

know of institutions and organizations that did that, and to learn they were disregarded causes me to have great concerns.

The Senator from Missouri, Mr. BLUNT, and I have probed Secretary Azar, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, on this subject, and we are eagerly awaiting his justification for what appears to be a major significant error. It appears that HRSA and OPTN making policy in such a reckless fashion has become the normal state of affairs. Additional oversight may be necessary to ensure that fairness in organ allocation policy is protected and some common sense prevails in future policy. I know there is a group of Senators who are working on legislation to do just that.

I am very disappointed in the actions of HRSA, OPTN, and UNOS. This process has been flawed from start to finish, guided not by what is best for the country but how to sidestep a single lawsuit.

Organ procurement and allocation policy is too important. It is about life and death and is too important to be simply decided by lawsuits and countersuits, which I fear now will become the way of addressing this issue.

I will continue to work to protect our hospitals, our doctors, and particularly our patients—Americans—from this policy that disregarded all input from those in the transplant community. This discussion cannot be seen as anything coming to a close. It is far from over. I remain committed to finding answers, changing the tide, and putting patients and providers first in these life-or-death scenarios.

I thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

TRIBUTE TO MARCIA FUDGE

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, 10 years ago this summer, we lost a longtime friend of mine and colleague, a remarkable public servant, Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones.

When MARCIA FUDGE, then the mayor of Warrensville Heights, a Cleveland suburb, won the special election to Stephanie's seat to represent the 11th Congressional District, including Cleveland and the home where Connie and I live, she had big shoes to fill, but MARCIA rose to the occasion. For the past decade, she has been a fighter for my hometown of Cleveland and the east side suburbs into Akron and all the Ohioans she serves.

On the Education and Workforce Committee, she has become a senior leader who knows how to get things done. She stands up for Ohio's teachers, students, and families.

MARCIA also joined the Agriculture Committee, perhaps not initially seen as a natural fit for someone with an urban district like hers, but she understands that farm bills are not just about crops. They are food bills, eco-

economic development bills, conservation bills, research bills, and nutrition bills. She and I—and I am the first Senator in half a century to be on the Ag Committee for some of the same reasons Congressman FUDGE is on this committee. We have worked together to write two farm bills.

This year, we both served on the bill's conference committee, and we fought House Republican efforts to erect more bureaucracy to gut nutrition programs in Ohio that families rely on. These are programs for people making \$8, \$10, \$12 an hour who don't have quite enough income to feed their families. We won that fight.

Tomorrow the President is scheduled to sign the bipartisan farm bill we passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in both Houses. Congresswoman FUDGE and I worked to right a century-old wrong and get Central State University the 1890 land grant status they deserve. That designation isn't just a rhetorical honor; it means more opportunities for funding and research in partnerships with industry—the sort of results that Marcia delivers for her district.

She is a leader among her colleagues. As head of the Congressional Black Caucus, she led the fight on so many issues, including working to ensure that all Americans have a voice in their government.

A few years ago, we held a field hearing on barriers too many Ohioans face exercising their most fundamental right—the right to vote. MARCIA was a star in that hearing. It came in the wake of a despicable Ohio law and, frankly, years of attempts at voter suppression by Ohio Republicans—a despicable Ohio law that cut the number of early voting days in half.

We know exactly whom these laws are aimed at. MARCIA testified about how these suppression tactics hurt communities of color. Unfortunately, it has gotten worse—limiting absentee balloting, restricting provisional balloting—and the Supreme Court, a Court that puts its thumb on the scale of justice in support of corporations over workers, a Court that puts its thumb on the scale of justice to support Wall Street over consumers, and a Court that rubberstamps all these restrictions on voting.

I look forward to continuing our fight alongside MARCIA against these tactics straight out of the Jim Crow era. I know MARCIA will continue to be a leader. There is no doubt, even before her election to Congress, that MARCIA was a force to be reckoned with: a former mayor, a former congressional chief of staff, and former national president—as important as anything she has done, I think in her mind—of Delta Sigma Theta. She still helps lead efforts to bring Deltas from around the country to the Hill each year for Delta Days. Hundreds of driven, ambitious, smart, committed, empathetic talented Black women come to our Nation's Capitol to meet with Members of Con-

gress and make their voices heard. They have an incredible role model in MARCIA FUDGE.

I am grateful, Congresswoman FUDGE, to have you as my Congresswoman. I am proud to call you a colleague and a friend.

ECONOMY

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I noticed today news reports from Bloomberg that the year 2017 is shaping up to be or likely was the most profitable year in Wall Street history. So what is Congress's reaction to that? What happens in the majority leader's office? More special interest legislation, more breaks for Wall Street, more tax cuts. So this Congress—this Congress has decided that Wall Street never quite has enough; that the richest people in this country are never rich enough; that the most powerful people in this country are not powerful enough.

So what happens down the hall in the majority leader's office? What happens way down the hall in the Speaker's office, although voters this year decided this year to eject him and his staff and his cohorts and his fellow travelers—if I can use a phrase like that—from that office and elect a whole different group of people.

What they have done is meet behind closed doors to help the oil companies, the drug companies, the gun lobby, and help especially Wall Street. In fact, not only are there all kinds of Wall Street lobbyists day in and day out—tobacco lobbyists, gun lobbyists, and others, but the White House itself looks like a retreat for Wall Street executives.

We know that. That is why, I guess, Wall Street had such a great year in 2017.

TRIBUTE TO PAT ROGALA

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I want to honor the career of Patricia Rogala, who has been with my office our entire 12 years in the Senate and my 14 years in the House before that. Pat is the model of a dedicated public servant. After more than 25 years serving the people of Ohio, Pat is retiring at the end of the year.

Her first day on the job in Cleveland, Congress was in the middle of a fight—sounds familiar—over healthcare. Some local activists sent an Elvis impersonator to the office singing a healthcare song to the tune of "It's Now or Never." Pat said at the time, "What am I getting myself into?"

Fortunately, she stayed. As our Ohio scheduler, she has sent me all over my State. She has helped me put more road miles on our made-in-Toledo Jeep Cherokee than any travel agent ever could.

She has made sure I am able to serve Ohioans through meetings and roundtables and plant visits. She juggles a Senate schedule that changes—as we see tonight—always at the last minute. She ensures that this