S. 578 waives a waiting period in the disability program for the compelling case of patients with ALS.

There are, of course, other compelling cases.

And we have to be mindful of the disability trust fund which will eventually face depletion.

As the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities, which is an umbrella organization representing advocates for a number of disabling conditions, puts it:

''Bills that only fix the problem for some people who meet the strict eligibility standards for SSDI are likely to lead to interest groups requesting waiver of wait periods for other impairments.''

So it is likely that Congress will see more requests for waivers of waiting periods for those afflicted with disabilities arising from conditions other than ALS.

Waiting periods in the disability insurance program were put into law for various policy reasons.

When we waive waiting periods for specific conditions, some of which are terribly disabling and even fatal, we change the nature of the disability program.

We change benefits and don't have any offsetting change to the tax that funds the disability insurance trust fund or any offsetting change to other benefits.

However compelling it is to waive waiting periods, whenever we do it, we accelerate the exhaustion of the disability trust fund.

And that affects people with all forms of disability.

In order to help make Social Security combined disability and retirement trust funds whole, my amendment would offset the cost of the ALS bill.

My amendment simply changes the minimum monthly withholding threshold for recovery of any overpayment of Social Security benefits to reflect the increase in benefits we have seen since SSA established the current minimum of $10 in 1960.

My amendment simply changes the threshold amount from $10 to 10 percent of the monthly benefit payable, as is already done in the SSI program.

With this change, SSA would recover overpayments more efficiently and better fulfill its stewardship obligations to Social Security's trust funds, while retaining safeguards for beneficiaries surrounding overpayments.

Guardrails to protect beneficiaries to ensure that collections don't create hardships are maintained.

Nothing in my amendment leads to benefit cuts of even a penny that a retiree or disabled worker has earned.

This policy is something that has been in numerous budgets of the President, including President Obama and now President Trump.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment, to ensure that we protect the integrity of Social Security's trust funds while also protecting beneficiaries.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARK DAVIS

● Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Mark Davis on the occasion of his retirement.

Mark dedicated over five decades to broadcast journalism, including an impressive near 37 years with News 8. An award winning-radio news director in Boston, Mark quickly adapted to TV news when he arrived in Connecticut. Throughout his career, he set an example with his honest, unstinting reporting. Mark covered the administrations of seven Connecticut Governors, always speaking truth to power.

His thorough, efficient responses to stories earned Mark the respect of his colleagues. Holding himself to the highest standard, Mark was always a consummate professional. Mark's outstanding and reliable work leaves a remarkable legacy in Connecticut journalism.

As chief political correspondent, Mark remained nonpartisan while demonstrating tireless grit. He was courageous and never shied away from asking the tough questions. At the same time, Mark had an uncanny ability to put politicians at ease, facilitating discussions and ensuring he could provide a thoughtful, complete story. Trusted by constituents, he was voted our State's best local TV reporter 2 years in a row by Connecticut Magazine.

Mark's exceptional record as an insightful, driven, and honest reporter leaves a historic mark and emphasizes the vital role he and his fellow reporters play in keeping people well informed in Connecticut and across the Nation. His professional partnership with Joe Sferrazza established a model of unmatched teamwork that will have an impact for years to come.

I applaud his lifetime of tenacious commitment to comprehensive, fair work focused on uncovering the truth, and I know my colleagues will join me in thanking Mark for his extraordinary contributions to regional reporting.●

TRIBUTE TO JANICE DONALDSON

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, as chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, today I recognize and honor the career of Janice Donaldson, Director of the Small Business Development Center—SBDC—at the University of North Florida, UNF. At the end of this month, she will retire after serving the small business community for 31 years.

Since 1981, Mrs. Donaldson has supported small business owners and entrepreneurs in the Jacksonville area. After graduating from the University of Georgia in 1980, Janice joined the SBDC at UNF as editor of the office newsletter. After 21 years with the office, Mrs. Donaldson took over as director in 2002 and has been a resilient leader throughout her years of service.

During her tenure as director, the center's service area grew immensely, from one office serving five counties, to seven offices serving 18 counties. Additionally, SBDC expanded its services from supporting entrepreneurs, to now enabling clients to grow their existing small businesses.

In her final year as director, Mrs. Donaldson faced one of her most difficult challenges yet. The COVID–19 pandemic forced her office to work remotely where they had to quickly acclimate to the ever-changing economic conditions. Under her leadership, the SBDC team worked diligently to help small businesses adapt to the pandemic, advising on financial assistance opportunities available, including the Paycheck Protection Program and Economic Injury Disaster Loans through the U.S. Small Business Administration. This year alone, the center has participated in more than 20,000 consulting hours and facilitated the awards of approximately $50 million in capital to small businesses in her region.

Over the years, Mrs. Donaldson has shown paramount dedication to small businesses. She has played a critical role in the economic growth of northeast Florida and has nurtured the American dream. Mrs. Donaldson will be greatly missed by her colleagues and the thousands of business owners she has assisted throughout her notable career. I wish her the best of luck in all of her future endeavors.●

RECOGNIZING LUCKY GOAT COFFEE COMPANY

● Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize a small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit at the heart of our country. It is my privilege to recognize a family-owned business that invests heavily in its customers, employees, and community. Today, it is my honor to name the Lucky Goat Coffee Company of Tallahassee, FL, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 2010, Ben Pautsch founded Lucky Goat Coffee Company as a coffee wholesale and distribution company. Ben, a graduate of Florida State University—FSU—focused on providing high-quality beans to local coffee cafes. The Tallahassee-based business grew quickly as orders poured in. Their reputation for roasting the best grounds led to the creation of the first Lucky Goat coffee shop in 2015. The appealing storefront and large warehouse allowed Lucky Goat to spread their knowledge and passion for coffee through various classes and tours, strengthening their customer relationships in the process.

Today, Lucky Goat Coffee has grown to include five coffee shops in Tallahassee and a franchise location in Jacksonville. Their Tallahassee-based headquarters provides more than 350 wholesale customers across the country with