

colleagues, and I think that working together, we can produce a bill this year that will meet the needs of our Nation's farmers and ranchers and strengthen U.S. agriculture production.

Another obvious area for bipartisan cooperation is the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization that is coming due this year, and none too soon, as recent air travel fiascos have made clear. Our last FAA reauthorization bill was a strongly bipartisan piece of legislation, and this year's bill should be the same.

Another area where I think there is a lot of room for bipartisan cooperation is promoting transparency and accountability in Big Tech.

President Biden recently published an op-ed in the Wall Street Journal calling for, among other things, section 230 reform. I already have bipartisan legislation with Senator SCHATZ to reform section 230 and increase transparency and due process for users around content moderation actions taken by Big Tech platforms, and I will work to advance that legislation in this Congress.

I also think there is a lot we can do on a bipartisan basis to advance trade agreements to expand markets for American products and services around the world. The Biden administration has been slow to take action on trade, and I think there is a real interest from Members of Congress of both parties to accelerate our trade efforts and create new market access opportunities for American workers and producers.

I would also like to think we can agree on the need to conduct serious oversight of government spending to ensure that taxpayer dollars are being used efficiently and effectively. Democrats forced through trillions of dollars in new spending during the last Congress, and conducting oversight of how that money is being spent is nothing less than our responsibility as Members of Congress. I am thinking in particular of the massive funding infusion—\$80 billion the Democrats handed to the IRS. Especially given the IRS' shaky record when it comes to handling taxpayer data, I would hope we can agree that rigorous oversight of the IRS is required.

I also hope that my Democrat colleagues will be open to working to extend tax relief for American businesses and American families. Americans and small businesses are going to face serious tax hikes if the tax relief from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act isn't extended or made permanent. I would like to think that Members of both parties could work together to extend this tax relief and the benefits it provides for Americans.

Another thing that I am hoping will happen in this Congress is a return to regular order when it comes to appropriations bills and other legislation. Omnibus appropriations bills are not an ideal way to fund the government,

to put it mildly. They are an invitation for waste and all the other problems that come with hastily thrown-together legislation, and we need to do everything we can to make sure individual appropriations bills go through the committee process and are individually debated on the floor.

I am very encouraged that the incoming Democrat chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee has joined Senator COLLINS, who will be the top-ranking Republican on the committee, to announce her desire to pass appropriations bills through regular order. I really hope that that will be a bipartisan priority this year.

For similar reasons, we need to put a greater emphasis on making sure non-appropriations bills—especially the biggest bills that we consider—go through regular order in committee, where they could be publicly debated and amended and receive input from all committee members.

I hope that we can move forward a more collaborative and transparent process, which is the kind of process that best serves the American people.

Getting anything done in divided government requires a genuine attitude of compromise, with both sides conceding things, rather than the "my way or the highway" approach that we have seen from Democrats over the past 2 years. But if we can get there, then I think we can achieve a lot together in this new Congress.

I am eager to work with my colleagues from both parties to address the challenges facing our country. And for the good of the American people, I hope we will build a record of bipartisan accomplishment over the next 2 years.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO DANIEL EDELMAN

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the honor of recognizing a true Montana hero, Dr. Daniel Edelman. Dr. Edelman is a veteran of the U.S. Army who was seriously injured on a mission while deployed overseas as the non-commissioned officer in charge of security and intelligence of the 1st Military Intelligence Battalion, 1st Infantry Division.

Despite his severe injuries, Dr. Edelman pursued and obtained bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees, along with several professional certifications, allowing him to have a long and distinguished career serving his fellow Montanans.

While serving as chancellor at Montana State University Billings, Dr.

Edelman championed many student causes, with a particular focus on veterans, disabilities, first-generation, underserved, and Native American students. He worked with the FBI and other agencies to provide educational opportunities for victims of human trafficking and also entered into an agreement for MSUB to partner with the University of North Texas Health Science Center to identify human remains, particularly those of murdered Native Americans. Additionally, he created a veterans success center at MSUB. Dr. Edelman helped raise the final funds for a science building and student scholarships.

Outside of his work at MSUB, Dr. Edelman volunteers by serving on the board of Horses Spirits Healing, a non-profit that helps veterans with PTSD.

After a career dedicated to serving Montana and our Nation, Dr. Edelman recently retired from MSUB due to a terminal condition connected to his time in the U.S. Army. Dr. Edelman truly embodies the values and the spirit of a Montanan, and I have no doubt that his legacy of service will continue for many generations to come.

It is my honor to recognize Dr. Edelman, who is here in the Chamber today in the Gallery with his family. I want to recognize Dr. Edelman for his service to our great State, our great Nation, and for his dedication to improving the lives of his students and his fellow Montanan veterans.

Dr. Edelman, you have made Montana and our country very proud.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). The majority whip.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN PENN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the State of Illinois is my home, and it holds an important place in the history of the American labor movement. All of us learned the name Upton Sinclair in our early days in school, the author of the 1906 novel "The Jungle," which told the story of the horrendous working conditions endured by, largely, immigrant workers in Chicago's meatpacking plants and led to Federal regulation.

A. Philip Randolph, founder of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters, one of America's first unions for African-American workers, was a civil rights champion and a leader of the 1963 March on Washington.

There is also the story of Mary Harris "Mother" Jones, an Irish immigrant who survived the Great Famine in Ireland, the yellow fever epidemic of 1867, which took the lives of her husband and children, and after her own dress shop was destroyed in the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, she went on to become a woman labor organizer and a fierce and beloved champion of coal miners. Before she died, she said she wanted to be buried in a place of honor among coal miners. She is buried in a town near my home called Mount

Olive, IL, in the Union Miners Cemetery, the only union-owned cemetery in America.

Aside from being legends of labor history, Upton Sinclair, A. Philip Randolph, and Mother Jones had something else in common. They are all members of the Illinois Labor History Society's Union Hall of Honor, which was founded in 1969 to make sure that important figures and defining chapters of America's labor history are not forgotten.

The society's highest honor is to be named to its Union Hall of Honor. Last month, a longtime friend of mine, John Penn, was inducted into the Illinois Labor History Society's Union Hall of Honor. After nearly 60 years of protecting workers' rights in Illinois, the Midwest, and our Nation, John has certainly earned that honor. He is one of 113 men and women who have been inducted into the Union Hall of Honor, but to me John is one in a million.

He got his first union card in 1965, when he was 16 years old, joining the Laborers' International Union of North America Local 362 in Bloomington, IL. He took a break by joining the United States Air Force, serving in Vietnam, Korea, Guam, and then returning back to Bloomington and Local 362.

It was the same path taken a generation earlier by his father, Paul Penn, a World War II veteran who rose to become president of the same local. But John's family connections didn't win any special treatment. He had to rise through the ranks, and rise he did—from business manager of Local 362 to business manager of the 36-county North Central Illinois Laborers' District Council, then business manager of the four-state Great Plains Laborers' District Council, and, in 2008, vice president and regional manager of LIUNA's 10-State Midwest region and a member of the international union's general executive board, positions to which he has been reelected three different times.

Under John Penn's leadership, LIUNA Local 362 grew, giving a voice to scores of workers who previously had never benefited from union representation.

Some years ago, in response to several tragic accidents, John made himself known to many by stopping all highway construction in McLean County to force the State of Illinois to improve protections for vulnerable construction workers and others on the State's roadways. That action culminated in the creation of the Illinois State's Work Zone Safety Committee and implementation of numerous policies that saved lives.

Somehow, John also found time to resurrect Bloomington's Labor Day parade, to serve on several community and State boards, including the United Way of McLean County, the Children's Christmas Party for Unemployed Families, Illinois Special Olympics, the McLean County Promise Council, and the Bloomington-Normal Advancement and Economic Development Council.

He was honored by his hometown newspaper, the Bloomington Pantagraph, as its 2003 Person of the Year. He received a Thousand Points of Light Foundation award from then-President Clinton in 1997 in recognition of his volunteer efforts and those of all Bloomington-Normal building tradespeople who he recruited over the years to take part in these organizations.

At the end of this month, John Penn is retiring from this position with the Laborers' union. As he begins this new chapter, Loretta and I wish John and Mary, his wife of 55 years, good health, good times with their daughter Shawn, their children and grandchildren.

John, you made a real difference for so many people. You are truly a hall of famer, and thanks for all that you have done.

MEDICAL RESEARCH FUNDING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in the last two centuries, Federal support for scientific research has helped to split the atom, defeat polio, explore space, create the internet, map the human genome, develop vaccines and treatments for COVID-19, and so much more.

No nation has made such significant investments in science, and no nation's scientists have done more to improve the quality of life.

But with the challenges we face today, from devastating diseases to climate change, there is more progress to be made.

So America is at a turning point, and unless we commit to providing strong and sustained funding increases for our Nation's premier medical and scientific researchers, our position as the world leader will be at risk.

That is exactly why, since 2014, I have continued to introduce legislation to keep our Nation on the cutting edge. It is entitled the American Cures Act.

This bill will provide our top medical research Agencies with 5 percent real funding growth every year. That is steady, predictable growth, pegged above the rate of inflation.

This money would support the National Institutes of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Department of Defense Health Program, and the Veterans' Affairs Medical and Prosthetics Research Program.

This investment would be game-changing for the Agencies. Consider the National Institutes of Health. It is our Nation's—if not the world's—premier medical research Agency. Their pioneering work at this single agency saves lives and fuels our economy, supporting nearly 20,000 jobs just in my home State of Illinois.

Today, the NIH budget is \$47.5 billion. More than 95 percent of this funding is competitively awarded to scientists, research institutions, and small businesses in every State across the country.

Researchers supported by the NIH make tens of thousands of new discov-

eries every year—breakthroughs that could literally change the world.

In recognition of these remarkable feats, Congress has, on a bipartisan basis, increased the NIH annual budget by more than \$17 billion since I first introduced the American Cures Act in 2014.

This chart is an indication of that growth. It has gone from \$30 billion to \$48 billion in that period of time since 2014—a 58-percent increase.

These increases would not have been possible without a bipartisan effort in the U.S. Senate.

I enlisted a willing participant and ally and really effective Member of the Senate, PATTY MURRAY, to be part of this; former Senator Roy Blunt of Missouri, who, when the Republicans were in majority control of the Senate, kept up this promise to increase the spending; and retired Senator Lamar Alexander from Tennessee, who shared our passion for medical research.

Luckily, we had a leader at the time, Dr. Francis Collins, former Director of the NIH, who really did his part in enlisting support for these increases.

NIH is not the only Federal medical research Agency to see significant funding increases. We have also secured \$2.4 billion in increased funding for the CDC over the last 9 years. That is a 35-percent increase since fiscal year 2014.

And while it is not reflected in the chart I just showed, both the CDC and NIH also received billions in supplemental funding from COVID rescue bills passed by the Senate in 2020 and 2021.

While this year's budget provided a 5.8-percent bump to the NIH, a \$2.5 billion increase, I am sorry to say we fell short of the 5-percent real-growth target above inflation.

If we had met this target, NIH would have received \$650 million, up to a level of more than \$48 billion.

That said, I am still encouraged about how far we have come. We finally reversed a 22-percent decline in NIH purchasing power that took place after 12 years of flat funding, but we need to step up our efforts.

Diseases like cancer, stroke, opioid addiction, and mental illness will not wait on us. Half of all men and one-third of all women in the U.S. will develop cancer in their lifetime. Someone's mother, father, brother, sister, or spouse is diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease every 65 seconds.

And 1 in every 300 people will be diagnosed with ALS in their lifetime. Sadly, a number of my closest friends already have received this diagnosis.

Sustained and robust NIH funding will help cure, prevent, and treat these diseases. It will help the people that we all care about the most, and it already has.

Because of NIH funding—listen to this—the American Cancer Society estimates that nearly 3½ million lives were saved between 1991 and 2019 as a result of improvements in cancer treatment, detection, and prevention—a 32-