

concoction that would be poured into the victim's nose. As a result of such severe torture, suspects would often admit to crimes they did not commit.

This report makes for horrifying reading and gives us a glimpse of the utter depravity of this regime. What then is the U.S. policy to counter North Korea's belligerence and human rights abuses? The answer is precious little.

The administration's policy of strategic patience has been a failure. All that our so-called patience has done is allowed the regime to significantly advance its military capabilities and to systematically continue to torture its own people.

I call on the administration to immediately reverse course and begin the process of applying more pressure to the North Korean regime through additional financial sanctions, increased military engagement with our allies in the region, and more assertive diplomacy with China, which wields significant control over the fate of the regime.

We should never negotiate with Pyongyang without imposing strict preconditions that North Korea take immediate steps to halt its nuclear program, cease all military provocations, and make credible steps toward respecting human rights of its people.

We should not forget that in a deal with the United States over 20 years ago, North Korea pledged to dismantle their nuclear program. Today, we are reaping the harvest of failed policies of engagement with a regime that has no respect for international agreements or international norms.

As it negotiates with other rogue states that seek to obtain nuclear weapons to threaten the free world, I urge the administration to draw the appropriate conclusions from our failed North Korea policy.

As we talk about human rights violations and violations of international norms, there was a report printed yesterday with the headline "North Korea Said to Execute a Top Official, With an Antiaircraft Gun." This is a country violating human rights, killing its own people, and willing to watch as its own people starve to death. Now there is a report that they are killing people with anti-aircraft guns. This is a regime that doesn't deserve strategic patience but deserves the full commitment of the United States in our efforts to make sure we are bringing peace to the region and long-term peace to the world.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The Senator from Wyoming.

TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, last week we passed an important bill that protected the rights of the American people. It said the people in Congress have a right to be involved in an agree-

ment the President negotiates on Iran's nuclear program. Well, that was an important piece of legislation, and I was glad to see it passed with overwhelming bipartisan support.

The bill on trade promotion authority, which we have been talking about this week, is also very important. This bill is about U.S. trade with other countries and the proper role Congress should play in that. It is also very much about America's future, and that is why Republicans are so committed to this piece of legislation.

The problem is Senate Democrats have pulled the rug out from under the American people and the President. They blocked the Senate from even considering this important piece of legislation. This is not the normal story of Democrats v. Republicans or Senator REID v. Senator McCONNELL. Oh, no. This is a story about Senator REID v. President Obama.

America's economy grew by just 0.2 percent in the first quarter of this year. When the Democratic leader orders the Senators on his side of the aisle to block this bill, is he saying the American people should be satisfied with 0.2 percent growth? Is that satisfaction?

If we are going to get America's economy going and growing again, we need to increase opportunities for America's farmers, ranchers, and manufacturers to sell their products overseas.

According to the Commerce Department, 95 percent of the world's customers live outside the United States. That means there are billions of people around the world who want to buy American products, and that means creating jobs for Americans who make those products. It means lower prices for many of the products Americans want to buy at home. It means more money for the American economy, which is good for all of us. Now, all of that comes from more U.S. trade with other countries.

The bill we are debating right now is very important to American families and to the American economy. Trade promotion authority is a valuable tool. It helps make sure there are strong rules that hold other countries accountable for their unfair trade practices. It also helps us forge agreements to tear down the barriers that block American goods from foreign markets. The sooner we renew trade promotion authority, the sooner American families can start reaping the benefits.

It is outrageous Senate Democrats are keeping us from taking this step to help these families all across the country. The benefits of trade are substantial for places such as my home State of Wyoming.

Exports from Wyoming to other countries amounted to almost \$2 billion last year—\$2 billion. The Wyoming chemical industry alone exported nearly \$1 billion worth of material.

One of our most important chemical exports is soda ash, which is a chemical

used to make things such as glass and detergents. It is the largest inorganic chemical export in the United States, and it is responsible for thousands of American jobs. Our producers face high tariffs in some countries, and they are competing with China for the customers.

If we pass this bill and follow that up with the kind of trade deals it allows, we could add another \$40 million in new soda ash exports, and that means a lot of jobs here at home.

Trade promotion authority helps give American producers a fair chance to compete for business overseas.

In Wyoming, our farmers and ranchers also export beef, lamb, and grain. We export machinery, minerals, and energy from our oil and gas producers. Wyoming's presence in the global marketplace has been increasing, and we as a nation cannot afford to stop that progress now. We need more access to more markets and we need fair competition.

So the question is: Why are the Democrats standing in the way of all of that? Democrats are blocking more than just the money for American workers and our economy. Economic prosperity itself strengthens our Nation and makes it more secure.

Ronald Reagan once said: "Our national security and economic strength are indivisible." He understood that national defense is expensive and that America needs a strong economy to pay for it. Reagan understood that American trade with other countries can help strengthen our military alliances as well. American goods sold overseas provide an American presence all around the world. They are economic boots on the ground.

The Secretary of Defense, Ash Carter, said something similar in a speech last month. He said: "Our military strength ultimately rests on the foundation of our vibrant, unmatched, and growing economy."

He said the kinds of trade deals this bill would promote are "as important to me as another aircraft carrier." Now, that is the current Secretary of Defense agreeing with what President Ronald Reagan said years ago.

The Defense Secretary also talked about what all of us in the Senate know to be true: If America does not continue to lead in global commerce and does not attract more trading partners, someone else will. More likely than not, that is going to be China.

America needs to step up and start negotiating effective, fair, and enforceable trade agreements or we are going to be allowing China to write the rules for global trade. If that happens, every Senator here knows those rules will not favor American workers and American exports. Senate Democrats know that, and they are still standing in the way of this legislation.

Last year, our exports supported nearly 12 million American jobs. That is an increase of 2 million jobs since 2009. It is great news, but it is not enough.

According to the latest numbers that came out last Friday, there are another 17 million Americans who are either unemployed, are working part time because they cannot find full-time work or have absolutely given up and stopped looking for a job. There are 17 million Americans who are waiting for our economy to really start growing again.

We need to create more stable, long-term jobs for those Americans who have been left behind by the weak economy over the past 6 years. More U.S. trade with other countries can help make that happen. This trade promotion authority bill is the first step toward reaching that goal and Democrats know that. Why then are they fighting so hard to make sure this bill fails? Why are they fighting so hard to block those jobs? This legislation would give the President a clear roadmap—a roadmap to follow while negotiating trade deals. It also ensures that Congress and the American people have a say about whether a deal goes through. That part is extremely important.

I mentioned the fight we just had with the White House to make sure the American people and Congress can review an agreement with Iran over its nuclear program. Well, this bill says right up front that Congress will get to have an up-or-down vote on any trade deals.

This isn't about expanding the powers of the President. I know a lot of Senators have serious concerns about how President Obama has abused his authority in unchecked and unprecedented ways. A lot of Americans have those same concerns. This bill is not just about this President. It is about the next President and the one after that. It is about American workers, American families, and growing the American economy for all of us. It is about making sure America continues to lead and Americans continue to prosper. American exports to other countries are the key to this. This bill on the floor right now can make sure all of that happens, and it makes sure the American people have their say.

It is time for Senate Democrats to call off their destructive fight with the President. It is time for Senate Democrats to stop blocking trade, stop blocking jobs, and stop blocking progress for American families and for our economy.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, on May 4, 2015, Officer Brian Moore was killed

in the line of duty. This was an exceptional young police officer in New York City. He was young enough that he still lived in his father's home, but he was experienced enough, old enough that he had already become a decorated officer in the NYPD and had made over 150 arrests since joining the department just 5 years ago.

Commissioner Bill Bratton said: "In his very brief career, he already proved himself to be an exceptional young officer."

We have heard a lot about law enforcement gone wrong, but the reality is that every single day police officers are under threat and they are in danger.

All Brian Moore did on the evening of May 2 was pull up behind someone who was acting in a suspicious manner, and as they began talking to him, the man turned and fired at the car. Officer Moore was struck in the cheek. He had trauma to his brain. Ninety minutes after the shooting, officers arrested the man who perpetrated this crime. He did it with a stolen weapon—one of 23 weapons that were stolen in a 2011 robbery at Little's Bait & Tackle Pawn Shop in Perry, GA.

Detective Mike Cerullo said of him:

He was a great kid. I can't say a bad thing about him. He always had a smile on his face.

Officer Moore was an officer who was rising through the ranks very quickly and who was beloved in his community. He grew up on Long Island, tragically and ironically in a town with an athletic field at the high school named after Edward Byrne—another alumnus of that high school who was killed in the line of duty as a 22-year-old rookie in 1988. That name may be familiar to us because we now hand out millions of dollars in Byrne grants all across the country—another alumni of this particular high school shot down.

Brian is one of 86 people across this country who are killed by guns every day—2,600 a month and 31,000 a year. Not every single one of these deaths is preventable. I don't know whether Brian Moore's was preventable. But what I know is that many of these deaths are preventable, that there has to be a reason why these numbers are so out of whack with every single other country in the industrialized world. A lot has to do with the reality of this place, that as these numbers continue to go up day after day, month after month, year after year at catastrophic levels, we do absolutely nothing about it.

We have to start thinking about not just the cost to the families—and it is not just the mother and the father and the brother and the sister. If we look at the pictures of Brian Moore's funeral, they are heartbreaking, seeing the tragedy that is washing over the family members.

The average homicide by gun has 22 different victims who are affected by it. It often leads to cycles of violence in which there are killings for retribu-

tion, in which the trauma spirals lives of children and brothers and sisters downward.

Let's look for a second at the cost of one murder. Here are some numbers overall. A recent study showed that the annual cost of gun violence in America is \$229 billion with a "b." That is \$47 billion more than Apple's 2014 worldwide revenue. But here is the cost of just one murder—\$441,000 in direct costs. Eighty-seven percent of it is paid for by taxpayers. It costs over \$400,000 to lock up the perpetrator, \$2,000 when he is charged and sentenced, \$11,000 for mental health treatment for the victim's families, \$10,000 for the victim's hospital expenses, \$450 just to transport to the hospital, and then \$2,000 for police response and investigations.

That is not why we should take on the issue of gun violence in this country; we should do it simply to try to stop this scourge of murders. But if we care about being a good steward of the taxpayers' dollars, then \$441,000 a year that could be saved just by eliminating one of the 86 a day seems like a pretty good deal.

Jose Araujo, from Milford, CT, was working for Burns Construction Company in Bridgeport when he was shot at his job on a construction site after a suspect asked for a job and he was referred to the company office. He started to head for the office, but then he turned around and shot Jose.

A family friend said:

He was a gentle giant. Wherever he walked in there was a smile on his face. He always gave you a strong handshake.

Another friend said:

He's nice, generous and a man of peace.

Jose's girlfriend said:

He was such a great person and if the world had more people like him—oh, what a beautiful world we would live in.

Jose leaves behind a 5-year-old son.

Sanjay Patel was killed on April 6 in New Haven, CT. He was just working, as millions of other Americans do, putting in his hours as a manager at a CITGO gas station, when he was shot four times by an apparent robber at the station. The perpetrators took money and store merchandise. Specifically, they stole a box of cigars. They killed this guy over a box of cigars.

Sanjay's wife was 6 months pregnant at the time. He told her he didn't want her to work while she was pregnant, in part because she had been injured in a house fire last year. In a tearful interview, she said her husband took excellent care of her and the baby. He brought her ice cream and breakfast in bed. "This is my first baby," she said, "and my husband was so happy."

The stats are overwhelming, whether it be the number of people who are killed by guns or the cost to U.S. taxpayers. I try to come to the floor every couple of weeks just to give voice to the victims of gun violence, figuring that if the numbers don't move this place, maybe the stories of those who are lost will. I can only tell a few a