

For every \$27,000 in 2015 that we are going to spend from the U.S. Senate on Alzheimer's out of the Medicare and Medicaid budget, the National Institutes of Health invests \$100 in trying to find a cure. That is right. You heard me correctly. For every \$27,000 of Federal money this year on an Alzheimer's patient, we are spending \$100 to try to find a cure.

The NIH budget has to increase, and it has to increase dramatically because in the long run we cannot balance the Federal budget if in 30 years one disease is going to consume as much Federal money as the entire defense budget in our country.

Every 67 seconds, someone new in this country develops Alzheimer's. In my State of Massachusetts, 12 percent of all seniors have Alzheimer's.

We need a breakthrough in research. Research is medicine's field of dreams from which we harness the findings that give hope to families so that one day children will have to look to the history books to find that there ever was such a disease as Alzheimer's.

Right now is not the time to cut funding at the National Institutes of Health. They are not only the National Institutes of Health, they are also the national institutes of hope, and we must give that hope to American families that we can find a cure. We cannot cut that budget. We cannot allow sequestration to come in and slash the NIH budget once again. In 2015, NIH has buying power that is 20 percent lower than it was 10 years ago. This is at a point where it should be ramped up 20 percent higher, not lower.

This is a debate which we should be having. The terrorist call that people fear is that some doctor will call their house to them that yet another member of their family has Alzheimer's or some other tragic disease.

We need to increase the NIH budget. We need to give that hope to American families. And that is why Senator CRAPO and I worked to pass the Alzheimer's Accountability Act into law. It requires the Director of NIH to submit an annual budget directly to Congress outlining what resources are needed to meet the goal of preventing and treating Alzheimer's disease by 2025. That is why my colleagues, Senator STABENOW, Senator COLLINS, Senator CAPITO, and I introduced the Hope for Alzheimer's Act, which will allow Medicare beneficiaries to receive comprehensive care-planning services when they are diagnosed with Alzheimer's. That is also why Senator WYDEN and I included the Independence at Home Program as part of the Affordable Care Act. This program allows chronically ill Medicare beneficiaries, such as those with Alzheimer's, to receive primary care services in the comfort of their home. Independence at Home allows teams of doctors and nurses to continue to care for severely ill Medicare patients in their home by bringing the house calls of the yesteryear physicians into the 21st century.

Just last week, some game-changing data was released on the success of the first year of this program. We learned that when implemented properly, the Independence at Home Program has the potential to save \$21 billion of Medicare money over the next decade, and at the same time it also improves the quality of care for Medicare beneficiaries. This is a win-win situation. It is possible to design Medicare so that it works smarter, saves money, and improves the lives of beneficiaries.

Patients want to be cared for in their living rooms, not in the emergency room. That is what my father, John Markey the milkman, was able to provide for my mother with Alzheimer's. That is what the Independence at Home Program does. It is a program where nurse practitioners, physicians, and nursing homes are able to say: We are going to help to keep your loved one at home. We will give you the help that makes that possible.

Independence at Home is steering our health care system toward a focus of quality and not simply the quantity of care.

As we build a future free of Alzheimer's disease, Congress and the American people need a blueprint on how to be more effective at prioritizing Federal resources to reach our goal. When America makes a plan, America can do great things. We need an action plan to cure Alzheimer's and to care for those who suffer from it.

In the 1960s, President Kennedy called for a mission to the Moon, and we accomplished great things to make that happen. In the 21st century, it is not a mission to the Moon, it is a mission to the mind which is our challenge, and we must make the same kind of investment in research that was made in the 1960s.

We did not allow the Soviet Union to dominate. We cannot allow this disease to devastate 15 million lives with Alzheimer's in this baby boom generation. The legacy we should be leaving is that we found the cure. It was first identified more than 100 years ago. We now have to make sure that our legacy in the 21st century is that we have been able to build the momentum to fund the research that ensures families in our country have hope.

I thank the Presiding Officer.

I yield back the remainder of my time.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

#### U.S. AND EUROPEAN SUPPORT FOR ALLIES THREATENED BY RUSSIA

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, last week I returned from 3 days in Poland and Latvia. I participated in the global security forum in Wroclaw, Poland, where I met with key foreign leaders from Eastern Europe in particular. I also visited U.S. and allied forces participating in military exercises in Latvia.

For the first time since the end of the Cold War, the West is confronted by an armed aggressor directly challenging the principle of a Europe whole, free, and at peace. European officials I spoke with see Russian President Vladimir Putin as opportunistic, determined to expand Russia's sphere of influence, and ready to exploit any vulnerabilities in nearby European countries.

Our friends on the frontlines in Central and Eastern Europe want more than words of solidarity from the European Union, NATO, and the United States; they want a more robust response and concrete actions to counter the Russian threat and deter further Russian aggression.

The crucible for this effort must come in Ukraine. With the Euromaidan Revolution of 2013 and the subsequent election of President Petro Poroshenko, the Ukrainian people have made it clear that their future is with the West, with democracy, with responsive and transparent governance. President Putin responded by invading eastern Ukraine, annexing Crimea, and destabilizing the entire Ukrainian State.

Ukraine today is a symbol of democratic Europe's resistance to Russian domination in the same way that Berlin was in 1948. The Ukrainian army has performed commendably under incredibly challenging circumstances, but it is no match for Russia's military.

However, as we witnessed throughout the Communist era in Eastern Europe, military power is not the only kind of power, nor does it necessarily always prevail. There is also the moral power of those who dare to resist, people like Andrei Sakhorov, Vaclav Havel, and Lech Walesa. As dissidents, they didn't command armies; instead, they commanded immense moral authority. They stood for freedom, and ultimately they triumphed.

Last Friday, at that forum in Wroclaw, I had the privilege of presenting Freedom Awards to Ukrainians who embodied their nation's courageous resistance and indomitable spirit. One of the awardees was Nadiya Savchenko. She has been well known in Ukraine for many years as one of the first women to serve as a pilot in the Ukrainian Air Force. In 2014, she joined a volunteer battalion to fight separatist forces in the country's east.

Nadiya Savchenko was not present to receive her Freedom Award because tragically, outrageously, this hero of the fight for Ukrainian independence is imprisoned in a Russian jail. At every turn, Nadiya Savchenko has been courageous and unbowed—the embodiment of Ukraine's defiance of Russian aggression.

Captured while fighting in the east, she was handcuffed to a metal pipe, surrounded by armed men, and interrogated. When asked who was fighting the pro-Russian separatists, she answered, "All of Ukraine."

Held as a prisoner in Russia, she went on an 83-day hunger strike. Appearing

in a cage inside a courtroom, she refused to speak Russian, wore a T-shirt that displayed the Ukrainian trident, and held up a sign that read "I was born Ukrainian, and I die Ukrainian."

President Poroshenko awarded her the title "Hero of Ukraine," and her fellow citizens elected her to Parliament. But, truly, she is a hero to all of us who seek to restore a Europe that is whole and free.

I presented the second Freedom Award to the Donetsk National University. Last year, pro-Russian separatists seized the city of Donetsk and declared a Soviet-style people's republic. Armed rebels took over the Donetsk's national university, the region's most prestigious college. They ousted the school's Ukrainian rector, ordered the Russification of the curriculum, and destroyed any semblance of academic freedom. Rather than submit, the rector and core faculty members left Donetsk and they transplanted the school roughly 500 miles to the west. Donetsk National University became Ukraine's first university in exile. It has been a struggle to survive, but this university has become a proud symbol of both academic freedom and Ukrainian independence.

The attack on Ukraine has not only galvanized Europe, it also focused the attention of Congress on European affairs like no other event perhaps since the end of the Cold War, certainly like no other event since I have been in the Senate.

On a bipartisan basis, Members of Congress admire and support Ukraine's stand for universal values and independence, and Congress has responded. In December, we passed the Ukraine Freedom Support Act authorizing the President to provide defensive military assistance to Ukraine and to tighten economic sanctions against Russia.

Through the European Reassurance Initiative, the administration has pledged \$1 billion to bolster U.S. military deployments, to increase our training exercises, and to step up our partnerships with allies, including the Baltic States, Poland, Ukraine, Moldavia, and Georgia as they strengthen their own defenses. I was pleased to learn last week that the administration is planning to preposition tanks and other heavy weaponry in the Baltic States and in Eastern Europe to support training with regional allies and to show resolve in the face of Russian threats.

These are all important steps forward, but they are not sufficient. Within the Transatlantic Alliance and NATO, the United States remains the indispensable Nation. If there is going to be a renaissance of the alliance in the face of the Russian threat, then the United States must lead it with our European allies.

The United States must mobilize the alliance, our European partners, and international financial institutions, such as the IMF, to provide generous economic support to Ukraine because

no amount of security assistance can offset an economic collapse in Kyiv.

We also must recognize that the challenge for Mr. Putin is not only geopolitical; it is ideological. He has mobilized a vast propaganda campaign against what he calls "decadent" Western values and Western-style democracy. The United States, along with our allies, must go on the offensive to champion our values and our democracy. Just as we did during the Cold War, we must develop a 21st-century United States Information Agency and a Radio Free Europe-style campaign to counter Russia in the information space, including in the competition of ideas and values.

While American leadership is essential, our European allies must also step up. NATO leaders made important spending pledges at the Wales Summit last September. Now we all need to make good on those commitments, including increasing defense budgets to respond to Russian threats.

As we confront a newly aggressive Russia, we should also take heart from the Transatlantic Alliance's remarkable track record of achievement, thanks in large part to American leadership. Over the last seven decades, we have risen to every major challenge—rebuilding Europe after World War II; maintaining a united front during the Cold War; liberating the captive nations of Eastern Europe and integrating them into a Europe whole and free; and today, standing united against the challenges of terrorism, Russian aggression, and a nuclear Iran.

The Russian threat to Eastern and Central Europe is very real. President Putin is an autocrat whose popularity is based largely on his determination to reassert Russia's domination over its neighbors. But we have the means to counter this threat.

To support Ukraine and other frontline states, we need vigorous U.S. leadership of the Transatlantic Alliance, we need a robust mobilization of the alliance's military and financial resources, and we need to engage Vladimir Putin aggressively in the competition of ideas and ideals.

Our friends in Ukraine are already in this fight. Our allies elsewhere in Central and Eastern Europe fear that they could be next. For the West to rise to this new challenge, the United States once again must be the indispensable Nation, and I know that here in the Senate we support that effort.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:50 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 9:50 a.m. tomorrow morning.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:53 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, June 25, 2015, at 9:50 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

KENNETH J. KOPCIS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE PETER SILVA SILVA, RESIGNED.

JANET GARVIN MCCABE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE REGINA MCCARTHY, RESIGNED.

#### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL H. SHIELDS

THE FOLLOWING ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

#### To be major general

BRIG. GEN. VICTOR J. BRADEN

#### IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

#### To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. RICHARD P. BRECKENRIDGE

#### IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS VICE COMMANDANT, UNITED STATES COAST GUARD, AND TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S.C., SECTION 47:

#### To be vice admiral

VICE ADM. CHARLES D. MICHEL

#### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

#### To be colonel

JANE E. BOOMER  
SETH R. DEAM  
JOSEPH F. DENE  
ROBERT S. HALL  
ROBERT S. HUME  
JULIE J. R. HUYGEN  
JOSEPH S. IMBURGIA  
MATTHEW T. JARRAU  
JOHN C. JOHNSON  
RICHARD H. LADUE, JR.  
LINELL A. LETENDRE  
DEBRA A. LUKER  
MATTHEW J. MULBARGER  
MYNDA L. G. OHMAN  
SHELLY W. SCHOOLS  
SUZETTE D. SEUELL  
SHANNON L. SHERWIN  
MATTHEW D. VAN DALEN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

#### To be lieutenant colonel

BRANDON R. ABEL  
ALICIA D. ABRAMS  
LUIS J. ADAMES  
GEORGE E. ADAMS  
ISAAC E. ADAMS  
JOHN F. ADAMS, JR.  
BRIAN S. ADCOCK  
JOHN T. AGNEW  
ROBERT A. AIKMAN II  
DANIEL O. AKEREDOLU  
ADAM T. AKERS  
JAMES D. AKERS II  
MICHAEL S. ALBERS  
MELISSA M. ALBLINGER  
JOHN E. ALDERMAN  
JAMES D. ALDRICH  
STEPHEN C. ALDRIDGE  
DAVID S. ALEXANDER  
GARRY J. ALEXANDER  
KERRI V. ALEXANDER  
PERRY D. ALEXANDER  
DANIEL M. ALFORD  
PERRY G. ALFRED  
BILLY S. ALLEN  
CHRISTOPHER B. ALLEN  
CHRISTOPHER IAN ALLEN  
CHRISTOPHER W. ALLEN  
KYLE S. ALLEN  
JEARL C. ALLMAN  
LANCE P. ALLRED  
BRADLEY D. ALTMAN  
MARK A. AMENDT  
MATTHEW B. AMIG  
CRAIG A. ANDERS  
KELLY S. ANDERSON  
MATTHEW E. ANDERSON  
RYAN J. ANDERSON  
STEPHEN G. ANDERSON  
TODD R. ANDREWS  
CHRISTOPHER J. ANGLIN