

The Cuban Government's mismanagement of the economy and its reluctance to fully unleash and energize Cuba's fledgling private sector, the global COVID pandemic and economic downturn, and the cutbacks in oil imports from Venezuela have all played a role in the Cuban people's plight.

However, there also are several deeply flawed U.S. policies which enable Cuban authorities to continue to deflect blame for their own failures onto the United States. They have compounded the misery of average Cubans and damaged our relations with partners in the hemisphere. These policies must change.

First, Cuba must be removed from the state sponsors of terrorism list. We will continue to have profound differences with the Cuban Government over the importance of democracy and protection of human rights. But the designation as a state sponsor of terrorism is based on a determination that a government has "repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism," not on differences of opinion about democracy or association with unsavory governments. Removing Cuba from this list, as President Obama did, will bolster Cuba's growing private sector and enable American commercial investment, trade, and travel to Cuba. Both are critical to the future prosperity of the Cuban people. The Biden administration should expeditiously complete any necessary review to remove Cuba from the terrorism list.

Second, the administration should waive the extraterritorial sanctions under title 3 of the Helms-Burton Act, which drew the ire of our hemispheric allies when it was enacted in 1996 and have been waived by all previous Republican and Democratic administrations, save one. Cubans continue to flee the island out of desperation, and we cannot credibly claim to "stand with the Cuban people," while supporting policies designed to cripple their economy and increase their daily hardships.

Finally, we should continue on the path of improving relations between our two governments, including by sending an ambassador to Havana. U.S. engagement with a foreign country does not ascribe legitimacy to its government. If that were the case, we would recall our Ambassadors and close our Embassies in dozens of countries. Our isolationist policy is helping to expand malign Chinese and Russian influence in Cuba, not prevent it. Engagement creates opportunities to cooperate when it is in our national interest and to actively defend universal rights and freedoms. Notably, engagement provides the United States the ability to more effectively counter the influence of our adversaries who seek to exploit the vacuum created by our absence.

None of us condone the repressive policies and practices of the Cuban Government but there are serious consequences to our policy of unilateral

isolation. History has shown that regardless of how difficult life is in Cuba, the Cuban authorities will take whatever measures they deem necessary to crush public dissent to maintain control, as we saw in the wake of the historic street protests of July 11, 2021. Hundreds of brave protesters continue to languish in Cuban jails.

For years, Senator Patrick Leahy worked to replace an anachronistic, failed, punitive policy toward Cuba with one based on common sense and in accordance with our national interests. His efforts played a central role in President Obama's decision to restore diplomatic relations and engagement with Cuba in 2015. That policy was producing unprecedented, positive results for the Cuban people until it was unfortunately reversed. I urge the Biden administration to continue the work Senator Leahy and President Obama began. It is the only policy worthy of the United States.

SUPREME COURT ETHICS, RECUSAL, AND TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. OSSOFF. Mr. President, last week, I voted to advance the Supreme Courts Ethics, Recusal, and Transparency Act out of the Judiciary Committee, as I believe that strong judicial ethics are critical to maintaining public trust in our judiciary. I rejected amendments unrelated to ethics reform to maximize prospects for successful passage of this measure, but I am willing to consider the nongermane amendments offered if put forward as standalone measures or as amendments to germane legislation.

NATIONAL MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing July as National Minority Mental Health Month. Since 2008, Congress has declared this month as National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month in honor of author, journalist and teacher Bebe Moore Campbell, a national agent of change who passed away in 2006.

Thanks to President Biden, through the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, millions of Americans have been able to seek out help with nearly 5 million calls, texts, and chats that have been answered over the past year.

Unfortunately, mental health is a subject that often still has stigma attached to it, even though mental illness touches the lives of millions of Americans each year.

This month provides an opportunity to bring awareness and recommit us to tackling longstanding health disparities and improve the public's awareness of the health challenges that disproportionately affect racial and ethnic minorities in the United States. Mental illness can have a devastating impact on an individual's overall health and

quality of life. Racial and ethnic minorities often suffer from poor mental health outcomes due to multiple factors, including lack of access to quality mental health care services, cultural stigma surrounding mental health care, discrimination, and overall lack of awareness about mental health.

Today, because of historical injustices across our society, including those in the healthcare system, communities of color continue to face health disparities that result in poorer quality of life and lower life expectancies when compared to their White counterparts. For people of color who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender—LGBT—these disparities are often exacerbated. In 2021, according to estimates, only 39 percent of Black or African-American adults, 25 percent of Asian adults, and 36 percent of Hispanic/Latino adults with any mental illness were treated, compared to 52 percent of non-Hispanic White adults.

According to the Department of Veterans Affairs' Veterans Health Administration, American Indian and Alaska Native Veterans report experiencing posttraumatic stress disorder—PTSD—at double the rate of non-Hispanic White Veterans—20.5 percent compared to 11.6 percent.

In 2020, suicide was the leading cause of death among Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders aged 10 to 19; it was the second leading cause of death among those aged 20 to 34.

Mental illness also has a significant impact on our country's economy. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention—CDC—the economic cost of mental illness in the United States was more than \$300 billion in 2021. Fewer than half of those in need, however, receive any mental health care in the United States. This is simply unacceptable. Stigma, cost, and other barriers, such as limited capacity in some areas to serve all those in need, prevent many individuals from receiving necessary mental health care. It is imperative that we act to improve access to high-quality, evidence-based mental health care services in our country.

Maternal mental health has been an enduring issue that has stricken women across the Nation. The types of disorders are vast, though the most common include depression, anxiety, and psychosis. The consequences of leaving such disorders untreated are dire, as they impact not only the mother, but her child, and the community, as well. While all women are potentially susceptible to maternal mental health disorders, there is an evident disparity in the rates at which certain racial and ethnic groups are affected. Around one in seven women suffers specifically from postpartum depression, though mothers of color possess rates at around 38 percent, nearly double that of White mothers. Despite this alarming statistic, these mothers of color are still less likely to receive

both a diagnosis and treatment for their disorder.

Too many children and their families do not have adequate access to high-quality specialty child and adolescent behavioral health care. Child and adolescent psychiatrists practice in a wide range of settings and further facilitate access to treatment through telehealth and collaborative care arrangements with primary care providers, schools, and other systems. And yet, there is still a shortage of inpatient child and adolescent psychiatric beds. According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, there are 1,341,682 children under the age of 18 in Maryland, but only 365 practicing child and adolescent psychiatrists, or 1 for every 3,676 children. There are six counties in Maryland that have no child and adolescent psychiatrists available at all. This is simply unacceptable. Children should have access to a full array of prevention, early intervention, and treatment options within all child-facing systems. We need to act now and improve services with integrated care models, including collaborative care arrangements.

Several weeks ago, I had the opportunity to tour Brooke's House, a community-based sober living environment for women in Hagerstown, MD. I had the pleasure of attending the graduation of a resident who has completed treatment and is transitioning out of the residential treatment environment. Brooke's House was the dream of a young Maryland girl who struggled opioid addiction. It provides a community-based, safe, stable, and emotionally supportive living environment for adult women in the early stages of substance abuse recovery. This model of care ensures a tranquil, home-like facility to provide state-of-the-art treatment and recovery services with resources to help residents achieve their dreams of living drug-free and productive lives. This year, Brooke's House will use an ARC INSPIRE grant to expand support and engagement services, specifically by hiring a coordinator for a commercial driver's license—CDL—program to help more women access job training and placement while in recovery. The addition of this coordinator will help expand the CDL program to serve 12 participants.

Behavioral health equity is the right of all individuals—regardless of race, age, ethnicity, gender, disability, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, or ZIP Code—to access high-quality and affordable healthcare support.

I am excited to see reforms such as the SUPPORT Act, enacted in 2018 with overwhelming bipartisan support, which addresses the opioid epidemic and tackles many aspects of the epidemic, including treatment, prevention, recovery, and enforcement. This year, we begin work to reauthorize key programs within the SUPPORT Act. This bipartisan legislation takes an important step forward in providing additional tools to battle the opioid

crisis. It is imperative we work toward advancing access to high-quality behavioral health care.

The United States is an ever-changing cultural landscape that shapes the way we experience diversity. Cultural values and beliefs not only affect our daily activities, but also influence the way we perceive physical and emotional distress and the need for interventions to deal with them. Mental illness is perceived differently by various cultures, as is the ability to express certain symptoms. Emotional distress and mental health problems occur in all socio-cultural backgrounds as well as ages.

Mental illness affects the lives of so many Americans. We have made great strides as a nation to better support individuals and communities, which is why we recently celebrated the anniversary of the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. This July, in honor of National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, let us commit to continue working together on both sides of the aisle to improve mental health care in our country by building on the success of integrated care models and innovative systems.

REMEMBERING TOM MENTZER

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay a heartfelt tribute to my long-time director of communications, Tom Mentzer, who passed away after a lengthy battle with cancer. Tom was a larger than life personality and his loss is still felt deeply by myself and our entire office.

Tom was born in Poulsbo, WA, but spent a large part of his youth in Germany in the cities of Kaiserslautern and Heidelberg. He was a graduate of Heidelberg American High School and went on to DePauw University, where he majored in political science and communications. Tom stayed in Indiana for his graduate work and completed his master's in journalism at Indiana University in 2001.

He began his communications career in 1994 as a reporter for the Heidelberg Herald-Post. Upon completion of his masters, Tom began work with Scripps Howard News Service before joining the Urban Institute. In 2007, he was hired as a press secretary for Congressman Sam Farr. Tom joined my staff in 2010 as a press secretary, and 4 years later, he assumed the role of director of communications, which he maintained until his passing.

Tom was among the best at his craft and he played a role in messaging nearly every piece of legislation from my office. I valued his wise counsel on many contentious issues, and he was by my side during the release of the torture report as well as multiple reelection campaigns, appropriations fights, and Supreme Court nominations. He was essential to our efforts on ending gun violence, climate change, water issues, and the Lake Tahoe Summit.

Always ready with a humorous quip, Tom understood how to lighten the

mood during the most difficult of days. His zeal for life was infectious, and it extended to many things outside of the office, including travel, sports, cooking, food, and drinks. Tom had a unique ability to connect with people from all walks of life and was a mentor to many in our office. He had an empathy that I admired, and I, like so many others, will greatly miss his wry take on issues of the day.

Tom was private about his cancer diagnosis, and many did not know the extent of the disease. Although he did not beat cancer, he was determined not to let it define him. He was fond of a quote by the late comedian Norm MacDonald, who said, "I'm no doctor, but I'm pretty sure if you die, the cancer dies at the same time. That's not a loss. That's a draw."

I will forever be grateful for Tom's wisdom and dedication to my office and the people of California. I offer my sincere condolences to Tom's family and his wife Kristen, with whom he shared the better part of 22 years of his life. I wish all of them the best during this difficult chapter of their lives.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID GRANNIS

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to give a belated and fond farewell to a valued and long-standing member of my staff, Mr. David Grannis.

Every Member of this Chamber understands the importance of having wise counsel in their corner. It is not only important, but essential, in order to produce meaningful results for your constituents. To that end, David Grannis was an essential part of my team for the past 5 years while serving as the chief of staff to my office.

I previously offered a similar tribute to David in 2016, when he left his position as staff director for the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence to serve as the Principal Deputy Under Secretary at the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Intelligence and Analysis. I will be forever grateful for his return to my personal office, where he ably guided my staff through multiple Supreme Court nominations, impeachments, all-night vote-a-ramas, a global pandemic, and an insurrection. I will also always remember his support during a particularly difficult period after my husband's passing in 2022.

David has had a long and distinguished history of public service. In addition to his time with the Department of Homeland Security, he served on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence for over a decade, beginning as my designee in March of 2005, then serving as my staff director beginning in January of 2009 when I took over as chair of the committee. Prior to joining the Intelligence Committee in 2005, David worked on the House Select Committee on Homeland Security and was the senior policy adviser to Representative Jane Harman on matters of national security.