

the police chiefs in major cities have basically said: This is too simplistic. Let's sit down and do this carefully, not as the Senator from North Carolina has proposed.

The last point I want to make is this. If you visit the Senate Chamber this week in Washington and want to see deliberation on legislation, you are out of luck. There are no bills—no substantive legislative bills—scheduled to be considered on the floor of the U.S. Senate this week, but it is not an unusual week. We hardly ever take up legislation in the committees and bring it to the floor for debate in the Senate.

So the real question I have is why the Senator from North Carolina—who is in the Republican majority, who serves on the Senate Judiciary Committee, who could ask for a markup of his bill if he wished—has decided instead to bypass the whole process and just say: I want to take this bill straight to the Senate with no debate. He is in the majority. We could bring this bill to the floor for debate and for amendment. We could bring it before the committee for a markup, but he chose not to do that.

Sadly, it is a commentary on what has happened to the Senate floor. It has become a legislative graveyard. We just don't do what the Senate used to do—debate amendments, deliberate, agree on things, and compromise. It doesn't happen anymore under Senator MCCONNELL. It is unfortunate. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, maybe just to add another chapter to that story, first, we did have a hearing on this bill about 2 weeks ago in Judiciary. That is the first step before you move to a markup.

I will be asking for a markup on this bill because I think it is a bill that is a commonsense bill. It is a bill that actually has a safe-harbor provision for people in the community who may be illegally present who want to work with law enforcement. We are listening to the concerns that law enforcement have expressed. We have addressed them, like so many times we have addressed these sorts of matters before.

So we will have a markup on the bill, we will have a vote out of committee, and I hope that we have a vote on this floor, because at the end of the day, some of the examples that Senator DURBIN noted are sad and should be avoided, but the real sad examples are the people who are dying, being raped, and being poisoned by people who were detained and could have been transferred into ICE custody and deported to make our communities safer, including the communities of illegally present people, who are less safe as a result of the current sanctuary policies.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am going to yield to the Senator from

Iowa who has waited patiently on a separate issue that he and I are working on together and allow him to speak first if he wishes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I thank Senator DURBIN. He and I are working on something that successfully passed the Senate last year and was not agreed to by the House of Representatives. So we are back to bring some transparency to pricing of drugs, and that is what I want to speak about now.

I am here to share a secret with the American people. It is about prescription drug pricing. As chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, it is no secret that one of my biggest priorities is to rein in the soaring costs of prescription medicine. It is no secret that Americans are having a hard time paying for medicine. It is no secret that Big Pharma doesn't want us to change the status quo.

In fact, Big Pharma is spending big money to stop Congress and the Trump administration from legislating a cure of these high prices. That is the secret. They want to keep drug pricing a secret from the American people. So what does that mean? It means that Big Pharma wants to keep secrecy baked in when it benefits Big Pharma.

Right now, the very murky drug pricing supply chain is a mystery to consumers. There seems to be no rhyme or reason to what consumers will owe at the pharmacy counter when they pick up their prescriptions. American taxpayers, American seniors, and this U.S. Senator are fed up with the lack of consumer information when it comes to pharmaceuticals. That is why I am working to inject some Midwestern common sense into prescription drug pricing.

As you can see, I am working with my friend Senator DURBIN. We have teamed up before on issues that naysayers said couldn't get done.

You might recall that President Trump signed our FIRST STEP Act into law last year. The landmark reforms are protecting public safety, saving taxpayer dollars, and bringing fairness to the criminal justice system.

Today, we are teaming up once again to fix an injustice with prescription drug advertising.

Big Pharma spends billions of dollars a year advertising to the U.S. consumers. The FDA regulates what these direct-to-consumer ads must tell consumers. For example, advertisers must include in their ads potential side effects. You hear it all the time on TV—things about nausea, diarrhea, depression, weight gain, or even death if you might buy one of their drugs.

But let me tell you what seems to scare Big Pharma to death—price transparency. They do not want to tell consumers how much a drug costs when they saturate the airwaves with advertising that shows happy families

enjoying the grandkids, celebrating birthdays, and going on vacations.

Senator DURBIN and I believe that Americans have a right to know about the price of drugs, like they need to know the side effects of drugs or the value of drugs. Consumers should then know what the advertised drug costs.

It happens that the Trump administration agrees with Senator DURBIN and this Senator on that point, but, of course, Big Pharma sued to stop the Department of Health and Human Services' regulations from taking effect.

It is up to Congress, then, to change the law. That is what Senator DURBIN and I are here to talk about today.

Almost exactly 1 year ago, I said here on the floor of the Senate that it is time for Big Pharma to talk turkey on this subject. Yet here we are again, 1 year later, and Big Pharma has ridden the taxpayers' gravy train for another 12 months, and part of that gravy train is keeping the price of drugs off of the television screens when they advertise all of the value of the drugs and the dangers and the side effects of those drugs.

As Americans get ready to count their blessings around the Thanksgiving table a couple weeks from now, I hope they can count on all 100 Members of the Senate to approve the Durbin-Grassley bill.

There is no good reason to oppose it unless you would rather keep secrets for Big Pharma.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, let me thank my colleague from Iowa.

Senator GRASSLEY and I are friends, colleagues, and we work together on a lot of issues. We come to this body with different political philosophies, but occasionally our ideas converge, and this is one of them.

We know that the pharmaceutical industry spends \$6 billion a year on television advertising. If you have never seen a drug ad on TV, I know one thing for sure: You don't own a TV. You can't get away from them. Every time you turn around, there is another ad. And what are they telling you in the ads? Don't take this drug if you are allergic to this drug.

How are you supposed to know that?

You may die if you take this drug. They tell you everything under the Sun, except a very fundamental fact, as Senator GRASSLEY has pointed out: How much does this cost?

Xarelto—I know it takes a long time for the drug Xarelto to finally reach the point where the average consumer, the average American, can even spell it, let alone pronounce it, so they can go ask their doctor for it. And do you know how much Xarelto costs—this blood thinner—each month? It is about \$520 a month. But it is not the most heavily advertised drug on television.

At least a few months ago, the most heavily advertised drug was HUMIRA.

Psoriatic arthritis? Remember that ad that showed the person with the little red spot on her elbow, and they said if you take HUMIRA this may help relieve psoriasis, the patchy skin and such?

Now, there are serious cases of psoriasis—don't get me wrong—but the notion that we would take Humira to clear up psoriasis belies reality. Here is the reality. Humira costs \$5,500 a month. Now, I am not going to win any bathing suit contests nor have perfectly clear skin, but it is beyond anybody's mind that we would spend \$5,500 a month to get rid of the little patch on your elbow.

Why won't they tell us what it costs? Because they know it is a stunning number, \$5,500 a month. So what Senator GRASSLEY and I did a year ago was to say to the pharmaceutical companies: Go ahead and run your ads, but in the ad, disclose how much your drug costs.

I think it is going to create pressure on these pharmaceutical companies when they decide to raise Humira to \$6,500 a month. The American consumers are going to know in fact what is going on. We passed it. We passed our bill in the Senate. We sent it over to the conference committee, and it died over in the House of Representatives. But things have changed in the House. There is a new Democratic majority there. I think we have got a better chance of passing it.

Later on today, I am going to ask for unanimous consent on this very simple bill directed to consumer advertising to say to pharmaceutical companies: Disclose in your ad how much your drug costs. That is it. Just disclose it. We have come up with the price that they have to declare each year as their standard price for the drug. Disclose that price to the American people. We think that folks will slow down deciding to buy Humira at \$5,500 a month to deal with a little red patch on their elbow. It is beyond belief.

So later on, I will make this unanimous consent, and I ask for unanimous consent now—since I appear to be the only one on the Senate floor now—to speak on a different topic for a moment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

#### IMMIGRATION

Mr. President, it was 19 years ago I introduced a bill called the DREAM Act. And the DREAM Act said if you came to the United States under the age of 18, if you grew up in this country, went to school, no problems with the law, you ought to be given a chance at some point later in life to earn your way to legal status and citizenship.

That was the bill. It was introduced, as I mentioned, about 19 years ago. It has never become the law of the land, but at one point, I went to one of my Senate cosponsors that happened to be running for President, named Barack Obama, and said to him: Can you do anything as President to help in this

situation? So many of these young people who are undocumented, they are living in the only country they have known, and they have no future because of their immigration status.

He created the DACA program, and under the DACA program, if you qualified as I just described, you would come forward and pay \$500 or \$600 for a filing fee, go through a criminal background check, and if you were approved, you would be allowed to stay in the United States for 2 years at a time under this DACA protection, renewable every 2 years. And you would be able to stay without fear of deportation and be allowed to legally work in this country.

President Obama agreed to do it, and when he did, 800,000 young people came forward and received DACA protection. For the longest time, President Trump would give speeches talking about these wonderful young people who deserved to have a chance to have a future in the United States. Then in September of 2017, he changed his mind. When he changed his mind, unfortunately, he eliminated the DACA program.

Now, it is being contested in court, and next week, 6 days from now, across the street, in the Supreme Court, they are going to argue whether the President had the power to end this program. As you might imagine, there are almost 800,000 young people who are listening carefully to those arguments and waiting for the decision of the Supreme Court. They currently have temporary protection because of the pending lawsuit. But if they lose in the Supreme Court, they will be subject to deportation. That would be a sad outcome, and in many cases, it would be a tragic outcome.

I am hoping that my colleagues in the Senate will follow this carefully. This is one thing we ought to agree on. Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, conservative Republican from South Carolina, is my cosponsor of the DREAM Act, and he has joined with me in saying that we ought to make legal status available to these young people through the DREAM Act. I hope that ends up being the case.

I would like to close by telling a story on the floor here about this young man. His name is Ernestor De La Rosa. This is the 118th story I have told on the floor of the Senate about Dreamers, people protected by DACA. He is, as I said, the 118th example I can give to my colleagues in the Senate and those following this debate as to why we need to have DACA or the DREAM Act as the law of the land.

Let me tell the story. Ernestor was brought to the United States from Mexico when he was a child. He grew up in the Midwest in Dodge City, KS, and came to the United States legally. He applied for a green card while he was still in legal status. He wanted to become a lawful permanent resident, but the line for green cards was too long. You might remember an earlier statement I made in debate today. The

line was so long that Ernestor's visa expired before he received his green card. Under the laws of America, he was undocumented.

It is not well-known that millions of undocumented immigrants came to the United States legally in the first place, but they are unable to become permanent legal residents because our immigration system is broken.

Here is what Ernestor says about it: "We all hear comments about 'Get back in line and do it legally.' Well, we tried. But the system right now is so complex that it takes up to 20 years to attain legal status."

When he first arrived, Ernestor, from Mexico, did not speak or read English, but he worked hard and became an honor student in his school. He earned an associate's degree from Dodge City Community College and a bachelor's degree from Fort Hays State University and a master's in public administration from Wichita State University.

Because of his immigration status, Ernestor was not eligible for any Federal financial aid as a student. How did he get through school? He worked two jobs. Here is what he says about that experience: "Often kids my age enjoy the college lifestyle, hanging out with friends and partying. But I wasn't able to do that. I was so disciplined, I said to myself I cannot fail a class, because I am going to have to pay out of my pocket take it again."

What is Ernestor doing today? He is the assistant city manager of Dodge City, KS. He manages a budget of more than \$55 million and directly oversees 20 employees. He is responsible for his city's legislative affairs, working with Federal, State, and local representatives on issues such as housing, transportation, and energy.

Here is what he says about his job: "I love this profession because I am able to make a difference in my community and advocate to meet the needs of our residents. It is rewarding and fulfilling to serve this great city."

Imagine that. Ernestor came to Dodge City unable to speak or read English. Now, he is the assistant city manager. This is his story, but it is also America's story. Without DACA, which protected him, gave him a right to this job, none of this would have been possible.

Ernestor's dream is to become an American citizen and to advance from assistant city manager to city manager, so he can continue to make a difference in people's lives, but that can only happen if we do something here on the floor of the United States Senate.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed a measure called the American Dream and Promise Act that would provide for Dreamers, as mentioned earlier, and would provide for this young man. Senator McCONNELL refuses to allow us to debate this bill on the floor of the United States Senate. It is unfortunate.

Next week, guys like Ernestor and hundreds of thousands of Dreamers are