

Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 required the Department of Health and Human Services to submit a report to Congress within 2 years after the legislation was signed into law.

The HELP Committee has two reports from the Department submitted to Congress dated May 4, 1988, and July 21, 1989.

I would like to ask for unanimous consent that the reports be submitted into the committee record so that they can be more accessible to the public.

THE OPIOID CRISIS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that a copy of my opening statement at the Senate Health Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

MANAGING PAIN DURING THE OPIOID CRISIS

Mr. ALEXANDER. The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions will please come to order. Senator Murray and I will each have an opening statement, and then we will introduce the witnesses. After the witnesses' testimony, senators will each have 5 minutes of questions.

Dan, a constituent of mine who lives in Maryville, Tennessee, recently wrote me about his wife, who has a rare disease that causes her chronic pain. Dan is concerned because it has become more difficult for her to access painkillers. Dan wrote, "She is not an abuser, and is doing everything right. Now it's harder for her to get the medicine she needs."

Dan's wife is one out of 100 million Americans who, according to a 2011 report by what was then the Institute of Medicine, now the National Academy of Medicine, are living with some pain—that is about 30 percent of Americans. 25 million of those have moderate or severe pain.

A new report released in 2018, from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, says that about 50 million Americans have chronic pain, and nearly 20 million of those Americans have high-impact chronic pain.

Here is the reality: we are engaged in a massive effort to make dramatic reductions in the supply and use of opioids—the most effective painkiller we have. But on the theory that every action has an unintended consequence, we want to make sure that as we deal with the opioid crisis, we keep in mind those people that are hurting.

We are holding this hearing to better understand the causes of pain, how we can improve care for patients with pain, and where we are on developing new medicines and ways to treat pain.

We know that pain is one of the most frequent reasons people see a doctor, and, according to the Mayo Clinic, the number of adults in the United States with pain is higher than the number of people with diabetes, heart disease, and cancer combined. These Americans need more effective ways than opioids or other addictive painkillers to manage pain. Opioids, which are commonly used to treat pain, can lead to addiction and overdose. More than 70,000 Americans died from drug overdoses last year, including prescription opioids, making it the biggest public health crisis in our country.

Last year, Congress passed comprehensive opioid legislation to combat this crisis, which President Trump called "the single largest bill to combat a drug crisis in the history of our country."

Our legislation included more than 70 ideas from 72 Senators, and eight committees in the House and five Committees in the Senate that included: Reauthorizing training pro-

grams for doctors and nurses who prescribe treatments for pain; increasing access to behavioral and mental health providers; and encouraging the use of blister packs for opioids, such as a 3 or 7-day supply, and safe ways of disposing unused drugs.

We also took steps to ensure our new law wouldn't make life harder for patients with pain, but now we need to take the next step to try to find new ways to help them: first—we gave the National Institutes of Health more flexibility and authority to spur research and development of new non-addictive painkillers. We also asked the Food and Drug Administration to provide guidance for those developing new non-addictive painkillers to help get them to patients more quickly. I'm pleased to see Commissioner Gottlieb's announcement this morning that the agency is developing new guidances on how FDA evaluates the risks and the benefits of new opioid treatments for patients with pain and to help the development of non-opioid treatments for pain.

Sam Quinones, a witness at one of our hearings, called new non-addictive painkillers the "holy grail" to solving the opioid crisis. We have backed up those new authorities with substantial funding—most recently \$500 million to help the National Institutes of Health find a new nonaddictive painkiller.

Second, we included provisions to encourage new pain management strategies, such as physical therapy. Third, the new law requires experts to study chronic pain and report to the Director of the NIH how patients can better manage their pain. And fourth, the new law requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to report the impact on pain patients that Federal and State laws and regulations that limit the length, quantity, or dosage of opioid prescriptions.

Now that we have started to turn the train around and head in a different direction on the use of opioids, everyone—doctors, nurses, insurers, and patients—will need to think about the different ways we should treat and manage pain. There are other things the federal government is doing to better understand what causes pain and how we treat and manage it.

For example, the National Pain Strategy, developed by the Interagency Pain Research Coordinating Committee, which develops recommendations to prevent, treat, manage, and research pain. Through the National Institute on Drug Abuse and the National Institutes of Health's HEAL Initiative, researchers are working to better understand pain and why some people experience it differently than others. This will help us find more ways to more effectively treat pain and help get people the treatment they need.

For example—physical therapy or exercise may be the best course of treatment for some kinds of back pain. It may also help us understand why some people can take opioids to manage their pain for years without becoming addicted, while others more easily become addicted.

Today, I hope to hear about how close are we to having a non-addictive painkiller, and how doctors and nurses can better treat people with pain.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

• Ms. ERNST. Madam President, today I wish to honor Mr. William "Bill" Armstrong of Mount Ayr, IA. Bill is a lifelong Iowan and outgoing president of the Iowa Funeral Directors Association.

Bill Armstrong has served as one of the most effective advocates for both Iowa morticians and morticians across the country for almost 40 years. He graduated from Dallas Institute of Mortuary Science in 1984 and soon after moved to his current hometown of Mount Ayr, where he accepted a position as a funeral director at Wilson-Watson Funeral Home. His journey was only just beginning.

In remarkably short order, he achieved partnership at the funeral home and ultimately acquired the business from Jay and Donna Watson in 2009, officially making the funeral home, Armstrong Funeral Homes.

This prompted Bill to become an outspoken leader for current and future funeral professionals. He proudly represented morticians on both the local and national level by pioneering annual trips to both Des Moines and to Washington, DC, in order to raise awareness about the profession.

Bill was always forward looking, with a singular objective of training the next generation of funeral home leaders. He worked with the University of Northern Iowa to establish a 4-year degree program for mortuary studies.

These are all amazing accomplishments, and I want to thank Bill again for his service and for helping Iowans through their most difficult life moments. I wish him success in his new endeavors. •

RECOGNIZING BBQGUYS

• Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, as a member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, it is my privilege to recognize a veteran-owned Louisiana small business that has not only grown and succeeded but has also steadfastly remained dedicated to their customers, employees, and community. This week, it is my honor to name BBQGuys of Baton Rouge, LA as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1998, Mike Hackley began what has been an American entrepreneurial success story. After serving over 10 years in the U.S. Air Force and working in the real estate and retail sectors, Mike followed his passion of outdoor living and started his own business, opening a retail location called The Grill Store & More. Recognizing the potential that ecommerce had early on, he founded bbqguys.com in 2001. He started out with single-digit employees. Today, BBQGuys has grown to become one of the largest outdoor living online retailers in the world, employing nearly 300.

With the success of the retail operations, Mike continued growing his business, founding Blaze Grill, and began to design and manufacture premium barbecue grills with manufacturing operations in the United States. In just a few years, Blaze is already one of the top grill manufacturers in the market.

Even with BBQGuys' growth and success, Mike continues to prioritize his

employees, making an effort to say good morning every day to team members and maintaining an open-door policy for all. Mike believes in treating his employees like family—a belief he extends to his customers. This culture of hospitality has ultimately resulted in high employee retention and a reputation for outstanding customer service. BBQGuys has been named as one of the Best Places to Work several times by the Greater Baton Rouge Business Report and achieved an A+ rating from the Better Business Bureau. BBQGuys has also been named one of the 5,000 Fastest Growing Businesses in the U.S. by Inc. Magazine for 11 consecutive years. BBQGuys is also involved in the Baton Rouge community, participating in several local community activities including Toys for Tots, the Youth Oasis Children's Center, LifeShare Blood Center, and Friends of the Animals of Baton Rouge.

BBQGuys is a true representation of the American dream—following a passion, committing to hard work, treating people—customers and employees—with the utmost respect, and growing a very small business of single-digit employees into a leading global business that is constantly innovating. It is my distinct pleasure to honor Mike and the entire team at BBQGuys as the U.S. Senate Small Business of the Week. I commend them for their service to the Baton Rouge community and look forward to watching their continued growth and success. BBQGuys, you make Louisiana proud.●

175TH ANNIVERSARY OF OLIVET COLLEGE

• Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, today I wish to pay special tribute to Olivet College in Eaton County, which this year is celebrating 175 years of educating the people of Michigan.

Let's think back to 1844. Michigan had been a State for only 7 years. The very first women's rights convention at Seneca Falls in New York was still 4 years away, and it would be another 19 years before President Lincoln would sign the Emancipation Proclamation.

It was an era marked by gender and racial inequality; yet a group of leaders led by "Father" John J. Shipherd had a different vision: a college founded on the values of inclusion, mutual respect, honesty, and integrity, a Christian institution where neither gender, nor race, nor lack of financial resources would prevent people from attaining an education.

This was a radical idea. Coeducation—women and men learning alongside one another in the same classrooms—was rare at the time, so was admitting Black students alongside White students and poor students alongside the affluent.

It was so controversial, in fact, that Olivet College wasn't formally chartered by the State until 1859. Then in 1863, in the midst of the Civil War, the college honored its first graduating

class: Mary N. Barber, Sara Benedict, and Sophia A. Keys.

One hundred seventy-five years later, a lot has changed, but Olivet College's core values remain the same.

Those values include diversity. Comets come from all across Michigan and the United States and nine other nations around the world. Half are the first person in their families to go to college, and half come from low-income families. About 1 in 3 Comets are students of color.

Those values include inclusivity. That is a special focus of the Olivet College Women's Leadership Institute, which helps young women from middle school through college recognize and cultivate their unique strengths and abilities and become Michigan's and America's next generation of leaders.

Those values include community. Comets aren't just responsible for their own education. Whether they are sharing perspectives in the classroom, working together to score a goal on the soccer field, or combining their voices in the Olivet College Gospel Choir, students are committed to the growth of others.

Those values include service; 100 percent of Comets take part in service learning, where students use what they have learned in the classroom to solve real-life problems both in the community and around the world. Just as it did in 1844, Olivet College understands that the future of humanity rests in the hands, hearts, and minds of those who will accept responsibility for themselves and others.

The founders of Olivet College once wrote this: "We wish simply to do good to our students, by placing in their hands the means of intellectual, moral and spiritual improvement, and to teach them the divine art and science of doing good to others."

Doing good to others—since 1844, Olivet College has been doing just that. Congratulations to students, faculty, staff, and alumni on your first 175 years.

Thank you.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:09 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 91. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assess sanitation and safety conditions at Bureau of Indian Affairs facilities that were constructed to provide affected Columbia River Treaty tribes access to traditional fishing grounds and expend funds on construction of facilities and structures to improve those conditions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 317. An act to reaffirm the action of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the benefit of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1222. An act to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to facilitate the establishment of additional or expanded public target ranges in certain States.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 451 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (Public Law 113-128) and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the National Council on Disability: Mr. James T. Brett of Dorchester, Massachusetts.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 2 of the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715a), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission: Mr. Wittman of Virginia.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as amended, and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term expiring on December 31, 2020: Mr. Jeffrey L. Fiedler of La Quinta, California.

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 7002, the Minority Leader appoints the following member to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: Mr. Andreas Borgeas of Fresno, California.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 91. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to assess sanitation and safety conditions at Bureau of Indian Affairs facilities that were constructed to provide affected Columbia River Treaty tribes access to traditional fishing grounds and expend funds on construction of facilities and structures to improve those conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

H.R. 317. An act to reaffirm the action of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for the benefit of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians, and for