

trial—in which participants receive a combination of paclitaxel and carboplatin delivered to their brain with the ultrasound technique—is to investigate whether this treatment prolongs survival of these patients. A combination of these two drugs is used in other cancers, which is the basis for combining them in the phase 2 trial.

In the phase 1 clinical trial reported in this paper, patients underwent surgery for resection of their tumors and implantation of the ultrasound device. They started treatment within a few weeks after the implantation.

Scientists escalated the dose of paclitaxel delivered every three weeks with the accompanying ultrasound-based blood-brain barrier opening. In subsets of patients, studies were performed during surgery to investigate the effect of this ultrasound device on drug concentrations. The blood-brain barrier was visualized and mapped in the operating room using a fluorescent dye called fluorescein and by MRI obtained after ultrasound therapy.

“While we have focused on brain cancer (for which there are approximately 30,000 gliomas in the U.S.), this opens the door to investigate novel drug-based treatments for millions of patients who suffer from various brain diseases,” Sonabend said.

Other Northwestern authors include: A. Gould, C. Amidei, R. Ward, K. A. Schmidt, D.Y. Zhang, C. Gomez, J.F. Bebow, B.P. Liu, I.B. Helenowski, R. V. Lukas, K. Dixit, P. Kumthekar, V. A. Arrieta, Lesniak, H. Zhang and R. Stupp.

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Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I am a liberal arts lawyer. I am not a doctor, and I am not a researcher. So when I get into these fields, I want to say the words I use very carefully, not to misstate what is clearly the case.

But this was an amazing article, which is entitled “Device uses microbubbles to open blood-brain barrier to treat glioblastoma in humans.”

It is the story of Northwestern Medicine scientist Adam Sonabend:

[R]eport results of the first in-human clinical trial using a skull-implantable ultrasound device to open the blood-brain barrier and repeatedly permeate large, critical regions of the human brain.

To try to translate this into simple words, the blood-brain barrier is something I don't understand. When we take two beers and drink them, we can feel it, so the alcohol has permeated the blood-brain barrier. But in the ordinary course of events, it is, in fact, a barrier for chemicals to enter the brain.

Dr. Sonabend is finding a way to get beyond that barrier, and it is for the treatment of what is known as glioblastoma, brain cancer. We know that very well on a personal basis here in the U.S. Senate. We have lost John McCain to glioblastoma; Ted Kennedy to glioblastoma; one of our Democratic cloakroom staffers, Tim Mitchell, to glioblastoma; and Hunter Biden's brother, Beau Biden, died from glioblastoma.

Why? I am going to try to say this in simple words, and I hope I don't misstate it. Because when we discover the

tumor, the first reaction is surgery to remove the tumor. And so you will see, with each of the people I have just mentioned, that experience take place. The tumor is removed, but unfortunately the chemotherapy that is common to stop cancerous tumors from emerging in the same area can't be used because of the blood-brain barrier. This barrier stops the application of the medicine. So the researchers are finding a way to get beyond that barrier to bring chemotherapy to the brain of those suffering from glioblastoma.

We lost the individuals that I mentioned earlier because the followup was so difficult because of this barrier. Now, that is as far as I can go in layman's terms explaining the situation, but the reason I raise that issue is because it is timely.

#### DREAMERS

The reason it is timely is the doctor who is heading up this research at Northwestern University is a Mexican immigrant to the United States. He has been here almost 10 years. He has a team of nine other doctors. They are all doing this research—critical NIH research—at Northwestern, and I am proud of the fact that they are doing it and doing it successfully.

The point I want to make is, the discussion of immigration here in the United States often is a discussion about fear and hate; that immigrants are somehow a threat to this country. Donald Trump has gone so far as to say they poison the blood of America.

Now, those sorts of bigoted, hateful statements have been used throughout history to condemn immigrants who—we have to be honest with ourselves: Go to your favorite hospital, wherever it may be. Take a look at the roster of physicians and surgeons that are going to treat you and your family—and you pray to God they are successful—and notice how many names that appear to be immigrants of this country. They probably are. And we should be proud of the fact that this Nation of immigrants invites people to bring their talents to the United States and to succeed.

Dr. Sonabend, coming to the United States from Mexico, is certainly welcome. I want him to stay and be successful—and his team as well. We need his immigrant talent as others will throughout our Nation's history. They are going to make a difference in the lives of a lot of individuals.

So when President Biden decides that he is going to open up immigration in the United States and give people an opportunity to live in this country and be part of its future, I say, as long as they go through a background check and we know that they are making a positive contribution, paying their taxes, and following the law, they are welcome here in the United States.

I say this with some prejudice. My mother was an immigrant to this country. Her son is a Senator from the State of Illinois. And that, I think, is

an indication of what can happen to the sons and daughters of immigrants, given a chance. That is what America is all about.

Madam President, it has been more than 20 years since I decided to introduce a bill called the DREAM Act. This bipartisan legislation provides a pathway to citizenship for young immigrants who were brought to the United States as children. These young people who are known now as Dreamers grew up in the United States, went to school with our kids, pledged allegiance to the only flag that they have ever known. And poll after poll shows a vast majority of Americans believe they deserve a chance.

They didn't make their family's decision to come here; their family made the decision, and they grew up here. We support, on a bipartisan basis, giving Dreamers an opportunity to become American citizens. I am sorry that they were not expressly included in the President's proposal, but in one aspect they were.

Time after time, the DREAM Act has earned bipartisan support in Congress, only to ultimately be blocked by Republicans. Without congressional action, every day, Dreamers live in fear of their lives being uprooted by deportation.

Now, Dr. Sonabend is not a Dreamer. I don't make the mistake of equating that situation. But he is an immigrant. And the point I am trying to make is, immigrants can make valuable contributions to our lives.

When I started off on the DREAM Act, I introduced the bill, and there was a battle between me and Orrin Hatch. Madam President, you didn't get a chance to serve with him, but he was a Republican from Utah and proud of it, and he believed the DREAM Act was his first idea. I thought it was mine. But the majority at the time was Republican, and I said to Senator Hatch: You be the lead. It will be a Hatch-Durbin bill.

Well, over time, he decided that he didn't like the idea any further and dropped his sponsorship of the legislation, but I continued pressing forward with it.

Lucky for me, there was a former Republican Senator from Indiana named Richard Lugar, an extraordinarily good man. I asked him to appeal to President Barack Obama because they were personal friends, to use the President's Executive authority to help Dreamers.

Twelve years ago, President Obama answered this bipartisan call from Senator Lugar and myself, establishing the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, better known as DACA. DACA is a form of the DREAM Act that has protected more than 830,000 young people from deportation. Many have gone on to serve our Nation as doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers, and first responders.

President Biden faces a dilemma similar to President Obama's. He has tried to work with Congress to fix the

broken immigration system—and it is broken—but Republicans have repeatedly thwarted his efforts.

Most of us believed that we had an opportunity for a breakthrough, a bipartisan effort, with Senator JAMES LANKFORD on the Republican side leading the way, as well as two Democratic Senators, MURPHY and SINEMA, to make this a bipartisan effort. They had a bipartisan border security bill that was coming before Congress.

At the very last minute, when this measure was about to be considered, Donald Trump stepped in and said: Stop. I don't want any Republicans in the Senate to support a bipartisan effort to solve the border crisis. Stop what you are doing right now. I would rather have the issue to debate in November than to have you try to solve it and give Biden any credit for it.

Former President Trump said at the end of his statement: You can blame me. Well, I am blaming him that he stopped a bipartisan effort to solve the border crisis. When the bill came to the floor, the vast majority of Republicans opposed it at his request. The fact is, he said: "Blame it on me." I do. The former President has made it clear he does not want a solution to our immigration challenges before the November election; he wants a campaign issue.

He has demonized immigrants, saying—and this is one of the most despicable quotes I can think of—that they are "poisoning the blood of our country." He has promised to round up and deport every undocumented immigrant in our country, including Dreamers.

In light of this Republican obstructionism, President Biden has no choice but to use his authority as President to improve our broken immigration system. That is why 3 months ago I led a group of 19 Senate Democrats asking President Biden to protect immigrants with deep roots in our country, including Dreamers and the spouses of U.S. citizens. This week, President Biden responded, taking action to protect immigrants who have been here for decades, paying taxes, and contributing to all of our communities.

The President is helping Americans with noncitizen spouses keep their families together by allowing them to apply for lawful permanent residence—a status they are already eligible for—without leaving the country. He is also allowing Dreamers and other immigrants who have earned a degree from an American college and have received a job offer from a U.S. employer related to their field to more quickly receive work visas.

I commend President Biden for taking these steps, but ultimately only Congress can fix the immigration system in America.

To my Republican colleagues who may criticize the President, instead, I urge them to work with Democrats to pass immigration reform legislation.

I just want to conclude this part of my opening statement by saying that

this issue means so much to me. It was over 20 years ago that I introduced the DREAM Act, as I mentioned earlier. I have come to know these young people, and I have come to try to help them over and over again.

We have had some success on the floor, where we would pass a measure, and the House would not take it up. But despite that frustration, they continue to soldier on every single day, despite fear of deportation, to do their best to be part of America. Given that chance, they have proven themselves over and over again.

I often think, when you consider the hundreds of thousands of individuals who have been helped by the DREAM Act, by DACA, and other provisions, how few cases there have been where they have disappointed us publicly. The law of averages says there is bound to be somebody who is going to break your heart out there, who calls themselves a Dreamer and does something you don't like at all, but by and large, they are an amazing group of people who never ever give up.

Now they have asked, for example, for some help for their parents, and President Biden suggested he is going to give them that help. Some of the parents now are going to have an opportunity to live in America with their families without fear of deportation. That, to me, is what this country should be all about.

#### NOMINATION OF NANCY L. MALDONADO

Madam President, on a separate topic, later today, the Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Judge Nancy Maldonado to be a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. She is an accomplished litigator and a distinguished juror who would be a great asset to the Seventh Circuit.

She graduated from Harvard College and Columbia Law School. She clerked for U.S. District Judge Ruben Castillo, an esteemed jurist on the Northern District of Illinois. Ruben Castillo is a personal friend of mine. He was appointed by my predecessor, Paul Simon. When Nancy Maldonado's name was first mentioned—and she served as district court judge—I called Judge Castillo and said: Do you think she is ready to move to the circuit court? He said: I know she is. That was a great endorsement that I took very seriously.

Following her clerkship, Judge Maldonado spent nearly 20 years at a firm specializing in plaintiff-side employment, civil rights, and fraud matters. Over the course of her career, she tried many cases to verdict, judgment, or final resolution.

In addition, she was appointed by the Cook County State Attorney's Office to serve as a special assistant investigating fraud. From 2019 to 2022, she was appointed by the Illinois attorney general to serve as a consent decree monitor in two matters and as a special assistant attorney general to investigate consumer fraud.

In 2022, the Senate confirmed Judge Maldonado on a bipartisan vote to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. Since her confirmation, despite some of the things that have been said incorrectly on the floor, Nancy Maldonado has presided over 1,000 cases—1,000 cases—ruled on thousands of motions, and issued approximately 300 substantive decisions as a district court judge.

Notably, Judge Maldonado has never, never been reversed by a reviewing court. This shows that she is carefully resolving cases in a way that ensures that litigants feel they were treated fairly in the courtroom.

If confirmed, she will be the first Hispanic judge to serve ever on the Seventh Circuit Court.

She has my strong support as well as the support of my colleague Senator DUCKWORTH.

She received a unanimous rating of "well qualified" from the American Bar Association.

The suggestion that she does not carry her load or work hard in court is just not fair. She has shown over and over again that she has a reputation for integrity, professional competence, and judicial temperament.

Judge Maldonado also has broad support from across the legal community, from law enforcement, labor unions, as well as the National Education Association.

I urge my colleagues to support her nomination.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Republican whip.

#### INFLATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, summer is an exciting time of year for many Americans. It is a time for adventure, for relaxation, for quality time spent with friends and family. But, like seemingly everything else, summer activities are more expensive in the Biden economy.

The cost of gas for a family trip is up 45 percent since President Biden took office. Food for a summer cookout costs 10 percent more than it did last year. And fees for summer camp are giving parents sticker shock. Even just keeping the house cool has climbed 8 percent since last summer to over \$700.

And, of course, this is a small sampling of what Americans have been going through for the past 3-plus years. Last week's inflation report confirmed again what Americans know all too well, inflation is still a problem. Overall, prices are up more than 20 percent since President Biden took office. The