

SENATE RESOLUTION 312—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 8, 2019, AS “NATIONAL DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK”

Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. ROSEN, and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 312

Whereas direct support professionals, including direct care workers, personal assistants, personal attendants, in-home support workers, and paraprofessionals, are key to providing publicly funded, long-term support and services for millions of individuals with disabilities;

Whereas direct support professionals provide essential support that ensures that individuals with disabilities are—

- (1) included as a valued part of the communities in which those individuals live;
- (2) supported at home, at work, and in the communities of the United States; and
- (3) empowered to live with dignity;

Whereas all communities have a stake in ensuring that individuals with disabilities thrive through the connections of the individuals to their families, friends, and communities, fostered by the direct support professionals of those individuals;

Whereas home and community-based services driven by the direct support professional workforce can result in cost efficiency and better outcomes relating to support and services for individuals with disabilities;

Whereas direct support professionals support individuals with disabilities by helping those individuals make person-centered choices that lead to meaningful, productive lives;

Whereas direct support professionals build close, respectful, and trusting relationships with individuals with disabilities;

Whereas direct support professionals provide a broad range of individualized support to individuals with disabilities, including—

- (1) assisting with the preparation of meals;
- (2) helping with medication;
- (3) assisting with bathing, dressing, and other aspects of daily living;

(4) assisting with access to the environment of the individuals;

(5) providing transportation to school, work, religious, and recreational activities;

(6) helping with general daily affairs, such as assisting with financial matters, medical appointments, and personal interests; and

(7) meeting complex behavioral and medical needs;

Whereas there is a documented critical and increasing shortage of direct support professionals throughout the United States;

Whereas direct support professionals are a critical element in supporting—

- (1) individuals who are receiving health care services for severe chronic health conditions and individuals with functional limitations; and
- (2) the successful transition of individuals from medical events to post-acute care and long-term support and services;

Whereas many direct support professionals are the primary financial providers for their families;

Whereas direct support professionals are hardworking, taxpaying citizens who provide an important service to people with disabilities in the United States, yet many con-

tinue to earn low wages, receive inadequate benefits, and have limited opportunities for advancement, resulting in high turnover and vacancy rates that adversely affect the quality of support, safety, and health of individuals with disabilities;

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States, in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999)—

(1) recognized the importance of the deinstitutionalization of, and community-based services for, individuals with disabilities; and

(2) held that, under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S. 12101 et seq.), a State must provide community-based services to persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities if—

(A) the community-based services are appropriate;

(B) the affected person does not oppose receiving the community-based services; and

(C) the community-based services can be reasonably accommodated after the community has taken into account the resources available to the State and the needs of other individuals with disabilities in the State; and

Whereas, in 2019, the majority of direct support professionals are employed in home- and community-based settings and that trend will increase over the next decade: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the week beginning September 8, 2019, as “National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week”;

(2) recognizes the dedication and vital role of direct support professionals in enhancing the lives of individuals with disabilities of all ages;

(3) appreciates the contribution of direct support professionals in supporting individuals with disabilities and their families in the United States;

(4) commends direct support professionals for being integral to the provision of long-term support and services for individuals with disabilities;

(5) encourages the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor to collect data specific to direct support professionals; and

(6) finds that the successful implementation of the public policies affecting individuals with disabilities in the United States can depend on the dedication of direct support professionals.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 938. Mr. INHOFE proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1790, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 938. Mr. INHOFE proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1790, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2020 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; as follows:

In section 6943(a), strike paragraph (2).

After section 6966, insert the following:

Subtitle D—Other Matters

SEC. 6971. EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The authorities and requirements to impose sanctions authorized under this title or the amendments made by this title shall not include the authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(b) GOOD DEFINED.—In this section, the term “good” means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply, or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator BILL CASSIDY, intend to object to proceeding to H.R. 1146, a bill to amend Public Law 115-97 (commonly known as the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act) to repeal the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge oil and gas program, and for other purposes, dated September 12, 2019.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I have 3 requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 12, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on the following nominations: Ryan D. McCarthy to be Secretary of the Army and Barbara M. Barrett to be Secretary of the Air Force.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 12, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, September 12, 2019, at 2 p.m., to conduct a closed hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Kathryn Sullivan be given floor privileges for today.

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

RECOGNIZING THE SEMI-QUINCENTENNIAL OF THE COMMUNITY OF WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 310, submitted earlier today.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 310) recognizing the semiquincentennial of the community of Wheeling, West Virginia.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 310) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I am really pleased to be here with my fellow Senator from the State of West Virginia to talk about a really great city and very historic city in our State of West Virginia, and that is to recognize the 250th birthday anniversary of the city of Wheeling, WV.

In September of 1769, Ebenezer Zane set out into the great unknown, as many of our brave earlier settlers did. He found a place nestled at the mouth of a river, and he girdled a group of trees together and carved his family name into them, claiming his tomahawk right, as was the custom of the time. That clearing that Zane created, where he built his home and raised his family, would develop into the city of Wheeling.

I grew up just 10 miles south of Wheeling, WV. Wheeling is a city of industry, good people, and growth. Yes, there have been ups and downs over the years, but today it is as vibrant as ever. As West Virginians, we all take pride in our State's progress through the years, but Wheeling has made a particularly special mark on our State.

During the Wheeling Convention of 1861, Western Virginians voted to secede from Virginia so that we could remain loyal to the Union. They declared that Virginia officials had abandoned their posts, and they established a provisional government with Francis Pierpont as the Governor.

Then, in 1863—something we are very proud of—President Lincoln issued a proclamation admitting the State of West Virginia into the Union and instituting Wheeling, WV, as our first State capital.

The bold actions of the men of the Wheeling Convention opened the gate for the creation of the State I know we know and love, the State that we are so proud to call home and to serve here in the Senate.

As a matter of fact, we have a statue to honor our first Governor, Governor Francis Pierpont, the father of West Virginia, and it still stands in the Capitol in Statuary Hall today.

As a new State following the Civil War, West Virginia sought to cement its place in the recovering Union, and Wheeling became an early transportation epicenter. Probably, traveling to the Presiding Officer's State, you had to go right through Wheeling.

With the presence of the National Road, including the Wheeling Suspension Bridge, which is still there today, the city connected the Ohio River with the Potomac River and offered further expansion to the west. As a result, Wheeling, WV, was able to become a powerhouse in the steel industry. We have all heard of Wheeling steel. In the late 19th century, Wheeling was producing nearly half of the Nation's nails, earning it the nickname "Nail City."

Today, Wheeling has revived its downtown, winning the 2019 Great American Main Street Award.

In the past 3 years, they have opened 37 new small businesses—the backbone of our State—and the city has opened tourism to the Ohio River Valley, from the Victorian Capitol Theater and the shops and eateries of Centre Market to one of the best—and, I will say, not one of the best but the best—holiday light shows in the country at Oglebay Park, their Winter Festival of Lights.

Wheeling is historic. It is beautiful, and it is booming. That is all thanks to the creative and incredible men and women who have called it home over the years.

One of my favorite historic stories about Wheeling involves one of those brave men, Major Samuel McColloch.

Back in September of 1777, during the Revolutionary War, there was a siege on Fort Henry, which today is Wheeling. As the fort came under attack by a group of Native Americans, Major McColloch arrived at the fort with 40 mounted men. They all made it safely inside the gate except for the major, who was then forced to flee to a nearby hill. If you know anything about West Virginia or Wheeling, WV, we have plenty of hills.

So when he got to the top, he found himself surrounded, and his only hope of escaping was by leaping off of the edge, which was about a 300-foot drop. Well, being the bold leader that he was, Major McColloch took the jump. He and his horse survived this leap, and they galloped away.

Today, that spot is marked by an historic marker, and it is called McColloch's Leap. I can remember my parents, when I was a young girl and we would go to Wheeling, stopping and explaining this incredible story about the leap of Major McColloch with his horse down the 300 feet. You ought to go see it, because when you look at it, you go: Whoa, that is a long way.

Of course we cannot forget the women who also helped to shape Wheeling's history. There was another siege on Fort Henry that took place in September of 1782. It is often known as the Last Battle of the Revolutionary War. Native Americans and British

Rangers had laid siege to the fort, with some 40 men defending it and protecting and guarding the women and children inside.

As the battle raged on, the settlers knew that they would soon deplete their ammunition, but they knew of a stockpile at the nearby Zane homestead. So one volunteer, Betty Zane, Ebenezer's sister and one of the original settlers of Wheeling, stepped up. She ran to her brother's cabin at her own peril, gathered up the gunpowder in a tablecloth and returned through enemy fire.

Betty was successful and unharmed, and with the replenished resources, the forces were forced to retire, resulting in a victory for Wheeling and a very young United States of America.

So, as we gather today, Senator MANCHIN and I, to honor Wheeling's 250th birthday, I also honor the individuals who built the city, from the first settlers to those who walk down Market Street today. Together, they have secured an important place for Wheeling in our Nation's history, and they have made it the success and the incredible city that it remains today.

I was just in Wheeling last weekend, where we had a parade celebrating the 250th birthday of Wheeling. With the amount of young people, music, and great feeling that exuded all throughout the city—restaurants full, bands playing patriotic music—it was a wonderful day for the entire community to celebrate that birthday.

In West Virginia, we have little names for little cities and how we feel. Wheeling is a place I have frequented many, many times in my life. I can say that day, celebrating the 250th birthday on Saturday, I definitely had the "Wheeling feeling." I had the opportunity to see so many of those in the northern panhandle celebrate Wheeling as a vibrant city. I look forward to continuing to celebrate this vibrant city and everyone who calls it home for years to come.

I yield the floor and welcome Senator MANCHIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The other Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague Senator CAPITO. We are very proud West Virginians, born and raised in West Virginia, as you can tell by our presentations. It is a special day where we can say happy birthday to Wheeling.

Wheeling is an unbelievable historical city, when you think about it. When you think about the State of West Virginia, we were the only State forged out of the Civil War. Abraham Lincoln's handprint was all over our State, and basically he was involved in our becoming a State in 1863.

The significance of the formation of our State—and Wheeling being a major economic stronghold because of the river, because of the gateway—can you believe that in 1949, when the suspension bridge was built, it was called the Gateway to the West? It is not that far

from here, maybe 4 hours' drive. So you can see how our country has expanded and how quickly it expanded.

The lessons learned during the construction of the bridge were later used to build the Brooklyn Bridge. I want to tell Senator SCHUMER that we helped. I am sure he would be pleased with that.

In 1933, the Wheeling Jamboree—the Wheeling Jamboree was the longest. People will tell you, during World War II, they would hear—because it was 50,000 watts, they would hear it on the battleships. It was unbelievable.

The music, the talent, the country music that came out of there from some of the most famous artists of the time and still yet to this day passed through Wheeling.

These points in time showcase the importance of the city of Wheeling and the State of West Virginia throughout American history.

I keep thinking about the Marsh Wheeling stogies. Anybody who maybe liked to smoke a cigar every now and then—that was 1840, and it is still in operation. It is unbelievable.

Of course Senator CAPITO talked about Wheeling Steel. It had a tremendous industrial might there for many, many years.

As talked about also, the Zane brothers established a settlement in 1769. Continuing to join the Zane brothers, people came from all over. A small settlement kept growing and growing like the country was at that time.

Wheeling's Fort Henry played a role in what is considered the last battle of the Revolutionary War. It was a significant strategic point for us.

The Restored Government of Virginia at that time—Virginia seceded in 1861. In 1861, there was no Virginia as we know Virginia today. They moved over to Western Virginia, which is where Wheeling is. That was the restored government, and that is where the capital was. That was all through Arthur Boreman.

In 1863—we have a statue in the capital that has Abraham Lincoln walking at midnight deciding whether he is going to sign the proclamation. The country is already divided; now he is going to divide a State. That had not been done because basically, up until then, the Constitution was very clear: You had to have permission from the territory you were in or from another State to secede. But Abraham Lincoln took it upon himself.

If you see the beautiful, unusual shape of our State, there are very few straight lines. Especially when you see the zoning of the eastern panhandle—it is an hour-and-10-minute drive from here—you have Harpers Ferry and John Brown's raid in 1859, which kicked off the Civil War. Then you have the railroads, the confluence of the Shenandoah and the Potomac. It is just unbelievable. He knew he needed that arsenal.

This is the folklore. I don't know if it is true or not, but it is a good story. The three counties we have over there

are Morgan, Berkeley, and Jefferson. It was said that after the war, they were supposed to have a referendum and a vote to see if it would go back to the State of Virginia. Well, I am understanding that Ulysses S. Grant, who was then the President—it is said that he stationed quite a few troops that had voting rights, and the rest is history because it is still West Virginia. There are really some good anecdotes about that.

Wheeling became the provisional capital for the split in the western part of Virginia during the Civil War.

There are so many parts of Wheeling that I have become so fond of, and the people. The "Wheeling feeling" is a saying they have. They have a Wheeling Jamboree. They have a Wheeling Italian festival. The ethnicity of that community is unbelievable. It brings everybody together, and it has brought everybody together.

Having been raised in Farmington—SHELLEY was raised about 2 hours north of me. Back in those days, it was a good 2-hour drive. I am a little bit farther in the north-central part of the State, closer to Fairmont-Morgantown. But knowing about that—Wheeling was the hub. It was the place to go. It was basically the gateway also at that time into Pittsburgh, and it is still considered a distant suburb of Pittsburgh to a certain extent. The economy, the history, the people—some famous people, some productive people—a lot of our leaders come from that area.

When Wheeling became the first capital—we couldn't decide where the capital of West Virginia should be, so they floated up and down the Ohio River, back to Charleston and back to Wheeling, Charleston and Wheeling, until it settled in Charleston, WV.

I am just proud to be standing here with my colleague today. For those who live in Wheeling today and those who have lived in Wheeling at some time in their lives or have family—because all the good-quality jobs are there, good union jobs, well-paying jobs and benefits—to all of them, there is a special place in our hearts for Wheeling, WV, a special place in American history for Wheeling, WV, and a special place in all of our hearts for the State of West Virginia.

I say thank you and happy birthday to a great city of ours and to the great State of West Virginia. We are proud this has become a resolution that has been entered and accepted.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this summer, while American families enjoyed time away from work and from school, the big pharmaceutical companies revved up their influence machine to dismantle bipartisan legislation aimed at bringing down prescription drug costs.

In July, the Senate Finance Committee, on which I am the ranking

Democrat, passed legislation that constitutes the most serious and the most significant bipartisan effort in recent memory to lower drug prices. It is the result of months and months of work by Members on both sides. With respect to Chairman GRASSLEY he and I worked literally every single day for 6 months with our colleagues to try to bring together this bipartisan package. Now the big pharmaceutical companies want to shred the bipartisan Finance Committee bill into confetti.

The bill has two particularly important proposals. First, it has an out-of-pocket cap in Medicare that is going to save senior citizens \$27 billion in the next decade. It will end the era when prescription drugs forced senior citizens into bankruptcy.

The second key proposal is the one that really has Big Pharma mobilizing their lobbyist armies. It is a provision that stipulates that if big pharmaceutical companies are engaged in price gouging—engaged in price gouging—they are going to face consequences. They are going to be able to set the prices, but if they price gouge, the taxpayer is not going to funnel up unlimited subsidies any longer. That is what that provision does that the big pharmaceutical companies are fighting. It is literally a requirement that drug companies, big drug manufacturers, when they price gouge, make a payment to Medicare, a penalty, one might call it. It is going to save the Medicare Program \$60 billion.

If the drug companies raise prices faster than inflation, they will have to pay the difference back to Medicare. There will be no more unjustifiable price hikes to please the shareholders at everybody else's expense and, particularly, no more taxpayer subsidies for price gouging on pharmaceuticals in America.

For literally years, I have been hearing the big drug companies say that they didn't want price controls, that price controls would be bad for innovation. Nobody—nobody—wants to freeze innovation, so we went back to the drawing board, and we said: OK. You set your price, but if you do price gouge, if you do hit patients, families, and consumers in an unfair way, the taxpayer is not going to ladle out unlimited subsidies. That is what that provision of our bill does.

Unfortunately, the big pharmaceutical companies would do just about anything to protect the status quo, keep the prices climbing up and up and the profits rolling in.

Their lobbyists are walking the halls here on Capitol Hill. The pharmaceutical company executives are pulling out all the stops from their political headquarters to generate support. Their fear-mongering messages have spread in op-eds attacking our legislation, saying that somehow this bill, a bipartisan bill written by Senator GRASSLEY, the senior Member of the Republican Caucus, is somehow a socialist price control.

I already talked about how it is pretty hard to call it price control if the company gets to set its prices, but it certainly doesn't limit subsidies. Apparently, the pharmaceutical companies will not accept any limits there as well.

Basically, the pharmaceutical lobbyists are calling it inhumane for the Senate Finance Committee to try to fix the broken system and bring down pharmaceutical prices. They basically say that any effort—any effort—to hold down prices is socialism.

One op-ed said that the Medicare drug program would cease “to function as a market entirely” if drug companies lost their constitutional right to limitless—limitless—price increases. Others have even claimed that drug prices are falling nationwide, which millions of seniors can tell you is fiction, based on the trips they take to the pharmacy window.

I have a bottom line, now that the Senate has come back after the summer break. The big pharmaceutical companies have had just about the longest winning streak in Washington. It seems as though they have a couple of lobbyists for practically every Member of Congress. Yet the Finance Committee voted on a bipartisan basis to actually act in the face of price gouging and protect American patients and families.

We cannot let the big pharmaceutical companies win this time. We cannot let them win on that price-gouging penalty in particular. They want it gone. They know this is going to ripple through the American economy because people are going to say: Hey, this is a pretty fair approach. The companies can set their prices, but they don't have a right to unlimited subsidies.

I personally believe—and the head of the Congressional Budget Office touched on this for our committee—this has the potential to be copied in the private sector as well. I think that is a good thing also.

The question for the Senate is going to be this: Are we going to hand pharma essentially the power of a line-item veto, where they can go in and strike one provision—one provision—the provision that does the most to stop drug company price gouging? Whether pharma gets to comb over our proposals to strike down anything that might curtail their price increases or cut into their profits—that is really what they are seeking to do. If pharma can prevent the Senate from taking even the first basic steps to bring down drug prices, then the question is, What is going to come next? Are the drug company and the drug lobbyists going to get their own desks here on the floor of the U.S. Senate? At least then their influence wouldn't just be in the shadows of the Nation's Capitol.

The prices of prescription drugs in America are out of control. All this summer I was having townhall meetings at home. I went to small pharmacies across my State, urban and

rural. Usually, in these meetings, I would ask if somebody in the audience knew somebody who had been affected by high insulin prices. Everybody's hand went up. I asked: How many of you have neighbors who have been affected by high insulin prices? Everybody's hand goes up.

The fact is that insulin prices have gone up thirteenfold in the last few years, and that drug is not 13 times better. It is basically the same drug, basically the same insulin that has been around for decades.

The reason those prices go up and up and up constantly is that the big pharmaceutical companies can get away with it. Now the Senate Finance Committee is saying: You aren't going to get away with it any longer. The days when everybody in Congress would just look the other way and they could charge anything they want will be over.

There was one particularly interesting article written over the course of the summer in which the author, using AARP data, basically said that if Senator GRASSLEY and I and bipartisan members of the Finance Committee had done this 10 years ago, there wouldn't be a crisis with drug prices. His argument—he went through AARP data—was, essentially, drugs that had gone up \$5,000 over a few years would have gone up something like \$500—something much more manageable for American families and patients.

The Senate Finance Committee is moving to actually stop this price gouging. I don't believe the pharmaceutical industry ought to be able to overrule 19 Senators on the Senate Finance Committee, Democrats and Republicans. Pharma shouldn't be able to gobble up 50 billion Medicare dollars that our legislation would otherwise save as part of the effort to stop the price gouging.

Our legislation gets to the heart of how drug companies have managed to manipulate and abuse the broken healthcare system for far too long. They have done it with a pretty simple formula: Just make sure that the U.S. Senate lets them do anything they want—no constraints on companies at all. Keep the seniors on the hook for huge costs when they are prescribed expensive drugs.

It is not just a crisis in Medicare. A recent study showed that nearly one-third of American adults said that at some point in the last year, they chose not to take medication—medication that was prescribed—because of the cost. In particular, insulin is cited again and again as a prime example, with tragic stories about people who died after self-rationing the insulin they needed to manage their diabetes.

Rising drug costs force the people of this country into impossible choices. You are robbed of your savings if you get your prescriptions filled, and you are robbed of your health if you don't. Obviously, that is unacceptable. It ought to be unacceptable to every

Member of this body, just the way it was unacceptable to the Senate Finance Committee on a bipartisan basis.

I did make clear in the Finance Committee that this was just the beginning. I believe, for example, it is long overdue for Medicare to have the power to bargain with drugmakers directly for lower drug prices. Something like 90 percent of the American people—90 percent of the American people—believe that it is time to lift the restriction on Medicare so that Medicare could bargain to hold down the costs of medicine. We weren't able to get that into the bill, but, at a minimum, the bipartisan legislation the Finance Committee approved should not be picked apart by pharma lobbyists, particularly on the key question of whether they want to stop pharmaceutical price gouging.

On this side, my colleagues and I are going to continue to fight to get this legislation passed by the full Senate. For now, it is up to Leader MCCONNELL to bring our bill to the floor.

My message to every Member of this body is this: The Americans who are battling illnesses and struggling to pay for their medications cannot wait. These are people who are walking an economic tightrope. Every month they balance their food bill against their fuel bill and their fuel bill against their medicine bill. These are Americans who cannot afford to be shunted aside while the Senate favors business as usual for the drugmakers.

Every one of us knows what this crisis is all about and how big it is. Senators were home for weeks this summer. They heard from those in their communities, in grocery stores, in gas stations, in restaurants, and in Dairy Queens—everywhere you go. When a Senator is home, folks come up and tell them a story about how they feel when they get their prescription drug bills, that they have been hit by a wrecking ball. I held townhall meetings all over the State. The issue of prescription drug costs came up at every single one of them.

I am going to close with this. Pharma's winning streak has to end here, and it has to end now. For the Senate to cave and allow pharma to block the price-gouging penalty would be an outrage. It would be a dereliction of duty on the part of the Senate.

I am going to keep up this fight, and I know Chairman GRASSLEY is going to continue to fight for our bipartisan bill, and I urge Senators on both sides of the aisle to stand with us.

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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO CINDY HASIAK

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, before we wrap up today, I call my colleagues' attention to a truly dedicated staff member who has served the Senate for decades.

After more than three decades on the job with the Senate Sergeant at Arms, Cindy Hasiak is retiring today from her post as Chamber manager.

A native of Indiana, Cindy first arrived to work in the Capitol back in 1987. She was welcomed with—get this—a chance to work the Iran-Contra hearings. Since then, she has been on the clock for 7 Presidential inaugurations, 32 Presidential addresses and States of the Union, 6 lying-in-state ceremonies, and a great many more normal workdays, or at least what passes for normal here in the Senate.

More than three decades of landmark votes, major debates, and all the daily business that takes place in this Chamber, Cindy has been here helping make it happen.

To be specific, as one of our doorkeepers, and lately the director of doorkeepers, Cindy has literally guarded the Senate floor. Talk about a sensitive job.

Alongside the brave men and women of the Capitol Police, our doorkeepers control and manage access to this historic institution that attracts the attention of the entire world. They check credentials, welcome visitors, keep things running smoothly.

Here on the floor, they keep us safe. Up in the Galleries, they welcome visitors and give citizens a chance to watch democracy in action. So it is undoubtedly the case that the Senate has been stronger for Cindy's attentive service, but even after 32 years, we would be foolish to think we could keep her forever.

After more than her share of long days, longer weeks, and late nights that relegated entertaining and family time to the back burner, Cindy has certainly earned the chance to spend less time supervising all of us here and more time with her loved ones.

I know my colleagues join me in wishing Cindy good health and happiness as she embarks on a well-deserved retirement. She will leave with our deepest gratitude for a job well done. I might add that given the fact Cindy is from Indiana, it is appropriate that we have the Senator from Indiana as the Chair.

VETERANS' COMPENSATION COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 1200, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1200) to increase, effective as of December 1, 2019, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 1200) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 11 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 17 AS "PATRIOT WEEK"

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed, to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 311, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 311) expressing support for the designation of the week of September 11 through September 17 as "Patriot Week".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. McCONNELL. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 311) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

NATIONAL DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS RECOGNITION WEEK

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 312, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 312) designating the week beginning September 8, 2019, as "National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week".

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleagues Senators COLLINS, KING, BROWN, MARKEY, MUR-

PHY, MENENDEZ, KLOBUCHAR, BLUMENTHAL, HASSAN, JONES, VAN HOLLEN, CASEY, BALDWIN, HARRIS, MURRAY, ROSEN, and KAIN to recognize the week beginning September 8, 2019, as National Direct Support Professionals Recognition Week. Direct support professionals are an invaluable part of our Nation's healthcare system, caring for the most vulnerable Americans, including the chronically ill, seniors, and those living with a disability. Direct support professionals include, among others, those whose titles include home caregiver, personal care assistant, home care worker, or home health aide. These varying titles speaks to the broad areas of support that are integral to the work of direct support professionals. With the assistance of direct support professionals, these individuals can perform daily activities that many people take for granted, such as eating, bathing, dressing, and leaving the house. The work of direct support professionals ensures that these individuals can be active participants in their communities.

Let me share with you the experience of Marian Mulbah-Poquee, a direct support professional who was recognized this year for her incredible work and dedication when she was given Maryland's Direct Support Professional of the Year Award by the American Network of Community Options and Resources, ANCOR. Marian has been described as "a tireless advocate for her ladies," providing the women she serves with the space and choice to lead full and independent lives.

Marian supports her clients by teaching them skills that enable them to participate in their communities to the fullest extent possible. For example, Marian teaches her clients safety skills, gardening, and basic home care so they can spend more time living independently. Marian also encourages her clients to actively participate in civic life. This was best exemplified by a trip her clients took to Annapolis last year for Developmental Disability Day. Marian supported her clients as they met with and engaged their local representatives to discuss issues that affect the disability community in Maryland. Marian's commitment to simultaneously supporting and empowering her clients to actively participate in the public sphere speaks to the very core of what defines direct support professionals.

Marian's story describes a career that is fulfilling, but one that oftentimes is not easy for Direct support professionals like her. The hours are often long, and the wages are low. The job can be physically laborious, as well as emotionally draining. The reward for direct support professionals, however, is that they are able to improve the lives of individuals with disabilities and help fulfill the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act by making it possible for these Americans to participate in their communities to the fullest extent possible.