

to treat HIV infection. These treatment regimens help extend and stabilize the lives of those living with HIV while reducing further risk of HIV transmission.

I particularly applaud Maryland's scientific community and academic partners—including the National Institutes of Health—NIH—the Walter Reed Army Institute of Infectious Disease Research, the Institute of Human Virology at the University of Maryland, and Johns Hopkins University—for their groundbreaking research initiatives. For example, NIH-funded research, including clinical trials, to develop pre-exposure prophylaxis—PrEP—medication designed to prevent high-risk individuals from contracting HIV.

Thanks to cutting-edge advancements in treatment, Maryland has reached significant milestones in reducing HIV case numbers. For the first time in over three decades, Maryland reported fewer than 1,000 new cases in 2018 and continues to remain below the 1,000 new case benchmark as of 2021. State-supported efforts such as safe-sex education programs, condom distribution, and the expansion of prophylactic medications have all mitigated HIV transmission. The Maryland Department of Health's antiretroviral therapy campaign has also contributed to viral suppression for 60 percent of the State's HIV patients. Additionally, city and county needle exchange programs have broadened efforts to reduce the circulation of unclean syringes, provide testing for infectious diseases such as HIV, and extend resources for substance abuse.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act—ACA—Americans diagnosed with HIV or at risk of transmission have more meaningful access to healthcare coverage and health insurance. Today, Americans cannot be dropped or denied coverage because of pre-existing health conditions such as HIV. The ACA also gives States the option to expand Medicaid, the largest payer for those who need HIV treatment in the country. The ACA's investments in community health centers' Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative is an integral part of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy.

The ACA has also established new health plan standards or essential health benefits that must be covered under certain health plans. Benefits such as prescription drug services, hospital inpatient care, lab tests, HIV screening, PrEP, and other preventive services aim to preserve the health of those with HIV while mitigating further transmission. Under the ACA, most health insurance plans must provide preventative services, including HIV testing for those aged 15 to 65. PrEP to inhibit HIV is also provided for HIV-negative adults at high risk for contracting HIV. I am proud to cosponsor the PrEP Access and Coverage Act of 2021, which would expand access to PrEP and work to reduce disparities among those recommended and pre-

scribed the medication through multiple initiatives, including eliminating out-of-pocket costs for the medication.

These investments in an infrastructure to test and treat HIV have helped reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS, but have also been essential in curbing the spread of mpox. It has provided natural points of care for testing, access to treatment, and education to populations also vulnerable to contracting mpox.

However, HIV/AIDS is not an issue the U.S. faces in isolation. Outside the U.S., the global HIV/AIDS epidemic remains a grave public health challenge. In 2021, approximately 38.4 million people lived with HIV across the globe, including 1.7 million children between 0 and 14 years of age. Last year, roughly 1.5 million people contracted HIV. Nevertheless, the international community has made significant progress in HIV testing and treatment over recent decades. By the end of 2021, 28.7 million people with HIV, about 75 percent, were receiving ART, while approximately 68 percent of all people with HIV reached viral suppression. In 2021, an estimated 650,000 people died from AIDS-related illnesses worldwide, down from 2 million people in 2004 and 1.4 million in 2010.

Since its inception in 2003, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief—PEPFAR—represents an extraordinary commitment to global health, aiming to prevent, diagnose, and treat HIV infections. Over nearly 20 years, the U.S. has invested more than \$100 billion in the global response to HIV/AIDS. Because of this, we have made significant inroads in access to testing and ART.

In 2021, PEPFAR provided HIV testing services for more than 50 million people and supported ART for nearly 19 million people. As of today, U.S. leadership through PEPFAR has saved an estimated 20 million lives and prevented millions of HIV infections. PEPFAR now operates in over 50 countries, training hundreds of thousands of healthcare workers and providing critical support to healthcare systems. PEPFAR is a powerful example of sincere, effective, and transparent U.S. global health leadership and cooperation.

The COVID-19 pandemic produced a stark reminder that we must swiftly respond to global health crises. It demonstrates that diseases cannot be easily confined to national borders and regional spheres. Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted HIV treatments and prevention services, separating patients from healthcare providers. Vulnerable populations have also been disconnected from educational and counseling services while economic downturns exasperated social and economic inequalities. Marginalized populations and now more susceptible to HIV infection and less likely to access necessary services than before the pandemic's onset. Our interconnected world demands Amer-

ican vigilance, conscientiousness, and our strong investment in global health systems.

Our battle against HIV is far from over. The U.S. must continue to define global health leadership and facilitate cooperation with our foreign partners and allies. I commend President Biden for his enduring support for PEPFAR. I also recognize international partnerships, including the Global Fund along with faith-based organizations and civil society for their long-held commitment to eradicating HIV/AIDS. Most importantly, I want to recognize those living with HIV/AIDS across the globe. Your dignity, fortitude, and endurance testify to the extraordinary power of the human spirit. And in accordance with that drive and spirit, we will prevail in this fight.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARK GHILARDUCCI

• Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Madam President, I rise today to honor Mark Ghilarducci, director of the California Office of Emergency Services—CalOES—as he retires following years of committed and extraordinarily capable public service.

Director Ghilarducci's laudable career spans 30 years of service in public safety and government management at the local, State, and Federal levels, as well as more than 12 years in the private sector, working in security and crisis management globally. I, myself, have had the pleasure of working with Mr. Ghilarducci and have witnessed firsthand his dedication to the safety of all Californians.

Early in his career, Director Ghilarducci served as the deputy State fire chief at CalOES. In this role, he oversaw special operations such as the State Urban Search and Rescue Response System. Director Ghilarducci helped develop this search and rescue system in the wake of the 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake, and this system has since served as the model for the Nation. In fact, Ghilarducci relied on this system as he led the Federal search and rescue operations in the wake of the 1995 terrorist bombings in Oklahoma City, demonstrating the system's effectiveness, as well as his own courage in the face of disaster. Twenty years later, he served as an adviser to the State of Louisiana and Governor Kathleen Blanco in the wake of Hurricane Katrina and provided on the ground assistance.

In 2000, he was appointed deputy director of CalOES, where he oversaw statewide emergency operations, planning, and training. Drawing from his experience in State and national emergency response, Director Ghilarducci utilized his position to advocate for preventative disaster management and clearer communication between local, State, and Federal agencies with disaster-relief organizations. During his

tenure, CalOES expanded its mission to encompass more than natural disasters, adding programs that focused on terrorism prevention and cybersecurity attacks and developed faster and broader disaster response to public health emergencies like COVID-19.

In February 2012, Governor Jerry Brown appointed Ghilarducci to secretary of the California Emergency Management Agency, a great fit for someone so well-qualified. The following year, the Governor appointed him to director of CalOES and he has held this position ever since. While in this role, Ghilarducci briefed President Obama in 2014 on California's historic drought, as well as President Trump and President Biden during their respective visits to California after natural disaster events, including the Camp and Caldor fires. Under his direction, CalOES improved and modernized the State's emergency management. Earlier this year, CalOES announced a first in the Nation grant program focused on building community resilience to prevent long-term disaster impacts.

As one of California's Senators, I extend my deepest gratitude to Director Ghilarducci for his tireless commitment to the safety of Californians and Americans nationwide. Please join me in wishing him a safe, prosperous, and well-earned retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINA GRETTLER

● Mr. THUNE. Madam President, today I recognize Christina Grettler, an intern in my Aberdeen, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several months.

Christina is a graduate of Roncalli High School in Aberdeen, SD. Currently, she is attending Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD, where she is majoring in history. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Christina for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 12:54 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 3369. An act to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia, as the "Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".

S. 4359. An act to designate the regional office of the Department of Veterans Affairs in metropolitan Atlanta as the "Senator Johnny Isakson Department of Veterans Affairs Atlanta Regional Office", and for other purposes.

H.R. 521. An act to permit disabled law enforcement officers, customs and border protection officers, firefighters, air traffic controllers, nuclear materials couriers, members of the Capitol Police, members of the Supreme Court Police, employees of the Central Intelligence Agency performing intelligence activities abroad or having specialized security requirements, and diplomatic security special agents of the Department of State to receive retirement benefits in the same manner as if they had not been disabled.

H.R. 7132. An act to preserve safe access to communications services for survivors of domestic violence and other crimes, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, December 1, 2022, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 4524. An act to limit the judicial enforceability of predispute nondisclosure and nondisparagement contract clauses relating to disputes involving sexual assault and sexual harassment.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. DURBIN, from the Committee on the Judiciary, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2773. A bill to amend the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to address satellite offices of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MANCHIN for the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

*Jeffrey Matthew Marootian, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy).

*David Crane, of New Jersey, to be Under Secretary of Energy.

*Gene Rodrigues, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability).

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Maria Araujo Kahn, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Anthony Devos Johnstone, of Montana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Jeffrey Paul Hopkins, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

Lindsay C. Jenkins, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Jamar K. Walker, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Margaret R. Guzman, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Araceli Martinez-Olguin, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Jamal N. Whitehead, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington.

Daniel J. Calabretta, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

Matthew L. Garcia, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

Adrienne C. Nelson, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.

Jaime E. Esparza, of Texas, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Texas for the term of four years.

Roger B. Handberg, of Florida, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Florida for the term of four years.

Alamdar S. Hamdani, of Texas, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Texas for the term of four years.

Markenzy Lapointe, of Florida, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida for the term of four years.

Terry J. Burgin, of North Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

Glenn M. McNeill, Jr., of North Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 5157. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for patient protection by limiting the number of mandatory overtime hours a nurse may be required to work in certain providers of services to which payments are made under the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 5158. A bill to strengthen civil rights protections against harassment based on sex, race, color, national origin, disability, or age; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 5159. A bill to amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to direct the Secretary of Transportation to seek to provide for the posting of contact information of the national human trafficking hotline in the restrooms of each aircraft, airport, over-the-road bus, bus station, passenger train, and passenger railroad station operating within the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 5160. A bill to designate a laboratory as the National Biodefense Analysis and Countermeasures Center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.