

still be allowable under this change. The conference report also does not preclude self-initiated job search that is not specifically managed within the SNAP employment and training.

The Agriculture Committee has a long history of bipartisan oversight of SNAP, and every farm bill includes provisions that strengthen SNAP by taking advantage of new technologies and other advancements in other areas of the human services field. This farm bill is no exception. For example, we include provisions to adjust SNAP's electronic benefit transfer, EBT, program to account for new technologies like mobile and online payments and to add flexibility for farmers' markets. While we recognize the need for SNAP to evolve to survive in the modern marketplace, it is equally important that we continue to maintain program integrity. The Secretary must maintain the ability to monitor retailers and ensure they are not engaging in fraudulent activities. Retailers without a physical storefront may require new approaches to oversight, and FNS should continue to work with retailers and Congress to ensure appropriate controls are in place.

EBT is a critical link in the SNAP program for delivering benefits to eligible families and our retailers, and EBT contractors are important partners. The Senate-passed farm bill included requirements on USDA and GAO to conduct broad reviews of SNAP EBT, including transfer-related fees, equipment issues, data security, and customer service, especially the unfortunate increased frequency of systems outages. We also required USDA to issue regulations and guidance on these issues based on the findings from the studies. Although we were not able to include these provisions in the final conference agreement, both USDA and GAO have the authority to engage in these activities without specific statutory direction, and I urge them to do so.

Child support collections is another area where we determined that the proper course of action is for the Secretary to obtain more information. The House included a sweeping provision to require States to mandate cooperation with child support enforcement as a condition of SNAP eligibility. While we strongly support custodial and non-custodial parents financially supporting their children, we rejected the mandate out of concern that taking away food assistance would do more harm than good for children and that the mandate would be costly for States and the Federal Government. Instead, we direct the Secretary to collect evidence on the impact on families and children and the cost for States and the Federal Government. We also want information on the experiences in States that have adopted the mandate, those that rejected it, and on some of the practical issues such as how States guarantee a robust determination of good cause for noncompliance. It is key

that the Secretary in carrying out this study collect information on those who would be dissuaded from participating in SNAP as a result of the mandate. Research on those who do not receive SNAP as a result of a policy change can be difficult to obtain, but because our concern about the provision relates to the impact on children whose parents are afraid to participate in SNAP because of a fear of domestic violence or out of other concerns about their relationship with another parent—for example, when grandparents care for grandchildren—the Secretary must seek to paint a full picture of the impact such a change would have on children. We also instruct the Secretary to examine what alternative options are available in this area that would achieve similar goals but without putting food assistance for children at risk.

In addition to these critical issues within SNAP, I also want to note that we made some critical improvements to programs to support beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers, organic producers and local food systems, including providing permanent mandatory baseline funding. This important step will ensure these programs continue to support the next generation of sustainable farmers. The conference report also directs Secretary to have the Agriculture Marketing Service and Rural Business Cooperative Service work together to implement the Local Agriculture Market Program, using the agencies' respective structures and expertise to deliver an effective program. One important aspect of the Local Agriculture Market Program is food safety assistance, an area where the primary expertise at USDA resides within the Agriculture Marketing Service. I would ask USDA to ensure food safety components of the Local Agriculture Market Program be coordinated between the agencies, but be led by Agriculture Marketing Service, who has the most expertise.

This farm bill was truly historic, both in its broad level of bipartisan support and also in its steps toward supporting the great diversity of American agriculture. I also believe it was noteworthy that we were able to overcome strong partisan attacks on food assistance to produce a bill in the bipartisan tradition this committee maintains continues to protect the family safety net in a bipartisan way. I hope the administration follows our lead and rejects harmful attacks on food assistance for families needing short term support.

TRIBUTE TO DAVID PETTI

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, with my colleagues Senator JAMES E. RISCH and Representative MIKE SIMPSON, I congratulate Dr. David Petti on his retirement from the Idaho National Laboratory, INL. Dave has had a long, distinguished career as an innovative nuclear engineer and leader at INL, where he

has made a significant impact in his field.

Presently, Dave is a Laboratory Fellow and Division Director for Nuclear Fuels and Materials. He is also a Fellow of the American Nuclear Society and the Senior Editor for the Journal of Nuclear Materials and an Editorial Member for Nuclear Engineering and Design.

During his tenure, Dave led a number of projects at INL, including overseeing all research and development for the Very High Temperature Reactor Technology Development Project, known previously as the Next Generation Nuclear Plant. Dave is an internationally recognized expert in the development of advanced reactor fuels and is the recipient of 19 awards, including the Lifetime Achievement Award for an INL Publisher, 2016, the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Management Excellence Award, 2014, and the American Nuclear Society Materials Science and Technology Special Achievement Award for leadership in development of nuclear fuels for high temperature gas-cooled reactors, 2009.

A highly published and well-respected expert in his field, Dave has authored or coauthored more than 100 peer reviewed journal articles, contributed more than 50 papers to conferences, and authored 2 book chapters. He holds a patent for method for the production of ^{99m}Tc compositions from ⁹⁹Mo containing materials, 1998. Most recently, Dave coauthored the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, MIT, report "The Future of Nuclear Energy in a Carbon-Constrained World". This influential study has had great impact on the international nuclear community, and he has presented the findings of the report in Washington, DC, London, Paris, Tokyo, and other places around the world. Dave holds a Ph.D., an M.S., and a B.S. in nuclear engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dave has left a mark in his field and in Idaho during his 32 years at INL. We congratulate him on his many accomplishments and wish Dave and his wife, Becky, all the best as they enjoy retirement.

TRIBUTE TO DR. KATHLEEN HOGAN

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I wish to recognize the service of Dr. Kathleen Hogan, the former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy Efficiency at the U.S. Department of Energy.

Dr. Hogan's distinguished career is a testament to the power of one public servant to deliver progress for the entire country.

Over her years of Federal service, Dr. Hogan dedicated her considerable talent to helping our country use energy more efficiently. Dr. Hogan appreciated the promise of energy efficiency, not only to address the climate threat, but also to reduce waste and save money for households and businesses