

As President Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law 80 years ago, he said, "Today, a hope of many years' standing is in large part fulfilled . . . We have tried to frame a law which will give some measure of protection to the average citizen and to his family against the loss of a job and against poverty-ridden old age." Similarly, five decades ago President Johnson declared, "No longer will Americans be denied the healing miracle of modern medicine. No longer will illness crush and destroy the savings that they have so carefully put away over a lifetime so that they might enjoy dignity in their later years." Let us remain mindful of these words and the promise that our country has made to seniors as we commemorate the 80th anniversary of Social Security and the 50th anniversary of Medicare and Medicaid. I am committed—just as President Roosevelt and President Johnson were decades ago—to giving Americans the health and economic security they need, deserve, and have earned.

CELEBRATING THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED LABOR AGENCY OF NEVADA

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 20th anniversary of the United Labor Agency of Nevada.

Since it was established in a joint venture with United Way of Southern Nevada and Nevada State AFL-CIO in 1995, the United Labor Agency of Nevada, ULAN, has been assisting Nevada families who are experiencing unexpected crises. Whether it be job loss or a medical emergency, ULAN provides individuals and families throughout our community with assistance so they may have access to vital resources, such as housing and nutrition, during their time of need. ULAN also offers guidance to those battling hardship to prepare plans for long-term self-sufficiency and financial stability. These imperative services have made a lasting impact on Nevadans, and the benefits of ULAN's services are felt across the Silver State.

ULAN began as a small dream, with only Audrey Arnold and \$30,000 to help the community. Under Ms. Arnold's steadfast leadership, ULAN has grown into a \$2 million organization. Today, Ms. Arnold and her dedicated staff and volunteers are now able to provide a one-stop shop for those experiencing hardship. By offering immediate housing, nutrition, job outreach, and financial counseling services, the organization works to prevent financial situations from becoming worse and helps individuals and families transition to living within their means on a new reduced income through federal programs and other resources. This two-pronged approach has had a remarkable effect on countless families over the past 20 years.

I applaud ULAN on their decades of dedicated public service and extend my best wishes for much continued success.

WOOD DALE AND GRAYSLAKE, ILLINOIS STORMS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, once again, Illinois communities are assessing damage from severe storms. A confirmed tornado along with heavy winds, hail, and lightning moved through the Chicago area on Sunday leaving a path of damage in several communities.

The city of Wood Dale was hit Sunday afternoon during the last day of its Prairie Fest, an annual 4-day festival with rides, food, and music. Due to the storm, rides were stopped and organizers tried to evacuate. But the storm approached too quickly, and its winds knocked down the festival's main tent where many people had gathered to take shelter.

Twenty people were hurt and, tragically, Steven Nincic was killed. He was at the festival with his wife and two young daughters. Our thoughts and prayers are with Steven Nincic's family, as they are with those who were injured by the storm. I spoke this morning with Wood Dale's Mayor Nunzio Pulice, and I know he is leading the community through this loss.

Severe weather continued throughout the day in the Chicago area. Chicago's Lollapalooza music festival evacuated its festival grounds at Grant Park before its scheduled closing. Mayor Emanuel and I also spoke this morning. He is working to assess the damage and help residents clean up and recover from the damage.

My office is also in touch with Mayor Rhett Taylor of the Village of Grayslake, Mayor Kristina Kovarik with Village of Gurnee, and Illinois Representative Sam Yingling. These communities are hurting in the aftermath of Sunday's terrible storms that brought winds at 60 miles an hour and golf ball-sized hail.

A tornado touched down in Grayslake, ripping the roof off the high school and damaging several other buildings and homes. These storms also toppled power lines and trees, making several roads in the area impassable. Crews are working to clean up debris and restore electricity. Over 16,000 people were left without power this morning. Thankfully, no injuries were reported as a result of the Grayslake storms.

Along with other members of the Illinois congressional delegation, I stand ready to help in any way I can as the people in Dale Wood and Grayslake begin the clean-up and recovery from this weekend's deadly storms.

The State of Illinois has sustained extensive damage and managed clean-up costs following a number of severe storms already this year. I stand ready to support any request for Federal disaster aid, including the Governor's request today for FEMA's assistance with damage assessments in downstate communities still recovering from earlier storms.

COMPOUNDED PHARMACEUTICALS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we all know the Department of Defense's record with bungled acquisitions that led to \$500 hammers and \$7,000 coffee makers. The Pentagon has a tough time keeping up with unscrupulous contractors who have figured out how to get rich on the taxpayer's dime, and unfortunately I have learned of yet another example of this.

Several dozen pharmacies around the country specialize in compound pharmaceuticals. These are drugs that are combinations of two or more prescription medications. Many of these pharmacies are on the up-and-up, helping people, and our servicemembers, recover from illnesses or wounds. But a good number of these compounding pharmacies have linked up with high-pressure salesmen and disreputable physicians to scam the Department of Defense out of as much as \$1.2 billion in taxpayer money in this year alone.

The sales pitch went like this. A U.S. servicemember, a military retiree, or their spouse might get a phone call at home asking whether a TRICARE beneficiary is suffering from pain. The telemarketer might ask a few simple questions, get a little bit of personal information, and suddenly, weeks later, prescription creams would start showing up in the mail. In other cases, a food truck may pull up in front of a military base. If a servicemember wanted a hot dog, he or she could listen to a pitch about compounded pharmaceuticals and sign a piece of paper. In many cases, that servicemember had no idea they were signing up for an expensive prescription that might have no medical value. These sneaky marketers would pass personal information on to doctors, often hundreds or thousands of miles away, who would then write prescription after prescription, never having seen the patient.

These ointments and creams were then custom made by a compounding pharmacy, and the bill was sent to the Department of Defense. According to health officials in the Department of Defense, one of these pain creams had a value of about \$150 each. But the Defense Health Program was billed more than \$9,000 each. This scam has added up to big dollars. In 2004, the Department of Defense spent just \$5 million on compound pharmaceuticals. By 2014, as these efforts began to ramp up, the total rose to \$514 million. In April of 2015, just 1 month alone, the bill to the Pentagon was nearly \$500 million. DOD says the total cost of compound pharmaceuticals for this fiscal year could be as much as \$1.2 billion.

What is tragic about this waste of money is that it could have been prevented. In 2013, the Pentagon considered policy changes it could make to the approval process for compound pharmaceuticals. DOD officials came under heavy pressure, both from Members of Congress and from some of these companies, not to move forward.

This pressure continued right up through March of this year.

Finally, in May, the Department of Defense was able to institute a screening procedure to get at this problem. And the costs charged to TRICARE have dropped dramatically—down to \$10 million per month.

Let me repeat that. The Department paid \$500 million for compound drugs in April. The Department changed its approval process, and it now pays \$10 million a month for compound drugs. I met with Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs Dr. Jonathan Woodson about this. He is confident that this safeguard—and others—will protect the taxpayer in the future. Regrettably, in this case, the horse ran out of the barn and cost the American taxpayer \$1.2 billion before anyone could stop these scams. But no one can escape the long arm of the law forever. The Department of Justice has opened more than 100 criminal investigations, and \$60 million has been recovered so far. The DOD has suspended 26 providers for wrongdoing, and identified 71 individuals or entities who are believed to be associated with these scheme.

As vice chairman of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee, working with Chairman COCHRAN, we have the responsibility to look after how the Pentagon is spending its funds. I bring this episode to light because there are many lessons to be learned about the need to demand a bureaucracy agile enough to catch profiteers and about the ways that congressional oversight can hamper enforcement rather than encourage it. I hope my colleagues takes those lesson to heart.

I will also say that THAD COCHRAN and I will continue to root out these incidents wherever they occur and work in partnership with the department to provide for our servicemembers in ways faithful to the taxpayer.

RECOGNIZING WENDY WERTHEIMER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to acknowledge Wendy Wertheimer, an outstanding Federal employee who has spent decades working to advance the domestic and international HIV/AIDS research effort. Wendy is about to complete nearly 30 years of Federal service that began in the Senate and is now coming to an end at the National Institutes of Health.

Like many bright young people in Washington, Wendy began her career right here in the U.S. Senate, working for Senator Jacob Javits. Later she joined the legislative staff of what was then called the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee, led by Chairman Edward Kennedy and Ranking Member Jacob Javits. Wendy's first assignment was the Venereal Diseases Control Act, which many on staff saw as a form of hazing for a new, young staff member. But Wendy was personally connected to the issue. Her grandfather had been the chair of Dermatology and Syphilology at a hospital in Pittsburgh and had conducted early

clinical studies of syphilis. She embraced the assignment, and the bill passed with bipartisan support. It was the first bill Wendy had ever worked on—she was off to a good start.

In 1979, the American Social Health Association established the first advocacy group for venereal disease control and research, and Wendy was offered a job as its director of government affairs. After hearing the news, Wendy's mother was horrified and told her she will never get another date because everyone will assume that she has a venereal disease. Wendy accepted the job anyway and became the first venereal disease, or VD, advocate in Washington. She was a pioneer in the field and began working on a number of new education and research training programs, including the National VD Hotline.

On June 5, 1981, the first cases of what we now know as AIDS were reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. By the end of 1981, five to six new cases of the disease were being reported each week and an epidemic of fear was breaking out. The American Social Health Association became one of the first organizations to advocate bringing attention to this disease, and Wendy found herself on the frontlines combatting the HIV/AIDS pandemic. In 1991, she was recruited by the NIH to help establish the Office of Research on Women's Health. And since 1992, Wendy has been the senior advisor, responsible for planning, policy, legislation and communications at the Office of AIDS Research at the NIH.

It is hard to imagine, but when Wendy Wertheimer began at the NIH, an AIDS diagnosis meant a sure and agonizing death. We have come a long way since the disease was first reported, and in many ways progress on HIV/AIDS is one of the most remarkable success stories in the history of biomedical research. Wendy Wertheimer shares in this success and the research accomplishments that led to lifesaving treatments and a hopeful future about what more can be achieved.

For more than two decades, Wendy has worked with Dr. Jack Whitescarver—the longest serving director at the Office of AIDS Research at NIH—who is also retiring this year. And here is what he said:

We have made critical and even breathtaking progress in AIDS research against many odds. We have been challenged to confront and address stigma, homophobia, racial disparities, and criticisms of the AIDS research investment. We have come a long way, but the AIDS pandemic is far from over and remains a threat to global populations. Any declaration that the end is near is premature, inaccurate, and perilous to progress against the pandemic.

He is right. Being HIV-positive is not the death sentence it once was, but the battle is far from over. And although Dr. Whitescarver and Wendy Wertheimer are retiring, the fight goes on, and the work continues. I want to thank them for all they have done and all they will do to combat this terrible

disease. They have set a high bar for the dedicated public servants who follow them.

I will close with this. I strongly believe in the role of public service to create change and make a difference. Wendy Wertheimer's years of service reflect these values. I am honored to congratulate her on a job well done, and I am lucky to count her as a friend.

REMEMBERING YOSHI KATSUMURA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last Sunday, the legendary chef Yoshi Katsumura passed away after a battle with cancer.

You would never guess that a 15-minute walk from Wrigley Field, where hot dogs and beer reign supreme, would take you to a place bringing together the foods of Tokyo, Paris, Lyon, and Chicago. But that is what Yoshi built at the quiet, unassuming place known simply as Yoshi's Café. Honored by his peers for the past 30 years of exquisite food preparation, Yoshi was a master of his art.

Yoshi was born in Japan's Ibaraki Prefecture—a region on the main island of Japan—in 1950. At the age of 20, he apprenticed under another legendary chef, Hiroyuki Sakai in Tokyo. Through Sakai, Yoshi began learning the complexities of French cooking.

In 1973, Yoshi ventured to Chicago, where he quickly advanced in fine French culinary arts. He studied under Chicago's first celebrity chef, Jean Banchet, at Le Francais. Yoshi would go on to refine his skills in Paris and Lyon, and he returned to Chicago as a chef and partner at the city's premier French fusion restaurant, Jimmy's Place. In 1982, Yoshi opened his own restaurant with his wife Nobuko, Yoshi's Place.

For more than three decades, Yoshi's Café has won the hearts and stomachs of Chicago and the country. Yoshi's has been featured on the Food Network and listed among "America's Top Tables" by Conde Nast's Gourmet magazine. His fusion of cultures brought diners to North Halsted Street for dishes like Hamachi tartare and the Wagyu burger.

If you look closely for a sign next to Yoshi's Café, you will find that Aldine Avenue east of Halsted is designated "Yoshi Katsumura Way." His way was creating wonderful food for his community and making it a better place. He served on the Northalsted Business Alliance board and organized charitable events, including Hurricane Sandy relief and aid for victims of the 2011 Japanese tsunami. And he always took the time to talk to his customers.

Loretta and I love Yoshi's. I once showed up at the restaurant on a Monday evening, forgetting it was closed. Stranded on the corner, trying to decide where to go, I heard someone call my name. It was Yoshi, who lived