

channels. Tennessee has tested 4 percent of its population. The governor hopes to increase that to 7 percent by the end of May. That impressive level of testing is sufficient to begin phase I of going back to work in Tennessee, but as I said last week, it is not nearly enough to provide confidence to 31,000 students and faculty that it is safe to return to the University of Tennessee Knoxville campus in August.

Last week I talked with UT Knoxville Chancellor Donde Plowman about what might persuade UT students and 20 million other college students or parents of 50 million K-12 students that it is safe to leave their homes and return to 5,000 college campuses and 100,000 public schools in August. That is where the new shark tank, or RAD X, at the National Institutes of Health that we heard about at our hearing last Thursday comes in. Swimming around in that shark tank are dozens of early stage proposals for new ways to create diagnostic tests.

Three weeks ago, Congress gave NIH \$1.5 billion to create a competitive environment in which Dr. Francis Collins, the distinguished scientist who directs NIH, can search for a few new ideas that can create millions more tests by August and even millions more by the Fall flu season. Congress gave BARDA another \$1 billion to coordinate the manufacture and scaling up rapidly simple tests with quick results.

For example, the FDA authorized last week its first diagnostic test using saliva a person provides at home instead of a nose swab or blood. It authorized its first antigen test, like the ones used for flu or strep throat, which involves swabbing the inside of a nose to produce a result in a few minutes.

Another proposal, not yet approved, is to put in your mouth a sort of lollipop that is a sponge, take a photograph of the lollipop with your cell phone and transmit it to a laboratory. If it lights up, you will know you test positive.

Or the university might send students' saliva to a gene sequencing laboratory, which can process thousands of these in one night and report to the university the next day. In all of these cases, if anyone tests positive, that student or faculty member will be asked to self-isolate for two weeks, and the rest of the student body can continue their education. The same screening test might be repeated in two or four weeks. That same process could occur at a middle school or factory or in advance of for players in a sporting event.

Of course, anyone testing negative one day could test positive the next. But such widespread screening of entire campuses, schools or places of work would help to identify those who are sick and to track down and quarantine those who are exposed. That in turn, should help to persuade parents and students that it is safe to leave home and go back to school.

In addition to more testing by August, I expect Dr. Fauci to tell us about additional treatments available to reduce the risk of death from COVID-19 and about the administration's plan to do something never done before by this country—start mass manufacturing a vaccine before you know for sure that it works.

Vaccines and treatments are the ultimate solutions. But until we have them, all roads back to work and back to school go through testing. The more tests we conduct, the better we can identify the small number of those who are sick and track those who they have had contact with. Then we can quarantine the sick and exposed instead of trying to quarantine the entire country with disastrous effects on our economic wellbeing. This will require millions more new tests, many of them new technologies. Some of these will

fail. But we only need a few successes to create millions more tests.

That is why I said last Thursday that what our country has done so far in testing is impressive, but not nearly enough. First, squeeze all the extra tests out of current technologies. But then create new technologies to produce millions more tests to identify and isolate those who are sick and persuade the rest of us it is safe to go back to work and back to school.

This is a bipartisan oversight hearing to examine how well we are preparing the country to go safely back to work and to school and to determine what more we need to do. Such an exercise sometimes encourages finger pointing. Who did what wrong? Before we spend too much time finger pointing, I would like to suggest that almost all of us—the United States and every country—underestimated this virus. Underestimated how contagious it would be. How it can travel silently without causing symptoms. How it can be especially deadly among certain segments of the population, including the elderly, those with pre-existing conditions, and minority populations.

At the committee's March 3 hearing on coronavirus—six weeks after the first case had arrived in this country, when there were only two deaths in the US from coronavirus—I read this paragraph from the front page of the March 1 Sunday New York Times: Much about the coronavirus remains unclear, and it is far from certain that the outbreak will reach severe proportions in the United States or affect many regions at once. With its top-notch scientists, modern hospitals and sprawling public health infrastructure, most experts agree, the United States is among the countries best prepared to prevent or manage such an epidemic.

A lot of effort has gone into trying to make the United States among the best prepared nations. Over 20 years, the last four Presidents and several Congresses—in response to 9/11, bird flu, Katrina, SARS, H1N1, MERS, and Ebola—passed 9 significant laws that created or contributed to the public health preparedness and response framework we have today.

These 9 laws stood up the Strategic National Stockpile, created an assistant secretary for preparedness and response, provided incentives for the development and manufacturing of diagnostics, vaccines, and medicines, strengthened the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and created the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA). Thanks to the leadership of Sen. Blunt and Sen. Murray, Congress increased funding to the National Institutes of Health for five straight years.

All of this was part of a shared goal—Democrats and Republicans, Congresses and four Presidents—to advance our ability to respond to public health threats, whether known, like anthrax, or emerging, like COVID-19, and they incorporated lessons learned from public health emergencies at the time. But despite all that effort, even the experts underestimated COVID-19.

This hearing is about how we improve our response now and in the fall when this virus is expected to return. During our oversight hearing today and future hearings, I also intend to focus on the next pandemic: What can we learn from this one to be ready for the next one, which will surely come? Can we learn from the current fast tracking of tests, treatments and vaccines how to make them available even more rapidly next time? How to keep hospitals and states from selling off masks and other protective equipment in between crises because of tight budgets. How to make sure Congress funds our share of the responsibility? How to provide enough extra hospital beds without canceling elective sur-

geries, hurting other patients and bankrupting hospitals. Whose job should it be to coordinate supply lines so that protective equipment, supplies, and medicines are available and delivered to where they need to be, when they are needed? How can the stockpile be managed better and what should be in it?

My preacher once said: "I'm not worried about you on Sunday, it's what you do during the rest of the week." I'm afraid that during the rest of the week—between pandemics—we relax our focus on preparedness. We become preoccupied with other important things. Our collective memory is short. Just three months ago the country was consumed with impeaching a President. Now that seems like ancient Roman history. Now, while this crisis has our full attention, I believe we should put into law this year whatever improvements we need to be well prepared for the next one. If there is to be finger pointing, I hope fingers will point in that direction.

We are fortunate today to have four distinguished witnesses who are at the heart of the response to the coronavirus crisis. I have asked each to summarize his remarks in five minutes. Then we will have a five minute round of questions. I have agreed that we will end our hearing at 12:30, which will permit one full round of questions. Sen. Murray will have the opportunity to ask an additional question before we close and all senators will be able to submit questions for the record. There will be other hearings to follow last Thursday's hearing on testing and this one.

Staying at home indefinitely is not the way to end this pandemic. There is not enough money available to help all those hurt by a closed economy. All roads back to work and back to school lead through testing, tracking, isolation, treatment, and vaccines. This requires widespread testing—millions more tests created mostly by new technologies—to identify those who are sick and who have been exposed so they can be quarantined and, by containing the disease in this way, give the rest of America enough confidence to leave their homes. For the near term, to help make sure those 31,000 UT students and faculty show up in August, we need widespread testing—millions more tests created mostly by new technologies—to identify those who are sick and who have been exposed so they can be quarantined and, by containing the disease in this way, give the rest of America enough confidence to go back to work and back to school.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the bravery and dedication of our Nation's law enforcement personnel. Even under normal circumstances, police officers put their lives on the line every day to defend our communities; now, as our country struggles through an unprecedented public health crisis, policemen and women are taking on even more personal risk to keep Americans safe. They deserve our wholehearted gratitude and respect.

I am proud to cosponsor Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator GRAHAM's resolution designating May 10 through May 16 as National Police Week and emphasizing our support for the law enforcement officers across the United States who work to preserve our safety and security. The resolution also pays respect to the many police officers who

tragically fell in the line of duty in the last year, including Officer Kyle David Olinger of the Montgomery County, MD, Police Department.

Officer Olinger served with the Montgomery County Police Department for 2 years and had previously served with the Reading Police Department for 6 years. On April 18, 2019, Officer Olinger succumbed to complications of a gunshot wound he sustained on August 13, 2003, while making a traffic stop at the intersection of Second Avenue and Spring Street in Silver Spring. He observed one of the passengers in vehicle attempting to conceal a handgun underneath the seat. He ordered the man to drop the weapon before a struggle ensued. The man shot Officer Olinger in the neck, injuring his spinal column. The subject and the three other occupants drove away but were all apprehended a short time later. The man who shot him was convicted of attempted murder and subsequently sentenced to life in prison. Officer Olinger was paralyzed below his chest because of the shooting. He was married and had two sons. We will not forget his courage and the courage of his brothers and sisters on the force.

Police officers around the country have devoted their lives to protecting us, and we must do everything within our power to protect them, too. During the COVID-19 pandemic, that means ensuring that all law enforcement officers have the equipment, training, and resources they need to stay safe while they continue their duties. Even though there is an extremely contagious and dangerous virus spreading all over the U.S., police forces cannot simply stop responding to crimes and emergencies. Policewomen and men, like healthcare providers and other essential workers, face a higher risk of contracting the coronavirus so that the rest of us can be safe and healthy. As of May 11, 2020, 101 officers have died from COVID-19. The least we can do is try to mitigate the risk that they face and save as many law enforcement lives as possible.

There are concrete steps that we can and must take to safeguard our Nation's police officers during this epidemic. First and foremost, it is critical that we make the required personal protective equipment—PPE—and testing universally available to the police. I have heard heartwarming stories about communities in Maryland donating PPE to their local police stations, but the bottom line is that public citizens should not need to take on that responsibility. The government should ensure that law enforcement agencies have the tools and equipment they need to perform their duties safely, especially during a period of increased risk like this one. I hope that we will significantly expand funding to State and local governments in upcoming coronavirus legislation so that they have the means to do so.

Unfortunately, even with added protective measures, there will still be law

enforcement officers who contract COVID-19 in the line of duty. We owe those brave men and women support to recover medically and financially from this disease. That means that we need to make workers compensation and comprehensive healthcare, both physical and mental, fully accessible to police officers and men whom COVID-19 has affected. We also need to recognize that serving as a police officer is much more dangerous now than it was 6 months ago, and it should be compensated accordingly; law enforcement officers deserve hazard pay for putting themselves in harm's way during this pandemic in order to keep our communities safe.

Of course, we need to work not just during National Police Week and not just during this health crisis but year-round to show law enforcement officers our gratitude. We must do everything we can to protect them in the line of duty and care for them when their service causes them harm. I will continue fighting to support the heroes who bravely risk their own security to make this country a safer place for all of us.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, each day, our peace officers prepare for work with no guarantee of what the next shift holds. They say goodbye to their loved ones and head out to serve and protect communities throughout Maine and across the country. And unfortunately, on some devastating days, they don't come home. These selfless citizens put themselves in dangerous positions day in and day out to ensure the safety of our people; it is a commitment that evokes awe. They are heroes, walking among us, and when they make the ultimate sacrifice, it is on us to ensure that their names and deeds are not forgotten.

So today, I rise to honor those who have made that sacrifice. This week, we mark National Police Week. This year's observance is, obviously, a bit different than usual. There will be no gathering peace officers from all over the country come to Washington, DC, to honor their fallen brothers and sisters; there will be no in-person candlelight vigil. But though the events are different, the goal is the same: to honor the memory of those who have given so much to protect our communities.

This pandemic will not change our dedication to mourn their loss and honor their service, and this year, we will add 307 names of those who lost their lives in the line of duty to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, including two peace officers from my home State of Maine. I want to take this opportunity to share a little more about the legacies these peace officers leave behind.

First: Detective Benjamin James Campbell of the Maine State Police died in the line of duty on April 3, 2019. Detective Campbell was helping a disabled vehicle in Hampden, ME, when he was struck by a vehicle tire. He was

just 31 years old and leaves behind a wife and young son. He served the Maine State Police since 2012 and was promoted to detective in 2017.

When asked to describe Detective Campbell, Maine State Police Col. John Cote put it simply and strongly, he said Detective Campbell was "one of our very best." One of our very best—that tells you all you need to know about how his colleagues felt about him—an officer who stopped to help someone, a caring man, and a life taken much too soon.

Second, the memorial will include the name of Perley Morrison Sprague, chief of the Rockport Police Department. Sadly, Chief Sprague suffered a major cardiac event on November 15, 1996, and died as a result. A son of Maine, Chief Sprague embodied a life of service. He was born in Bangor in 1948. He was a Coast Guard veteran, serving in Vietnam, and held numerous public safety positions in Maine, including as a member of the Portland Police Department and the Maine Department of Marine Resources, where he served for 21 years and worked his way up to chief of the bureau of the marine patrol. In 1995, he accepted his final position as the Rockport chief of police. Once at Rockport, he was described as a man with new ideas and visions for hiring and training. He lived a life of service, and Maine will never forget him.

As we mourn the loss of these heroes, we must do our part to lift up the loved ones and communities they have left behind. May God bless Detective Campbell, Chief Sprague, and the others around the country who lost their lives. And may God continue to watch over those peace officers who go to work, with no guarantee they will return. They are examples for us all, and Maine will never forget them.

105TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I want to join my friends in the Armenian community in solemnly observing the 105th anniversary of the Armenian Genocide. While we could not commemorate the Armenian Genocide in Rhode Island as we normally would due to the pandemic, I know we are united in our belief in the bright future and resilience of the Armenian people.

More than a century ago, one of the worst tragedies of the 20th century began when the Young Turk leaders of the Ottoman Empire executed more than 200 prominent Armenians. What followed was an 8-year campaign of massacre and oppression. By 1923, an estimated one and a half million Armenians were killed and over a half a million survivors were exiled.

These atrocities affected the lives of every Armenian living in Asia Minor and across the globe. The U.S. Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire during this dark time, Henry Morgenthau, Sr., unsuccessfully pleaded with President