

provider at least once in 2014, the most recent year in which data were available. CHIP also provides kids with benefits that are often more comprehensive than those offered in the commercial insurance market, including immunizations, periodic screenings, hearing exams, and dental care. We know that prevention and early detection are key to reducing the burden of disease and health costs. CHIP emphasizes these early interventions during the critical early years of a child's life, helping kids grow up to be healthy, productive, and successful adults.

Yet, despite CHIP's near-universal popularity and lack of partisan controversy, this Congress has allowed CHIP to go unfunded since October 1, 2017. This long and unprecedented lapse threatens CHIP's very survival. Already, it has thrown States, including Washington, into crippling uncertainty and administrative disruption. Some States have been forced to send letters to CHIP families informing them that their coverage will end. Moreover, if Congress fails to extend CHIP, my State will be on the hook for hundreds of millions of dollars to make up for Congress's failure to act.

Next, I would like to highlight the urgent need to reauthorize funding to community health centers.

Community health centers are a bedrock of the healthcare safety net and are the preferred medical home for tens of millions of working Americans. Washington's 26 community health centers serve 1 million people in every corner of my State, from Spokane to Seattle, Omak to Port Angeles.

Community health centers are a lean and efficient healthcare delivery model, focusing on primary care, prevention, case management and social services for their patients. They are also good for the economy, supporting more than 9,000 jobs and \$1 billion in annual economic output in my State alone.

The Community Health Center Fund, which comprises the majority of these health centers' Federal funds, expired on October 1, 2017. As a result, community health centers in my State are at risk of having to turn off the lights and turn away patients. Already, the expiration of the Community Health Center Fund has threatened these centers' ability to retain and hire nurses and doctors and make financial arrangements for the coming year.

The Community Health Center Fund was enacted in 2010 so that millions of newly covered Americans would have a medical home. The fund is doing just that. Moreover, the Community Health Center Fund was extended with strong bipartisan support in 2015, when an overwhelming majority of the House and Senate, myself included, supported its extension as part of the Medicare and CHIP Reauthorization Act, MACRA. It is past time for Congress to extend this program without delay.

In addition, Federal funds have been allowed to expire for a number of addi-

tional but equally important health programs. All enjoy a history of strong bipartisan support. These programs include the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program, the Special Diabetes Program, the Teaching Health Center Program, and certain Medicare provisions.

The Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting—MIECHV—Program is an evidence-based grant that is helping States and Tribes improve early childhood and maternal health. MIECHV-funded home visiting programs, which are voluntary, have benefited 1,650 Washington families in 15 counties and have reduced in half the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. MIECHV is a prime example of evidence-driven policymaking that is improving the health and well-being of vulnerable mothers and children. It is also strongly bipartisan. Unfortunately, MIECHV's Federal funding expired on October 1, 2017.

The Special Diabetes Program and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians are modest investments with a proven track record of combatting diabetes. As a senior member of the Senate Diabetes Caucus, I recognize that diabetes is a leading cause of death and a major driver of healthcare costs. In particular, the Special Diabetes Program for Indians supports 27 community-driven grant programs in Washington's Tribal communities, helping Tribal members prevent, diagnose, and manage this condition through lifestyle changes, counseling, and treatment.

The Teaching Health Center Program is also a small investment with a big return. Teaching Health Center funds are currently being used to train 722 primary care medical residents in 27 States and the District of Columbia. Data show that many physicians eventually practice close to where they train, and the Teaching Health Center Program is training physicians where they are needed most. In Spokane, Toppenish, Tacoma, Yakima, and Auburn, Teaching Health Centers are training a new generation of safety-net physicians to serve those most in need. While the Teaching Health Center Program has received a short-term extension, its funding will expire on January 1, 2018, if Congress does not act.

Lastly, several temporary Medicare provisions have expired and must be renewed. These provisions help rural Medicare patients get hospital, ambulance, and home health services where they live. Additional Medicare "extenders" prevent essential services like physical therapy from being arbitrarily capped for Medicare patients. Extending these provisions is important to preserving healthcare access in rural Washington State and empowering our healthcare delivery system to continue to improve and innovate.

The programs I have highlighted and many more are vital to my constituents, my State's economy, and our healthcare delivery system. They are

also strongly bipartisan. I call on my Republican colleagues to work with us in a good-faith negotiation to extend these programs immediately.

#### TRIBUTE TO R. ANDREW MURRAY

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I congratulate Andrew Murray on his investiture as the U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina.

Andrew graduated magna cum laude from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte with a bachelor of science in political science and received his juris doctor from the University of North Carolina School of Law.

Throughout his career, Andrew has dedicated himself to public service and leadership. Andrew enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard in 1980 and retired in 2015, serving his country faithfully for 35 years. During his service, he earned a number of decorations, including the Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medal, three Coast Guard Commendation Medals, the Coast Guard Achievement Medal, and the Coast Guard 9/11 Service Medal.

Andrew began his legal career at the Mecklenburg County District Attorney's Office as an assistant district attorney. Later, he worked in private practice before being elected to serve as the district attorney of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina's largest prosecutorial district. During his tenure as district attorney, he led the office with the utmost distinction and is highly respected for his leadership.

I am proud that Andrew is willing to continue serving western North Carolina in a new role as U.S. Attorney. Western North Carolina is lucky to have such an experienced prosecutor and effective leader to command this important office. He is a dedicated public servant whose extensive prosecutorial experience and relationships with law enforcement will bolster the mission of the Department of Justice and promote public safety.

Senator BURR and I proudly recommended Andrew to President Trump, and I know that he will lead the U.S. Attorney's Office with honor.

#### TRIBUTE TO STEVE JOHNSON

Mr. SHELBY. Madam President, today I wish to pay tribute to Steve Johnson who is retiring on December 22, 2017, from his position as the manager of the U.S. Senate Dining Room.

Mr. Johnson is a well-respected member of the Senate family. For over two decades, Mr. Johnson has managed the Senate Dining Room with care, enthusiasm, poise, and the utmost hospitality. He understands the rich history and importance of this institution and has witnessed much of its tradition over the years, serving Supreme Court Justices, Vice Presidents, and many of my Senate colleagues.

Starting in 1995, Mr. Johnson's leadership has kept the Senate Dining Room running smoothly and efficiently. Whether it is tallying receipts

at the end of the day or providing specialized off-menu items to guests, everything Mr. Johnson does is done with the utmost attention to detail. Mr. Johnson treats everyone the same and always maintains a high level of professionalism.

Mr. Johnson's work ethic and perseverance are visible throughout his personal life as well. In addition to his impressive tenure, he has completed 18 marathons while working in the Senate Dining Room, including the Boston Marathon a total of seven times.

My colleagues and I would like to express our sincere thanks and gratitude for Mr. Johnson's 22 years of service. His institutional knowledge and unparalleled courtesy are greatly appreciated and will be deeply missed. Please join me in wishing Mr. Johnson and his wife, Joanne, a long and healthy retirement.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN E. HOEHNE, JR.

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, today I wish to honor a longtime and vital member of my staff, John E. Hoehne, Jr., for serving the people of Idaho and our Nation for 25 years, both as my chief of staff during my service in the U.S. House of Representatives and as my chief of staff during my service in the U.S. Senate.

John has been with me since before the beginning of my congressional service, leading my first congressional campaign. He officially became my chief of staff when I was sworn into office in the U.S. House of Representatives in January of 1993. His encouragement, wise counsel, and friendship have been invaluable in decisionmaking and advancing policy and legislative objectives. I cannot thank him enough for his dedication and ongoing assistance.

John has contributed greatly to all aspects of my work, and he has helped advance countless legislative and policy efforts of importance for Idaho. He is instrumental in his work on first protecting Idaho's water sovereignty and economy while trying to find a consensus solution to anadromous fish recovery. He works to preserve Idaho's natural resources and quality of life. His passion for collaborative problem-solving in addressing natural resources challenges has helped give collaborative efforts every opportunity to succeed. John has been a driving force in bringing stakeholders with often diverging viewpoints to the table to build common ground and has helped provide room for stakeholders to talk and resolve concerns rather than resort to litigation. His involvement was essential in the enactment and implementation of the Owyhee Initiative and has been of great assistance with other collaborative efforts, such as the Clearwater Basin Collaborative.

John has also been at the forefront of helping Idahoans who have had challenges with Federal agencies. Earlier in his tenure, he helped get reason to prevail to the benefit of an Idaho com-

munity in a dispute with a Federal agency over how to best address mining cleanup. He was also heavily involved in addressing problems a timber company in southeast Idaho was having with another Federal agency. John intervened on the company's behalf and helped resolve the issues. These are just a few of the many achievements John has assisted with for Idahoans.

Every step of the way, John has been there with reasoned counsel and a great sense of the bigger picture. I serve the people of Idaho in Washington, DC, and I believe in strong ties to the State. Although it seems to be a less common arrangement to have a chief of staff based in the State, I have been fortunate to have a principal member of my staff based in Boise fulltime and centrally involved in Idaho issues. His deep knowledge, understanding of Idaho, and ability to effectively represent me have been beneficial. John is well respected in all corners of our great State. In an era and political environment where turnover is common, John's 25 years of committed service is a testament to his deep dedication to Idahoans.

Thank you, John, for your extraordinary counsel and friendship all these years.

#### TRIBUTE TO SUSAN HAWKES WHEELER

Mr. CRAPO. Madam President, today I wish to honor Susan Hawkes Wheeler, chief of staff for my Washington, DC, office, for her 25 years of congressional service. Susan's trusted, dedicated, and perceptive counsel have been of great value throughout my congressional service.

Susan is a native of Idaho and has always had the Gem State's interests in the forefront of her mind. I am fortunate that she chose to serve Idaho through my office. I first met Susan when she worked as a television reporter and news manager in Boise and Idaho Falls. She covered me when I first ran for public office. Later, after a job interview on a twin-engine plane flying between Boise and Twin Falls, I hired her to help me get elected to Congress. Her sharp wit and directness was and is refreshing and effective.

After my election to the U.S. House of Representatives, Susan joined my congressional staff as press secretary and moved from Idaho to Washington, DC. This was back at a time when faxes still came on thermal curly paper and speed dials were limited to 10 numbers per machine. Radio actualities were done by actually splicing audiotape and calling each radio station separately to play the soundbite for them over the phone line, which was a landline. As technologies advanced, she met those changes with imaginative approaches and implemented innovative ways to improve communications and outreach with Idahoans. Her responsibilities also increased in my office.

Susan served as my acting administrative assistant during my last year in the House. Then, in the Senate, she served as my communications director until June 2011, when she earned the job of chief of staff-DC. She proved herself someone who can always be counted on for a straightforward and reasoned approach, no matter the situation or the audience. She helped make the office more effective and has been integral to improving the way our office communicates with Idahoans.

She improved the quality of the communication in my office, both externally and within the office. Her extensive work making the website a better resource for Idahoans has also resulted in it being recognized through multiple awards. Another of her achievements is the focus she has given to establishing office procedures and working with Senate administrative offices to fine-tune policies that enable smooth office operations. She also serves as a great example of leadership, communicating well with staff, and empowering them to share insight. While helping me become more effective, Susan has also taken the time to mentor countless staff and help young people start their careers.

From day one, no matter the job title, Susan has always been a senior counselor with trusted insight given her deep familiarity with Idaho, experience, and sound judgement.

Thank you, Susan, for dedicating so much of your time and talent to serving the people of Idaho in Congress and for your strong support and steady friendship.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING DOUBLE L

• Mr. RISCH. Madam President, my great State of Idaho is known for excelling in many areas. We are a proud incubator of the American entrepreneurial spirit, with Idaho consistently being ranked as one of the friendliest States in the Nation for small businesses. Idaho is also renowned for our State vegetable, the potato. Millions of people around the world know that Idaho potatoes are in a class of their own. It is only natural that the innovation that Idaho is known for would lead a small business on a mission to assist potato farmers. As the chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it is my pleasure to recognize Double L as the Senate Small Business of the Month for December 2017. Double L maintains a global presence while staying true to the core values of its farming roots in order to enable potato farmers to increase production, expand their harvest, and to achieve their American Dream.

Double L was originally founded in 1976 by potato growers Leland Klinger and Lynn Johnson, who initially started the company by building equipment