



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 5, 2017

Good evening, thank you for the opportunity to share some comments this evening, joining with all those at the *Innovations in Regulatory Science Awards Gala* in celebrating the achievements made in facilitating the development of lifesaving drugs and therapies. I would have enjoyed being with you for what is certain to be a momentous occasion and memorable evening, but my schedule prevented me from being there in person.

I congratulate both of the award recipients tonight and thank you for the work that you have done to move us forward in innovation and to improve public health. You have made valuable contributions to advancing how we ensure that safe lifesaving new drugs and therapies get to patients as fast as possible.

It was an honor to have worked closely alongside my late friend and colleague, Senator Ted Kennedy, to pass the Food and Drug Administration Revitalization Act (FDARA), which established the Reagan-Udall Foundation for the Food and Drug Administration. The goal that Senator Kennedy and I shared was to establish a non-profit foundation to lead collaborations among the FDA, academic research institutions and industry designed to bolster research and development productivity, provide new tools for improving safety in regulated product evaluation, and make the development of those products more predictable and manageable in the long-term. I am pleased to know that, ten years later, Reagan-Udall has lived up to the promise.

The Reagan-Udall Foundation's work does much to honor both President Reagan and Representative Mo Udall, and their courage in facing the diseases that ultimately took their lives. I believe that the creation of this foundation has made a difference in speeding up the development and evaluation of safety of drugs being reviewed by the FDA, and will make a real difference for those facing diseases with no cure today.

Let's come together to celebrate the creation of the Foundation a decade ago. Let it serve as a model of how bipartisanship in Congress and public-private partnerships can work to advance America's public health and bring about a brighter future. Thank you for the invitation. Enjoy the evening!