committee on Aging was instrumental. Her determination to help seniors stay home and independent helped us get this bill through the full Senate.

I want to thank Senator BURR for his determination to get a result on the funding issue.

Finally, I would like to thank Senator SANDERS for his tireless work on this issue and on this bill.

NATIONAL CONGENITAL DIAPHRAGMATIC HERNIA AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, today I wish to discuss S. Res. 408. I am delighted that the Senate has unanimously declared April as National Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Awareness Month for the fourth consecutive year. I would like to thank my friend and able colleague, Senator BEN CARDIN of Maryland, for joining me in this legislation. This resolution is very important to me and my family as my grandson Jim Beau is a CDH survivor.

I specifically wanted to speak today, April 19, to commemorate Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia Action Day. Charities and families in 60 countries and cities all over the U.S. are working together to raise CDH Awareness through State and town proclamations, lighted buildings, Parades of Cherubs, fundraisers, and other events.

CDH is a birth defect that occurs when the fetal diaphragm fails to fully develop. The lungs develop at the same time as the diaphragm and the digestive system. When a diaphragmatic hernia occurs, the abdominal organs move into and develop in the chest instead of remaining in the abdomen. With the heart, lungs, and abdominal

organs all taking up space in the chest, the lungs do not have space to develop properly. This may cause the lungs to be small and underdeveloped.

A diaphragmatic hernia is a life-threatening condition. When the lungs do not develop properly during pregnancy, it can be difficult for the baby to breathe after birth, or the baby is unable to take in enough oxygen to stay healthy.

Several members from the CHERUBS group visited my office yesterday. I was encouraged by their good spirit and enthusiasm. These individuals have been coming to Capitol Hill every year for the last several years to advocate for Federal assistance for this birth defect. Over the last 4 years, we have made good progress.

We have seen an increase in funding at the National Institutes of Health, NIH. In fiscal year 2015, the NIH funded approximately \$3,300,000 in CDH research. This is an increase of \$800,000 from fiscal year 2014. We have also seen an increase in awareness and education. But more research is needed. The cause of CDH remains unknown. Most cases of diaphragmatic hernia are believed to be multifactorial in origin, meaning both genetic and environmental factors are involved. It is thought that multiple genes from both parents, as well as a number of environmental factors that scientists do not yet fully understand, contribute to the development of a diaphragmatic hernia.

Congenital diaphragmatic hernia is a birth defect that occurs in 1 out of every 3,836 live births worldwide.

The CDC estimates that CDH affects 1,088 babies in the U.S. each year.

Every 10 minutes, a baby is born with CDH, adding up to more than 700,000 babies with CDH since just 2000; yet most people have never heard of CDH.

Up to 20 percent of cases of CDH have a genetic cause due to a chromosome defect or genetic syndrome.

According to the CDC, babies born with CDH experience a high mortality rate ranging from 20–60 percent depending on the severity of the defect and the treatments available at delivery. The mortality rate has remained stable since 1999.

Approximately 40 percent of babies born with CDH will have other birth defects, in addition to CDH. The most common is a congenital heart defect.

Awareness, good prenatal care, early diagnosis, and skilled treatment are the keys to a greater survival rate in these babies. That is why this resolution is so important.

In 2009, my grandson Jim Beau was diagnosed with CDH during my daughter Mary Abigail's 34th week of pregnancy. At that time, no one in my family had heard of CDH before. My family was very lucky that Jim Beau's defect was caught before he was born and that he was in the right place to receive excellent care for his CDH.

He is now a happy, rambunctious 6-year-old.

The resolution Senator CARDIN and I introduced is important because it will bring awareness to this birth defect, and this awareness will save lives. Although hundreds of thousands of babies have been diagnosed with this defect, the causes are still unknown, and more research is needed. Every year more is learned and there are more successes. We are making good progress, and we must continue these efforts.

I want to thank my colleagues for joining me in supporting this legislation to bring awareness to CDH.

I thank the Chair.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY MACDONALD

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Larry MacDonald as he retires from the city of Bayfield, WI, after an impressive 20 years as the city's mayor. Since his election in 1994, Larry has dedicated himself to improving the city of Bayfield and making it a wonderful destination in northwestern Wisconsin.

Larry was born in Munich, Germany, to American parents. After growing up in the Twin Cities area of Minnesota, Larry and his wife, Julie, moved to Bayfield in 1989. They opened Cooper Hill House B&B, contributing to Bayfield's tradition of welcoming visitors from across the State to beautiful Bayfield County. The MacDonalds also opened the Apostle Islands Outfitters that, for close to two decades, supported Bayfield and the city's practice of providing outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities to residents and tourists alike.

While he has served as mayor for 20 years, Larry's career in public service began as a casual interest in local government. However, as a proactive politician, a committed environmentalist, and a savvy businessman, Larry's casual interest quickly grew into a remarkable passion for his work and dedication to his city. Over the past two decades and despite an ill-fated attempt at retirement in 2004, Larry has influenced all aspects of the Bayfield community.

The city of Bayfield is the smallest city in Wisconsin, but one of our most popular destinations. A beautiful city located on Lake Superior, Bayfield draws visitors from across the State. When others would be daunted, he faced head-on the challenges of a local economy based on tourism, working with local organizations and listening closely to his community. Larry also dedicated his career to maintaining the natural beauty of Lake Superior and the Apostle Islands through his work as a board member of the Alliance of the Great Lakes and the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore. As mayor, he led the city to be one of the first in the Nation to adopt an eco-municipality resolution, thereby codifying its commitment to sustainability, setting an example for others to follow, and preserving Bayfield's natural resources for generations to come.