

University, a rank I in instructional supervision from the University of Kentucky, and a doctorate in higher education leadership and policy at Morehead State University. As an undergraduate he was a student-athlete on the Pikeville men's basketball team.

I commend President Hurley for his great achievement in reaching this position and certainly wish him all the best in his leadership of the University of Pikeville. I look forward to working with him to accomplish great things for the school, the region, and the Commonwealth.

Mr. President, an article that appeared in the University of Pikeville campus newspaper after the announcement of his ascension to the presidency described James L. Hurley's accomplishments and goals in his new position. I ask unanimous consent that said article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the University of Pikeville Campus Publication, May 21, 2012]

HURLEY NAMED UNIVERSITY OF PIKEVILLE PRESIDENT-ELECT

Pikeville, KY—The University of Pikeville Board of Trustees has named James L. Hurley president-elect of the institution, effective July 1, 2013. Hurley currently serves as the vice president for enrollment and retention and special assistant to the president.

The action was taken during the board's spring meeting May 18. University President Paul Patton informed the board that he would not ask for an extension of his contract, which expires June 30, 2013.

"The Patton-Hurley team has brought us tremendous progress," said Board Chairman Terry Dotson. "The Hurley-Patton team will continue that progress."

An experienced educator and administrator, Hurley spent 11 years in the public education system, serving in numerous roles, including as principal, assistant principal, dean of students, teacher, and athletic coach. He joined Patton at the University in 2009, providing leadership in the administration of campus operations, program development, strategic initiatives, recruiting, financial aid and retention efforts.

Along with his wife, Tina, he is a graduate of the University of Pikeville, formerly Pikeville College. He earned his master's degree from Indiana University, a Rank I from the University of Kentucky and his superintendent's certification at Morehead State University. He will complete his doctorate at Morehead in the fall.

"James Hurley is bright, energetic, motivated and a self-starter. He has been an integral part of the tremendous progress we have made at the University these past three years," said Patton. "As our chief executive officer, he will lead this University to new heights."

The board also voted to establish the position of chancellor, which Patton will assume on July 1, 2013. As chancellor, Patton, who was governor of Kentucky from 1995 to 2003, will represent the University and concentrate on fundraising.

"I am humbled and honored by the board of trustees' decision in naming me president-elect to succeed Governor Patton next year," said Hurley. "My wife and I love this institution and we look forward to our continued journey with the administration, faculty, staff and students at UPIKE. Governor Pat-

ton's willingness to accept the role of university chancellor will make for a seamless and smooth transition."

The announcement also has historical significance, as Hurley will become the first alumnus to lead the institution, which was established in 1889 to serve the youth of Appalachia.

"A great university can measure its worth by the quality of its alumni," said Kay Hammond, president of the Alumni Association. "Vice President Hurley is certainly one of our most accomplished. He has always sought to protect and preserve all that is special about the University of Pikeville."

NATIONAL RURAL HEALTH DAY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today is National Rural Health Day. More than 59 million Americans—nearly one in five—call rural communities their home, including more than 9 million Medicare beneficiaries. These small towns, farming communities, and frontier areas depend on rural hospitals for their health care needs. And their needs are as unique as the communities they live in.

Rural areas are sparsely populated and are disproportionately older. More families in rural communities tend to live with less income than their urban counterparts, and patients tend to be physically isolated, which can substantially increase travel costs associated with medical care. These needs are not easily addressed by a one-size-fits-all approach. Rural providers must rely on providing affordable primary care and a system that values prevention, wellness and, above all, care coordination.

In Illinois, there are 102 counties, 83 of which are rural. Of these 83 rural counties in Illinois, 81 are designated as primary care shortage areas, which affects nearly 2 million Illinoisans. To incentivize providers to work in underserved areas, States rely on the National Health Service Corps—NHSC—Loan Repayment program, the NHSC Scholars program, and the State Loan Repayment program. These programs have been a mainstay of rural recruitment. This year, through the coordination of loan repayment programs, an estimated 231,000 patients in rural Illinois were able to access care. These programs provide recruitment tools for facilities in rural parts of the State.

Recruiting primary care professionals to rural communities is challenging. Many programs, including these recruitment programs, require more funding.

New approaches are needed to increase the workforce in rural America. For instance, the Federal Government and States should look at licensure and new payment models that would allow allied professionals, including advanced practice nurses and physician assistants living in these communities, to help meet the growing demand for primary health care services.

Fortunately for Illinois, our network of critical access hospitals, rural health clinics, and federally qualified

health centers work with their limited resources to provide exceptional care in rural communities. Critical access hospitals provide local access to healthcare for more than one million people in Illinois in areas that are medically underserved and have too few primary care professionals.

More needs to be done to help rural communities improve access to primary medical care. About 10 percent of physicians practice in rural America despite the fact that nearly one-fourth of the population lives in these areas.

This is a fact that Cody Holst and his wife know all too well. Cody is a Hancock County cattleman who lives in Carthage, IL. Last year, Cody's wife Erin was rushed to the emergency department at Memorial Hospital. Erin was expecting but was only 32 weeks along in her pregnancy. Doctors told Cody that typically they would recommend she be flown to Peoria, IL, approximately 100 miles away. But in this case they did not have that much time. Erin would need an emergency C-Section. Any delay in this operation would jeopardize Erin's pregnancy and her life. Fortunately, the operation was successful and led to the healthy birth of Reese Holst. If Memorial Hospital was not in the community and Cody had to travel any further, his wife and child may not be here today.

This is just one of the many examples of what critical access hospitals are able to do for families in these communities. Critical access hospitals make sure Americans in small communities, such as Cody and his family, still have access to high quality health care.

The Affordable Care Act begins to address some of these urgent issues facing the Nation's health care system, such as lack of access to health insurance coverage. Nearly 8 million rural Americans under the age of 65 will have insurance under the law. More Americans will gain access to private health insurance and Medicaid, increasing the demand for care by rural hospitals and providers. Many of the provisions in the law are aimed at solving this very challenge. For example, the Affordable Care Act dedicates funding to evaluate current payment systems, particularly the Medical Home Model of care that incentivizes care coordination.

As the demand for primary care providers increases, the Affordable Care Act aims to extend the role of nurse practitioners in primary care settings and provides \$15 million for ten nurse-managed clinics that train nurses and provide primary health care services in medically underserved communities. The law also includes more than \$200 million to training primary care doctors, nurses, and physician assistants and expanded the National Health Service Corps program by \$1.5 billion. The Affordable Care Act has provided a great foundation to solving these problems, but more needs to be done.

Today, on National Rural Health Day, I urge my colleagues to join me in

recognizing the unique healthcare needs and opportunities that exist in rural communities and work together to solve the issues these communities face.

TRIBUTE TO CHAD PREGRACKE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the outstanding work of a great Illinoisan, Chad Pregracke, who has just been named a 2013 CNN Hero.

A native of East Moline, IL, Chad grew up knowing how important the Mississippi River was to his community. He spent a lot of time on the river with his parents, KeeKee and Gary, and his older brother Brent. Chad saw how badly the river was being polluted and knew something had to be done. When no one else stepped up, he decided he would.

In 1997, he received a small grant and spent that summer cleaning up part of the river on his own, sorting through the trash on his parents' front lawn.

In 1998, when he was just 23 years old, Chad founded his own non-profit—Living Lands & Waters. The venture has now grown to a full staff and fleet of barges. Living Lands & Waters relies on teams of volunteers throughout the Nation, with a heavy focus on the Mississippi, Illinois and Ohio River regions.

Living Lands & Waters organizes about 70 cleanups a year in 50 different communities. Chad estimates that his group has worked with about 70,000 volunteers to remove more than 7 million pounds of trash from the Nation's waterways. Among the trash they have pulled from river are more than 67,000 tires, 218 washing machines and four pianos.

Not all of their finds are the size of pianos. Chad boasts an extensive collection of messages in bottles he has found over the years. To date, Chad has retrieved 64 of these bottles, often hundreds of miles from their place of origin. They include everything from love letters and lottery tickets to treasure maps and simple notes of good wishes.

Chad's hard work has earned him significant recognition and praise, most recently being honored by CNN as one of its 2013 Heroes. I am pleased to add my thanks to Chad Pregracke for working to improve our communities by saving our rivers.

COMMON SENSE GUN SALES

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, as the holiday season draws close, millions of Americans are shopping online for clothes, toys, and other holiday gifts. But alarmingly, at the same time, convicted felons, domestic abusers, terrorists, and other dangerous people are able to go online and just as easily shop for something else: guns.

Studies have shown that thousands of firearms are bought and sold online every year. Many of these sales exploit loopholes in the background check laws designed to keep our communities

safe. Under current law, an individual buying a gun at a brick-and-mortar, Federally licensed firearm dealer must pass a simple and quick background check to make sure that, among other things, they haven't been convicted of a felony, or aren't a domestic abuser, or haven't been adjudicated to be dangerously mentally ill. Department of Justice statistics have shown that Brady background checks have blocked more than two million instances in which a dangerous individual attempted to obtain a deadly weapon. But a significant loophole in this law is now well known: felons and other prohibited persons can simply go to a "private seller," as opposed to a licensed dealer, and buy a gun without a background check.

It has been estimated that as of September 2013, about 67,000 firearms were listed for sale online from private sellers. Many of the people buying guns from these sellers have no intention of committing any sort of crime and would easily pass a background check. But as a disturbing new report recently released by Mayors Against Illegal Guns makes clear, all too often, the Internet serves as a black market where dangerous individuals can get their hands on weapons. According to this report, 1 in 30 would-be firearm purchasers on www.armslist.com has a criminal record that legally prohibits them from purchasing or owning a gun.

This means, according to the report, that more than 25,000 guns of almost any kind may be transferred to prohibited persons through www.armslist.com in any given year. At any time, a convicted felon can log on and purchase a military-style weapon from a "private seller." For example, one "private party" listing on the website touts a military-style semiautomatic rifle as the "World War III special," and boasts that the weapon can "provide rapid defensive fire when needed." Such a weapon has no sporting purpose. It is designed to kill as many people as possible, as quickly as possible. Should it really be available for anyone to purchase, at any time, without a background check?

This leads to dangerous and sometimes tragic outcomes. For example, the report cites a man from North Carolina who, earlier this year, posted an ad on the Web site seeking to purchase a military-style assault rifle specifically from a private seller. The investigation found that this prospective buyer had previously been convicted of several felonies, including robbery with a dangerous weapon, and would have failed a background check. In another case, Zina Daniel of Wisconsin obtained a restraining order against her husband which legally prohibited him from purchasing a firearm. Days later, the husband bought a semiautomatic handgun from a dealer through armslist.com, and went to find Ms. Daniel at her workplace. There, he used the weapon to murder her and two others, injure four more, and kill himself.

Had these individuals been confronted with a simple background check at a brick-and-mortar gun shop, they may have been turned away. Why should a purchase from the online marketplace be any different? Study after study, conducted by organizations across the political spectrum, have shown that around 90 percent of the American public supports the enactment of background checks on all gun sales. The vast majority of our constituents agree that wherever someone is buying a gun—at the shop around the corner, from the Internet, from a gun show, or even from the back of a van in a dark alley—they should be able to prove that they can pass a simple and quick background check.

We must not wait until the next unstable individual buys a deadly weapon online and turns it on our communities. We should act to protect our families, our neighbors, and our loved ones. I urge my colleagues to take up and pass background check legislation to shut down the online black market for illegal firearm purchases. It's just common sense.

TRIBUTE TO MAGGIE MCINTOSH

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I rise to honor Maggie McIntosh on the occasion of her retirement as director of Federal Relations at Johns Hopkins University.

Maggie has a long career in public service. She has served in the Maryland House of Delegates since 1992, when she was first elected to represent the 42nd District. Since 2002, Maggie has represented the people of northern Baltimore City as the Delegate for the 43rd District of Maryland.

She is also an active member of the Maryland Democratic Party. She previously served for 8 years as a member of the Democratic Central Committee from Baltimore City.

Maggie is a woman of many firsts. She was the first female majority leader in the Maryland House of Delegates. She was also the first woman to serve as chair of the Environmental Matters Committee.

Maggie is also a fighter. One of her many passions is education. She was a Baltimore City public school teacher, and an adjunct professor at Catonsville Community College and the University of Baltimore.

Maggie is also passionate about environmental issues, Maryland economic development, equal rights, and the effort to elect more women in Maryland. She has an extraordinary record as a legislature, and she is only now getting started.

Additionally, Maggie is a trusted friend. I have known her for many years. Maggie previously served as my State director and campaign manager—I call her "Boss Maggie."

Today, I wish to recognize her for her years of service to Johns Hopkins University. Maggie joined Johns Hopkins in 1992, and is currently the director of