

wearing a bulletproof vest. His testimony left no doubt that this is an issue of life and death.

Just this week we were reminded again of the importance of bulletproof vests for law enforcement officers. A police officer in Alexandria, VA, Kyle Russell was shot in the chest during a traffic stop. According to Chief David Baker of the Alexandria Police, Officer Russell's vest saved his life. What was a very tragic situation was prevented from being made worse due to Officer Russell's bulletproof vest. This event, in a city close to the Nation's Capitol, should be another reminder to Members of Congress about why this program is so important. Where Congress can help State and local jurisdictions equip their officers, there should be no hesitation to do so.

I regret that due to objections we were not able to include with the reauthorization a waiver system for those jurisdictions that have suffered a natural disaster or severe budget shortfalls. The waiver would have given those jurisdictions a way to keep their officers protected, regardless of whether they can meet the law's matching requirement. The waiver legislation also would provide authority to the Director of the Bureau of Justice Assistance at the Justice Department to waive the grant program's matching requirement in cases of fiscal hardship. If a jurisdiction cannot meet this requirement, it is unlikely it can afford to purchase vests on its own. I hope the next Congress will be allowed to consider these important provisions. I do not wish to return to the days when law enforcement officers were required to purchase their own vests, or simply go without. With tighter budgets and a troubled economy, it makes sense to give the Bureau of Justice Assistance the authority and the flexibility to ensure that no jurisdiction is excluded from such critical assistance simply because it can't afford to meet the matching requirements.

We know that body armor saves lives, but the cost has put these vests out of the reach of many of the officers who need them. This program makes it more affordable for police departments of all sizes. Few things mean more to me than when I meet Vermont police officers and they tell me that the protective vests they wear were made possible because of this program. This is the least we should do for the officers on the front lines who put themselves in danger for us every day. I want to make sure that every police officer who needs a bulletproof vest gets one.

We do not thank our Nation's law enforcement officers enough for the sacrifices they make in order to protect all of us. But the actions the Senate has taken today in passing this legislation is a strong step forward in demonstrating Congress' commitment to supporting the men and women who serve us so well. I hope the President will quickly sign this reauthorization into law.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to this measure be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6045) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

PROVIDING FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES ELECTRONIC RECEIPT OF PAYMENT STUBS

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 1073, H.R. 6073.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6073) to provide that Federal employees receiving their pay by electronic funds transfer shall be given the option of receiving their pay stubs electronically.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time and passed, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related thereto be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6073) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

AUTHORIZING FUNDING TO CONDUCT A NATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM FOR STATE AND LOCAL PROSECUTORS

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6083 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6083) to authorize funding to conduct a national training program for State and local prosecutors.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read three times and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6083) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RYAN HAIGHT ONLINE PHARMACY CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT OF 2008

Mr. SALAZAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6353, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6353) to amend the Controlled Substances Act to address online pharmacies.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased that the Senate will pass the Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act, H.R. 6353—an important bipartisan bill that will create new tools for Federal law enforcement to prosecute those who illegally sell drugs online, and allow State authorities to shut down rogue online pharmacies even before they get started.

Earlier this week, the House of Representatives passed this important legislation. Earlier this year, the Senate passed a version of this bill, and I am glad that today it has once again given its unanimous support to this bill. I hope that the President will promptly sign this measure into law.

Senator FEINSTEIN has been a leader on this issue, and she and others have shown a strong commitment to combating illicit drug trafficking by online predators. I also thank Representative STUPAK and all of those who worked on this bill in the House. Through their hard work and diligent efforts, we have a strong bipartisan bill that includes important modifications and clarifications that will protect our children, and grandchildren, from purchasing illegal dangerous drugs online. I hope this bill will help reduce the prevalence of rogue online pharmacies in our society.

We are a nation in the midst of a technological revolution. In the digital age, the Internet has provided Americans with better access to convenient and more affordable medicine. Unfortunately, the prevalence of rogue online pharmacies has also made the Internet an increasing source for the sale of dangerous controlled substances without a licensed medical practitioner's valid prescription. Online drug traffickers have used evolving tactics to evade detection by law enforcement and circumvent the proper constraints of doctors and pharmacists.

Last year, the Judiciary Committee held a hearing on this issue. We heard compelling testimony from Francine Haight, a mother whose teenage son died from an overdose of painkillers he purchased online from a rogue pharmacy. We also heard from Joseph Califano, the former Secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Both strongly supported legislation to fill a gap in existing law and help protect young people from illicit drugs online.