

constituents' views. It provides for more open debate and deliberation. It offers a path to reaching a kind of product both sides can support. Empowering Members to make more judicious decisions about how taxpayer dollars are spent is something we should all want. So we know the appropriations process is important.

I urge my colleagues to work together to keep moving these appropriations bills as both sides have expressed interest in doing.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

DONALD TRUMP AND THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today the Republican Presidential nominee—it is hard for me to say these words—Donald Trump, comes to Capitol Hill. He secured the party's nomination. He did that last week. Donald Trump will meet privately today with Speaker RYAN and Republican Leader MCCONNELL. It is just the latest sign that Republican leaders in both Houses are marching lockstep with Donald Trump.

Senator MCCONNELL has fully embraced Donald Trump. He said last week when Trump secured the nomination: "I have committed to supporting the nominee chosen by Republican voters."

While speaking with reporters earlier this week, the Republican leader sounded enthusiastic about Trump's chances in the general election. I guess he should be giddy about a Trump Presidency. Donald Trump is everything the Republican leader and his party could ever want in a nomination.

Trump's policy decisions are identical to the Republican Party platform. Today, when they meet in an hour or two, Senator MCCONNELL can discuss that consensus with Trump.

Let's talk about the Supreme Court. Donald Trump and the Senator from Kentucky can talk about their obstruction—for the first time in the history of the country—to a Presidential Supreme Court nomination. It has never happened before. We have had some stalling and a couple of filibusters, but this is one where people didn't want to meet with him. A few of them have broken from that. They certainly don't want to have a hearing, and they don't want to vote.

It was Trump who said Republicans should "delay, delay, delay" filling the Supreme Court vacancy. Following Trump's lead, the Republican leader has personally overseen the blockade of Judge Garland's nomination, forcing Senators to fall in line.

Let's talk about Trump and women. When they get together they can talk about their policy about being anti-woman. Since Senator MCCONNELL has so enthusiastically embraced Trump,

we can only assume he agrees with Trump's view that women are dogs and pigs. We can only assume that the Republican leader is not repulsed by Donald Trump's vulgar behavior towards women. Look at the New York Times story yesterday with his cavorting with Howard Stern and how they talked about women.

After all, the Republican Party has spent years blocking every substantive bill for American women—equal pay for equal work. This Republican Senate has undermined women's health at every turn, trying to turn Planned Parenthood into a punching bag—even though millions and millions of American women have been helped by Planned Parenthood.

They will have an opportunity this morning to talk about the anti-Latino vote. They can discuss their anti-immigrant policies and their agenda. Since the Republican leader is all in for Donald Trump, we can only assume that he approves of Trump's calling immigrants rapists and murderers, and the DREAMers as being mules for drug dealing.

I assume they can have a long discussion about the wall—how high it should be, how they are going to get the Mexicans to pay for the wall—even though most people think the idea is insane.

Let's not forget Republicans have demagogued Latinos and immigrants for decades. They are doing it today.

The Republican leader voted against comprehensive immigration reform.

Under Senator MCCONNELL's leadership, Senate Republicans almost came within hours of shutting down the Department of Homeland Security because of President Obama's executive actions on immigration.

They can talk about their outlook on families. Donald Trump and the Republican leader can mention how little they have done for American families. Except now, in today's news, they are going to cut Medicaid and Medicare. I guess that is because he is getting lined up for the meeting with PAUL RYAN, because that is his No. 1 issue.

Since the Republican leader has firmly established himself in Donald Trump's corner, one can only assume he is OK with Trump's shady business practices. He doesn't mind that Donald Trump rips off hard-working Americans, filed bankruptcy many, many times, and has a university that is corrupt. And the trial will go forward during the election.

Sadly, a disregard for the middle class is an all-too-familiar position for today's Republicans. The Republican Party refuses to address the minimum wage, college affordability, or any other legislation that helps families.

Here is a doozy. They can spend a lot of time talking about climate change. Trump and the Republican leader can, in this private conversation, talk about denial of climate change. But 97 percent of all scientists worldwide believe it is here. It is upon us. Ask the senior Senator from Florida. He will tell you

it is here. Look at what is happening in Miami. You can talk to the Senators from Virginia, and they will tell you what is happening in military bases on the coast of Virginia.

Donald Trump's highest ranking supporter in Congress, Senator MCCONNELL, assumingly agrees with Trump that climate change is a hoax—here is what Trump said—perpetrated by Chinese manufacturers. That position fits with a Republican Party that refuses to acknowledge the environmental and national security threats posed by climate change. If elected, Trump and Senator MCCONNELL would lead the nation backward on a climate change denial agenda that would put polluters first and make the United States the laughingstock of the world.

More than 170 countries have agreed to address climate change because of U.S. leadership, but Trump and MCCONNELL have stated publicly that they will walk away from this.

Let's talk about what Republicans like to talk about—what is happening with the economy—keeping in mind that Bill Clinton balanced the budget. Keep in mind that when George Bush came to the Presidency, there was a \$7 trillion surplus over 10 years. With two wars unpaid for costing trillions of dollars and with tax cuts not being paid for, that surplus has long since gone.

So they can talk about that. They can talk about how Trump has said that he thinks America should default on its debt. Just get the people we owe money to take less money. That is what he said. He doesn't want to pay our national debt. It seems that, on that issue, there is little distance between him and the Republican leader.

Senator MCCONNELL has presided over a Republican caucus that has taken America to the brink of default on a number of occasions, not the least of which is shutting down the government—this great government—shutting it down for 17 days—closed, out of business.

So Donald Trump and the Republican leadership should have a long, long conversation. They have a lot to talk about. At some point in the conversation, Donald Trump should thank the senior Senator from Kentucky. Trump owes his candidacy to the Republican leader and the policies he has led. It was the obstructionist, anti-woman, anti-Latino, anti-Muslim, anti-middle-class, anti-environment, anti-Obama, anti-everything Republican Party during the last 8 years that has made Donald Trump a reality.

I note that no one is on the floor. Will the Chair announce what the Senate is going to do this morning.

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 for 1 hour, equally divided, with Senators permitted to speak therein.

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

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the time of the Republicans and the Democrats be preserved. No one is here, but we should preserve that time.

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

Mr. REID. I think the order already is that the time will be equally divided. If that is not the case, I ask that that be the case.

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

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

COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY BILL

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, on March 10, this body, the U.S. Senate, passed legislation to address what is a growing problem in all of our communities, and that is the heroin and prescription drug epidemic.

On March 10, this body voted for a comprehensive bill called CARA, the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. It deals with prevention, treatment, and recovery, helping our law enforcement, getting prescription drugs off the shelves of our bathrooms so they are not being used to get people into this addiction, and helping to stop the overprescribing with a drug monitoring program. This was a comprehensive approach intended to help our communities deal with this growing problem. The No. 1 cause of death now in my home State of Ohio is not car accidents anymore, it is overdoses. It is overdoses from prescription drugs and heroin.

Since March 10, I have come to the floor four times—this is now the fifth time—every week we have been in session since then, to urge the House to act quickly on CARA, because with a 94-to-1 vote, with that kind of consensus built around this place, which is

highly unusual, it shows that this is a problem in all of our communities and all of our States. We spent 3 years putting together the legislation. We worked with experts from all around the country. We sought out best practices. This is not just a matter of throwing more money at a problem, this is a matter of taking the resources in Washington, spending them more wisely and targeting them toward what we know works—toward evidence-based programs, prevention, treatment, and recovery that has actually shown promise to be able to begin to turn the tide on this horrible epidemic.

The House has begun to act, and I am encouraged by that. Obviously, I wish they had taken up CARA right away and sent it to the President. I think it would have been already helping in our communities in significant ways.

During the time between when the Senate acted, March 10 to now, we have lost 7,400 Americans to drug overdoses. We lose a fellow citizen every 12 minutes on average, but the House is moving, and yesterday the House passed, legislation in the form of over a dozen different bills, smaller bills that will help with regard to this problem that I think are steps in the right direction.

Today they are planning to take up a more comprehensive bill, the CARA legislation, that has also been reported out of the Judiciary Committee—as it was in this body—and perhaps a couple other bills as well. I am told that vote is likely to occur today, and that is great. I am concerned the legislation that passed in the House still leaves some gaps, and those gaps are in some significant areas. I am hopeful some amendments will be adopted today to help fill some of those gaps so we can indeed have a comprehensive approach to this issue.

Sadly, this issue is not getting better; it is getting worse. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration just last week conducted their National Drug Prescription Take-Back Day, where you take drugs off the shelf and put them into a disposal unit to get rid of them so that your kid or grandkid or somebody visiting your home doesn't get these prescription drugs and misuse them. They had a record number of drugs turned in, 893,000 pounds of unwanted medicine; that is, 447 tons of prescription drugs that were not needed. I am grateful for those who participated in the take-back program. This is good news, to get these drugs off the shelves and be sure they are not being misused, but unfortunately that is just the tip of the iceberg, and it shows the severity of this problem.

We have continued to see communities throughout my State and throughout the country being torn apart by this issue and families who are being devastated. Last week, a man pled guilty to involuntary manslaughter in Columbus, OH, because his infant son had ingested fentanyl-laced heroin and died. Last week, we also saw the arrest of three people who

drove to Steubenville, OH, to buy heroin, and then while driving they used it in the car with a 4-year-old with them. This all happened in the last week. Last week, a 23-year-old pregnant woman and her unborn child were found dead of an apparent overdose in New Carlisle, OH. Yesterday, an Akron man pled guilty to selling heroin to his uncle who subsequently died of an overdose. In Cleveland, we have lost 148 people to drug overdoses in just the first quarter of this year. That is double—double—last year's rate in Cleveland, OH—one town in one State.

By the way, the plurality of these deaths is that a majority were from fentanyl—fentanyl often laced with heroin. Fentanyl is a synthetic heroin that is about 50 times more dangerous. It is a growing problem in my State of Ohio.

Unfortunately, these headlines are just the tip of the iceberg. We see this death toll rising, and it is tragic, but we also need to focus on the wounded, not just those who overdose but those who, because they have this addiction, have lost their job, cannot get their lives back together, are separated from their families. As one recovering addict told me: The drug was everything. I abandoned my kids, my wife.

These are also people who are ending up in our jail system. Prosecutors back home tell me the majority of the crime—one county prosecutor told me a couple of weeks ago, 80 percent is being committed because of this issue—so theft, stealing in order to pay for a habit, and ending up in the prison system. All of us are paying for that of course.

Everywhere I go in Ohio, people tell me about how this epidemic is affecting them. I had a townhall meeting the week before last, a tele-townhall with 25,000 people on a phone call. We do these once a month. A gentleman called in and he wanted to talk about the CARA legislation. He seemed to know a lot about it. He focused on the treatment part of it. His voice had a quiver.

So I asked him: Would you mind sharing? You are on the line with a lot of people, but would you mind sharing why you are so interested in this issue? Again, he was focused a lot on the treatment side, and there was silence on the line. I knew what he was going to say.

When he came to the point where he could speak, he said: I lost my daughter. Then he proceeded to tell the story. It was of a child who had started with prescription drugs, ended up with heroin, had committed some crimes—probably theft—ended up in and out of prison. She had finally come to the point where she was willing to face up to her addiction. She was ready to go into treatment to start long-term recovery. She had committed this to her parents. He said they took her to the treatment center. There was a 14-day wait. They pleaded: Can she get in someplace else? No; no room at the inn