

Millions of Americans get their healthcare through community health centers. I will mention it more than once—800,000 of them are in the State of Pennsylvania. As we come closer to working out bipartisan agreements on a whole range of issues that are ahead of us literally in the next 2 to 3 weeks, I hope there will be a strong consensus to provide a funding plan and funding certainty to community health centers across the country.

These community health centers provide access to healthcare through education, rehabilitation, preventive services, and direct care. These centers focus on meeting the very basic healthcare needs in a community. They provide critical services, especially for people in both urban areas and rural areas, where there are often limited options for primary care and prevention clinics.

Despite the critical importance of these health centers, Congress failed to act to extend the majority of funding for community health centers before it ran out on September 30, 2017. After funds expired, the health centers were facing a funding reduction of between 60 percent and 70 percent of their funding.

Last December, Congress passed a continuing resolution that included \$550 million in funding for community health centers. That is nowhere near what they need to get through even 1 year. While this funding patch will provide some short-term relief, the funds do not provide the long-term funding stability for health centers that they need and that the patients who depend upon them should have a right to expect.

It is time for Congress to end the delays and get a long-term funding plan in place for these community health centers by the next deadline for the continuing resolution for funding, which is, of course, February 8. Because there is a deadline, it does give us the chance to work toward that date, to get funding in place by the 8th.

Across the United States, health centers serve more than 25 million patients per year. That is about 1 in 13 Americans overall. Consider this: I live in a State where we have 67 counties, but 48 of the 67 are so-called rural counties. That is the way they are categorized. There are a lot of healthcare needs in those rural communities and rural counties. Health centers provide care to one in four rural Americans. If that ratio were applied to Pennsylvania—we have at least 3 million people who live in rural communities. You can see the numbers. Hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians in rural areas depend upon healthcare from these community health centers.

In terms of the centers themselves, in 2016, Pennsylvania had 264, and that meant there were thousands of people working in those health centers. There are close to 5,000—above 4,900 Pennsylvanians who work in these centers. These health centers provide quality

care and vital services, as I said before, to a total of 800,000 Pennsylvanians—rural, urban, and otherwise.

To give you a sense of some of the testimony I received from people in our State, one story came from Emily, who works at the Family Practice and Counseling Network, a location I just visited today in Philadelphia. She wrote this letter to me a number of weeks ago. I won't read the whole excerpt, but this is what she said in pertinent part about the people who are served by these community health centers:

They have lives filled with trauma and in turn suffer from social, physical, and behavioral issues that will go untreated if funding for [community health centers] goes away . . . our services are so needed.

The words I want people to remember are "lives filled with trauma." That is, unfortunately, a good description of the lives led by a lot of Americans when healthcare—in this case, a community health care center—is not there for them or when healthcare itself is threatened. "Lives filled with trauma."

Another person who works at the same place and who has been the leader of this particular institution, the Family Practice and Counseling Network in Philadelphia, is the executive director, Donna Torrisi. I met her just today. She sent me a letter prior to today about her concerns. She is concerned about the funding cliff resulting in a barrier to care for people who need mental health services that are critically important. Donna said in pertinent part:

The impact on our community will be devastating. Our health center provides behavioral health services that are already limited in Philadelphia. Without funding, we'll need to close a site and cut jobs, causing patients to go without the care they desperately need.

For purposes of this debate, I would consider that expert testimony on community health centers because I know that in Donna's case, she has worked in this field something on the order of 25 years. We appreciate her weighing in on this.

I know there is concern on both sides of the aisle on this issue. I hope that concern results in a bipartisan agreement to fund community health centers to at least—and I would like to do a lot more, but at least give some funding certainty for the next year, meaning from now until the end of the fiscal year. I hope we can get an agreement that would give funding certainty for 2 years or more. That would be ideal.

#### HONORING DEPUTY MARSHAL CHRISTOPHER DAVID HILL

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I want to spend a couple of moments tonight—I know the hour is late for the Senate and people working here, but I want to end the night with a message about a law enforcement official in Pennsylvania whose memorial service I at-

tended on Friday. This individual was a deputy marshal. His name is Christopher David Hill. He lost his life on January 18. He was living at the time in York, PA. He was killed in the line of duty in Harrisburg—not far from York—while attempting to apprehend a fugitive.

I commend Deputy Marshal Hill for his service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and his service to our Nation. He happened to be working in the Middle District of Pennsylvania, which meant he had responsibility for work through counties from the bottom of the State all the way up to Northeastern Pennsylvania, which is my home area.

I offer our deepest condolences to his family. Law enforcement officers like Christopher Hill accept the special duty of protecting the rest of us and keeping our communities safe. I have to say that we often don't think about that in the context of Federal marshals who do critically important work every day of the week and are often in horrifically dangerous circumstances.

In this case with Deputy Marshal Hill, the murderer was shooting from a higher position in a house. They didn't know this individual was in the house. He was shooting down at him. He had protective gear on. I won't give a full description because I am not qualified to do that, but the problem is the bullet came from a direction like this and entered his body from above and killed him even though he had protection on and all the proper protocols were followed. It was, in essence, a one-man ambush because they were trying to apprehend another individual on the floor below where the assailant was. That is the kind of danger Federal marshals face every day of the week, and sometimes we don't realize it.

Chris and his loving family made the ultimate sacrifice for the Nation and for the people in Pennsylvania. For his bravery and the contribution of his family, who supported him, we are eternally grateful for that commitment to law enforcement and the country.

Christopher David Hill was born in Sacramento, CA, but he was raised in Central Pennsylvania. He graduated from Warrior Run High School. He served his country as a Ranger in the U.S. Army, where he was assigned to the prestigious 3rd Battalion. While in the Army, Chris earned many awards, including the Army Commendation Medal.

For the last 11 years, he served as a deputy U.S. marshal. He was a member of the agency's Special Operations Group, so-called SOG.

At the memorial service, there were lots of references to that Special Operations Group because members of that group were there to not only pay tribute to him but to speak about his life, to speak about his service and to speak about his character and his bravery in very moving testimonials. The Special Operations Group is a specially trained and highly disciplined tactical unit.

In 2012, Chris served on a SOG assignment in Afghanistan, for which he was recognized with a Director's Distinguished Group Award.

In 2014, he was instrumental in the capture of notorious cop killer Eric Frein. Eric Frein was the individual who killed a State police officer and also injured another State police officer. In this case, Chris commanded U.S. marshals, FBI agents, and State troopers in one of the largest rural man-hunts in recent American history.

Chris was known as a dedicated and extremely capable law enforcement officer, and his numerous awards are proof of that.

During his time at the Marshals Service, he received the FLETC Director's Leadership Award, a Special Act Award for Distinguished 300 Shooter, and a Special Act Award for achieving 95 percent weapons proficiency.

Christopher was described as the person you wanted to go through the door with, someone on whom you could completely rely. He was also known for his sense of humor and his positive outlook on life.

Outside of work, he enjoyed hunting and golfing with his friends and family, but most of all, Chris is known for his devotion to his family. Chris is survived by his devoted wife Sylvia, his loving son and daughter Travis and Ashlynn, his father John, his brother Joey, his sister-in-law Michala, and his sister Melinda. He was preceded in death by his mother Katherine.

As I mentioned before, on January 18, he was shot and killed in the line of duty. The U.S. Marshals Service apprehends approximately 100,000 fugitives

every year—100,000 every year—including the worst of the worst, violent felons whose capture makes our communities safer.

Also shot in this altercation were Kyle Pitts, a New York City police officer, and a Harrisburg police officer who took a bullet to his ballistic vest but was not injured. We are praying for Kyle Pitts' full recovery.

Last week, I joined law enforcement officers from around the country for the memorial service, as I mentioned. You could tell how Chris was loved and respected by the testimonials from those law enforcement officials. You can't see it from a distance, but this is a program from the memorial service. It has a list of those who spoke—I will not read all of them—and then it has Chris's biography, with a picture of him on the back.

I could go through virtually every name of the ones who spoke in tribute to Chris—friends of his who worked with him. I am not sure I have ever been to a more emotional and moving ceremony in my life, where you had speak from the podium, one after another, these dedicated law enforcement professionals who are as tough and as determined as any man can be. Each person was very, very emotional, overcome with emotion in some cases. I am not sure I will ever be at a ceremony that is as moving.

On a night like tonight, when we have a lot of debates and a lot of arguments on a range of issues, these are times we can come together to express not only condolences, not only tribute and appreciation but express, I think, what is the solidarity of our State and

the Nation in paying tribute to a fallen law enforcement official.

My colleague Senator TOOMEY and I were there together. There were also people from across the State who were there and Federal judges who serve in that district and Federal employees who worked with Christopher Hill. For so many reasons, we want to pay tribute to him tonight and express gratitude for his life of service and the commitment he made to the country, that he made to the Marshals Service, and that he made to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

We want to express our condolences to his wife Sylvia, to his family, and his children because of the dedicated way they supported him through all his years as a Federal marshal and as a law enforcement official.

I yield the floor.

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#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:56 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, January 30, 2018, at 10 a.m.

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#### CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate January 29, 2018:

##### THE JUDICIARY

GREGORY E. MAGGS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE ARMED FORCES FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS TO EXPIRE ON THE DATE PRESCRIBED BY LAW.