

standards for financial data and assist in making Government-wide spending more accessible. The Administration appreciates the bill's support for establishing data standards and we additionally appreciate the bill's statement of confidence in the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Department of Treasury (Treasury). The Administration is currently working to improve Federal spending transparency. For example, we will soon roll-out a refreshed USASpending.gov with better search capabilities and functionality to manipulate the data and issue guidance to improve USASpending.gov's data quality. Additionally, we completed the transition of USASpending.gov to the Department of Treasury to take advantage of its core functions on agency financial reporting and ongoing work with other initiatives related to transparency in Federal spending.

To implement the legislation, Executive branch agencies will need to work to redesign the structure of existing financial systems, adopt new data standards, and review future budgetary requests to ensure compliance with the new definitions. However, the legislation does not provide funds to OMB, Treasury, or any agency to develop and implement new data standards under the timeframes prescribed. Without specific appropriations, this bill's requirements would require that agencies either divert agency resources from other mission critical activities, or implement requirements based on current funding and the timeframes that permits.

Also, the bill requires agencies to report information by "program activities." The FY 2015 President's Budget includes 1,275 executive budget accounts that track Federal agencies' spending. Currently, Executive Branch agencies' Federal financial systems are not designed to report by "program activity" as defined by the legislation. "Program activities" can and do change from year to year as a result of Congressional or other action. To avoid public reporting of information that is incomplete or potentially inaccurate, Executive Branch agencies will implement these requirements initially through reporting at the budget account level. We commit to implement the statute by working on efforts to report below the budget account level in a manner that clearly links to the spending data in agency financial systems. We share a common goal with data transparency, however, OMB needs to ensure that our approach considers the realities of the funding environment and reflects how funds are currently tracked through the budget process and in agency financial systems.

We look forward to working with you to pursue our shared goal of improving Federal spending transparency.

Sincerely,

BETH COBERT,
Deputy Director for Management,
Office of Management and Budget.

SCRIPPS FLORIDA INSTITUTE

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I rise to recognize an important meeting taking place this week at the Scripps Research Institute in my home State of Florida that coincides with Older Americans Month. Leaders in the field of aging and medical research are gathering at this internationally renowned research facility to discuss their latest research at a symposium, the first of its kind, entitled, "Therapeutic Approaches for Extending Healthspan: The Next 10 Years."

Headquartered in California, the Scripps Institute has long been recognized as a leader in biomedical sciences. Establishing an additional Scripps research facility in Florida in 2009 represents an extension of this tradition of world-class research excellence to our State. Scripps Florida is working on finding answers to some of the most critical biomedical questions that confront us today through six academic departments targeting the areas of cancer biology, chemistry, infectious diseases, molecular therapeutics, neuroscience, and the relationship between metabolism and aging. Hopefully, this symposium will lead to a series of gatherings where experts can forge collaborative partnerships and work toward improving the quality of life for aging adults.

Over the past decade, Scripps has advanced existing knowledge on aging-related diseases such as blindness, atherosclerosis, deafness, and amyloid diseases that cause Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and Huntington's Diseases, among others. This forum will focus on novel research in the field of aging and establish a path for research into the next decade. Though the field shows enormous promise for the future, barriers still exist in translating research into clinical applications. Experts participating in this symposium will discuss how to overcome these challenges to provide meaningful medical solutions for our aging Nation.

As chairman of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, I am aware of the daily challenges faced by many older Americans. Like the roundtable hosted by the Aging Committee last October to discuss the state of aging research, I believe these opportunities to bring our Nation's best scientists, physicians, and researchers together are essential if we are going to conquer aging-related diseases such as Alzheimer's and dementia. As such, we must continue to support research that drives innovation, advances current knowledge, and encourages collaboration among our Nation's greatest thinkers.

As the number of older Americans continues to grow, we must support research efforts that provide paths to treatment or prevention so our Nation's seniors can enjoy living out their golden years with dignity.

REMEMBERING ISAAC GREGGS

Ms. LANDRIEU. Mr. President, I wish to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished former Southern University Director of Bands who passed on April 28, 2014, at the age of 85 in Baton Rouge, LA. Dr. Greggs was the third child born in Shreveport, LA on January 22, 1929 to Sarah and Isaac Greggs. Dr. Greggs was baptized in the Bethel Baptist Church in Frierson, LA and later joined the Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church in Baton Rouge. He was a visionary, who created and led the Southern University Marching Band, affectionately

known as the Human Jukebox for 36 years.

Dr. Greggs graduated from Central Colored High School in Shreveport, LA and at 15 years of age enrolled in Southern University and A & M College in Baton Rouge, LA, where he received a B.S. in music education. He received a M.S. in music education from Vander Cook College in Chicago, IL. Later, he entered the University of Peru to complete his doctorate degree in music. He was then drafted into the U.S. Army. His service in the Army was honored with and dedicated to playing in the Army band, 4th Division, 4th Infantry, APO 39, and to playing early morning reverie. While in Germany, he received the Occupational Medal.

After his return from service in the U.S. Army, he began teaching at J. S. Clark Junior High School and Notre Dame High School in Shreveport, LA. He and his family later moved to Baton Rouge, LA where he taught and directed the band at the Southern University Laboratory School. During his tenure at Southern University, Dr. Greggs directed countless future band directors, musicians, and myriad of industry leaders outside of music. He attracted thousands of students to Southern, who were drawn as a result of his unmatched leadership and lyrical genius. Under his leadership, the Human Jukebox performed at six Super Bowls, four Sugar Bowls and three Presidential inaugurations. His grueling practices were well known throughout Louisiana and the discipline that Dr. Greggs instilled in his musicians produced exceptional results year end and year out. Dr. Greggs retired in 2005.

With pride, the State of Louisiana honored Dr. Greggs in 2013 by inducting the legendary band leader into the Louisiana Black History Hall of Fame for his commitment to serving African American students for nearly four decades. He was also the recipient of the Key of Life Award at the 31st NAACP Image Awards; an award created in honor of Stevie Wonder and presented each year to a musician who embodies Wonder's "inner vision."

Dr. Isaac Greggs was a true inspiration to all that had the great privilege of knowing him. I am grateful and honored to have known him. He will be greatly missed. My deepest condolences go out to his wife of 58 years, Rose Audrey Metoyer Greggs; his children: Audree Greggs Vaughn (Percy), Colette Greggs, Dedrick Jon Greggs (Carla), and Mark Eric Greggs (Tricia); grandchildren: Kirsten Vaughn Watson (Benjamin), Kory Greggs Vaughn MD, Jamal Greggs Russell, Kyle Greggs Russell, Daniel Isaac Greggs and Casey Daniel Greggs; great-grandchildren Grace Makayla Watson, Naomi Love Watson, Isaiah Benjamin Watson and Judah Seth Watson, and a host of other relatives, family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents: Sarah and Isaac Greggs, brother Edmond and sister Ellen Greggs.