

of purpose, a sense of why we were here, and that we were making a difference. Corporal Pierson was destined not to only be a Marine, but a leader among Marines. He fostered a sense of caring for Marines while still embodying all it meant to be a Marine."

Corporal Jordan Pierson was a true patriot and defender of our great Nation's principles of freedom of justice. He served as an example of the potent American spirit, which permeates this Nation's history. I am both proud and grateful that we have the kind of defender exemplified by Corporal Pierson serving our great Nation.

Our Nation extends its heartfelt condolences to his family. To his father Eric, his mother Beverly, and brother Ethan, we extend our profound gratitude for sharing this outstanding marine with us, and we offer our prayers and support.

COMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 2006

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I would like to bring to the attention of my colleagues a bill that could have a significant impact on the family budgets of millions of American households. H.R. 5252, the Communications Act of 2006, passed by the Senate Commerce Committee in June is that bill.

H.R. 5252 is an important piece of proconsumer legislation. It reforms the cable franchising process to permit competition to incumbent cable companies. The result will be competition in the delivery of cable television services to all our constituents.

While prices for Internet access and wireless service continue to fall, cable bills continue to climb and climb—in fact, according to the Federal Communications Commission, those bills have shot up more than 86 percent over the past decade. Millions of Americans have no choice when it comes to their video provider.

H.R. 5252 will change that by bringing real competition and giving consumers the ability to choose who provides their video programming. This is something consumers want and deserve. Competition brings lower prices and consumers win. Competition brings improved customer service—and consumers win. Competition results in service providers seeking to serve narrower segments of the marketplace—and consumers win.

It is not an exaggeration to say that the enactment of this legislation will save consumers billions of dollars a year. In the few markets where video providers have successfully negotiated franchise agreements—for instance, in parts of Florida, Texas and Virginia—consumers have benefited greatly.

According to a recent Bank of America study, in those aforementioned areas, cable bills have fallen by 28 to 42 percent—a savings of as much as \$264 per year for cable customers.

And a recent Phoenix Center report estimates that each year Congress delays cable franchise reform, it costs

American consumers \$8.2 billion in unrecoverable losses from increased cable rates. This is unacceptable.

Furthermore, according to the same report, this means that Florida consumers are losing \$626 million each year. That is a significant amount of money coming out of the pockets of my fellow Floridians. We have the power to change this. Consumers in every State will continue to lose money if we do not act now.

This issue is too important for us to ignore. We all know and understand that technology is changing each and every day—and yet our Nation's telecom laws have not been updated in 10 years.

The United States is the world leader in creating new and innovative technologies and we are at the forefront of bringing these new technologies to the marketplace. Sadly though, when it comes to broadband deployment, the U.S. currently ranks 16th in the world.

We need to act today to update our Nation's telecom laws and bring more choice and competition to the marketplace. Our economy needs it and consumers are demanding it.

I know the Senate Calendar is packed with important legislation which we must complete prior to adjourning. But the video choice legislation will affect every single household in America. It will bring competition to the video programming marketplace, and bring the benefits of competition to all of our constituents, whether or not they subscribe to cable.

I urge my colleagues to support the efforts of Senator STEVENS to bring this legislation before us.

As far as this legislation is concerned, time is money. Change is long overdue, and we are eager to help our fellow Americans keep more of their hard earned money.

We in this Chamber have a responsibility to get this legislation passed sooner, rather than later, so that our constituents can start saving more today, not tomorrow.

TRIBUTE TO WAYNE S. FENTON, M.D.

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Wayne S. Fenton, M.D., Director of the Division of Adult Translational Research and Associate Director for Clinical Affairs at the National Institute of Mental Health who was tragically murdered on September 3, 2006.

Dr. Fenton was a man truly passionate about working with the most severe mentally ill population. He was a compassionate and tireless advocate for people with mental illness and the families so desperately trying to help them. He went above and beyond the call of duty and continued a private practice outside of his work at the National Institute of Mental Health. In his private practice, Dr. Fenton readily treated patients with the most severe mental illnesses, very often ones that

other psychiatrists refused to see. These are the patients who are most likely to commit horrific crimes when they do not take necessary medication.

Just last week, I participated in a panel discussion regarding whether the State of New Mexico should enact an assisted outpatient treatment, AOT, program that requires a court ordered treatment for those who are severely mentally ill. It is time we focus on this issue at a State and national level. Dr. Fenton's death should not be in vain; we cannot continue along a path that not only does not help the suffering, but continues to hurt the community. This is a challenging topic to take on and a hard discussion to have but we must start addressing the link between untreated mental illness and violence or we run the risk of seeing more horrific deaths.

Outside of his work and private practice, Dr. Fenton worked with many groups including the National Alliance of the Mentally Ill, the American Psychiatric Association, and the World Psychiatric Association. He served as Deputy Editor of Schizophrenia Bulletin and as a consultant to the Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. On numerous occasions he was nominated as one of the Best Doctors in America. He was a leader in the field of mental health research, particularly relating to the study of schizophrenia. Dr. Fenton authored many textbook chapters and more than fifty scientific papers on diagnosing, treatment, and mental health service methods for individuals who suffer from schizophrenia. His central goal was to create a treatment system to allow even those suffering from the most severe mental illness to become functioning members of society.

Dr. Fenton's death truly is a great loss to the mental health community. In the words of Dr. Thomas Insel, Director of NIMH, "It is difficult to grasp such a tragic, shocking loss; a loss not only for his many friends and family but for people with serious mental illness everywhere." As advocates for people with mental illness, and mental health policy, my wife Nancy and I had the pleasure to work with him over the years. I am extremely saddened by his tragic death. I want to extend my thoughts and prayers to his family, friends, and coworkers at this time. It is my hope they remember the great impact he made during his time with us. I express my deepest sympathy to them.

NOMINATION OF JAMES O'GARA

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, prior to the August recess, the Senate sent the nomination of James O'Gara to be the Deputy Director for Supply Reduction at the Office of National Drug Control Policy back to the White House for reconsideration. Mr. O'Gara's nomination was strongly opposed by Senators on both sides of the aisle, which prevented it even from being reported out