

what Kristen had to do in the face of these rising drug prices.

In order to pursue her dream internship, Kristen had to purchase the only health insurance she could afford, which was a high-deductible plan whose monthly payments consumed 15 percent of her income. To try to prepare for the realities of this kind of coverage, she had to hoard her insulin and other diabetes supplies for months in advance, deliberately starving her body of the medicine she needed in order to keep her head above water financially.

I have submitted bipartisan legislation that was recently approved unanimously by the Judiciary Committee, along with my colleague Senator CORNYN, that would end these abusive practices surrounding patents—patent-thicketing and product-hopping. You don't need to know the details of those abuses or of our legislation to understand the need for protection and the need for security and safeguards for these kinds of patients—the 30 million who suffer from diabetes and who are paying exploding costs for insulin that are rising exponentially and astronomically for not only insulin but also many other drugs, as we know from listening to our constituents.

All of our colleagues understand the high cost of prescription drugs that continue to plague America across all walks of life. Every day, patients are forced to choose, in fact, between paying for the medicines they need and the needs of their families. Drugs to treat everything from depression, to arthritis, to cancer, and even basic saline solution for IVs have increased in price in recent months. They are not new, wondrous, magic discoveries; they are workhorse medicines. Insulin has been around for 100 years. Many of these other drugs have been around for decades as well. We owe it to Americans.

As citizens and as patients ourselves, we know that these rising prescription prices are ruining families, tearing apart communities, and destroying the basic trust we have in our healthcare system. Nothing is more basic. Healthcare is a right. Prescription drugs should not be available just to the wealthy.

The bill Senator CORNYN and I are hoping this Chamber will pass is just one step toward making prescription drug prices more affordable; making these cures that are America's pride—developed by great researchers and wonderful minds—available to all of our citizens.

Logan Merwin, Emma Del Vecchio, and all of the children in America who suffer from diabetes understand something maybe we don't as well: that insulin is a matter of life and death and that they are alive because they live in the greatest country in the history of the world, where insulin is available to them even at times when it is difficult for their families to afford. They know, too, that with the great advocacy of Kathryn Nagel, Kristin Whitney Dan-

iels, Jonathan Chappell, and others who are taking their cause to America, as well as the JDRF, which is supporting wonderful discoveries, we will be a better country. We will make these prescription drugs affordable.

Insulin will be available to all. Insulin does not belong to me or to you; it belongs to the world. And I hope America will be an example of making insulin belong to the world.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 11 a.m., Thursday, July 11, the Senate vote on the confirmation of Executive Calendar Nos. 101 and 103 in the order listed. I further ask that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; further, that if cloture is invoked on Executive Calendar No. 13, the postcloture time expire at 1:45 p.m.; finally, that the ranking member of the Committee on Environment and Public Works control the time from 1 p.m. until 1:40 p.m.

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

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for 10 minutes each.

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

#### AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to discuss Americans' access to healthcare and patient protections that are carelessly being threatened by President Trump and his administration, specifically, his decision to not uphold the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, ACA, which is the law of the land.

This week, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the fifth circuit began reviewing appeals to a December decision in the case *Texas v. U.S.*, in which the entire ACA was ruled unconstitutional. Republican attorneys general from 18 States argue that the ACA is unconstitutional because our Republican colleagues repealed the individual mandate as part of their 2017 tax bill. In-

stead of defending the ACA and fighting for Americans with preexisting health conditions, President Trump took the unprecedented step of not defending current law, and the Department of Justice revised its position to support full repeal of the ACA, continuing the administration's sabotage of affordable access to healthcare through all avenues of Executive action.

If Republicans successfully overturn the ACA, hundreds of millions of Americans will lose access to affordable healthcare and the monumental consumer protections created through the ACA. This includes the 133 million Americans with preexisting conditions, 17 million people who gained insurance through Medicaid expansion, 12 million seniors who pay less for prescription drugs, and over 2 million adult children who will no longer be able to stay on their parent's health insurance.

I am particularly worried about the 2.5 million Marylanders with a preexisting condition, 320,000 of whom are children. Before the ACA, insurers denied health coverage to Americans with preexisting health conditions.

The most common preexisting conditions are pregnancy, cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, behavioral health disorders, high cholesterol, asthma, and heart conditions. Patients with preexisting conditions must know their health insurance coverage is there for them when they are healthy, but particularly when they become sick. The ACA took the important step to ensure this, by protecting all patients against arbitrary, sudden loss of insurance. This security would, of course, be eliminated if the ACA is overturned.

In addition to these important consumer protections, the Affordable Care Act increased access to care for millions of people who previously were uninsured or underinsured. Through Medicaid expansion, 13 million low-income Americans now have dependable, comprehensive healthcare, including 300,000 Marylanders. We must protect the Medicaid expansion population and other uninsured or underinsured populations from the Trump administration's efforts to eliminate their access to affordable care.

The numerous reckless attempts by the Trump administration to sabotage the ACA disregard how much good healthcare reform has done for all Americans. Before we passed the Affordable Care Act, too many people fell through the cracks with inadequate insurance coverage, annual and lifetime coverage caps, or limits to preventive health services. Too many declared bankruptcy because of high healthcare costs or skipped prescribed care or medications because of the costs.

The ACA ensured that many of those people now have access to higher-quality coverage. Core elements of the law require companies to cover adults and children with preexisting conditions, prevent insurance companies from setting annual and lifetime limits, and

allow young adults can stay on a parent's health plan until the age of 26.

If the Affordable Care Act is struck down, insurers could bring back annual and lifetime limits on coverage, adults covered by Medicaid expansion would lose vital health services, young people would be kicked off their parent's insurance, and issuers could sell skimpy plans that don't cover essential health benefits like prescription drugs, emergency room visits, mental health and substance use, and maternity care.

The unprecedented actions by the Trump administration to not defend the ACA jeopardizes the healthcare of all Americans. I believe that accessible, affordable healthcare is a human right. Securing this right has always been a challenge. Democrats will continue to fight for consumer protections and increased access to care that have been guaranteed through the Affordable Care Act. As President Trump refuses to defend the Affordable Care Act, he risks the health and well-being of millions of Americans.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I wish to again express my support for the Affordable Care Act, ACA.

We must continue fighting to protect the safeguards that were put in place by the ACA, which prohibits abusive practices that previously kept healthcare out of reach for millions of Americans, like denying coverage to people with preexisting conditions. About half of all Americans have preexisting conditions and could be forced to pay significantly higher premiums or lose access to coverage altogether if the ACA is overturned. At least 21 million people could lose their health insurance if the ACA is struck down. In my State, Minnesotans would see a loss of \$364 million in premium tax credits, and roughly 272,000 people would lose their coverage.

Earlier this year, I came to the Senate floor to read 100 letters from people in my State and across the country who explained what the ACA has meant to them. These stories are just a small window into the positive impact of the ACA and how so many people would suffer if its protections were eliminated.

Instead of striking down this landmark legislation, we should build on its strengths, defend the critical consumer protections that it provides for so many, and make it stronger. We cannot go back to a time when people who are sick can be denied health insurance coverage. This is not the time to look back and try to tear things down; we should look ahead and work to strengthen our healthcare system moving forward. It is for this reason that we must and will continue to fight against efforts to take away healthcare protections from millions of Americans.

TEXAS SENATE RESOLUTION NO.  
816

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, today I ask unanimous consent that a resolu-

tion passed by the senate of the State of Texas be printed into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. Senate Resolution No. 816 was adopted by the Texas Senate on May 24, 2019, by a vote of 31-0 and urges the U.S. Congress to consolidate disaster recovery housing funding for Hurricane Harvey.

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

SENATE RESOLUTION

Whereas, Hurricane Harvey struck the Texas coast on August 25, 2017, causing an estimated \$125 billion in damage; and

Whereas, The second most destructive storm in American history, the hurricane impacted approximately 30 percent of the population of Texas, destroying homes, damaging infrastructure, and displacing thousands of families along the coast; and

Whereas, The Federal Emergency Management Agency received nearly 800,000 applications from affected Texans for some form of assistance; as many as 83 percent of the people whose homes flooded did not have flood insurance, creating unprecedented demand for state and federal disaster recovery assistance; and

Whereas, The FEMA application process is so duplicative and confusing, and the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development regulations are so complex, that many survivors give up trying to navigate the system and, therefore, receive no assistance; and

Whereas, Consolidating funding for recovery housing programs into a single Disaster Housing Response and Recovery Block Grant would increase efficiency, save taxpayer dollars, and speed the recovery process by combining FEMA's short-term programs and HUD's long-term programs; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate of the State of Texas, 86th Legislature, hereby respectfully urge the United States Congress to enact legislation to consolidate disaster recovery housing funding into a single Disaster Housing Response and Recovery Block Grant; and be it further

*Resolved*, That the secretary of the senate forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

I hereby certify that the above Resolution was adopted by the Senate on May 24, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

DAN PATRICK,  
*President of the Senate.*  
PATSY SPAW,  
*Secretary of the Senate.*

[State Seal Affixed]

CENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN  
LEGION

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the American Legion as it celebrates 100 years of dedication to serving and advocating for veterans on a local and national level.

Chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919, the American Legion has grown to support veterans nationwide. The American Legion Department of Connecticut was established in the

same year and is home to some of the first posts in the country.

Over the past century, the American Legion has established itself as our Nation's largest veterans service organizations. As a nonpartisan and not-for-profit organization, the Legion uniquely offers a multitude of local programs devoted to our servicemembers and their communities. Through youth mentorship and athletics, reintegration assistance for wounded veterans, and many other critical activities, the Legion plays an important role in their communities throughout the United States.

With around 150 posts across Connecticut, the organization helps bring together and shape the lives of many veterans, their families, and their neighborhoods. The Department of Connecticut follows the four pillars of the American Legion: supporting Americanism, national security, advocating for veterans' affairs and healthcare, and preparing children throughout our state for future success.

In particular, they generously help children of all ages in Connecticut explore their potential with activities such as State Police Youth Week, an oratorical contest focused on deepening high school students' understanding of the U.S. Constitution, American Legion Baseball, and summer government education programs.

As a member who has regularly attended events for the Legion, including several of their youth programs, annual conventions, Veterans Day events, and mid-winter conferences, I can proudly attest firsthand to the impressive work they accomplish on behalf of Connecticut veterans and their families. As the American Legion and its Department of Connecticut recognize and celebrate their rich and productive 100-year history, the dedicated staff and volunteers continue to look toward the future and expand the positive impact of their outreach and programs.

Committed to serving veterans and their communities throughout our State, the American Legion Department of Connecticut provides essential advocacy and services that help to better lives and create new opportunities. I applaud the accomplishments of the American Legion's devoted officers and volunteers, and I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the American Legion and the American Legion Department of Connecticut on a century of excellence.

CHRONIC DISEASE DAY

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize July 10 as Chronic Disease Day and to call attention to the unique healthcare needs of patients from this diverse community. This date is significant due to the fact that it represents the 7 out of 10 Americans who will succumb to some form of chronic illness. Governors and State legislatures across the country will be