

that should have been manageable, with affordable life-sustaining medications.

I heard from Rachael from Greenville who has three children with Type 1 diabetes, but insurance denied coverage for her children's insulin, making it simply unaffordable. So Rachael's family drove across the border into Canada where she said they were able to purchase insulin for \$71 per box, compared to about \$600 for the exact same insulin in Michigan. Rachael is rightfully angry that she needed to travel to another country simply to get her children the insulin they need to stay alive.

Sheron from Detroit told me about the financial challenges of treating sarcoidosis, a rare disease, while also fighting triple-negative breast cancer. Sheron said that insurance was going to charge her \$5,000 for medication she could easily take at home, but it would completely cover it only if she went to the hospital. The last thing Sheron wanted to do was trek to the hospital as she coped with the side effects of chemotherapy.

And I heard from Jeanette from Burton, who had a nearly \$500 co-pay for a prescription while undergoing treatment for thyroid cancer, but without the help of a charitable patient group, she could not afford the medication. While working to get assistance, she went without her medication and could have suffered serious complications.

Unfortunately, these are not isolated stories, and these are not isolated individuals. Too many Michiganders are struggling with rising prescription drug costs, and the consequences can be literally life-threatening. Between 2012 and 2018, prices for brand-name drugs in the United States have increased 68 percent, making critical medications out of reach for most families.

The list price in 2017 for a 1-year supply of Humira—the No. 1 selling brand-name drug that treats arthritis, psoriasis, and Crohn's disease—was over \$58,000. That is more than the annual median income for people in the State of Michigan.

The price of insulin has spiked in recent years, growing by 55 percent since 2014. That is simply outrageous, and it is simply unacceptable. Guided by the stories from Michigan families and medical professionals, I am working to examine and tackle the rising cost of prescription drugs.

Earlier this week, through my work as ranking member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I announced I am conducting an investigation into the skyrocketing costs of prescription drugs. I am also investigating the growing shortages of critical medications affecting hospitals and patients throughout the country.

Unaffordable prescription and hospital-administered drugs—and the increasing number and length of drug shortages—have become an economic,

national security, and public health crisis for Michigan, as well as for the rest of the country.

Through my investigation, I am working to: 1, identify solutions to address increasing drug costs; 2, evaluate the effect of drug shortages on patient care; 3, examine the national security implications of our growing reliance on drugs manufactured overseas, primarily in China and India.

This investigation builds on some of my previous efforts, including my call for the Food and Drug Administration to share information on the Administration's efforts to counter drug shortages—and my bill advancing in the Senate to lower healthcare costs for seniors through Medicare Part B. For many people in Michigan and across the country, being able to afford your medicine is a matter of life and death, and we must take action.

We must allow certainly for safe drug importation from Canada, but let me be clear: Going to Canada is not a solution. You need to be able to purchase affordable, quality, safe prescription drugs in the United States.

We must improve competition, end price gouging, increase price transparency, and hold drug companies accountable.

We must enable Medicare to negotiate drug prices for seniors. We must eliminate drug shortages to ensure that all patients can get the medication they need when they need it, and we must work to bring more affordable generic medications to the market.

Families in Michigan and across the country are counting on us. Families should never be forced to choose between paying their bills or getting the medication they need. But sadly, that is the choice that too many families are facing today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

#### TRIBUTE TO PERRY GREEN

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is Thursday afternoon, and that means it is one of my favorite times in the U.S. Senate because I get to come to the Senate floor and recognize an Alaskan who has done something that is great for our State, great for the community, great for the country—you name it. I come here and brag about somebody I represent in Alaska, and I call this person the Alaskan of the Week. I know the Presiding Officer likes it, and the pages certainly do.

What I like to do when I am starting this speech each week is talk to our visitors in the Gallery and people who are watching on TV to give a little update on what is going on in Alaska and encourage a visit. You will have the visit of a lifetime, guaranteed, if you come to Alaska.

Right now, as you can imagine, the great white north winter is coming in parts of the State. It has definitely arrived in other parts. Winter is a great time to be in Alaska, not just the summer. You can ski, snowboard, and at

the end of the day sit back, drink something warm, and watch the northern lights dance in our sky. So come visit. You will love coming to visit Alaska.

What is really nice to do if you come and visit now is to wear a fur in Alaska. We have some great furriers in Alaska, but David Green Master Furrier in Anchorage is one of the oldest, most well respected, and certainly one of the best in our State and, I think, in the country. It is an Alaskan institution, and our Alaskan of the Week, Mr. PERRY Green, one of the kindest, most generous, most patriotic, hard-working Alaskans, has worked throughout the decades to keep this great institution that way.

Let me tell you a little bit about Perry Green. His father David was from New York. He was enthralled with Alaska, a huge fan of the characters that Alaska attracts, as well as Jack London's "Call of the Wild." So David moved to Washington State to be close to Alaska, where he eventually opened stores many, many years ago.

Perry Green, David's son, was born in Seattle on March 17, 1936. That is St. Patrick's Day. How great is that? I always knew Perry had a little Irish in him. He recalled:

My father would come back from Alaska with such great stories, and all the Alaska sourdoughs would come to visit him. They sat at the dinner table and I was enthralled with their tales.

Anyone who knows anything about Alaska knows those stories, has heard about them, read about them—bear attacks, moose charges, frostbite, crossing perilous rivers, traversing vast landscapes under the dancing skies, wolves howling in the distance, fires barely starting at 40 below, and countless stories about being saved by the kindness of strangers out on the trail.

Perry also came of age during World War II. His father made fur ruffs for the soldiers' parkas, which set the stage for Perry's enduring patriotism and support for our troops. He said:

I remember watching the troops head overseas, the wonderful parades. It all made me swell up with pride.

I would say that Perry Green is the most patriotic American I know, and we have a lot of patriots in Alaska.

He met his beautiful future wife, the beautiful Gloria, gracious Gloria, when they were both young and began dating as teenagers, and they have been together ever since. As a matter of fact, that is 63 years of marriage. That is something to be celebrated. Perry said that marrying Gloria was the best decision he ever made. I know Gloria, and I would certainly agree with Perry, and I would certainly agree with this: Like me, he definitely married up.

Like his father, he traveled back and forth to Washington State often for work. He went to Alaska to work on the Alaska Railroad in order to save enough money to buy Gloria a wedding ring. He served in the U.S. Army for 3 years, and eventually he and Gloria

made their way to our great State to forge a life together. They have been there ever since, and what a life they have lived.

Initially, Perry worked at his father's store in downtown Anchorage, but for a time he broke out on his own and started the Anchorage Fur Trading Company, which became the largest fur dealer in Alaska, and it was wildly successful. He traveled all across the State—300 villages in all, some of them multiple times—buying furs from the locals. He traveled by dog team, by sled, by snow machine, by bush plane, and everywhere he went he was greeted warmly and generously by people in rural Alaska in these villages. He said:

I learned so much from the Alaska Native people. I was in awe of their kindness, their respect for elders, and their rich, cultural heritage.

That time in rural Alaska was one of the best times of his life and laid the foundation for what has been one of Perry Green's biggest loves—our State, the great State of Alaska, which he has given his all to.

His company, David Green Master Furrier, is an iconic business in downtown Anchorage because they sell some of the best and most beautiful furs around, no doubt, but also because of Perry and his extended family, who have done such a great job of running the company for decades.

My daughters and I have a little tradition on Christmas Eve. We head over to this great store and look for something to buy my wife, their mom. It is a fun, fun tradition that we do.

Perry has been the face of the store for decades. People still remember his quirky commercials featuring tarantulas, huge athletes chasing him around, and always the tagline, "If you don't know your furs, know your furrier."

It seems that all of Anchorage and so much of Alaska knew their furrier. It should be noted that they also know this Alaska furrier in Las Vegas as well. Perry Green is a very good poker player and has won three World Series of Poker bracelets and has made it to the final table of the World Series of Poker main event in Vegas two times. How about that for an adventurous life?

It wasn't just his store and Perry's love of a good poker game that has endeared him to so many Alaskans. A man of deep faith, he is one of the most generous people in my State and one of the most committed Alaskans to public service and helping others.

"I never was interested in being rich," Perry said. "I wanted to do something positive for other people because that's the greatest thing you can do."

He has sat on nearly every board there is. You name it—the taxicab commission, the insurance board, the planning and zoning board, the symphony and opera board, the Rotary board, and a member of the Elks Club, the Masons, the Alaska Jewish Campus

and Museum. The list goes on and on in terms of his service.

He also raises money for numerous causes. "I can't think of a fundraising effort that his name isn't a part of," his longtime friend Gordon Glaser said about Perry.

Perry is especially generous in causes that raise money for our men and women in uniform. On the eve of Veterans Day, we can't thank him enough for that.

"Anyone who's been in Anchorage in the last two generations knows that if you need something done, Perry will do it," his friend Gordon said.

If you are down on your luck or if you need a job, need a place to stay, or need some assistance, Perry will help. Every community, every State, has leaders like this. We all know those types of people. They are very special, and he is one of them.

Perry and his wife Gloria are also personally generous with their house—a lively, happy place open to people all across our State and, really, the world.

Anchorage Mayor Ethan Berkowitz, another longtime friend of Perry's, credits him for teaching him and so many others "how to be an Alaskan." What does that mean? According to Mayor Berkowitz, it means that he brought the spirit of Tikkun Olam to Alaska. That is a Hebrew phrase meaning healing the world. Perry has brought this to our State one generous act at a time, one community at a time.

Perry and Gloria will be honored at Alaska's Jewish Gala next week—one of our State's most fun and memorable events. It will be next Saturday evening, and I will be there for sure. It is a time when we all can gather together, celebrate the vital role the Jewish community has played in our great State, and be reminded that Alaska is a place where we can all come together and take care of each other the way the Greens have been doing for decades.

Rabbi Yosef Greenberg, a good friend of mine and another extremely generous man who has given so much to our State, says that the mission of the Alaska Jewish Campus that Perry Green has been so generous to is "Warming up Alaska!"

"In the 60 years of Alaska's statehood," said Rabbi Greenberg, "Perry Green has warmed up Alaska, not only with his David Green fur coats but even more so with the joys of his life, big heart, and lending a hand to ordinary Alaskans and anyone in need." That is how he has warmed up our great State.

Perry and Gloria have done so much for Alaska. They are highly deserving of this recognition they will be receiving at the Jewish Gala next week. Congratulations to them and their 5 children, 13 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, and all of the extended Green family, so many of whom continue to serve our State and country so well.

Perry, from your friend, congratulations on being our Alaskan of the Week.

I yield the floor.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

### REMEMBERING KAY HAGAN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, it is great sadness that Marcelle and I learned of the passing of Senator Kay Hagan of North Carolina on October 28. I have served in the U.S. Senate with nearly 400 Senators. Like many of them, Senator Hagan fought day and day out for her constituents in North Carolina and for the ideals and morals on which our country was founded.

Senator Hagan followed a line of public service in the Hagan family. Her father and brother served in the Navy, and her uncle, Lawton Chiles, represented Florida here in the U.S. Senate. Recognizing the sacrifice and importance of our Nation's service members, Senator Hagan was a tireless advocate for our military members and their families. During her time in the Senate, she was an active partner in our efforts to strengthen the National Guard, and she authored such important legislative initiatives as the Hire a Hero Act. She was also a tireless advocate for women and children, for efforts to support victims of crime, and for the advancement of civil rights. Her tenure in the Senate, in my view, was too short.

After Senator Hagan's work in the Senate, she went on to become a senior policy consultant for Akin Gump, where she held a particular focus on the health and financial services sectors. Additionally, in 2015, Senator Hagan became a resident fellow at the Institute of Politics at Harvard University, where she studied the influence money has in our politics. She said, "I worry how we are going to get good people to run for office if you have to spend so much time raising money." I agree. Our public servants at every level of our government should be more focused on advocating for their constituents, rather than raising a war chest to fight against wealthy corporate interests, pressure groups, or dark money influencers.

Her tragic affliction with Powassan virus, which ultimately led to her passing last month, robbed us of Senator Hagan's dedication to public service far too soon. It was also a stark reminder of how precious our time really is.

I know Marcelle and I join with North Carolinians and our Senate family in mourning the passing of Senator Hagan. Our hearts go out to Chip, their