

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.