

still be allowable under this change. The conference report also does not preclude self-initiated job search that is not specifically managed within the SNAP employment and training.

The Agriculture Committee has a long history of bipartisan oversight of SNAP, and every farm bill includes provisions that strengthen SNAP by taking advantage of new technologies and other advancements in other areas of the human services field. This farm bill is no exception. For example, we include provisions to adjust SNAP's electronic benefit transfer, EBT, program to account for new technologies like mobile and online payments and to add flexibility for farmers' markets. While we recognize the need for SNAP to evolve to survive in the modern marketplace, it is equally important that we continue to maintain program integrity. The Secretary must maintain the ability to monitor retailers and ensure they are not engaging in fraudulent activities. Retailers without a physical storefront may require new approaches to oversight, and FNS should continue to work with retailers and Congress to ensure appropriate controls are in place.

EBT is a critical link in the SNAP program for delivering benefits to eligible families and our retailers, and EBT contractors are important partners. The Senate-passed farm bill included requirements on USDA and GAO to conduct broad reviews of SNAP EBT, including transfer-related fees, equipment issues, data security, and customer service, especially the unfortunate increased frequency of systems outages. We also required USDA to issue regulations and guidance on these issues based on the findings from the studies. Although we were not able to include these provisions in the final conference agreement, both USDA and GAO have the authority to engage in these activities without specific statutory direction, and I urge them to do so.

Child support collections is another area where we determined that the proper course of action is for the Secretary to obtain more information. The House included a sweeping provision to require States to mandate cooperation with child support enforcement as a condition of SNAP eligibility. While we strongly support custodial and non-custodial parents financially supporting their children, we rejected the mandate out of concern that taking away food assistance would do more harm than good for children and that the mandate would be costly for States and the Federal Government. Instead, we direct the Secretary to collect evidence on the impact on families and children and the cost for States and the Federal Government. We also want information on the experiences in States that have adopted the mandate, those that rejected it, and on some of the practical issues such as how States guarantee a robust determination of good cause for noncompliance. It is key

that the Secretary in carrying out this study collect information on those who would be dissuaded from participating in SNAP as a result of the mandate. Research on those who do not receive SNAP as a result of a policy change can be difficult to obtain, but because our concern about the provision relates to the impact on children whose parents are afraid to participate in SNAP because of a fear of domestic violence or out of other concerns about their relationship with another parent—for example, when grandparents care for grandchildren—the Secretary must seek to paint a full picture of the impact such a change would have on children. We also instruct the Secretary to examine what alternative options are available in this area that would achieve similar goals but without putting food assistance for children at risk.

In addition to these critical issues within SNAP, I also want to note that we made some critical improvements to programs to support beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers, organic producers and local food systems, including providing permanent mandatory baseline funding. This important step will ensure these programs continue to support the next generation of sustainable farmers. The conference report also directs Secretary to have the Agriculture Marketing Service and Rural Business Cooperative Service work together to implement the Local Agriculture Market Program, using the agencies' respective structures and expertise to deliver an effective program. One important aspect of the Local Agriculture Market Program is food safety assistance, an area where the primary expertise at USDA resides within the Agriculture Marketing Service. I would ask USDA to ensure food safety components of the Local Agriculture Market Program be coordinated between the agencies, but be led by Agriculture Marketing Service, who has the most expertise.

This farm bill was truly historic, both in its broad level of bipartisan support and also in its steps toward supporting the great diversity of American agriculture. I also believe it was noteworthy that we were able to overcome strong partisan attacks on food assistance to produce a bill in the bipartisan tradition this committee maintains continues to protect the family safety net in a bipartisan way. I hope the administration follows our lead and rejects harmful attacks on food assistance for families needing short term support.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID PETTI

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, with my colleagues Senator JAMES E. RISCH and Representative MIKE SIMPSON, I congratulate Dr. David Petti on his retirement from the Idaho National Laboratory, INL. Dave has had a long, distinguished career as an innovative nuclear engineer and leader at INL, where he

has made a significant impact in his field.

Presently, Dave is a Laboratory Fellow and Division Director for Nuclear Fuels and Materials. He is also a Fellow of the American Nuclear Society and the Senior Editor for the Journal of Nuclear Materials and an Editorial Member for Nuclear Engineering and Design.

During his tenure, Dave led a number of projects at INL, including overseeing all research and development for the Very High Temperature Reactor Technology Development Project, known previously as the Next Generation Nuclear Plant. Dave is an internationally recognized expert in the development of advanced reactor fuels and is the recipient of 19 awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Award for an INL Publisher, 2016, the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Management Excellence Award, 2014, and the American Nuclear Society Materials Science and Technology Special Achievement Award for leadership in development of nuclear fuels for high temperature gas-cooled reactors, 2009.

A highly published and well-respected expert in his field, Dave has authored or coauthored more than 100 peer reviewed journal articles, contributed more than 50 papers to conferences, and authored 2 book chapters. He holds a patent for method for the production of ^{99m}Tc compositions from ⁹⁹Mo containing materials, 1998. Most recently, Dave coauthored the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT, report "The Future of Nuclear Energy in a Carbon-Constrained World". This influential study has had great impact on the international nuclear community, and he has presented the findings of the report in Washington, DC, London, Paris, Tokyo, and other places around the world. Dave holds a Ph.D., an M.S., and a B.S. in nuclear engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dave has left a mark in his field and in Idaho during his 32 years at INL. We congratulate him on his many accomplishments and wish Dave and his wife, Becky, all the best as they enjoy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO DR. KATHLEEN HOGAN

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the service of Dr. Kathleen Hogan, the former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency at the U.S. Department of Energy.

Dr. Hogan's distinguished career is a testament to the power of one public servant to deliver progress for the entire country.

Over her years of Federal service, Dr. Hogan dedicated her considerable talent to helping our country use energy more efficiently. Dr. Hogan appreciated the promise of energy efficiency, not only to address the climate threat, but also to reduce waste and save money for households and businesses

nationwide. She also appreciated the necessity of bringing government and the private sector together on solutions.

At the Department of Energy, Dr. Hogan oversaw the Better Buildings Program, an initiative to encourage buildings to become 20 percent more efficient by the end of the decade. The program was formally codified through legislation I introduced with Senator Kelly Ayotte in 2013. Its success, however, is entirely the result of Dr. Hogan's tenacity, persistence, and rare ability to forge partnerships beyond government. While at the Department, Dr. Hogan also forged robust appliance standards that save consumers more than \$60 billion on their electricity bills annually.

At the Environmental Protection Agency, Dr. Hogan spearheaded Energy Star, a voluntary program to promote efficiency in housing, industry, and a range of consumer products. Today, Energy Star is one of the most widely recognized consumer labels in America. Since 1992, the program has saved families and businesses over \$450 billion and 3.5 trillion kilowatt-hours of electricity.

The legacy of Dr. Hogan's public service is all around us: in the kitchens of millions of American households, on the factory floor of industrial plants, in the cleaner air our children breathe each day, and in the dozens of new partnerships between the Federal Government and businesses from nearly every sector of the economy.

We are deeply appreciative of Dr. Hogan's contributions, and we wish her all the best in her next chapter. Above all, we thank her for a distinguished career of service to our country.

TRIBUTE TO DUSTY VAUGHAN

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the service of my longtime staff member and dear friend, Dusty Vaughan.

After 14 years of service, he is turning a new page in what has been an impressive and dedicated career of service to the people of Nebraska.

Dusty was the first person I hired after I was elected to represent District 43 in the Nebraska State Legislature in 2004. He served in my legislative office for my entire time in the unicameral, first as my legislative aide and then as legal counsel of the Transportation and Telecommunication Committee, which I chaired for 6 years. As a state senator, I relied on Dusty's expertise to make the best possible decisions that improved our State and helped Nebraska's families.

Together we accomplished a lot. We got results and Dusty worked tirelessly to get the "big stuff" done. Our proudest achievement from our legislative days was securing the passage of LB 84, the Build Nebraska Act, which dedicated a quarter cent of every sales tax dollar to a new highway fund in the State of Nebraska. This was a policy

change for the State and is viewed as a major policy accomplishment in the last 40 years.

In 2012, after I was elected by the people of Nebraska to serve in this Chamber, one of my first decisions was to make Dusty my State director. In the years that followed, when I wasn't here in Washington, I was likely traveling on the road with him across Nebraska. From Scottsbluff to Omaha, we visited countless families, organizations, schools, hospitals, and small businesses. I always enjoyed our many lunches, ice cream breaks, and discussions about everything from policy issues to our families. And we have certainly had a lot of laughs—and a few tears—over these many years.

Each and every day Dusty brought unmatched integrity and heart to work with him. He is a wonderful example of the true goodness of the State of Nebraska. I want to thank Dusty's family, his wife, Julie, two sons Gabe and Kellen, and his two beautiful daughters, Tatum and Zoe, who lent much of his time, including some busy weekends. I know they are proud of him, as I am.

Dusty has shown them what it means to be a true humble servant of our State.

Dusty, I thank you for your positivity, your loyalty, your friendship, and your faith in Nebraskans. I wish you the very best on this next chapter of your career, and I know you will continue to get the big stuff done and make us proud.

TRIBUTE TO KERRY GARLAND

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that my office says goodbye to Kerry Garland, who has been such an asset to my team this past year.

Kerry has lived in Alaska for 18 years. She went to high school at Bartlett High School in Anchorage and graduated from the University of Alaska in Anchorage with communication and a second degree, a bachelor's of science in nutrition.

After graduating, she worked for the University of Alaska Anchorage. Then we got her. She started as an intern. Her title now is a constituent relations representative, but truly she runs the place. She manages mail. She coordinates the interns. She does so much, and she always does it with the utmost professionalism.

Kerry is headed off to better things. In a few weeks, she will be one of the few and the proud. She is headed off to Quantico, VA, to for the rigorous and very competitive marine officer candidate school and then to the Basic School.

Kerry says that pursuing a career as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Marine Corps, the hardest branch of the military for women to make a career out of, especially as an officer, has been a long-held dream. The child of marine parents, she decided that she

was going to go into the Marines when she was 6 years old. It was "Bring Your Mother to School" day, and Kerry's mother showed up in uniform. She thought then, "I want to be like her." There is no doubt in my mind that she will be.

She plans on becoming a public affairs officer, where she will work to build understanding, credibility and trust. She will also work her hardest to protect the image of the Marine Corps both at home and abroad.

It is young people like Kerry—people with drive, discipline and a servant's heart—that made me so optimistic for our country's future, and the future of my beloved Marine Corps.

She is one of those people who everyone truly likes and who everyone who has ever worked with her trusts her to get the job done and to get it done right.

Kerry, we will truly miss you. You will always have a place in our hearts and will always be part of the Sullivan team.

Semper Fi.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING RICHARD P. CONABOY

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I wish to remember Judge Richard P. Conaboy, who served the people of Lackawanna County and the Middle District of Pennsylvania as a judge for over five decades.

Judge Conaboy was born and raised in Scranton, PA. After graduating from the University of Scranton in 1945, he served in the Army Air Force and became a sergeant before his discharge in 1947. He earned a law degree from Catholic University in 1950 and practiced law in Scranton for 12 years until he was appointed to be a judge on the Lackawanna County Court of Common Pleas in 1962. He served on this court with distinction for 17 years. Judge Conaboy was nominated to the Federal bench by President Jimmy Carter and confirmed by the Senate in 1979. He went on to serve the Middle District of Pennsylvania for nearly four decades.

Judge Conaboy also served as chairman of the U.S. Sentencing Commission from 1994 to 1998. Notably, during his tenure, Judge Conaboy raised concerns about Congress's decision to address the crack cocaine epidemic by significantly enhancing penalties for crack, but not powder, cocaine, creating a sentencing disparity that he believed was having a profound disproportionate impact on minority communities. His opposition to this disparity and his dedication to fairness in sentencing presaged Congress's passage of the Fair Sentencing Act in 2010 and have continued to influence efforts to reform Federal sentencing laws.

Judge Conaboy was known for his legal acumen, as well as his humility, patience, and fairness. Members of the