

forward with the research and development of alternative pain treatments that don't lead to addiction as opioids do. There has been some progress there, but not nearly enough, and it needs more help.

Third, in terms of treating substance abuse, our bill builds on what works by doubling down on proven evidence-based addiction treatment methods while expanding treatment options for groups particularly vulnerable to addiction, including young people, new and expecting moms, rural communities, communities of color. And it will make permanent the expanded telehealth options for addiction treatment that were temporarily created in response to the social distancing required by COVID-19. This is an exciting opportunity because it turns out, during COVID-19, when we had to rely more on telehealth, there was actually a lot of success in getting people into treatment.

Now, it wasn't as good as having your recovery coach there with you and your, perhaps, other recovering addicts with you to give you the support you need, but for some people who couldn't travel because of the COVID-19 restrictions and, now, perhaps can't travel for other reasons, telehealth is something that was determined to be quite successful in many cases. We should continue that. We have to change laws to do that because it is about whether that would be reimbursed, particularly under Medicaid and Medicare.

CARA 3.0 will also bolster the recovery options for individuals working to put addiction behind them through funding to support recovery support networks. It will enable physicians to provide medication-assisted treatment, like Methadone, to a greater number of patients and change the law to allow those drugs to be prescribed via telehealth for greater use of access.

Part of the telehealth we are looking for is if you have a medication-assisted treatment plan, then you can use telehealth—in other words, over the internet—to be able to get your prescription. There needs to be safeguards in that. We need to be sure the first time a prescription is given, there is a face-to-face contact and make sure that it is not being abused, but this can be quite helpful.

Finally, CARA 3.0 reforms our criminal justice system to ensure that those struggling with addiction, including our veterans, are treated with fairness and compassion by the law, putting them on a path to recovery instead of a downward spiral of substance abuse.

When someone comes out of one of our prisons or jails and comes out as an addict and there is not treatment provided, way too often that person, of course, relapses and begins to use again, gets back into criminal activity, and gets right back in the criminal justice system. That doesn't help anybody. It certainly doesn't help the taxpayer because the cost is \$30 to \$35,000—probably more at the Federal level—to incarcerate someone.

And when they get out, they are just creating more crimes in the community. It is worth putting some emphasis on treatment while someone is in prison if they are suffering from addiction and, certainly, when they get out, getting them into treatment and recovery programs to get them back on their feet.

By the way, we need these people in our workforce right now. We have always needed them, but we particularly do now. This is a win-win for our economy and certainly for the addict.

CARA and CARA 2.0 have given States and local communities new resources and authorities to make a real difference in our States. CARA 3.0, this new bill, renews and strengthens those programs and, given the recent spike in addiction, provides a significant boost in funding as well.

When added with existing CARA programs authorized through 2023, we would be investing over \$1 billion a year to address the epidemic, putting us on a path toward brighter future free from addiction. It is money well spent, in my view. It is necessary. Again, it is going to help to bring our families back together, get people back to work, and ensure that our communities are not being devastated by crime that is committed in relation to these drug issues.

I believe these two bills—the FIGHT Fentanyl Act we talked about and CARA 3.0—will make a difference in addressing this crisis of addiction our country now faces that has been made even worse during the time of the pandemic. A lot of our victims of this addiction crisis are suffering in silence.

I urge my colleagues: Let's act now. Let's bring this to the light. Let's allow mere people to get into treatment, longer-term recovery. Let's be sure we are making fentanyl illegal in all of its forms. Let's, without delay, go to work to once again do what we know works because we turned the tide on addiction.

We began to turn it in 2018, 2019. Let's get back to that. We will save lives and give so many more Americans the ability to achieve their God-given potential.

I yield the floor.

(Mr. KAINE assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The Senator from Virginia.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations: Calendar Nos. 499, 500, 502, 503, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Navy; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions

be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE MARINE CORPS

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. James W. Bierman, Jr.

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Marine Corps to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Michael Langley

IN THE ARMY

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be brigadier general

Col. Marcus H. Thomas

The following named Army National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 12203 and 12211:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Douglas A. Paul

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE NAVY

PN1278 NAVY nominations (1118) beginning DYLAN L. AAKER, and ending ALISON M. ZYCHLEWICZ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2021.

PN1279 NAVY nomination of Harold S. Zald, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2021.

PN1280 NAVY nomination of Paul J. Wisniewski, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2021.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 3122

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if the Senate receives a message from the House of Representatives that it has passed a surface transportation authorization extension that is identical to the text of S. 3122 that the bill be considered read a third time and deemed passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

PROTECTING STUDENT ATHLETES FROM CONCUSSIONS ACT OF 2021

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, as our students return to in-person instruction, they also will return to school sports. We encourage our students to be active and play school sports to promote healthy habits, team-building skills, and socialization, which are especially important after a year of remote learning due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Yet every year, more than 140,000 estimated student athletes sustain a concussion, and that is just the reported count. We can be sure that many more go unreported and untreated.

The health benefits of competing in school sports are undermined if students are staying out on the field after an injury, especially concussions. Unfortunately, many student athletes return to play prematurely, and there is growing evidence that untreated concussions can have detrimental, long term effects on their health and academic performance.

That is why last week I reintroduced the Protecting Student Athletes from Concussions Act. My bill would direct states to develop concussion safety plans for public schools that include a concussion safety awareness component. Certain States, like Illinois, already have such procedures in place, but it is high time we make this true for all States. By equipping our schools and communities with evidence-based guidance for responding to concussions, we can keep our students and their futures safe.

The bill also would require States to adopt a “when in doubt, sit it out” policy. If there is even the possibility that a student athlete has suffered a concussion, their health and safety ought to be the No. 1 priority. That means, if an athlete is suspected of having sustained a concussion, they should sit out and not be allowed to return to play the same day. They should return to play only once evaluated and cleared by a qualified healthcare professional.

Let’s be clear: A concussion is a traumatic brain injury that affects brain function. It is, by no means, something we can simply shake or walk off. Getting your “bell rung,” like they used to say in my day, is a serious threat to a young person. The still-developing brains of students make them more susceptible to injury, making concussions all the more dangerous.

A “when in doubt, sit it out” policy, endorsed by the American College of Sports Medicine and the American Academy of Neurology, will put the decision to return to the game in the hands of qualified healthcare professionals. It will prevent student athletes from experiencing successive injuries by staying in the game when they are not fit. It will give student athletes time to heal and help ensure that short-term symptoms do not become long-term effects.

As we return to in-person instruction, we must use common-sense and evidence-based approaches to ensure student safety. For school sports, this means we have to put the necessary procedures for preventing, detecting, responding to, and treating concussions in place. This bill would help do that.

It is why my bill is endorsed by the American College of Sports Medicine; American Academy of Neurology; National Football League (NFL); National Basketball Association (NBA); Major League Baseball (MLB); National Hockey League (NHL); National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA); American Academy of Sports Physical Therapy; Academy of Neurologic Physical Therapy; American Physical Therapy Association; Easterseals; Illinois High School Association; National Association of School Psychologists; National Association of Secondary School Principals; National Disability Rights Network; National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association; National Parent Teacher Association; Pop Warner Little Scholars; U.S. Soccer Federation; USA Cheer; USA Football; Safe Kids World Wide; and Sports & Fitness Industry Association.

I hope my colleagues will join me in this common-sense, evidence-based approach to protecting student athletes. Thank you.

AFGHANISTAN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, yesterday, in a hearing in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Ranking Member RISCH, called out the State Department for its apparent lack of action in helping those Americans and Afghan allies who are still stuck in Afghanistan.

It has been 2 months since the withdrawal of all American military and diplomatic presence in the country in the wake of the Taliban’s total takeover of that country.

In the past week or so, the number of Americans reportedly still in the country has grown, not shrunk.

We have gone from around 100 to over 400.

Now, I know Americans are not flocking to Taliban controlled Afghanistan, so why does this number keep going up?

I understand that Americans are not required to register with the State Department so it is understandable that they would not have a reliable, fixed list of Americans at the start of this crisis.

But I find it hard to believe that Americans waited 2 months after being abandoned in Afghanistan by their government to reach out and then, in the space of a week, suddenly found a way to get in touch.

The State Department set up special e-mail addresses and issued guidance on how to report Americans and Afghan allies who need to be evacuated.

My office heard from many Iowans concerned about those they knew in

Afghanistan, and my staff followed the directions from the State Department, forwarding the contact information.

For the most part, all I ever heard back was a confirmation that the message was received.

I am starting to wonder if these went into a black hole?

I did not expect that the State Department would devote time and effort to keeping me informed given that presumably it was all hands on deck to contact those in the country and make arrangements for them.

However, 2 months later, I don’t see much progress.

Then there are reports that efforts by brave former special forces and other Americans who picked up where their government left off to evacuate Americans and Afghan allies have not received the support they needed from the State Department. Is the State Department just washing their hands of this mess?

I shared with Senator RISCH information I passed on to the State Department about 98 Afghan allies known to Iowans to need help as their lives were in danger after the Taliban takeover.

I am only aware of one that has been evacuated.

I know that many have not even been contacted by the State Department.

I am glad that Ranking Member RISCH entered this information into the RECORD along with information from 24 other Senators, totaling 16,688 cases.

That is just one quarter of the Senate, so I know there are many more cases out there.

It is time to hear what the State Department is doing to get the remaining Americans home and to process the cases of Afghan allies so those who helped us and whose lives are at risk can get to safety.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I was absent for Senate vote No. 447, the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 471, Beth Robinson, of Vermont, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit. I would like the record to reflect that had I been present, I would have voted yes.

30TH ANNIVERSARY OF OSCE’S OFFICE OF DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the creation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe’s—OSCE—Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights—ODIHR—one of the world’s most preeminent and comprehensive human rights protection bodies.

In 1990–1991, during the signing of the *Charter of Paris for a New Europe* that created ODIHR, a spirit of “profound change and historic expectations” prevailed among the United States, nations of Europe, and the Soviet Union.