

Act, which expired at the end of last year. We have a number of bipartisan proposals that will make it easier and simpler for students to attend college and for administrators to operate our 6,000 colleges and universities.

But, another priority of the committee is legislation dealing with the mental health crisis in America, which we are discussing today.

The committee has done a great deal of work on this subject. On September 30, 2015, this committee passed S. 1893, Mental Health Awareness and Improvement Act of 2015, introduced by Senator Murray and myself. This bill, cosponsored by many members of the committee, reauthorizes and improves programs administered by the Department of Health and Human Services related to awareness, prevention, and early identification of mental health conditions. The Senate passed this important piece of legislation on December 18, 2015. Senators Cassidy and Murphy have introduced legislation, and Sen. Murray and I have been working with them. We hope to move promptly to bring recommendations before the full committee.

Not everything the Senate may want to do is within the jurisdiction of this committee. We're working with Sen. Blunt, who is the chairman of the Senate's health appropriations subcommittee, on ideas that he's proposed—as well as with Sen. Cornyn on issues that the Judiciary Committee is considering and the Senate Finance Committee, which will also be involved.

Here is why there is such interest in the United States Senate in the mental health crisis in America today: A 2014 national survey from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration found that about one in five adults had a mental health condition in the past year, and 9.8 million adults had serious mental illness, such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, or depression that interferes with a major life activity.

However, nearly 60 percent of adults with mental illness did not receive mental health services in 2014. Only about half of adolescents with a mental health condition received treatment for their mental health condition.

Mental health conditions that remain untreated can lead to dropping out of school, substance abuse, incarceration, unemployment, homelessness, and suicide. Suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States, and 90 percent of those who die by suicide have an underlying mental illness.

I hear from many Tennesseans about the challenges faced by individuals and families living with mental illness. From 2010 to 2012, nearly 21 percent of adults in Tennessee reported having a mental illness—that's more than a million people—according to the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. About 4 percent had a serious mental illness—that's nearly a quarter of a million Tennesseans.

According to a 2015 report from the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network, the most recent data available shows Tennessee's rate of suicide reached its highest level in 5 years in 2013. Also in 2013, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that suicide was the second leading cause of death for Tennesseans between the ages of 15 and 34. Scott Ridgway, head of the Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network, last year stated that suicide "remains a major public health threat in the state of Tennessee."

At our October hearing on mental health, this committee heard from administration witnesses about what the federal government is already doing to address mental illness. Today, I look forward to hearing from the doctors, nurses, advocates and administra-

tors who work every day with Americans who struggle with a mental health condition about how the federal government can help patients, health care providers, communities, and states to better address mental health issues.

One way is to ensure that the latest and most innovative research findings get translated into practice and can change the lives of individuals and families across the United States. For example, at our earlier hearing, the National Institute of Mental Health's then-director, Dr. Tom Insel, discussed the Recovery After an Initial Schizophrenia Episode, or RAISE study. The study found that identifying and treating psychosis early with a comprehensive, personalized treatment plan can significantly improve an individual's quality of life. Many states have begun implementing treatment programs based on this model—and it was called a "game changer" by the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

I am interested to hear from our witnesses how the federal government can support state efforts to implement innovative and evidence-based treatment programs—as well as their thoughts to help ensure that Washington is not getting in the way.

Strengthening our mental health care system will require modernizing the leading agency for mental health. It will also require involvement from patients, families, communities, health care providers, health departments, law enforcement, state partners, and others.

I look forward to hearing from our witnesses here today about the challenges we face and the solutions they believe are needed to address them head on.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF WELD, MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Town of Weld, ME. Known today as a gateway to the rugged and beautiful Western Maine Mountains, Weld was built with a spirit of determination and resiliency that still guides the community today.

Weld's incorporation on February 8, 1816, was but one milestone on a long journey of progress. For thousands of years, Maine's Western Mountains were the hunting grounds of the Abenaki Tribe. The reverence the Abenaki had for the natural beauty and resources of the region is upheld by the people of Weld today.

The early settlers at what was called Webb's Pond Plantation were drawn by fertile soil, vast forests, and fast-moving waters, which they turned into productive farms and busy mills. The wealth produced by the land and by hard work and determination was invested in schools and churches to create a true community.

Weld is a town of patriots. Its namesake, Benjamin Weld, was a hero of the American Revolution. Ninety-three townsmen answered freedom's call during the Civil War; more than 20 gave their lives preserving our great Nation. The veterans memorials at the town library stand in silent tribute to those who have defended America throughout our history.

Weld also is a town of involved citizens. The active historical society, vol-

unteer fire department, and library are evidence of a strong community spirit. The planning and volunteerism that have gone into this yearlong bicentennial celebration are evidence that Weld's spirit grows only stronger.

This 200th anniversary is not just about something that is measured in calendar years; it is about human accomplishment and an occasion to celebrate the people who for more than two centuries have worked together and cared for one another. Thanks to those who came before, Weld has a wonderful history. Thanks to those who are there today, it has a bright future.

TRIBUTE TO DR. ALEXIS RUDD

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Dr. Alexis Rudd, a Knauss Sea Grant Fellow on the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and other members of the committee over the past year.

Dr. Rudd received her Ph.D. in zoology from the University of Hawaii. In her postgraduate work, she has used her scientific expertise to inform public policy.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Dr. Rudd for all of the fine work she has done. I wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD D. SPIEGELMAN

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Richard D. Spiegelman. In a world of shifting alliances and temporary commitments, you occasionally come to know someone who epitomizes constancy, loyalty and devotion to the public good. And if you are very lucky, you get to work with him or her. I have had the good fortune of working with such a person, my former legislative director and counsel, Dick Spiegelman. For 8 years, Dick brought to my Senate office a piercing intellect, an intense work ethic, an unfailing good nature, and a vast collection of colorful bowties.

I first came to know Dick when he worked for my father, Governor Casey, as Pennsylvania's general counsel, the highest ranking attorney in a Governor's administration. He had sterling academic credentials: an undergraduate degree from Williams College, as well as a master's degree and a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania. More importantly, he brought a wealth of experience in both the private and public sectors to the job. Following 8 years of service in Governor Casey's administration, Dick returned to private practice as a partner in the Dilworth Paxson law firm, representing a blue-chip clientele of major telecommunications companies. After I was elected Pennsylvania auditor general in 1996, my transition leaders broached the idea of luring Dick back

into State government. The advice I got from everyone I asked was, "Get Spiegelman; he knows everything." Dick did join my team and served as my chief of staff and chief counsel for 8 years. Then, when I was elected State Treasurer, he served as my chief of staff.

Dick came to the U.S. Senate with me in 2007 as my legislative director and counsel. His intellect and encyclopedic knowledge soon led the younger members of my staff to begin referring to him as "Spiegeltron." During his 8 years as LD, Dick played a significant role in the big issues of our day, including the Affordable Care Act, TARP, Wall Street reform, and the American Recovery Act, as well as my legislative initiatives like the ABLE Act and pregnant women's support programs.

People from other Senate offices, the executive branch, and the lobbying world always remarked that Dick was unfailingly courteous, but always knew the substance of the matter at hand. No one could put one over on him. He supervised and mentored dozens of legislative staff members who worked under him and later moved on to key positions in government or the private sector. He was also known in the Senate for his sartorial splendor; few others could pull off a seersucker suit and a fedora.

A year ago, Dick decided to take a well-deserved retirement. Although no one believed that he would stay retired, he has confounded all of us by doing so—at least up to now. Dick's garden has expanded; he and his wife, Kathy, have dialed up their ballroom dancing skills to "Dancing with the Stars" levels; he sees his children, Alex and Margaret, more often; and he continues to offer wise counsel to those who seek it.

Dick Spiegelman represents the best in our American tradition of public service. The work that he did over the course of a 40-year career will live on, often permanently, in the form of well-crafted legislation; more honest and more efficient government; and the many, many young men and women who worked with him and who will follow his example throughout their own careers.

I thank Dick Spiegelman for all he has done for me, for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and for the United States of America.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING LIEUTENANT COLONEL KENNETH R. JOHNSON

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the life and honor the service of Vietnam veteran Lt. Col. Kenneth R. Johnson. Lieutenant Colonel Johnson passed away on August 29, 2015, and was laid to rest January 14, 2016, at Arlington National Cemetery. Born and raised in Minneapolis, Lieutenant Colonel Johnson

enjoyed playing music with his garage band, the Commodores, and studying airplanes. Upon graduating from Roosevelt High School in 1955, Johnson enlisted in the Minnesota Air National Guard, where he served for 2 years before entering the U.S. Air Force Academy to become an officer.

After he received his commission as a second lieutenant, Johnson went on to earn his wings and begin his career flying the F-100 Super Sabre, one of the planes that he would fly during the Vietnam war. It was in this plane that Johnson earned the Silver Star, defending the Tong Le Chan Special Forces camp, heroically making nine passes at low altitude against intense hostile fire in support of our troops. Later in the war, after being forced to eject over North Vietnam, Johnson would spend nearly 15 months as a POW in Hanoi. Despite this trying time, Johnson's resolve and the love he had for his country remained intact, and he continued to serve for many years after his release in 1973.

Our country will always need brave men like Lt. Col. Kenneth R. Johnson. He embodied our Nation's most cherished values and served as an example to us all. Today my thoughts and prayers are with his family, including his brother Phil; his two sons, Bradley and David; and his sister, Delores. May we always remember and cherish his memory. •

REMEMBERING DR. CARTER G. WOODSON

• Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Dr. Carter G. Woodson, a distinguished African-American civil rights activist, author, editor, publisher, and historian who left a remarkable legacy across the Nation and in my home State of West Virginia.

Dr. Woodson was born in New Canton, Buckingham County, VA, in 1875 to former slaves Anne Eliza and James Henry Woodson. Taking care of the family farm often took priority over his education; nevertheless, his thirst for knowledge drove him forward during the course of his life. He was a very bright student when he was able to attend school. Despite being taught theories of African-American inferiority of that time period, his well-grounded beliefs, credited to his father, kept his spirits high and only added fuel to the influence he would one day share with the world.

James and Anne Eliza first moved into the region on the Ohio River that became Huntington, WV, in 1870. There, James Woodson worked with many other former slaves to complete the Chesapeake and Ohio railroad. Dr. Woodson and his older brother Robert Henry Woodson then delayed their move and took jobs working in the West Virginia coalfields of Fayette County. Here, Dr. Woodson, who had not yet attended high school, often read to his fellow coal miners who were illiterate, as he had been doing for his

illiterate father. The collection of books and newspapers he accumulated for this task broadened his horizons about the world.

Ambitious for more education, the largely self-taught Dr. Woodson enrolled in 1895 at Douglas High School and received a diploma in less than 2 years. He began his teaching career in 1897 in Fayette County and would later return to Huntington to become the principal of Douglas High School. In the years to come, he continued to travel across the United States and throughout Europe and Asia. He received degrees in history from the University of Chicago and Harvard University. He became the second African American to earn a Ph.D. at Harvard.

Countless individuals inspired this great man. Whether citing a speech from Booker T. Washington or a friendship with a fellow coal miner, it is clear that Dr. Woodson saw education as the great equalizer. He could see beyond what he considered "miseducation" as a way to continually improve both the education of others and of himself—and ultimately generations of students of all races. He had fierce opinions and was unafraid to challenge what was then considered as "known" information.

Dr. Woodson continued to travel in later years, lecturing to various African-American organizations and institutions. In 1921, he created the Associated Publishers, which was dedicated to issuing books by African-American authors. In 1926, he orchestrated Negro History Week, held in connection with the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass and later extended to African-American History Month. Libraries and schools have been named in honor of this brilliant man—a testament to his commitment of embracing our knowledge of the history that shaped this great Nation. Particularly now, as we celebrate African-American History Month, it is fitting that we should honor such a man as Dr. Woodson. He has inspired countless leaders to fearlessly challenge what they believe is unjust and to inspire others to do the same. His legacy is one of constantly striving to better oneself and truly sets the standard for all leaders who have followed and will continue to follow in his footsteps. •

TRIBUTE TO ANN MARION FURUKAWA DONDERO

• Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, just about every successful person can point to a teacher or other adult who inspired and encouraged them as a child, a person who spurred curiosity and love of learning. Today I wish to recognize the hard work and dedication of one of my constituents who played that role for countless Oregonians Ann Marion Furukawa Dondero from Forest Grove.

Ann was raised in Sunnyside, WA, and graduated from Whitman College in 1966 with a psychology degree and a