

I was also very proud of a provision in this bill that will significantly minimize new animal testing and potentially save tens of thousands of animals from unnecessary suffering.

I am proud that the revised bill passed out of the EPW Committee with strong bipartisan support. I am also proud that since the EPW Committee has improved this bill, Senators UDALL and VITTER have stayed at the negotiating table and continued to take input from folks on both sides of the aisle, continuing to make this a better bill.

Senators MERKLEY, DURBIN, BOXER, the bill's sponsor, and others have made additional changes to make this bill strong.

We would never have gotten this strong of a TSCA reform bill if it weren't for the work of people on both sides of the political aisle, if it weren't for the work of people within industry, if it weren't for the work of advocacy groups, and if it weren't for groups I have come to respect a tremendous amount, such as the Environmental Defense Fund, whose early engagement and constant pressure played such an important role.

This is one of those rare moments where you have a full court press, both sides of the aisle and individuals who are representing multiple sectors all coming together to make a strong bill. They are making a strong bill because everyone was in agreement that the legislation we had—decades' old, the TSCA bill—was broken. It was broken in that it did not protect consumer safety. It was broken in that it did not give predictability and certainty to the industry. It was broken because it put America's health at risk. Whether it was children or our seniors, it created an environment where people could get sick. It had no teeth. It had no strength. When this bill becomes law, it will protect American families, it will protect our children from dangerous chemicals, and it will give industry the certainty it needs.

I urge my colleagues to pass the Frank Lautenberg bill today. I want to thank everyone again. This is a result of a tremendous coalition of efforts, a symphony of focus and work, of people coming together to do something that many people think is rare in the Senate—that we all can work together across partisan lines to make good legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID MCBEE

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, I want to recognize today David McBee of Gassville, AK, as this week's Arkansan of the Week for his charitable contributions to his North Arkansas community. By day, David is the regional manager at Arvest Bank's Yellville branch, but he spends much of his free time after work and on the weekends volunteering for several causes in the area.

Last year, David's leadership helped his Arvest branch become the top fund-

raiser in the State for the Cotter Backpack Program, a local charity that provides backpacks of food to schoolchildren in need. His efforts led to Cotter schools receiving the Spirit of Arkansas Award 2 years in a row.

David also spends countless hours organizing the annual Cotter Warrior 5K Color Run each fall. Earlier this year, David planned a community Feed the Pack Day, where volunteers collected change at intersections and various other sites around the Mountain Home and Gassville area and donated the proceeds to fight hunger in the region.

On the weekends, you can find David at the football field, where he is one of the voices of the Arkansas Tornados, a local semiprofessional football team. I think Cotter High principal Amanda Britt said it best when she wrote in her nomination of David, "He is always willing to step in and help for anything we need."

David's tireless dedication to his community is Arkansas at its very best, and I am proud to recognize his many contributions in this small way.

David, on behalf of all Arkansans, thank you for all you do to make our home State a better place.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to executive session for the consideration of the nominations previously ordered.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session for the en bloc consideration of the following nominations, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nominations of Laura S.H. Holgate, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Vienna Office of the United Nations, with the rank of Ambassador; and Laura S.H. Holgate, of Virginia, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the International Atomic Energy Agency, with the rank of Ambassador.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 15 minutes equally divided for the consideration of these nominations.

The Senator from Ohio.

COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY BILL

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I rise today to talk about an issue that affects all of us in this Chamber and all of the communities we represent. I also rise on behalf of the 200,000 Ohioans who are currently struggling with an addiction to prescription drugs or opiates.

Heroin and prescription drug addiction has gripped our country. Unfortu-

nately, we are facing an epidemic now, and I want to rise today to talk about how we can do a better job to address that. This is the seventh time I have come to the floor of the Senate to speak on this issue since the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act passed the Senate on March 10. That vote was 94 to 1, showing that Members from every single State are affected by this and want to address it. The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, CARA, is a good start and will make a big difference because it is comprehensive and it addresses every aspect of the issue, from education and prevention through treatment and recovery, and helps our law enforcement folks and helps get these prescription drugs out of our communities. It is a good piece of legislation that I hope we will be able to get to the President's desk for his signature.

For the first 5 weeks I came to the floor, I talked about the fact that I hoped the House would act. I urged the House to act quickly on this emergency that is affecting our communities. Last week I came to the floor to say thank you to the House because they did act. They voted on 18 separate bills. Combined, they were a response to this epidemic, and I think that was a very important step forward.

I am encouraged that now the two Chambers, the House and Senate, are trying to figure out a way to come together with a conference to come up with one bill that can be sent to the President for his signature. I do believe the legislation we passed in the Senate is more comprehensive, and I hope the House will be willing to take some of our measures, particularly in the area of prevention, which was left out, because I think preventing this addiction in the first place and keeping people out of the funnel of addiction is incredibly important.

It has been 77 days since the Senate passed CARA, and we lose about 120 Americans a day to drug overdoses or about 1 every 12 minutes. This means we have lost about 9,000 Americans to drug overdoses since the Senate passed this legislation back on March 10. About 300 Ohioans have lost their lives to heroin and prescription drug overdoses.

We were told by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that in 2014 Ohio had the second most overdoses of any State in the Union and fifth highest, overall, overdose death rate.

I have seen the consequences of this every time I go home. I will be home tomorrow and will have the opportunity to visit with some people who are trying to help on this issue, but everywhere I go I hear about it.

Last night I had a tele-townhall meeting. We have about 25,000 Ohioans on the phone at any one time at these tele-townhall meetings. Somebody called in to talk about our legislation, CARA. His name was Joe. He is from Delta, OH, and he was very open about

his situation. He said he had been a heroin addict for 15 years. He said he was 33 years old. He said he had a stroke when he was 25 that was related to his use of heroin. He said he had been in and out of treatment programs. He was clean now, but he was tired of going to funerals. He said he had been a pallbearer at about 20 funerals of friends of his who had died from overdoses. He said he was ready to straighten out his life and get back on track. He also talked about how tough that is; that the grip of this addiction is so strong, it is very difficult to go through a treatment program and into recovery and come out clean. He said he likes our legislation because he believes there should be more treatment out there. He said many people who want to go to treatment cannot get the treatment they need. We also talked about the stigma that is attached to addiction. That many people don't go forward to even tell their families, much less get into treatment, because of the stigma around this disease.

Unfortunately, stories like Joe's are in the headlines every day. Just since I spoke on the floor last week, more headlines are coming out of Ohio. It is everywhere, by the way. It knows no ZIP Code. It is in the inner city, it is in your community wherever you live, it is in suburbs, and it is in our rural areas. In fact, the per capita use in rural areas may be higher than it is in the inner city.

This week the Cleveland Plain Dealer began a series of stories on those whose lives have been cut short by this epidemic, and I applaud them for that. By raising awareness of this issue, I think that will help in terms of the prevention side of this, and I think it will also help people to be able to seek treatment.

The stories the Cleveland Plain Dealer is featuring includes a fentanyl overdose death of an 18-year-old named Nicholas DiMarco, who was an honor student at North Olmsted High School. They include the story of Patrick O'Malley, a bright, young graduate of Ohio University. Patrick used prescription painkillers—drugs we all know the names of, like Vicodin and Percocet. He abused them and became addicted. Money started being missing from his mom's wallet. Laptops, televisions, and other items went missing from their home. He told his brother he didn't want to keep using. He wanted to stop. He said he had a disease, and it is a disease. He sought treatment and went into rehab at the Free Clinic in Cleveland, OH. I have been there and have seen the good work they do. Sadly, he relapsed, and just 2 weeks later his brother found him dead in his bedroom with a needle stuck in his arm. He was 25 years old.

Unfortunately, these stories continue to be told because this is what is happening in our communities. Mary Jo Trocano was a grandmother who had chronic pain. She was prescribed painkillers to deal with her chronic pain,

and like so many others, she became addicted to them. When she ran out, this grandmother switched to heroin. It is less expensive and more accessible. She fought this addiction for 10 years, but Mary Jo was found dead in the backyard of an abandoned house in the west side of Cleveland recently in her late fifties.

These are just stories from one town, Cleveland, but they can happen in your hometown. Again, no ZIP Code in the country is safe from this strong grip of this particular addiction.

Just last Friday, police in Niles, OH, seized \$100,000 worth of heroin from one man. Three days later, a prison guard in Athens, OH, pled guilty to assisting the drug traffickers and getting drugs into the prison system.

In Columbus, a mom pled guilty to involuntary manslaughter after her daughter, Annabella, who was just 14 months old, ingested fentanyl-laced heroin at a drug house. Annabella died of an overdose and her mom is now facing up to 11 years in prison. Fentanyl, by the way, is a synthetic form of heroin. It has similar qualities except it is much stronger—often as much as 50 times stronger than heroin. Unfortunately, many of the overdose deaths in Cleveland are due to the fentanyl that is often laced with the heroin. In fact, there have been more deaths in Cleveland, OH, in this first quarter than ever. In fact, we are looking at probably doubling the number of overdose deaths if we continue on this pace in Cleveland, OH, compared to last year. This is how serious it is in my State and your State, wherever you live.

On May 9, Ohio State troopers seized \$20,000 in heroin on Route 23 in Marion County, a rural area. Just 3 days later, three people died of drug overdoses in Marion County in a 24-hour period.

Every one of these victims had family, friends, or classmates who are now suffering themselves. It shouldn't be this way, but unfortunately that is just the tip of the iceberg. In addition to the 9,000 Americans we have lost since this legislation passed the U.S. Senate—think about this—there are hundreds and thousands more who are wounded. They have lost their jobs, been driven to theft or fraud, gone to jail, broken relationships with loved ones because the drug is everything. This is what I hear and what I heard last night in the tele-townhall. What I hear from other recovering addicts is that the drug becomes everything. Therefore, the families are torn apart and therefore the job means nothing. They turn to theft when they had never before crossed that line of committing a crime. That is the status quo today.

Getting a comprehensive bill to the President's desk for signature and getting it to our communities will help. It has to be comprehensive because we know it is not going to work if it just addresses one side of the issue or another.

There has been a debate over funding for this legislation. Some have said

more funding is the answer to all of our problems. Unfortunately, some have tried to politicize this a little bit, and I suggest what they are doing is not going to help because what we need to do is get a comprehensive bill out there that talks about providing funding—and I believe there should be more funding—that goes to the evidence-based programs we know work, and that is what this legislation does. It is based on 3 years of work. We brought experts in from all over the country. We had five conferences in Washington, DC. We had conferences about how to help our veterans, pregnant moms, addicted babies, and ensure that we have more people who are given the right kind of treatment—medication-assisted treatment—to be able to get back on track.

Yes, I have supported more funding, and we should continue to try to get more funding to address this problem, but it is not just a matter of putting more money into it, it is also a matter of spending that money wisely. That is what this legislation does. Yes, there is more money. It has \$80 to \$100 million in additional funding, but it also has funding that will be used for what we know works.

We need to be sure we do this soon because, again, this epidemic is growing. CARA, Comprehensive Addiction Recovery Act, insists that we are targeting this funding toward evidence-based education, treatment, and recovery programs. There are 130 national anti-drug groups that support this legislation because of the fact that they were part of putting it together. They know what works out there and what doesn't work. This is a national effort. It is one that will save lives and will make a difference in so many other people's lives and will begin to actually turn the tide on this epidemic.

Again, this legislation is one that 94 Senators supported. Only one Senator opposed it. Again, that shows how this has become an issue in every single State that has to be addressed because it is affecting everybody in every community. CARA has a number of things on prevention education that are incredibly important to keep people out of the funnel of addiction and help people make the right decisions, particularly for teens, parents, other caretakers, and aging other populations. It does more in terms of making people aware of this connection between prescription drugs and heroin. Probably four out of five heroin addicts in Ohio today started out with prescription drugs, and for people to know that, it helps them avoid being in the situation they are, like the grandmother in Cleveland I talked about who was exposed to more and more painkillers and became addicted to them.

CARA also improves treatment by expanding the availability of naloxone. This is the miracle drug that can actually stop and reverse an overdose. Law enforcement agencies and first responders support our legislation because they appreciate the fact that

there is more funding for naloxone, also called Narcan, and also because there is more training in our legislation so people have the training to be able to save lives and reverse these overdoses.

It also expands treatment for prisoners who are suffering from addiction disorders. With evidence-based treatments, we can break this cycle of addiction and crime. Prosecutors have told me that in some counties in Ohio, more than 80 percent of the crime is now directly related to this opioid addiction. We are told that 95 percent of the people who are in jail or prison will be released someday and about half of them will end up back in jail within 2 or 3 years. Much of the recidivism, this revolving door in the prison system, has to do with this drug abuse issue. Families are torn apart when people go back and forth in the prison system. One of the reasons for the increase in crime, and why many crimes are committed, is to pay for an addiction. Breaking that cycle will help ex-offenders stay out of prison and help them to live out that God-given purpose.

CARA also expands disposal sites for unwanted prescription medications to keep them out of the hands of our kids. It would strengthen prescription monitoring programs to allow the States to monitor what goes on in their own State and to also know what is happening in the State next to them. If somebody is monitored for overusing prescription drugs in one State but can simply cross the line into another State and get those drugs, that doesn't help solve the problem. This legislation provides the ability to have a drug monitoring program that is inoperable between the States.

These are critical policy improvements, and they are part of a comprehensive approach to an epidemic that is devastating communities across the country. Yes, we need more funding, but we also need some of these changes in law to be able to spend the money more effectively.

I know these statistics about drug abuse are heartbreaking and can be very discouraging, but there are also many stories of hope we should not forget, and those stories are inspiring. It is about those who are struggling and find a way to get their lives back together.

Ashley Bryner of Newton Falls, OH, which is near Youngstown, started using drugs when she was 13 years old. By 16 she had gone to cocaine and by 18 she was addicted to painkillers. When she was 24, she switched to heroin when the painkillers became too expensive and too hard to get. Again, heroin is less expensive than prescription drugs today in my State of Ohio.

She said:

When I was in addiction, I was living in hell. It just takes over your mind. . . . Everything I did when I was using was all to feed my addiction.

The drugs became everything. Then she decided to get help. She was ready.

She didn't want to live like that anymore. She checked into Trumbull Memorial Hospital in Trumbull County. It took her 18 months to recover.

She said:

I had to re-learn to walk, talk, everything, without dope. It was like being born all over again.

Four years later, she is clean and has full custody of her three sons. She is working for the Trumbull County Children's Services. She is helping others fighting addiction and excelling at her job. She is beating this.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I hope we can send this comprehensive legislation to the Whitehouse as soon as possible, to give more people hope, to be able to reverse the tide of this addiction and allow those Americans to live out their God-given purpose.

I yield back my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, shortly we will be voting on Laura Holgate for the nomination to the position of Ambassador and U.S. Representative to the Vienna Office of the United Nations and the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA.

I urge my colleagues to vote for her confirmation. She came through the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and is strongly recommended by that committee.

Ms. Holgate's extensive experience makes her uniquely qualified to serve in this position. She has served in senior positions in the Department of Energy and the Department of Defense for 14 years, building and leading global coalitions to prevent States and terrorists from acquiring and using weapons of mass destruction.

She currently serves as the Senior Director for Weapons of Mass Destruction, Terrorism and Threat Reduction on the National Security Council. Having this post filled with a highly qualified nominee has never been more critical. The position of the U.S. representative to multiple U.N. agencies as well as the IAEA includes the U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and the International Monetary Money Laundering Information Network, among many others.

This position covers a range of other issues at the IAEA, including North Korea. The International Atomic Energy Agency in the coming years will be responsible for monitoring and verifying the nuclear agreement with Iran, confronting North Korea's continued violations of its nuclear obligations, and dealing with a variety of other nonproliferation threats. We need Laura Holgate in this position to represent U.S. interests and for our national security, and I urge my colleagues to support her nomination.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON HOLGATE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Holgate nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON HOLGATE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Holgate nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 67, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 88 Ex.]

YEAS—67

Alexander	Gillibrand	Nelson
Baldwin	Graham	Paul
Bennet	Grassley	Perdue
Booker	Hatch	Peters
Boxer	Heinrich	Reed
Brown	Heitkamp	Reid
Cantwell	Hirono	Rounds
Capito	Isakson	Schatz
Cardin	Kaine	Schumer
Carper	King	Shaheen
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Shelby
Coats	Leahy	Stabenow
Cochran	Manchin	Tester
Collins	Markey	Tillis
Coons	McCain	Udall
Corker	McCaskill	Vitter
Cornyn	McConnell	Warner
Donnelly	Menendez	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Ernst	Mikulski	Wicker
Feinstein	Murkowski	Wyden
Franken	Murphy	
Gardner	Murray	

NAYS—29

Ayotte	Fischer	Risch
Barrasso	Heller	Roberts
Blunt	Hoeven	Rubio
Boozman	Inhofe	Sasse
Burr	Johnson	Scott
Cotton	Kirk	Sessions
Crapo	Lankford	Sullivan
Cruz	Lee	Thune
Daines	Moran	Toomey
Enzi	Portman	

NOT VOTING—4

Blumenthal	Flake
Casey	Sanders

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.