

In such cases, CBO expects that the effect of the Secretary's actions—if he or she took advantage of the new authority—would primarily reflect the use of the “bully pulpit” to pressure drug manufacturers into reducing prices. Thus, CBO concluded that the overall impact on federal spending from negotiations targeted at selected drugs would be modest. Beyond that general conclusion, the precise effect of any specific proposal would depend importantly on its details.

If you would like further information on this subject, we would be happy to provide it. The CBO staff contact is Tom Bradley.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL,
Director.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, repealing the noninterference clause means a restricted formulary, which places limits on the drugs that are available to seniors, maybe excluding some drugs that your doctor wants to prescribe for you. I don't believe that Medicare beneficiaries want the government interfering in that process.

Then, as policymakers, we must keep in mind that we are making decisions that affect healthcare choices for the people whom we are elected to represent.

Let's all remember to first do no harm. Repealing the noninterference clause may sound good, but not even a spoonful of sugar will help that bad dose of policy medicine go down.

I come to the floor today to hope that I can put this issue to rest and, as we try to work in a bicameral and bipartisan way to reduce drug costs, that we don't get held up by people who want to do something different by having the government more involved, when it isn't going to save any money and will restrict formularies. It will get the government between you and your doctor.

In other words, I am trying to save Part D. It has been a great success. It is accepted by the people. Let's keep drug costs down without having this issue interfere with our process.

We need to preserve the foundation of private enterprise on which Part D is based—in other words, the marketplace working. We need to get to the real work of reducing prescription drug costs.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

FLOODING IN OKLAHOMA

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, just to give the Senate body a quick update of what is happening in my State right now, we have had some pretty dramatic flooding and over 15 tornadoes in the last 48 hours across the State. Thankfully, most of those tornadoes hit in open areas. They did not hit structures. There have been some

structures that have been damaged, but the flooding has been far worse than the tornadoes and the high winds.

Just 2 nights ago, in one of our counties, Osage County, we had severe flash flooding, where from 10 p.m. to 2:30 in the morning, over 100 different homes had to be evacuated in the middle of the night. Many of those folks had law enforcement, firefighters, and first responders arriving at their home with a boat or with a truck to get them out, literally, in their pajamas so they could escape. Many of those homes have 4 to 6 feet of water in them now.

It has been intense for those folks who are in the area. In fact, it is interesting. The director of emergency management for that area spent the entire night saving homes and helping people get out. When dawn broke and they knew they had gotten everyone out, he headed back to his own house only to find out he could no longer get to his home anymore because of the floodwaters.

We have had folks all over the State, whether that be in Perry, where we had two homes that were destroyed in a tornado that night that, thankfully, did not hit the center of town. We had other spots, like around Eufaula, where we had some serious flooding; Stillwater, where there has been flooding. In Dale we had a very dangerous overnight tornado that came in, literally, while everyone was sleeping. There are pockets of folks who are there who have been affected by this, literally, all over the State.

For the department of transportation folks, for the folks in our police and fire departments, for the emergency management individuals—both for the State and the counties—for mayors and city managers, for hospitals, for county workers, for city staff, for the Corps of Engineers, and, quite frankly, for just neighbors down the street, it has been a long week. There have been a lot of folks serving each other to take care of those needs, and there will be for a while.

I thought this body would need a quick update because sometimes people feel a long way from the center of the country when you are in Washington, DC, but we need to understand what is happening in the center of the country right now—literally, the center of America. It is affecting all Americans.

TULSA RACE RIOT ANNIVERSARY

Mr. President, I did want to tell a story, though. It is a little bit of a different story. It is about 9,000 people in Tulsa who were suddenly left homeless. It wasn't this week, and it wasn't a natural disaster. It was actually on June 1, 1921, when the worst race riot/massacre happened in American history. That story is still one that this body needs to remember.

I brought this up a few years ago, and I thought it may be time to bring it up again. The reason is that we are quickly approaching the 100-year anniversary of a whole series of riots that happened around America in the summer of 1919.

As the soldiers were coming back home from World War I, many of whom were African-American soldiers who had served with great dignity and honor there, they returned back home with skills that they had picked up overseas and with a tenacious patriotism and work ethic. They returned back to America to go back to work, but they were greeted by a lot of White business owners and a lot of White workers in the country who said: You may have served overseas and fought the war, but you are not welcome to work here. And White neighbors started setting homes and cities on fire.

There were riots. There were protests. There was a national pushback that happened in the summer of 1919. Chicago and Washington, DC, were some of the worst. Oklahoma really survived it well.

Interestingly enough, in Oklahoma, we have 30 towns that were considered Black towns, scattered all across the State. The first folks who actually came to Oklahoma who were African American actually came with the five Tribes when they were relocated. They were brought by the five Tribes who had held them as slaves. When they moved from the southeastern part of the country, and they moved to Eastern Oklahoma and were relocated there in that tragic walk, they brought their slaves with them.

In the land rush after 1889 and then years later as we became a State, land started opening up and individuals and families who were African Americans moved from all over the country coming for new hope and opportunity. There were 30 different towns that sprung up all over Oklahoma that were predominantly African-American towns. One of those was Greenwood.

At that time, it was affectionately known as “Black Wall Street.” It was one of the most prosperous African-American communities in the entire country. It was right on the north end of Tulsa.

Although, when they left from Greenwood and came into Tulsa to work, to shop, or whatever it may be, they were limited. In Greenwood, there were shops, stores, movie theaters, lawyers, doctors, and all kinds of activities. Everything was there. But if they walked a few blocks from Greenwood into Tulsa, they found themselves not being welcomed.

In fact, in downtown Tulsa, there was only one place where a Black man could actually go to the bathroom—one. It was in that building that a gentleman named Dick Rowland took the elevator up to go to the bathroom. On the elevator, there was a White girl there named Sarah Page.

We have no idea what happened in that elevator, but when the elevator door opened, she screamed, and a crowd quickly grabbed Dick Rowland and pulled him off, accusing him of all kinds of things, and hauled him off to jail in downtown Tulsa, where, within a few hours, a lynch mob gathered around that jail.

To their credit, law enforcement in Tulsa went out to the streets and said: You all go home. But they did not. The mob stayed there.

Soldiers who had served faithfully in World War I, who were African Americans, who lived in Greenwood, picked up their rifles and gathered together to go in and support law enforcement who was at the jail in downtown Tulsa to protect Dick Rowland.

As they marched down to go help, the law enforcement there apparently said: You all leave as well. We have got this handled.

But as they left, there was a scuffle in the street, and a shot was fired. We have no idea how it happened or which happened first. The news never reported that. But we know that those groups of African-American men left and ran back to Greenwood, and the mob followed them. They marched their way to Greenwood, and they burned it down, destroying Greenwood and wiping out that city.

That night, all night long—May 31 into June 1—America experienced one of its darkest moments. There were 1,200 homes destroyed that night in Greenwood. There were 9,000 people who were left homeless. There were 6,000 African Americans who were rounded up by the police in Tulsa and jailed “for their protection.” They were the ones who were held, not the rioters who actually caused the massacre.

The numbers are all over the place of how many people actually died that night. There are numbers as small as 35 and as large as 300. We will never know. But let's just say there were many—very likely, hundreds of people—who died that night. One-third of the people were gone, and we have no idea what direction they went. One-third of the people packed up and moved and left, and one-third of the folks stayed. But interestingly enough, that Sunday, after the fire, after the riots, after the destruction and after Greenwood was left leveled, folks from Greenwood gathered that Sunday for worship.

Dr. Olivia Hooker passed away just this last November. She was one of the last survivors of the Tulsa Race Massacre. In an interview shortly before she passed away, she told the story of hearing the men with axes destroy her sister's piano during the riot. With her three siblings, she hid under a table as her home was literally destroyed around her.

You would think that devastation would be the end of her story. It was not. In World War II, she became the first African American to join the Coast Guard. She earned degrees from two universities and ended up being a professor at Fordham University. That is tenacious resilience.

She reminds me of my modern-day friend Donna Jackson. In 2013, Donna Jackson determined that North Tulsa in Greenwood was known for its entrepreneurship. That is why it got the name “Black Wall Street.” In 2013, she

determined that she was going to challenge 100 new businesses to start in Greenwood, to bring life back to that area again with business and entrepreneurship. For its 100th anniversary, there would be 100 new businesses.

Donna lives and breathes Greenwood. She was born in Morton Memorial. She goes to church in North Tulsa, she works in North Tulsa, and she believes in North Tulsa's future, as do I. She is going to make her goal of 100 new businesses there. She is doing the work to help introduce people to North Tulsa and to be engaged. There are companies that are from outside the area that are coming in, such as the new QT that just opened there. There are lots of individual businesses that continue to start and thrive again in North Tulsa.

North Tulsa is a place where we should practice basic reconciliation, where America should stop and look again and say “What can be done, and what have we done?” and fix it.

Josh Jacobs was born in North Tulsa in 1998 and graduated from high school in North Tulsa. He ended up making a very bad decision. He left North Tulsa to go play football for the University of Alabama—clearly a terrible decision. Josh ended up being drafted 24th overall by the Oakland Raiders last year. He is a tremendous, shining example of somebody who grew up in North Tulsa and is representing us well.

His dad made an interesting statement. He said that as Josh was growing up, he was a great athlete. He could have traveled anywhere in the area to play football in high school. He chose to stay there on the north side. He said: “This is the north side. Why not build up our side of town? Why take off and leave?”

You would be pleased to know that Josh has on his own Twitter account “2 Peter 3:9.” That is what is pinned at the top.

The Lord is not slow in doing what he promised, the way some people understand slowness. But God is being patient with you. He does not want anyone to be lost, but he wants all people to change their hearts and their lives.

That is a pretty good message, Josh. I believe we are still a nation of reconciliation. The first step in reconciliation is not forgetting who we were and who we have been as a nation and to make sure we take the steps necessary to resolve broken relationships.

There is not a law we can pass in this body that will solve the race issue. There are ways we can protect and make sure every person has every opportunity, whether it be in housing, employment, or whatever it may be. Race is not a political issue; race is a heart issue. The primary issue with race begins in your own heart and in your own family.

Several years ago, I started asking a very simple question of folks in Oklahoma. I asked that same question of people here. “Has your family ever invited a family of another race to your

home for dinner?” Interestingly enough, the response I get back from most people when I ask that is, they will smile at me and say “I have friends of another race,” to which I will smile at them and say “That is not what I asked. I asked, has your family ever invited a family of another race to your home for dinner?”

Being able to have real dialogue so that your kids can sit with kids of another race and can watch you interact as a parent with people from another race and see that it is normal conversation—our kids believe only what they see, and if they never see someone from another race in our home, they just assume we don't have friends of another race.

I like to say we will never get all the issues about race on the table until we get our feet under the same table and start talking this out as friends. Reconciliation is not something we can legislate; reconciliation is something we do, it is who we are, and it comes about by action.

Next week, folks will gather in Tulsa, OK, again to recognize that 98 years ago, the city was on fire, and most of the White community looked away while Greenwood burned to the ground. Two years from now, the entire country will probably pause for 24 hours and will look at Tulsa and will ask a simple question: What has changed in 100 years? It is a fair question. I think Tulsa will stand up and say: We will not just show you the structures that it changed, but we will show you the hearts that it changed.

Tulsa is a very different community now. We still have a ways to go, as does the rest of the State, but we are making tremendous progress. While much of the world ignores race and chooses never to deal with race, we as Americans embrace each other and say: What do we have to do to restore what is broken and to make sure we see each other as friends and neighbors again? We are doing it differently, and that is a great benefit to us.

Mount Zion Baptist Church was founded in 1909 by Rev. Sandy Lyons. It was originally just a one-room schoolhouse. In 1916, the church began a \$92,000 endeavor, which I can assure you was a lot of money in 1916. They took out a \$50,000 loan to build a new church. Construction was completed in early 1921. On April 4, 1921, they held their first service, and on June 1 of that same year, a riot burned it to the ground. Worse yet, the White insurance company refused to pay their insurance, saying it was their fault that the riot happened.

That congregation could have been bitter; instead, they stayed put, and they rebuilt that church. They first paid off the mortgage for what had been burned to the ground, and then they rebuilt the church in that same location.

Vernon AME Church still stands in the same spot. The only thing left of that building was the basement, but

they rebuilt, by 1928, right on that same spot.

Dr. Turner there is a friend and is a pastor there. He made this statement:

I'm humbled every day to walk through a place that has seen so much terror but has also been a vessel of hope for so many people. After the massacre, people who lost their homes and their belongings still went to church on Sunday morning.

Believing in a God of reconciliation, whom I still believe in today, let's continue to get better, but let's not forget where we came from so it never ever happens again.

As we think about the summer of 1919, when the Nation was on fire from so many riots around the country, let's continue to finish what has begun in our hearts until that is complete.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

ABORTION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise to express my deep concern over the constant attacks on women's health we are seeing all across America. From this administration's policies, to Donald Trump's judicial nominees, to Governors and legislators in States like Alabama, Georgia, and Missouri under Republican leadership—they are denying women their constitutional right to make their own personal and healthcare decisions.

Women and their healthcare should not be under constant threat. We as a nation have made great efforts to promote equal rights for women and men. In this Congress, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage. It took a long time for women to get the right to vote, and we continue to make progress on equality. Yet, in the 21st century, the Trump administration continues to push and adopt policies that are setting this country and women in a wrong direction.

The Supreme Court made it clear in *Griswold v. Connecticut* and *Roe v. Wade* that there is a constitutional right to privacy that includes making healthcare decisions such as the use of contraception and the right to access abortion.

Through advancements in women's health and access to contraception and education, the number of unintended pregnancies has significantly been reduced, with a corresponding reduction in abortion. Yet we see Republican leaders trying to reverse the advancements our Nation has made in women's health, access to contraception, and education.

For nearly 50 years, the Supreme Court has upheld the legal precedent of *Roe v. Wade*, including its affirmation in *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* in 1992. In that case, the Supreme Court held that "our law affords constitutional protection to personal decisions relating to marriage . . . contraception, family relationships, child rearing, and education. . . . These matters, involving the most intimate and personal choices a person may make in a life-

time, choices central to personal dignity and autonomy, are central to the liberty protected by the Fourteenth Amendment."

The Court prohibited States from passing statutes that placed undue burdens on a woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions. Yet Republican leaders continue to introduce and pass laws that interfere with a woman's autonomy over her health and well-being.

Last week, for instance, the Republican Governor of Alabama signed a bill into law banning almost all abortions in that State, with no exceptions for the cases of rape or incest. The law not only prosecutes women, but it also includes unprecedented criminal penalties against doctors, threatening them with life in prison for treating women. The Alabama law exposes doctors to felony charges punishable by up to 99 years in prison for providing or attempting to provide an abortion, making this the most extreme ban of its kind to pass in nearly 30 years.

Since the beginning of 2019, bills attempting to restrict abortion have been filed in 45 States, including Alabama, Missouri, and Georgia.

Earlier this year, Georgia's Republican Governor signed a 6-week ban into law that would make it illegal for women to terminate a pregnancy and a doctor to perform the termination after a fetal heartbeat is detected. I must tell you, many women don't even realize they are pregnant at 6 weeks.

The Alabama and Georgia bills impose burdensome and medically unnecessary limitations on women and their doctors, particularly those in low-income, medically underserved areas. The bills harm women who are victims of sexual assault and minors who are victims of incest. These provisions appear to be designed to perpetuate a culture of not believing women and trying to discredit the victims of assault.

It is hard to understand how many Republicans are talking about getting Big Government out of people's lives but not when it comes to one of the hardest and most intimate decisions a woman can make—a decision that she wishes to make between herself and her doctor. In those circumstances, these same colleagues believe that Big Government, and not the woman herself, knows better. They believe that government, and not the woman, should dictate whether she can or cannot have control of her own body. They believe that government should have the power to force a woman to forgo a medically necessary procedure.

They believe that women should be stripped of that power and stripped of the choice to decide what is best for herself. Many believe that even in cases of incest and rape, where the woman is a victim of a crime, that the woman should be compelled to bear the child against her will and bring the pregnancy to term. Talk about being intrusive.

Basically, the rights of women are being trampled to death. I thought we

had gotten beyond that, and now we see that we are moving in the wrong direction.

Empowering women is one of the most important things we can do for the future of our country. Core to women's constitutional liberties is autonomy over their own health and well-being. If we truly want to support women, we need to safeguard and improve, not limit, access to comprehensive healthcare.

I hope we can all agree that on this 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, we should be looking at ways to remove discrimination based upon sex and not moving in the wrong direction by taking away from women their right to make their own healthcare decisions.

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

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

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, we are now 5 months into the new 116th Congress. During that 5-month period, the new Democratic majority in the House of Representatives has passed a series of bills on issues important to the overwhelming majority of the American public. They include legislation to reduce the death toll from gun violence by requiring universal criminal background checks and legislation to end the millions and millions of dollars of secret money flowing into elections and polluting our politics. The House legislation includes a bill to ensure that women receive equal pay for equal work, and the House has also passed legislation to strengthen the protections under the Violence Against Women Act. Those are just some of the initiatives the House has passed in the last 5 months.

Here in the Senate, what has the Senate done on those important issues? What has the Senate done with the legislation that the House has passed and is now sitting in this body? We have done nothing—zip. We haven't taken up any of those bills. In fact, the Senate Republican leader has refused to allow this body to consider those important measures.

What are we doing instead? Instead, the Senate is consuming all of its time not on the matters most important to the public but on debating and confirming judicial and executive branch nominees. Here is the thing: If you look at these judicial nominees—let's just take the ones we are looking at this week—you will find a very dangerous pattern.

This week, in looking at the five nominees, the pattern is selecting judges who will strip away women's reproductive choices and who will strip