

Just 4 years ago, we were spending about \$600 million on Alzheimer's research. We were spending \$250 billion on taxpayer-related care. We were spending \$600 million—what is that? Is that one-quarter of 1 percent? We were spending \$600 million on research to try to help solve this problem that we are spending these billions of dollars on every year.

In 4 years, we have gotten that number beyond the disease goal a handful of years ago. We said: If we just could have \$2 billion for Alzheimer's research every year, we would have a better chance to find a solution.

Well, this year, we have passed the \$2 billion. We are at \$2.34 billion, but we are still spending less than 1 percent on trying to find a solution to the problem of what we are spending every year on the problem. It is an important 1 percent.

At Washington University in St. Louis—I didn't know when I started chairing this committee what great leaders they are in this research effort. I knew this was one of the top health research universities in the country. I didn't know where we were in terms of the cutting-edge on Alzheimer's, but Dr. Randy Bateman at Washington University in St. Louis is very close. He has unveiled the results of a blood test that hopefully will detect early on whether you individually are on the way to developing this problem.

Obviously that matters if we can find things that could be done to significantly slow down the advance of this disease. It is not particularly expensive to take a blood test. It is not very invasive. It gets a quick result. Now what you have to do—you have to have a CAT scan. Somebody, in an expensive process, looks at your brain and figures out if you have amyloids developing in your brain that are likely to cause this.

So early detection—Dr. Hodes at the National Institute on Aging at NIH says that one of the real reasons we can't find solutions is we cannot figure out how to get the right group to clinically test. A blood test would help with that. So we are working on that.

I see my friend Senator MARKEY is here. I would point out to him that because of the leader's time, I started talking only about 8 minutes ago and maybe have only 2 minutes right now.

If you want to use that 2 minutes before the vote—but we do have a vote—then we will figure out later, maybe, how to get back to your time. But thanks for your interest in health research. Certainly, Dr. Blumenthal, the Senator's wife, is a great advocate of this. Why don't I yield this last minute or so to Senator MARKEY; then maybe there will be other time later, but I know we have a vote scheduled in a minute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for 4 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MARKEY. Thank you, Madam President.

I thank the Senator from Missouri for his great leadership on this issue. As he was pointing out, this issue of whether we make a continued increase in the funding for research at NIH goes right to the long-term budgetary objectives of our country.

If we do not find the cure for Alzheimer's by the time we reach the year 2050, the budget at Medicare and Medicaid for taking care of Alzheimer's patients will be equal to the defense budget of our country. Obviously, that is not sustainable. So the only way we are going to be able to deal with this issue is to find a cure.

Research is medicine's field of dreams, from which we harvest findings that give hope to families that there could be a cure for the disease that runs through their family's history. It could be Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, diabetes, cancer. Whatever the disease, it is going to take funding from the NIH to match the magnitude of the challenge. That is what this bill is going to do.

Working with Chairman SHELBY and Senator LEAHY, along with Mr. BLUNT, what we are seeing is another dramatic increase. He and Senator MURRAY have worked with the chairs in order to accomplish this goal.

Ultimately, I know how important this issue is because my mother died from Alzheimer's. The funding level for Alzheimer's research has been woefully inadequate matched against the magnitude of the problem, so there has had to be a dramatic increase.

Unfortunately, from 2002 until 2007, we have just level funding at the National Institutes of Health, and that meant a cut by ultimately 20 percent in the spending capacity of NIH. So now we are making up for lost ground. The key is, it draws the most talented young people in America toward the goal of finding the cures and the breakthroughs that can ultimately give hope to families because NIH isn't just the National Institutes of Health, it is the "National Institutes of Hope"—the hope people have that the disease that runs through their family will, in fact, be cured.

That is why this budget is so important because it is going to increase the hope families have. It is going to draw more scientists toward these issues. It is going to lead to more breakthroughs because whether it be Alzheimer's or cancer or diabetes or ALS or whatever the disease is, failure is not an option. We must find the breakthroughs that are going to make a difference.

When it comes to Alzheimer's itself, when I was a boy, President Kennedy said the mission to the Moon was what we should all be focusing on. Well, in the 21st century, it is the mission to the mind. It is to try to find ways in these labyrinthian passageways of the

human brain that we can find the clues that make it possible for us to find the cure.

I thank the Senator from Missouri. I thank you, Madam President, for giving me an opportunity to extend. There is no more important issue than what we are going to be dealing with.

With that, I yield back.

Mr. BLUNT. I yield back my time as well.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate amendment No. 3695 to Calendar No. 500, H.R. 6157, an act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Orrin G. Hatch, Jerry Moran, Lindsey Graham, Mike Crapo, Richard C. Shelby, John Thune, John Cornyn, John Hoeven, Shelley Moore Capito, Johnny Isakson, Pat Roberts, Steve Daines, John Boozman, Richard Burr, Lisa Murkowski, Roy Blunt.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the amendment numbered 3695, as amended, offered by the Senator from Alabama, Mr. SHELBY, to H.R. 6157, an act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 90, nays 6, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 190 Leg.]

YEAS—90

Alexander	Capito	Crapo
Baldwin	Cardin	Cruz
Barrasso	Carper	Daines
Bennet	Casey	Donnelly
Blumenthal	Cassidy	Duckworth
Blunt	Collins	Durbin
Booker	Cooms	Enzi
Boozman	Corker	Ernst
Brown	Cornyn	Feinstein
Burr	Cortez Masto	Fischer
Cantwell	Cotton	Gardner

Gillibrand	Leahy	Sasse
Graham	Manchin	Schumer
Harris	Markey	Scott
Hassan	McCaskill	Shaheen
Hatch	McConnell	Shelby
Heinrich	Menendez	Smith
Heitkamp	Merkley	Stabenow
Heller	Moran	Sullivan
Hoeven	Murkowski	Tester
Hyde-Smith	Murphy	Thune
Inhofe	Nelson	Tillis
Isakson	Perdue	Udall
Johnson	Peters	Van Hollen
Jones	Portman	Warner
Kaine	Reed	Warren
Kennedy	Risch	Whitehouse
King	Roberts	Wicker
Klobuchar	Rounds	Wyden
Lankford	Rubio	Young

## NAYS—6

Flake	Lee	Sanders
Grassley	Paul	Toomey

## NOT VOTING—4

Hirono	Murray
McCain	Schatz

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 90, the nays are 6.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the Senate will resume legislative session on H.R. 6157, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6157) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

## Pending:

Shelby amendment No. 3695, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell (for Shelby) amendment No. 3699 (to amendment No. 3695), of a perfecting nature.

Leahy amendment No. 3993 (to amendment No. 3699), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and I am sure I can also speak for the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, we appreciate this vote, so we can move forward.

We have spent the last week on the Senate floor. But, what many people have not seen are the hours and hours that Senators, both Republicans and Democrats, have spent working together to get where we are today. Many people have not seen the countless of hours more being done by our staffs. Sometimes at 1 in the morning, they are still negotiating parts of this bill.

We are just within an hour or so of doing something the Senate, as Senator MCCONNELL pointed out, has not been able to do in years.

I think we will pass a good, responsible and within-the-budget piece of legislation. Both Republicans and

Democrats had a voice in the process. We held numerous votes in the Senate Appropriations Committee, all of them overwhelmingly bipartisan, many of them unanimous—with the exception of one or two votes—to get to where we are today.

I see some of the chairs from our subcommittees who worked very hard to put together these bipartisan coalitions. I know a lot of people are anxious to get out of here, and soon they will be headed to the airport. Let's get this done. Let's show that the U.S. Senate is actually doing its work. Let's do what we were elected to do, what we know how to do, and what we can do.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I am on the floor to thank the ranking member of the full committee for his good, hard work on this bill and certainly Senator SHELBY and the subcommittee chairs.

We are here to talk about some of the important issues in this bill and how consequential this bill will be and has the potential to be.

We are encompassing both Defense and Labor-HHS, both of which passed out of our committee a few weeks ago with bipartisan support and a lot of input from Members in the process.

Bills of this magnitude deserve to be debated on the Senate floor, as we are doing today. I will first address the defense part of this measure because I think it impacts not only our standing here and our military here but also has a global impact.

President Trump has made rebuilding and strengthening our military one of his administration's primary objectives, and this bill helps him do exactly that.

This legislation invests in programs, projects, technologies, and capabilities that will strengthen our Nation's military. More importantly, it invests in the people behind all of these efforts by including a 2.6-percent raise for all of our military. That includes our National Guard.

Our National Guard's presence in West Virginia is essential not only to our Nation's security but to all the core values and the core strengths the National Guard brings to the State of West Virginia. All of these men and women deserve our support and our commitment to provide them with what they need to defend freedom both here and abroad.

Of course, the legislation under consideration doesn't just focus on the military; it also focuses on another war being waged right here in our country, and that is the fight against the opioid epidemic.

Under the leadership of Chairman BLUNT—and he has been fantastic in the committee—the Labor-HHS Subcommittee has made this issue a top priority, and I could not be more grateful, more proud, and, even more importantly, more hopeful.

We saw the statistics come out last week that there have been over 70,000 deaths across the country. It is deeply troubling as to how to get the best handle on this very difficult problem.

Over the past 4 years, we have increased funding for this effort of fighting the opioid crisis by more than 1,275 percent, but we haven't done this blindly. We are just not throwing money at the problem. I think we have been very thoughtful, as have our partners in the State and local areas.

We have focused on treatment through our community health centers. We have focused on prevention, working with the CDC. We have focused on recovery through our workforce initiatives. We have focused on research at NIH, where, hopefully, NIH can develop a nonaddictive opioid treatment, which I think will be a major breakthrough for this problem, and we have focused on directing funding to the States to meet the local challenges through their State opioid response grants. We have also focused on the ripple effects of this epidemic, including the impact on families and children in foster care. These are all important resources and much needed.

I want to call special attention to our work, something that is extremely important to my home State of West Virginia. In the previous funding legislation, when we were dealing with this problem, I authored language with Senator SHAHEEN. We had language directing funds in the State opioid response grants to those States with the greatest needs.

The unfortunate metric in my State, and certainly in the Presiding Officer's State as well, is that we have States with smaller populations, but we have some of the biggest impacts, the highest addiction, the highest overdose, and the highest death rates across the country. This has enabled us to focus more funding on those States that are more deeply affected but don't have the population to have enough formula funding in those States to meet our needs.

Just a few weeks ago, our State Department of Health and Human Resources released the preliminary numbers. So far in West Virginia, we have had almost 500 opioid-related deaths. While this is the most devastating statistic, when it comes to West Virginia and the opioid epidemic, it is not the only one. It is not the only one we need to look at.

We are seeing an increasing number of children in foster care. This has impacted the entire family. There are more grandparents and great-grandparents who are raising their grandchildren and their great-grandchildren.