

develops the addiction. Again, the thought is that probably 8 out of 10 people dying of overdoses started with prescription drugs. So our legislation does deal with that.

Our legislation deals with overprescribing because it must be dealt with. It requires doctors and pharmacists to use drug monitoring programs to ensure that we are not overprescribing, and it sets a 3-day limit on prescriptions for acute pain.

We except chronic pain. We have exceptions for cancer. But for acute pain—the surgeries we have talked about—we are using the good science from the Centers for Disease Control, or CDC, and others that say two things: One, after the third day of using these opioids, on that fourth day, fifth day, and sixth day is when the opportunity for an addiction grows dramatically, and the chances of your falling into that addiction increases significantly.

Second, in terms of pain and dealing with pain, we have also learned that for acute pain for most kinds of procedures, there are other kinds of pain medications available.

I have talked to the dentists a lot on this. There is a dentist from Ohio who is a good man, Joe Crowley, who is now President of the American Dental Association. He is working with the dentists to try to ensure that we have new policies in place that discourage the use of opioids altogether for things like a wisdom tooth being removed. But to the extent it is used, after the first, second, and third day, it is much, much less necessary and much less useful, and other pain medication can take its place. So, as a result, we do have in our legislation something that is a dramatic difference from the unfortunate overprescribing that continues to go on in our country in too many instances, and that is a 3-day limit. After 3 days, if you continue to have the kind of pain that can only be dealt with opioids, if you are one of the few individuals for whom that is true, you go back to the doctor and get another prescription, but you have to go through a process to do that. The alternative is that we are going to continue to see more and more people become addicted through prescription drugs as a gateway and then again getting into this terrible cycle of overdoses and eventually overdose and dying in too many cases.

So CARA 2.0 has these policy changes, as well as the additional funding for prevention programs, treatment programs, and recovery programs. It also helps our first responders by saying: If you can't afford the cost of Narcan, we will help you out but also give you training in Narcan and also to deal with this gap between the immediate overdose reversal using Narcan and then going into detox—between detox and treatment, between treatment and longer term recovery—to try to ensure that you have continuity. This is something that just makes so much sense and can save so many lives.

These legislative efforts we are talking about here are important. So for those who are watching—and maybe some staff members are watching from some of the offices—please check it out. Check out the STOP Act, if you are not already a cosponsor. Check out CARA 2.0, if you are not already a cosponsor.

Let's be sure that we are doing everything we possibly can here to make a difference and begin to reverse this tide, begin to save lives again rather than having this discouraging increase in addiction.

It is not all about overdoses and deaths, as tragic as that is. It is about the millions of Americans whose lives are getting off track, who may not overdose and may not end up needing Narcan but who are pulling away from their family, who are not working, who are not engaged in their community, who are giving up on their friends and their loved ones.

A lot of people in this Chamber are concerned about the fact that so many Americans are out of work today and not showing up even on the unemployment rolls because they have left work altogether. They are not even looking for work. Economists say our labor force participation rate for men is historically low. It is probably the lowest it has ever been in the history of this country. When you combine men and women, you have to go back to the 1970s to see as many people who are out of work altogether. I agree that is a big problem, and I would urge my colleagues to look at the impact of opioids on that problem.

There are two recent studies, one by the Department of Labor and one by the Brookings Institution, which indicate in the strongest possible terms that opioids are driving much of this dysfunction in our workforce today. So to employers out there who are saying, "The economy is growing, the tax cuts are working, regulatory relief is working, but I can't find workers," 44 percent of those who are out of the workforce, according to a Department of Labor study from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, took a prescription pain medication the day before.

The Brookings study shows that 47 percent of able-bodied men between 22 and 55 are taking pain medication on a daily basis. These are frightening numbers. By the way, I can't imagine that is overreported. I imagine it is underreported because of the stigma attached to this issue of opioid addiction and because of the potential legal liability people could be in for admitting it. Even so, almost half of those surveyed say they are not working. They are not even looking for work, but they are taking pain medication on a daily basis. So this affects all of us.

Go to your firehouse in your community and ask them if they are doing more overdose runs or more fire runs? I will bet you that they will say the former. They are doing more drug overdose runs than they are fire runs. We

are all paying for that. Talk to your sheriff or your local police chief and ask them what the No. 1 driver of crime is in your community. I bet they will say it is opioids. Often it is people who are committing crimes like theft or shoplifting or fraud to be able to pay for the habit—\$300 to \$400 a day or more. Particularly if you are not working, there is a temptation to commit those crimes and there is a craving for this drug that puts people in positions they never would have imagined they would find themselves in.

Think of the families who are broken up. Think of the kids who have lost their parents to this epidemic. In Ohio, we have more kids in foster care or under the care of the State than ever in our history.

Go to your neonatal units at your hospital and ask them about this. They will say it is the No. 1 issue affecting them because so many kids are being born to a mother who was addicted, and these kids have to be taken through withdrawal themselves—little babies. You can hold them practically in the palm of your hand.

I have gone to these neonatal units in Ohio and have seen these babies, and it is heartbreaking because, just like adults, they have to go through this tough withdrawal process. No baby should have to do that.

So this issue is one when Congress has taken steps in the last year and a half, and I congratulate this body and the House for moving forward with some positive steps. There is so much more to be done, and these two bills are a start. These two bills will help. They will help to save lives. They will help to get people back on track and help to ensure that people can live out their God-given purpose rather than get distracted through this epidemic, rather than getting off track with regard to family, work, dignity, and self-respect.

These two bills will help, giving law enforcement in our communities the tools they need and helping our communities to be able to have a comprehensive approach here to turn back this assault of addiction in our country.

I hope we can move quickly in the Senate to pass this legislation so the President can sign it into law and we can begin to make a bigger difference.

I yield the floor.

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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the recent rise of anti-

Semitism and racism in our communities.

As Members of Congress, we have an enormous responsibility to take strong action and stand up against intolerance before it takes root in the next generation. It is incumbent upon all people to ensure that adequate tools are in place to counter the resurgence of fear and hate-mongering—whether directed at old targets or new—that led to the Holocaust and other atrocities.

America must maintain its leadership abroad, especially when it comes to the issues of human rights and religious freedom—the core foundations upon which our Nation was built. We must uphold these standards here at home and defend and promote them globally.

In my role as the representative on anti-Semitism, racism, and intolerance for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's Parliamentary Assembly, I visited Paris and Copenhagen and met with local leaders in the aftermath of the violent, anti-Semitic attacks in 2015, including the Charlie Hebdo massacre. The gruesome murder of Holocaust survivor Mireille Knoll in Paris on March 24 is a grim reminder of the urgency of our task.

In Poland, there have been no attacks recently, but there is a growing climate of fear. Government officials have equivocated regarding Polish responsibility for the World War II massacre in Jedwabne and the postwar pogrom in Kielce, which occurred on our Independence Day—July 4, 1946. The Polish President recently signed into law an anti-defamation bill that makes it illegal to attribute responsibility for or complicity during the Holocaust to the Polish nation or state. This law will, in fact, restrict academic freedom, chill free speech, and hinder teaching about the Holocaust and the crimes committed in occupied Poland during World War II.

In Hungary, Viktor Orban has stoked a campaign of hatred against migrants and Muslims in his bid for a third term as Prime Minister. In the final days of his campaign and perhaps revealing some concerns for his margin of victory, his party has sharpened its call for a country that is White and Christian, escalating its anti-Semitic and anti-Roma rhetoric.

Here at home, we have witnessed extremists and neo-Nazis marching in the streets openly carrying painful hate symbols from the 1930s. In a brazen public display, neo-Nazis and White supremacist groups took to the streets in Charlottesville, VA, last August, inciting violence that cost 32-year-old counter-protester Heather Heyer her life. Just this past weekend, another group of neo-Nazis marched in Newnan, GA, and burned a large swastika afterwards. Burt Colucci, a member of the National Socialist Movement, told the Atlanta Journal-Constitution that there was no particular reason Newnan was chosen for the rally. He said:

We pick these rallies randomly. It is always preferable that it is in a white town.

How can we address these challenges and build a more tolerant, peaceful, and global community?

Earlier this year, in commemoration of International Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Italian Government hosted the Rome International Conference on the Responsibility of States, Institutions and Individuals in the Fight against Anti-Semitism in the OSCE Area. At that event that convened on the 80th anniversary of the passage of Italy's "racial laws," which discriminated against Jews and people of African descent, leaders from across Europe and the United States re-committed to address anti-Semitism in their societies—from collecting and reporting hate crime data to supporting education—at a time when few Holocaust survivors or witnesses to the atrocities of World War II remain.

The OSCE also reported on its Turning Words Into Action project, designed to assist governments and civil societies in bolstering security for Jewish communities, educate our own societies on how to recognize and address prejudice, and build coalitions between Jewish and other communities.

Yet, at this critical juncture, we have been cutting funding and other resources meant to bolster America's diplomatic efforts abroad. It is for this reason that I fought to include \$1 million to combat global anti-Semitism in the fiscal year 2018 Omnibus appropriations bill recently passed by Congress. I also wrote letters urging President Trump and his administration to select a new special envoy to monitor and combat anti-Semitism. This position has been critical in working with governments and organizations abroad to facilitate action against anti-Semitism in communities around the world.

We must all understand that a threat against one religion, race, or ethnicity is a threat against all religions, races, and ethnicities. Hatred unleashed rarely forms its own boundaries.

In the aftermath of World War II, a Protestant pastor famously said:

In Germany, they came first for the Communists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Communist; and then they came for the trade unionists, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a trade unionist; and then they came for the Jews, and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Jew; and then they came for me . . . and by that time there was no one left to speak up.

History has shown time and again that the failure of governments and political leaders to denounce those who advance an agenda of hate and bigotry brings instability and violence.

As hate crimes continue to rise in our own Nation and as the number of refugees around the world fleeing political violence and persecution reaches record highs, we must reaffirm our sense of duty and our commitment to preserving freedom, equality, and fundamental human rights for all people.

Addressing the anti-Semitism and other forms of discrimination and persecution takes a concerted and sustained effort from a coalition of gov-

ernments, faith and community leaders, and global advocates to denounce these atrocities and promote peace and tolerance around the world.

Now more than ever, we need to join together and speak up to protect human rights around the globe because it is in all of our interests to do so. We must also use tools available to us, from hate crime laws to capacity-building measures for civil society and governments, such as those offered by the OSCE.

I will continue to stand alongside civil society and remain an advocate for equality and human rights, and I urge my colleagues to do likewise.

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. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session for the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, and 825.

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

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Rohit Chopra, of New York, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the unexpired term of seven years from September 26, 2012; Noah Joshua Phillips, of Maryland, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2016; Joseph Simons, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2017; Christine S. Wilson, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the unexpired term of seven years from September 26, 2011; Christine S. Wilson, of Virginia, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2018; and Rebecca