

added to the list of tombstones in Leader MCCONNELL's graveyard.

At the end of last week, the House passed a crucial piece of legislation that would reverse the Trump administration's attempts to weaken protections for Americans with preexisting conditions—a policy supported by the vast majority of Americans and publicly supported by several State Senate Republicans who are up for reelection. This week, the House is poised to pass another great package of healthcare legislation to further protect preexisting conditions and help people sign up for quality healthcare coverage.

Compare that to the Trump administration's policies, which have only increased costs and lowered the number of Americans who have health insurance. The uninsured rate had been on a steady decline until President Trump took office. Now, for the first time since 2013, the number of Americans without insurance has been on the rise.

As the leader of the majority in the Senate, Senator MCCONNELL has a responsibility to use our time here to help the American people. As insurance rates fall, protections for preexisting conditions are under attack, and prices go up for middle-class Americans. I believe the Senate must act to improve the Nation's healthcare system, and we have multiple House-passed bills awaiting action. Leader MCCONNELL need only call them up for debate. Instead, the legislative graveyard—where good legislation doesn't even get debated or amended, let alone passed—is upon us.

PUERTO RICO

Madam President, finally, on disaster relief, last week, our colleagues in the House passed yet another bill that would provide crucial aid for disaster-stricken communities, including for our fellow citizens in Puerto Rico who are still suffering. Importantly, the bill passed with 34 Republicans voting in favor.

Negotiations on a disaster package continue, but I believe the House vote is a sign that the Republicans in both Chambers are beginning to realize the people of Puerto Rico cannot be left behind—and rightly so. There will not be any bill if it doesn't treat all of America fairly.

Don't complain just about your State. Go to those in the Republican leadership, if you are a Republican Senator, and tell them we must pass a bill that protects everybody.

The President's animus for the people of Puerto Rico is antithetical to our values as Americans. Americans help each other in times of need. We wouldn't shortchange the farmers in Iowa or the people of Texas or California or Florida. So why should we ask 3 million fellow citizens—the people of Puerto Rico, I remind my colleagues, who are U.S. citizens—to keep waiting for help to rebuild from a storm that made landfall over a year and a half ago? The bottom line is very simple: We have to help everybody.

Our Republican colleagues are beginning to realize their constituents are complaining and asking, what is the holdup? We all know the story. It wasn't the original idea of the Republicans in the Senate to treat Puerto Rico unfairly. President Trump came to a lunch and demanded that aid for Puerto Rico be eliminated or greatly diminished, and our Republican friends went along. They thought we would just bow down as they did, and we have not neither in the House nor in the Senate.

Now let's get moving. It is encouraging that the Republicans are beginning to realize that Puerto Rico needs help or that it at least has to be a part of the aid package. I hope these green shoots soon bear fruit, and we can send something to the President's desk and give relief to all of those who need it in California, Texas, Iowa, Nebraska, Alabama, Florida, and Puerto Rico.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TRIBUTE TO DEAN LEWIS

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, we are called upon many times to do many things in this Chamber, and in 21 years I have been called to do a lot of different things, but today may be the most different of all.

In a way, it is something that is a joy to do. It is about a place in Bartow County, GA, in White, GA, a small rural town that is being caught by the urban growth of the city of Atlanta, one of the biggest cities in the United States of America. White, GA, is a great town. The first Sunday of every month, there is a breakfast at 7 a.m. for the guys in town, where we all go and talk politics, talk about the future of the county, talk about what is happening, share good and bad ideas, tell jokes for the week, and come back a month later to see how things are going. It is something I relish doing. It is something I started doing because I am a politician. You go where two or more are gathered, and you go to talk to them and to try to get them to know you and to make sure they know you are on the ballot the next time.

I have been in politics a long time—41 years. I have learned a lot of things. I have learned that in politics the best thing to know is your next-door neighbor and people. The best thing for them to know is to know you.

But I also learned some interesting things about our economy and about business. The No. 2 producer of revenue to our governments around the country is revenue off of tourism. Tourism is the No. 2 industry in the country in terms of revenue at the local level—for sales and use taxes, for bed taxes, for

hotel-motel taxes, for entertainment taxes, and for all kinds of taxes. They generate money to help our cities and counties buy and build facilities that attract tourism to come in the future, whether it is convocation centers, educational centers, or whatever.

I am always paying close attention everywhere I go to see what somebody new is doing around the country that we might not have done in Georgia before. But I have been sitting on a ham sandwich, starving to death, because every first Sunday of every month, when I go to the breakfast in White County, GA, I am going to something that is exactly that, unique to the country. So I thought I would bring it to the floor of the Senate today and tell you a little bit about it.

It is about a guy named Dean Lewis and Dean's family's home place.

Dean's family's home place is in Bartow County, GA. Dean grew up on a piece of property that in 2009 was a junkyard. It was just a junkyard of old cars—in fact, 40 years' worth of old cars. There was kudzu. I don't know if the Presiding Officer knows what kudzu is. The South is full of it. It was a great idea to stop erosion, but it was a horrible idea because you can't kill it. It just gets bigger and bigger. We have 40 years' worth of kudzu that has grown through these cars, wrecked tractors, buses, and everything. They are almost canopy hidden by the kudzu.

Dean Lewis was sitting on the front porch of his house, looking across the street at what he has now named Old Car City, and said: You know, that would be an interesting place for people to come and visit, because people are always looking for parts on old cars that they might get to help restore the old cars they have.

It started out as just a place where people who wanted to come and tear some old parts off of an old car to fix their jalopy or their old car would come and get them from Dean.

One day Dean had somebody come from the Atlanta Ballet and said: You know, this would be a big, great background for our ballerinas in a photo contest to talk about how agile they are.

So the Atlanta Ballet used the backdrop of Old Car City for photos for their calendar a few years ago. The Atlanta Falcons have used it. All kinds of businesses have used it. Businesses from around the world have used it. It has become a famous place. It is not a famous place because it is handsome or beautiful. It is not famous because it is famous but because it is unique.

Dean Lewis and his family took something of theirs that was unique to them and molded it into something people would come and see. It is one of those "if you build it, they will come" deals.

You saw the end of that movie, where all the taillights and headlights were weaving through the town to go see the field that was finally built. That was

the same thing with Old Car City. They took a useless, rusted-out old junkyard and turned it into something people would want to come to see, someplace where they would want to come to get old parts for cars or come to get their pictures taken with the cars. International companies want to come to do business there, to where it is now one of the most attractive places we have in North Georgia.

I thought I would come to the well for no other reason but to pay tribute to Dean Lewis in White, GA, because he has taken an old car in a junkyard—a jalopy—and turned it into something that raises money for the community, that memorializes our heritage and our past, that takes the use of something everybody thought was wasted and turns it into something good. If we can always try to do that, as well as make something new good, then we would all be doing well as business people, as tourist promoters, and as builders of local government.

I rise tonight to commend Dean Lewis on what he and his family have done, to commend Old Car City on what has turned into a great money-making project for the State and for our local property—the tourist attraction they have created there—and to tell them to keep on doing the work and making chicken salad out of good fried chicken. Georgia chicken is the best that you can have, and there is no better chicken than a junkyard in Georgia called Old Car City.

God bless you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOZMAN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Michael J. Truncale, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas.

Mitch McConnell, Johnny Isakson, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Mike Crapo, Shelley Moore Capito, Pat Roberts, Roy Blunt, Deb Fischer, David Perdue, Todd Young, John Thune, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, John Hoeven, Thom Tillis.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination

of Michael J. Truncale, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Texas, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 107 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Alexander	Fischer	Paul
Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Blackburn	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Roberts
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cassidy	Inhofe	Sasse
Collins	Isakson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Johnson	Shelby
Cotton	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cramer	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	McSally	Young
Enzi	Moran	
Ernst	Murkowski	

NAYS—43

Baldwin	Jones	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Manchin	Smith
Casey	Markey	Stabenow
Coons	Menendez	Tester
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Udall
Duckworth	Murphy	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murray	Warner
Feinstein	Peters	Whitehouse
Harris	Reed	Wyden
Hassan	Romney	
Heinrich	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—8

Booker	Gillibrand	Toomey
Brown	Hirono	Warren
Burr	Scott (FL)	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

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.

RECOGNIZING THE 54TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEAD START AND THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF EARLY HEAD START

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise to celebrate the 54th anniversary of Head Start and the 25th anniversary of Early Head Start on May 18.

We know that in January of 1964, President Lyndon Baines Johnson declared the War on Poverty in his State of the Union Address. Sargent Shriver, who was the then-Director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, assembled a panel of experts to develop a comprehensive child development program to help communities meet the needs of disadvantaged preschool children. It resulted in Project Head Start's launching in the summer of 1965.

Over 50 years later, Head Start and Early Head Start have served hundreds of thousands of children with high-quality, comprehensive early learning and wraparound services. Just to give the Senate a reminder of what Head Start is in terms of the ages, Head Start serves children who are ages 3 to 5. Early Head Start serves children who are up to the age of 3—so under the age of 3.

We know that these early learning experiences provide children with the tools they need to develop and succeed in school. When children learn more earlier in life, they earn more later in life. It is not just a rhyme. All the evidence and research show that there is a direct connection between early learning and later earning. A study of Head Start children in Harrisburg, PA, found that they had higher scores in the fifth grade than a control group on all academic and executive functioning outcomes.

These benefits stay with children through adulthood. Research shows Head Start children have a higher likelihood of graduating from high school and receiving postsecondary degrees. These benefits even flow to the next generation. The children of Head Start graduates are significantly more likely to finish high school and enroll in college, and they are significantly less likely to become teen parents or to be involved in the criminal justice system.

One of the core tenets of Head Start that has made it so successful is its responsiveness to local community needs. In Pennsylvania, for example, as in many other States, the opioid epidemic has hit far too many communities, and Head Start has responded to that crisis with innovative programming.

For example, the SafeStart Program in Allentown, which is an Early Head Start program, provides early intervention to assist the development of infants and toddlers who have suffered abuse or neglect. After having completed SafeStart—the new program in Allentown—68 percent of 3-year-olds were on age developmentally, and 100 percent of the children showed significant improvement in their drug-impaired symptoms, with 53 percent having shown resolution. Of the women who became pregnant while their substance-impaired children were enrolled in SafeStart, 88 percent gave birth to full-term, drug-free, and healthy second children.

The whole family approach and integration with local community partners