

going on. This gives him new authority to do that. Everybody thinks that would be an important thing to do. It was approved by voice vote.

Advancing Precision Medicine. This is legislation that I introduced and supported the President's Precision Medicine Initiative, which I have talked about before.

There is other legislation that went through. The point of all of this is that 19 different bills are the core of this 21st Century Cures Act. The most recorded number of votes against this bill was two, and every single one was sponsored by a Democrat as well as a Republican, except for one, which was Senator MURRAY's bill. She is the ranking Democrat on the committee.

In conclusion, we are fortunate to be able to add to the bill the Mental Health Reform Act. Actually, we include three mental health bills, and together they make up the most significant reform of mental health programs that we have had in more than a decade. I want to give particular credit to Senator MURPHY, Democrat, and to Senator CASSIDY, Republican, for working together through some real landmines to get this to a place where it can pass the House almost unanimously and where it will be a part of the bill that we will vote on next week.

I want to thank the majority whip, Senator CORNYN, who also added an important judicial part to this legislation and helped us navigate some difficult issues. In other words, these Senators showed that they know how to legislate. They could have stood up and made a speech. They could have insisted on doing things exactly their way, but they said to look for the area where we might agree on 80 percent of the policy and let's agree that.

This is one of those bills. Look at the number of Republicans and Democrats who have passed that. Here is the second mental health bill we are talking about. You can see the number of Senators. I have taken some time to go through the legislation that will be coming to the Senate early next week and that will be voted on tomorrow in the House of Representatives. I do think it likely represents, as the majority leader has suggested, the most important piece of legislation that we could act on this year. Because it affects virtually every American family, Forbes magazine reported that 78 percent of the American people favored Congress taking action on medical innovation because they have heard people like Dr. Francis Collins, the head of the National Institutes of Health, talk about within the next 10 years having a Zika vaccine and HIV/AIDS vaccine, identifying Alzheimer's before symptoms appear and slow its progression, an artificial pancreas for those with diabetes, and a non-addictive type of pain medicine.

These are magnificent opportunities for us. We have strong leadership at the National Institutes of Health. We have put our money where our mouth

is. It is true that we will have to approve it every year, and it is true that we had to reduce other spending in order to have this spending, but that is the way we are supposed to do things.

What we have done is take a bipartisan core of bills; we worked hard for two years in a bipartisan way and produced a result that had very few "no" votes along the way. It includes Democratic priorities as well as Republican priorities. It has the avid interest of the Democratic President of the United States, the Democratic Vice President of the United States. It is a part of the agenda forward in health care for the Republican Speaker of the House, and the Republican majority leader in the Senate says it is the most important bill we are going to act on.

I would think that would get a big vote tomorrow in the House, and I would think it deserves a big vote in the U.S. Senate next week. It has been my privilege to work with Senator MURRAY and the other members of the Committee on Health, Education, and Labor to produce the bill.

I yield the floor.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTING 21ST CENTURY CURES

IBM, Premier Healthcare Alliance, American Society of Clinical Oncology, National Patient Advocate Foundation, Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy, Alliance of Specialty Medicine, Advanced Medical Technology Association (AdvaMed), Association of American Medical Colleges, Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities/Association of American Universities, United for Medical Research; Epstein Becker Green on behalf of: Coalition for CLIA Waiver Reform, Advanced Medical Technology Association, National Coalition of STD Directors, Abbott, Alere, Becton Dickinson & Company, BioFire Diagnostics, ChemBio Diagnostic Systems, Roche Diagnostics, Sekisui Diagnostics, Spartan Bioscience, TearLab Corporation.

Coalition of 217 rare disease foundations: AKU Society of North America, Alpha-1 Foundation, ALS Association, Alternating Hemiplegia of Childhood Foundation, American Behcet's Disease Association (ABDA), American Brain Tumor Association, American Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia Support (AMEN Support), Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration (AFTD), Association of Gastrointestinal Motility Disorders, Inc. (AGMD), Association for Glycogen Storage Disease, Batten Disease Support and Research Association, BCC Nevus Syndrome Life Support Network, BRBN Alliance, Children's PKU Network.

Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation, Chromosome Disorder Outreach Inc., Cicatricial Alopecia Research Foundation, Council For Bile Acid Deficiency Diseases, CureCADASIL (CADASIL Association Inc.), CureCMD, Cure HHT, Cutaneous Lymphoma Foundation, The Desmoid Tumor Research Foundation, Inc., Dystonia Advocacy Network, Dystonia Medical Research Foundation, dystrophic epidermolysis bullosa research association of America (debra of America), The Erythromelalgia Association, Everylife Foundation for Rare Diseases, Foundation for Ichthyosis & Related Skin Types, Inc., Foundation for Prader-Willi Research, Foundation to Eradicate Duchenne (FED), Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance

(FARA), GBS/CIDP Foundation International, The Global Foundation for Peroxisomal Disorders, The Guthy-Jackson Charitable Foundation, Hermansky-Pudlak Syndrome Network Inc., Histiocytosis Association, HLRCC Family Alliance, The Huntington's Disease Society of America, HypoPARathyroidism Association, Immune Deficiency Foundation, Indian Organization for Rare Disorders, The International Advocate for Glycoprotein Storage Diseases, International FOP Association, International Foundation for CDKL5 Research, International Myeloma Foundation, International Pemphigus and Pemphigoid Foundation (IPPF), International WAGR Syndrome Association, Jack McGovern Coats' Disease Foundation, Kennedy's Disease Association, LAL Solace, The Life Raft Group, Lymphangiomatosis & Gorham's Disease Alliance, The Marfan Foundation, MEBO Research, MitoAction, Moebius Syndrome Foundation, The Morgan Leary Vaughan Fund.

Mucopolidosis Type IV Foundation, Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA), The Myositis Association, National Adrenal Diseases Foundation, National Alopecia Areata Foundation, National Ataxia Foundation, National Eosinophilia Myalgia Syndrome Network, National Lymphedema Network (NLN), National MPS Society, National Organization for Rare Disorders (NORD), National PKU Alliance, National Spasmodic Dysphonia Association, National Tay-Sachs & Allied Diseases Association, Inc. (NTSAD), NBIA Disorders Association, NephCure Kidney International, Neuroendocrine Tumor Research Foundation, Neurofibromatosis Network, The Oley Foundation, Organic Acidemia Association, Osteogenesis Imperfecta Foundation, Oxalosis and Hyperoxaluria Foundation, Parent Project Muscular Dystrophy (PPMD), Parents and Researchers Interested in Smith-Magenis Syndrome (PRISMS), PKD Foundation, Prader-Willi Syndrome Association (USA), PRP Alliance, Pulmonary Hypertension Association, RASopathies Network USA, Rett Syndrome Research Trust, Scleroderma Foundation, Spastic Paraplegia Foundation, Sturge-Weber Foundation, Tarlov Cyst Disease Foundation, Tuberous Sclerosis Alliance, United Leukodystrophy Foundation, The United Mitochondrial Disease Foundation, US Hereditary Angioedema Association, Vasculitis Foundation, VHL Alliance, Williams Syndrome Association, Wilson Disease Association, Worldwide Syringomyelia & Chiari Task Force, XLH Network.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

FILLING THE SUPREME COURT VACANCY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, earlier this year the Republican leadership made a somewhat controversial decision, but when you think about it, it shouldn't have been all that controversial. It was to allow the American people, by their selection for the next President of the United States, to express their views about who ought to be

nominated to the vacancy left by the untimely death of Justice Antonin Scalia. This is not an easy decision, but the fact remains that the Supreme Court considers rules on some of the most pressing, challenging questions of our time. It does some very important things, such as interpreting the Constitution. They are the final word. It also guarantees liberty by the separation of powers and enforcing the Bill of Rights and the like.

It is no exaggeration to say that the Supreme Court affects the lives of every man, woman, and child in our country, and it is obviously a truism that the people who occupy those seats will have a very clear impact on the future direction of not only the Court but our country.

We have to consider lifetime appointments carefully. As Justice Scalia liked to say during his lifetime, why in the world should people trust non-elected judges to make value judgments and in so doing, substitute their judgment for the views of the duly elected Members of Congress who represent the American people and who are politically accountable? That is why he said judges ought to take a rather limited role, or view of their role, under the Constitution. I agree with him.

The role of the judiciary is not to say what the law should be but, rather, what the law actually is. Unfortunately, we know the Supreme Court of the United States has become such a controversial place in large part because of its tendency to substitute its value judgments for those of the American people or to read into the Constitution words that nobody found in the last 200 years, but miraculously somehow they sprung up with new meaning, resulting in the creation of a new constitutional life that nobody ever dreamed existed before.

It is true that the Supreme Court plays an essential function in our government, and there was simply too much at stake not to let the American people, through their selection of the next President, have a say. Well, suffice it to say, 3 weeks removed from election day, it is clear that we heard their voice. I think by the selection of Donald Trump as the next President of the United States, the American people clearly realized that even though the Supreme Court wasn't on the ballot, the person who selected the next Supreme Court Justice—perhaps the next two or three—was clearly on the ballot, and there was a clear difference between those choices. I think people realized that Secretary Clinton would likely appoint more judges in the tradition of people like Justice Ginsburg and Justice Sotomayor, people who demonstrated their record of being willing to take some license with the Constitution and the laws and basically rewrite them in their own image.

I think the American people knew they were choosing between activist judges who essentially operated as un-

accountable, unelected legislators wearing black robes or judges who believed in the more traditional role for the judiciary—judges who actually interpret the written words on the page passed by the Congress and signed into law or the Constitution itself. I believe that is how our Founding Fathers intended our separation of powers to work.

The judiciary is not supposed to be a substitute for Congress and the political branches; it is supposed to represent a check and balance to make sure that the laws that are passed do not violate the Constitution as written and that the laws that are passed are faithfully enforced according to the words in the statute.

I, for one, look forward to considering President-Elect Trump's nominee to the Supreme Court in due time. Since I have been in the Senate, I have had the privilege of participating in the nomination and confirmation of four Justices to the U.S. Supreme Court. As members of the Judiciary Committee, we are at ground zero in that process, and I know Chairman GRASSLEY is already preparing, along with members of the committee, to receive the nomination of President-Elect Trump. We don't know whom he will nominate to the Court yet, but he has given the American people a pretty good idea of the type of jurist he would nominate. I think that is one of the reasons millions of Americans voted for him. They wanted an administration committed to the Constitution, and they saw that commitment reflected in the list of men and women President-Elect Trump circulated as potential nominees to the Court.

Now that we have heard from the American people, I look forward to going through the confirmation process once again. I am sure it will be a rigorous contest of ideas. I am sure there will be a lot of different views expressed, and that is OK. But in the end, I am confident that we will elect President-Elect Trump's nominee to the Supreme Court. I am optimistic that it will be somebody in the tradition of Justice Scalia, somebody who believes in upholding the rule of law in the country.

Having been a member of the State judiciary for 13 years, I have some pretty strong views on this topic. If people want to take on the role of a policymaker, I believe they ought to run for Congress or some legislative office or maybe run for President. They shouldn't seek to be a judge on the Federal court or in the court system because that is not primarily a policymaking role. It is important but perhaps less exciting in some ways or at least is a less visible way of interpreting the Constitution and the laws passed by Congress. That is important and straightforward enough, but it is important that the people who are nominated and confirmed understand what their important but limited role is under our constitutional government.

As I said, we need a Justice like the late Justice Scalia, who believed that the words in the Constitution matter. We need a Justice who brings some sense of humility to the bench. That is a very important quality. I remember Chief Justice Roberts talking about the importance of humility when it comes to the job of judging. When one has a lifetime tenure job and can't be removed from office except by impeachment, that gives them a lot of latitude to do things that perhaps maybe humility would dictate that we not do. So we need people of good character, people with the requisite qualifications and experience and with the right judicial philosophy, I believe. We need a Justice who will fight for the Court to take its proper role as a check against executive or legislative overreach, but it ought to be constrained by the words of the Constitution as written and by the words in the legislation Congress has passed. There is no justification under our Constitution for a judge who simply views their position as license to do what they want or substitute their opinion for that of the elected representatives of the people.

I am optimistic we will be able to move forward with President-Elect Trump's nominee to fill the bench and will soon be up to full speed of nine Justices. Through President Obama's tenure, we saw the Senate confirm two of his Justices to the Supreme Court. As I mentioned, those are two of the four confirmations in which I have had the pleasure of participating in the confirmation process. President Obama was able to replace two members of the Court.

In recent months, we heard our friends across the aisle say how important it is to fill the vacancy left by the death of Justice Scalia. We know they disagreed with us on our decision to leave that decision to the voters who selected the next President, but I trust they will feel the same way now—that it is important that we fill this bench without undue delay now that the people have spoken.

It is the American people who I believe have made a choice in the type of Justice they want confirmed to the Court. They have determined that what our country needs is a Justice committed to the rule of law and to the Constitution—not politics, not value judgments, but enforcing the law as written. I look forward to helping the new administration deliver that for the American people.

JUSTICE FOR ALL REAUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today the House will take up a piece of legislation known as the Justice for All Reauthorization Act, a bill that will help victims as they seek to restore their lives and will better equip law enforcement to fight some of the most heinous crimes imaginable. This legislation will help put more of the guilty behind