

hear you. Republicans hear you. I promise you, we are going to act. Growing our economy is going to be our No. 1 priority next Congress.

There are a number of things we can do to get the economy healthy again. We can reform our Tax Code to reduce the burden on American families and businesses. Right now our Nation has the highest corporate tax rate in the developed world. More and more American companies are focusing their business operations overseas because the tax situation is so much better abroad.

That means American jobs are going overseas with them. We have lost our competitive edge in an increasingly global economy. Instead of pushing corporations out of our country, we should bring our Nation's corporate tax rate in line with those of other countries to keep more jobs here in the United States.

Another big thing we can do is repeal some of the burdensome government regulations that are weighing down businesses. While some government regulations are necessary, every administration has to remember that regulations have consequences. The more resources individuals and businesses spend complying with government regulations, the less they have available to focus on the growth and innovation that drive our economy and create new opportunities for American workers.

Over the past 8 years in particular, businesses have had to devote far too many resources to complying with government regulations. That has left them with few resources to dedicate to growing and creating jobs.

Another thing we need to do is address our national debt, which has nearly doubled over the past 8 years. That debt is a drag on our economy. It slows growth and reduces economic opportunity. It is time to get our government back on a budget.

Another way we can help lift the burden on American families is by repealing and replacing ObamaCare. The President's health care law is broken. The promise of lower premiums and affordable health care has given way to the reality of giant premium increases and massive deductibles. It is time to give the American people health care reform that actually works.

Another priority of the new Republican Congress will be national security. Americans are rightfully worried about the threat posed by terrorist groups such as ISIS, which has spread violence and devastation not only in the Middle East but across Europe and beyond. We have even experienced ISIS-inspired terrorist attacks on American soil in San Bernardino and Orlando.

More recently, there were attempted bombings in New York and New Jersey and an ISIS-inspired stabbing attack in Minnesota. Republicans are committed to defeating ISIS abroad and keeping Americans safe here at home. We intend to make sure that our law enforcement agencies and our Nation's

military have the tools they need to defeat terrorist threats. We will make sure that our military men and women remain the best equipped and the most prepared fighting forces on the planet.

Another key component to keeping Americans safe is securing our borders. We must have secure borders and policies that encourage legal immigration while discouraging illegal immigration.

Then there are the other priorities we need to address: confirming a Supreme Court nominee who will judge based on the law and the Constitution, protecting religious liberty, encouraging investment in our Nation's infrastructure, and more.

To all the Americans who voted for change in this election, to every worker who has felt left behind in this economy, I want to say again: We hear you. Republicans hear you. We are going to fight for your priorities here in Washington. We are committed to earning the trust that you placed in us on election day.

The election is over, and it is time to take up the work of governing the Nation. Our Nation is facing many challenges. It is time for all of us—Democrat and Republican, liberal and conservative—to unite to address them. If we work together, I firmly believe we will once again be able to say, as President Ronald Reagan once said:

American's best days are yet to come. Our proudest moments are yet to be. Our most glorious achievements are just ahead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DAINES). The Senator from Arizona.

EARMARKS

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. President, a lot like indigestion, the desire for earmarks keeps coming back up. Tomorrow afternoon our colleagues in the House will vote on a provision to overturn the Congressional ban on earmarking. As someone who helped put that ban in place, I believe it is important to explain why it is very much still a necessity.

Consider the following: A teapot museum in North Carolina, an indoor rain forest in Iowa, bridges to nowhere in Alaska, a sheep institute in Montana, a Woodstock museum to commemorate the 1969 concert in New York, a \$350 million rocket launch site in Mississippi that was mothballed upon completion that has been derided as the "tower to nowhere," and the weather museum in Punxsutawney, PA. These are just some of the more infamous pork projects that were tucked into bills in Congress here during the bygone earmark era.

During the heyday of earmarking in 2006, I believe there were some 16,000 earmarks spread around among the appropriations bills at that time. Members of Congress gleefully touted the outrageous manner in which billions of dollars were being misspent on obscure, parochial projects. Earmarks were the

currency of what was dubbed the "favor factory" by a superlobbyist who would eventually go to jail for corruption.

Earmarks were used to reward campaign donors and political supporters and to buy and sell the votes of politicians. The deciding vote that was necessary to pass ObamaCare, for example, was secured with an earmark for Nebraska and derided as the "Cornhusker Kickback."

Republicans lost control of Congress in 2006, in part, as a result of the public's disgust with the corruption within the favor factory. When Republicans retook the House of Representatives in 2010, a moratorium was put on Congressional earmarking, which the Senate also adopted. That remains in place to this day.

Now some Republicans in the House are pushing to reopen the favor factory by lifting the moratorium, promising this time it will be different. Taxpayers ought to know that these promises are simply hogwash. Having spent years fighting against earmarks, I am disappointed that one of the very first votes after this election will be on a Republican-led proposal to bring back earmarks.

Congress should instead immediately pass legislation to make the ban on earmarks a permanent statutory prohibition. After all, you cannot drain the swamps by feeding the alligators pork. With our national debt approaching \$20 trillion, taxpayers expect Congress to focus on cutting wasteful and unnecessary spending instead of pigging out at the trough.

One of the worst parts of earmarks is that we spend our time here when we are earmarking not providing oversight for the massive appropriations bills that get passed. That is the worst part of it. We spend time doling out what amounts to a small portion of the Federal budget, but it takes so much time and effort from Members and their staffs just to secure that small bit of money that we are not spending the time we should providing oversight on the rest of the budget. That is the biggest crime of earmarks.

Instead of bringing them back, I hope that we will actually pass a statutory prohibition that will remain.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, like the majority of Americans who supported the Democratic candidate for President in the most recent election, I was disappointed by the results. But last Wednesday, I publicly congratulated President-Elect Donald Trump. I believe the bedrock principle of America is that we select our leaders and then come together as a country to try to find common ground and move forward.

On election night, the President-elect said:

Now it is time for America to bind the wounds of division. To all Republicans and Democrats and independents across the Nation, I say it is time for us to come together as one united people.

I agree with the President-elect's statement. During the campaign, President-Elect Donald Trump used incendiary and offensive language about immigrants and immigration. I condemned those remarks at the time. I remain concerned about their impact on our Nation.

But all Americans have an obligation to give this incoming President a chance. I am hopeful that he will keep his promise of election night to bind the wounds of division, to bring our Nation together. If he does, I look for opportunities where we can work together. As a first step in bringing our Nation together, I hope Mr. Trump will change his rhetoric and his approach to immigration.

As the President-elect knows, we are a nation of immigrants, and immigration makes us stronger. Like me, Mr. Trump is the son of an immigrant. When Mr. Trump takes the oath of office in January, the United States will have a First Lady who is an immigrant for only the second time in our history and for the first time since 1801 when President John Quincy Adams's wife, Louisa Catherine Adams, was the First Lady of the United States.

During the campaign, Mr. Trump pledged to deport all 11 million undocumented immigrants, but in an interview with "60 Minutes," he recently said he wanted to focus on deporting undocumented immigrants with criminal records. He acknowledged that millions of undocumented immigrants are "terrific people."

I wish to speak for a few moments about some of those terrific people. These words are important to me. I listened to them carefully.

It was 15 years ago when I introduced a bill known as the DREAM Act. My cosponsor at that time was Senator ORRIN HATCH of Utah. This bipartisan bill recognized the fact that many of the undocumented in America were brought here as children. They didn't make the family decision to get in the car, to head for America—adults did. Some of them were only infants. But they came to this country, and they have lived in this country since. They go to school in America. They stand and pledge allegiance in the classroom to the only flag they have ever known. They speak English, and they believe their future is in this country.

These were the DREAMers, and our bill said: Give them a chance. If they finish school and they have no serious criminal record, give them a chance to earn their way to legalization and citizenship.

Well, for 15 years this bill has been pending. Sometimes, it passes the Senate. Sometimes, it passed the House. It never quite passed both Chambers in the same year, and so it is still an aspiration and not legislation.

It was 6 years ago when I wrote a letter to the President, President Obama, joined by Senator Dick Lugar, a Republican from Indiana. On a bipartisan basis, we asked the President of the United States to protect these young DREAMers who grew up in America from deportation.

These kids deserve a chance. We have invested in them. We have given them a good education in American schools, and it makes no sense to squander their talents by deporting them to countries they barely know.

The President, President Obama, responded. He established the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, known as DACA. DACA provides temporary, renewable, legal status to immigrant students who arrive in the United States as children. Approximately 740,000 of these young people have come forward and signed up for DACA. DACA has allowed them a chance, without the fear of deportation, to contribute more fully to our country as soldiers, nurses, teachers, engineers, and police officers. DACA is based on the DREAM Act. It gives these undocumented students who grew up in this country a chance to earn their way toward legal status.

It is clearly legal. Like every President before him, President Obama has had the authority to set immigration policy, and the Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the Federal Government has broad authority in this area.

DACA is not just legal. It makes sense. The Department of Homeland Security only has enough funding to deport a small fraction of undocumented immigrants. So the President—our current President—and the President-elect say: Let's focus on those who might cause harm to America. I agree with them. That is just common sense.

But at the same time, President Obama has said: Why would we want to waste resources deporting young immigrant students who grew up in this country and are making a great contribution? During the campaign, President-Elect Trump pledged that he would end DACA. I hope that he will reconsider that position.

I have come to the floor over the last several years to tell the stories of these DREAMers. I can give speeches all day about who they are, but some of them have the courage to step up and really tell America who they are.

Today I wish to speak to you about one of them. His name is Oscar Cornejo, Jr. In the year 2000, when Oscar was only 5 years old, his family came to the United States from Mexico. Oscar grew up in Park City. It is a small, northern suburb of Chicago, in my home State of Illinois.

He was quite a student. In high school he was a member of the National Honor Society and an Illinois State scholar. He received several Advanced Placement awards and graduated high school magna cum laude. This is what Oscar said about his high school years:

My parents always instilled in me the value of an education, which is one of the main reasons they decided to leave everything in Mexico and come to the United States. I dedicated myself solely to my education to honor the sacrifices my parents made.

It was because of those outstanding academic achievements in high school that Oscar was admitted to Dartmouth College, an Ivy League school in Hanover, NH. He is the first member of his family even to attend college.

Oscar has excelled at Dartmouth. During his freshman year, Oscar received the William S. Churchill prize for outstanding academic achievement and contributions to the college in the areas of "fairness, respect for duty, and citizenship."

Oscar serves on the student board that judges violations of the Dartmouth honor code. He cofounded and codirected the college's first immigrant rights organization, and now he is in his senior year at Dartmouth.

He wants to be a teacher. He has applied to graduate school at the Institute for Recruitment of Teachers at Phillips Academy. He wrote a letter to me and said:

When I received my DACA, the threat of deportation had been lifted and I felt I could actually achieve my dreams. DACA has allowed me to work for the first time and the money I earn goes to support my education and my family.

Oscar and so many other DREAMers have so much to give to America. If we eliminate DACA, Oscar will lose his legal status. He will be subject to deportation at any moment, and he could be deported back to Mexico, a country where he hasn't lived for 15 years.

Will America be a stronger country if we lose Oscar Cornejo or if he stays here and becomes a teacher? I think the answer is very clear.

I hope that President-Elect Trump will consider that this young man is in a different category than someone who came into this country and committed a serious crime. This is a young man who did just the opposite. He led a good life. He was successful in high school. He has gone to college without any Federal assistance whatsoever. He doesn't qualify for a penny, yet he has excelled and still, despite all these struggles, wants to give back to this Nation, the only country he has ever called home. Losing him would be a loss to America.

I appeal to the President-elect: Think long and hard about the future of this country. Realize that he and I—the President-elect and myself—as first-generation Americans, have to understand that it is immigration that has brought so much by way of diversity and talent to the great United States. We can't shut down DACA. That would be horrible. It would mean that 744,000 young people such as Oscar, protected from deportation, would wake up the next morning wondering if that knock on the door was the last they would hear as a resident of America. I am going to fight for Oscar and for the

744,000 who qualify for DACA and for the DREAMers like them who came here as children and simply asked for a chance.

There is real division in the Senate, the House, and in the country when it comes to immigration. As I have told these stories on the floor—almost 100 of them now—I have noticed a number of my colleagues from the other side of the aisle say: That really is a different situation. This is a young child who should be given a chance. Now is the time for America—this Nation of immigrants—to heal our wounds that divided us during this election.

I hope and pray that the President-elect, by word and action, in the coming weeks and months will truly bring us together.

CONGRATULATING THE CHICAGO CUBS ON WINNING THE WORLD SERIES

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, for 16 years, broadcaster Harry Caray was the voice of the Chicago Cubs. He wasn't in Yogi Berra's league linguistically. Harry Caray could turn a phrase.

"Holy cow!" was one of Harry Caray's signature lines. Another legendary Harry Caray line that made people jump for joy was this:

It might be. It could be. It is! A home run!

Harry Caray loved baseball. He loved Chicago. He loved the Cubs. But most of all, he loved the Cubs fans, those generations of fans who packed Wrigley Field every year, almost certain that their team would lose but hoping for a miracle. Harry Caray once said of the citizens of Cubs Nation:

This has been the remarkable thing about the fans in Chicago, they keep drawing an average of a million-three a year, and when the season's over and they've won their usual 71 games, you feel that those fans deserve a medal.

Well, Harry Caray passed away in 1998. But like every Cubs fan, he believed until his final breath that the Chicago Cubs, those loveable losers, would one day reclaim the title as Major League Baseball's World Series champions, a title they held and won in 1908.

Well, Harry Caray was right. The day came. Miraculously, in the early morning hours of November 3, in the 10th inning of the 7th and deciding game against the gritty, formidable Cleveland Indians, the Chicago Cubs won the 2016 World Series. That heart-stopping game 7—in fact, the whole series—was a contest for the ages and one that Cubs fans will be talking about for generations.

Let me say it again. The Cubs' improbable, come-from-behind World Series championship marks the first time since 1908 that the Cubs won the World Series. Their 108-year drought with our World Series trophy marked the longest losing streak of any team in any sport in the United States of America. But all those years of dashed hopes and deferred dreams are history.

The curse of the billy goat and the omen of the black cat are all dead. Fly the W and hoist the trophy. The 2016 Chicago Cubs are the World Series champs, the very best in baseball. They posted the winningest record in Major League Baseball, with 103 victories to 58 losses, and they finished 17½ games ahead in their division, ahead of the St. Louis Cardinals, always a formidable baseball team. It was the first time the Cubs had posted the most wins in baseball since 1945 and the first time the Northsiders had won 100 games since 1935.

In postseason play, the Cubs launched a ninth-inning comeback to take the National League division series against the Giants in four games. Then it was the Dodgers. After losing in back-to-back shutouts, trailing the Dodgers 2 to 1 in the series, the Cubs rallied to beat the Dodgers in six games and claimed their first National League championship in 17 years.

For generations, the World Series has broken many a Cubs fan's heart. After winning the Fall Classic in 1907 and 1908, the Cubs went on to lose the World Series in 1910, 1918, 1929, 1932, 1935, 1938, and 1945, their last World Series appearance until this year.

Yet, against history and against reason, as the 2016 World Series began, Cubs fans dared to believe. Maybe this was the year. Their faith was tested. The Cleveland Indians are a great and gutsy ball club. They took an early and commanding control of the Series, leading the Cubs three games to one in the best of seven.

Then the magic started. With their backs to the wall, one defeat away from elimination, the Cubs roared back to win the final three games of the Series and brought the World Series trophy home to Chicago. They clinched the World Series in game 7 with an 8-to-7 win in extra innings. The game was tied 6 to 6 after nine innings. The suspense was heightened by a rain delay that was called just as the 10th inning was about to start. The rain stopped the game for 17 minutes. The Cubs scored 2 runs when they came back in the top of the 10th inning on a double by Ben Zobrist and a single by Miguel Montero.

The Indians scored a run in the bottom of the 10th inning, but it wasn't enough. The final score: Cubs 8, Indians 7.

Ben Zobrist was named World Series MVP. It was only the sixth time in World Series history that a team had come back from a deficit of three games to win a championship. The last team to pull it off was the Kansas City Royals in 1985.

This World Series victory was truly a team victory. Every member of the team and organization deserves credit.

Cubs General Manager Theo Epstein, destined for the National Baseball Hall of Fame, arrived in Chicago in 2011 with the challenge of rebuilding an organization that had tried everything to no avail. It took him five seasons,

three managers, and dozens of trades, but he won. After game 7, he said he was just proud to bring the World Series trophy back to Chicago for Cubs legends Billy Williams and the late Ernie Banks and Ron Santo and for the generations of fans who never stopped hoping.

What can we say about Cubs Manager Joe Maddon? He urged his players in spring training to "Embrace the Target." When the chips were down, he had never doubted the Cubs were the finest team. While some may view his style as unorthodox, his confidence in his players carried over onto the field. The Cubs never panicked. They got their job done.

Maddon spent decades in Major League Baseball before coming to the Cubs. With this World Series trophy, he joins a small list of managers to win pennants in the American and National Leagues. He earned the 2015 National League Manager of the Year, and I am betting he is going to claim the title again this year.

I congratulate the players—the World Series champion Cubs.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the names of the players.

There being no objection, the names were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

Anthony Rizzo;
Kris Bryant;
Javier Baez;
Addison Russell;
Miguel Montero;
Willson Contreras;
Jon Lester;
Jake Arrieta;
Kyle Hendricks;
John Lackey;
Aroldis Chapman;
Jason Heyward;
Dexter Fowler;
Jorge Soler;
Chris Coghlan;
Albert Almora, Jr.;
Mike Montgomery;
Carl Edwards, Jr.;
Pedro Strop;
Hector Rondon;
Travis Wood; and
Justin Grimm.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am going to wrap up. I see the majority leader is on the floor, but I know he is a big sports fan.

Catcher David Ross, playing in the final game of his career, made history when he hit a home run in the fifth inning of game 7 to give the Chicago Cubs a 6-to-3 lead. At 39 years of age, almost 40—a senior by baseball standards—Ross became the oldest player ever to hit a home run in World Series game 7.

Kyle Schwarber—what a comeback—tore his ACL in the third game of the season and worked his whole season in physical rehab to try to come back. He made it just in time to play in the World Series. He ignited the Cubs' 10th inning rally in game 7 with a lead-off single and finished the Series with a .412 average and two RBIs.

And then there is Ben Zobrist, the pride of Eureka, IL, and the MVP of 2016.