

me and my other colleagues from the Texas delegation over and over and over again, asking: What more can we do?

I thank the President and the Vice President, who also came personally, clearing brush in Rockport, TX, in a demonstration of how to be a good neighbor and in his concern and commitment to the affected region.

I want to say that FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, also deserves recognition as part of this effort. Throughout the storm and in the days following, Administrator Brock Long has been a steady hand at the helm in his support of State and local teams with strategy, equipment, and personnel. Yet it was not just FEMA. It was the Small Business Administration, HUD, and the Department of Homeland Security. All of the heads of those agencies were there in person in Texas, asking over and over again: What more can we do?

It is not just government and government officials. It is organizations like the Red Cross, which ran shelters around the State, faith-based organizations, and people who just wanted to be good neighbors, doing anything and everything they could to volunteer—to serve food, provide dry clothes, and a safe place to sleep.

Now we know that FEMA's flood insurance programs, while they are being implemented, are about to run out of money by the end of this week. In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, the inspections have begun, and recovery housing teams are on the ground. Countless others—local, State, and Federal actors—are working around the clock to aid rescue and recovery efforts. Yet, as I said in Texas last week, the road ahead is going to be long and winding. In many ways, once the TV cameras leave and the waters recede, as people are just now coming home, the depth of their losses will just be sinking in with their places of business gone, all of their possessions destroyed, their cars inoperable. People are hurting. Housing and food, water and electricity, and transportation are a few of the things people have lost that most of us take for granted but not those who suffered at the hands of Hurricane Harvey.

This is why I am working with Senator CRUZ and the entire Texas congressional delegation on an appropriations request for disaster recovery. The many communities that have been impacted by this massive storm will need our help and need it quickly. As I said, FEMA, literally, will run out of funds at the end of this week. Unless we act with dispatch to appropriate an emergency supplemental this week, as the House will do tomorrow, and unless we raise the debt ceiling, there will not be any way that Congress will be able to actually appropriate that emergency funding and get it to the Federal Emergency Management Agency in order to help those who are in so much need. But working together, we are going to deliver that help.

As President Trump said last week, “Texas can handle anything.” I think the President is pretty much right. We have seen our share of catastrophes, and we have always bounced back. Texans are tough and resilient, and we always, always band together.

A few years ago, after another tragedy in West Texas that took the lives of a number of first responders in a terrible explosion, I remember running into a county commissioner who said: Texas doesn't just describe where you are from; it describes who your family is.

I know we all love our States, and we love our country, but I am particularly proud of how my State and Texans have stepped forward to help each other in this time of need. I know that all of my colleagues in this Chamber have spent time with their families and their friends this past weekend in honor of Labor Day. As the summer now draws to a close, let's remember that many in Texas were not celebrating that holiday. They are struggling in shelters, not knowing what is left of their homes that they have been forced to flee.

With August now behind us, our work, like theirs, is just beginning. Tomorrow, as I said, the House will vote on a, roughly, \$8 billion aid package—the first of several steps toward delivering relief to Texans. I appreciate House Majority Leader KEVIN McCARTHY, who traveled with me yesterday to Houston and Beaumont to survey the damage in Texas. He had previously been with me and the Governor in Austin and talked about coordinating the Federal and State response. I look forward to working with Leader McCARTHY and all of my colleagues in both Chambers of the Congress on addressing the needs caused by this terrible storm.

By the way, I appreciate all of the texts, the phone calls, and the emails that I have received from colleagues on both sides of the aisle throughout this terrible storm, expressing their concerns and offering their prayers and their help. I appreciate it.

My colleagues, I will just say this. Let's remember Sergeant Steve Perez, the police officer who died in Houston, whom I described earlier, the officer who could have stayed home. As his wife said: It is just too dangerous to go out there amidst the flood. Like him, let's do our duty and look for a way to work together.

Friends, let's get to work and do our job, not only in providing relief for the victims of Hurricane Harvey, but there is so much more that we need to do, working together.

I will close because I see the distinguished Democratic whip here, who I know has made the condition of the Dreamers—the children who came with their parents when they came to the United States in violation of our immigration laws. Of course, children are not responsible for what their parents have done. I actually believe that the

President has given us an opportunity by what he did today. After all, what President Obama did, no matter how much we understand it, was essentially declared illegal by a Federal court. The President has no authority to do this unilaterally. That is what the Federal courts told President Obama, so President Trump has appropriately now said: Congress, you do your job. And we will.

I look forward to the debate. I look forward to working on this important issue, but I dare say that just addressing DACA and the Dreamers by themselves is not acceptable. We are going to do as much as we can to address our broken immigration system, to restore public confidence in our border security and the enforcement of our laws, and, once again, become a nation that is, yes, a nation of immigrants but also a nation of laws.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

MR. DURBIN. Mr. President, at the outset, let me say that I share the feelings of so many across the Nation who really try to understand and appreciate the immensity of the tragedy that struck Texas, Louisiana, and nearby places with Hurricane Harvey.

We followed the news. I have family in Texas who, through emails, kept us informed as to what was occurring and the horrible stories of people who lost their homes, their businesses, their lives. There is the story that Senator CORNYN has told about Officer Perez, who lost his life in service to the people whom he represented as a law enforcement officer. It touched us. It touched us dearly. We know that there have been extraordinary cases of heroism and bravery by individuals across the board. Many of them will never be reported and will be known only to a handful of people, but it really was an endorsement of the American spirit—the Texas spirit—when it comes to fighting this disaster.

So I say to the Senator from Texas that I am not one of those Senators who picks and chooses natural disasters only in my State to support. I have supported Federal assistance for natural disasters all across the United States because I know what happened when they hit Illinois and when I needed others to stand by me. I am prepared to stand by Texas, stand by Louisiana, stand by all of those who are victims of Hurricane Harvey. I believe that, as an American family, we have a responsibility to stand together, and I thank the Senator from Texas for his statement.

#### DACA

MR. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to tell a story about one of the great volunteers in Texas. His name is Jesus Contreras. He is a young man who has a great story, who was one of the heroes of Hurricane Harvey in his own small way.

At the age of 6, Jesus was brought from Mexico to the United States by his parents. It was not a family decision. His mom and dad made the decision and brought him to Houston, TX, where he grew up and got good grades in school. He wanted to go to college. He went to the Lone Star College in Houston and became a paramedic—a paramedic who responded to Hurricane Harvey.

He spent 6 straight days out there, helping people who were in desperate need. Because of his training as a paramedic, he was able to give them emergency first aid and insulin when they were suffering from the impact of diabetes, and he did it day after day after day. He would go home, take a shower, and go right back out again. He finally took a day off and got some rest, and he went back and did it all over again.

The important part of this story is that Jesus Contreras is a paramedic because of the DACA Program, which you have just heard described on the floor by the Senator from Texas. It was President Obama's DACA Program that allowed him to stay in the United States, after having been brought here as a 6-year-old, and to go to school and become a paramedic. The DACA Program did that because it protected him from deportation, and it allowed him to legally work here in the United States as a paramedic. It was only because of DACA that this young man was able to step up and be part of that huge group of people who came forward in Houston, TX, and other cities and made such a difference in the lives of so many people.

So when I hear the DACA Program dismissed as just overreach by a President, illegal, and unconstitutional, I beg my colleagues: Take a look at the human side of this story for a moment. Take a look at the human side of 780,000 people, just like Jesus, who have been protected from deportation, and what they have done with their lives. He didn't vote to leave Mexico. His parents did. He didn't vote for them not to file papers once he arrived in the United States. His parents did. That is what the Dream Act and DACA are all about.

If I am speeding down the highway and a patrolman pulls me over and gives me a speeding ticket, they don't give a ticket to my grandson sitting in the backseat. He wasn't driving the car.

In this situation, the Dreamers and those protected by DACA were young people brought to this country and who know no other country.

For year after year, he stood up in the classroom and pledged allegiance to the only flag he knew. He believes himself to be American. Listen to what he wrote to me. This is what Jesus Contreras wrote to me:

Houston is my home and these are my people. I love my career—it's given me an opportunity to help people in ways I never imagined I could. DACA means everything to me—I would lose my license and certifi-

cations without it. I would be sent back to a country I don't know and would lose everything.

Is that what we want to see happen here? Do we want to set up a circumstance where this young man doesn't have a chance to continue to serve people as he did during Hurricane Harvey in Houston, TX? Of course not.

The announcement by the President today that he is going to bring an end to DACA, I guess, came as no major surprise, but I listened carefully to what President-Elect Trump and what President Trump said about DACA and Dreamers over the months. He said to me personally—he looked me in the eye and said: Don't worry about these kids. We are going to take care of the Dreamers. He said publicly: We love the Dreamers. Well, now we have a chance to do something about it.

I just had a press conference with Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, Republican, of South Carolina. He and I have come together to introduce the Dream Act, which says, once and for all, that we need permanent law to protect these young people. It is not a new concept. I introduced the bill 16 years ago. If you said someone was a Dreamer 16 years ago, they would have said: Is he with the British rock group? People didn't know what a Dreamer was. They know today. It is people like Jesus, brought to this country as kids and who are just asking for a chance to be part of America—and they are willing to sacrifice.

When he went through Lone Star College, as an undocumented student, Jesus Contreras didn't qualify for one penny of Federal assistance—no government loans for him. He had to work his way through school. It takes that kind of determination to make it through school and to become an important part of America.

So today I am disappointed by what has happened—the announcement by Attorney General Sessions, who has never ever, in my time in the Senate, supported any immigration reform. He has never voted for the Dream Act. The fact that he was the first public voice saying that he was going to rescind—that the administration would rescind—DACA was no surprise. That is where he has been for as long as I have known him, publicly and politically. But I hope that the President now, because of the good things he said in the past about the Dream Act and DACA, will be part of the solution and will help us in the 6 months to pass something that makes a difference.

I listened to the Senator from Texas stack up a whole list of things we need to have before we can help people like Jesus. There are a lot of things we need to do. Comprehensive immigration reform is one of them. I was one of the persons who put it together and voted for it when it had 68 votes in the Senate a few years ago. We need that. But, for goodness' sake, we have a time-sensitive issue now with the Dreamers and DACA. We need to do something about

it and do it quickly. That is why Senator GRAHAM and I are calling for passing the Dream Act in this September session. We know it is there. We have heard positive things said about it by Speaker RYAN, the Republican Speaker of the House, and even by Senator McCONNELL, Senator HATCH, and many who cosponsored it. We have to bring this measure up and get it done, once and for all.

In the meantime, 780,000 young people in America protected by DACA heard the news today, and their hearts were broken. They know now that the clock is running. It is the deportation clock. If we don't act—and act in a timely fashion—young people like this man here, who risked his life and helped the people in Houston during Hurricane Harvey, may be deported, and he will certainly lose any opportunity he has to continue to be a licensed paramedic.

Will America be better if Jesus Contreras has to leave the United States? Would Houston have been better during this crisis if he had not been there? I don't think so. We know better. We know that these young people really care and really want to be a part of our Nation. They are willing to turn in all their family information, go through background checks, and pay a filing fee under DACA. You know they want to be a part of this country. They want to serve in the military. They want to be of service to the people they live with in their communities. Now it is up to us.

So let's not make excuses. Let's make some law. Let's do it the right way. Let's pass the Dream Act now. Let's make this a priority as we return this September. Let's get it done with the other priorities we need to consider this month.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. STRANGE). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session for the consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Timothy J. Kelly, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 30 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Arkansas.