

for Social Security Disability Insurance benefits and Medicare coverage to all eligible Americans.

Forcing Americans to wait 5 months to begin cash benefits and then another 24 months for Medicare coverage is a dangerous policy. In many cases, applicants have little or no income while they are waiting for government benefits to begin. We should not be forcing someone with stage-4 breast cancer or Huntington's Disease or any of the disabilities or diseases that qualify a person for Social Security Disability Insurance to wait to receive benefits. Those who have been determined eligible are American workers who have paid into the Social Security system throughout their lives. We have an obligation to assist Americans in their time of need in a timely manner. When a person receives a diagnosis, bills do not wait 5 months to be paid, healthcare costs are not put on hold for 2 years. Their rent, their utilities, their healthcare copayments come due immediately. Therefore, the benefits these American workers have paid for through their Social Security contributions should be made available to them when they are found eligible.

I would again like to congratulate the senior Senator from Rhode Island. His bill is an important step forward for people with ALS and for all people eligible for SSDI benefits. Let's use this moment to move forward and make comprehensive change to the way we administer SSDI benefits to all eligible Americans with disabilities. Every eligible applicant continues to have essential expenses and needs the cash benefits and healthcare coverage provided by Medicare.

My bill, S. 2496, the Stop the Wait Act, would eliminate the waiting periods for those eligible for SSDI benefits, regardless of diagnosis. It would eliminate the 5-month waiting period for SSDI benefits, and it would eliminate the 24-month waiting period for Medicare coverage. It would help keep people from slipping in to poverty and would ensure they have healthcare coverage.

Today, let's celebrate the policy victory and the great work Senator WHITEHOUSE has accomplished to improve the lives of Americans with ALS. Tomorrow and for the days to come, let's work to secure that victory for all Americans who are eligible for SSDI. They cannot wait.

#### PAID ACT

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, yesterday, the Provide Accurate Information Directly, PAID Act took a pivotal step closer to becoming law. Once enacted, this vital legislation, which I had the privilege of co-authoring with Senator Cardin, will save tens of millions of taxpayer dollars through targeted and common-sense updates to the Medicare secondary payer, MSP, statute, which Congress first codified four decades

ago. The PAID Act aims to ensure that the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, CMS, in coordinating claims related to Medicare Advantage MA, or Medicare Part D plans, can provide the information needed for settling parties to resolve claims fairly and efficiently.

In short, this bill is a boon for seniors, Main Street job creators, and the American taxpayer.

As this bill approaches the legislative finish line, I would like to thank Chairman GRASSLEY for his invaluable support in working with my office, as well as with our Democratic counterparts and with CMS, to bolster, refine, and identify legislative avenues for our proposal. I would also like to thank Senator CARDIN for his partnership in co-leading this legislation, along with Representatives KIND and BILIRAKIS, who introduced a companion bill in the House, which passed by voice vote yesterday. Together, I feel confident that we can see the PAID Act signed into law by the end of the year.

Congress amended the MSP statute in 2007 to require parties to a dispute—known as primary plans—to report settlements, judgments, and awards to Medicare through so-called section 111 reports. This amendment allowed Medicare to seek recovery from settling parties when Medicare paid for healthcare because other payment was not available or reasonably expected to be available. While this system has functioned well for the Medicare Fee-for-Service program, where CMS has the claims data needed for recovery, it has not worked successfully for the MA Part C and Part D programs, where CMS does not have the requisite Part C and Part D claims data and cannot recover for payments that have been made. To compound the problem, settling parties are often unable to identify the correct Part C or Part D plan to be able to coordinate benefits, should they choose to do so. This legislation closes that critical information by having CMS communicate the Part C and Part D plan identification to settling parties in response to a section 111 report. CMS has that data and can provide it.

Congress recognizes that for the last 8 years, CMS has provided section 111 reports to the Part C and Part D Plans, and Congress expects that CMS will continue to do so after this legislation is enacted. Further, the existing MSP statute and regulations impose specific requirements on CMS, and on Part C and Part D plans, to pay for claims in some situations, to not pay for claims in other situations, and to pursue recovery of claims when appropriate. Nothing in this legislation is intended to change any of those obligations or requirements, and Congress expects Part C and Part D plans to continue to seek recovery of claims by timely notifying settling parties when a payment has been made that should be reimbursed, consistent with the CMS notice procedures. This legislation is only intended to provide more information to

the settling parties so that they have the ability to coordinate with Part C and Part D plans earlier, if they so choose.

Congress has afforded CMS 12 months to implement this law, and we urge the agency to move with all deliberate speed to both implement its own system changes and coordinate with primary plans throughout the implementation process. Regular communication and coordination will prove critical in ensuring that Primary Plans are aware of the data exchange requirements that CMS plans to implement and are prepared as quickly as possible to utilize the data CMS will be providing under this law. By involving all stakeholders throughout the implementation process, CMS can implement our intent that the needed plan identity information be available for parties to coordinate benefits as efficiently as possible.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### RECOGNIZING BAYSHORE FIT

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit at the heart of our country. It is my privilege to recognize a family-owned small business that promotes American health and wellness by operating a gym and fitness business. This week, it is my pleasure to recognize Bayshore Fit of Tampa, FL, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2012, partners Jeff Fink and Beth Scanlan founded Bayshore Fit in Tampa, FL. Both Jeff and Beth had years of experience training for marathons, bodybuilding, and fitness competitions. Together, they created a gym that met the demand for a personalized alternative to large national gym chains. Jeff and Beth focused on helping every customer meet their health goals, developing a family-friendly, relationship-driven business. As their client base grew, they quickly moved their gym into a larger facility.

Today, Bayshore Fit continues to serve the Tampa area, with members ranging from first-time gym attendees to senior citizens and even professional athletes. The gym has been featured in local media, recognizing their significant membership growth and continued emphasis on personalized programs.

Bayshore Fit's emphasis on healthy living extends to their philanthropic endeavors. They are involved with the South Tampa Chamber of Commerce and the Westshore Alliance in Tampa's Westshore business district. For more than 8 years, Bayshore Fit has sponsored local youth sports teams. They regularly support local nonprofit organizations, including Frameworks of Tampa Bay, Inc., which fosters youth social and emotional development.

Like many of Florida's small businesses, Bayshore Fit temporarily

closed its doors due to the coronavirus pandemic. In April 2020, the U.S. Small Business Administration launched the Paycheck Protection Program, a small business relief program that I was proud to author. The PPP provides forgivable loans to impacted small businesses and nonprofits who maintain their payroll during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Jeff and Beth used their PPP loan to keep their business operating until Florida allowed gyms to reopen. Bayshore Fit pivoted to provide virtual classes and video training sessions. When they reopened, Bayshore Fit developed an outdoor workout facility. They also introduced a Bayshore Fit app to manage workout class schedules and the number of people allowed to enter the gym.

Bayshore Fit exemplifies the unique role of relationship-driven small businesses in building communities. I commend their support to youth athletics programs and promoting public health.

Congratulations to Jeff, Beth, and the entire team at Bayshore Fit. I look forward to watching your continued growth and success.●

#### TRIBUTE TO BRENDA TORPY

● Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Brenda Torpy, who is retiring this month after decades of service at Champlain Housing Trust. Brenda is not only a leader and ally in the fight for affordable housing, she is a longtime friend.

When I was elected mayor of Burlington, VT, in 1981, I knew I had a unique opportunity to change the way things were done, and to serve working families and others who had been left behind by past administrations. My vision was for a municipal government that worked for every one and increased fairness and equity so that all Burlington residents could get ahead. At the time, far too many residents were struggling to keep up with rising housing costs due to gentrification and development, and owning their own home—a hallmark of the American dream—felt like an impossible goal. I wanted to change that.

My vision for housing in Burlington could never have become a reality without Brenda and her work to establish a community land trust in Vermont. Brenda served as the city's first housing director in the newly created Community and Economic Development Office—CEDO—a role in which she demonstrated remarkable talent and dedication. It was Brenda and her colleagues who proposed the idea of a community land trust, which was a novel idea at the time. Thanks to their work with the Institute for Community Economics and their successful engagement with the community, this innovative model for affordable housing came to the city of Burlington and was established as the Burlington Community Land Trust, now the Champlain Housing Trust. The trust did some-

thing truly transformative: Through shared equity, it gave low-income people access to homeownership that was never possible before. Because the land trust remains affordable in perpetuity, the homes are still affordable today and will remain so long into the future.

From her role at CEDO, Brenda went on to play a pivotal role in the Champlain Housing Trust's growth and success. She served as the first board president and, in 1991, became the executive director. Nearly 30 years later, the Champlain Housing Trust is the world's largest community land trust, with 2,600 affordable homes, including 566 designated for shared equity ownership; more than 6,000 members; and nearly \$300 million in assets. The Champlain Housing Trust has not only benefited Burlington area residents and Vermonters. Brenda has used her talent and dedication to assist countless communities around the country interested in starting their own programs, making the work of the trust a national and international model, now established in it at least 23 States and 8 countries. Additionally, as an active member of the Neighborworks Alliance of Vermont, Brenda partnered with other housing organizations to assist Vermonters all across our State.

I am extremely pleased to see community land trusts serving people worldwide, and remain incredibly proud that the model was spearheaded in my hometown of Burlington, VT. While much work remains to achieve our shared goal of making affordable housing a human right, I am enormously grateful to Brenda for her career-long dedication to achieving this vision. With Brenda's retirement at the end of this year, we will lose an exceptional leader in the housing community, but I am confident that her contributions will not be forgotten. The Champlain Housing Trust and its portfolio represent an impressive legacy, but perhaps even more impressive is the enduring positive impact her work has had on the countless lives changed thanks to affordable housing. Because of Brenda, older Vermonters on fixed incomes are able to stay in their homes; New Americans and refugees can provide stability for their families as they adapted to a new culture and community; single parents can rely on a safe, consistent home in which to raise their children; and young homeowners can break the cycle of poverty by purchasing an asset that will grow in value over time. Quite simply, Vermont and Vermonters are better off today because of Brenda.

Becoming executive director of the Trust the same year I arrived in Washington, it is no exaggeration to say Brenda lent her expertise to me generously throughout my time in Congress. There was never an instance when my staff and I could not rely on Brenda to provide expert insights on the housing challenges we still face, and to put a human face on what can seem like abstract and intractable problems. She

also brought great energy and innovation to this work, and her bold thinking—one of the qualities that made her indispensable in my municipal administration—will also be sorely missed. I count Brenda among my closest allies in affordable housing, and I have greatly appreciated working alongside her for nearly four decades. She has been a tremendous colleague and friend. I wish her all the best in her well-deserved retirement.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 134. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, with regard to stalking.

S. 578. An act to amend title II of the Social Security Act to eliminate the five-month waiting period for disability insurance benefits under such title for individuals with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

S. 1014. An act to establish the Route 66 Centennial Commission, and for other purposes.

S. 2258. An act to provide anti-retaliation protections for antitrust whistleblowers.

S. 2904. An act to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support research on the outputs that may be generated by generative adversarial networks, otherwise known as deepfakes, and other comparable techniques that may be developed in the future, and for other purposes.

S. 3703. An act to amend the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act to improve the prevention of elder abuse and exploitation of individuals with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

S. 4902. An act to designate the United States courthouse located at 351 South West Temple in Salt Lake City, Utah, as the "Orrin G. Hatch United States Courthouse".

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 631. An act for the relief of Arpita Kurdekar, Girish Kurdekar, and Vandana Kurdekar.

H.R. 683. An act to impose requirements on the payment of compensation to professional persons employed in voluntary cases commenced under title III of the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act (commonly known as "PROMESA").

H.R. 1375. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for transparency of Medicare secondary payer reporting information, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2477. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a system to notify individuals approaching Medicare eligibility, to simplify and modernize the eligibility enrollment process, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4225. An act for the relief of Maria Isabel Bueso Barrera, Alberto Bueso Mendoza, Karla Maria Barrera De Bueso, and Ana Lucia Bueso Barrera.

H.R. 7146. An act for the relief of Victoria Galindo Lopez.

H.R. 7572. An act for the relief of Median El-Moustrah.

H.R. 8161. An act to authorize implementation grants to community-based nonprofits to operate one-stop reentry centers.

H.R. 8235. An act to provide for the modernization of electronic case management systems, and for other purposes.