

dealing with their issues, whether it is the trauma or the drug addiction. In almost every case, there was a drug addiction issue. Almost all of them were opiate addicts or recovering addicts. One was addicted to alcohol. This is common.

In talking to these women, almost every one of them said the same thing, which was that, yes, they had been trafficked online, and they were very interested in this legislation. They had been through it, and they wanted to save future women and girls from having to go down this dark path.

We passed the legislation and assessed the legislation meant to help on this issue, and I was able to tell these women at the CHANGE Court what the results were. They are pretty dramatic.

On Monday of this week, I also met with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, or NCMEC. This is the leading anti-trafficking group in the country. They work day and night trying to stop online sex traffickers. They keep track of the statistics and data. They particularly focus on rescuing kids from being exploited.

According to NCMEC, the results from SESTA being signed into law has been swift and significant. NCMEC said:

Since the enactment of SESTA and the government's seizure of Backpage, there has been a major disruption in the online marketplace. The robust marketplace for sex trafficking, including the sale of children for rape and sexual abuse, that took a decade to build, fragmented over the course of just a few days.

They also said:

Many sites or portions of sites where NCMEC knew children previously have been sold for sex have voluntarily shut down.

Their bottom line:

This means it is much harder to purchase a child . . . online.

This means it is much harder to purchase a child online. That is great news, and that is exactly what we intended this legislation to do—to save these kids, women, and sometimes boys from being subjected to this horrific crime.

Another analysis was shared with me recently, and you can find this online. This analysis found that since our legislation passed, online ads selling women and children have been reduced by between 60 and 80 percent, depending on the State. That is a dramatic change, having the effect of saving literally thousands of children.

I am hopeful we will continue to be vigilant about this issue because when you push something down in one place, it often pops up somewhere else. But we have done an effective job of dealing with a very real problem. Backpage.com, which we talked about, was the industry leader. They have now been shut down. The CEO of the company has pled guilty to numerous money laundering and trafficking-related charges.

Because prosecutors can now do their work and go after these online traf-

fickers and because victims of this crime can finally have their day in court, websites that knowingly facilitate sex trafficking are being shut down and being held liable for their actions.

This never would have been possible without the work of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations. The staff and investigators spent 2 years working on this issue, investigating it. We had to come all the way to the floor of this Chamber in order to enforce our subpoenas to get the information that we were able to unveil, which no one else had been able to find, and that showed clearly that they knew what they remember doing. They knew they were selling underage kids online. I chair that subcommittee. It is bipartisan. I am very proud of those investigators. They do good work, and they deserve to be applauded, given the results we are now seeing.

It is not just Backpage; a lot of other, classified websites have also shut down their personal ads or sex-related operations.

OPIOID EPIDEMIC

Mr. PORTMAN. We have made good progress on the issue of sex trafficking, but it is so related to the issue of opioid abuse. Specifically, as I said, these often go hand in hand. Often, traffickers find people who are addicted. They are vulnerable, they crave the drug, and the trafficker can provide it. But in my home State of Ohio, I have met with survivors, and many times we have found that they find vulnerable people who are not addicted but then make them addicted so they become dependent on the trafficker.

This is an issue that relates to so many things, doesn't it? It relates to our workplace because people who are addicted to opioids are not coming into the workforce. One reason we have such high levels of unemployment—people are outside the workforce altogether, not showing up on the unemployment numbers because they aren't even looking for work. The labor force participation rate, as economists call it, is so low right now largely, in my view, because of this opioid issue. Our courts are jammed, our jails are jammed, and our hospitals and emergency rooms are jammed. We have to do more to get at this issue for so many reasons.

The driving force in my home State of Ohio and around the country now is this synthetic form of heroin or opioids called fentanyl. It is 50 times more powerful than heroin. There are other drugs—carfentanil is an example—that are even more powerful. These synthetic forms of opioids are causing most of the deaths now in my State of Ohio and around the country.

The Centers for Disease Control, CDC, recently issued a report that showed this increase in overdose deaths involving fentanyl. The report analyzed overdose deaths in 10 States hit

hardest by the epidemic, including Ohio. They found that fentanyl overdose deaths in those States nearly doubled from the last 6 months of 2016 to the first 6 months of 2017. Of course, 2017 is the last year for which they have good records. It is unbelievable.

This synthetic form of heroin is the new scourge of the opioid epidemic, and it is being spread into every other drug too. When I do roundtables back home, as I do regularly, I hear about it being spread into crystal meth, cocaine, and heroin, of course.

Twice in roundtable discussions I have had with community leaders, I have heard—once from a police chief and once from a sheriff—very similar stories about a young man who wakes up from an overdose after being saved through Narcan, which is a miracle drug that reverses the effects of an overdose. When the young man comes to, he says: I was just smoking pot. How did I overdose?

In both cases, based on the forensics and the information they were able to get from the labs, they found out that of course it wasn't just marijuana; it was marijuana laced with fentanyl. No street drug is safe. They can all kill you.

As I have met with these first responders, community leaders, and those in recovery across Ohio—I just did recently with a group called PreventionFIRST—I have heard what is often brought up by those on the frontlines; that is, that we would be making so much more progress right now on this war against opioids—we have been successful here in this Congress in passing more money for prevention, treatment, and recovery, and those funds are starting to be used back home, and I see it; I see the results, and there are some really exciting things going on—but for the fentanyl. In other words, just as we were finally making progress on prescription drugs and, then, on heroin, now this fentanyl comes in and is creating even more problems. It is so inexpensive, and it is so pervasive.

Recently, in Ohio, there were two busts where they were able to apprehend people who were selling fentanyl and find this cache of fentanyl they had. In both cases, it was a massive amount combined. Just these two busts alone, there was enough fentanyl to kill half the people in my State of Ohio. That is how bad it is.

Just last week, there was an autopsy that revealed that the death of an Ohio police chief from Kirkersville, in the Columbus area, who was caused by fentanyl. The report said: "acute intoxication by fentanyl." It was an accidental overdose.

I have told the story before of the police officer who brushed a couple of flakes off his shirt after a bust. He didn't know it was fentanyl. The flakes were the drug. It got into his skin through his fingers, and he dropped to the ground unconscious and had an overdose. It took several doses of Narcan to save his life.

Our first responders are in much more danger with fentanyl than they have ever been, even with heroin, prescription drugs, and other opioids. Addiction has taken too many lives in Ohio. Again, fentanyl is the deadliest drug in this epidemic.

There was a recent estimation by a group called the Ohio Alliance for Innovation in Population Health, which suggested that opioids are responsible for more than 500,000 years of life expectancy lost in Ohio between 2010 and 2016. Think about that: 500,000 years of lost life due to opioids in Ohio, just in the 6 years between 2010 and 2016.

Often, these are lives of young people who had great promise ahead of them and had become involved in this opioid epidemic, and the addiction takes over, and it is more important than anything. It is more important than their family, more important than their friends, more important than their jobs, more important than their faith, and more important than taking care of themselves. They end up, sadly, losing their lives and all that opportunity and all the purpose God had for them in their lives.

We need to turn the tide in this opioid epidemic. We can't do it, in my view, unless we get at this issue of fentanyl because that is the new scourge. We need to look at how it is coming, why it is coming, and why it is so cheap.

Here is what is very interesting, and it might be surprising to some people. It is not coming across the border from Mexico, or if it is, it is very little of it. That is where the heroin is coming from, 90 percent of it. It is more pure than ever, more dangerous than ever. The deadly fentanyl is mostly coming through the mail system. It is being mailed into the United States of America, mostly from overseas, mostly from China.

There are some evil scientists somewhere in China making this fentanyl and then shipping it into your community. It is the No. 1 killer right now. By the way, opioid overdose and death is the No. 1 cause of death in my home State of Ohio. Nationally, it is now the No. 1 cause of death of people under 50 years old. It surpassed car accidents. It is an epidemic. How could that be? What can we do about it?

There is something we can do about it. We have to be sure that the post office helps law enforcement to find these packages as they are coming in and get these packages out of circulation so they don't come into our communities and poison our families, our children, and our neighbors. We have legislation to do that. It is called the STOP Act.

One-third of the Members of this Senate have now cosponsored that legislation. We have now had it reported out of the Finance Committee of the Senate. We need to get it to the floor and get it to a vote. It is very simple. It is legislation that AMY KLOBUCHAR, a Democrat of Minnesota, on that side of

the aisle, and I have come up with that says the post office should have to do what any other carrier would have to do—FedEx, UPS, DHL. Under law, they have to tell law enforcement in advance what packages are coming in, where it is coming from, what is in it, and where it is going. You have to provide that electronically so you can use big data to sift through the millions of packages that come in and to be able to find ones that are suspect and then immediately use sophisticated equipment to scan and screen those and pull out of circulation the ones that have fentanyl in them.

I have been to these distribution centers for these private carrier companies. I have seen how they do it. I have seen the dangerous work the Customs and Border Protection men and women are doing, using a room that has significant ventilation. They have to have masks on and gloves. They have to be very careful about it. Thank God, they are there, because they are saving lives. If you send it through the mail system, that very rarely happens.

We did a yearlong study of this in our Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I talked about earlier. We found a number of things that were very troubling. One is just how easy it is to buy fentanyl online. The second is the fact that when these drugs come in through the post office, it is guaranteed delivery. The traffickers will say if you send it by FedEx or another private carrier—UPS, DHL, and others—it is not guaranteed. If you send it through the government agency, no problem. That is not the way it should be.

By the way, letter carriers—the mail carriers in my community and your community—want this fixed, too, because they care what comes into their communities. They care about the people whom they serve, and they want to be sure they are not delivering poison. They also are at risk, just like anybody else is who is anywhere in that train.

I talked about the law enforcement officers. Think about the other first responders who are using Narcan to revive people. They sometimes get exposed to it. We have too many stories of little kids dying from being accidentally exposed to fentanyl in a home where somebody is using it. It is dangerous stuff. We have to fix this.

The information as to where it is from, where it is going, and what is in it, when it is put into a digital format and can be analyzed quickly through incredible intelligence that our Customs and Border Protection people have, to be able to determine whether that package is suspect or not, will make a huge difference in taking this offline and keeping this poison from coming into our communities and ensuring that we can, in fact, begin to stop some of the poison but, at a minimum, it will raise the price by reducing the supply.

The post office, frankly, because of the pressure they have gotten from

Congress on this over the last few years have begun to start to look at some of this. They have begun to provide some of the electronic data. Based on testimony they provided for our subcommittee just recently, they are now receiving data on about 36 percent of international packages they transport into the country. Unfortunately, of that 36 percent, just over one-third, about 80 percent of those packages, are presented to law enforcement, and 20 percent get lost and end up going into the system, into our communities, even though we know they are suspect.

It is very inefficient right now. It is not working well. Plus, some of the data is not decipherable. We have a long way to go. Even if all 36 percent were being delivered to law enforcement, that would mean that 318 million international packages each year were coming in without any screening—318 million packages.

The STOP Act is very simple. It holds the post office to the same standard as private carriers—100 percent screenings. It requires that by 2020 they get all this data on all the international packages entering the United States.

It is a commonsense solution. It has already passed the House of Representatives recently with a broad bipartisan vote. Our committee has reported it out. We need to get it to the floor and get it voted on. If we do so, by the way, it will be signed because the administration has already issued a statement of administration policy on it, which supports the legislation. It was actually a recommendation of the President's commission on opioids. It is part of the solution.

Is it the whole solution? No, but it is a critical part to try to stop some of this new poison, fentanyl, from coming into our communities—the No. 1 killer—so that we can, through treatment and recovery and better prevention efforts and better other law enforcement efforts, truly begin to turn the tide on this opioid epidemic. It is critical that we do so for so many reasons we have talked about this afternoon.

My hope is that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle will come together, at least on this issue, on the STOP Act, and say yes, we can do something to help those in our community who are suffering, those who are dying from overdoses, those families who are looking to us and saying: What can you do to help? I run into them all the time.

Today, I am heading back to Ohio, and I know this weekend I will be talking to people in Cleveland and Cincinnati, where I will be, and in Columbus, and they will be telling me about it.

This week, I was walking down the hall back to my office on Tuesday, and a young man came up to me and said: I want to talk to you about something.

I figured he was with the media and wanted to ask me a question. I asked him what he wanted.

He said: I want to tell you thank you.

He started to well up, and I knew what he was talking about. He was talking about a family member of his who had overdosed and died. He was talking about the fact that he appreciates that Congress is finally beginning to respond to this issue, as we have.

In the last year and after, we have passed legislation that is historic to deal with this issue, but there is still so much more to do. Let's make the next step getting the STOP Act enacted into law and, therefore, be able to save lives and help people to live their God-given purpose in life.

I yield back my time.

ANTI-TERRORISM CLARIFICATION ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last week, the Senate Judiciary Committee marked up and passed by voice vote S. 2946, the Anti-Terrorism Clarification Act of 2018.

I was proud to introduce this bipartisan bill and to lead it through the Judiciary Committee. I am proud to have Senators NELSON, RUBIO, WHITEHOUSE, CRUZ, BLUMENTHAL, TILLIS, COONS, CORNYN, HATCH, and KENNEDY as cosponsors.

It is not always easy to find common ground here in the Senate, but there is one issue where there is no doubt we can all agree: Those who aid or carry out terrorist attacks that kill or injure Americans should be held fully accountable.

Those who have been impacted should have a meaningful avenue to seek justice.

For over 25 years, the Anti-Terrorism Act has empowered American victims of international terrorism to bring civil lawsuits in Federal courts to vindicate their rights and obtain compensation for their injuries.

Just as important, these lawsuits disrupt and discourage the financing and material support of terrorist organizations. By cutting terrorists' financial lifelines, the ATA helps to reduce global terrorism, protecting Americans both here and abroad.

In short, the ATA puts terrorists on notice to keep their hands off Americans.

I was proud to be the lead sponsor of the ATA back in 1992, which removed the jurisdictional hurdles that, for too long, had frustrated or outright prevented American victims' ability to seek redress.

Since then, terrorists and those who financially support them have tried to blow holes in the law and stretch its exceptions beyond what Congress ever intended.

The Anti-Terrorism Clarification Act of 2018—and its additional improvements adopted in the Judiciary Committee last week—strengthens the ATA and reiterates Congress's original intent that terrorist groups and their supporters be brought to justice in U.S.

Courts, regardless of where the attacks occurred.

It is a carefully considered and deliberately crafted response to efforts to undermine the ATA. It represents Congress's considered judgment in responding to acts of international terrorism that kill or injure Americans overseas.

The bill clarifies the ATA's so-called "act of war" exception. Congress never intended that designated terrorist organizations could dodge liability for attacks that kill or injure Americans by simply claiming this exception.

Some, however, have twisted the exception to get away scot-free. The "act of war" exception should not be a liability shield for designated terrorist organizations or their supporters.

This bill makes clear that the exception doesn't apply to those designated by the U.S. Government as foreign terrorist organizations or specially designated global terrorists.

This is common sense. As one Federal judge put it, "To find that a terrorist organization can be a military force under the ATA would defeat the purpose of the Act, 'which was enacted to deter terrorist activity and hold liable those who engage in it.'"

Outside of that, the bill keeps in place the current analysis that courts conduct when determining who is and is not a military force.

Second, the bill permits victims of narco-terrorism to satisfy court-awarded ATA judgments with the assets of foreign drug kingpins. Assets blocked by the Federal Government under the Kingpin Designation Act are not currently available to victims to satisfy their judgments.

This bill fixes that.

Finally, the bill responds to recent Federal court decisions that severely undermined the ability of American victims to bring terrorists to justice. The ATA was specifically designed to provide extraterritorial jurisdiction over terrorists who attack Americans overseas. Last year, I led an amicus brief, with 22 bipartisan Senators, to the Supreme Court in *Sokolow v. Palestine Liberation Organization*, reiterating the purpose and scope of the 1992 law.

I was stunned when the Justice Department failed to stand up in that case for American victims of terrorism.

Despite broad bipartisan support in Congress for the ATA and the victims it protects, the Justice Department, in fact, actively opposed those victims and their right to seek redress against terrorists.

Inconceivably, instead of standing up for American victims of terrorism, the administration urged the Court to not even consider the *Sokolow* decision.

Congress can act where the administration chose not to. Accordingly, this bill makes crystal clear that defendants who take advantage of certain benefits from the U.S. Government following 120 days after the bill's enactment—such as foreign assistance—will

be deemed to have consented to personal jurisdiction in ATA cases.

Based on further improvements in a substitute amendment adopted by unanimous consent in the Judiciary Committee, the bill also restores jurisdiction in cases pending at the time of the bill's enactment. No defendant, after all, should be able to enjoy privileges under U.S. law, while simultaneously dodging responsibility for supporting terrorists that injure or kill Americans.

The Anti-Terrorism Clarification Act is supported by thousands of veterans and Gold Star families

It is supported by groups like AIPAC, the Anti-Defamation League, American Jewish Committee, Christians United for Israel, the Endowment for Middle East Truth, the Jewish Institute for National Security of America, the National Council of Young Israel, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the Rabbinical Council of America, and the Zionist Organization of America.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have joined me on this bill and whose staffs are working tirelessly to help us move it forward.

I also want to thank Senators NELSON and BLUMENTHAL for their support.

Finally, I want to thank House Judiciary Chairman GOODLATTE and Ranking Member NADLER for introducing and moving the companion bill in the House of Representatives.

Now that the bill has been reported to the floor, I ask for all of my Senate colleagues' support and look forward to Congress sending this bill to the President's desk very soon.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO ANDY HENRY

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Andy Henry of Prairie County for his impact on the Terry community while working at the Roy Rogers Saloon.

Andy has spent the last 17 years of his life in Terry. After Andy graduated high school in Terry, his mom Amelia and her husband, John, bought the Roy Rogers Saloon. Following that, he began working at the Saloon. He has been working there since his family took it over, just under 6 years.

Andy's work at the Saloon brings the community together. Whether it be a friend or an old elementary school teacher of his, folks from all over the community come together at the Saloon. He enjoys spending time with their regulars and making sure the experience at the Saloon is as pleasant as it can be.

I congratulate Andy on his role in growing and contributing to the Roy Rogers Saloon. I look forward to seeing that success continue to grow and enjoying the hometown bar soon.●