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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, who inhabits eternity but dwells in contrite hearts, we magnify Your Name. Shine the light of Your love, joy, and peace into the hearts of our Senators today. May they make the commitment to stand for whatever is pure and true and just and good. Help them to labor for the rights of the weak and the oppressed, putting principle before partisanship and others before self. Lord, give them brave, true, and compassionate hearts as they strive to live for Your glory. Open their ears that they may hear Your voice calling them to high endeavors.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). The majority leader is recognized.

### ISIL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 7 months ago ISIL terrorists massacred 130 civilians across the city of Paris, 6 months ago ISIL supporters murdered more than a dozen Americans at a holiday party in San Bernardino, 3 months ago ISIL bombings killed and maimed indiscriminately in the heart of Eu-

rope, and then last month ISIL's spokesman issued a chilling declaration of war against the Western world. He called for attacks—specifically lone wolf attacks—throughout the month of Ramadan in Europe and the United States. He said:

Get prepared . . . to make it a month of calamity for the nonbelievers. [T]he smallest action you do in their heartland is better and more enduring to us than what you would do if you were with us here.

On Sunday, a terrorist claiming allegiance to ISIL took 49 American lives. The next day, an ISIL supporter in France murdered two people, including an off-duty police officer.

We hope to learn more about the Orlando terrorist attack and the depth of that particular terrorist's involvement with ISIL when Senators are briefed later today by the FBI Director and the Homeland Security Secretary. This much seems clear already: I do not believe this was some random act of violence. It seems clear this was a cold-blooded murder committed by a terrorist who picked his targets with deliberate malice, who pledged his allegiance to a group who stones gay men and tosses them from rooftops, enslaves women, and crucifies children.

ISIL is not the JV team; it is the personification of evil in our world. ISIL is not contained, nor can it be. The way to prevent more ISIL-inspired and ISIL-directed heartbreak is to defeat ISIL. This is why we have repeatedly demanded a serious plan from the President to defeat ISIL and have done what we can to fill the leadership vacuum he has left. This is why we worked to strengthen law enforcement, rebuild our military, and develop counterterrorism tools designed to save lives. The terrorist attack in Orlando underlines the critical importance of this work, and it presents each of us with a choice: Do we want to make the tough choices to actually solve the problem and defeat ISIL, or do we want to use the Senate floor to make a 30-second political ad?

As I said, the principle way to defeat ISIL-inspired or ISIL-directed attacks is to defeat ISIL inside Iraq and Syria. The President's containment strategy, which has relied primarily upon a ground proxy force of Syrian YPG Kurds, will not be sufficient to dislodge ISIL from its headquarters in Raqqa or clear and hold ground in Arab parts of Syria.

The next President must do much more, and there are steps we can take today to help him or her succeed in that effort. The sweeping Defense bill we passed yesterday represents a decisive step in the right direction. Not only will it help prepare our next Commander in Chief, it will help strengthen military readiness, better enable servicemembers to confront threats, and help keep the American people safer from an array of national security challenges. Passing that bill sent a strong signal to our men and women in uniform, it sent a strong signal to our allies, it sent a strong signal to our adversaries, but there is more we can and must do.

This week, through the appropriations process, we will continue to discuss ways we can shore up our efforts to fight terrorism. Several Republican colleagues have already offered ideas on how we can do so. Republicans have offered ideas to address the threat of lone wolf attacks like the one we saw in Orlando. Republicans have offered ideas to help connect the dots with respect to terrorists' communications. Republicans have offered ideas to help disrupt terrorists' plans. These are the kinds of things we have long advocated. They were important before the horrific events this weekend and are all the more important today.

By passing the underlying appropriations bill, we can provide the FBI with more of the support it needs to follow leads generated here within our borders. In the meantime, I encourage Senators to work with the very capable

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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bill managers who crafted this legislation, the senior Senators from Alabama and Maryland. If they have other effective ideas, talk to them and try to make the bill even stronger.

This much is clear: We can choose to respond to terrorist attacks after the damage is already done, or we can make it our goal to prevent them in the first place. I know my choice. I am going to keep doing what I can to prevent the pain and loss from terrorism. Our families and communities are counting on us. Our freedoms and rights as Americans are counting on it too. We must continue to do what is necessary to seek out terrorist threats at every level and protect the country we love.

#### COMPREHENSIVE ADDICTION AND RECOVERY BILL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, both the Senate and House took decisive action to combat the heroin and prescription opioid epidemic that has devastated so many of our communities. We are now working to take the next important step forward. The Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act we passed would expand education and prevention efforts, improve treatment programs, and enhance tools for law enforcement. This critical legislation can bring hope to those affected by this horrible epidemic and would not have been possible without the dedicated leadership of Members such as Senator GRASSLEY, Senator PORTMAN, and Senator AYOTTE. We are currently working toward an agreement that will allow us to go to conference with the House and work out the final legislation.

We have all seen the toll this heroin and prescription opioid crisis has taken on our home States. It is absolutely heartbreaking to see the continuing impact in Kentucky. Getting this done is important for our country. With continued cooperation from both sides, we will get a good bill to the President's desk very soon.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### TERRORISM AND OUR NATION'S GUN LAWS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, here is a frightening quote from an Al Qaeda spokesman urging would-be terrorists to buy weapons in the United States. This is exactly what he said:

America is absolutely awash with easily obtainable firearms. You can go down to a gun show at the local convention center and come away with a fully automatic assault rifle, without a background check, and most likely without having to show an identification card. So what are you waiting for?

This is an Al Qaeda blueprint for would-be lone wolf terrorists. They are telling them to buy guns because no-

body will stop them and then go and murder Americans. That statement should make every Member of Congress think long and hard about our Nation's gun laws.

Terrorist groups like ISIS and Al Qaeda are using America's gun laws against America. They are using these gun laws against Americans in every State. These murderers are calling on their radical followers to exploit loopholes in America's gun laws. Why? Because firearms are easier to obtain in America than making their homemade bombs. Republicans need to think about this very closely because, as Adam Lankford, an expert in criminal justice at the University of Alabama, told the Washington Post this week, "It is becoming increasingly apparent that mass shootings may be just as deadly as bombings. And the scary part is it's often much easier to pull off."

Republicans are in denial about the connection between terrorism and guns. In the aftermath of the mass murders with guns at the LGBT nightclub in Orlando, Republicans are saying that these attacks have nothing to do with guns.

The senior Senator from South Carolina said yesterday: "This is not a gun control issue." It is a gun control issue, and that is undeniable. There is no question about that—none.

Terrorist leaders are urging lone wolves to exploit our Nation's gun laws by telling them to buy assault weapons and then go out and murder Americans.

The Republicans have blocked every attempt we have tried to address the deficiencies in our Nation's gun laws. Last December, Republicans blocked legislation that would close the so-called terror loophole, which allows suspected terrorists to enter a gun store and legally buy firearms or explosives or both. Republicans also blocked legislation that would close the gun show loophole, which allows criminals and terrorists to purchase guns without any background check. Remember what Al Qaeda's spokesman said:

You can go down to a gun show at the local convention center and come away with a fully automatic assault rifle, without a background check. . . .

That is what he said. This terrorist was talking about the gun show loophole. He was specifically pointing to a flaw in our Nation's gun laws that allows convicted terrorists to slip through, and it is a big, wide hole to slip through. Yet the Republicans refuse to respond to this crisis. Why? Because the National Rifle Association and the Gun Owners of America told them not to allow us to address this flaw in the law. This flaw in the law is leading to Americans being murdered.

By blocking sensible gun safety, Republicans are playing into the terrorists' hands. Republicans' failure to legislate has added a new chapter in the ISIS playbook. As we have seen in Orlando and San Bernardino, deranged individuals are using the terrorist play-

book. When terrorist groups are urging lone wolves to buy assault rifles and murder Americans, keeping guns away from terrorists is one of the most important steps we can take to protect Americans.

How many more people must be murdered by terrorists wielding assault weapons before Republicans stop their obstruction? How many more? Perhaps 49 is enough. Hopefully we will find out this week with a vote here. How much longer will Republicans allow killers to manipulate our laws and continue their campaign of terror? How much longer will Republicans fail to protect the American people by allowing these gun loopholes to remain? Democrats are going to wait no longer. We are going to demand solutions to our Nation's gun law epidemic every chance we get.

On Monday, I stated that we would demand a vote on the terror loophole, and we are going to do that. This is our obligation. We must try at every opportunity to say to the Republicans: The American people, not the NRA and not the Gun Owners of America, should be their obligation. There is no excuse for allowing suspected terrorists to buy guns. Guns are the problem. It may not be the only problem, but it is a problem, and it is a big problem.

#### DACA PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Mr. President, today marks the fourth anniversary of President Obama's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program. Four years ago today, President Obama announced that young people—DREAMers—who do not present a risk to national security may become eligible for temporary protection from deportation. Since that day, over 730,000 DREAMers no longer live in fear of deportation. More than 12,000 of these young men and women are in Nevada, and they have been protected by this program. They are our newest college students, teachers, engineers, small business owners, and they have contributed enormously to our communities, making America better. Because of the President's program, the authorities can sensibly prioritize those who do present a threat to our safety and our country.

What a shame that Donald Trump and his Republican supporters in the Senate want to deport these kids who know no other country than the USA. In my morning briefing this morning, I heard that the House is going to do something really unique today. They have a measure not to allow these young men and women to serve in the United States military.

It doesn't matter what you do, you can't be mean enough using the Republicans' playbook. There have been efforts made, votes taken to rescind what the President did. There have been efforts made to make sure there is no money in the Immigration and Naturalization Service to expedite the processing of these young men and