

in the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act. As a conferee and strong advocate for that law, I have pushed the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission to quickly implement the protections and rules to help curb these abuses.

At the same time, we must ensure that local and regional markets remain competitive and that oil companies do not engage in anticompetitive practices. While prices have eased somewhat nationally this summer, there have been concerns raised about price disparities in the cost of gasoline in Vermont. Vermont prices remain higher than the national average and residents of northern Vermont are paying even more than their neighbors just one or two towns to the south. I support the efforts by the State of Vermont, Senator SANDERS and Federal regulators to look into whether these differences can be explained by market conditions, and to take action if they cannot. Such serious allegations should be properly investigated by the Oil and Gas Price Fraud Working Group at the U.S. Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission.

The largest oil companies raked in \$137 billion in profits last year alone, while also taking in billions in taxpayer subsidies. Repeated efforts to repeal these ridiculous subsidies by myself and a majority of the Senate have been filibustered by friends of the big oil industry. It is these large oil companies and those working at the wholesale level that are reaping tremendous profits, while many of our independent and locally owned stations are struggling to make ends meet. Regrettably, many of these same local stations are forced to shutter their doors when the large oil chains undercut their business.

The real cost of high gas prices is more than just the bill at the pump. These prices force families to choose between filling their gas tanks and putting food on the table. And they mean rising food prices due to increased shipping costs. These are costs that working families, particularly in these difficult economic times, often cannot absorb. I will continue to push for creative, long-term solutions to relieve the pain at the pump.

CONGRATULATING MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL

Mr. BROWN of Massachusetts. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Massachusetts General Hospital, located in my home State of Massachusetts. Mass General has recently been named the number one hospital in America by U.S. News & World Report for their dedication and excellence in providing care to thousands of patients every year. I also want to acknowledge Brigham and Women's Hospital for being named among the top hospitals in the country.

Mass General cares for more than 47,000 inpatients each year, and serves

as the largest teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School. It is also the oldest and largest hospital in New England. Located right in Boston, Mass General's 907 bed facility has a tradition of excellence. They also have four additional health centers in Charlestown, Chelsea, Revere and the North End. Together, these locations handle over one million outpatient visits, as well as over 80,000 emergency visits, each year. It is no surprise that Mass General is the top hospital in the Nation, with its impressive research program, innovative primary care, and distinguished staff.

Massachusetts is home to a number of remarkable research programs, many of which are housed within Mass General's network, which is the largest hospital-based research program in the United States. This network includes over 20 clinical departments and centers, investing \$550 million per year to work towards discoveries that transform treatments and patient care.

For example, the Global Network for Women's and Children's Health Research at Massachusetts General Hospital for Children is one of only 7 locations in the country funded by the NIH to study the rates of morbidity and mortality in women and children in developing countries. These discoveries have not only led to better treatments for children, but have also led to policy changes at the World Health Organization—WHO—to better address international health for women and children.

Mass General has also made important strides in primary care, especially for our State's seniors. The Mass General Geriatric Medicine Unit is rated one of the top departments in the nation for geriatric care, due to their diverse staff of specialists, including those in geriatric medicine, geriatric psychiatry, rehabilitation medicine, geriatric nursing, and social work, who focus on both the patient's physical and mental wellbeing.

Mass General is changing the way that we look at patient primary care. You may be familiar with Patient Centered Medical Homes, which focus on patient care and health in a very personalized and coordinated way. Mass General Senior Health is a recognized Level 3 Patient Centered Medical Home, which is setting the standard for the industry. I recently visited Mass General, and I am continually impressed by their coordination to bring together multiple doctors and services to ensure the highest quality of care for Massachusetts residents.

I would also like to recognize the Mass General nursing staff, as the hospital is a designated Magnet hospital. This is the highest honor in nursing excellence that is awarded by the American Nurses Credentialing Center, and recognizes Mass General's excellence and innovations in their nursing practice.

Finally, Mass General's Home Base Program has partnered with the Bos-

ton Red Sox Foundation to raise awareness about post-traumatic stress and traumatic brain injuries among our returning veterans. I am encouraged by their work to develop new treatments for these injuries, as well as their efforts to educate our community. Roughly 50,000 veterans returning from Iraq or Afghanistan are affected by these injuries, and the Home Base Program is making great strides in supporting these wounded warriors.

In closing, I congratulate Mass General Hospital for achieving the number one hospital ranking in the country. I know that the people of Massachusetts are extremely proud of this accomplishment.

TRIBUTE TO COMMANDER WILLIAM MOELLER

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the tremendous lifetime of service by one of our Nation's most courageous heroes, CDR William Moeller. Commander Moeller has served for 22 years in the Coast Guard in four location assignments, dedicating his time, energy, and even risking his life for his fellow seamen and women, the U.S. Coast Guard, and his country. On September 1, 2012, he will retire from the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve.

Upon graduation from the United States Coast Guard Academy in 1990 with a B.S. in government, Commander Moeller began his career and his sea tour as a deck watch officer aboard the USCGC *Tamaroa*. He soon rose to first lieutenant and in this capacity led the rescue of four members of the Air National Guard in October 1991. This rescue among monstrous waves, churned by the worst storm off the Eastern seaboard in 100 years, captured the Nation's imagination in the book and later the film adaptation of "The Perfect Storm."

Following his commission as group captain, he transferred to reserve status at the Port Long Island Sound in New Haven. Promoted to lieutenant commander in the Marine Safety Office located in Portland, ME, he served in the Coast Guard Reserve until recalled to active duty during 9/11. Returning to reserve status and to the Sector Long Island Sound, he was promoted to commander in 2006. After a few years at Activities New York, he returned to New Haven in 2010 for the last time as reserve logistics section chief. Commander Moeller's dedicated protection of the Nation, most of which took place at the Long Island Sound—waters significant to Connecticut and the Eastern seaboard—is appreciated by millions.

In addition to receiving extensive military recognition—including the Coast Guard Medal for Extraordinary Heroism, the Coast Guard Commendation Medal, and the Air Force Commendation Medal—Commander Moeller has been awarded the Coast Guard Medal by President George W. Bush. In