

addiction as a public health issue, expanding evidence-based prevention and treatment services to all corners of the State.

Vermont hospitals are also rethinking best practices in light of this epidemic. Recently, the Office of National Drug Control Policy published an article entitled “How a Vermont Hospital Fights the American Opioid Epidemic.” The article was authored by Dr. Stephen Leffler, the chief medical officer at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, VT. In the article, Dr. Leffler describes how Fletcher Allen is on the leading edge of modernizing health care practices to minimize abuse and addiction, while still providing necessary pain management. The hospital provides clear, standardized protocols for treating pain, defines a maximum daily dosage as guided by the latest research, and measures patients’ risk for addiction. This approach ensures consistency in treatment and may help to stem the flow of prescription opioid users from sliding into addiction.

The approach described in Dr. Leffler’s article could potentially serve as a model for the rest of country, and I would encourage other States grappling with addiction to look at what Fletcher Allen is doing in Burlington. If we are to find legislative solutions that may finally break the cycle of opioid addiction, then surely we must carefully consider promising, novel approaches such as this. I ask unanimous consent that Dr. Leffler’s article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From The Office of National Drug Control Policy, May 9, 2014]

HOW A VERMONT HOSPITAL FIGHTS THE AMERICAN OPIOID EPIDEMIC

(By Dr. Stephen M. Leffler)

Over the course of my more than 20 years as an emergency physician, I have seen thousands of patients with painful conditions. During that same time, I have witnessed the remarkable evolution of modern pain medication—its potential and its pitfalls. We can now help patients manage both short-term and long-term pain. Yet, while medications—particularly opioids—have helped us heal patients, we have also seen their detrimental effects, chief among them addiction.

Opioids can be very helpful for patients with conditions such as broken bones and kidney stones, and they are also useful after many types of surgery. They may also be used to treat those with chronic pain—people who experience pain carrying out normal, daily functions of life that others take for granted. Used for short periods of time at the proper dosage, opioids are safe medications and excellent choices for a wide variety of acute painful conditions.

While opioids work well for pain control, they have a number of potentially serious side effects: They can hinder or stop breathing, cause constipation, result in drowsiness, and act as central nervous system depressants. That’s why your doctor tells you it is not safe to drive after taking opioids.

Another devastating side effect is addiction. The body develops a tolerance to opioids and, after only a couple of weeks,

may require higher doses to control pain. Over time, increasing doses of opioids may be needed to manage the same level of pain. Patients may develop dependence—their bodies will crave it. They will exhibit a strong desire or compulsion to take the drug for reasons beyond simple pain control. At this stage, if they stop taking opioids, they will experience withdrawal. This is how opioid use can lead to addiction and all its inherent problems for the individual and society.

As providers, our responsibility is to carefully manage the side effects of opioid therapy. Dependence, tolerance, and addiction must be discussed with patients, and a careful well-planned strategy is crucial for their extended use of opioids.

That is exactly what we are doing at Fletcher Allen Health Care in Burlington, Vermont. Recently, providers and pain management experts from multiple specialties (Anesthesia, Emergency Medicine, Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, and Surgery) converged to standardize how we care for patients with painful conditions and to develop best practices for our patients.

What did we do? Here is an overview: Systems Approach. We built standardized protocols so that patients will get similar treatment in various settings. We believe this standardization will help our patients and providers. There will be clear, defined expectations and goals for treating our patients’ pain.

New Rules & Tools. We use processes and tools such as pain agreements with patients and surveys to assess how patients are functioning with their pain and to measure their risk for addiction.

Defining Maximum Daily Dosage. We are one of the first hospitals in the country to define the maximum daily dose of opioids. Research shows that beyond certain doses, patients experience no additional benefit. We know that very high doses of opioids increase the risk of dangerous side effects but offer no additional pain control.

This approach helps ensure that we are more reliable and consistent in our approach to pain in our patients and that our patients will know what to expect from their providers.

Gil Kerlikowske, then-Director of ONDCP, recently visited Fletcher Allen Health Care to discuss our new approach and tools. He lauded our systems-level strategy and our standardized protocols. I believe that the current dialogue in Vermont and elsewhere on how to better manage opioid abuse will be productive and lead to changes across the country in how these drugs are prescribed and how acute and chronic pain is managed. Fletcher Allen Health Care is on the leading edge of this transition and could be a model for other health systems managing this complex issue. I hope that sharing our practices here is the first step toward being that model.

TRIBUTE TO LOIS R. HATFIELD

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, last month, Lois R. Hatfield received the 2014 Business Woman of the Year award from the Somerset Business and Professional Women’s Club. I wish to honor this exemplary citizen and to recognize her tremendous career as an educator.

Lois took her first job in 1951, teaching grades one through eight at a one-room school house called Union Ridge School in the Jabez portion of Wayne County. She continued to devote herself to education in Kentucky for the

remainder of her career, which lasted over 60 years.

Her accomplishments over the years are many. In 1978, she became the principal of her alma mater, Nancy Elementary, making her the first female principal in the history of the Pulaski County School System. She has also served as president of the Alpha Delta Kappa Educational Sorority, precinct chair for the Pulaski County Republican Party, and president of the Pulaski County Republican Women’s Club.

Officially in retirement since 1997, Lois has a hard time staying away from the classroom and still serves when needed as a substitute principal or teacher. The fire that burns within her, propelling her to educate the children of our Commonwealth, has not waned in the slightest degree since she began her career in education.

Lois’s dedicated commitment to her community and its children deserves the praise of this body. Therefore, I ask that my U.S. Senate colleagues join me in recognizing Lois R. Hatfield and her many accomplishments in the field of education.

The Commonwealth Journal recently published an article detailing Lois Hatfield’s career and her receipt of the 2014 Business Woman of the Year award. I ask unanimous consent that the full article be printed in the RECORD.

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

[From the Commonwealth Journal, May 11, 2014]

2014 BUSINESS WOMAN OF THE YEAR: LOIS R. HATFIELD IS THE RECIPIENT OF THE AWARD

A Pulaski County woman with a passion for education is the recipient of the 2014 Business Woman of the Year award from the Somerset Business and Professional Women’s Club.

Lois R. Hatfield was presented the award Tuesday at the May membership meeting of the Somerset-Pulaski Chamber of Commerce.

Hatfield was born in Faubush and graduated from Nancy High School in 1947.

Her teaching career spans more than 60 years and with all her educational achievements she has never grasped the meaning of retirement.

Working her way through college, Hatfield received her Bachelor of Arts degree in education from Eastern Kentucky University in 1961 and later received her master’s degree in elementary education with an emphasis in early childhood education from ECU in 1972.

She began her distinguished professional career in education in 1951 when she taught grades one-eight at Union Ridge School, a one-room school house in the Jabez portion of Wayne County.

In 1958 she began working with the Pulaski County School System teaching first-eighth grades at Anderson School, which was eventually consolidated into Nancy Elementary.

In 1978, she was promoted to principal of Nancy Elementary, making her the first female principal in the history of the Pulaski County School System.

Hatfield officially “retired” in 1997 while serving as K-6 supervisor in the Pulaski County School District, a position she had held since 1988.

She didn’t stop. Since retiring, Hatfield has served as a reading consultant and homebound instructor for the Pulaski County

school system; a long-term substitute principal at numerous elementary schools in Pulaski County; substitute teacher in Pulaski County and Science Hill school systems; and for the past 14 years she has served and continues to serve as a teacher-educator for Pulaski County, Somerset, Science Hill and Somerset Christian school.

Very active in community affairs, Hatfield is a board member of Somerset-Pulaski Convention and Visitors Bureau, member of Somerset Business and Professional Women's Club, member and past president of Alpha Delta Kappa Educational Sorority, director of Lake Cumberland Foundation, precinct chair for the Pulaski County Republican Party, member of Fidelis Chapter of Eastern Star, member and past president of Pulaski County Republican Women's Club, member of Pulaski County Lincoln Club and Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church.

The third of 10 children in a family of limited means, Hatfield had to work while she attended Nancy High School.

For a time she worked and lived in Somerset, riding a bus to attend high school at Nancy. She got a college education by working and taking classes at Eastern Kentucky University. She attended Butler University while she and husband Avery worked in Indianapolis. She also was a student at Lindsey Wilson College in Columbia.

The former Lois Roberts was married to Avery Hatfield more than 60 years. The late Mr. Hatfield was a well-known coach at the former Nancy High School, winning several county championships. As an assistant to David Fraley at Pulaski County High School, they guided the Maroons to the state championship in 1986.

Avery Hatfield died on the first Sunday in November 2010, two days before their son, Martin, was elected as Pulaski County attorney.

Lois Hatfield is most sympathetic to today's lack of sufficient funding for education.

Anderson School, her first teaching position with the Pulaski County School System, had no electricity and no lights. She held a pie supper and made money to install electricity, paint the building and buy curtains for the windows.

#### RECOGNIZING RABBI AARON PANKEN

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I wish to recognize Rabbi Aaron Panken, on the occasion of his inauguration as president of the widely-respected Hebrew Union College, HUC,—Jewish Institute of Religion, the Reform movement's rabbinical school, on June 8, 2014. HUC was founded in Cincinnati in 1875 by Rabbi Isaac Wise.

As president, Panken will serve as the chief executive officer of Hebrew Union College's four campuses—in Cincinnati, Jerusalem, Los Angeles and New York. The 12th president in HUC's 138-year history, Panken succeeds Rabbi David Ellenson, who served from 2001 to 2013, and has been named chancellor upon his retirement.

Rabbi Panken, 49, of Mamaroneck, N.Y., brings an impressive record to HUC. He has taught rabbinic and Second Temple literature at Hebrew Union College—Jewish Institute of Religion in New York since 1995. He has also served as vice president for strategic initiatives, dean of the New York campus and dean of students.

Rabbi Panken grew up on Manhattan's Upper West Side, went straight from college to a job as regional director of the North American Federation of Temple Youth, was ordained by Hebrew Union College, worked as an associate rabbi at Manhattan's Congregation Rodeph Shalom and earned a doctorate in Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University.

I congratulate Aaron Panken as he begins this new chapter in his distinguished career.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### DUBUQUE COUNTY, IOWA

• Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, the strength of my State of Iowa lies in its vibrant local communities, where citizens come together to foster economic development, make smart investments to expand opportunity, and take the initiative to improve the health and well-being of residents. Over the decades, I have witnessed the growth and revitalization of so many communities across my State. And it has been deeply gratifying to see how my work in Congress has supported these local efforts.

I have always believed in accountability for public officials, and this, my final year in the Senate, is an appropriate time to give an accounting of my work across four decades representing Iowa in Congress. I take pride in accomplishments that have been national in scope—for instance, passing the Americans with Disabilities Act and spearheading successful farm bills. But I take a very special pride in projects that have made a big difference in local communities across my State.

Today, I would like to give an accounting of my work with leaders and residents of Dubuque County to build a legacy of a stronger local economy, better schools and educational opportunities, and a healthier, safer community.

Between 2001 and 2013, the creative leadership in your community has worked with me to secure funding in Dubuque County worth over \$40 million and successfully acquired financial assistance from programs I have fought hard to support, which have provided more than \$97 million to the local economy.

My close partnership with the community and economic development leaders in Dubuque has resulted in community transformation. From cleaning up the riverfront and building the National Mississippi River Museum to improving road and air access to the community to investments in Dubuque schools and downtown storefronts and housing, massive Federal investments combined with local vision and hard work has resulted in the revitalization of Dubuque. I am pleased that my staff will be touring the community health center. I have been a long-time sup-

porter of community health centers, having worked for over two decades to expand centers in Iowa.

Among the highlights:

Wellness and health care: Improving the health and wellness of all Americans has been something I have been passionate about for decades. That is why I fought to dramatically increase funding for disease prevention, innovative medical research, and a whole range of initiatives to improve the health of individuals and families not only at the doctor's office but also in our communities, schools, and workplaces. I am so proud that Americans have better access to clinical preventive services, nutritious food, smoke-free environments, safe places to engage in physical activity, and information to make healthy decisions for themselves and their families. These efforts not only save lives, they will also save money for generations to come thanks to the prevention of costly chronic diseases, which account for a whopping 75 percent of annual health care costs. I am pleased that Dubuque County has recognized this important issue by securing more than \$550,000 for construction, renovations, and to hire additional workers at the Crescent Community Health Center.

Investing in Iowa's economic development through targeted community projects: In Northeast Iowa, we have worked together to grow the economy by making targeted investments in important economic development projects including improved roads and bridges, modernized sewer and water systems, and better housing options for residents of Dubuque County. In many cases, I have secured Federal funding that has leveraged local investments and served as a catalyst for a whole ripple effect of positive, creative changes. For example, working with mayors, city council members, and local economic development officials in Dubuque County, I have fought for \$37 million to make highway 61 a four-lane highway to expand transportation into Dubuque, \$23 million to improve the Mississippi River Bridge, \$30 million for the southwest arterial, \$4 million for the river museum, and a \$5.6 million TIGER Grant, helping to create jobs and expand economic opportunities.

Main Street Iowa: One of the greatest challenges we face—in Iowa and all across America—is preserving the character and vitality of our small towns and rural communities. This isn't just about economics. It is also about maintaining our identity as Iowans. Main Street Iowa helps preserve Iowa's heart and soul by providing funds to revitalize downtown business districts. This program has allowed towns like Dubuque to use that money to leverage other investments to jumpstart change and renewal. I am so pleased that the community has earned \$438,000 through this program. These grants build much more than buildings. They build up the spirit and morale of people in our small towns and local communities.