

did not set up such an exchange, the Federal Government did that for them.

“What Effects These Policies Have on Those Inside and Outside the Exchanges?”

The public must know that the exchanges dramatically restrict patient care by restricting access to care. Exchanges decrease access by reducing access to doctors and hospitals. This includes access to some of the most important specialized care. The exchanges have a limited network of providers.

The public must understand that they do [not have] protection from fraud. Some of the most sensitive information is given to navigators to help enroll people in the exchanges. The enrollees then become “fair game.”

The ObamaCare website, “Healthcare.gov” does not automatically verify enrollee’s eligibility, i.e., whether they legally qualify for subsidies. Various sources indicate that at least 2 million enrollees (some estimates are significantly higher) are receiving subsidies that they did not legally qualify for. Douglas Holtz-Eakins, former director of the CBO, estimates that over the first 10 years of ObamaCare, overpayments and inappropriate payments could add up to \$152 billion dollars. Who pays the bill? The American taxpayer. The website, “Healthcare.gov” cost taxpayers \$1.4 billion dollars in 2014.

He goes on to explain how that increases the costs for all taxpayers.

I will continue with some of the other lessons in this book at another time. The leader is coming to the floor to speak in a few moments.

What we are trying to do is to find some solutions for the American people so they have access to healthcare—and more extensively than now. I recommend for reading this book called “Demystifying ObamaCare” by David Brown. It is very eye-opening. There is a section I will cover later that covers some of the solutions that will be useful.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, for the information of all Senators, at the request of the President and the Vice President, and after consulting with our Members, we will have the vote on the motion to proceed to the ObamaCare repeal bill early next week.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

FLOODING IN NORTHERN ILLINOIS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, for the second time this year, Illinois communities are assessing damage and cleaning up after flooding. My thoughts and prayers are with the families and first responders in northern Illinois who are working to recover after heavy rain caused severe flooding in Lake, McHenry, Kane, and Cook Counties last week.

The water has started to recede in some communities, but in some areas, water levels will likely continue rising this week. Thousands of buildings—including homes, businesses, and schools—have been damaged by floodwaters.

Lake County has been one of the areas most impacted by this flooding. Last weekend, I visited two towns in this area—Libertyville and Gurnee—and I saw street after street of flood damage to homes and businesses. What I saw was heartbreaking. I spoke with residents who were concerned about being able to recover from the flood and resulting damages and who voiced the need to find long-term solutions that will mitigate the impact of future flood events. I am extremely grateful for the hard work of local first responders and county officials. Thankfully, there have been no reports of injuries or fatalities as a result of this historic flooding.

I want to acknowledge the dedication of both the State and local employees and volunteers who have come out to help at every level, from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and the American Red Cross, to county emergency management agencies. Many volunteers have helped with sandbagging. County board chairman Aaron Lawlor has also been helpful in securing resources and making sure residents have information about where to find shelter and access clean-up supplies.

People from all around the area are pitching in to help their neighbors and even strangers protect property and get back on their feet.

I would also like to thank James Joseph, director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, for his hard work. He has been there during a time when Illinois constituents and communities need him the most.

The State has provided 850,000 sandbags and deployed an emergency management assistance team for flood mitigation and response efforts. Representatives from the Illinois Emergency Management Agency are working closely with local officials to make sure communities have the resources needed to protect critical infrastructure and clean up when water begins to recede.

The Governor has declared four counties State disaster areas. In the coming days, the State will work with FEMA and local officials to begin conducting preliminary damage assessments.

Once we have an idea of the scope of the damage, the Governor has the abil-

ity to request a Presidential disaster declaration. In the past, it has been challenging for Illinois to receive Federal aid after a disaster occurs, but the Illinois delegation and I stand ready to do whatever we can to help get any Federal assistance needed so that these communities can clean up and recover.

There is more work to be done, and cleanup may be difficult and dangerous, but I have no doubt the people who live and work in the impacted communities will make incredible progress rebuilding with the help and support of volunteers, local officials, and State agencies.

I want to thank everyone who has been engaged in the response and mitigation efforts and all those who will be engaged in recovery efforts in the weeks to come. We will rebuild, as Illinoisans always do, and we will be stronger for it.

REMEMBERING BARBARA ANDREWS-MEE

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, this Saturday Alaskans will observe “Ted Stevens Day,” a living memory to Alaska’s greatest Senator, who left us 7 years ago next month. As family, friends, and former staffers of Senator Stevens gather in Alaska for this annual observance, many will take time off on Thursday to honor a beloved member of the Stevens’ team, Ted’s loyal assistant and State director, Barbara Andrews-Mee, who passed away earlier this year. I will not be able to attend this event because the Senate will be in session on Thursday, but I wanted to take this opportunity to speak in memory of this loyal and dedicated employee of the U.S. Senate, as well as great friend of Alaska.

Barb’s tenure with Senator Stevens long predates his Senate service. Barb began working with Ted in 1962, 2 years after she came to Alaska. She followed him to the Alaska Legislature and the U.S. Senate, retiring in 1997. Upon her retirement, Stevens said, “For half of my life—and two-thirds of hers—Barbara Andrews-Mee has been my boss. . . .” Barb returned the compliment noting that she had been with Ted Stevens longer than she had been with three husbands.

Barb had a great sense of humor and a huge and welcoming personality. She was regarded as a mentor and grandmother-like figure to generations of young staffers who went to work for Senator Stevens.

She could sure turn a phrase. Alaska humorist Mike Doogan published a few of Barb’s quips in the Anchorage Daily News to celebrate her retirement. Among them, Barb, who was 5-feet tall, once said, “I tell people I used to be 6-foot-2, and then I went to work for Stevens.” But she wasn’t always so humble. Another “Barbism” was “[m]y grandmother always told me dynamite comes in small packages.” I am told that one came in handy when she was working difficult constituent problems

to successful conclusion and building Ted's brand in the process. Whether it was Norwegian stubbornness or Alaskan toughness, she got the job done.

That seemed to be her second best characteristic from Ted's standpoint. In his May 21, 1997, floor tribute to Barb, Senator Stevens said, "When I've been asked what her best characteristic is, I say 'loyalty'. That means more to me than any of the help that she's given me and the people of Alaska over more than three decades; work above and beyond the call of duty."

Barb was quite the worker, delivering care packages to visiting dignitaries whose flights were refueling at what was then called Elmendorf Air Force Base, picking up Senator Stevens at what is now called Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport, whatever the hour, and making sure he made the flight back to Washington, and supporting servicemembers and military families.

It wasn't all work though. Barb actually christened a Navy PC8 coastal patrol craft, the USS Zephyr. She flew in an F-15, experienced several aircraft carrier landings, and traveled in the submarine, USS Alaska. Then there was golf. In 1995, Barb married Vince Mee, her longtime golfing partner. Senator Stevens performed the ceremony on the ninth hole on Eaglegen golf course on Elmendorf. In 2010, Barb authored a book, "Ted Stevens and Mee," a memoir of her time working with the man they called Alaskan of the Century.

Barb lived a wonderful life—or as she might put it, "A great ride." Devoted to her wonderful family, to her church, and to community service, she came far from humble beginnings in South Dakota, leading to a long drive up the Alcan to Glennallen, AK, and a path to Alaskan greatness. One of the first women in Rotary and a member of the Athena Society of Anchorage, Barb's contributions and leadership will be long remembered.

On behalf of the Senate family, I extend my continued condolences to Barb's family and friends this week as Alaska reflects on her great legacy.

RECOGNIZING UNIDOSUS

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize UnidosUS for its leadership on behalf of the Latino community. On July 25, 2017, the Coalition on Human Needs will honor UnidosUS, formerly known as the National Council of La Raza, as one of its Human Needs Heroes for 2017. For almost 50 years, UnidosUS has been at the forefront of the policy movement to build opportunity for Latinos through civil rights, education, housing, economic advancement, health care, and the defense of immigrants' rights.

UnidosUS ensures that the human face of immigration is always seen and the essential role of immigrants in our

communities is understood. I am proud to work with UnidosUS to advance a fair and moral immigration policy. I am also proud to work with UnidosUS in advancing economic opportunities for Latinos throughout our communities and look forward to our close cooperation in the future.

UnidosUS has a long record of promoting just policies to improve the lives of those in the Latino community. From the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, DACA, program, UnidosUS has been a trusted source and advocate on immigration policy. The ability of UnidosUS to serve as a broad voice that reflects the views and needs of Latinos across the country ensures that the debate on immigration never forgets the impact on families and communities. It is my honor today to recognize UnidosUS and thank them for all they have done on behalf of Latinos and immigrants.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF MONROE COUNTY, MICHIGAN

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 200th anniversary of Monroe County, MI. Situated in southeast Michigan on the west shore of Lake Erie, Monroe County is endowed with rich historical and natural treasures, built on a strong agricultural base, home to innovative industries, and populated with dedicated citizens and entrepreneurs.

Founded by Potawatomi Tribes and, later, French missionaries, the history of Monroe County dates back to 1634. French missionaries built the first settlement, named Frenchtown, on the territory and established both a trading post and fort in 1788. The River Raisin provided an agricultural center for the residents of Frenchtown, with an abundance of natural resources to contribute to economic growth. However, in 1813, the Battle of the River Raisin occurred near Frenchtown, resulting in mass human and economic loss. Recognized as the deadliest battle recorded during the War of 1812, the U.S. Congress included the River Raisin National Battlefield Park as part of the National Park Service in 2009, the only national park that commemorates the human contributions and historic legacy of the War of 1812.

As one of the first steps in organizing the Michigan Territory after the War of 1812, Governor Lewis Cass established Monroe County in 1817 as the second county in the State of Michigan. At the time, Monroe County included all of Lenawee and portions of Wayne and Washtenaw Counties. The old settlement of Frenchtown adopted the name "Monroe" in honor of President James Monroe and became the county seat. The flourishing county experienced economic growth and prosperity from the agricultural and paper

manufacturing industries, from the first paper mill, Raisinville Mill, in 1834, to River Raisin Paper Company in 1910, to IKO Monroe, Incorporated, in 2000.

In the early 20th century, Monroe County hit another industrial milestone with the establishment of Monroe Auto Equipment World Headquarters, formerly referred to as Brisk Blast, in 1916, and the Newton Steel plant in 1959. Monroe County gained the reputation as the transportation hub in the State of Michigan, home to international ports on Lake Erie and one of the largest highway gateways into Michigan. The development of transportation infrastructure played a crucial role in connecting the residents of Monroe County to goods and services. Monroe County also attracted entrepreneurs and inventors from across the United States, including Edward Knabush and Edwin Shoemaker who revolutionized furniture design and comfort when they invented the first upholstered reeling chair in 1929.

Today Monroe County is a vibrant community of nearly 150,000 residents who enjoy historic downtowns, beautiful parks, and safe neighborhoods. Residing along the shoreline of the River Raisin and Lake Erie, Monroe County offers a multitude of recreational activities—boating, swimming, camping, hiking, and fishing—at the Eagle Island Marsh unit of the Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge and Sterling State Park. Monroe County is also active in the preservation and promotion of its history by recognizing significant landmarks and sites, including the Dundee Old Mill Museum and Navarre Anderson Trading Post. With its rich historical and natural resources, Monroe County is recognized as one of the top visitor destinations in the State of Michigan.

Monroe County has been an integral part of the State of Michigan and our great Nation for 200 years. As Monroe County celebrates this milestone, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating its residents, elected officials, and businesses as they recognize their history. I wish the county continued growth and prosperity in the years ahead.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolutions, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 23. An act to provide for drought relief in the State of California, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2210. An act to designate the community living center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Butler Township, Butler County, Pennsylvania, as the "Sergeant Joseph George Kusick VA Community Living Center".

H.R. 2810. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2018 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities