

have to do better for all of them, for the people who love them, because behind every statistic is a person who is just trying to make ends meet.

We have the power here to make their lives easier, to make healthcare more affordable for the millions of people who are living with diabetes. We can create a future where no one has to choose between their health and their livelihood. Why wouldn't we take this opportunity to help our neighbors? I know Senator COLLINS and I will continue to work toward that end.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, first, let me thank the Senator from New Hampshire, Senator SHAHEEN, for her extraordinary leadership on diabetes. She has worked night and day on this issue the entire time she has served in the Senate. Together we formed a bipartisan partnership that recognizes that diabetes affects men and women and children of all races, political affiliations, parts of the country. It is ageless. It simply does not care.

During American Diabetes Month, it is critical that we continue to raise awareness about the burden of diabetes on the 38 million Americans living with either type 1 or type 2 diabetes. This is an astonishing 12 percent of the U.S. population, and it includes more than 116,000 adults in my State of Maine.

For those with type 1 diabetes in particular, there is no day off from this disease. I know so many children who were diagnosed as children with type 1, and this is a disease they will have for the rest of their lives, absent a cure. They include a 10-year-old boy whom I met my very first year in the Senate, in 1997. I will never forget his looking up at me and saying: Senator COLLINS, I wish I could just have one day off each year from my diabetes—my birthday or Christmas—just one day.

It was then that I knew I had to dedicate my efforts toward better treatments, earlier diagnosis, and one day a cure of this devastating disease. Since then, my life has been enriched by getting to know so many people who have type 1 diabetes.

I think of Aidan Sweeney, whom I first met at a Children's Congress, where children from all over the United States came to Washington to talk about what it was like to have type 1 diabetes. Aidan was just a toddler when he came with his mother Caroline Sweeney to testify before Congress. She testified for him. Today, he is a thriving college student in Boston.

I think of people like Ruby Whitmore, one of my neighbors in Maine, who has had diabetes since a very young age.

I think of my niece Nicole Wiesendanger, who has kept a log, a journal of her journey with type 1 diabetes.

I think of Bek Hoskins, whom I met just this past year, who, because of the

price of insulin, felt that she could not take the full amount that she was advised to take by her doctor and ended up in the emergency room of a hospital, very ill.

I am appalled to learn of the experience of Senator SHAHEEN's granddaughter, who has lived with type 1 since she was just 8 years old and was recently denied care that she requires. I agree with Senator SHAHEEN that we must hold insurance carriers accountable when they apply unreasonable utilization management techniques that benefit the companies at the expense of everyday Americans and that contradict the best treatment for the person with type 1. Doctors and patients in Maine are frustrated with the unfair burden these practices add to the burdens these individuals are already coping with. We must and we can do better.

Diabetes is also one of our country's most costly diseases in both human and economic terms. It is the leading cause of kidney disease, blindness in working-age adults, lower limb amputations, heart disease, and stroke. Approximately one in four healthcare dollars and one in three Medicare dollars are spent treating people with diabetes. Diabetes cost our Nation \$413 billion in 2022, and medical expenditures for individuals coping with diabetes are roughly 2.6 times higher than expenditures for those without the disease.

As the founder and the cochair of the Senate Diabetes Caucus, I have been proud to lead this bipartisan resolution designating the month of November as "American Diabetes Month." My hope is that it will increase public awareness and support for Federal policies and investments that will help us to better treat, prevent, and ultimately cure this disease. I join Senator SHAHEEN in thanking our many Senate colleagues for supporting this resolution and passing it by unanimous consent on Tuesday.

While American Diabetes Month is an important opportunity to raise awareness about the burden of diabetes, it should also be a time to celebrate the progress that we have made in improving the lives of millions of Americans living with this disease.

One example of progress is the sustained Federal investments in programs that help prevent and treat the disease and its complications, including the Special Diabetes Program, which, as Senator SHAHEEN pointed out, is set to expire at the end of this year. We cannot allow that to occur. Earlier this month, I was proud to lead a bipartisan letter to our Senate leadership, signed by 55 Senators, emphasizing the importance of the Special Diabetes Program.

From new technologies like the artificial pancreas systems to new therapies to delay the clinical onset of type 1 diabetes, this program is improving the lives of people with diabetes today and accelerating the progress to cures.

I remember when I first became involved in this issue, the number of

daily finger pricks that were necessary, the alarms that had to be set during the nights so that parents could check on their children with type 1, the burdensome large pump systems that were used. We have come so far with the closed-loop artificial pancreas, the continuous glucose monitors that can send a phone message and an alarm to a parent if a child's blood sugar has become too high or too low. We have come a long way. But it has taken investment, and that is what we must continue.

Through continued Federal investment in biomedical research and prevention programs and by passing bipartisan legislation to address the high costs of insulin, like our INSULIN Act, as well as broader pharmacy benefit manager reform, Congress has the opportunity to continue to build on this progress for the benefit of those living with diabetes.

Madam President, I look forward to continuing to partner with Senator SHAHEEN and the members of the Senate Diabetes Caucus that we cochair to advance policies, to remove barriers to care, to lower the costs of insulin, and to support the critical research and prevention programs that are so important to the quality of life to those millions of Americans living with diabetes.

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

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

The senior Senator from Maryland.

REMEMBERING SERGEI MAGNITSKY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to honor the legacy of Sergei Magnitsky, who was killed 15 years ago this weekend. Sergei was born in 1972 in Odessa, in Ukraine. He was brilliant. He won the physics and mathematics Olympiad when he was just 15 years old.

He knew right from wrong and was willing to stand up for what he believed in. Working as a tax attorney in Moscow, he uncovered a scheme that included the theft of \$230 million of taxes by Russian corrupt officials. He not only filed criminal complaints against the Russian police officers involved; he testified against them. He named names. He did what any lawyer and responsible citizen should do. He believed that individuals should be held accountable for their corrupt actions.

In response, they arrested Sergei. They held him in custody for 358 days. They refused visits from his wife and mother and telephone calls with his children. They denied him medical care. They tortured him, trying to get him to recant his testimony.

Most people would have given in, but Sergei refused. So they had him chained to a bed as eight guards with rubber batons beat him to death.

I want to read what his colleagues wrote about him in memorial.

They said that Sergei “wasn’t involved in politics. He wasn’t an oligarch and he wasn’t a human rights activist. He was just a highly competent professional. The kind of person whom you could call up as the workday was finishing at 7 pm with a legal question, and he would cancel his dinner plans and stay in the office until midnight to figure out the answer. He was what many people would describe as the good face of modern Russia: a smart and honest man working hard to better himself and to make a good life for his family.”

And he was murdered because he sought the truth in Russia.

When I talk about values of foreign policy, I think about the values of Sergei Magnitsky.

Mr. President, the two of us have the honor of serving on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

I must tell you, our Presiding Officer is one of the great champions to advance human rights, a bedrock of our value-based foreign policy. America’s strength is in its foreign policy. It is based upon values, supporting human rights, anti-corruption, democratic institution building—as compared to autocratic regimes that have foreign policy based upon transactional goals and media goals that they enforce many times by corruption and force.

We see that today with Mr. Putin in Russia, as he tries to take over Ukraine.

We have value-based foreign policy—our strength. Sergei Magnitsky was about values: his bravery, his honesty, and his willingness to stand up to a corrupt authoritarian state.

Looking around the world today, we see war in Europe and the Middle East and Africa. We see a growing autocracy and kleptocracy across states like Russia and China, a rise of anti-democratic sentiment in traditional bastions of liberty.

I believe one of the keys to fighting back against these forces starts with holding the perpetrators of human rights violations accountable.

If we hold the perpetrators accountable, others will not follow in that path. If there is impunity and no accountability, it breeds more perpetrators that violate individuals’ rights.

The idea has informed how I think about foreign policy and the rule of law. And it also informed two pieces of legislation I am proud of writing in my time in the U.S. Congress: the 2012 Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act and the 2016 Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act.

At the time of Sergei Magnitsky’s killing, our main policy tool for penalizing human rights abusers and corruption was country-based sanctions. This is a blunt tool—useful to respond to major events like Russia’s invasion of Ukraine or Iran’s enrichment of uranium to nuclear weapons grade. If you

go against the country, there is a penalty to be paid. But it is less effective to provide accountability for human rights violators which are individuals who are perpetrating those violations.

We needed something more responsive, more targeted. And inspired by the tragedy of Sergei Magnitsky’s murder, I set out to write legislation to hold his murderers accountable. I didn’t know at the time the profound impact the bill would have for human rights and accountability.

The original bill targeted the individuals who were complicit in the jailing and murder of Sergei Magnitsky. It blocked these individuals from enjoying the benefits of America. It stopped them from traveling to the United States and stopped them from using our banking system.

It gave the U.S. Government the authority to seize the properties. It stopped them from violating human rights with impunity.

Magnitsky-style sanctions seem like a foregone conclusion today but not when we got it enacted. Although it passed the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support, it was not an easy fight.

Different parts of our foreign policy community were vehemently opposed. It was something. It was change. And change is hard.

The executive branch doesn’t like the legislative branch interfering in how they conduct their business. But that is our responsibility—the legislative branch’s responsibility—to set the policies.

We pushed ahead. In 2016, we expanded the bill beyond the reach of human rights violators and corrupt actors around the world. We have expanded it—the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Act—and we made that permanent.

I want to acknowledge that one of the ways we got this done was because it was bipartisan. Senator Lugar helped me, as I was a freshman Member of this body in the Foreign Relations Committee, in getting the attention on the need for this legislation.

The late Senator John McCain was my principal cosponsor and helped to get the original Sergei Magnitsky Accountability Act included in a bill that could pass the U.S. Senate.

And my good friend and the leader with me on the Helsinki Commission, Senator ROGER WICKER, was principally responsible, working with me to get the Global Magnitsky bill made permanent with a place in the National Defense Authorization Act.

The sequence was, 2017, Executive Order 13818 was issued to structure the implementation of the law and broadened the scope of the law.

In 2022, we made the law permanent by repealing the sunset clause.

In 2023, the United States sanctioned 78 foreign persons under the Magnitsky Sanctions Program.

And as of November 7 of this year, the program has sanctioned over 712

foreign persons and entities since its inception.

I can tell you specific examples. I can tell you about being in Bulgaria and being treated as a hero because it was the Magnitsky sanctions against their corrupt leaders that allowed their country to move forward with the reforms that the people of Bulgaria wanted. It meant real change.

I can tell you about recently being in Guatemala, where we see hope for a democratic regime. It was Magnitsky sanctions that helped get to that point.

These sanctions have real consequences because, you see, corrupt leaders want the protection of a country’s rule of law for their wealth, even though they live in countries that don’t believe in the rule of law. We take that away from them by the Magnitsky sanctions. It has had a profound impact on human rights, where now individual actors have to consider their own conduct, even when acting on behalf of the state.

Their reputation, ability to travel, and ensure access to the assets are at risk. I have seen a lot in 58 years of public service, much of which I have devoted to human rights advocacy.

I remain inspired by the heroism of Sergei Magnitsky and can confidently say that he did not die in vain. His death jarred the global conscience forever.

Today, the Magnitsky name is synonymous with an approach by dozens of leading democracies to respond to human rights abuses and official corruption. The United States led on this issue. We were the ones who were able to get it started. When we lead and we lead with values and we lead on behalf of democracies, other countries will follow our leadership.

Shortly after we passed the Magnitsky sanctions, there was action in the United Kingdom; there was action in Canada; the EU has adopted them; and now two dozen countries have Magnitsky-type sanctions.

We have to do more. We have to figure out a way how we can coordinate these sanctions so we can really isolate those human rights violators and have a global approach to the imposition of the Magnitsky sanctions.

There is more we need to do to fight corruption. So we have a lot more work to do. But I will tell you, Magnitsky is a name that strikes fear in the hearts of Vladimir Putin and corrupt oligarchs around him.

As government officials and responsible citizens, we have an obligation to advance policies that respect human freedom and the dignity of the individual. That is especially true of those of us who live in democracies.

I know that at times our task may seem difficult or impossible, but we must never give up hope. We must continue to have faith that our work is worthwhile. There were days where I thought the Magnitsky quest would not have any main consequences. I look today with pride. I am glad we did

not give up hope, and we were able to get that law passed.

Vaclav Havel once wrote:

There is only one thing I will not concede: that it might be meaningless to strive in a good cause.

I will never concede either. The struggle for human rights can sometimes seem insurmountable. Let me just share with you one of my experiences in life. I have been very fortunate to have had an incredible career. In 1987, as part of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, I traveled to Germany and went to West Berlin. I went through Checkpoint Charlie to East Berlin. I walked up to the Brandenburg Gate and saw East German machineguns focused at me so that I would not cross back into West Berlin by trying to sneak across.

I met with East Berliners who were desperate for someone to listen to their cause. They never gave up hope. They were living in a very oppressed country. They fought for their freedom. And we helped them. We didn't give up hope; they didn't give hope.

Two years later, I returned to Berlin with a hammer in hand to help knock down the Berlin Wall. I have returned to Berlin many times since and see a unified city. We can never give up hope.

What we do in this Chamber, the leadership we take, to go after those abusers affect real people and the future of real countries.

We must not give up hope in striving for a good cause because if we do not give up hope, we will overcome oppression and violence and build a world that is safe and peaceful and prosperous.

It is not only the right thing to do, it is the right thing for our national security. I am proud of the work we have been able to do in this Chamber. I thank my colleagues who have helped in this effort, including the distinguished Presiding Officer, who has been incredible. We have a lot more work yet to be done. Thank you for all your help. I appreciate your listening to my comments.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, this is, I think, my 295th "Time to Wake Up" speech, with my increasingly battered graphic, which the Smithsonian has asked for as the most used graphic in Senate history, but I wouldn't let them have it until we solve the problem, so it just gets increasingly dented.

But what I want to talk about now is the trip that I just took with Senator

MARKEY to the COP, the Conference of the Parties, the COP 29 in Azerbaijan, where Senator MARKEY and I heard a similar message from almost everyone there: The transition to clean energy is happening and will continue to happen no matter who occupies the White House.

China's auto market will achieve a milestone this year with electric and hybrid vehicles half of all vehicles sold. China is also installing record amounts of wind, solar, and nuclear. Europe is rapidly and irreversibly weaning itself off fossil fuels, with greenhouse gas emissions projected to fall by 8 percent this year—enormous progress. In Australia, one-third of homes have rooftop solar, and they are growing dramatically. More than 40 percent of Australia's electricity comes from renewables, headed for 80 percent by 2030.

So while America's energy policy has been sold out to Trump's fossil fuel donors, the world will go on, leaving America more and more behind. Nor does Trump being for sale mean that there won't be leadership on climate change coming from the United States. California as the fifth largest economy in the world and New York as the 10th largest economy in the world, joined by other States like New Jersey and Rhode Island, can pursue together ambitious decarbonization policies. These States can move markets, and they will win economically against States that are left stuck with expensive, polluting fossil fuel.

The European Union is driving forward on climate change, particularly with its carbon border adjustment mechanism, or CBAM. Europe's power and industrial sectors already work under a domestic carbon price. The CBAM extends that carbon price beyond EU borders to imports that are entering the European Union. American exporters are going to start paying a tariff if their exports aren't up to EU carbon emission standards. Given the size of EU markets, the CBAM amounts to a global carbon price for energy-intensive industrial goods.

Not just the EU but the UK has announced that it is joining the CBAM also. We spoke with Australia, which is in detailed negotiations to join as well. Because of the CBAM, even economies that aren't joining, like India and China, are looking at domestic carbon pricing to reduce the tariff burden. After all, why pay tariffs to get into EU, UK, and Australian markets when you can keep the same revenue at home via a domestic carbon price?

Washington State voters just approved a carbon price by an overwhelming margin. New England's Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative is a small but successful multistate carbon price. Carbon pricing is coming, and that is good news because there is no longer a pathway to climate safety without a price on carbon.

We heard from business leaders about the economic havoc that climate change is causing, particularly now in

insurance markets. It is a subject that my Budget Committee has examined closely, and our committee is going to release several more reports on the climate economic threat before I relinquish that gavel.

As I said frequently at the COP, we have gone through three stages on climate change.

The first stage was the science phase. Scientists did their job, and they gave us accurate warnings about the dangers of fossil fuel emissions to the planet and to humanity.

Then we came to the political phase. We did not do our jobs. Despite the warnings of science, politicians yielded to an unprecedented campaign of obstruction and disinformation orchestrated and funded by the fossil fuel industry through a flotilla of dark money front groups and captured trade associations.

One rare bright moment in this political failure came when Democrats passed the Inflation Reduction Act, but despite its now proven benefit to Republican districts, not one Republican would vote for it.

Now we enter the third phase of climate change: the economic phase, the time of consequences. In this phase, climate change warnings start coming home to roost in household economies. We see it immediately in the insurance crisis in climate risk areas, with Florida being ground zero for exploding home and car insurance rates in a collapsing insurance market. We also see it in grocery aisles as droughts and floods hammer agricultural commodities. Shipping is constricted in dried-up waterways, like the Panama Canal or the Mississippi River; supply chains unravel; and for good measure, Big Oil adds to the cost problems by jacking up gas prices.

Let's review that for a moment. When Russia invaded Ukraine in early 2022, gas prices spiked, assisted by the OPEC cartel. Big Oil had a two-part strategy ready to go: One, raise their prices to meet the new cartel price, pushing high prices at the pump for Americans, and two, blame the high prices that they put at the pump for Americans on Joe Biden. That campaign of blame was pure theater. Obviously, oil companies set their own gas prices; government doesn't. The surge in oil profits coming from their price gouging shows their multibillion-dollar motivation. Falsely blaming Joe Biden—well, that helped their politics.

The red line on this graph shows inflation-adjusted oil prices. Two things are clear: One, oil prices are dangerously volatile, and two, they keep getting higher, even adjusted for inflation.

This blue line here shows the average postwar oil prices.

This green line here shows the average price per barrel since 1980, up \$13 from the postwar average.

So behind all of this volatility noise is an actual, persistent increase in cost, even inflation-adjusted.