

passage of the Magnitsky Act, which President Obama signed into last December.

Most recently, he has eloquently and persuasively campaigned to expand the act to impose sanctions on those Russian journalists, who are so cowed and corrupted by the Kremlin, they have become indispensable to propagating the lies and atmosphere of hate, fear and violence the regime relies on to maintain power.

Vladimir is a brave, outspoken, and relentless advocate for freedom and democracy in Russia. All of his adult life and even as a boy, he has been a steadfast champion for the rule of law, for justice, for truth, for the dignity of the Russian people. And like others in Russia who place the interests of the Russian people before their own self-interest, he has paid a price for his gallantry and integrity.

In May of this year, he grew very ill and fell into a coma. As has happened to other Putin critics, Vladimir was poisoned in order to intimidate him or worse. His family brought him to the U.S. for treatment this summer, and we are all very relieved and grateful that he is recovering, and able to be with us tonight.

Vladimir, you are an inspiration to the work of this Institute, and to me personally. Your work is crucial to the progress of freedom and justice in the world. You're a credit to your family and your country. You've kept faith with your ideals in confrontation with a cruel and dangerous autocracy.

And you have kept faith—honorably and bravely—with the example of your friend and comrade, Boris Nemtsov, who died a martyr for the rights of people who were taught to hate him but who will one day mourn his death, revere his memory, and despise his murderers.

Boris Nemtsov is a hero of the Russian Federation. He doesn't need a posthumous Gold Star to deserve that distinction. What worth is a decoration from the hands of a tyrant and the sycophants and crooks who surround him? What meaning would it have? He is beyond the calumnies and scorn and cruelty of his enemies now. Freedom salutes Boris. Justice proclaims him a hero. The truth reverts his memory.

Putin could never understand Boris. He could never appreciate how someone could be impervious to threats and slander, to the lure of corruption and the oppression of fear. A man like Putin, who all his life has stood on the wrong side of history, on the wrong side of morality, of goodness, can't comprehend the power of righteousness. He is blind to the supremacy of love. He can't see that all lies are exposed eventually, hate is overcome by love, illicit power decays, while the truth endures forever.

The people who killed Boris and the regime that protects them are the enemies of the Russian people. They rob Russia of its wealth, its hopes, its future. They deny the God-given dignity of the people they misrule. They are thieves and murderers. And they are cowards. They fear justice. They fear truth. They fear a society in which ideals and morality are the foundation of law and order.

Boris wasn't afraid. He knew his enemies. He knew what they were capable of, but he would not be oppressed. He would not be oppressed by unjust laws or by violence and fear. He was a free man, and bravely so. He was accustomed to danger. But he lived for love and justice and truth. He had been threatened repeatedly and demonized by the regime's propaganda apparatus. Yet when his enemies took his life in the shadow of the Kremlin, they found him walking in the open air, enjoying the evening, unafraid.

It was an honor to know him, and among the greatest privileges of my life to call him a friend.

For his courage, for giving the last full measure of devotion to his country and his countrymen, IRI awards the 2015 Freedom Award to the late Boris Nemtsov. May we long find inspiration in his example. May we take renewed devotion to the cause he died to advance. And may we, too, live unafraid in the open air, for love and justice and truth.

Thank you.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF NIH'S OFFICE OF RESEARCH ON WOMEN'S HEALTH

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the NIH's Office of Research on Women's Health, which was established on September 10, 1990, to end gender bias in medical research.

It is hard to believe that 25 years ago, women were not included in protocols at the NIH. Faux science said that our reproductive systems got in the way or that we had "raging hormones."

I was here 25 years ago, as a young Senator representing the great State of Maryland. I remember this big "landmark" study coming out. It showed that aspirin could help prevent heart attacks and save lives. Everyone was so excited. A relatively cheap and widely available medication that could improve cardiovascular health—this was a huge discovery.

But then we looked closer at the study, and what did we find? We found that the study tested the effects of aspirin on more than 22,000 men, but zero women. Zero women. This big, landmark study enrolled only men. How could that be? So we took a closer look, and we found that this study—and the exclusion of women from clinical trials—was not an aberration. We found that prior to 1989 clinical trials of new drugs were routinely conducted predominantly on men, even though women consume approximately 80 percent of pharmaceuticals in the United States and make up half the population. To add fuel to the fire, a 1992 report by the U.S. General Accounting Office found that less than half of prescription drugs on the market had been analyzed for gender-related response differences.

So what we had was a system where medical research was done based on male-only clinical trials, which led to the development of diagnoses, preventive measures, and treatments that were commonly used in women, despite never having been studied on women. As you might imagine, this didn't sit well with the women in Congress. It certainly didn't sit well with me.

At that time—in 1990—a lot was going on. George Bush the elder was in the White House. The gulf war was about to begin. The Hubble Space Telescope had just been launched. We didn't have a confirmed NIH Director, and the Human Genome Project had just begun.

There was a lot going on in the world. But the women of Congress knew that we had a real problem to

solve. At the time, the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues was comprised of myself and then-Representatives Pat Schroeder, Olympia Snowe, Connie Morella, and many others. On Aug. 22, 1990, Pat, Olympia, Connie, and I sent a landmark letter to the Acting Director of NIH, Dr. William Raub, requesting a public meeting to discuss how best to improve Federal research on women's health. We wanted all the key health people there: all 12 NIH Institute Directors, then-HHS Secretary Louis Sullivan, then-Surgeon General Antonia Novello, and the beloved Dr. Ruth Kirschstein.

Let me speak a moment about Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, a woman who provided direction and leadership to NIH through much of the second half of the 20th century. She was a daughter of immigrant parents. She weathered disgraceful prejudice and stereotyping of women and Jews. But that didn't stop her. Thanks to hard work and perseverance, she went on to become a key player in the development of the polio vaccine, the first woman Director of a major Institute at NIH, and a lifelong champion of the importance of basic biomedical research and training programs that provided opportunity to all talented students. The contributions made by Dr. Ruth Kirschstein to the NIH, to women's health, and to better health for all are invaluable.

But back to September 1990. On Sept. 10, 1990, the women of Congress got our meeting. We drove out to the NIH's Bethesda campus—Connie Morella, Olympia Snowe, Pat Schroeder, and BARB all showed up. So did Time magazine and the TV cameras.

And what do you know. President Bush announced Dr. Bernadine Healy as the first female Director of the NIH. Dr. Healy was a friend, a colleague, and an adviser. She was a gifted physician and a brilliant researcher and administrator. She was also a very special advocate for women. She was deeply committed to the advancement of women in science and biomedical research.

It is hard to believe that meeting at NIH happened 25 years ago today. And it marked the official establishment of the NIH's Office of Research on Women's Health.

The NIH Office of Research on Women's Health was established to do three things: ensure that women are included in NIH-funded clinical research; set research priorities to address gaps in scientific knowledge; and promote biomedical research careers for women.

Under Dr. Healy, the NIH's Office of Research on Women's Health really came alive. She appointed Dr. Vivian Pinn as its first Director. And today the Office works in partnership with NIH's Institutes and Centers to ensure that women's health research is part of the scientific framework at NIH and throughout the scientific community. I am so proud of what they have accomplished over the past 25 years.

Thanks to the Office of Research on Women's Health, the Women's Health

Initiative was conducted. I remember when Dr. Healy came to me with the idea for this study. She needed money to get a study underway looking at post-menopausal hormone therapy. I was so proud to work on the Appropriations Committee to get Dr. Healy and NIH the money they needed. I worked hand-in-hand with Senators Kennedy, Harkin, and Specter.

The Women's Health Initiative had groundbreaking findings that led to big changes in hormone replacement treatment protocols. As a result, we have seen significant reductions in breast cancer rates. We have reduced the incidence of breast cancer by 10,000 to 15,000 cases per year. Just think, this study alone—the brainchild of Dr. Healy—has helped save 375,000 lives over the past 25 years.

But the Office of Research on Women's Health has done so much more. Today, more than half of participants in NIH-funded clinical trials are women. The office worked with the National Cancer Institute to develop a vaccine that prevents the transmission of Human Papilloma Virus, HPV, resulting in fewer cervical cancer cases. The office worked with the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases on a landmark study which showed that giving the drug AZT to certain HIV-infected women reduced risk of mother-to-child transmission of HIV by two-thirds. The office has supported major advances in knowledge about genetic risk for breast cancer and discovery of BRCA1 and BRCA2 genetic risk markers. The office codirects the NIH Working Group on Women in Biomedical Careers, which develops and evaluates policies to promote recruitment, retention, and sustained advancement of women scientists.

We have come so far over the past 25 years, but we still have a long way to go. There remain striking gender differences in many diseases and conditions, including autoimmune diseases, cancer, cardiovascular diseases, depression and brain disorders, Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, and addictive disorders. We still don't have enough information on the involvement of women in clinical research and trials. We still don't have reliable data on how drugs currently on the market affect women differently than men. And still to this day, women are often prescribed dosages devised for men's average weights and metabolisms.

As you can see, there remains work to be done. But that doesn't mean we can't take a moment to commemorate how far we have come over the past quarter century. I am immensely proud of the work done by the NIH's Office of Research on Women's Health and all those who have worked day-in and day-out to end gender bias in medical research, including Dr. Ruth Kirschstein, Dr. Bernadine Healy, Dr. Vivian Pinn, and Dr. Janine Clayton, current Director of the office. I very much look forward to what the next 25 years will bring. Thank you.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING RILEY SLIVKA

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I want to recognize Riley Slivka, of Winifred, MT. Riley is a senior at Winifred High School whose outstanding work in promoting both agriculture and film in Central Montana deserves much recognition.

Through his YouTube channel, Imagistudios, he displays the beauty of the Missouri Breaks region, near Winifred, as well as the ins and outs of running a Montana farm. Here, one can view his short film, *Harvesting Along the Edge* in Central Montana, which provides a comprehensive look at the harvesting season. The short film, with over 21,000 views in just over 2 weeks, has beautiful cinematography and exhibits the heart of Montana's agriculture community and the Winifred region.

Riley has worked all over his family farm, from running the combine to working as a semi-truck driver for harvest. Riley is planning to major in agricultural communications and film. In the spring of 2014, Riley placed ninth in the country in the BPA digital media competition in Anaheim, CA.

I am thrilled to recognize Riley for his contributions in promoting our State's No. 1 industry through film in Montana.●

RECOGNIZING THE HENDERSON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE'S 70TH ANNIVERSARY

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today, I wish to recognize the 70th anniversary of an important entity to Southern Nevada, the Henderson Chamber of Commerce. I am proud to honor this chamber that contributes so much in support of local businesses and Henderson's economy and job market.

Without a doubt, this city's businesses, both small and large, have a great impact on our State's growth. Through the dedication and hard work of the Henderson Chamber of Commerce, Henderson's business community continues to strive and maintain a high quality of life for residents. Even when Nevada's economy took a difficult turn, the Henderson Chamber of Commerce intervened, fighting to help local businesses stay on their feet. It helped owners maneuver through an adverse economic climate with innovation, creativity, and ingenuity. To say this chamber has had a positive impact on Southern Nevada would be an understatement. The strong foundation it has built will be felt for years to come.

Aside from helping local businesses expand and thrive, the Henderson Chamber of Commerce also offers entrepreneurs opportunities in networking, marketing, business development programs, ribbon cutting ceremonies, and career openings. The chamber has 7 members serving on the executive board and 16 others on the

board of directors. I am thankful for their leadership and for the great things they are doing for businesses in Southern Nevada.

For the past 70 years, the Henderson Chamber of Commerce has demonstrated absolute dedication to the great State of Nevada and to the Henderson business community. Without the hard work of those that have served this chamber, the city of Henderson would not have demonstrated the excellent growth that we see today. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Henderson Chamber of Commerce on its 70th anniversary and in thanking it for all it does to press on and find ways to make the Nevada business community the best it can be.●

CONGRATULATING MARIA SHEEHAN

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to congratulate Maria Sheehan on her retirement after serving as president of Truckee Meadows Community College, TMCC, for 7 years. It gives me great pleasure to recognize her years of hard work and commitment to making this institution the best it can be.

Ms. Sheehan began working at TMCC in 2008 and took over the top leadership position at the community college that same year in July in the midst of a tumultuous economic downturn. Her leadership at the institution brought stability, creating a reliable administration and increased opportunity for students. During her career, Ms. Sheehan contributed greatly to the growth of TMCC, adding new buildings to the facility, including the Health Science Center at the Redfield Campus. She led the institution as it opened its Veterans Resource Center, an incredible resource for veterans wanting to go back to school after their service. She also spearheaded the complete renovation of the college's Applied Technology Center, providing students with the technical training and education needed to help grow Nevada's skilled workforce. In addition, student success rates doubled throughout her tenure. No words can adequately thank her for her great contribution to Nevada's students. Her positive legacy will continue on for years to come.

As the husband of a teacher, I understand the important role academic institutions play in enriching the lives of Nevadans. Ensuring students throughout the Silver State are prepared to compete in the 21st century is critical for the future of our country. The State of Nevada is fortunate to be home to educators like Ms. Sheehan.

I ask my colleagues and all Nevadans to join me in thanking Ms. Sheehan for her dedication to enriching the lives of Nevada's students and in congratulating her on her retirement. She exemplifies the highest standards of leadership and service and should be proud of her long and meaningful career. I