

business for up to 5 minutes, and that following my remarks, Senator ROSEN be recognized to speak as in morning business for as much time as she may consume.

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

WELCOMING SENATOR ROSEN OF NEVADA

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Thank you, Madam President. I come to the floor today to honor my colleague and dear friend, Senator JACKY ROSEN, as she prepares to deliver her maiden speech in this Chamber.

Senator ROSEN has spent her career pushing boundaries and advocating for innovation and inclusivity. She is bringing that vision to the U.S. Senate, where she has already proved herself to be a strong advocate for Nevadans by fighting to bolster our State's tech industries, supporting our veterans, and protecting Nevadans' healthcare.

When JACKY was elected to the Senate, we sat down and talked about how we could best serve Nevada together. We requested different committee assignments so we could be sure we were covering all the issue areas that are important to Nevadans. We made sure our staffs were connected and working together on projects, not only in DC but in the great Silver State of Nevada.

We committed to coming together every Wednesday morning in DC to welcome Nevadans to the Capitol and hear their stories. Those Wednesday morning constituent coffees are one of the highlights, I think, of both of our weeks. Anyone lucky enough to work with JACKY knows that she works tirelessly to build consensus and find solutions that help better the lives of Nevada families. I am honored to work beside her every day to serve the people of Nevada. I am proud to call her my friend, and I want to congratulate her on making her maiden speech this morning. I look forward to this and to many more as we continue to fight together for the Silver State.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

MAIDEN SPEECH

Ms. ROSEN. Madam President, I thank Senator CORTEZ MASTO for that great introduction.

I am honored and humbled to address this distinguished body as the newest Senator from the great State of Nevada and to stand alongside an exceptional group of colleagues with a shared commitment to public service. I am especially honored to hold this seat, as it once belonged to a great Nevada public servant, Senator Richard Bryan. Senator Bryan served in just about every position in government, from assemblyman to Governor. He worked tirelessly to advance civil rights, empower women in government, and defend Nevada's public lands. I am so honored to carry his values with me to move Nevada forward.

As I take up this mantle in the Senate, I am prepared to continue Senator Bryan's legacy and work for Nevadans,

while also building toward a legacy of our own. I stand here as Nevada's 28th Senator and, for the first time in history, as one of two women to represent our State in the Senate. I am proud to be part of such an incredible movement of strong, passionate, trailblazing women like Senator CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO, who became the first female Senator to represent the great State of Nevada and the first Latina elected to serve in the Senate.

Everywhere, we are seeing women who are stepping up to lead, and I am thrilled to have the chance to empower women who are looking to break barriers along the way. By bringing more women to the decision-making table, we can open doors and make progress on issues that affect us and our hard-working families on a daily basis. When women put their minds together, there is no new ground we cannot break, and there is no glass ceiling we cannot shatter.

I stand here today to share my vision for how we can work together—on both sides of the aisle—to lay down a framework for progress because Nevadans and Americans everywhere are counting on us to go above and beyond, to overcome obstacles before us, and to find commonsense, forward-thinking solutions for the challenges of this new era—challenges like immigration reform, which protects our Dreamers and TPS recipients; challenges like a changing 21st century economy and climate change; and, of course, an issue that is so important to hard-working families everywhere, the challenge of access to affordable, quality healthcare.

Before I discuss where we are going, let me tell you just a bit about where I come from—my values and the ways in which my story has helped to shape who I am and how it will shape who I will be as Nevada's newest Senator.

I am the proud granddaughter of immigrants and a first-generation college graduate who worked my way through college waiting tables. Yes, I am a former member of the Culinary Workers Union, and I saved my tips in envelopes to pay for that college tuition. I am a computer programmer and a systems analyst who worked my way up in what has been long considered a male-dominated industry.

I am a wife to my husband Larry, a radiologist, whom I can always count on to be by my side. I am a mother to my wonderful daughter Miranda, whom I am so proud of and who inspires me every day to build a better future for our country.

I am a former president of my synagogue—the largest synagogue in Nevada—and during my tenure, I witnessed the beauty of our country's religious diversity and how community engagement strengthens America. I also learned the importance of working together to fight against anti-Semitism, which we are seeing now, once again, rear its ugly head here at home and around the globe.

Remembering where I come from, my story, my roots, this is what guides me every day to make decisions to help working families. When it comes to issues like college affordability and education, equal pay for equal work, labor rights, combating hate and anti-Semitism, and standing up for Israel, I can speak from personal experience.

I am reminded that my story is just one of many from Las Vegas to Reno, to Searchlight, to Lovelock, and everywhere in between because I hear from Nevadans who share some of those same stories from every part of the rich, vibrant fabric that makes up our diverse State, including Latinos, Asian Americans, African Americans, Tribal communities, and beyond.

When I think of the shores of Lake Tahoe and of Lake Mead, the majestic canyons of Red Rock, the open skies across the desert, and the mountains that shine below them like jewels in the sun, I think of home. Nothing rings more true to me than saying home means Nevada to me.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN

Madam President, we are a State that was born to take on challenges. We come together from every walk of life to make cities that shine from out of the desert. We are battle born, and we are battle tested, and it is our grit, our perseverance, and our diversity that truly capture who we are. It is those same qualities that will help us change the face of our Nation.

Remembering where we come from—that philosophy—is a driving force behind my support for environmental policies that will protect our States' treasures, including our mountains, rivers, and lakes.

I am honored to represent the most beautiful State in the country, but there is one environmental issue that threatens Nevada's beautiful landscapes and the families that call our State home, and that is Yucca Mountain. Nevada has made it clear time and again that we will not become the Nation's dumping ground for nuclear waste. Yet we continue to see relentless efforts to turn our State into the Nation's sole nuclear waste repository without our consent, even after we have made our voices heard, even though Nevada does not create nuclear waste. Congress must respect our will and our rights as a State because our voice matters. I stand prepared to use every tool at my disposal to defend our State from attempts to revive this project.

I will continue to fight to keep our State beautiful by standing up for clean air and clean water, by protecting public lands and investing in clean energy, by taking real action to address climate change. I know we can leave the world a better place for future generations.

We also know there are commonsense ways to address our climate challenges, including investing in renewable energy right at home. In Nevada, solar

energy is both creating jobs and helping us to lead a way toward a clean energy future. That is why, last year in the House, I led the charge against harmful solar tariffs that threatened to roll back the progress we have made and why I introduced legislation to train our veterans for good-paying jobs—solar jobs—that can both support families and reduce our carbon footprint.

I will continue these efforts here in the Senate because our energy independence and the future of our planet should never be partisan issues.

#### HIRE STUDENT VETERANS ACT

Madam President, in Nevada, we care for one another, and we believe in looking out for one another, and that is especially true for our veterans, who make up a significant part of our State. Over 226,000 veterans call Nevada home. Our heroes in the armed services and their families risk everything—everything—to protect our Nation. One way we can honor them is by helping our heroes successfully transition to civilian life once they have completed their military service.

After talking to countless veterans and military families in Nevada, I introduced the Hire Student Veterans Act as my first bill in the Senate. This bipartisan legislation incentivizes business to hire our student vets who are currently using their benefits to study. We made a promise to take care of our veterans when they return home, and the last thing they should have to worry about is not being able to obtain a good education or a good-paying job. I know this commonsense legislation will further ensure that our student vets are on the pathway toward success and that Nevada and our Nation will benefit from their continued contributions.

#### ECONOMIC GROWTH

Madam President, in Nevada, we are leading the way; we are doing right by hard-working families in areas like clean energy and technology. As a former computer programmer, I am so excited about our State's growing tech industry, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Small Business Committee to provide our tech startups the tools they need to succeed and create jobs and on the Commerce Committee, where we are tackling important issues like cyber security and privacy and, for our rural communities, critical access to rural broadband, which they sorely need.

In all of these efforts, I look forward to bringing new stakeholders to the table because we can all gain so much insight when we listen to our constituents and we embrace bold ideas to improve their lives.

We have also grown our economy and created good-paying jobs by legalizing recreational marijuana in our State. This industry is bringing millions of dollars in revenue to Nevada. Yet our marijuana businesses continue to operate on a cash-only basis as a result of outdated Federal laws that are block-

ing their access to important financial services. We cannot expect these businesses to succeed when the Federal Government refuses to keep up with the times. That is why I am supporting bipartisan legislation to give marijuana businesses access to our banking system so that they can safely operate and continue contributing to our economy.

It is through bipartisan action that we can encourage economic growth in every corner of our State and every corner of our country.

Since coming to Congress, I have consistently made it a priority to reach across the aisle on issues where both parties can find common ground. At a time of increasing political division and partisan gridlock, it is even more important for both sides to come together, to make progress on the issues that are impacting Americans at home.

I am so proud of the work I have been able to do with my colleagues from both parties. Last Congress, I was named one of the most bipartisan freshman Members during my first term and was one of the first Democrats to be recognized with an award by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce for supporting pro-growth policies.

I will continue to take every action to fight for Nevada's hard-working families. We must act boldly, and we must do more to provide opportunities—opportunities for our children through improving education and working across the aisle to invest in our children's future.

#### BUILDING BLOCKS OF STEM ACT

Madam President, earlier this year, I introduced the Building Blocks of STEM Act. In the Senate we are going to try to make those investments in early childhood STEM education. My bipartisan, bicameral bill will give our kids the opportunities to explore STEM-related fields at an early age and set them up for success because we need a 21st century education if we hope to succeed in a 21st century economy.

It is only through robust, quality education that we can build that strong workforce that will grow our Nation's economy and ensure that our children and our Nation will ultimately succeed.

Protecting our environment and public lands, embracing clean energy, honoring America's heroes and their families, supporting economic growth, investing in our children's education, these are just a few of the ways we can work together across the aisle.

We can improve lives by listening to the voices of those who sent us here to represent us and by working together to create a healthy, educated, and economically empowered future for all and, most importantly, by agreeing everywhere we can, especially on the issues that matter most to families at home.

#### HEALTHCARE

Madam President, there is no issue that matters more than healthcare. I

have met with countless parents, grandparents, families, who rely on access to healthcare to keep themselves and their precious loved ones healthy.

One of the reasons Nevada ranks near the bottom when it comes to access to care is that we continue to face a shortage of physicians, particularly in primary care. This is especially true for Nevadans living in rural and Tribal communities, with many of our State's residents having to drive hundreds of miles to seek medical care or they simply go without care.

We know that many other States face similar problems. We need forward-thinking solutions to make sure that States like ours have enough doctors to serve our population. We need to help communities in rural and underserved areas gain access to telehealth programs so that we are able to provide better access to critical services, not just to Nevadans but to all Americans, no matter where they live.

We need transparency when it comes to drug pricing because no person should be forced to decide between paying their bills and buying lifesaving medication. Let's not forget that we need equal access to healthcare for women, for LGBTQ, and for underrepresented communities.

We must protect our healthcare system from sabotage by this administration. This month, the Trump administration made yet another move to take healthcare coverage and critical protections away from millions nationwide, instructing our own Justice Department to refuse to defend the Affordable Care Act. We are no longer just talking about stripping away protections for those with preexisting conditions, as if that weren't enough. We are in even more dangerous territory than before because if our healthcare law is completely wiped out, we will see an end—an end—to the tax credits that make coverage affordable for middle-income families; we will see an end to preventive care without copays, like health screenings and contraceptives; we will see an end to the ability of young adults under the age of 26 to stay on their parents' insurance; and we will see an end to Medicaid benefits, which have helped over 200,000 Nevadans get coverage.

If this administration has its way with invalidating our healthcare law, it would spell disaster for primary care providers and the millions of Americans who rely on its protections for access to quality, affordable care.

Healthcare is one of the top issues at every kitchen table in communities like Winnemucca and Henderson and across this country. I can't even begin to count the number of Nevadans who have shared with me how they would be affected by this disastrous decision and who tell me what it means in their personal lives not to have to live in fear of being denied coverage for a pre-existing condition. Over 1.2 million Nevadans live with a preexisting condition. We all know what is at stake if