

To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Score
Sent: Fri 5/26/2017 2:03:38 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Score: Gianforte wins Montana special election — New GOP Senate possibilities in Ohio, Indiana — Some Texas GOP reps want new map for 2018

By Kevin Robillard | 05/26/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With Scott Bland

The following newsletter is an abridged version of Campaign Pro's Morning Score. For an earlier morning read on exponentially more races - and for a more comprehensive aggregation of the day's most important campaign news - sign up for Campaign Pro today. (<http://www.politicopro.com/proinfo>)

SPECIAL RESULTS - "Gianforte wins Montana special election," by Campaign Pro's

Elena Schneider: "Republican Greg Gianforte won Montana's special House election Thursday night, beating Democrat Rob Quist a day after Gianforte was charged with assault for allegedly attacking a reporter covering his campaign. ... Gianforte's win preserved the GOP's 24-seat edge in the House of Representatives, frustrating Democratic activists who poured money into Quist's campaign and demanded more help from party groups that saw the uphill, red-state race as unwinnable. Gianforte, a technology executive, had 51 percent of the vote when The Associated Press called the race at about 10:30 p.m. Mountain Time. Quist, a folk singer and first-time candidate, had 44 percent of the vote. A Libertarian candidate, Mark Wicks, had 6 percent.

- "The hotly contested special election to replace Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke in Congress took a violent turn Wednesday night when Ben Jacobs, a reporter for The Guardian, asked about Gianforte's reaction to the Congressional Budget Office score of the House Republican health care plan. Jacobs said Gianforte 'body-slammed' him and broke his glasses, an account which was corroborated by audio of the incident and eyewitness accounts from a Fox News reporting team in the room. ... Republicans including House Speaker Paul Ryan and Montana Sen. Steve Daines called on Gianforte to apologize Thursday, which Gianforte did in a victory speech late Thursday night before supporters in Bozeman, Mont. When you make a mistake, you have to own up to it. That's the Montana way,' Gianforte said. 'Last night I made a mistake and I took an action that I can't take back. I'm not proud of what happened. I should not have responded in the way that I did and for that I am sorry.'"

- "... DCCC chairman Ben Ray Lujan said in a statement that Democrats intend to 'compete hard for this seat' in 2018. 'Unfortunately, the alleged violent assault of an innocent reporter and subsequent criminal charges have tainted this election at the very end and further clarified that Greg Gianforte is unfit to represent Montana,' Lujan continued. ... National Republicans took the opportunity to swipe at House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, after linking Quist to her in TV ads painting him as too liberal for Montana. 'Greg Gianforte will be the next congressman from Montana and Nancy Pelosi and liberals in Washington were rejected again,' NRCC chairman Steve Stivers said in a statement." [Full story.](#)

SENATE RECRUITING WATCH - Vance eyes Ohio, Hill looks at Indiana, Romney a no-

go in Utah - "Key Republicans Are Encouraging Hillbilly Elegy Author J.D. Vance To Run For Senate In Ohio," by BuzzFeed's Henry J. Gomez: "The recruiting overtures reflect unease with the early GOP frontrunner, state Treasurer Josh Mandel, who is seeking a rematch with Democratic incumbent Sherrod Brown. Four sources with knowledge of the private encouragement confirmed the conversations to BuzzFeed News. They requested anonymity to speak freely about what could become another intra-party fight in a battleground state where Republicans are divided between those who embraced Donald Trump's winning presidential campaign and those who didn't." [Full story](#).

- **"AG Hill, others taking look at [Indiana] Senate race," by Howey Politics Indiana's Brian Howey:** "Informed and reliable GOP sources say that Attorney General Curtis Hill is making phone calls gauging support for a potential run. He is also staffing up his campaign side, with Suzie Jaworowski coming on board. She was a key player in President Trump's Indiana campaign. Another name reportedly making calls is State Rep. Mike Braun, R-Jasper. ... State Sen. Mike Delph told HPI on Wednesday that his oldest daughter Abby is getting married on June 25. "I will address 2018 after we get through this very important family event," Delph advised."

- **Another Howey tidbit:** "Messer is also gearing up for the U.S. Senate race, and that is igniting a field for replacement. ... The new name surfacing here is Greg Pence, brother of Vice President Mike Pence." [Full story](#).

- **"Hatch says Romney won't run for his Senate seat," by POLITICO's Burgess Everett:** "Sen. Orrin Hatch hasn't made a final decision about whether he'll run for reelection, but he's adamant about one thing: Mitt Romney is not running for his Senate seat. ... 'I've talked to Mitt Romney. He's not going to run for this seat. I would be glad for him if he would,' Hatch told reporters." [Full story](#).

Days until the 2017 election: 167.

Days until the 2018 election: 531.

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PROGRAMMING NOTE - Due to the Memorial Day holiday, Morning Score will not publish on Monday, May 29. Our next Morning Score will publish on Tuesday, May 30.

OFF MESSAGE PODCAST BONUS EPISODE: Reps. Tom Reed (R-New York) and Josh Gottheimer (D-New Jersey) are co-chairs of the bipartisan effort to pass tax reform. The two sit down with Isaac Dove in this week's bonus episode of Off Message to share how they have made the case to their colleagues to pass the biggest tax reform package in history in an overwhelmingly partisan environment. Listen and subscribe: [iTunes](#) | [Panoply](#) | [Stitcher](#)

REDISTRICTING WATCH - "Fearing 2018 losses, Texas Republicans in Congress want special session on redistricting," by The Texas Tribune's Abby Livingston and Jim Malewitz: "Some Texas Republicans in Congress hope that any upcoming special session will include redrawing the state's 36 congressional districts as part of its agenda. The message coming out of Austin thus far: not going to happen. Several congressional Republicans told the Tribune they want Abbott to call a special session to redraw the Congressional lines. They believe such a maneuver would put their allies in the state legislature in the driver's seat, circumventing Republicans' worst fear: that a panel of federal judges will draw a less favorable map of its own." [Full story.](#)

ANNALS OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE - "Ted Cruz Failed to Show 2012 Loans From Goldman Sachs, FEC Says," by Bloomberg's Bill Allison: "U.S. Senator Ted Cruz improperly accounted for loans he received from Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Citigroup Inc. during his 2012 campaign, saying the funds were his own personal contributions to the Senate race, the Federal Election Commission said Thursday. The finding, released on the FEC website, marked a rare instance of agreement among the agency's five commissioners, who voted unanimously that the \$1.1 million of loans from the banks should have been disclosed to voters. The FEC didn't say whether there would be a penalty." [Full story.](#)

2018 WATCH - "Welfare reformer Mary Mayhew leaving as commissioner of Maine DHHS," by the Portland Press Herald's Joe Lawlor: "Mary Mayhew is stepping down as commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services after spending more than six years leading Gov. Paul LePage's controversial push to reform Maine's public safety net. As head of the state's largest agency, Mayhew has been at the forefront of LePage's bid to revamp programs that affect thousands of Mainers, including efforts to tighten requirements for Medicaid enrollees, re-establish work requirements for food stamps, clamp down on welfare fraud, and advocate for other changes, such as forbidding junk food purchases with food stamps. Mayhew gave a brief statement to assembled reporters Wednesday afternoon at DHHS headquarters in Augusta, but refused to take questions and did not address speculation that she will run for governor in 2018. Friday is her last day." [Full story.](#)

- "Stacey Evans launches a HOPE-themed campaign for governor," by the Atlanta Journal-Constitution's Greg Bluestein: "The Smyrna attorney's campaign sets up what will likely be a divisive Democratic primary for the state's top job in 2018. House Minority Leader Stacey Abrams has also filed paperwork to run for governor and is expected to soon make a formal announcement. Evans said in an interview she is putting 'hope' - the scholarship and the concept - at the heart of her bid to replace a term-limited Nathan Deal. She has been one of the most forceful critics of the 2011 law he signed that slashed funding to the popular program. ... The 39-year-old's background will play a central role in her campaign. A child of a struggling teenage mom, the Ringgold native was the first in her family to graduate from college. She used her share in a massive whistleblower settlement to create a \$500,000 scholarship for first-generation graduates at the University of Georgia's law school." [Full story.](#)

HOW IT HAPPENED - "How Alleged Russian Hacker Teamed Up With Florida GOP Operative," by the Wall Street Journal's Alexandra Berzon and Rob Berry: "The hacker

also privately sent Democratic voter-turnout analyses to a Republican political operative in Florida named Aaron Nevins. Learning that hacker 'Guccifer 2.0' had tapped into a Democratic committee that helps House candidates, Mr. Nevins wrote to the hacker to say: 'Feel free to send any Florida based information.' Ten days later, Mr. Nevins received 2.5 gigabytes of Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee documents, some of which he posted on a blog called HelloFLA.com that he ran using a pseudonym. Soon after, the hacker sent a link to the blog article to Roger Stone, a longtime informal adviser to then-candidate Donald Trump, along with Mr. Nevins' analysis of the hacked data." [Full story](#).

ADMINISTRATION SPEED READ - "Jared Kushner now a focus in Russia investigation," by the Washington Post's Matt Zapotosky, Sari Horwitz, Devlin Barrett and Adam Entous: "Investigators are focusing on a series of meetings held by Jared Kushner, President Trump's son-in-law and an influential White House adviser, as part of their probe into Russian meddling in the 2016 election and related matters, according to people familiar with the investigation. Kushner, who held meetings in December with the Russian ambassador and a banker from Moscow, is being investigated because of the extent and nature of his interactions with the Russians, the people said." [Full story](#).

CODA - QUOTE OF THE DAY: "Last night I made a mistake and took an action that I can't take back, and I'm not proud of what happened." - Rep.-elect Greg Gianforte (R-Mont.), apologizing in his Thursday victory speech for the incident with Guardian reporter Ben Jacobs that resulted in Gianforte being charged with assault on Wednesday.

To view online:

<http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-score/2017/05/26/gianforte-wins-montana-special-election-220539>

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Morning Score
Sent: Mon 6/5/2017 2:15:06 PM
Subject: POLITICO's Morning Score: Senate Democrats focus on big rural issues — Fox passes on Montana Senate — Perriello has \$734K for stretch run in Virginia

By Kevin Robillard | 06/05/2017 10:00 AM EDT

With Scott Bland

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THE RURAL JURORS - "Senate Democrats try to spark rural comeback in 2018," by Campaign Pro's Maggie Severns: "Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.) has declared war on almond milk as she prepares to run for reelection in 2018. Though not a cause célèbre driving political talk on cable news, plant-based beverages called milk are a major sore spot for dairy farmers in Wisconsin, where President Donald Trump swept up to 71 percent of the vote in rural counties last November. ... While many voters in rural areas complained that Democrats forgot them in 2016, and party strategists rush this year to find a new message to bring them back in the fold, Democratic senators up for reelection in 2018 have little time to spare to fix their party's issues. ... And they are focused this year on winning back voters their party has failed to connect with since the last time they appeared on the ballot."

- " ... While Republicans concede that Democrats' emphasis on local issues is smart politics, it hints at an unpleasant truth, said Scott Jennings, a GOP consultant and former deputy political director in the George W. Bush White House. Jennings said the early moves are also a sign that the national Democratic Party could be a liability in the next election. 'The reason they're having to localize these things is because they have so badly failed at making their national message anything recognizable to people who used to be Democrats in rural America,' Jennings said." [Full story.](#)

2018 WATCH - "Montana AG declines Senate run against Tester," by Campaign Pro's Kevin Robillard and Elena Schneider: "Montana Attorney General Tim Fox, a Republican, has decided not to run for Senate against Democratic Sen. Jon Tester in 2018, according to two GOP sources with knowledge of the decision. Fox is the second high-profile potential challenger to opt against a bid, following Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke's decision in December to join President Donald Trump's Cabinet instead." [Full story.](#)

- How quickly did the situation in Montana change? According to a GOP source, NRSC executive director Chris Hansen had just told attendees at a Thursday PAC briefing that Fox was going to run and defeat Tester in 2018.

- **Nolan opts against Minnesota governor run:** "Democratic Rep. Rick Nolan won't run for governor of Minnesota in 2018, he announced [Friday], saying he feels a duty to remain in

Washington during the Trump administration. ... 'America is at a tipping point, and I feel compelled to devote all of my energy and experience to moving our nation forward' in Washington, Nolan wrote [on Facebook](#). ... Nolan's decision means he will be able to defend his 8th District in 2018, after it also trended significantly to the right. The rural district went for Trump with 54 percent of the vote in 2016 after then-President Barack Obama won 52 percent in 2012." [Full story](#).

GOV WATCH - "DeSantis makes moves to run for governor," by POLITICO Florida's Marc Caputo: "Rep. Ron DeSantis is quietly exploring a bid for Florida governor next year as he meets with potential donors, chats up possible campaign staff and fields endorsements from fellow conservatives. DeSantis, 38, who briefly ran for U.S. Senate last year before Marco Rubio decided to seek reelection, acknowledged that he's examining a campaign. But he wouldn't say much more beyond that or comment on what could be a bruising primary against Florida Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam, the likely GOP frontrunner, who last month launched his campaign." [Full story](#).

- **"Georgia Democrat aims to be nation's first female African American governor," by the Washington Post's Vanessa Williams in Albany, Ga.:** "Stacey Abrams, a Georgia politician who embodies what many progressives argue is the future of the Democratic Party, launched what she hopes will be a history-making campaign Saturday when she officially announced her candidacy for governor of the Peach State. The 43-year-old Democratic leader of the Georgia State House, who enters as the front-runner for her party's nomination, is aiming to become the first African American woman to be elected governor in U.S. history. ... [J]ust 11 black women have ever been elected to statewide positions nationwide." [Full story](#).

- **"Pro-Trump loyalist Michael Williams enters governor race," by the Atlanta Journal Constitution's Greg Bluestein:** "Republican Michael Williams entered the race for governor on Thursday, pinning his campaign on his outspoken support for Donald Trump as he hopes the same anti-establishment wave that elected the president propels him to Georgia's highest office. ... he has already attacked GOP rivals he deems not sufficiently pro-Trump as 'disingenuous.' ... A businessman who once owned a chain of Sport Clips barber shops, Williams indicated last year he would run for secretary of state. But energized by Trump's victory, he hinted repeatedly that he would aim for the state's highest job instead." [Full story](#).

Days until the 2017 election: 154.

Days until the 2018 election: 518.

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VIRGINIA FUNDRAISING - Perriello raises \$1.8 million, has \$734K on hand: Former Rep. Tom Perriello raised \$1.8 million in the last fundraising period before the Virginia Democratic

gubernatorial primary, his campaign announced, and has just under \$734,000 on hand. The Perriello campaign noted 2009 Democratic primary winner Creigh Deeds has just \$525,000 on hand at the same point of the race. Perriello's primary rival, Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam, hasn't released his fundraising numbers yet. The deadline to report is Monday.

- And he's ruling out oil and gas money: Perriello, who has made his refusal to take money from Dominion Power a key talking point in the primary, on Thursday signed a pledge not to take any money from the oil, gas or coal industries. He's the first gubernatorial candidate to sign a pledge sponsored by ClimateTruth.org Action, Climate Hawks Vote, 350 Action and other groups. The sponsors plan to push Democrats throughout the country to sign the pledge in 2018. **The pledge is [here](#).**

ONLINE MONEY MILESTONE - ActBlue [announced](#) on Friday that it crossed \$200 million raised in 2017, across 4,404 organizations. That's more money than passed through the Democratic online fundraising platform in all of 2015, the previous electoral off-year.

TRUMP ON THE TRAIL - "President Donald Trump to headline fundraiser for Gov. Scott Walker in Wisconsin," by the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel's Bill Glauber and Daniel Bice: "President Donald Trump will come to southeastern Wisconsin later this month to headline a fundraiser for Gov. Scott Walker. The event will be held June 13 in the evening, but the location hasn't been set. Although no public event has yet been scheduled, it's customary for a president to couple a fundraiser with an official appearance." [Full story](#).

- "Trump to host fund-raiser for South Jersey Rep. Tom MacArthur," by the Philadelphia Inquirer's Jonathan Tamari: "President Trump will host a fund-raiser June 11 for South Jersey Congressman Tom MacArthur, using his New Jersey golf club to help a lawmaker facing intense criticism after playing a key role in pushing the GOP's Affordable Care Act rollback through the House. The event at Trump National Golf Club in Bedminster is soliciting donations ranging from \$5,400 per couple up to \$100,000 raised and donated by hosts, according to an invitation obtained by the Inquirer." [Full story](#).

SHARKS AND JETS - "New governor toured Iowa on casino tycoon's jet," by the AP's Ryan J. Foley and Barbara Rodriguez: "For her first trip across Iowa as governor, Republican Kim Reynolds sought and accepted the free use of a jet owned by a wealthy businessman who is lobbying for state approval to build a lucrative casino. ... In response to inquiries from The Associated Press, the governor's office said the pair, a state trooper and staffers traveled in an airplane owned by businessman Gary Kirke, who donated the use of the plane and services of two pilots as in-kind contributions to Reynolds' newly established gubernatorial campaign. The arrangement, while apparently allowed under ethics rules, is drawing criticism from Reynolds' opponents, highlighting Kirke's cozy relationship with the administration and raising security questions." [Full story](#).

- GOP Cedar Rapids Mayor Ron Corbett will announce a primary challenge to Reynolds at the end of June, [the Quad City Times reports](#).

YOUR DAILY GEORGIA - Ossoff releases second attack ad on Planned Parenthood: The

ad features four breast cancer survivors praising Planned Parenthood's cancer screenings and criticizing Republican Karen Handel for stopping funding for Planned Parenthood while she was an executive at Susan G. Komen. **Watch the ad [here](#).**

TOWN HALL WATCH - "Issa walks fine line at town hall in divided district," by Rachael Bade in San Juan Capistrano, Calif.: " John Mathews, a self-described retired technology guru and life-long Republican from the coastal town of Del Mar, Calif., is a Darrell Issa voter. But during a Saturday morning town hall here in an affluent Southern Californian neighborhood, Mathews lit into the nine-term Republican congressman for failing to do more to stop Russia's interference in the 2016 election. 'I want to know when you and the Republican Party are going to stand up, use your political capital, and recognize that our democracy is under attack from an adversary,' he asked Issa. ... [A]nger from the left - and more than a little from his own party - has dogged Issa here in a Republican-leaning part of his increasingly Democratic district. Every seat in a nearly 500-person auditorium at the San Juan Hills High School was filled, and hundreds of constituents protested outside, irate that they couldn't get in." **[Full story.](#)**

LURCHING LEFT - "The Single-Payer Party? Democrats Shift Left on Health Care," by the New York Times' Alexander Burns and Jennifer Medina: "[A]s Democrats regroup from their 2016 defeat, leaders say the party has plainly shifted well to the left on the issue, setting the stage for a larger battle over the health care system in next year's congressional elections and the 2020 presidential race. Their liberal base, emboldened by Senator Bernie Sanders's forceful advocacy of government-backed health care last year, is increasingly unsatisfied with the Affordable Care Act and is demanding more drastic changes to the private health insurance system. ... Representative Rick Nolan of Minnesota, a populist Democrat whose district voted for President Trump by a wide margin, said he had rarely seen core Democratic voters as enthusiastic about an issue as they were about single-payer health care. Mr. Nolan said he would support creating a state-level system in Minnesota, but believed the party's goal should be a national law." **[Full story.](#)**

JERSEY YAWN - "As governor candidates make frantic final primary push, N.J. asks: 'What election?'," by Claude Brodesser-Akner: "Over the last 90 years, primary voter turnout for New Jersey governor's races has never cracked 40 percent and went as low as 9 percent four years ago. [Monmouth University pollster Patrick] Murray says New Jersey would be lucky to hit 12 percent in next week's election. ... Part of the problem, of course, is that New Jersey sits nestled between the New York and Philadelphia media markets, with few ways to speak directly to most residents. 'We still live in a media desert,' said Brad Lawrence, the head of the New Brunswick marketing firm 4CM&M, and the ad guru behind Murphy's campaign." **[Full story.](#)**

CODA - QUOTE OF THE DAY: "The tone, the exact words that were spoken and the context is so important. We can only get that by talking to those directly involved." - Sen. Susan Collins (R-Maine) on CBS' Face the Nation, regarding former FBI Director James Comey's upcoming congressional testimony and the circumstances that led to his firing, via [POLITICO](#).

To view online:

<http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-score/2017/06/05/senate-democrats-focus-on-big-rural-issues-220661>

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To: Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]
From: Anna Palmer and Jake Sherman
Sent: Thur 5/25/2017 10:50:51 AM
Subject: POLITICO Playbook, presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD): MT GOP candidate charged after he 'body slams' reporter -- TRUMP in Brussels -- MERKEL's presidential day -- Kellyanne and Heather Podesta lunch -- B'DAY: Anna Palmer

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Today's PLAYBOOK presented by the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD)
05/25/2017 06:47 AM EDT

By ANNA PALMER (anna@politico.com; [@apalmerdc](https://twitter.com/apalmerdc)) and JAKE SHERMAN (sherman@politico.com; [@JakeSherman](https://twitter.com/JakeSherman)) with DANIEL LIPPMAN (daniel@politico.com; [@dlippman](https://twitter.com/dlippman))

Driving the Day

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Good Thursday morning. PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP is in Brussels meeting with European leaders, including European Council President Donald Tusk and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker. He's scheduled to meet with new French President Emmanuel Macron in the next few hours. He'll also visit NATO before leaving for Sicily for a G7 meeting.

WITH TRUMP IN BRUSSELS, and attending meetings with the prez: Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Defense Secretary James Mattis, National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster, Dina Powell, and Gary Cohn, per pooler Phil Rucker.

TRUMP just had a private meeting with EU leaders, per WaPo's Phil Rucker. Great exchange: "The first encounter came as the three presidents stood posing for photos. Tusk told Trump: 'Do you know, Mr. President, we have two presidents in the EU?' Trump replied: 'I know that.' Juncker chimed in: One too much." ... Trump on the pope: "We went to the Pope. Very impressive. The Pope was terrific."

-- "**Trump faces rougher reception in NATO, EU meetings**," by Reuters' Jeff Mason and Steve Holland in Brussels: "After a warm welcome in the Middle East and a 'fantastic' visit with the pope, U.S. President Donald Trump walks on shakier ground on Thursday when European Union and NATO leaders will press him on defense, trade, and environmental concerns. The Republican president, midway through his first foreign trip since taking office, has basked in the glow of favorable receptions in Riyadh and

Jerusalem, where leaders lauded his harsh words for Iran.

"Praise may be in shorter supply in Brussels. Trump questioned the relevance of the NATO military alliance as a presidential candidate, and is considering pulling the United States out of the Paris agreement on climate change -- a huge concern in Europe. The EU was also a party to the Iran nuclear agreement, which Trump has criticized sharply. 'We expect him to recommit to NATO's founding rule that an attack against one ally is an attack against all,' said a senior European diplomat at the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. 'Words matter and there is a huge expectation on that.'"

<http://reut.rs/2qiSh1Z>

GREAT LINE FROM POLITICO EUROPE PLAYBOOKER RYAN HEATH -- "German Chancellor Angela Merkel is the meat in a presidential PR sandwich today." **FORMER PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA** had breakfast with Merkel in Berlin before the two participated in the Obama Foundation's first international event -- a talk at the Brandenburg Gate on the importance of civic engagement. Merkel will then leave for the NATO summit in Brussels with Trump.

OOPS!! -- @StateDept: ".@POTUS arrives for #NATOmeeting in #Brussels today. #POTUSAbroad" <http://bit.ly/2rCJ7kU> ... @PoliticoRyan: "As @StollmeyerEU pointed out - this is #POTUS arriving at the #EU, not #NATO ... that meeting doesn't start for hours."

THE STORY OF THE DAY -- HADAS GOLD AND GABE DEBENEDETTI (who is in Helena, Montana) -- **"Montana House GOP candidate cited after reporter says he 'body-slammed me'"**: "Montana Republican congressional candidate Greg Gianforte was issued a citation late Wednesday after he allegedly 'body-slammed' a reporter at a campaign event on the eve of a hotly contested special election. Ben Jacobs, a reporter for The Guardian tweeted that Gianforte 'body-slammed me and broke my glasses' at a campaign event in Bozeman, Montana -- minutes before what was to be the last campaign rally of the campaign.

"Jacobs said he had asked Gianforte about a new budget analysis of House Republicans' effort to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. Late Wednesday, Gallatin County Sheriff Brian Gootkin issued a statement saying the Republican congressional candidate had been cited for 'misdemeanor assault' and that Gianforte would have to appear in court by June 7 to resolve the matter. 'The nature of the injuries did not meet the statutory elements of felony assault,' the sheriff said in his statement.

"The incident rocked a closely watched contest, just hours before voters cast their ballots in Thursday's special House election in Montana to replace Ryan Zinke, who is now the Trump administration's secretary of the interior. Gianforte, a technology executive, is running against Democrat Rob Quist, a folk singer and first-time candidate. The race in the traditional Republican stronghold is turning out to be closer than many thought it would be." <http://politi.co/2qmuDkk> ... **Audio of the incident**
<http://bit.ly/2qmEnuR>

-- **FOX NEWS FIRST-PERSON ACCOUNT** by Alicia Acuna: "Gianforte grabbed Jacobs by the neck with both hands and slammed him into the ground behind him. Faith, Keith and I watched in disbelief as Gianforte then began punching the reporter. As Gianforte moved on top of Jacobs, he began yelling something to the effect of, 'I'm sick and tired of this!'" <http://fxn.ws/2qeLw5o>

-- **DEMOCRATS** are looking to take advantage of the last-minute break in the closer-than-expected race. The DCCC is up with Facebook ads targeting "with a goal of both persuasion and mobilization" in order to reach "Democrats who might have been less likely to turn out and vote on Election Day." MoveOn.org also released a digital ad to run through Election Day. **DCCC ad** <http://bit.ly/2qYSpVo> ... **MoveOn ad** <http://bit.ly/2qmx728>

CAN THIS FLIP THE RACE? The Billings Gazette: "Though 37 percent of registered voters have already returned absentee ballots, there will 'still be plenty of people voting on Election Day,' [political science professor Jeremy] Johnson said. Turnout in special elections is typically low, and with this vote on the Thursday before Memorial Day many have predicted low numbers at the polls." <http://bit.ly/2rCHIQN>

GIANFORTE'S CAMPAIGN SPOKESPERSON, Shane Scanlon, said: "Tonight, as Greg was giving a separate interview in a private office, The Guardian's Ben Jacobs entered the office without permission, aggressively shoved a recorder in Greg's face, and began asking badgering questions. Jacobs was asked to leave. After asking Jacobs to lower the recorder, Jacobs declined. Greg then attempted to grab the phone that was pushed in his face. Jacobs grabbed Greg's wrist, and spun away from Greg, pushing them both to the ground. It's unfortunate that this aggressive behavior from a liberal journalist created this scene at our campaign volunteer BBQ."

-- **HMM...** First of all, the tape doesn't back up this story. Second: The dude body slammed a reporter! Don't make excuses. Apologize!

THIS GUY MIGHT BE IN THE WRONG BUSINESS. When you are a member of Congress, you constantly have reporters shoving microphones in your face. Journalists wait outside bathrooms to corner you on the news of the day.

THE QUESTION FOR PAUL RYAN AND OTHER REPUBLICAN LEADERS: What will Republicans say about Gianforte -- a potential House Republican -- allegedly physically assaulting a reporter for asking a question about the health-care bill? Should he be allowed to caucus with Republicans? If he were a sitting member, there would probably be calls for his resignation.

ABOUT THAT HEALTH CARE BILL ... -- "CBO: House Obamacare repeal bill would leave 23 million more uninsured," by Adam Cancryn and Sarah Ferris: "Roughly 23 million more people would be uninsured over a decade if the House-passed Republican Obamacare repeal bill becomes law, according to a long-awaited CBO analysis that

could complicate GOP hopes of getting a companion measure through the Senate.

"That's nearly identical to the coverage losses that CBO forecast for an earlier version of the bill -- despite the addition of new provisions and billions of dollars in funding aimed at keeping more people insured.

"The nonpartisan scorekeeping office also forecast the GOP plan would cut the deficit by \$119 billion over a decade, primarily because of its cuts to Medicaid and private insurance subsidies. That exceeds \$2 billion of minimum projected savings the bill needed to hit, which should clear an important hurdle and help the bill's prospects of getting to the Senate. Senate GOP aides are still checking the analysis to ensure the bill can travel safely across the Capitol." <http://politi.co/2rT6aFh>

******* A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD):** One in two Americans rely on their employers for health care benefits including affordable access to prescription drugs. That's why employers are partnering with PBMs to provide access to effective medications at the most affordable price and improve health outcomes. Learn more at www.affordableprescriptiondrugs.org. *****

SHOT -- SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MITCH MCCONNELL is continuing to keep his plans for health care reform close to the vest. When asked at a Reuters newsmaker event Wednesday about Senate GOP's health care package, McConnell said: "I don't know how we get to 50 [votes] at the moment. But that's the goal. And exactly what the composition of that [bill] is I'm not going to speculate about because it serves no purpose." <http://reut.rs/2qeGm9v>

CHASER -- "Peril for Republicans if they push forward with Obamacare repeal," by Paul Demko and Jen Haberkorn: "Obamacare repeal is in trouble in the Senate, and a nonpartisan analysis of the House's repeal legislation issued Wednesday only reinforced that reality. Within minutes of the release of the report showing 23 million fewer Americans would be insured over a decade, two Senate Republicans blasted the estimate and the House bill, underscoring just how much the legislation will have to change to get through the upper chamber. Sen. Dean Heller (R-Nev.), one of the few Senate Republicans expected to face a tough re-election contest next year, said the House bill 'does not do enough to address Nevada's Medicaid population or protect Nevadans with pre-existing conditions.' Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.) also criticized the House bill for failing to adequately protect Americans with pre-existing medical conditions." <http://politi.co/2rXCLJf>

JOANNE KENEN on "10 key points from the CBO report on Obamacare repeal": <http://politi.co/2qZkP3P>

NYT SCOOP, A1 -- "Top Russian Officials Discussed How to Influence Trump Aides Last Summer," by Matt Rosenberg, Adam Goldman and Matt Apuzzo: "American spies collected information last summer revealing that senior Russian intelligence and political officials were discussing how to exert influence over Donald J.

Trump through his advisers, according to three current and former American officials familiar with the intelligence. The conversations focused on Paul Manafort, the Trump campaign chairman at the time, and Michael T. Flynn, a retired general who was advising Mr. Trump ... Some Russians boasted about how well they knew Mr. Flynn. Others discussed leveraging their ties to Viktor F. Yanukovych, the deposed president of Ukraine living in exile in Russia, who at one time had worked closely with Mr. Manafort." <http://nyti.ms/2qRQp2Y>

-- KEN VOGEL: "Manafort advised Trump team on Russia scandal": "Months after the FBI began examining Paul Manafort as part of a probe into ties between President Donald Trump's team and Russia, Manafort called Trump's chief of staff Reince Priebus to push back against the mounting controversy, according to four people familiar with the call. It was about a week before Trump's inauguration, and Manafort wanted to brief Trump's team on the alleged inaccuracies in a recently released dossier of memos written by a former British spy for Trump's opponents that alleged compromising ties between Russia, Trump and Trump's associates, including Manafort.

"On the day that the dossier came out in the press, Paul called Reince, as a responsible ally of the president would do, and said this story about me is garbage, and a bunch of the other stuff in there seems implausible,' said a person close to Manafort. ... While the people say the conversations were mostly of a political or, in some cases, personal nature, the conversation with Priebus, described by four people familiar with it, was related to the scandal now subsuming Manafort and the Trump presidency. It suggests that Manafort recognized months ago the potentially serious problems posed by the investigation, even as Trump himself continues to publicly dismiss it as a politically motivated witch hunt, while predicting it won't find anything compromising." <http://politi.co/2qj9UPp>

THE LATEST FROM MANCHESTER -- "Police make more arrests in Manchester bomb but leaks feared," by AP's Jill Lawless and Gregory Katz in Manchester: "Police arrested two more people and were on Thursday searching a new site in Manchester suspected of links to the bombing that killed 22 people at a pop concert, as British authorities complained bitterly about investigation leaks by U.S. officials. Prime Minister Theresa May is expected to raise the issue of the leaks with President Donald Trump in Brussels later. British officials are particularly angry that photos detailing evidence about the bomb used in the attack were published in the New York Times.

"Greater Manchester Police released a statement condemning the leaks on behalf of the National Counter-Terrorism Policing units that suggested a severe rupture in trust between Britain and the United States, who have traditionally shared intelligence at the highest levels. ... Police and security services are also upset that the name of bomber Salman Abedi was leaked by U.S. officials and published while police in Britain were withholding the name for what they said were reasons of operational security." <http://apne.ws/2qYWQzy>

MNUCHIN CONTINUES NO BAT DRUM BEAT -- "Mnuchin Tells Democrats No Go

on Border Tax in Private Meeting," by Bloomberg's Anna Edgerton: "Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin pronounced House Speaker Paul Ryan's proposal for a border-adjusted tax dead during closed-door conversations with Democrats on the tax-writing Ways and Means Committee, according to two members of the panel. ... Judy Chu, a California Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee, said she asked Mnuchin directly during a private meeting Tuesday if he supports the border-adjusted tax. 'He actually said straight out that he doesn't support it and the president doesn't support it,' Chu said, adding that Mnuchin cited concern from businesses about price increases for consumers. 'Unless he was lying to us yesterday, I really felt it was dead on arrival,' Chu said." <https://bloom.bg/2qeH3zK>

COMING ATTRACTIONS -- "Republicans may need Democrats' help to raise debt limit," by Colin Wilhelm and John Bresnahan: "Republicans may need to rely on Democrats --once again -- to raise the nation's legal borrowing limit. House Freedom Caucus Chairman Mark Meadows (R-N.C.) said the group of hard-line conservatives will want concessions before supporting a debt-ceiling boost, setting up a potential showdown with the Trump administration.

"There's a lot of discussion among Freedom Caucus members to push for a debt ceiling [increase] as long as it addresses some of the other structural reforms that conservatives have long called for,' Meadows told POLITICO. 'If that is coupled with a debt-ceiling increase that has a definite dollar amount - not a time-specific amount - then they would find a lot of support among conservatives.' Freedom Caucus sources say the group is also discussing a provision that would allow the federal government to make debt payment a priority in the event of a government shutdown later this year."
More for pros <http://politico.pro/2qS8bTH>

-- WHAT WE HEAR ABOUT THE DEBT LIMIT: Here's the deal: back in 2011, John Boehner set a standard that the debt limit needed to be matched with dollar-for-dollar spending cuts. Republicans now insist on some sort of concession every time the debt ceiling is increased. Sometimes they get them, sometimes they don't, and Democrats just help the GOP lift the limit without any wins. But they control all of D.C. now, so expect a hardline fight. The Freedom Caucus -- the three dozen or so conservative Republicans in the House -- want the debt limit raised before the August recess. That's 31 legislative days away. That's a tight deadline, since borrowing authority doesn't truly run out until September. But most in the Capitol are predicting a big fight. House Energy and Commerce Chairman Greg Walden of Oregon told us yesterday in the Capitol that it's a "tough vote" and said a clean increase -- one without reforms -- will not be met with "broad approval."

THE JUICE ...

-- SPOTTED: Speaker Paul Ryan with Republican Conference Chairman Cathy McMorris Rodgers of Washington State chatting yesterday in a room off the House floor.

-- POWER LUNCH OF THE DAY: Kellyanne Conway and Heather Podesta at

Centrolina Wednesday. Earlier in the day, at around 9 a.m., Kellyanne was at Drybar Georgetown. She had her Secret Service security detail with her.

--**SEN. BEN SASSE's** new book "The Vanishing American Adult," landed at No. 3 on the New York Times bestseller list.

--**FIRST IN PLAYBOOK** -- Several top civil rights groups are sending a letter today to President Trump and DHS Secretary John Kelly urging them not to appoint Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke to be assistant secretary in the office of partnership and engagement at the Department of Homeland Security. In the letters, the groups say he has a "history of incendiary and hateful statements" that "make him unfit to serve in this role." The letter is signed by the heads of the Anti-Defamation League, Human Rights Campaign, the National Urban League, the National Council of La Raza, and Muslim Advocates. <http://politi.co/2rkwuez>

-- **CHELSEA HANDLER** recently sat down with Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) to chat about 2020, whether Senate Majority Leader McConnell speaks to her and her views on what the GOP is doing in power. The interview streams on Netflix on Friday. **Video** <http://bit.ly/2qRVZCC>

-- **JARED AND IVANKA'S** date night in Rome. *8 pix on one page*
<http://dailym.ai/2qeNMcf>

WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE ... "Spicer left out of Vatican visit," by Annie Karni in Rome: "President Donald Trump's entourage at the Vatican on Wednesday included his wife, his daughter, and an array of staffers -- but not White House press secretary Sean Spicer, a devout Catholic who told reporters earlier this year that he gave up alcohol for Lent. Both sides, according to a White House official, agreed to limit the number of staffers who attended." <http://politi.co/2qeNqTE>

Playbook Reads

PHOTO DU JOUR: President Donald Trump and first lady Melania Trump listen to a guide as they look at the frescoed ceilings during their visit to the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican on May 24. | L'Osservatore Romano/Pool Photo via AP

CNN'S MANU RAJU and EVAN PEREZ -- "AG Sessions did not disclose Russia meetings in security clearance form, DOJ says": "Attorney General Jeff Sessions did not disclose meetings he had last year with Russian officials when he applied for his security clearance, the Justice Department told CNN Wednesday. Sessions, who met with Russian Ambassador Sergey Kislyak at least two times last year, didn't note those interactions on the form, which requires him to list 'any contact' he or his family had with

a "foreign government' or its 'representatives' over the past seven years ... Justice Department spokeswoman Sarah Isgur Flores ... says he and his staff were ... told by an FBI employee who assisted in filling out the form, known as the SF-86, that he didn't need to list dozens of meetings with foreign ambassadors that happened in his capacity as a senator." <http://cnn.it/2rT4RpR>

IVANKA WATCH -- "Ivanka Trump asks trafficked women what U.S. can do to help," by AP's Frances D'Emilio in Rome: "Ivanka Trump met Wednesday with a group of African women in Rome who were trafficked into prostitution rings, a private encounter said to have moved her to tears. Trump visited the Rome headquarters of the Sant'Egidio Community, a Catholic humanitarian organization that serves the poor, the elderly and migrants, after a morning visit to the Vatican. Sant'Egidio official Daniela Pompei said the closed-door encounter lasted 40 minutes and Trump asked the 10 African women for suggestions on what the U.S. government, led by her father, President Donald Trump, can do to help others like them." <http://abcn.ws/2rk3R0U>

CLICKER - "Trump's visit with Pope Francis: The top photos out of Rome" -- 25 pix <http://politi.co/2qiYbAa>

MAGGIE HABERMAN PROFILE -- "Wanna Know What Donald Trump Is Really Thinking? Read Maggie Haberman," by Rachael Combe in July's Elle: "Journalists have become part of the story in the Trump administration, enablers and heroes of a nonstop political and constitutional soap opera, and last year Haberman was the most widely read journalist at the Times, according to its analytics. Many of the juiciest Trump pieces have been broken by her ... While the president and the reporter couldn't seem more different ... the points at which their histories and personalities converge are revealing about both the media and the president himself. Trump wants what she can give him access to -- a kind of status he's always craved in a newspaper ... Haberman, for her part, has become a front-page fixture and a Fourth Estate folk hero." <http://bit.ly/2qYVI4F>

WEST COAST WATCH -- "The Russia investigation thrust Devin Nunes into the spotlight. Now that he's the one under scrutiny, what has he been up to?," by LA Times' Sarah D. Wire: <http://lat.ms/2rCqWVl>

***** **A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD):** As list prices for brand drugs continue to rise, employers are partnering with PBMs to keep drug costs under control. In fact, every dollar an employer invests in a PBM service returns six dollars in savings. Learn more at www.affordableprescriptiondrugs.org. *****

FUTURE OF NEWS -- "Facebook signs BuzzFeed, Vox, others for original video shows - sources," by Reuters' Jessica Toonkel: "Facebook has signed deals with millennial-focused news and entertainment creators Vox Media, BuzzFeed, ATTN, Group Nine Media and others to make shows for its upcoming video service, which will feature long and short-form content with ad breaks, according to several sources familiar with the situation. Facebook is planning two tiers of video entertainment:

scripted shows with episodes lasting 20 to 30 minutes, which it will own; and shorter scripted and unscripted shows with episodes lasting about 5 to 10 minutes, which Facebook will not own." <http://reut.rs/2qZwj7B>

MEDIAWATCH -- @grynbaum: "Ken Kurson is leaving Observer for TENE0, he tells me. He'll be a senior managing director."

-- **NEW POLITICO PRO HIRES** - Marty Kady and Carrie Budoff Brown email the staff: "**Sheila Kaplan** will join us next week as a senior health care reporter. Sheila was most recently a Washington-based senior writer for STAT, covering the intersection of health, influence and politics. ... **John Hendel** is joining the Tech team to help cover the FCC and Hill telecom policy. John comes to us from Communications Daily, where he's been a Capitol Hill telecom policy reporter since 2013."

Playbook Reads

SPOTTED at a party last night in honor of Patrick Steel, the new CEO of POLITICO, at Dr. Elena and Robert Allbritton's residence in Georgetown: Don Baer, Brian Bechtel, Jim Bankoff, Ron Bonjean, David Castagnetti, Stephanie Cutter, Tony Fratto, Jason and Shari Gold, Josh and Blair Holmes, Joel Johnson, Dede Lea, Ray LaHood, Kevin Madden, Bruce Mehlman, Graham Miller, Greg Lowman, Susan Molinari, Geoff Morrell, Jack and Susanna Quinn, Heather Podesta, Jill Zuckman.

SPOTTED : Eric Trump and wife Lara last night at the Trump hotel having dinner. Steven Mnuchin and his fiancée Louise Linton stopped by to say hello ... IRS Commissioner John Koskinen yesterday at Mackey's Public House ... Former Secretary of Homeland Security and current University of California President Janet Napolitano eschewed the TSA Pre line at Washington Dulles Airport and went through the regular folks west side security line. "She did all the stuff regular folks do. And had no aides around making it easy." ... Nationals Manager Dusty Baker yesterday meeting with Rep. Mike Doyle (D-Pa.) and Rep. Joe Barton (R-Texas) for lunch on Capitol Hill. Doyle is managing the Democrats, and Barton is managing the Republicans in the upcoming Congressional Baseball Game at Nationals Park June 15. "The two managers were seeking advice and managerial tips from Dusty Baker in preparation for the game." **Pics** <http://politi.co/2qRWvjH> ... <http://politi.co/2qSacPL>

BIG CONGRATULATIONS to Rachel Overboe, graduate of Harvard Business School class of 2017! (h/t your biggest fans: Jmom, Lynn, Leah, John and Anna)

TRANSITIONS: **David Leiter**, a Capitol Hill veteran, Clinton Administration alum, and former president of ML Strategies, has launched a new government relations firm called Plurus Strategies. Also joining the firm are Georgette Spanjich as VP and Sarah Litke as senior director. <http://bit.ly/2qj3Kyy> ... **Zain Habboo** is joining Fenton as its first chief digital officer. She is currently senior director for digital and marketing strategy at the

United Nations Foundation and is a National Geographic alum.

WELCOME TO THE WORLD - Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum, candidate for governor of Florida, and **R. Jai Gillum**, director of foundation affairs at the Florida Dental Association: "Last Monday, May 15, we welcomed Davis Allen Gillum to the world! He arrived healthy at 8 pounds, 3 ounces. His twin siblings, 3-year-olds Caroline and Jackson, love having a new baby brother. ... Dad has taken some time off the campaign trail to be on Daddy Duty!" **Pic** <http://politi.co/2rk7gNt>

NSC DEPARTURE LOUNGE - Yesterday was **Ben Levine** 's last day on the NSC - he was special assistant for global economics and finance at the NSC under President Barack Obama and then the beginning of the new administration. He served on Obama's reelection campaign, worked at Treasury including in Secretary Jack Lew's executive office and was a policy analyst for the Financial Stability Oversight Council. Beginning in August, he's continuing his graduate studies at Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business as a full-time MBA student.

BIRTHDAY OF THE DAY: David Martosko, U.S. political editor for The Daily Mail. How he's celebrating: "I'll be on assignment for DailyMail.com on May 25 covering the president's overseas trip, but my wife and daughters are taking me to a Nationals game when I return." Read his Playbook Plus Q&A: <http://politi.co/2qf9PAd>

BIRTHDAYS: Sen. Amy Klobuchar is 57 ... Politico's Anna Palmer, the pride of Kindred, N.D. ... Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan is 61 -- he's celebrating with a quiet dinner with his family and grandchildren, including his new grandson Cam ... Emily Bittner ... former White House news secretary Ron Nessen is 83 ... Kate Ackley Zeller, reporter at CQ Roll Call ... James "Britton" Rethmeier, son of Caton and Blaine, is 10 ... Mike Russell, bourbon authority, avid diver and SVP at CRC Public Relations ... Argentina turns 107 on its Revolution Day and Jordan turns 71 on its Independence Day ... Megan Van Etten, director of media and external comms at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce (hat tip: Blair Latoff Holmes) ... Tim Zenk, VP of business development, new markets and technology at Phytelligence Inc. ... Laurie Rubiner, chief of staff for Sen. Richard Blumenthal, celebrating with Chris (h/ts Jon Haber) ... Alycyn Keeling ... Rep. Steve Russell (R-Okla.) is 54 ... former Rep. Ed Whitfield (R-Ky.) is 74 ... John Flynn ... Britt Kahn, Conan O'Brien political booker (h/t Tammy Haddad) ...

...**Greg Bluestein** , politics reporter for the Atlanta Journal-Constitution who has done a bang up job covering the race for Tom Price's old congressional seat in Georgia (h/t David Pittman) ... Savannah Haeger, an associate at Hamilton Place Strategies and the pride of Lake Zurich, Ill. (h/t Julie Sarne) ... Dorrance Smith, CEO of The New Analytics Company ... Human Rights Campaign's Hayley Miller ... Courtney Joline ... Sean Rushton, founder and director of the Project on Exchange Rates and the Dollar and a Ted Cruz alum ... Alice Germond ... Lesley Sillaman ... Capricia Marshall ... Lauren Werner (h/ts Teresa Vilmain) ... Beth Foster ... Politico alum Jennifer Martinez, now at Brew Media Relations ... Margaret Dobrydnio ... NYT alum Carla Robbins, now adjunct senior fellow at CFR ... Phil Karsting ... James Dellinger ... Steve Petersen ... Bob

Loughlin ... Tali Looney ... Carol Thompson ... Jim Doak ... Conor Powell, Fox News foreign correspondent, is 4-0 ... Alice Mooney ... Jason Lilly ... Olympic gold medal gymnast Aly Raisman is 23 (h/t Jewish Insider) ... Brian Flaherty, SVP of public policy at CBIA ... Matthew Colbert ... Matt Lakin is 37 ... Alan Brody ... Charlie Fromstein ... actor Sir Ian McKellen is 78 ... actor-comedian Mike Myers is 54 (h/ts AP)

******* A message from the Coalition for Affordable Prescription Drugs (CAPD):**

One in two Americans rely on their employers to provide health care benefits. So, employers partner with PBMs to provide access to effective medications at the most affordable price. PBMs drive savings in part by using clinical expertise to identify generic alternatives that achieve the same health outcomes for a lower price. With generics accounting for 89 percent of prescriptions filled in 2015, but only 27 percent of drug costs, that represents a savings of \$227 billion across the U.S. health care system in just one year. Learn more at www.affordableprescriptiondrugs.org. *****

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