

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The majority leader is recognized.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I object. Reserving the right to object, I would say to the majority leader that we are about to enter a topic where people have strong opinions, and they should be able to speak what amount they desire and not be limited to 10 minutes.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I am not sure what the question of the Senator from Oregon is related to. I was simply going to commend the Senator from Louisiana for presiding over the Chamber for 100 hours—not a terribly controversial thing, I don't think.

Mr. MERKLEY. And I certainly don't object to the Senator doing that. But as we go into morning business, there is no need to put a 10-minute limit to accomplish that.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOLDEN GAVEL AWARD

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I would like to say a word to Senators about our colleague currently in the chair. He has just passed an important milestone. He has now presided over the Senate for 100 hours. We all know what that means. He will be receiving the Golden Gavel, and I look forward to presenting it to him tomorrow.

Presiding over the Senate may not seem the most glamorous job around here to some people, but it is an important one. You learn a lot about procedure, you learn a lot about your colleagues, and because the use of electronic devices is prohibited, you rediscover the lost art of communicating with a pen and a piece of paper. I think

we could all stand to benefit from that kind of practice.

Today's Golden Gavel recipient often dashes off notes for pages to bring to his staff while in the chair, and because today's Golden Gavel recipient is a doctor, it also takes his staff about 3 hours to decipher each of the notes he writes.

Here is the bottom line for our friend from Louisiana. Being in the chair reminds him of all the history in this Chamber. It brings to mind the many important decisions that have been made here over the years, and it gives him perspective.

"Every now and then," Senator CASIDY says, he likes to just "soak up the moment." I hope he will take the opportunity to do so now. He is the first Member of the class of 2014 to earn the Golden Gavel distinction, and all of our colleagues are pleased to acknowledge this accomplishment.

NATIONAL SEA GRANT COLLEGE PROGRAM AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2015

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask the Chair to lay before the body the message to accompany S. 764.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 764) entitled "An Act to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes," do pass with an amendment.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 3450

Mr. McCONNELL. I move to concur in the House amendment to S. 764 with a further amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] moves to concur in the House amendment to S. 764 with an amendment numbered 3450.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk on the motion to concur.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment with an amendment to S. 764, a bill to reauthorize and amend the National Sea Grant College Program Act, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Rounds, John Barrasso, Deb Fischer, Tom Cotton,

Roger F. Wicker, Mike Crapo, Johnny Isakson, John Cornyn, Pat Roberts, Orrin G. Hatch, Richard Burr, James M. Inhofe, Jeff Flake, Tim Scott, Cory Gardner, Shelley Moore Capito.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

MOTION TO REFER

Mr. McCONNELL. I move to refer the House message on S. 764 to the Committee on Commerce.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] moves to refer the bill, S. 764, to the Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to pay tribute to Sarah Root, a young woman from Iowa who had a very bright future but was taken from this Earth too soon.

Sarah was 21 years old and just graduated from Bellevue University with perfect grades. In the words of her family, "She was full of life and ready to take on the world."

According to a close friend of hers, Sarah was smart, outgoing, and dedicated to her friends and family. She embodied the words that were tattooed on her body: "Live, laugh and love."

The day Sarah graduated, she was struck by a drunk driver. That driver was in the country illegally. The alleged drunk driver was Edwin Mejia, and he had a blood alcohol content of .241, three times the legal limit. The driver was charged with felony motor vehicle homicide and operating a vehicle while intoxicated on February 3. Bail was set at \$50,000, but he was only required to put up 10 percent. So for a mere \$5,000, the drunk driver walked out of jail and into the shadows. As Sarah's father said, after laying his daughter to rest, "The cost of a bond cost less than the funeral."

Those are painful words to hear, but what is more frustrating is that the driver should have never been released. When local law enforcement apparently asked the Federal Government—specifically U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—to take custody of the person, the Federal Government declined. ICE refused to place a detainer on the driver. An ICE spokesman stated that the agency did not lodge a detainer on the man because

his arrest for felony motor vehicle homicide “did not meet ICE’s enforcement priorities.”

Now the Root family must face the consequences of the Federal Government’s inaction while grappling with their daughter’s death. It is difficult for the family to have closure since the man is nowhere to be found. It is unknown if he is still in the United States or if he has fled to his home country of Honduras, but this is not an isolated incident. It is business as usual in the Obama administration. Because of the administration’s policies and carelessness, Sarah Root became another victim. Once again, this case shows that there is a colossal and systematic breakdown of immigration enforcement thanks to the Obama administration’s flawed policies and lack of commitment to the rule of law.

Unfortunately, a talented young lady whose life was cut short, who didn’t have an opportunity to take on the world, is a story all too common. Under President Obama’s Priority Enforcement Program, a person in the country illegally will only be detained or removed in a few limited circumstances. Some say that nearly 90,000 undocumented immigrants were released in 2015 thanks to this policy.

Secretary Jeh Johnson has claimed that only those who have laid down roots and do not have serious crimes would not be subject to removal. Yet their words don’t match up with their actions. Local law enforcement, such as those in Omaha, NE, have asked the Federal Government to take custody of certain individuals, but the agency in charge refuses. It hides behind their so-called priorities.

The President has a constitutional duty to “take care that the laws be faithfully executed.” The Constitution does not say the President shall make a list of which criminals would be punished or removed and which criminals may go about their lives. The Obama administration may not agree with the laws that Congress passes, but that has no bearing on its responsibility to make sure the laws are faithfully carried out.

The administration claims it is well within its constitutional duties under the doctrine of prosecutorial discretion. However, this administration’s approach of announcing its priorities and only enforcing the laws on individuals who fall under its priorities is both unusual and obviously an abuse of prosecutorial discretion.

This is unusual to prosecutorial discretion because prosecutors do not usually announce their priorities or when they will exercise prosecutorial discretion. A liberal law professor and immigration attorney, Peter Margulies, explained that prosecutors strive “to keep prospective lawbreakers in the dark.” He explains that if prosecutors’ discretion priorities are not kept secret, they “would effectively license the wrongdoing.”

He then went on to give an example in the case of a burglary. He said:

When an admitted burglar is youthful and the burglar’s “take” is relatively modest, judges may not wish to sentence an offender to prison, and may look with favor on a plea bargain that reflects this sentiment. However, it would be difficult to imagine prosecutors soliciting applications from known burglars for a “burglar’s holiday” that would guarantee a specific period of immunity.

In other words, it is as ridiculous to let people contemplating illegally migrating to the United States know they will get a pass under certain conditions as it would be to let people contemplating burglary know they would be let off the hook if they met certain qualifiers.

Consider the drunk driver who killed Sarah Root. What message does this send to people who make a conscious decision to get behind the wheel after drinking? What this case says is that drunk driving—unless convicted—is not a serious enough offense to force removal proceedings. This is moral hazard. Hence, this administration’s Priority Enforcement Program is creating a moral hazard and given license to illegal activities.

Sarah Root is one of many victims in the past few weeks who died at the hands of undocumented immigrants. In Louisville, KY, Chelsea Hogue was put into a coma when Jose Aguilar, an undocumented person, hit her while driving under the influence of alcohol. ICE issued a detainer and did not take custody of Aguilar but released him a day later, again because he had “no prior significant misdemeanor or felony conviction.”

Then there is Esmid Pedraza, who had been transferred to ICE in August of 2013 after serving time for driving under the influence. However, he was let go on bond because of limited detention space. This is what ICE said at that particular time:

Due to limited availability of detention space, ICE prioritizes the use of its immigration detention beds for convicted felons, known gang members, and other individuals whose conviction records indicate they pose a likely threat to public safety.

This is ironic, given that the administration has failed to live up to the mandated detention bed limit that Congress sets every year.

Just a little over 2 years after his drunk driving offense, Pedraza was charged with the murder of his girlfriend Stacey Aguilar. Then on March 8, an individual illegally present in the United States allegedly murdered five people in Kansas and Missouri. The suspect entered the country in 1993, committed a series of crimes, and was removed from the United States in 2004. He attempted to illegally enter again the same month but was given “voluntary return.” However, he returned at some point and continued his criminal ways. The suspect had been arrested and charged with numerous crimes, including communicating a threat with intent to terrorize; battery of a spouse; several driving without a license offenses; a subsequent felony conviction for com-

municating a threat with intent to terrorize, reportedly based on his threat to kill his wife with a rifle, for which he was sentenced to incarceration for 2 years; two arrests for driving under the influence, which produced one conviction; and a conviction for domestic battery.

On at least two occasions, ICE was notified of the suspect but, for various reasons, did not take custody of that person. That was a major failure between the Feds and local law enforcement.

People are illegally entering the country, being removed, entering again, and committing more crimes. Illegal reentries are happening because there are no consequences. That is what happened in Kate Steinle’s death, and that is why we need to move to what is called Kate’s Law. That bill would deter people from illegally reentering by enhancing penalties and establishing new mandatory minimum sentences for certain individuals with previous felony convictions.

The Obama administration cannot continue to turn a blind eye to sanctuary communities and ignore those who have broken our laws by illegally crossing the border time and again.

How many more people have to die? How many more women—like Kate Steinle, Sarah Root, Chelsea Hogue, and Stacey Aguilar—are going to be taken from their families and friends? The parents of these young women are grieving today, yet their stories fall on deaf ears at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Things have to change. The President must rethink his policies and must find a way to ensure that criminal immigrants are taken off the streets. The Obama administration should try enforcing the law, instead of its priorities, for the sake of the American people.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LANKFORD). The Senator from New Jersey.

(The remarks of Mr. MENENDEZ pertaining to the introduction of S. 2675 are printed in today’s RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

Mr. MENENDEZ. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, my colleague has brought to our attention a very crucial issue. We need to be there for each other. That is what makes America great—when we are there for each other.

(The remarks of Mrs. BOXER pertaining to the introduction of S. 2674 are printed in today’s RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

Mrs. BOXER. I yield the floor.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO KIM DINE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the extraordinary work of United States Capitol Police Chief Kim C. Dine, who served with distinction for more than 3 years with the department.

Chief Dine, who has over 40 years of distinguished service in the field of law enforcement, was sworn in as the eighth chief of police of the United States Capitol Police in December 2012. As chief, he commanded a force of nearly 2,000 sworn and civilian personnel who provide comprehensive law enforcement, security, and protective operations services for the U.S. Congress, its staff, and more than 11 million annual visitors. Chief Dine also served as an ex-officio member of the Capitol Police Board.

Chief Dine's outstanding dedication to duty shined during a tenure that included a Presidential inauguration, the historic visit of Pope Francis, hundreds of protests, and four State of the Union addresses, as well as overseeing the department's strategic plan update. Chief Dine also oversaw other important events such as the 2013 Ricin incident, Memorial Day and July Fourth concerts, the annual National Peace Officers Memorial Service, the implementation of a new radio system, and the tragic line-of-duty death of Sergeant Clinton Holtz.

Chief Dine's outstanding policing career began in 1975 at the Metropolitan Police Department, MPD, in Washington, DC, where he spent 27 years, rising through the ranks to an appointment as an assistant chief of police. During his MPD career, Chief Dine worked in many diverse neighborhoods across Washington, DC, as well as serving in a broad range of organizational assignments throughout the agency, gaining expertise in critical aspects of policing and crime reduction strategies. His accomplishments included building community coalitions, honing community policing strategies, developing juvenile crime prevention programs, and initiating use of force training and internal investigations.

During his tenure as MPD's First District commander—an area encompassing Capitol Hill and downtown Washington, DC—homicides declined by 60 percent and community policing flourished. His last assignment as assistant chief included command over internal affairs, force investigation teams, the disciplinary review division, the Office of Equal Employment Opportunity, and management of the memorandum of agreement between MPD and the U.S. Department of Justice to institute agencywide reforms.

In July 2002, Dine became the chief of police of the Frederick Police Depart-

ment, FPD, in Maryland, where he served as chief of police for over 10 years. During his tenure, he and the women and men of the FPD focused on strengthening the relationship between the police and the community, building a new strategy of community policing and intelligence-led policing, improving training, producing the agency's first ever strategic plan, acquiring national law enforcement accreditation, achieving flagship status, and aggressively using technology.

By outreach; marshaling and maximization of resources; acquisition and intelligent use of technology; extensive crime analysis; and aggressive acquisition of grants, FPD was able to combat crime more effectively, build bridges with Frederick's minority communities and deaf community, and make major strides in working with the mental health community through effective partnerships to improve services and minimize use of force issues. Through implementation of cohesive and multifaceted approaches, these efforts resulted in a 10-year record of crime reduction, value-added problem solving, enhanced trust, and communication with all constituents that made meaningful strides in maintaining the high quality of life and pride in Frederick—Maryland's second largest city.

Chief Dine holds a bachelor of arts from Washington College in Chestertown, MD, and a master of science from American University in Washington, DC. Chief Dine's graduate study at American University included study abroad at the University of London Imperial College of Science and Technology Institute on Drugs, Crimes, and Justice in England. Chief Dine is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and a member of a number of organizations, including the Police Executive Research Forum, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association. He is married to a former NASA scientist and is the proud father of two daughters.

Congratulations on your retirement from public service, and we wish you the very best in your future.

EFFORTS TO FIGHT HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND OPIOID ADDICTION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I was disturbed to hear Senator McCONNELL's remarks on the floor last week questioning my commitment to supporting survivors of human trafficking. I think anyone who follows our efforts to stop this terrible crime knows the ridiculousness of that claim. I was particularly surprised to hear it coming from Senator McCONNELL who, along with Senator GRASSLEY and other Republicans, voted against reauthorizing the Trafficking Victims Protection Act and the Violence Against Women Act—two watershed laws that changed the way this country approaches human trafficking and other violence against women.

I am deeply committed to supporting victims of crime and have been for my entire career. I started out as a prosecutor, and I have never forgotten the terrible crime scenes I saw. Those images serve as a constant reminder of how important it is to do all we can to support survivors and their families. And those efforts must include a commitment to providing real money—not just lip service—to support survivors as they rebuild their lives.

That is why last Congress, as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I led the effort to reauthorize the landmark Trafficking Victims Protection Act. That historic, bipartisan legislation—and the funds it authorized—signaled our country's commitment to ending all forms of human trafficking, both here at home and around the world. I also led the effort to pass the historic Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Act, which included vital updates to help women on college campuses, tribal lands, immigrants, and new protections for those in the LGBT community to ensure that every victim in need gets the lifesaving services they deserve. These impactful laws were enacted 3 years ago, and they are making a real difference in peoples' lives. Senator McCONNELL may have forgotten about what we did in 2013 to greatly expand protections for victims of violence, but I have not. I will continue fighting for our most vulnerable populations and work across the aisle to make real progress.

I was glad to see the Senate return its attention to the issue of human trafficking this Congress with the Justice for Victims of Trafficking Act, which I supported. However, the Senate should have also passed my bipartisan Runaway and Homeless Youth and Trafficking Prevention Act, critical legislation to prevent trafficking in the first place. That bill would authorize funding to provide shelter and services for some of our most vulnerable kids, kids who are literally walking prey for traffickers. Unfortunately, Senators McCONNELL and GRASSLEY opposed that effort. Republicans cannot pretend to stand up for the rights of trafficking victims while leaving these children behind. They had a chance to help and they said no. That is not leadership.

Senator McCONNELL also suggested that I had somehow ignored the opioid epidemic gripping our Nation and my State of Vermont and let the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act “languish” in the Judiciary Committee. Again, anyone who knows my record is aware of how focused I am on helping ensure that communities are getting the resources they need to respond to this devastating problem. I have been holding Senate Judiciary Committee field hearings on heroin and opioid addiction since 2008. Long before the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, CARA, was introduced, I worked to deliver funding—real dollars—for antiheroin task forces