

Additionally, I look forward to working with the new commissioner to restore the FDA's status as one of the strongest regulatory agencies in the world. I have no doubt that with the right leadership in place and with Congressional oversight, the FDA will again be the gold standard and our regulatory process the envy of the world.

Given Dr. Hamburg's expertise in emergency preparedness, pandemics and public health, I am pleased that the Senate acted quickly on this nomination. Again, I would like to congratulate Dr. Hamburg on her confirmation.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate confirmed Dr. Margaret "Peggy" Hamburg as Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, FDA.

Dr. Hamburg comes to the job at a time when our Nation's food safety system is in crisis. In the last couple of years we have seen nationwide outbreaks associated with spinach, tomatoes and peppers, and peanuts and peanut butter. With peanuts, we also saw the biggest food recall in our nation's history as hundreds of companies recalled thousands of products from crackers to ice cream to even pet food. Our food safety problems don't just start and stop at home; we have also seen chemically tainted pet food, milk products, and seafood from China.

It is no secret that our food safety system is in serious trouble. It is all over the headlines. It's also no secret that the FDA the agency responsible for protecting nearly 80 percent of our food hasn't kept up, with its outdated statutes, eroding budgets, and inadequate resources and authorities.

Congress hasn't passed a major food safety bill in decades, and we are seeing the results of that inaction. More than 76 million Americans become sick because of a food-borne illness each year, 325,000 are hospitalized, and 5,000 die. Companies lose the confidence of their customers and shareholders, and they lose profits. Some experts estimate that the peanut growers will lose \$1 billion as a result of the latest outbreak. Kellogg, just one company among hundreds, lost \$70 million.

The time for comprehensive food safety reform is long past due. In March, Senator GREGG and I introduced the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act, a bipartisan bill that gives the FDA the new authorities and resources it needs to protect our food supply. This bill improves the FDA's capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to food safety problems, whether it's salmonella-tainted peanut butter from Georgia or melamine-spiked baby formula from China.

For the first time in a long time, we are also seeing leadership on food safety from the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue. The Food Safety Working Group, led by Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, is doing what hasn't been done in dec-

ades: taking a comprehensive, coordinated look at the outdated food safety laws on the books and making recommendations on reform.

Last week I had the opportunity to attend a first-ever listening session hosted by the White House focused on food safety reform. This was a chance for members of Congress, the administration, consumer groups, and industry to come together and talk about the challenges facing the safety of our food supply as well as the solutions.

Dr. Hamburg, with her public health expertise and impressive record of success as former health commissioner of New York City, is a welcome addition to the working group. I had a chance to meet with Dr. Hamburg before her confirmation. During our meeting, as well as in her confirmation hearing, she made clear her commitment to the long term goal of transforming food safety oversight at FDA to focus on the public health goal of prevention. I am confident that she is the right person to tackle this challenge and others facing the FDA, and to restore morale and public confidence in the agency. I look forward to working with her and the other members of President Obama's food safety working group to enact FDA food safety legislation this year.

(At the request of Mr. REID, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

GEORGE MITCHELL SCHOLARS

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, today, Taoiseach Brian Cowen met with the ninth class of George J. Mitchell Scholars. His decision to meet with this impressive group of students demonstrates the major contribution this program is making to strengthen the future of the United States-Ireland relationship.

The United States-Ireland Alliance was created in 1998 by my former foreign policy adviser, Trina Vargo. With limited resources and staff, the alliance has been at the forefront of recognizing, and then responding to, the fundamental changes in the United States-Ireland relationship.

The Mitchell Scholarship program is the keystone of the United States-Ireland Alliance. It has been led ably by Mary Lou Hartman, and has gone from strength to strength. In a few short years, the program has become as competitive and as sought after as other renowned scholarships such as the Rhodes, Marshall, and Fulbright Scholarships. This year, 300 people applied for the 12 annual Mitchell Scholarships. I have followed the causes of these former Mitchell Scholars and they are already making outstanding contributions and reflect the commitment to service exemplified by our former Senate colleague, George Mitchell.

One former Mitchell Scholar, Seena Perumal, lives in Cambridge, MA, where she serves as chief of staff for the Massachusetts Division of Health Care

Finance and Policy. Seena graduated with a bachelor's degree in religion and a master's in public health from Case Western Reserve University. She founded and was president of Project Sunshine, which serves hospitalized children, and founded and was president of Alternative Break, an organization that helps organize community service trips during spring breaks from college. She also worked with Cleveland Jobs With Justice, a group that ensures workers' rights. As a Mitchell Scholar, she obtained a master's degree in international human rights at the National University of Ireland in Galway. She then served as the director of new initiatives for the New York City Department of Homeless Services, the agency that oversees policies and programs for the city's approximately 37,000 homeless persons.

The U.S. Government has provided \$500,000 each year for the Mitchell Scholarship Program. I commend Irish businessman Derek Quinlan for his commitment to raise 20 million euros toward establishing a permanent endowment for this program. The Irish Government has agreed to match what is raised for this impressive program, and I am sure that United States-Ireland ties will continue to benefit significantly from these important scholarships in the years ahead. ●

LETTER TO MEDTRONIC, INC.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that my letter dated May 18, 2009, to Medtronic, Inc. be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,
Washington, DC, May 18, 2009.

BILL HAWKINS,
President and Chief Executive Officer,
Medtronic, Inc., Medtronic Parkway, Minneapolis, MN.

DEAR MR. HAWKINS: The United States Senate Committee on Finance (Committee) has jurisdiction over the Medicare and Medicaid programs. As a senior member of the United States Senate and as Ranking Member of the Committee, I have a special responsibility to protect the health of Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries and safeguard taxpayer dollars authorized by Congress for these programs. This includes the responsibility to conduct oversight of the health care industry, including makers of medical devices, which receive hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars every year for the care of Americans.

In carrying out this duty, I have been examining the substantial financial ties between the device industry and practicing physicians. I have also been examining the safety and cost of medical devices that are sold to the American public. As the largest medical device company in the United States, the practices of Medtronic, Inc. (Medtronic) have a profound impact on American healthcare.

Last October, I sent you a letter asking Medtronic to disclose payments to "all physicians with whom Medtronic has consulting agreements for Infuse." This request was spurred by an article in the Wall Street

Journal (WSJ), which reported on allegations of financial incentives provided to doctors that included “entertainment at a Memphis strip club, trips to Alaska and patent royalties on inventions they played no part in.”

With the exception of one individual who is now deceased, listed below is the financial information documenting all consultants who received compensation, which Medtronic provided to me [Attached].

I am concerned that Medtronic did not include Dr. Timothy Kuklo in response to my written request. It is clear that Dr. Kuklo had some sort of consulting agreement with Medtronic and was named as a Medtronic consultant for Infuse in an article that ran in the New York Times on May 13, 2009. There is of course the possibility that Dr. Kuklo had a more general type of consulting agreement with Medtronic that may have included Infuse, as well as other Medtronic products. In the future, I hope that instead of not providing me with the name of the physician involved in Infuse, or any other matter that I am looking into, that Medtronic contact me to avoid the situation in which we find ourselves.

In light of the issues set forth above, I would greatly appreciate Medtronic explaining why Dr. Timothy Kuklo was not listed in the information provided me earlier.

Thank you in advance for your continued cooperation in this matter and commitment to transparency. I look forward to hearing from you by no later than June 1, 2009. All documents responsive to this request should be sent electronically in PDF format to Brian_Downey@finance-rep.senate.gov. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Paul Thacker.

Sincerely,

CHARLES E. GRASSLEY,
Ranking Member.

Attachment.

**MEDTRONIC INC. REPORTING: PHYSICIANS WITH WHOM
MEDTRONIC HAS CONSULTING AGREEMENTS FOR INFUSE**

Name	Year	Total amount
Lisa Cannada	2005	\$2,000
	2006	20,700
	2007	14,000
Michael Carstens	2008	7,700
	2006	46,800
	2007	21,600
David Cochran	2008	31,200
	2006	35,200
	2007	18,000
Curtis Dickman	2008	14,000
	2003	12,900
	2004	100
Rajeev Carapati	2007	8,600
	2006	500
	2008	10,500
David Hak	2006	2,100
	2007	9,200
	2008	7,100
B. Matthew Hicks	2004	6,600
	2005	24,000
	2006	23,000
Thomas Lyons	2007	5,100
	2008	11,600
	2006	41,300
Jay Malmquist	2007	43,200
	2008	12,200
	2007	23,100
Robert Marx	2008	24,100
	2006	57,500
	2007	24,100
Todd Melegari	2008	28,200
	2006	2,300
	2008	59,900
Peter Moy	2007	35,600
	2006	4,400
	2006	1,100
Myron Nevins	2007	4,200
	2006	15,800
	2008	2,100
John O'Donnell	2007	2,600
	2008	6,600
	2005	1,300
Chetan Patel	2006	13,000
	2007	16,100
	2006	28,100
Philip Pryor	2007	67,600
	2008	42,700
	2005	6,400
Kevin Pugh	2006	29,000
	2007	
	2008	
Daniel Spagnoli	2006	
	2007	
	2008	
Gilbert Triplett	2005	
	2006	
	2007	

**MEDTRONIC INC. REPORTING: PHYSICIANS WITH WHOM
MEDTRONIC HAS CONSULTING AGREEMENTS FOR INFUSE—Continued**

Name	Year	Total amount
John-Louis Ugbo	2008	16,000
	2005	2,000

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

**2009 NATIONAL SCIENCE BOWL
CHAMPIONS**

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I am pleased to recognize the 2009 U.S. Department of Energy National Science Bowl Champions Mira Loma High School in Sacramento, CA.

The National Science Bowl is a national high school competition that tests each team’s knowledge in astronomy, biology, chemistry, earth science, general science, mathematics, and physics at a college freshman level. Mira Loma’s National Science Bowl team consisted of senior team captain Rishi Kulkarni; juniors Edward Lee and Heather Yee; sophomores Andrew Chen and Sriram Pendyala, and Coach James Hill.

The Mira Loma team qualified for the national competition by winning the Sacramento Regional Science Bowl in the spring. At the National Science Bowl, Mira Loma High School joined 67 high schools from 42 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to compete for the national championship in Washington, DC. Mira Loma High School’s victory at the National Science Bowl has earned the team a research trip to the prestigious International Science School in Sydney, Australia, to further pursue their studies in science.

In competing for the national championship, the Mira Loma High School team learned many valuable lessons, including tenacity, dedication to their schoolwork, and teamwork. It is with great pride that I congratulate them on this remarkable accomplishment and wish them continued success.

I invite my colleagues to join me, Mira Loma High School, and the Sacramento community in recognizing the Mira Loma High School Science Bowl Team on this wonderful achievement.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHNNY’S CAR WASH

• Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to and congratulate Jeff Simpson, owner of Johnny’s Car Wash in Erlanger, KY, on their 50th year in business.

In 1959, John Simpson, father of Jeff Simpson, converted the original Town Car Wash, an establishment in Covington, KY, where cars were washed by hand, to an automatic car wash he named Johnny’s Car Wash. Mr. Simpson opened a second location in Erlanger, KY, that still thrives today. Nearly four decades later, in 1992, Mr. Simpson sold his original Johnny’s Car Wash to his son Jeff, and this year they

celebrate 50 years of hard work, ambition, and the long success of their business.

A hearty congratulations to the Simpson family and Johnny’s Car Wash. They are an excellent example of a steady and thriving small business in the Commonwealth.●

**CONGRATULATING JHPIEGO ON
ITS 35TH ANNIVERSARY**

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the 35th anniversary of Jhpiego, an exceptional organization dedicated to helping the less fortunate in developing countries around the world.

Jhpiego is an international, non-profit health organization affiliated with Johns Hopkins University and is located in my hometown, the city of Baltimore. For 35 years, Jhpiego has empowered front line health care workers by designing and implementing effective, low-cost, hands-on solutions to strengthen the delivery of health care services for women and their families.

From their origins as technical experts in reproductive, maternal and child health, Jhpiego has grown to embrace new challenges, including prevention and treatment of HIV/AIDS, malaria and cervical cancer. The staff of Jhpiego have worked in 150 countries around the globe and currently run 60 programs in over 40 countries.

Scientific innovations are the cornerstone of Jhpiego’s approach to reducing the preventable deaths of women. I particularly want to highlight their work combating cervical cancer. In 1990, Jhpiego established its Cervical Cancer Prevention—CECAP—Program. Working with colleagues and stakeholders, the CECAP program pioneered a unique, medically safe, acceptable and cost-effective approach to cervical cancer prevention for low-resource settings called the “single visit approach.” Hundreds of thousands of women have been spared the horrible death of cervical cancer as the result of this intervention.

Amid many areas of expertise and effort, Jhpiego has worked tirelessly in its efforts to call the world’s attention to the second leading cause of death of pregnant women in developing countries, postpartum hemorrhaging. Today, through system wide changes from the home birth to the hospital, physicians, nurses, midwives and healthcare workers have training and strategies to address this preventable death. These interventions have saved countless lives around the world.

I commend the staff of Jhpiego for their dedication and commitment to improving the lives of women and their families around the world. They work some of our world’s most remote, difficult and complicated regions. Day in and day out, they with nations to develop strategies that are sustainable, proven and effective to improve the lives of the most vulnerable sectors of society.