

to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act that passed the Senate and was signed into law last year. Over the 9 months since its passage, our country has witnessed the positive impact that the law has had on our economy. Companies of all sizes have directly benefited from various provisions of the law and as a result are paying out bonuses, raising wages, and purchasing new equipment for their businesses. As chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, I was a strong supporter of the tax law because I believed it would allow small business owners to keep more of their hard-earned money, make more investments in their businesses, and increase the overall health of our economy. Over the last few months, I have been making this series of speeches to draw attention to the benefits this law provides for small businesses.

Since passage of the law, many observers have given too much attention to individuals and corporations that have benefited from certain provisions of the law, but not nearly enough attention has been given to the benefits that small businesses have received. I rise today to spotlight how tax reform is benefiting Sko-Die, Inc., a small business located just outside of Chicago in Morton Grove, IL. Sko-Die, Inc., provides their customers with high-quality steel laminations, heavy gauge metal stampings, and machining services. From design to production, the company provides original equipment manufacturing services for a variety of sectors including the food, power generation, medical, and aerospace industries. Sko-Die is a family-run business started in 1947 by the Steininger family. The current president, Patrick Steininger, has led the company since 2002 and is the third generation of the family to helm the company. Sko-Die has about 70 employees, boasts a 60,000-thousand-square foot production facility, and operates numerous punch presses ranging in size from 5 to 300 tons.

Because of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, this family-owned custom metal stamping business has been able to pass on some its tax savings to employees, raising the average wages of its employees by about 3 percent. Sko-Die also made a \$1 million investment in new equipment, which included a new die grinder and a new metal press. Before the implementation of the new tax law, small businesses had to deal with a complex expensing formula that took many years to take advantage of, which made equipment purchases much less attractive to small business owners. The accelerated depreciation of equipment purchases for small businesses is one of the many reasons that I was a strong supporter of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

Overall, the new tax law has been good for small businesses; has allowed many small businesses to increase their capital investments, hire additional workers, and increase wages;

and will lower small businesses' annual tax payments. I am happy to see that small businesses like Sko-Die, Inc., are able to reduce their tax burden by making use of this accelerated depreciation provision and are using those tax savings to raise its employees' wages. I look forward to watching the company's continued success.

THE KOREAN WAR

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I want to take a few minutes to honor the 65th anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Agreement, which brought the active hostilities of the Korean war to an end.

Americans don't talk much about the Korean war today. As a result, too many have forgotten or never knew the history, how Kim Il-sung's forces invaded South Korea in June 1950; how the United Nations Security Council condemned the invasion; how American troops made an amphibious landing at Inchon, driving the North Korean forces back and helping shift the war's momentum; how 3 years later, representatives met in Panmunjom where they established a demilitarized zone and ended active hostilities.

Because this history is so often overlooked, American men and women who served in Korea have so rarely been given the recognition they deserve.

These are Americans who answered the call to take up arms again in a foreign country so soon after World War II, Americans who endured the bitter cold and harsh weather up and down the Peninsula and the lack of adequate food, Americans who gave their lives by the thousands on Korea's far-flung shores in service to their country. All told, more than 36,000 Americans perished in the Korean war, including more than 270 Oregonians and at least seven from Umatilla County, OR.

The Korean war is often called the Forgotten War.

Well, it isn't forgotten by me. It isn't forgotten by the U.S. Senate. I am proud to say that it isn't forgotten by the Oregonians I speak with as I travel around our State.

I have never met a Korean war veteran—or a veteran of any conflict—who walked onto the battlefield seeking personal recognition.

Today I am proud to recognize these brave servicemembers nonetheless.

This year marks the 65th year since the signing of the Korean War Armistice and the end of active hostilities.

As we follow new developments on the Korean Peninsula—and there have been many these past few months—let us reflect on the Americans who fought so bravely and endured so much in service to these United States.

I have always believed that the Federal Government owes these men and women a debt it cannot fully repay. The closest I think we can come is to honor our commitments to them and to do right by their brothers and sisters who continue to wear the uniform.

As we look forward to Veterans Day, let us all take a moment to thank those Korean war veterans still with us and to ensure that their service and their sacrifices are never forgotten.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this month, I join the Nation in celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month and the invaluable contributions of the Latino community to our country. Hispanic Americans comprise an integral part of the United States and form our Nation's largest ethnic minority. An estimated 60 million Latinos and Latinas currently live in the U.S., making our country home to the world's third largest Latino population. More than half a million of my fellow Marylanders identify as Hispanic or Latino.

Some of our Hispanic residents are recent arrivals to this country, seeking safety and freedom unavailable in their countries of origin. Others trace their roots to our country's founding. All play a role in helping to shape our country for the better. Latino and Latinas form a crucial part of our Nation's Armed Forces, dutifully serve at all levels of government, play an active role in their local communities, and Hispanic-owned businesses contribute an estimated \$473 billion in revenue to our economy and employ millions of people. Diversity is America's strength, and our thriving Hispanic communities are evidence of this.

In spite of these contributions, many in the Latina and Latino community are suffering or being put at unnecessary risk due to the administration's policies. Cruel immigration practices have led to families being torn apart. Millions of Dreamers live in constant fear that they will be removed from the only country they have ever known. The decision to remove Temporary Protected Status, TPS, for El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti worsens our national security and injects unnecessary fear and uncertainty into American families based on politics, rather than policy. Maryland alone would lose well over \$1 billion from our State's GDP without the workers who currently hold TPS. In Puerto Rico, over 3,000 American citizens died from the effects of Hurricane Maria, and the island still struggles to recover. Hispanic Americans increasingly face risks from prejudice, racism, and bigotry. Such policies and rhetoric directly undermine the values on which our country was founded.

Hispanics and Latinos bear the disproportionate effects of these policies, and the entire country suffers as a result. When some of our best and brightest young students and our Nation's hardest workers fear for their future or are forced into the shadows, it can have a lasting and harmful effect on our communities, our economy, and our security.

Hispanic Heritage Month marks a time to address these issues with

meaningful action rather than empty proclamations. Congress must finally pass a Dream Act to provide Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, DACA, recipients with the protections they deserve, so they can continue their contributions to this country. It is time for the Senate to take up and pass S. 2144, legislation I introduced with Senators VAN HOLLEN and FEINSTEIN, to provide a pathway to legal permanent residency for TPS holders in the United States. We are long overdue with respect to passing comprehensive immigration reform.

We must also address systemic issues in our healthcare, tax, and education systems, many of which are particularly harmful to Hispanic communities. Like all Americans, Hispanics deserve access to quality public schools, affordable and widely available medical care, and tax reform which reduces the burden for middle and low-income workers.

We must further provide Puerto Rico with the resources and support it needs to recover. More than a year after Hurricane Maria, the situation remains desperate. Our fellow American citizens on the island deserve real support in their time of need.

Hispanic Americans are facing immense challenges, but seek the same noble goals as all other Americans. Now is the time to stand with Hispanic, Latina, and Latino Americans against prejudice, divisive rhetoric, and harmful policies. In doing so, we will better uphold the ideals of our Nation and create a better country for all Americans.

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40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DISABILITY, INDEPENDENT LIVING, AND REHABILITATION RESEARCH

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, on behalf of millions of people with disabilities,

today I wish to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, NIDILRR, and its 40 years of accomplishments and contributions to the lives of people with disabilities.

NIDILRR is the Federal agency supporting applied research, demonstration, training, and technical assistance to enhance the quality of life of people with disabilities. NIDILRR's mission is to generate new knowledge and to promote its effective use to improve the abilities of people with disabilities to perform activities of their choice in the community and to expand society's capacity to provide full opportunities and accommodations for our citizens with disabilities. NIDILRR carries out its mission by building the capacity of institutions and individuals to conduct high-quality research in the major life domains, including employment, participation in the community, community integration, and health.

NIDILRR plays a unique and critical role in Federal research. NIDILRR-sponsored projects and programs target populations that include all disability types and all age groups. While other Federal research entities fund prevention, cure, and acute rehabilitation research, which are vital for people with disabilities, NIDILRR invests in applied research meant to quickly translate to greater independence, community participation, and employment for people with disabilities.

The many contributions of NIDILRR's grantees cannot be overstated. Our Nation owes a debt of gratitude to the researchers and practitioners whose efforts empower people with disabilities to lead proud, productive lives in pursuit of independence, community living, and employment. During October, which is National Disability Employment Awareness Month, it is important to highlight the major role that NIDILRR has played in promoting and enabling the employment of people with disabilities. Over the past 40 years, NIDILRR-funded researchers have been extraordinarily productive, including in my home State of Washington. Across the United States, grantees have created more than 1,200 new products, including peer-reviewed publications, intervention protocols, measurement tools, and software and technologies that impact the field of rehabilitation and enhance the lives of people with disabilities.

NIDILRR-funded fellowship programs have trained and supported a substantial number of emerging scholars, researchers, and policy implementation experts, including a significant focus on scholars with disabilities and those from minority communities. NIDILRR-funded fellows have contributed to substantive policy development in Congress, including by serving as content experts on my staff at the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. NIDILRR supports the ADA National Network, which provides

information, guidance, and training on the Americans with Disabilities Act to businesses, employers, State and local governments, architects, disability organizations, and individuals with disabilities. In addition, NIDILRR also supports AbleData, an information center hosting an extensive database of assistive technology products and resources to increase awareness of and access to assistive devices. Finally, NIDILRR supports the National Rehabilitation Information Center, NARIC, a research library and information center that promotes access to disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research information.

The need for NIDILRR's important work will only increase in the coming decades. Demographic trends indicate a substantial increase in the number of people with disabilities as a result of the effects of injuries, illnesses, chronic conditions, developmental disabilities, and an aging population. NIDILRR will continue to play a critical role in empowering this growing population of individuals with disabilities to live the American dream. The next 40 years of NIDILRR hold much promise for the future of addressing the emerging needs of people with disabilities and the need for disability, independent living, and rehabilitation research.

I congratulate the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research on its 40th anniversary and the significant accomplishments and contributions it has made to enhance the quality of life for people with disabilities in the United States. I am proud of the work NIDILRR has funded and the dedicated researchers and practitioners that have improved employment, participation and community integration, and health and function for people with disabilities. I look forward to 40 more years of NIDILRR's continued contributions to our society.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MURDER OF MULUGETA SERAW

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this November, my hometown of Portland marks a somber occasion: the 30th anniversary of the murder of Mulugeta Seraw, a 28-year-old Ethiopian college student, by racist skinheads. This horrific case galvanized the city, as well as the State of Oregon, to stand up to hate crimes and acts of violence by the neo-Nazi movement in the Pacific Northwest. While this brutal slaying happened 30 years ago, it remains fresh in the minds of many who lived through that time and for people who still experience discrimination and hate today.

Mulugeta's path to our country mirrors those of so many others who came to America. He came to the United States seeking an education. A college student in Portland, he worked multiple jobs and remitted money to Ethiopia to support his son, Henock.