

But I hope he will make an exception for the MOMMA's Act, which is currently moving through the House of Representatives. Whether you are pro-choice or whether you are right to life, shouldn't we all stand together—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—and say: Let's do something to eliminate this unacceptable level of maternal mortality in the United States. Let's do something to save these babies. Let's agree on that part if we can't agree on anything else.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 960 and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Reserving the right to object, this bill is in the jurisdiction of a committee that I am chairman of, the Senate Finance Committee. I think the Senate Finance Committee has a reputation for doing things in a very bipartisan way and moving a lot of important legislation. For example, we moved a bill out of committee to, hopefully, get consideration on the floor. It is a very bipartisan bill that reduces the cost of prescription drugs. We did that on a 19-to-9 vote.

There are a lot of other things we are working on, including some trade legislation. We want to consider, hopefully, in a bipartisan way the U.S.-Mexico agreement. We also have an agreement out on encouraged savings and things of that nature.

I want to respond to my friend by reminding him how our committee works. Last night was the first time that I heard there was an interest in moving Senator DURBIN's bill. The bill has not been through the committee process, and, therefore, there has been no opportunity to weigh in with what we know and to determine what we need.

There are a number of programs focused on reducing maternal mortality, and it is unclear how this bill coordinates with those efforts. This bill makes a number of long-term changes to Medicaid, and the policy and budgetary impacts are unknown.

I am offering a counterproposal in the Medicaid Program to address maternal health and identify underserved areas. Additional funding is provided for existing Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grants. This focus is fully offset by a policy that saves money by focusing our limited resources on moms and babies, rather than spending on prisoners at a higher percentage in our most vulnerable populations.

I am going to offer Senator DURBIN this proposal that I just described. I ask the Senator to modify his request

to include my amendment, which is at the desk.

I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator so modify his request?

Mr. DURBIN. Reserving the right to object, the Senator from Iowa is my friend. We throw that word around here on the Senate floor, and it usually doesn't mean much, but it is true. We are friends. I respect him very much. I think he is a good father, good grandfather, and I think the time will come—and I hope soon—when we can sit down and take his proposal and my proposal and put them together and make a bill we will both be proud of. We have done that before, even to the point of getting the President to sign the bill into law.

For the time being and because his proposal cuts some Medicaid benefits that are a great concern to me, I am going to object in the hope that we can use this opportunity and this moment as a basis for sitting down and finding a bill we can agree on.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard on the modification.

Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. GRASSLEY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. MCSALLY). The Senator from Kentucky.

TRIBUTE TO JIM MILLIMAN

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I rise to honor and pay tribute to one of the most tenacious and dedicated Kentuckians I have had the pleasure of knowing, Mr. Jim Milliman.

Jim began his career in 1964 after graduating from the University of Notre Dame. He subsequently graduated magna cum laude from the University of Louisville School of Law in 1970. He married Nan Milliman, and they made their home in Louisville, KY. They have been married for 48 years.

When I first met Jim, I knew him as one of Kentucky's finest attorneys, who represented Brown & Williamson during the tobacco litigation and the State Republicans in election law matters. I knew him as an accomplished managing partner of the Louisville-based law firm, Middleton Reutlinger. I also knew him as the fiery conservative cohost who often sat opposite Congressman JOHN YARMUTH on WAVE 3 TV's political show "Hot Button." He was known for his spirited debate and for not backing down.

After having over 40 successful years in commercial litigation and receiving numerous awards from his peers, such as being named one of the top 50 attorneys in Kentucky, Jim decided to retire—from the law, at least. In 2010,

right after I was elected to the Senate, I convinced Jim to come out of retirement and be my State director for Kentucky. I am truly grateful that he said yes because, for nearly a decade, Jim has served in that role and has been one of my most trusted advisers.

Anyone who knows Jim knows that he is a force to be reckoned with. He is fiercely loyal, a real problem solver, and a highly accomplished legal mind. Moreover, he is an incredibly kind person who cares deeply about his friends and colleagues. When I ran for President, Jim spearheaded the approval of a caucus for Kentucky so I would not be kept from the ballot for President and the U.S. Senate.

Recently, Jim has decided to transition from the daily State director duties into more of an advisory role. Considering he tried to retire over 10 years ago, I think it is well-deserved. No matter in what capacity, I will always be thankful to have Jim as a part of my team as an ally and an adviser.

He has dedicated so much of his time to the pursuit of liberty and freedom, to defending the principles that made this Nation great, and to supporting a pro-Kentucky policy agenda.

Thank you, Jim, for your service to Kentucky and to this country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that debate time for S.J. Res. 52 expire at 12:15 p.m. on Wednesday, October 30, and that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during yesterday's session of the Senate ripen following the disposition of S.J. Res. 52.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, October 30; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate resume consideration of S.J. Res. 52, under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators PERDUE, CASSIDY, and CASEY.

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

The Senator from Georgia.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Mr. PERDUE. Madam President, Nelson Mandela once said: "Education is the best weapon with which to change the world."

Today, this morning, 51 million students woke up and went to a public school in the United States. Each student carried a spark with which to light up the world in their futures. Unfortunately, today, given the realities that we have seen over the last few years, some of these students are at risk.

Last week was designated as America's Safe Schools Week. It was meant as a time to reflect on the steps we are taking to protect our children every day. Upon reflection, however, one thing has become very clear: In many cases, considering the current realities, our public schools have not been designed physically to deal with the student safety issue.

The consequences of this are heart-breaking. We have heard this story too many times: Parkland, FL, 17 lives; Newtown, CT, 27 lives; Columbine, CO, 13 lives. These were some of the darkest days in our country's history. None of us will ever forget the terror, the tears, and the devastation that these and other communities have felt. For the parents and the relatives of those affected, it is a nightmare from which many will never wake up.

This can't be allowed to continue. There is an implicit agreement that when we drop our children off at a school, we know they are going to be kept safe. In many cases today, we are not fulfilling that agreement. There are a lot of steps we must take in order to face this crisis. I am confident that if we come together in a bipartisan fashion and focus on doing what actually works, we can make our schools safer.

The U.S. Senate has a chance to get this started right now. Last month, in a bipartisan effort, Senators DOUG JONES, THOM TILLIS, and SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO joined me in sponsoring the School Safety Clearinghouse Act. This bipartisan bill is a critical first step that will help to protect students and faculty in our public schools in America.

The School Safety Clearinghouse Act will codify a recommendation from President Trump's Federal Commission on School Safety to create a Federal

clearinghouse containing all of the best practices for designing safer schools. The techniques contained in the school safety clearinghouse will come from the brightest engineers, architects, researchers, and educators in the country. It will be like a library that schools can trust when making critical decisions and when talking about physical upgrades in their environment. It is imperative that schools have the best design information because design flaws in school buildings are placing our students and faculty at risk every day.

When drafting this bill, our office met with Max Schachter, whose son, Alex, was tragically killed in the Stoneman Douglas High School massacre in Parkland, FL, not that long ago. On that awful day, the murderer fired through the window in Alex's classroom door and murdered Alex and two of his classmates. Senselessness. Had the glass been stronger or had the window been designed with an obstructed view, Alex might be alive today.

Madam President, fixing design flaws like these are simple matters that we need to take a step toward today to make our schools safer. Most schools understand this, and they are doing everything they can to close the security lapse.

In August, I saw this firsthand when I toured Mashburn Elementary School in Forsyth County—with Georgia's First Lady Marty Kemp—which has taken incredible steps with grants from the State, that the Governor made available, to enhance their safety measures.

Using this grant money made available by Governor Brian Kemp, Mashburn has restructured all their entryways, reinforced the doors to every classroom, and launched new emergency readiness protocols. As a result, Mashburn is better able to prevent tragedy from occurring.

And the best thing, it has in recent years actually developed a very close relationship with the local police force and sheriff's department. At Mashburn, they have a sheriff's deputy in school every day.

Every school in the country wants to upgrade their safety. The problem is that many schools don't simply have the information they need to make the best choices. The School Safety Clearinghouse Act will close this information gap once and for all.

This is not a top-down government program by the way. The School Safety Clearinghouse Act will never have an unfunded mandate or make any recommendations or force any school to take any action it doesn't want. Rather, the School Safety Clearinghouse Act will empower them to make the decisions for themselves.

Here in America, it doesn't matter if you have big dreams or humble ones; this is the land of opportunity. Everyone has the right to pursue their own happiness. A good education, as we know, is the best way to start that.

I learned that from my parents, both of whom were public school teachers. I see it happening today through my three grandkids. In this country, we promise all of our kids a good education. We now need to promise a safe education as well.

The School Safety Clearinghouse Act is a step that we can take right now, right here in this body, to fulfill that responsibility. We have no time to waste. Every day, students across the country attend schools to learn, grow up, and build their lives. The longer we wait to secure our schools, the higher the chance that some of those students will not come home.

This is not all we need to do; this is just a first start, Madam President. If this bill helps to make one school safer or saves one life, it will be worth it. Let's get it done. Thank you.

I yield back.

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President was presiding before and I heard several speeches by my colleagues on the Democratic side of the aisle speaking about the 1332 waiver process that the Trump administration is using to lower insurance premiums, and the kind of common refrain is: This is a terrible thing. We are eroding protections in the Affordable Care Act, and we should preserve the Affordable Care Act as it is. This is so ironic because the people who want to get rid of Obamacare right now are running for President on the Democratic side of the ticket.

If you ask BERNIE SANDERS if he wants to get replace Obamacare, he raises his hand. If you ask ELIZABETH WARREN if she wants to replace Obamacare and force people to give up their employer-provided insurance, she raises her hand.

Now, why do the Presidential candidates—Democratic Presidential candidates sit there and say: Hey, let's get rid of Obamacare? And when the administration does something to lower premiums, my Democratic colleagues stand up and decry this kind of assault upon whatever value they are speaking to.

What I think is the Democratic candidates running for President are so aware that healthcare costs under Obama have skyrocketed. Let me see if I can find my figures here, but it's quite remarkable.

Let's just speak a little bit about what has happened. Since 2013, the deductible for someone with single coverage has increased by 53 percent. And despite deductibles going up, say, \$10,000, premiums have increased 20 percent. So the patient's out-of-pocket exposure is increasing both in the deductible and with their premium. For a family of four in Louisiana—we looked on healthcare.gov just walking here—\$25,000 for the policy with an over \$10,000 deductible.

Now, this is not affordable. So clearly there is a concern about affordability. That is what the Trump administration has been trying to address. And frankly, that is what BERNIE