
Mr. REID. Mr. President, this is a closure motion on Senator Dorgan’s longstanding endeavor to allow Americans to go to other countries for the importation of cheaper drugs. We know people are going to Canada now around the country who live on the border, and it works pretty well. But if you are someone who lives in Nevada, you certainly need these drugs as well as someone living in Minnesota, and it makes it much more difficult. Nevadans go to Mexico a lot of times for cheaper drugs. It is unfortunate.

Senator Dorgan is right. He has worked on this very hard for a number of years. This is an effort to bring this matter to a close. I hope the Senate votes to invoke cloture so we can have a vote on this amendment. It is important. I am confident it will pass if cloture is invoked. It is something that has been needed for such a long time to help in one way to lower the cost of medicine for the American public.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent there now be a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak therein for a period of up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING STEVEN SCHWARZ

Mr. REID. Mr. President, last week I attended a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda to commemorate the 2007 Holocaust Days of Remembrance.

Fred Zeidman and Joel Geiderman, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Council, spoke eloquently about the horror and courage, the unspeakable tragedy and unimaginable heroism that even 62 years later we cannot begin to comprehend.

Sara Bloomfield, Director of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum, as well as my colleague, Senator Joe Lieberman, added their own powerful words.

I was privileged to sit beside Steven Schwarz. As we sat together, Steven listened silently, tears streaming down his face. Afterward, he told me his story.

Born in Poland, Steven lost both parents and a brother in the Holocaust. Forged with bitter memories and blessings from God, he, his late wife Tina, and his brother Henryk managed to survive by hiding out in Poland. In 1953, they came to the United States and were welcomed with open arms. In the years that followed, Steven and his brother rose to become prominent and successful businessmen, overcoming great suffering to live the American dream.

Steven Schwarz embodies the grace and fortitude of all those who wrested triumph from despair. I am honored to have shared that day of remembrance with him and pleased to now pay tribute to his life story in the RECORD of the U.S. Congress as a powerful and poignant example of the unbreakable human spirit.

AAA SCHOOL SAFETY PATROLLERS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to recognize several young people who were recently selected by the American Automobile Association to receive special awards for their work as school safety patrollers.

More than 560,000 students in 52,000 schools across the country participate in the AAA School Safety Patrol Program. These young people have taken on the important responsibility of making the streets around their schools safer for their classmates. Though their responsibilities are often routine, the patrollers on occasion must place themselves in harm’s way in order to save lives. It is my honor today to recognize two students who were selected to receive the AAA Life-Saver Award for their selfless and heroic actions in fulfilling their duties as patrollers.

Taylor Pitzer and Caleb Jarrell participate in the AAA School Safety Patrol Program at Southdale Elementary in Kettering, OH. On November 8, 2006, Taylor and Caleb pulled a younger child to safety when a speeding van ran the red light at the intersection they were patrolling. The younger child was watching carefully for the “walk” signal. When the light changed, she began crossing the street. She did not notice the oncoming vehicle approaching the intersection. Responding to an adult guard’s “hold back” indication, Taylor and Caleb reacted quickly by locking arms so the child could not cross the street, which allowed the van to speed by without incident or injury to the child.

I would also like to thank AAA for making the school safety program possible. This program has helped save many lives over the years and has made our schools safer for our students, though, as the story of the Life Saver Award recipients demonstrate, the streets around our schools are not safe enough. That is why I worked to create the national Safe Routes to School Program, which was adopted as part of the Federal transportation bill on July 29, 2005. Funds for this program can help communities construct new sidewalks, bus stops, and intersections. The Safe Routes to School Program is an explicit example of the teamwork we in Congress can achieve, and I am proud to have played a role in its development.

NORTHERN NEVADA CENTER FOR INDEPENDENT LIVING

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to honor the Northern Nevada Center for Independent Living, NNCIL. I am honored to congratulate this organization for their 25 years of dedicated service to the people of northern Nevada.

NNCIL has helped disabled citizens in Nevada in all aspects of their lives. They have empowered disabled citizens to become more independent and have given disabled people a stronger voice in matters that directly affect their lives. With the skills taught by NNCIL, disabled people who were beneficiaries of this program are now participating fully in the community by volunteering in the center and in other service agencies across Nevada.

NNCIL has helped disabled citizens thrive socially as well. The center has instituted “recreation night” that has helped disabled people form peer support groups. They have incorporated game night and movie night into their organization to build communities throughout Nevada.

The efforts of NNCIL have garnered broad respect and support from the community as a whole. NNCIL has incorporated multiple programs to educate the public concerning issues concerning disabled citizens. They have encouraged Nevada residents to get involved in their communities, and the citizens of northern Nevada have responded by volunteering in a home modification program that has helped install ramps, handrails, and other improvements to make life easier for disabled people.

I would like to commend NNCIL for their many years of dedicated service to the people of northern Nevada. NNCIL has been an important part of improving the lives of disabled members of our community, and I wish them continued success.

RECOGNIZING NEVADA’S 45TH ANNUAL RENO JAZZ FESTIVAL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the 45th annual Reno Jazz Festival. Hosted by the University of Nevada, Reno, the Festival has grown into one of the largest of its kind in the United States, with over 10,000 people attending last year’s event.

The competition portions are one of the highlights of the festival. Musical groups and individuals from junior highs, high schools, and colleges from throughout the country are invited to participate. The festival provides a platform for some of the country’s most talented jazz artists, and other highly acclaimed musical groups will perform at the festival’s showcase on its concluding day.