

June. Health and Human Services has finalized its rule to require price disclosure on TV ads for prescription drugs. Price transparency is a critical remedy to help cure the high cost of prescription drugs in America. These regulations will help toward that. It is not a final solution.

Final solutions are going to come in bipartisan and bicameral legislation that we are going to consider later this year. Just to throw out a compliment to Senator DURBIN of Illinois, because he and I worked on this very subject that Senator Azar announced a solution for by regulation, we tried to get this in a requirement in legislation that went to the President last year. We did get it through the U.S. Senate. It did not get through the House of Representatives. Secretary Azar found, through reading laws we passed many years ago, that he had the authority to do what the House of Representatives a year ago didn't have guts enough to do—take on the pharmaceutical companies—because they opposed the Durbin-Grassley amendment. Now it has been done as a result of regulation by Secretary Azar, which is the direct result of instructions given to Secretary Azar by President Trump back in June of last year that we have to do something to reduce drug prices.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). The Senator from New Hampshire.

WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, as Mother's Day approaches, I rise to join my Democratic colleagues in sharing our constituents' stories about the importance of protecting women's access to healthcare.

No matter where they live and no matter their economic status, women in our country deserve access to comprehensive preventive care and family planning services that will enable them to stay healthy and to thrive. We know centers like Planned Parenthood have made a huge difference in the lives of the women they serve. My office recently heard from a woman named Ashley from Hooksett, who said:

I am safe, healthy, and educated thanks to Planned Parenthood.

She continues speaking about Planned Parenthood:

When I was fifteen, they were there to help me understand the changes that my body was going through and provide me with the information I needed to keep myself healthy and protected.

Throughout the rest of my teenage years, I have trusted Planned Parenthood to provide me with all of my routine healthcare procedures.

Ashley continues:

In more desperate times, they were there to explain my options and support my decisions with anonymity and compassion.

Ashley goes on to say:

I am deeply concerned about the Title 10 gag rule and the implications it may have on my getting the care I need.

I'm thankful for elected officials who are fighting back and speaking out for me and

the thousands of people like me who deserve access to quality, affordable care, no matter their income or zip code.

Ashley's story is one of thousands that speak to the importance of title X-supported health centers, including Planned Parenthood, which are a major source of preventive care and reproductive health services, including cancer screenings, birth control, HIV and STI tests, and counseling services.

In New Hampshire, title X-funded centers deliver care to nearly 18,000 Granite Staters annually, and title X-supported Planned Parenthood centers serve 60 percent of those 18,000 Granite Staters. This is why the Trump administration's actions to discriminate against providers and to cut investments in family planning clinics are so dangerous, and it is why we have to keep fighting for women like Ashley, who are rightfully concerned about this constant barrage of attacks on healthcare.

I am going to continue standing with my Democratic colleagues on behalf of women's constitutionally protected rights and against the Trump administration's partisan attacks on women's access to healthcare.

NOMINATION OF JANET DHILLON

Mr. President, I rise to express my disappointment about the confirmation earlier today of Janet Dhillon to the position of Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, EEOC.

In December, I joined Senator MURRAY on the floor to express my concern about the fact that Republicans were blocking a well-qualified nominee, Chai Feldblum, to the EEOC.

The EEOC is a vital and bipartisan agency that enforces workers' civil rights and helps protect them from harassment and discrimination while they are on the job. The EEOC has long operated with bipartisan support and requires a quorum of its five members to decide the cases before the agency, cases which include racial discrimination, gender discrimination, age discrimination, and the discrimination against people who experience disabilities.

The partisan obstruction of the Feldblum nomination marked a significant break in precedent for how we nominate members to this Board, and the administration still has not nominated a replacement for Ms. Feldblum. The Senate should not have moved forward until that happened.

It is also clear that Ms. Dhillon would not fulfill the duties that the EEOC is entrusted with, particularly with protecting workers and ensuring that members of the LGBTQ community are not discriminated against. Ms. Dhillon has served as a leader of the Retail Litigation Center, which has long opposed pro-consumer and pro-employee policies.

Additionally, during her nomination hearing before the HELP Committee, Ms. Dhillon would not commit to maintaining the current EEOC position that the Civil Rights Act forbids employ-

ment discrimination based on gender identity or sexual orientation, saying "that current law is in flux."

For a Commission that is tasked with enhancing workers' rights and protections, we cannot have a nominee with a record of putting corporations first and who is unwilling to ensure that LGBTQ people are not discriminated against in the workplace.

I oppose this nomination, and I am disappointed that more of my colleagues did not do the same.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, this coming Sunday, mothers and other special women who are mother figures and caregivers for our children across the country will be honored for the important work they do to nuture the next generation.

Many moms will receive cards and flowers. Some will enjoy breakfast in bed or dinner out. A few lucky ones might get plaster handprints or handmade mugs—I love those. These gifts, no matter what they are, will be treasured because when it comes right down to it, all moms really want are a couple of things. They want their children to be happy, and they want their children to be healthy.

Unfortunately, thanks to this administration's continuing attacks on our healthcare, a lot of mothers can no longer count on that. Just ask Rachel whose daughter Alice was born in Detroit with a heart condition called Shone's complex. When Alice was only 1 day old, she had her first open heart surgery. Think about that. She was 1 day old. Four years later, she has an artificial heart valve, a love of dancing, and the biggest grin you have ever seen. She also has what the insurance companies call a preexisting condition. She will have to take heart medication for the rest of her life.

Alice's mom, Rachel, writes:

Her hospital stays and medications cost well over a million dollars—closer to two million. Without the (Affordable Care Act), our family would be bankrupt, worrying about how to pay for her life-saving medications.

No mom should have to worry about going bankrupt because her child was born with a heart condition. It could happen to any of us. No family should go broke paying for the medication that is keeping their child alive. Alice deserves better, and Alice's mom deserves better too.

I have said it before, and I will say it over and over again: Healthcare is personal. It is not political. We should be working across the aisle to expand access to care, improve quality, reduce costs, and we should be doing something to resolve the maternal and infant mortality crisis that is happening right now in the United States of America so Mother's Day is a day of joy instead of a day of sorrow.

Instead, we find ourselves fighting an administration that will not stop trying to take away the protections that

people like Alice count on and that thousands, millions across the country count on. In fact, the U.S. Department of Justice last month agreed with a Federal judge in Texas who said the entire Affordable Care Act must be struck down, and that includes coverage for those with preexisting conditions.

Not to be outdone, the Senate Republicans passed a budget resolution out of committee that includes repeal of the Affordable Care Act with no replacement. What would that mean for Michigan families? Our Healthy Michigan Program that provides healthcare to more than 650,000 Michiganders, gone. Children staying on their parents insurance until age 26, gone. Lower drug prices for seniors, gone. Protections for people with preexisting conditions, gone. That would be horrible news for Alice and every other Michigan child born with a heart condition or any other health challenge.

So what is the Republican alternative to the ACA? They don't have one, but don't worry. President Trump says Republicans will unveil a "really great" healthcare plan after the 2020 election—after the 2020 election.

In the meantime, the Affordable Care Act could be struck down in the courts, with the support of the Trump administration, and Alice and her mom could really be out of luck.

In honor of Mother's Day, here is what we should be doing together. We should reaffirm the Affordable Care Act's protections for Alice and all people with preexisting conditions. We should, once again, guarantee that every insurance plan covers prenatal and maternity care—by the way, instead of the junk plans the administration is approving right now that don't cover prenatal and maternity care. We should also strengthen healthcare for moms and babies through the Children's Health Insurance Program and Medicaid, which cover about half of the births in our country.

A few years ago, the Finance Committee reported out a bipartisan bill that I led with Senator GRASSLEY. It was called the Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act. This bill would create a set of maternal and infant quality care measures in the Children's Health Insurance Program and Medicaid. The goal is simple: improving maternal and infant health outcomes.

It is amazing that we don't have uniform quality health standards across the country. The Quality Care for Moms and Babies Act will help make sure that every mom gets the best pregnancy care possible and every baby gets a healthy start. That is what we should be passing.

In America today, that is, unfortunately, not the case. Our maternal mortality rate is climbing. African-American women are three times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than are other American women, and our infant mortality rate ranks a shameful 32 among the world's

35 wealthiest nations—32 out of 35 in our great country.

We need to change this so more moms and their children will enjoy a happy Mother's Day. Moms like Rachel shouldn't be spending their Mother's Day worrying about what will happen to their children if the Republicans succeed in undoing the Affordable Care Act.

In thinking back on Alice's diagnosis, Rachel said:

I cannot express how stressful and gut-wrenching a time this was for my family. I am thankful every day for the Affordable Care Act.

Moms deserve more than flowers and a card. They deserve the peace of mind that comes from knowing their children are born as healthy as possible and will have the healthcare coverage they need. Our moms gave us life. This Mother's Day, let's pay it forward.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TILLIS. 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 ELLIS "REED" PARLIER AND RILEY HOWELL

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I come here with a heavy heart.

On April 30, at 4:40 p.m., a shooting occurred in the Kennedy Building on the campus of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. It is a college campus. It is only about 15 minutes from my house. The shooting occurred on the last day of classes. When a lot of family members and friends were thinking about graduation and thinking about what they were going to do over the summer, their lives were shattered. I am here to celebrate the lives of two of the victims.

Before I do that, I thank all of the first responders and the people on campus who did an extraordinary job. The first among them would be Chancellor Dubois, and there are so many more first responders.

What makes this particularly difficult for me is the loss of life of two young men—one who was 19, Ellis "Reed" Parlier, and Riley Howell, who was 21 years old. These kids were in school.

One, Ellis, enrolled in 2017. He loved video games. He wanted to be a video game developer. He was a volunteer. He actually tutored middle schoolers on computer programming. His professor described him as independent and motivated.

Another young man, Riley, who has an extraordinary story within this horrible act, enrolled in UNC Charlotte in 2018. He had gone to A-B Tech before that. He was in environmental studies. He loved the outdoors. He loved Star Wars. He loved pizza and playing soccer. He was just a normal kid who was

going to college. He was also enrolled in the ROTC at UNC Charlotte. What makes his story extraordinary are the accounts from police officers. If you understand the Kennedy Building, there are a lot of people around and a lot of classrooms. There are a lot of potential victims. This young man actually charged the gunman. Although he lost his own life, most police credit him with saving the lives of so many more.

So, on this sad day that we will never forget—the day of April 30—I come before this body to let them know and their families know that we are praying for them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, typically, when we talk about Federal employees or a Federal Agency, the story starts something like this. There was a mixup in paperwork for our constituent who had Social Security Administration retirement benefits. She ended up not having Part B Medicare coverage until later, and there was a lapse in coverage.

Everyone gets frustrated over the mixup, the dropped paperwork, the problem, and they never hear the story of Amber Craft, who works in the Tulsa Social Security office. She chased the whole issue down. She did everything possible with the payment center to get inputs switched on the Medicare application and ended up getting the constituent's coverage to begin in the desired month to be able to get them taken care of. They were taken care of on their medical bills because a Federal employee saw the gap, ran to the need, and helped somebody in our State.

This is Public Service Recognition Week, and I want to take a little bit of time because in this body, as with many people in the Nation, we catch ourselves at times complaining more than we praise. There are a lot of people who are scattered around the Nation right now serving their neighbors as Federal employees. We have a lot of those in Oklahoma, and there are some pretty remarkable folks who are my neighbors whom I get the opportunity to meet with.

There are over 93,000 Federal employees, both active and retired, both Federal and on the Postal Service side—93,000 just in my State in Oklahoma—and that doesn't include the many teachers, firefighters, first responders, and other folks who work with public agencies on the city, State, and county levels as well. We are grateful to those folks because they make an incredible difference.

There are folks like Martha Gibson, who works in the VA center in Muskogee. She works in the benefits office, taking care of trying to get benefits for our veterans when there are problems—and there have been problems at times. Martha works incredibly