

of the 2016 Presidential election. Sadly, the improper disclosure of sensitive materials related to Secretary Clinton's aides only demonstrates the underlying political position of the Judiciary Committee's oversight. Going forward, I hope my Republican colleagues will exercise greater restraint in the relentless pursuit of Secretary Clinton, but, more importantly, I hope Senate Republicans take their constitutional responsibility more seriously to offer their advice and consent on the Presidential nominees. I hope they take them very seriously. It is shameful that the Republicans are blocking critical, national security nominees for political purposes. I would ask them to please change course because the American people are watching.

ROSA PARKS AND MONTGOMERY BUS BOYCOTT ANNIVERSARY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, 60 years ago today Rosa Parks boarded a city bus in Montgomery, AL. She had worked hard all day. She was riding a bus. She was asked to give up her seat by the busdriver, who was a White man. She was sick of having to give up her seat and she was tired, but she refused to give up her seat, so she was arrested.

On that day at that moment of courage, Rosa Parks sparked a movement that would end the legal segregation of public transportation, the Montgomery Bus Boycott. That boycott lasted from December 5, 1955, to December 20, 1956—almost 1 year, becoming the first large-scale demonstration against segregation in our country's history. The Supreme Court ultimately ordered Montgomery to integrate its public bus transportation system.

Rosa Parks went on to become a pillar of the civil rights movement, a lifelong freedom fighter who changed the course of history.

In 2013, a bronze statue of Ms. Parks was unveiled in Statuary Hall in the Capitol. In the decades since Rosa Parks refused to give up her seat on that bus, our Nation has made tremendous progress in the defense of civil rights for all Americans, but we have much more to do. Today, 60 years after Rosa Parks took a stand for equality, the fight for equal justice rages on. Just like Rosa Parks, many Americans across this country are very upset with the status quo, and they are taking a stand against injustice and discrimination.

As we remember the valiant actions of Rosa Parks, may we be inspired by her character and her determination. May we follow her example and continue the work of the civil rights movement.

Mr. President, what do we have the rest of the day?

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Georgia.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS G. COUSINS

Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, last Thursday was Thanksgiving in America. Like every Member of the Senate and every American, I paused to give thanks for the many blessings we have in the country, the blessings I have as a father and grandfather, and the blessings we enjoy from all those who serve in harm's way around the world who keep us safe and in peace.

I also took a second to participate in some charitable activities for those less fortunate and, in doing so, stopped to pause and give thanks for those people who on the day of Thanksgiving were giving of their time and their money to make the lives of those less fortunate better.

One of the people in my State I want to talk about who has done exactly that for five decades is a man by the name of Thomas G. Cousins, a real estate developer greatly renowned in Atlanta and, really, around the world, and who amassed millions and millions of dollars in the Cousins Foundation and invested that money in trying to solve the problems of poverty, crime, unemployment, and health care.

Thomas G. Cousins founded the Cousins Foundation to see to it that Atlanta, GA, and the State of Georgia were a better State. But he became frustrated. He recognized that of the 72 million children in the United States of America, 40 percent of them lived in poverty. He became frustrated because he found that isolated neighborhoods of concentrated poverty created unemployment, poor performance by students, and greater crime rates in the city of Atlanta. Worst of all, he found that the entrepreneurial gifts of charity trying to alleviate these problems often got consumed but never made a fundamental change. He thought it was time for his charitable money to become entrepreneurial, not just a giveaway. So in the decade of 1990, Tom Cousins decided to do something about making the Cousins Foundation investment make a meaningful difference in the lives of Americans around the country. He did exactly that.

He heard Dr. Todd Clear, a professor at Rutgers University, give a speech in New York City, where he had done research on the prison population of the State of New York and researched where they came from to find, amazingly, that three out of every four prisoners in the New York State prison system came out of eight neighborhoods in New York City. Concentrated poverty created concentrated crime and concentrated criminals. There was

a never-ending cycle of crime, poverty, and poor educational performance in those neighborhoods.

So Tom Cousins decided that, instead of giving his money away in small, incremental bits to make a minor difference, he would become a charitable entrepreneur. He would go to a neighborhood of concentrated crime and poverty and try to make a meaningful difference. He found a neighborhood called East Lake Meadows in the 1990s in Atlanta, GA. It was the home of Bobby Jones and Charlie Yates, famous golfers of the 1920s, but had gone to seed, was dilapidated, and became a neighborhood of crime. In fact, it had become known as the Little Vietnam of Georgia. Police would not enter the area because of the crime rate. Drew Elementary School was the worst performing elementary school in the State of Georgia.

Tom Cousins came to the State board of education—and I know this because I was the chairman—and asked us to go to the city of Atlanta to get them to issue a charter for Drew Elementary School and a 99-year lease to the Cousins Foundation. Tom Cousins went in and built a new Drew Elementary School, hired Georgia State University to bring in a professor to be the principal there and manage the education of those children. Drew Elementary School went from being one of the worst performing schools in the State of Georgia to one of the best.

But he didn't stop with the school. He improved the neighborhood. He improved the facilities. He built a YMCA. He took a holistic approach to East Lake Meadows and turned it into a shining city once again in the State of Georgia. But he didn't do it just because he gave money. He did it because he invested his money in the lives of these people.

I will give some idea of the changes made in East Lake Meadows and Drew Elementary School. Drew Elementary went from 5 percent of its fifth graders reading and performing in math levels where they should, to where 90 percent of the fifth graders exceeded the math standards of the State of Georgia. Where the median income of the families in East Lake Meadows was \$4,536 when Tom Cousins went in, 15 years later it was \$17,260. There was a 90-percent reduction in the crime rate, to the point where it was 50 percent lower than the city's overall crime rate. He transformed the neighborhood because he invested his money entrepreneurially in trying to solve the problems and the poverty of these people.

He went to Warren Buffett, a leading entrepreneur of America, and formed a new organization called Purpose Built Communities, which is based on three fundamental discoveries they made at East Lake Meadows. No. 1, it can be done. How many times have people walked by declining neighborhoods of poverty, crime, and failing schools, and said: There is nothing we can do; we

cannot solve that problem. Tom Cousins proved that any problem, no matter how great, is solvable if you are willing to dedicate yourself to doing so.

Second, it takes a holistic approach—not just schools, not just playgrounds, not just housing, not just jobs but everything. The transformation of East Lake Meadows was a holistic approach for the entire community. Lastly, mixed-income housing was important to bring employed people back into the neighborhood. So they had mixed-use housing all throughout East Lake Meadows.

The result was a purpose-built community that is now home to the PGA FedEx Championship, a restored East Lake Golf Club, and a community that is proud of itself and one of the shining stars of the city of Atlanta.

Because a man with purpose, Thomas G. Cousins, invested his money, public purpose-built communities are now all over the country being started as renovation projects in Indianapolis, New Orleans, and in cities around the United States of America.

So we should all pause to give thanks for those who have done so much to make our States and our country better. I pause to thank Thomas G. Cousins for the great investment he made in the city of Atlanta, the children of our State, and the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 20 minutes.

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

OBAMACARE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this week the Republican-led Senate will keep a promise we made to the American people. If they entrusted us with the leadership and the majority in the last election, we told them we would vote to repeal ObamaCare—the largest Federal overreach in recent history. It has been disastrous to thousands, if not millions, of people.

Unfortunately, the President's ill-advised health care law and the partisan push that made it law came with a lot of burdensome regulations. Both the law and those regulations have hobbled the American economy because they simply added additional burdens onto the small businesses that we depend upon to create the jobs so people can find work and provide for their families. It has hobbled those small businesses by burdening them with unmanageable costs, and it has failed the American people at every turn.

When the President said “If you like what you have you can keep it,” that was not true. Millions of Americans lost their preferred health insurance providers and the doctors who accepted that coverage. Instead of providing people with more affordable access to health care, millions of people faced higher premiums and higher deductibles. For all practical matters, the higher deductibles that come along with most ObamaCare health care policies make millions of Americans effectively self-insured.

More than 5 years after it became law, it is no surprise that a recent poll found that only 37 percent of the respondents approved of ObamaCare. ObamaCare is a textbook example of how bigger government does not necessarily lead to more choices or real solutions. Indeed, what it demonstrates is that it can lead to higher costs, inefficient health care delivery, and millions of Americans being let down by a system that was a partisan vote here in the Senate.

I remember being here on Christmas Eve in 2009 at 7 o'clock in the morning when Senate Democrats pushed through the ObamaCare legislation in the Senate. Again, without any sort of bipartisan commitment to actually improve health care choices and make health care more affordable for the American people, it was purely a partisan undertaking.

This bill that we are voting on to repeal ObamaCare will not only provide relief and more choices and the opportunity for the market to give people the health care they want at a price they can afford, but it also represents keeping a promise we made to the American people that we would deliver on if they gave us the majority. We will do that this week.

HUMANE ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, there is another subject I want to raise because it is a matter of great concern. It is not only because I come from Texas and we see thousands and thousands of unaccompanied minor children continuing to cross our border, but you will recall in the summer of 2014, I believe the President himself talked about the humanitarian crisis as a result of the thousands and thousands of unaccompanied children—some with a single parent—who were streaming across the border in an overload of the capacity of local communities in the Rio Grande Valley and elsewhere to be able to deal with these children in a humane and acceptable sort of way.

While the memory here in Washington, DC, may have faded about this humanitarian crisis, I can tell you that most Texans remember it vividly. The picture was stark: tens of thousands of unaccompanied children coming from Central American countries that had set out to cross Mexico and to cross the border into the United States. Virtually all of these children had seen

their lives placed in the hands of violent criminals to get here. To say the journey was a perilous one is a gross understatement.

We recently had a hearing of the international drug enforcement caucus in the Senate. I asked one of the witnesses: Isn't it the case that the same criminal organizations that smuggle people into the United States for economic reasons are the same people who smuggle children for human trafficking purposes, that these are the same people and the same organizations that smuggle illegal drugs and perhaps dangerous and other hazardous materials into the United States? Without hesitation, the witness said yes.

It may have been some bygone era when an individual coyote, as we call them in South Texas, smuggled people in for the fee they could charge, but now this is big business. This is a business model that is being exploited day in and day out by the transnational criminal organizations, but that all seems to be lost on the administration.

I saw how this tragedy was unfolding firsthand in McAllen where I visited these children who made the journey—sometimes alone—only to end up here in this country by themselves, looking for a friendly face or somebody who might help them. It was heartbreaking to see young children without their parents and extremely heartbreaking to hear the horrific stories about the trips they made. Again, coming from Central America, across Mexico, perhaps on the back of a train they called The Beast, physically assaulted, some murdered and many robbed and otherwise mistreated.

The pressing question in that summer of 2014 was, Why now and why here? Why was all of this happening? How could we stem the tide of this seemingly endless migration of unaccompanied children from Central America?

You don't have to look much further than the President's own Department of Homeland Security. One internal memo analyzing the surge of child and female migrants flooding the southwest border stated: “The main reason the subjects chose this particular time to migrate to the United States was to take advantage of the ‘new’ U.S. ‘Law’ that grants a ‘free pass’ or permit.” I think they call them *permisos* in Spanish. In other words, they came here because of the widespread perception that these unaccompanied children and women traveling with children would be allowed to stay here in defiance of our immigration laws, even after they crossed the border illegally.

A similar study by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Science and Technology Directorate concluded that the unaccompanied minors “are aware of the relative lack of consequences they will receive when apprehended at the U.S. border.” Apparently, at the time, these minors and their parents believed there would be no or little consequence to illegally