

that we have made virtually no progress in getting them to lower their prices. We have asked the leadership of the company to come before the committee to explain why their prices are so much higher in the United States than in other countries. Unfortunately, they have not agreed to do that.

Therefore, the HELP Committee has no choice but to subpoena the leadership of Novo Nordisk to testify and explain their actions. I look forward to the presence of the leadership of Novo Nordisk at a HELP Committee hearing on July 10.

Let me be very clear. The HELP Committee that I chair will continue to ask the tough questions that the pharmaceutical industry would prefer us to ignore: Why is it that the median price of new prescription drugs in America is now over \$300,000, including for many new cancer drugs? Why has the pharmaceutical industry spent over the past 25 years some \$8.5 billion on lobbying and over \$700 million on campaign contributions?

Right now, as we speak, there are some 1,800 well-paid lobbyists of the pharmaceutical industry all over Washington, former leaders of the Republican Party and the Democratic Party, doing everything they can to make sure we do not ask those questions and that we are not successful in getting them to lower their prices.

Mr. President, let me conclude the way I began. This is an issue that is not a Democratic issue. It is not a Republican issue. It is not an Independent issue. The American people are sick and tired of being ripped off by the pharmaceutical industry, sick and tired of paying by far the highest prices in the world.

And the time is now for the Congress to have the courage to stand up to the 1,800 paid lobbyists here in Washington, DC, all the campaign contributions that come in, and tell the industry enough is enough. Lower the prices you are charging the American people.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Massachusetts.

TRIBUTE TO RICHARD CORDRAY

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize my friend and my former colleague, Rich Cordray. Rich's career demonstrates public service at its very best.

Nearly 14 years ago, I picked up the phone and made one of the smartest phone calls I have ever made. It was to Rich Cordray. I asked him to take a chance on me to join me in starting a new Federal Agency. That just-getting-started Agency turned out to be the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Rich was finishing up his term as attorney general for the State of Ohio. As AG, he had earned a strong reputation for being the kind of public servant who looks out for the little guy. He was in multiple battles, and he led major lawsuits against both Bank of America and AIG. Protecting con-

sumers seemed to be in his blood, so it was a natural fit for Rich to take charge of the enforcement arm of the CFPB.

Establishing the CFPB was a huge task. Critics said the new consumer Agency was a pipe dream. Republicans said that it would never get through Congress. Armies of lobbyists poured millions of dollars into opposing it. But none of that fazed Rich at all. He always stayed level, calm, and absolutely determined. He did the work needed to bring that Agency to life because that is just who he is.

Rich's courage and determination paid off. On July 18, 2011—a day I will never forget—I stood beside President Obama in the Rose Garden as he announced Rich Cordray as his nominee to be the first official Director of the CFPB. President Obama told me two things about Rich: He said he liked Rich, and he said he thought Rich would be a good leader. I agreed. I just knew that Rich would be terrific, and we were both right.

As CFPB Director, Rich forced the biggest financial institutions in this country to return billions of dollars to the consumers they cheated, and through his work, he proved that government could work not just for the millionaires and billionaires but for ordinary people.

One of the ways he did it was by having what I call the perfect balance of nerve and skill.

I will share just one story. Rich has never been shy about taking on the biggest financial institutions in this country. In the early days, he investigated Capital One for misleading customers about their cost of “free” add-ons to their credit cards. These “free” services actually cost customers a total of about \$140 million. So what did Rich do? He put in the work, fought back the armies of lobbyists and lawyers, and forced Capital One to send the hidden fees back to every single customer they had cheated. The best part—the customers didn't have to wade through reams of paperwork or stay on hold for hours. Rich set up the system so that the checks came automatically in the mail. He set the standard for what it means to protect consumers. But that is not all. On top of getting hard-working Americans their money back, Rich and his team got Capital One to pay an additional \$25 million fine. It takes a special kind of leader to get that done.

At every turn, Rich Cordray has been fearless. Thanks to Rich, the CFPB has become the watchdog that so many of us fought for, and his legacy is felt each and every day as the CFPB continues to put money back into the pockets of working people.

Since it got off the ground, the CFPB has now returned over \$20 billion and helped more than 205 million consumers. I will say that again—\$20 billion returned and 205 million consumers helped. That would not have happened without Rich Cordray. That

record of public service is awe-inspiring.

Nobody would have blamed Rich if he had said: OK, I am tired, and I am ready to throw in the towel. But that is not Rich. After his work at the CFPB, he asked: What more can I do? And for the past 3 years, he has led the Office of Federal Student Aid at the Department of Education—a powerfully important and often thankless gig.

Since joining the Department of Education, Rich has changed millions of lives for the better, and, again, that is not an exaggeration. His North Star was always clear. He worked day in and day out to protect working people who are getting crushed by student loan debt.

Rich stood up to the student loan servicers who were cheating Americans, and, like he did with the big banks, he held these guys accountable.

For years, servicers failed borrowers over and over and over but faced no consequences as they raked in hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars. Rich reversed the Trump-era guidance that stopped States from protecting their own residents against abusive servicer behavior. He implemented new accountability standards for servicers, and he backed that by hard data on customer service and performance. When those servicers didn't meet those standards, Rich wasn't afraid to hit them with penalties and push out the bad servicers. Rich was committed to ending the days of lousy service and big profits for the loan servicers.

One of the most important ways that Rich changed the lives of Americans all across this country was by overseeing the Biden administration's efforts to cancel student debt. With Rich Cordray's help, President Biden has canceled more student loan debt than any President in the history of this country. Nearly 5 million people have seen their student loans canceled, and the administration has a plan to cancel debt for 30 million Americans in total.

Rich Cordray led the way in fixing the broken debt-cancellation programs and making them work for hard-working Americans. I will give you just one example on this.

Before President Biden took office, only 7,000 people in total, everywhere in the United States, had gotten relief through the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program—7,000 total. Today, the laws are the same, but with Rich at the helm, nearly 1 million public servants have had their debt wiped out. For working people in this country, for mommas and daddies, for firefighters and nurses, for DMV workers down the street and the teacher at your local elementary school, this debt cancellation has been absolutely life-changing.

On a personal note, I am beyond proud of Rich. Rich is one of the most effective and honest public servants I have ever met. He has talent and dedication. But what makes him so special

is that Rich has always centered everyday Americans in his work. From serving as a State rep back in Ohio, to becoming their first ever solicitor general, to taking office as the State's treasurer and then its attorney general, Rich proved each and every day to the people of Ohio that their government could work for them. When he came to Washington, he always made sure that people all across America knew he was working for them. Whenever he traveled, wherever people reached out to him, Rich would listen. He would sit down with people, hear their stories, hear how they were cheated by a big bank or on a student loan, and then he would set about making things right.

Rich, the American people owe you a great debt for your work on their behalf. When our country needed you, you answered the call. You are a true example of public service and one of the most fearless leaders I have ever known. It is an honor to know you and an even higher honor to call you a friend.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Florida.

IVF

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, in vitro fertilization—or IVF, as most of us call it—has brought beautiful babies to so many families. IVF is a wonderful thing that enables so many Americans struggling with infertility to have children and start a family.

For me, it is personal. My youngest daughter has been undergoing IVF treatments to grow her family. But she is just one of countless Floridians and Americans using IVF to grow their families and bring life into the world.

While IVF remains available in all 50 States and there isn't any credible threat to it, I believe it is important for the Senate to make clear our unwavering support for current and aspiring parents using IVF to start and grow their families.

We ought to celebrate Americans trying to grow their families. I am proud to lead a resolution in the Senate doing just that. My resolution affirms the desire of parents trying to conceive a child to start or grow a family; expresses sympathy for the millions of parents experiencing infertility issues as they strive to start or grow a family and recognizes the immense physical, emotional, and psychological toll of pursuing medical assistance for infertility, including IVF; cherishes the millions of children born through the use of medical assistance to overcome infertility, including through IVF; recognizes that medical assistance for infertility, including IVF, is and remains legal in all States and territories in the United States; affirms that laws enacted by Congress should promote the sanctity of human life and support the development and growth of families in the United States; encourages further clinical research to improve outcomes for parents seeking medical assistance

to overcome infertility as they strive to start or grow a family; and supports State, legislative, and regulatory actions to establish health, safety, and ethical standards for medical facilities offering assisted reproductive technologies, including in vitro fertilization.

Now let me take a moment to clarify a few things about the bill the Democrats are pushing this week.

First, let's be clear, there is not a single State in the country that has outlawed IVF or has expressed any interest in outlawing IVF. This is just empty fearmongering by Democrats who would rather push unnecessary bills like this than take meaningful action to secure our border, improve our economy, or hold the radical members of the Biden administration accountable for their lawless conduct.

I think everyone here supports IVF, which is great because Democrats are typically advocating for unlimited abortion, not more babies, which is what we get with IVF.

If a State takes action against IVF, I will be the first to condemn it, but that isn't happening.

This is ugly politics at its worst.

I have the resolution I just outlined. I appreciate the work that Senators CRUZ and BRITT have done on this important topic.

Republicans support IVF, and the Democrats know that. But when we vote against this unnecessary bill, that is exactly what they will say when they attack us.

We will not accept this gross purity test from the radical left. The American people, who are much smarter than Democrats hope they are, see right through this.

Let's get to work solving real problems, like our wide-open southern border and the skyrocketing inflation crushing American families. That is the important work the Senate should have been focused on these last 2 weeks instead of taking political show votes for Democrats to shamelessly lie to the American people and themselves.

But if Democrats insist on taking action that impacts the ability to undergo IVF treatments, I have a proposal for them. We should help individuals and families better plan and pay for medical expenses, like IVF, by decoupling health savings accounts from high-deductible health plans, increasing the current contribution limits on HSAs, and demanding more upfront price transparency and outcome data from providers to allow families to easily shop for services to drive down costs through market forces.

I am working on a bill right now to allow every individual and family to better plan and pay for medical expenses, such as IVF, by expanding eligibility for health savings accounts and increasing the current contribution limits on those HSAs.

Helping folks financially plan as they try to expand their families is smart and the type of commonsense action

that families in all of our States expect from Washington, DC. They want action, not partisan politics or fearmongering, and the legislation I am drafting will be hugely beneficial to current and aspiring parents looking at IVF as a way to grow their families.

I hope Senator SCHUMER and every Democrat will commit to working with me on this and passing a good bill that will truly help countless families hoping to bring more babies into this world.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Massachusetts.

AZERBAIJAN

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak out against Azerbaijan's unlawful detention of Armenian prisoners of war and alarming record of rampant human rights violations.

On September 19, 2023, Azerbaijan launched a large-scale military attack against Nagorno-Karabakh to gain full control over the territory, causing a mass exodus of more than 100,000 ethnic Armenians—virtually all of the region's ethnic Armenians—as well as the regional government to capitulate.

Azerbaijan then falsely denied that it forced people to leave and insincerely promised that it will peacefully reintegrate the region and guarantee the rights of ethnic Armenians.

Instead, even after their surrender, Azerbaijan punitively arrested and detained leaders of the former Karabakh Government, including former State Minister Ruben Vardanyan, who is here as he is being arrested by Azerbaijan military officials.

Also, ex-Presidents Arkadi Ghukasyan, Bako Sahakyan, and Arayik Harutyunyan, Foreign Minister David Babayan, Parliament Speaker Davit Ishkhanyan, and former generals, Levon Mnatsakanyan and Davit Manukyan. These eight former officials have been held in pretrial detention for more than 8 months. And just last month, Azerbaijani authorities extended the detention with another 5 months—without a trial, without due process—and Azerbaijan has routinely resorted to hostage diplomacy, prolonging unlawful detention and using prisoners of war as bargaining chips to impose its demands on Armenia, in clear violation of international law.

In fact, Azerbaijan is still holding dozens of Armenian prisoners of war and civilian political prisoners that it took captive during the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war. And, additionally, widespread reporting—including from Human Rights Watch, the International Federation of Federal Rights, and the U.S. Department of State—calls attention to the terrible treatment of political prisoners by Azerbaijan.

Former State Minister Ruben Vardanyan alone has faced punitive extended stays in solitary confinement, poor prison conditions, denial of water and clean clothing, and orders that require him to stand for hours on end. He