

of staff. She has been filling a dual role for some time. She was my legislative director. We have filled that position now. But she has been acting as the assistant here on the floor as well and done a tremendous job of manipulating and coordinating both centers of action.

Now, we have also been supported by the great work of our leadership, floor, and cloakroom staff. I thank them for their continued good work and dedication to this institution and the country as a whole. In particular, I want to thank Sharon Soderstrom, Hazen Marshall, Jane Lee, and Scott Raab in the leader's office, and Monica Popp, John Caphuis, and Emily Kirlin in the whip's office, and very especially Laura Dove and Robert Duncan in the cloakroom.

These folks, as well as my budget team, worked hours over the holiday break to ensure our success. Without all their work, we would not be here this evening standing on the verge of passing the Senate's repeal resolution that will set the stage for true legislative relief from ObamaCare that Americans have long demanded, while ensuring a stable transition in which those with insurance will not lose access to health care coverage.

This will allow us to move step by step on a new set of reforms, listening carefully to the advice of the millions of Americans who are affected, a step we left out when we did it previously. Or, as Senator ALEXANDER of Tennessee, the chairman of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee put it, the ObamaCare bridge is collapsing, and we are sending in a rescue team. Then we will build several new bridges to get better health care. Finally, when those bridges are finished, we will close the old bridge.

After 5 days of consideration, many hours of debate, and numerous amendments reviewed and voted on, this part of the process can now be concluded. With that, I ask for the continued support and discussion on this valuable issue. If people have ideas for what ought to be included, I hope they will talk to us about them. I hope the American people will talk to us about the ideas they think need to be included.

There has been a lot of fearmongering, a lot of supposition about what will happen at the next stage. There were amendments that were put in about the next stage. Those, of course, wound up being non-germane. But we have our work cut out for us. We do have to come through now with a system that will solve the problems for the American people.

I mentioned before that when we started the whole debate on ObamaCare, there were 30 million people uninsured. Today, there are 28 million people uninsured. I think that the 30 million people was probably closer to 28 million at that time. One of the differences is some people who could not get insurance have insurance, and

a bunch of people who had insurance can't afford their insurance, and a bunch of people who have insurance can't afford their insurance, as you heard through the debate.

We want all the people who want insurance to be covered, and to be covered in such a way that they can actually get the treatment. If you have a \$12,000 or \$10,000 or \$6,000 deductible, that may not happen.

But I thank all of the people who have worked to get us to this point. Our work is now cut out for us even more so.

I know that we can have a spirit of cooperation and work through this, or we can use the reconciliation process and do it with 51 votes. But it is far better if we can find common ground and common solutions and get the work done.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH CRISCO, JR.

• Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate my good friend Joseph Crisco, Jr., on his outstanding 24 years of service representing the 17th district in the Connecticut State Senate. Joe has shown an incredible commitment to working for the people of Connecticut over his long career, and I thank him for all that he has done for our State and, in particular, the towns of Ansonia, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Derby, Hamden, Naugatuck, and his hometown of Woodbridge.

Joe is a graduate of Wilbur Cross High School and the University of Connecticut, where he credits many of his early lessons to his time spent as an athlete on the football field. His outstanding career as a player at both institutions earned him a place in the Wilbur Cross Athletic Hall of Fame, and his experience as a standout guard on the UConn football team in 1956 and 1957 helped forge a lasting commitment to his alma mater and shaped the ethic of teamwork and dedication that would follow him to the Connecticut State Senate.

First elected to the senate in 1992, Joe's commitment to his constituents and his community has never wavered. It is no exaggeration to say that his district would not be what it is today if not for the many grants and public projects he has been responsible for bringing home, from recreational centers and trails, to libraries, animal shelters, and affordable housing. The 17th district's most important institutions—like Griffin Hospital, Quinnipiac University, the Sterling Opera House, the Troop I Barracks of the Connecticut State Police, the former Bethany Airport, and the Metro-North Waterbury branch line—have always had a dedicated friend and advocate in Joe. And the annual senior fair in Ansonia's Warsaw Park, which Joe ran throughout his service in the senate, has provided assistance to thousands of senior

citizens over the years and become an iconic event in the Naugatuck Valley.

But more than simply serving the people in his district, Joe distinguished himself in the Connecticut General Assembly as one of its most effective and hard-working legislators. He served as chair of the Appropriations Committee and the Insurance & Real Estate Committee and had a hand in some of the most important legislation in a generation to support Connecticut's economy and the welfare of its citizens. He led the creation of the Biomedical Research Fund, which has devoted millions of dollars towards research efforts in the State to fight heart disease, cancer, smoking-related illnesses, Alzheimer's, stroke, and diabetes. He championed investment tax credits for economic development and public safety, secured a cost-of-living adjustment for beneficiaries of the ConnPACE Program for seniors, and fought passionately to expand the reach of health insurance coverage. After only 6 years in the senate, Joe pioneered the founding of Family Day; an initiative close to his heart as a father of 6 and grandfather of 18. And the legacy he leaves with his lifesaving work to improve and expand coverage for breast cancer exams, creating a new international standard for insurance coverage, is a special achievement of which Joe should be particularly proud.

I am also personally thankful for Joe's dedication to his position in the general assembly because I have seen it up close. During my time representing the 16th district, Joe and I sat next to each other in the senate chamber, and I remain incredibly grateful for his willingness to act as a mentor and friend in the early years of my government service.

Once again, congratulations to Joe, his wife, Pat, and his entire family for a long and successful career in the Connecticut State Senate. It is my hope that the general assembly will use Joe's career as an example and continue to work diligently and passionately for the people of our State in the years to come.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

2016 NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL STRATEGY—PM1

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

To the Congress of the United States:

I am pleased to transmit the 2016 *National Drug Control Strategy* summarizing the accomplishments of my Administration's 21st century approach to drug policy and opportunities to continue to reduce the burden of substance use in the United States. My Administration released its first *Strategy* in 2010 with a commitment to use the best available science and to consult broadly to develop a balanced and comprehensive approach to drug policy that incorporates both public health and public safety approaches to address this complex problem.

We set aggressive goals to reduce drug use by 2015 and though the results of our efforts are mixed, we have seen progress in reducing drug use and in cooperation both nationally and internationally. As a Nation we exceeded our goals for reducing alcohol and tobacco use among youth and for reducing the number of new HIV infections attributable to drug use. We have been less successful in reducing illicit drugs in youth and young adults as well as reducing the number of drug-induced deaths and driving while drugged. We also face serious challenges including an epidemic of opioid use and overdose deaths as well as growing threats from drug trafficking organizations involved in manufacturing and distributing cocaine and synthetic drugs, including novel psychoactive substances. These threats may continue to have an impact on drug use across lifespans, particularly chronic drug use and its consequences that contribute to poor academic performance, crime, underemployment, lost productivity, and health care costs, all of which threaten families and communities.

My Administration has consistently sought a broad coalition of partners to provide input into the development and enhancement of the *Strategy* during the past 7 years. We have invested in science to better understand the nature of addiction and inform the prevention and treatment of addiction and support services to help maintain recovery in the community. We have sought to use medical terms and non-stigmatizing language when discussing substance use disorders, and those who suffer from this disease. Our support for law enforcement has led to significant outcomes in taking down drug trafficking organizations and removing millions of pounds of drugs from the market. And our work with our international partners has been instrumental in our allies' increasing regulation of chemical precursors to synthetic drugs and reducing their movement across the globe. Throughout my Administration, we have used the best available evidence to balance the Nation's public health and public safety and drive collaborative efforts to create healthier, safer, and more prosperous communities.

The Nation's work in reducing drug use and its consequences is not done and there are many opportunities for advancing efforts to address ongoing

and emerging challenges. I thank the Congress for its continued support of our efforts and ask that you continue to support this vital endeavor.

BARACK OBAMA.

THE WHITE HOUSE, January 11, 2017.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 79. An act to clarify the definition of general solicitation under Federal securities law.

H.R. 239. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for innovative research and development, and for other purposes.

H.R. 240. An act to encourage engagement between the Department of Homeland Security and technology innovators, and for other purposes.

H.R. 255. An act to authorize the National Science Foundation to support entrepreneurial programs for women.

H.R. 274. An act to provide for reimbursement for the use of modern travel services by Federal employees traveling on official Government business, and for other purposes.

H.R. 288. An act to ensure that small business providers of broadband Internet access service can devote resources to broadband deployment rather than compliance with cumbersome regulatory requirements.

H.R. 306. An act to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to promote energy efficiency via information and computing technologies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 321. An act to inspire women to enter the aerospace field, including science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, through mentorship and outreach.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 79. An act to clarify the definition of general solicitation under Federal securities law; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 239. An act to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to provide for innovative research and development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 240. An act to encourage engagement between the Department of Homeland Security and technology innovators, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 255. An act to authorize the National Science Foundation to support entrepreneurial programs for women; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 274. An act to provide for reimbursement for the use of modern travel services by Federal employees traveling on official Government business, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

H.R. 288. An act to ensure that small business providers of broadband Internet access service can devote resources to broadband deployment rather than compliance with cumbersome regulatory requirements; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 306. An act to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to promote energy efficiency via information and computing technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 321. An act to inspire women to enter the aerospace field, including science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, through mentorship and outreach; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-398. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on the Global Supply and Trade of Elemental Mercury"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-399. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Civil Monetary Penalty Inflation Adjustment Rule" (FRL No. 9958-06-OECA) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 9, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-400. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "State of Iowa: Approval and Promulgation of the Title V Operating Permits Program, the State Implementation Plan, and 112(1) Plan" (FRL No. 9957-84-Region 7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 9, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-401. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Accidental Release Prevention Requirements: Risk Management Programs under the Clean Air Act" ((RIN2050-AG82) (FRL No. 9954-46-OLEM)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 9, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-402. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Illinois: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision" (FRL No. 9958-05-Region 5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 9, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-403. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District; Prevention of Significant Deterioration" (FRL No. 9956-52-Region 9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 9, 2017; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-404. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Nevada, Lake Tahoe; Second 10-Year Carbon Monoxide Limited Maintenance Plan" (FRL No. 9958-