

STOP Act. They now say that they are screening about 36 percent of their packages. Again, that is a big improvement. However, there are about 900 million packages a year. That means about 315 million packages are being looked at, and this is a big improvement, but we still have so many hundreds of millions of packages not receiving that kind of screening.

In addition, we learned through our hearings and investigation that 20 percent of the time, when law enforcement had identified a Postal Service package that was suspect, it was not presented to law enforcement. In other words, it went into the community anyway.

Clearly, we have a big problem. We are not screening adequately, we are not providing the information for enough packages, and we are not giving law enforcement the tools they need to do their job. By the way, with regard to the private carriers, it is 100 percent required.

So the legislation we are proposing is to tell the post office: This poison has to be stopped in every way we possibly can. This is a crisis. This is not just important; it is urgent. It is something we want you to address.

So it says that by 2020 we have to have 100 percent of packages screened, and we have to give law enforcement the tools they need. Law enforcement, of course, is desperate to get this information. If they have the information, they can help. They can help to keep these packages out of our country. They can also help to raise the price.

Some packages that are stopped, of course, would otherwise have gone to a post office box or someone's home or an abandoned house and been distributed. Packages that could have poisoned hundreds of thousands of people and killed hundreds of thousands of people have been seized in the State of Ohio. There was a package found recently in Nebraska that could have killed millions of people. In a relatively small quantity, this is incredibly powerful, dangerous stuff.

Now, with this legislation, we will be able to identify more of these packages and get them offline and, again, at a minimum, be able to raise the cost.

One of the reasons fentanyl has taken over and pushed out other drugs—by the way, it is 50 times more powerful than heroin. One reason is that it is relatively inexpensive. This will raise the price and reduce the volume and help to save lives.

We now have over one-third of the U.S. Senate as cosponsors of this legislation, including Senator HATCH and Senator WYDEN. Again, I appreciate their support and their work on this. We also have about half of the House of Representatives who have supported the STOP Act in the other Chamber.

It is time for us to take the next step: pass this legislation, get it in place, and immediately tell countries like China, if you want to send packages to us, you have to provide this information.

We have done everything we can in other ways to encourage China to crack down on these labs, the evil scientists who are continuing to make this product. We are taking other steps, of course, to do that. We are taking other steps to deal with this issue in terms of increased prevention and education efforts. That is in the CARA legislation. There is \$10 million right now available for the administration to come up with a national media campaign that I would strongly support. They have already started a smaller media campaign with the private sector. I support that as well. We need to push back every way we can, letting people know the dangers, including the fact that any street drugs you take now potentially can have deadly consequences, including fentanyl.

We need to do more in terms of getting people into treatment. This is a disease, and it needs to be treated as such. We are not going to be able to make progress unless we take people who are already addicted and get them into the treatment and longer term recovery they need. Longer term recovery is funded by CARA and Cures. This is the first time Congress has done this. It is very important because if you get people into longer term recovery programs—sober housing and group discussions, helping to support them—you have a much higher likelihood of somebody getting clean, being successful, being able to get back on track, getting back with their family, getting back to their job.

Finally, we have to do more in terms of helping law enforcement. Again, that is partly what we are doing here, giving them the tools to be able to stop some of this poison from coming in, in the first place.

I am encouraged with the progress we made just in the last week. We now have a House bill that is being voted on, as I speak. We now have a Senate bill that has been agreed to be reported out of committee coming onto the floor. They are identical. They both do the job. They both tell the post office we have to change behavior.

By the way, in terms of the post office, someone told me today that the postal union was concerned about this legislation. I encourage you to talk to rank-and-file mail carriers, postal carriers, and ask them what they think. They don't want to be carrying this poison into our communities. They don't want to be potentially exposed to this poison, should a package leak, because of the danger of it.

The people I talk to agree, we absolutely have to crack down on this. We are not asking the post office to do it alone. We are providing funding to Customs and Border Protection to be there with them. The postal inspectors, the folks who are actually local law enforcement, are desperate to ensure that we can do this because they are tired of it. They are tired of seeing this stuff come in, like an avalanche coming into our country, and creating all these

problems across the board in our communities, every sector of our community being affected. People are desperate for solutions because they acknowledge the problem.

I had a tele-townhall meeting last week in Washington where I called in and spoke to thousands of Ohioans at once. We do this on a monthly basis. For the last few years, we have been asking questions about opioids in our survey. It is a very simple question. It says: Have you been directly affected? Has anybody you know been directly affected by this opioid crisis?

Unbelievably, we have gotten typically about 50 percent of the people who called—again, these are thousands of people randomly selected—saying: Yes, my family or someone I know has been directly affected by opioids.

At the call last week, two-thirds of the people on the call said they have been directly affected or someone they know has been directly affected. That is why people are desperate for a solution because it is affecting them. It is affecting their lives. It is affecting their families. It is affecting our communities. It is affecting every single aspect of our community—the healthcare system, the foster care system, the prison system, the court system. It is time for us to step up and do more. Yes, prevention, treatment, longer term recovery but also helping law enforcement to be able to push back and stop some of this poison from coming into our communities in the first place.

Let's pass the STOP Act to give law enforcement the tools they need against this new scourge of this epidemic, and by doing so, we will save lives.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant 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.

REMEMBERING PHILO T. FARNSWORTH

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a remarkable Utahn whose impact has been felt by generations of Americans every day: the "Father of Television," Mr. Philo T. Farnsworth. A true American inventor, Farnsworth's image has graced Statuary Hall in the U.S. Capitol Building since 1990 in larger-than-life fashion, as one of two statue contributions by Utah.

Just a few months ago, the Utah State Legislature voted to replace the Farnsworth statue with that of Martha Hughes Cannon, the first woman State senator in Utah and the Nation. Her influence as a Mormon pioneer, a Utah women's rights advocate, and early female physician opened doors and paved

the way for millions to follow. In 1896, when she defeated her own husband to become the first female State senator elected in the United States, she made history for our State and for women across the country.

Martha's contributions have been far-reaching in Utah, but in no way should the changing of the statues diminish the contributions of Philo T. Farnsworth as one of America's greatest innovators. I have always been proud to show the thousands of constituents who visit the Capitol each year the Farnsworth statue. This iconic sculpture has been a wonderful representation of the traits that our State was founded on: hard work, innovation, and industry.

Farnsworth was born in 1906 in Beaver, UT, a small rural town settled in 1856 by Mormon pioneers traveling the road to southern Utah. His early pioneer roots encouraged a work ethic and can-do attitude that propelled his lifelong love of learning and invention. From a very young age, he imagined and later implemented scientific designs, including a machine to convert electric power in his family home and a tamper-proof lock, but it was in a high school chemistry class in Rigby, ID, that he began to sketch an idea for a vacuum tube that would forever change the media and entertainment landscape. Farnsworth's sketch was the blueprint for what would eventually become the modern-day television.

Farnsworth had a special knack for taking big ideas from paper to practice—first, as a student at Brigham Young University, then later as a businessman. He didn't just stop with television. In fact, his scientific mind made great inroads in other areas of advancement, including sterilizing milk using radio waves.

In later years, Farnsworth continued research in further technologies, including radar, the infrared telescope, and nuclear fusion. In fact, in 1967, he moved back to Utah to run a fusion lab at Brigham Young University, which was later relocated to Salt Lake City operating as the Philo T. Farnsworth Association.

Unfortunately, Farnsworth had to endure legal battles throughout his career regarding patent claims. He also faced great financial hardship. He passed away from pneumonia on March 11, 1971, in Salt Lake City, UT, just as having a home television set became the norm in most American households. Sadly, Farnsworth did not live to see the full impact of his revolutionary invention, but his influence lives on.

Whether you are gathering friends to watch the latest playoff game, laughing at a comedy series, or keeping updated on what is happening in the world, your life has been touched in one way or another by Philo T. Farnsworth. Who would have thought that the rough sketches of a day-dreaming schoolboy would one day change the world?

Utah is proud of its native son, Philo T. Farnsworth. He was not only the "Father of Television" but truly one of the most brilliant minds and creative innovators of the 20th century. His statue will be missed here in the Capitol, but through his singular invention, Farnsworth's influence in our daily lives will be ever present.

Farnsworth's statue has represented—and will continue to represent—the honor and appreciation Utahns have for his monumental life achievements. His image has honorably served our State well for almost three decades, and I am hopeful it will find the right home. It has been a pleasure sharing the Capitol with the image of Philo T. Farnsworth.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, while my vote would not have changed the outcome, I would have voted "yea" on the motion to invoke cloture on the Toomey amendment. I was questioning nominees at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on nominations at the time of the vote.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, the Senate adopted amendment No. 2276 to H.R. 5515 by voice vote, though I opposed this amendment and would have voted against it. This amendment would further study the feasibility of establishing a permanent U.S. troop presence in Poland. We should be looking at where we can reduce our footprint abroad, not where we can expand it. As our government continues to pile up debt, we should be asking our NATO allies to step up and prioritize their own defense. The more that we assume the security burden, as this amendment would do, the less incentive these countries will have to contribute their share toward our mutual defense.

(At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for vote No. 124 on the motion to invoke cloture on amendment No. 2282, as modified, to H.R. 5515, the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019. On vote No. 124, had I been present, I would have voted yea on the motion to invoke cloture.

Mr. President, I was also necessarily absent for vote No. 125 on amendment No. 2885. On vote No. 125, had I been present, I would have voted yea on amendment No. 2885.

Mr. President, I was also necessarily absent for vote No. 126 on the motion to invoke cloture on H.R. 5515, as amended. On vote No. 126, had I been present, I would have voted yea on the motion to invoke cloture on H.R. 5515, as amended.●

TRIBUTE TO MELISSA BONINE

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise to recognize an excellent member of my staff, Melissa Bonine, who is moving on to a new challenge. For the past year, Melissa has coordinated daily operations in my office, helping to create order out of the chaos of my schedules.

Having worked for Congressman Rick Boucher, Senator Jim Webb, and Secretary Castro at the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Melissa has many friends on Capitol Hill, and she was an immediate asset to my office. With a cool head under pressure and excellent diplomatic skills, Melissa has kept the trains running on time and put out the occasional fire. She has worked with the rest of my staff to manage priorities and coordinate each day efficiently while assisting in long-term planning.

Our entire team will miss her counsel and sense of humor. I am sure she will make a tremendous impact on her next project, an exciting new advocacy group where she will continue to fight for progressive values. I hope her new job will also give her some more time with her husband, David, daughter, Penny, and cats, Rex and Willie Nelson, and I look forward to hearing about the extraordinary work she does next.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO NICOLE SHERMAN

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Nicole Sherman of Roosevelt County for her dedication to the Sherman Inn in Wolf Point.

Nicole began her career at the Sherman Inn in eighth grade where she served as a waitress. At the time, both of her parents worked at the Inn. A few years later, her parents bought the Inn, and she joined the family business full time following school.

Today, Nicole is the general manager of the hotel and runs it with her sister-in-law. They pride themselves on being a family-owned and operated business, one that gives back to the community frequently. The Sherman Inn sponsors any events they can around the community.

Nicole is focused on offering a great experience for her customers. Whether they are visitors from all over the country or locals looking for a good meal, she strives to provide a memorable experience to her customers. She instills this mentality in the business through the 45 hard-working employees that the Sherman Inn employs.

I congratulate Nicole on her success in the business. The community of Wolf Point is stronger with the staple that is the Sherman Inn, and that would not be possible without Nicole's passion for the business.●