

of Wolf Point High School, and the principal at Northside Elementary School. Now she is the 6-12 principal in Whitehall.

Last year, Hannah was named Montana Principal of the Year, and now Hannah is one of three finalists for the 2019 National Principal of the Year.

In addition to Hannah's career devoted to education, Hannah has a passion for serving Montana veterans. After Kelly was severely wounded while serving in Iraq, Hannah began volunteering to help other veterans in the community navigate the VA. Hannah even earned a law degree to be better prepared to assist Kelly and other veterans struggling with the VA.

Hannah currently serves as the Montana Dole Fellow, where she advocates on behalf of Montana's military families. She has great pride in calling Montana home, and we are lucky to have her.

She has made a lasting impact on her community and the entire State, both through her service to our veterans and by shaping our future generations in the school system.

I congratulate Hannah on all of her success and look forward to seeing all that she will accomplish for Montana in the future.

TANF

Mr. President, once widely viewed as successful, our Nation's primary welfare-to-work program is now broken. It will soon expire. I rise to highlight my efforts to get it working again.

The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program—it is also called TANF—was created with bipartisan support back in 1996. In fact, at its core, it recognized that finding and maintaining a job is the most effective way for healthy, working-age parents to go from government dependency to self-sufficiency.

After TANF became law, welfare caseloads plummeted, child poverty declined, and employment among low-income, never-married parents went up.

As we debate modernizing the TANF Program, we should not forget the doom and the gloom predicted by some liberals when the original 1996 reforms were debated. Perhaps most famously, our former colleague, Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, predicted that TANF would result "in children sleeping on grates, picked up in the morning frozen."

Let me tell you something: Those critics were wrong—very wrong.

Yet more than 20 years after the historic 1996 reforms, we should be clear-eyed that the TANF Program suffers from neglect and loopholes, both of which are undercutting its fundamental work requirements.

Today, very few States are meeting the work participation rate that is required by law. My State of Montana is one of the many that is falling short. The law calls for 50 percent of welfare enrollees to be engaged in work. In Montana, they are reaching only one-third.

In addition, many States are using TANF dollars for purposes unrelated to work, and the program lacks the transparency and the accountability metrics that are critical to its success. Because of these shortfalls, too many low-income parents are not finding sustainable jobs, and too many children are at high risk of suffering the hardships of poverty.

Part of the problem is that TANF has been significantly reformed only once since President Clinton signed it into law. In 2006, Congress reauthorized and strengthened the program, thanks to the hard work of then-Finance Committee Chairman CHUCK GRASSLEY and his Republican counterparts in the House. Since its expiration in 2010, however, TANF has received a whopping—this is so DC—24 short-term reauthorizations. Talk about kicking the can down the road. Efforts to address the persisting concerns about the program have not crossed the finish line. This must change.

For starters, revitalizing TANF is important to sustaining our most robust economy. Right now, there are 7 million job openings that remain unfilled—7 million job openings that are unfilled. The good news is that employers across our country are clearly looking to hire, jobs are being created, and the economy is strong. But as my good friend, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman KEVIN BRADY, has said: "We have gone from a country asking, 'Where are the jobs?' to one asking, 'Where are the workers?'"

A big part of the answer is that millions of able-bodied, working-age Americans are completely on the sidelines. A strong, revitalized TANF Program is urgently needed to close this jobs gap and empower more Americans to find work. This is exactly what my bill, the JOBS Act, would do.

Building on legislation that passed the Ways and Means Committee earlier this year in the House, the JOBS Act demands positive work outcomes rather than simply meeting ineffective participation rules. It requires States to engage with every work-eligible individual and establish a plan that will result in a sustainable job. It holds States accountable for their work outcomes, not activities—we are talking about outcomes, about results—and it bolsters the transparency of every State's performance.

It doesn't just demand work; it enables work. It substantially increases funding for childcare services that would be essential to holding a job. It provides struggling beneficiaries with additional time to get the mental health or substance abuse treatment they need before holding a job and making that a realistic goal. It adds apprenticeship as a permissible work activity, alongside job training, getting more education, and building job readiness skills.

My bill targets funds to truly needy families by capping participation to families with incomes below 200 percent of the Federal poverty level.

The JOBS Act is built on the recognition that there is dignity in work. A job can start low-income parents down the path toward achieving lifelong dreams. A job can create opportunities that are simply out of reach without one. A job can be the springboard to higher wages and upward mobility. A job can rescue young children from the challenges of poverty and despair. In short, finding sustainable work can create better lives for low-income parents and children alike.

Last, my bill extends marriage promotion and fatherhood initiatives because healthy, intact families are also part of the solution.

There are approximately 4,000 families in Montana who are currently on TANF. Over 90 percent of them are from single-parent or zero-parent homes.

I cannot speak more highly of the single families and the extended family members who are tirelessly taking care of their children on TANF. But we should continue to encourage voluntary participation in local marriage support programs; we should continue to encourage fathers to step forward and be the men that their children strongly need. The reason is simple: Healthy families remain the bedrock to strong communities and a flourishing society.

The JOBS Act equips and empowers low-income families toward a better future.

I urge my colleagues to reclaim the bipartisanship that created historic reforms a generation ago and support this important legislation to make our largest welfare-to-work program actually work again.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

RIGHT REBATE ACT OF 2018

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I raise an important issue for my colleagues that impacts many families in Iowa but also throughout the country. You hear it everywhere. It is about high prescription drug costs. I am not going to address that issue across the board, but I am going to do it in a narrow way for one part of it.

One contributing factor that has played a part in how much money the government and taxpayers pay for some drugs is a government program called the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program.

On Tuesday I introduced bipartisan legislation with Senator WYDEN of Oregon. The bill, called the Right Rebate Act of 2018, would close a loophole in that program that causes the problem I am addressing.

As a condition for participation in the Medicaid Program, drug companies must pay a rebate—or some people might call it a discount—to the Federal Government and to the various States for the drugs they offer. Generally speaking, the rebate dollar amount is less for a generic drug than for a brand-name drug.

The rebate program hasn't worked as designed. Some drug companies have been able to game the system to boost their bottom line, and they do so at taxpayers' expense. Some drug companies have paid smaller rebates to the government. When that happens, that means taxpayers are footing a bigger burden.

One example, in particular, highlights the main issues we aim to solve with this legislation.

During the Obama administration—it could have been a Republican administration as well—because of the problems in this program, Iowans regularly contacted me by phone, email, and at my annual 99 county meetings about the difficulties they faced paying the rapidly rising prices of EpiPen. EpiPen is an emergency medicine used to treat severe, life-threatening allergic reactions. EpiPen is distributed by a company called Mylan. In 2007 a pack of two EpiPens cost \$100. By 2016, the cost of that two-pack of EpiPens exploded to more than \$600. That is a very substantial price increase. Nobody is going to argue with that. Many would argue that it is an unjustified price increase, especially considering the gut punch to taxpayers who foot the lions' share of the Medicaid bill for families. They happen to be families in need. I listened to the concerns of my constituents and began an investigation about how the drug rebate program was working.

In a nutshell, Mylan had classified the EpiPen as a generic drug in the Medicaid Program, when it should have been classified as a brand drug. That means Mylan misclassified EpiPen, and CMS let it happen.

Because of this incorrect classification, Mylan paid a much smaller rebate than it should have. I asked the Health and Human Services inspector general to look into these classification practices. The inspector general found that taxpayers may have overpaid for the EpiPen by as much as \$1.3 billion over 10 years because of the incorrect classification. Eventually, Mylan settled a False Claims Act case with the Justice Department for \$465 million.

Now, don't ask me why the Justice Department didn't go after the other probably \$700 million. I don't know, and I haven't found out why, but upon learning of that settlement, I expressed my disappointment that it didn't seem that taxpayers had been made whole. That is quite obvious, right?

We shouldn't have had to depend on lawyers and lawsuits to get the taxpayers' money back. This deception should never have happened in the first place. That is common sense. Government Agencies should have, as an initial matter, been responsibly overseeing the programs they are in charge of.

Because of insufficient attention to the problem by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services—or CMS, as I have been using—Mylan escaped accountability for a long period of time,

costing taxpayers hundreds of millions—eventually billions—of dollars.

But it is not just Mylan, and it is not just EpiPen. In a December 2017 report, the inspector general found that 885 drugs may have been potentially misclassified. Specifically, the inspector general found that, from 2012 to 2016, Medicaid may have lost \$1.30 billion in rebates for 10 potentially misclassified drugs with the highest total reimbursement.

So where do we go from here? It is clear that the law must change to provide clarity. So let's establish clear lines of authority to hold the government bureaucracy and also the private sector accountable. Taxpayers demand and deserve accountability. Simply said, accountability will bring cost savings.

The Right Rebate Act, which Senator WYDEN and I introduced, will shut down this loophole used by drug companies. This legislation will prevent the misclassification of drugs in the first place and protect taxpayer dollars. It does this by requiring CMS to enforce penalties on drug companies that knowingly misclassify drugs in the Medicaid Program.

The legislation also provides remedies for States that are shortchanged by drug companies. It requires an annual report to Congress by CMS to make sure the Agency is doing all it can to protect taxpayer dollars and to keep drug expenditures down.

This is commonsense legislation. It would close a loophole used by drug companies to keep prices artificially high—much higher than they should be—and it grants the Secretary of HHS the authority to properly enforce the law.

The Right Rebate Act is only one step in the fight against high prescription drug costs, but it is the right step, and there are a lot of other steps that must be taken. I look forward to working with Senator WYDEN in the 116th Congress on many issues important to Americans, including the high cost of prescription drugs.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

ROBERT MUELLER

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about not the Mueller investigation as much as I want to talk about Robert Mueller himself because of the substantial responsibility that he has, and I think it is important for us to remind ourselves, as well as to remind our country, about his service at a time when he has often been attacked by folks in Washington.

When I think of an individual like Robert Mueller, I think of two words: "public service"—or maybe just one word: "service." He was inspired, as many people know, to become a marine

by one of his friends from the college lacrosse team he was on. This man's name was David Hackett, and he later died on the battlefield of Vietnam.

Mr. Mueller said in a speech:

One would have thought that the life of a Marine, and David's death in Vietnam, would argue strongly against following in his footsteps. But many of us saw in him the person we wanted to be. And a number of his friends, teammates, and associates joined the Marine Corps because of him, as did I.

So said Robert Mueller about his friend David Hackett.

To paraphrase the words of President Kennedy, Robert Mueller didn't join the Marine Corps because it was easy; he joined because it was hard. While many of his peers were seeking to avoid the horrors of the Vietnam conflict and the combat in Vietnam, Robert Mueller volunteered to face those horrors. That sense of duty is the essence of public service.

Robert Mueller enlisted in the Marines just a few weeks after graduating from Princeton in 1966 and went through the demanding programs of the Army's Ranger School and Airborne School. He then spent a year in combat on the ground in the jungles of Vietnam, leading an infantry platoon. The Washington Post described the conditions the regiment faced as a "hellscape" of "bloody jungle warfare." It was under these difficult circumstances that Mr. Mueller received the Bronze Star for "heroic achievement" after leading his fellow marines through an 8-hour battle where, under enemy fire, "Second Lieutenant Mueller fearlessly moved from one position to another, directing the accurate counterfire of his men and shouting words of encouragement to them. . . . [H]e then skillfully supervised the evacuation of casualties from the hazardous fire area."

Just 4 months later, he was shot in the leg when he responded to an ambush by enemy forces. He received the Navy Commendation Medal with a citation praising him for rushing to save his fellow marines while "completely disregarding his own safety."

That sense of serving a cause larger than himself is what led Robert Mueller to enlist in the Marines and what led him later to apply to law school so he could continue serving the country through our system of justice. He served in the U.S. States Attorney's Offices and the Justice Department for years, working his way up the chain of command and earning a reputation as a dogged and fair prosecutor committed to enforcing the rule of law.

In 2001, he was confirmed unanimously by this body to serve as FBI Director and subsequently led the FBI's response to the September 11 attacks. In 2011, as his 10-year term was set to end, we in the Senate at that time voted 100 to 0 to extend his term until 2013.

Mr. Mueller has not only earned the respect of public officials he has worked with, he has maintained that