

the least of which is the passage of budget resolution. For now, I am focusing on the substantive policies and proposals, and I will keep working with my colleagues on the Finance Committee to deliver on the tasks we were charged in the joint statement.

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

[July 27, 2017]

JOINT STATEMENT ON TAX REFORM

WASHINGTON.—Today, House Speaker Paul Ryan (R-WI), Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-KY), Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, National Economic Council Director Gary Cohn, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Orrin Hatch (R-UT), and House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady (R-TX) issued the following joint statement on tax reform:

“For the first time in many years, the American people have elected a President and Congress that are fully committed to ensuring that ordinary Americans keep more of their hard-earned money and that our tax policies encourage employers to invest, hire, and grow. And under the leadership of President Trump, the White House and Treasury have met with over 200 members of the House and Senate and hundreds of grassroots and business groups to talk and listen to ideas about tax reform.

“We are all united in the belief that the single most important action we can take to grow our economy and help the middle class get ahead is to fix our broken tax code for families, small business, and American job creators competing at home and around the globe. Our shared commitment to fixing America’s broken tax code represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity, and so for three months we have been meeting regularly to develop a shared template for tax reform.

“Over many years, the members of the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee have examined various options for tax reform. During our meetings, the Chairmen of those committees have brought to the table the views and priorities of their committee members. Building on this work, as well as on the efforts of the Administration and input from other stakeholders, we are confident that a shared vision for tax reform exists, and are prepared for the two committees to take the lead and begin producing legislation for the President to sign.

“Above all, the mission of the committees is to protect American jobs and make taxes simpler, fairer, and lower for hard-working American families. We have always been in agreement that tax relief for American families should be at the heart of our plan. We also believe there should be a lower tax rate for small businesses so they can compete with larger ones, and lower rates for all American businesses so they can compete with foreign ones. The goal is a plan that reduces tax rates as much as possible, allows unprecedented capital expensing, places a priority on permanence, and creates a system that encourages American companies to bring back jobs and profits trapped overseas. And we are now confident that, without transitioning to a new domestic consumption-based tax system, there is a viable approach for ensuring a level playing field between American and foreign companies and workers, while protecting American jobs and the U.S. tax base. While we have debated the pro-growth benefits of border adjustability, we appreciate that there are many unknowns associated with it and have decided to set this policy aside in order to advance tax reform.

“Given our shared sense of purpose, the time has arrived for the two tax-writing committees to develop and draft legislation that will result in the first comprehensive tax reform in a generation. It will be the responsibility of the members of those committees to produce legislation that achieves the goals shared broadly within Congress, the Administration, and by citizens who have been burdened for too long by an outdated tax system. Our expectation is for this legislation to move through the committees this fall, under regular order, followed by consideration on the House and Senate floors. As the committees work toward this end, our hope is that our friends on the other side of the aisle will participate in this effort. The President fully supports these principles and is committed to this approach. American families are counting on us to deliver historic tax reform. And we will.”

FDA REAUTHORIZATION BILL

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today, the Senate passed the Food and Drug Administration Reauthorization Act of 2017, FDARA, to reauthorize user fees and other programs at the FDA to ensure that new, safe, and effective treatments get to patients in need as quickly as possible to save lives and greatly increase quality of life. While I have long preferred that Congress appropriate funding to the FDA for this purpose to avoid any conflicts of interest, I have supported user fee bills and will do so again today, as it represents a bipartisan pathway for timely drug approvals. I am pleased that this legislation increases the amount of funding that drug and device companies will contribute to the approval process. However, I am disappointed that this legislation does not address drug pricing in a comprehensive way, as I have long advocated. I will continue to work with my colleagues to press for Senate action on this critical issue.

FDARA includes a number of key provisions I worked on to improve the pipeline for new pediatric drugs and devices. In particular, this legislation will reauthorize funding for critical pediatric programs such as pediatric clinical trials at the National Institutes of Health and the Pediatric Device Consortium grants under the FDA. In addition, this legislation will spur more pediatric drug development because of critical reforms to require drug companies to begin consideration of pediatric studies earlier in the drug development process. FDARA also takes important steps to spur drug development for and better consideration of the needs of neonates, recognizing that treatments for infants must be considered differently than for teenagers.

Having worked for many years to improve access to care for children with cancer and childhood cancer survivors, I am also pleased to support the bill’s new requirements for more pediatric studies on treatments for cancer. These provisions are designed to spur new and better treatments for children suffering from cancer. However, I believe that we should be making these changes to support new treatments for

all diseases impacting children, not just those with cancer. While we were unable to go that far in this bill, we were able to add a study of this issue. I look forward to seeing the results and working with my colleagues to expand these requirements in subsequent legislation. I am also concerned that this legislation does nothing to limit the ability of drug companies to benefit from exemptions from current pediatric study requirements. I filed an amendment to FDARA to close the most egregious of these loopholes in which a drug company can technically be exempted from pediatric study requirements because the treatment would only be used for a rare pediatric condition. I would hope that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle could agree that this loophole must be closed.

FDARA is an important step forward and an example of strong bipartisan health legislation in this Congress. I hope that we can continue this work, and not return to the partisan efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act that occupied this body for much of the year.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I am pleased the Senate advanced H.R. 2430, the FDA Reauthorization Act. This bipartisan, bicameral legislation ensures Americans will continue to have access to safe medications and the FDA has the tools they need to continue our Nation’s approval process remains the gold standard. I am also pleased to see tropical disease priority review voucher state that a sponsor qualifies for a neglected tropical disease priority review voucher under existing law until September 30, 2017, so long as they submit at least one portion of a human drug application by that date.

I would like to ask Senator ISAKSON if it is our intention to allow for sponsors who have been working in good faith with the Food and Drug Administration on a human drug application for a product that addresses a neglected tropical disease to qualify for a priority review voucher, as long as they begin a rolling submission to the agency by September 30, 2017?

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, as my colleague Senator MENENDEZ indicated, the intent of the language in the FDA Reauthorization Act is this: so long as the submission process for a given product is begun by the sponsor on or before September 30, 2017, the product would qualify for a priority review voucher under the neglected tropical disease priority review voucher program.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I thank my colleague, Senator ISAKSON, for clarifying the language. It is important to provide this clarity to ensure products, for which at least one portion of the application is submitted in accordance with Section 506(d) of the Food, Drug & Cosmetic Act by September 30, 2017, qualify for the vouchers under current law.

CONFIRMATION OF MARVIN KAPLAN

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I voted in opposition to the nomination of Marvin Kaplan to the National Labor Relations Board, NLRB. The NLRB has an important responsibility to resolve labor disputes, protect worker rights, and ensure fair access to collective bargaining. Mr. Kaplan does not have experience arguing the law before the NLRB; rather, he has a history of working to erode its authority to protect the workforce.

As a staffer on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Mr. Kaplan has worked on legislation to overturn key NLRB decisions and delay and distort the union election process. He has provided no assurance that he would recuse himself from issues pertaining to his prior work that might lead to bias. Throughout his career, he has pursued policies that would undermine worker protections. He should not be appointed to a board that is charged with safeguarding them.

President Trump has repeatedly promised to put the American worker first. The NLRB has a key role to ensure a fair deal for workers. It is unfortunate that the President's nominees for the Board have not demonstrated a commitment to that mission.

227TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, on August 4, the U.S. Coast Guard will celebrate its 227th anniversary. On this special occasion, I want to commend the men and women of the Coast Guard for their valiant service on, under, and over our Nation's high seas and waters.

They have a proud history.

Most Americans know the Coast Guard for its orange and white helicopters, fast small boats, cutters, and rescue swimmers, but they probably don't know that the Coast Guard is one of our country's oldest institutions of the U.S. Government.

On August 4, 1790, President George Washington signed the Tariff Act, authorizing construction of the first 10 cutters of what would eventually become the Coast Guard. They were known as the revenue cutters, and their original mission was to enforce tariffs and trade laws and to prevent smuggling. For more than a hundred years, the cutters and their crew operated under the names Revenue Marine Service and the Revenue Cutter Service. Not until 1915, when Congress merged the Revenue Cutter Service and the U.S. Life-Saving Service, did the Coast Guard get its name.

Over time, the Coast Guard has become synonymous with saving those in peril on the sea. Their wide red bar and narrow blue bar, canted at 64 degrees, will always be a sign of assistance to mariners in danger.

Today, in times of peace, the Coast Guard operates as a part of the Depart-

ment of Homeland Security, performing its 11 critical, statutory missions.

Right now, there are courageous young men and women aboard buoy tenders and icebreakers, ensuring our waterways remain open for commerce. Fast response cutters patrol the seas, enforcing the law and conducting search-and-rescue missions. Small boat stations enforce our laws while educating the public on safe-boating practices. As a ready and capable partner to a multitude of Federal, State, and local agencies, the Coast Guard does so much more, from responding to oil spills to combating drug trafficking.

In times of war or at the direction of the President, the Coast Guard valiantly serves as part of the Navy Department.

As you can see, the Coast Guard is a small but mighty organization. As ranking member of the Commerce Committee, I have had the privilege to meet many of the men and women of our Coast Guard and see their valuable work firsthand.

Through all the passing decades, some things about the Coast Guard have always been the same: the service's proud tradition and the skill and professionalism of its men and women whose sacrifices contribute to protecting our national security. The Coast Guard's core values of honor, respect, and devotion to duty are evident in everything it does. As the Coast Guard motto says, *Semper Paratus*, it is always ready for the call.

I want to congratulate and express our sincere gratitude to the men and women of the Coast Guard on 227 outstanding years of exemplary service to our Nation.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 88TH REGIONAL SUPPORT COMMAND

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the 100th anniversary of the 88th Regional Support Command. I am humbled to recognize the men and women who are bravely fighting for our country's freedom.

The 88th Regional Support Command, RSC, began as the 88th Infantry Division, ID. Organized in August 1917 at Camp Dodge, IA, the members of the "Cloverleaf Division" fought among the Allied Forces in the Alsace Campaign. They returned home following the war, and the Army demobilized the unit in June 1919.

Three years later, the 88th reformed within the Organized Reserve, with headquarters in Minneapolis and subordinate units elsewhere in Minnesota, Iowa, and North Dakota. The 88th ID mobilized in 1942 to serve the United States in World War II. It was one of the first units comprised solely of drafted soldiers. Despite a lack of experience, the 88th quickly gained a reputation as an effective unit of well-trained soldiers, which the Germans referred to as the "Blue Devils."

The 88th ID fought on the front lines during the 1944 Italian campaign. Its

arrival provided much-needed relief to the allied soldiers fighting on the Italian front. Led by Major General John E. Sloan, the 88th was the first division to enter the newly liberated Rome. After 100 straight days of activation, the Blue Devils were finally scheduled to receive a much-needed respite from the war. However, MG Sloan quickly instituted a training regimen that kept his soldiers in fighting condition, and they were ordered to head north to combat the Germans and provide support for American soldiers in Northern Italy.

For 344 days, the 88th Infantry fought to protect our American values during World War II. At the beginning of the war, MG Sloan promised, "the glory of the colors will never be sullied, as long as one man of the 88th still lives." Although many lives were lost, the 88th Infantry Division was deactivated in October 1947, having fulfilled MG Sloan's promise.

In April 1996, the 88th ID was redesignated as the 88th RSC. Headquartered in Fort McCoy, WI, the 88th RSC provides logistical and administrative support for Army Reserve soldiers. Whether they are providing training logistics, equipment maintenance or medical support, the members of the 88th RSC are making a difference for servicemen and servicewomen from Wisconsin all the way to the Pacific Coast.

Today the 88th ID lives on through the 88th Regional Support Command. Having fought in the Vietnam war, Operation Desert Shield/Storm, Bosnia, Kosovo, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom, the soldiers of the 88th RSC continue to support the more than 55,000 U.S. Army Reserve soldiers, families, and civilians across the United States. I am proud to recognize 100 years of their remarkable service and accomplishments.

REMEMBERING RICHARD DUDMAN

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, Richard Dudman, one of our Nation's most esteemed journalists, passed away at his Maine home last night. I rise today in tribute to a great American reporter and engaged citizen.

After serving in the Merchant Marine and U.S. Navy Reserve during World War II, Mr. Dudman began his journalism career at the Denver Post in 1945 and joined the St. Louis Post-Dispatch 4 years later. In his more than three decades at the Post-Dispatch, he covered Fidel Castro's Cuban revolution, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the Bay of Pigs invasion, the Watergate and Iran-Contra scandals, as well as armed conflicts from the Middle East and Asia to Central and South America.

In 1970, while covering the Vietnam war, Mr. Dudman was captured by the Viet Cong and held prisoner in Cambodia, a harrowing experience he wrote about in his acclaimed book, "Forty Days With the Enemy." In 1981, on his last day as Washington bureau chief for