

policy of global disengagement, its lack of confidence, and American leadership in the world. But I applaud the President for what he is doing now. I applaud the President for his strategy of rebalancing the focus of military forces and trade in the Asia-Pacific.

I applaud the President for doing the hard work of seeking TPA. These are never easy votes. These are never easy votes. But we should support what he is doing because it means America is back. We are engaging again. We are not leading from behind. We are leading the way countless administrations in the past have done with regard to global trade.

This will enable us to determine our future, to drive it, not react to it. I urge my colleagues to vote for this TPA bill because it is a vote for American leadership.

I also urge my colleagues to vote for the amendment that is going to help many small businesses throughout the United States and coastal communities and our strong fishing communities.

My amendment will strengthen the TPA bill, and I encourage all my colleagues to support that amendment as well.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to enter into a colloquy with Senator HATCH and Senator WYDEN.

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

SMALL BUSINESS AND TRADE

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I appreciate the chairman's leadership on the trade promotion authority, TPA, legislation. As he has said, this bill creates the process by which the administration can negotiate trade agreements that have the potential to enhance trade opportunities for American businesses. The ability to reach new markets is critical for ensuring that American businesses can compete in a global marketplace.

Trade has become increasingly vital for small businesses looking to diversify and grow. And yet, even though 95 percent of the world's customers live overseas, less than 1 percent of small- and medium-sized businesses in the United States sell to global markets. By comparison, over 40 percent of large businesses sell their products overseas.

As ranking member of the Small Business Committee, one of my priorities is narrowing that gap. I believe that, as we consider expanding trade relationships, we must make sure that small businesses have a seat at the table and the support they need to reach global markets and compete internationally.

Does the chairman agree?

Mr. HATCH. I thank the Senator from New Hampshire. Yes, I agree wholeheartedly. Small businesses are a vital part of promoting international trade.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I thank the chairman. To that end, I have filed an amendment, amendment No. 1227, that would take a number of steps to ensure

that our small businesses benefit from international trade and potential new trade agreements.

Although I understand that we will not have an opportunity to amend the TPA legislation, I hope to work with the chairman to ensure that this amendment is included in H.R. 644 or a similar bill as reported by a conference committee to reauthorize trade facilitation and trade enforcement functions and activities.

Mr. HATCH. The Senator has my commitment to work with her to do so.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I thank the chairman. I appreciate his support for this amendment.

Does the ranking member agree that we should ensure that small businesses are supported as part of our trade agenda?

Mr. WYDEN. I do, and I support the amendment of the Senator from New Hampshire that would make sure that we engage small businesses as part of our efforts on international trade. I also look forward to working with her to do everything possible to get this amendment included in H.R. 644.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. I thank the ranking member.

Mr. SULLIVAN. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO BOB SCHIEFFER

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, later this month, a man we have all become accustomed to welcoming into our living rooms will leave behind a decades-long journalistic career and embark on a new journey with his wife, Pat.

Bob Lloyd Schieffer has been a Pentagon reporter. He has served as a State Department reporter. He has covered the White House. And he has roamed the halls of the Capitol as a congressional reporter.

It is rare to see any journalist serve in all four of the big DC national assignments. But Bob Schieffer has.

Bob has interviewed every President since Nixon. He has moderated debates between Kerry and Bush, between Obama and McCain, and most recently between Obama and Romney. He has won just about every award possible in broadcast journalism, including a few Emmys. And he has turned out chart-topping hits, like "TV Anchorman," as the front man for a honky-tonk band.

Perhaps that is the passion Bob will follow in retirement. We will see.

But here is one thing we do know: Bob Schieffer is one of the most famous

Horned Frogs ever to graduate from his beloved TCU. It is no wonder Bob Schieffer's alma mater elected to name its School of Journalism after the man who hosts CBS' "Face the Nation" every Sunday.

I have been a guest on his show many times. He can ask tough questions. But he is fair.

The last time I appeared with Bob, we talked about the new majority's drive to restore the Senate. He later shared his view on our efforts with his audience.

"What's happening is by no means on the scale of an Old Testament miracle," he said.

"But," he noted, "Every journey begins with a first step."

I agree with him. It is not like we are parting the Potomac. But we are getting the Senate moving again, debating again, amending again, and working again. I think it is good for our country.

Perhaps Bob might take some of his own advice as he looks to the future too.

Because every journey does begin with a first step.

So whatever it is Bob ultimately chooses to do in retirement, whether it is penning a memoir or cutting more honky-tonk hits, it all begins with that first step. He will take it on May 31, when he signs off for the last time.

I am sure it will be a bittersweet moment for him. But it is a step he is likely to ultimately welcome after so many years in the spotlight. The Senate wishes him all the best in retirement.

CELEBRATING RABBI YOCHEVED MINTZ OF CONGREGATION P'NAI TIKVAH

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today in celebration of Rabbi Yocheved Mintz' 10th anniversary with Congregation P'nai Tikvah in Las Vegas, NV. Through her dedication to serving others, Rabbi Mintz has helped further Congregation P'nai Tikvah's commitment to providing an inclusive and open environment for spiritual development. I am appreciative of her tremendous efforts on behalf of the Jewish community and the city of Las Vegas.

Rabbi Mintz' many leadership roles demonstrate the seriousness with which she takes her duties as a spiritual leader, as well as her compassion and willingness to devote much of her time to helping others. Within the Jewish community, her responsibilities include president of the Mintz Family Foundation for Creative Jewish Education and serving on numerous boards, such as the Jewish Family Services Agency and Rabbis for Religious Freedom and Equality in Israel. Rabbi Mintz also brings her years of experience in Jewish education to the community through her work as founding board chair for the Florence A. Melton School for Adult Jewish Education. As the first female president of

the Las Vegas Board of Rabbis, Rabbi Mintz is an inspiration to many young Jewish girls and women who aspire to become Rabbis and leaders within their communities. In line with Congregation P'nai Tikvah's commitment to fostering a welcoming environment for religious life, Rabbi Mintz is a board member of the Interfaith Council of Southern Nevada and the Clark County Ministerial Association.

For decades, Rabbi Mintz has provided opportunities for religious education to Jews of all ages, and I am pleased to stand today in celebration of the 10 years she has devoted to Congregation P'nai Tikvah in Las Vegas. I congratulate Rabbi Mintz and Congregation P'nai Tikvah on this important anniversary.

LEGISLATION PROTECTING VICTIMS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on the floor yesterday, the majority leader claimed that last Congress, Senate Democrats "failed to bring any trafficking legislation to the floor."

I do not normally do this, but I must correct the record. The facts are exactly the opposite, and the Senate's history must be clear on this.

Last Congress, despite the opposition of the majority of Senate Republicans, including Senators MCCONNELL and CORNYN, Senate Democrats reauthorized our Nation's two cornerstone pieces of legislation that protect victims of sexual violence and human trafficking—the Violence Against Women Act, VAWA, and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, TVPA. Combined, these two bills reauthorized nearly \$1 billion a year in funding for survivors of these horrible crimes. As we updated and modernized these landmark laws, we listened to the survivors and the advocates who work with them every day to make sure that our legislation responded to the real needs of real people. We were not looking for gimmicks or shortcuts. Instead, we dedicated hours of time learning about what was working and what needed to be improved in order to best meet the needs of survivors.

The end result was two bills that did more to prevent sexual assault and human trafficking and to reach more victims than ever before. Because of our comprehensive and inclusive approach, these bills had the strong and vocal support of more than 1,400 local, State and national organizations.

In addition to the successful reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act last Congress, I later moved a comprehensive package of legislation to address the issue of human trafficking here in the United States, which included critical support programs directed at runaway and homeless youth to prevent trafficking in the first place. Last year that package, which included the Justice for Vic-

tims of Trafficking Act, as well as the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act, the Bringing Missing Children Home Act, and the Combat Human Trafficking Act, was reported out of the Judiciary Committee, which I chaired. I then sought the unanimous consent of the Senate to pass that bipartisan package, and every single Democratic Senator agreed. But Republicans blocked it. They objected to it. Senator MCCONNELL failed to mention any of this yesterday.

So if such assertions are going to be loosely made on this floor, let the record be clear about who, in fact, stood in the way of protections for trafficking victims last year. Look to see which Members voted against the reauthorizations of the Violence Against Women Act and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act. Those two laws were passed with the votes of every Senate Democrat. And last year, it was Republicans who obstructed passage of the subsequent comprehensive domestic antitrafficking package, supported by every Democrat, that included critical trafficking prevention legislation. On top of all that, under Democratic leadership of the Senate Appropriations Committee, total appropriations for trafficking victims' services more than doubled in fiscal year 2015, rising from \$28.1 million to \$58 million.

When we look at the facts, it is simply outrageous and laughable to suggest Senate Democrats did not support antitrafficking efforts last Congress. These facts matter and I cannot allow revisionist history to muddy the accomplishments we and so many advocates fought for in the last Congress.

Regrettably, the newly empowered Senate Republicans have not continued the same survivor-led approach we took in the last Congress to pass VAWA and the TVPA. Instead they sought to use a new antitrafficking bill, the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, JVTA, to expand the reach of the Hyde amendment and its restrictions on health care for these women who are survivors of trafficking crimes. In doing so, the same Senators who voted against VAWA and TVPA in the last Congress inserted unnecessary and destructive politics into what was otherwise a bipartisan antitrafficking bill. The result was to needlessly tie the Senate in knots for weeks over this legislation. More importantly, Senate Republicans' effort to expand the Hyde amendment undermined what should be the very goal of antitrafficking legislation—to help return dignity and self-determination to the lives of survivors of human trafficking. That was certainly the goal of our successful effort to expand the scope of VAWA and TVPA to reach all victims.

It is also the goal behind the Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act that I reintroduced with Senator COLLINS this Congress. This bill, which was a critical

part of the debate last Congress and should remain a critical part of the debate in this Congress, aims to prevent young people from becoming victims of trafficking in the first place. We know runaway and homeless children are exceptionally vulnerable to human traffickers. These children literally have nowhere to go. And traffickers prey on this vulnerability. That is why Senator COLLINS and I fought so hard to add this legislation to the JVTA. The runaway and homeless youth programs supported by our bill keep kids safe, save lives, and prevent human trafficking in the first place.

I was very disappointed when our amendment failed to pass by just four votes. What was most disheartening was that the principal objection was the inclusion of an important non-discrimination provision to ensure that no child, including those who identify as LGBT, faces discrimination by service providers. But I am not giving up. I will keep fighting to see this legislation passed because it is so important. As the Polaris Project, a leading antitrafficking advocacy organization, recently told the New York Times:

Successful efforts to combat modern slavery must address the root causes that make people vulnerable in the first place . . . Until critical funding is reauthorized through the Runaway and Homeless Youth [and] Trafficking Prevention Act to support critical services, such as shelter beds for homeless kids, this population will face increased risk.

Senator MCCONNELL and I may differ in our opinions, but I think it is important to get it right when it comes to facts. To say that Senate Democrats failed to move antitrafficking legislation last Congress rewrites history and does a tremendous disservice to all of those victims and advocates who so recently dedicated years of their lives to the successful reauthorization of the Violence Against Women Act and the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, and to crafting a bipartisan package of antitrafficking legislation that was ultimately blocked by Senate Republicans.

RECOGNIZING THE J. WARREN AND LOIS MCCLURE FOUNDATION ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am honored to recognize the J. Warren and Lois McClure Foundation on the celebration of its 20th anniversary. For two decades, the selfless philanthropy of the McClure family has allowed scores of deserving Vermonters to pursue financial stability and academic success.

Established in 1995, the foundation was built upon Lois and her late husband Mac's concept of "giving with warm hands." Inspired by the idea of collaborative philanthropy, the McClures set out to give with the hope it would encourage benevolence among future generations.

For 20 years, the foundation has collaborated with private and public partners to support low-income and first-