

We have to be doing far more to get our partners in the region to do more—allies and competitors alike—in service of a goal we all share. There is ample support for all of these efforts in Congress.

Senator FISCHER and I worked together to provide even more funding for missile defense than the President requested because it is so important. Senator SASSE and I have worked together to gather options from some of the Nation's best and brightest minds on how to shape sanctions that could actually impact North Korea's ability to continue their nuclear program, whether Kim Jong Un agrees to it or not.

I believe there will be ample support among our allies—and even our adversaries—around the world if we provide the kind of clear, forceful, and effective leadership America has always been known for in the past.

There is not a nation on Earth that is safer with the existence of North Korea's nuclear weapons program, and that includes North Korea itself. However hard the path forward may be, we can all agree that the status quo is not enough. It is not even close and will not continue to work.

We cannot fix that without a strategy. I am here today asking the administration—once again, reaching out our hand to them—to take that first essential step forward and asking my colleagues to support my amendment to the national defense bill to require the administration to submit a North Korea strategy to Congress within 90 days. We can do this together.

I yield back.

#### EXTENSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PERDUE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business, for debate only, be extended until 12 noon.

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

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### FINDING COMMON GROUND

Mr. HATCH. Mr. President, before we adjourned for the recess, I came to this lectern to issue a call for comity, cooperation, and compromise. My message that day was simple: If we are serious about legislating—if we are truly committed to doing the work the American people sent us here to do—then we must look beyond the horizon of our differences and find common ground.

Since January, this Congress has been its own worst enemy. It has been mired in the muck of its own making, bogged down by partisan squabbles and gripped by gridlock—the likes of which I have never seen in all my years of public service. I wish I could say the situation across the country is better, but sadly it isn't. The polarization we see in the Senate is only indicative of the division we see all around the Nation. The events of August threw that division into sharp relief, but it also showed us our ability to heal—our remarkable capacity to lay aside superficial differences in moments of crisis to come together as one.

In Charlottesville and Houston, August brought us a tale of two cities—one that showed us at once both the weaknesses and strengths of our great country.

In Charlottesville, we saw the worst of America on full display. In the violence, vitriol, and vulgar racism of Nazi demonstrators, we stared evil in the face, and in the terrorist attack that ensued, we saw the ideology of hatred brought to its logical endpoint. None of us will soon forget this attack on innocent civilians. I am sure, in the stagnant human air of that hot summer's day, we caught a glimpse of the darkness buried deep in the soul of America.

Charlottesville was more than a tragic event. It was a gut-check moment for all Americans. It was a national low point that demanded all of us to take stock of where we are as a society and where our rhetoric is taking us.

The men who perpetrated this horrific act of violence—whether by their words or by their actions—represent the dregs of a dying culture, but if the violence in Charlottesville showed America at its worst, then the rescue and recovery efforts in hurricane-ravaged Houston showed our country at its best.

Just 2 weeks after the brutality in Charlottesville, our Nation again watched in horror as Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas, unleashing a flood of biblical proportions. Relentless rainfall battered the coast for days, leaving in its wake a trail of destruction and shattered life.

Harvey left behind unprecedented devastation, but it also gave us countless stories of hope and heroism. On national TV, we saw a weatherman rushing to the aid of a stranded driver, pulling the man to safety before the current could take him away. We saw everyday Texans wade in the neck-deep waters to form a human chain, saving the life of a stranger trapped in his car. We watched as three teenage boys navigated the streets of Houston in a fishing boat, driving from house to house to rescue their neighbors as the floodwaters poured in.

These are just a few stories among thousands more. These stories remind us of the hope and humanity borne of tragedy. They bear testament to the innate goodness of the American peo-

ple, and they show us that, in moments of crisis, our capacity to come together for the good of our communities is really unparalleled.

Tragedies like those in Houston strip us of all that is superfluous, leaving behind only our common humanity. In the moments of peril that moved tens of thousands of Texans to band together to save their city, considerations of race, religion, class, or creed fell into complete irrelevance. The first responders, volunteers, and Good Samaritans who put their own lives at risk to rescue others served indiscriminately. They took no thought for whom they were helping—what their background or beliefs were. Houston's heroes saw only lives that needed saving, and they went to work.

If there is any good that comes of tragedy, it is that for a brief but beautiful moment, we are able to see each other as we truly are—not as Republicans or Democrats, rich or poor, Black or White, but as members of the same community, partakers of the same human condition and children of the same God. For a brief moment, we are able to see each other as Americans.

I pray that the hope of Houston may inspire all of us here in the Senate. I pray that we may look to the city's example in the work we have before us, setting aside our petty partisan differences to come together for the good of the Nation. I pray that, as Senators, we might see each other as friends and equals, partners and patriots, anxiously engaged in the important work of legislating. I pray that we can esteem each other by our mutual love for this great country, not by the R or D that follows our names.

Now, more than ever, we need strength and unity here in the Senate. The challenges we have before us are enormous. In the next few weeks alone, we need to secure emergency relief funding for the victims of Hurricane Harvey, raise the debt ceiling, fix our broken Tax Code, and find a way forward on immigration reform. Our to-do list just keeps growing.

Each of these items taken on its own is challenging, but taken as a whole, our agenda is daunting. But I truly believe we are up to the task. I truly believe we can step up to the plate, just as the people of Texas did, to tackle the challenges before us.

As I said before we broke for recess, the Senate is capable of so much more. I know because I have seen the Senate at its best. I have seen the Senate when it truly lived up to its reputation as the world's greatest deliberative body. I believe we can again see this body at its best.

My central message today is simple. We can do hard things. I know because we have done them before. So let's make laws, not excuses. Let's move forward on an agenda that puts the needs of America's families front and center.

This is an important pivotal time in our Nation's history. It is up to us to

make that pivotal time an important time, a successful time, and one where we are brought together to work as colleagues, rather than as opponents, which it has been far too much, as far as I am concerned, over the last number of years.

I hope that we can all get together and do a better job for America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

#### DACA

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak for just a few minutes about the Dreamers in our country, the young people about whom we have had a debate recently and will continue to debate about with regard to the so-called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, known by the acronym DACA.

The United States is a proud nation of immigrants, and ending this program does not make sense either morally or in terms of our economy. Rescinding the program will cost the United States jobs. It will hurt our national security, and it is a total betrayal of the trust of the Federal Government.

Dreamers are young people who have lived in our country for a long time, since they were children. They have been law-abiding residents, they have learned English, and they pay taxes. They have secured jobs that support themselves and their families.

Our Government promised them that they would be protected if they came forward, and now the administration is breaking that promise. President Trump's actions with regard to DACA are an insult to America and are an insult to American values. This action is unjust, it is immoral, and it is without regard for basic fairness. Tearing apart the lives of these young people will make our Nation less safe and will harm our economy.

Ending DACA also does not make sense financially. In Pennsylvania alone, estimates are that ending DACA would cost Pennsylvania \$357 million per year in GDP losses. Nationwide, the number is \$460 billion from the GDP over the next decade. Ending DACA would remove approximately 685,000 workers from the U.S. economy. According to the Cato Institute, deporting DACA residents would cost more than \$60 billion. Finally, the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy estimates that 1.3 million young people enrolled in or eligible for DACA pay some \$2 billion each year in State and local taxes.

Let me just share one story of many about a Dreamer that I met. In this case, it was back in April of this year. I was proud to meet with this individual from Lancaster. Her name is Audrey Lopez. Audrey is one of those Dreamers. She came to the United States as a child with her parents, who were seeking a better life for her and

for her family. She grew up in Pennsylvania and graduated from college. The United States is the only home she knows.

When I met Audrey, she was worried about the debate about immigration and immigration policy. The debate that we have been having in Washington mostly since January of this year was causing great fear and uncertainty in her community. Audrey is obviously concerned about the immigration debate and, in particular, what happens with DACA.

She has worked with Church World Services, an organization that helps resettle hundreds of refugees each year in Pennsylvania. They provide services to help new arrivals adjust to their new home and become successful members of their local neighborhoods.

Audrey is now a student at American University, pursuing her master's degree in international development—of course, after getting a college education as well.

This is America. This is who we are as a nation, where young people like Audrey have a chance to work hard and to succeed, to get an education and to contribute to the American economy and to the fabric of our society. We are a country in which hard-working young people who are working to better themselves and their community are given a chance to do so, in a sense, fulfilling or living that dream.

This program, DACA, has allowed almost 800,000 young people whose stories are very similar to Audrey's to grow up and thrive in America. It makes no sense to heartlessly remove Dreamers from a country they call home.

In response to President Trump's decision to end DACA, Congress should move immediately to pass a bipartisan Dream Act. This bill will allow Dreamers to become permanent residents if they meet the very stringent qualifications outlined in the bill. In Pennsylvania alone, 5,900 people have been granted DACA status. Passing the Dream Act will give these people the security they need and a future they can count on. We should be focused on humane and commonsense solutions that keep our Nation safe and allow it to thrive. I was proud to vote for the DREAM Act in 2007 and 2010. I hope we will have a clean vote on the Dream Act very soon.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### REINFORCING EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY IN DEVELOPMENT ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 601, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany H.R. 601, a bill to enhance the transparency and accelerate the impact of assistance provided under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to promote quality basic education in developing countries, to better enable such countries to achieve universal access to quality basic education and improved learning outcomes, to eliminate duplication and waste, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment (No. 6) to the bill with McConnell amendment No. 808 (to the House amendment to the Senate amendment (No. 6) to the bill), in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell amendment No. 809 (to amendment No. 808), to change the enactment date.

MOTION TO REFER WITH AMENDMENT NO. 816

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I move to refer the House message on H.R. 601 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report back forthwith with the Paul amendment No. 816.

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 House message to accompany H.R. 601 to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report the same back forthwith to the Senate with an amendment numbered 816.

The amendment is as follows:

At the end add the following:

Notwithstanding any other provision in this Act:

(1) no supplemental appropriation shall be made to the "Community Development Fund";

(2) the "Disaster Relief Fund" shall be increased by \$7,400,000,000;

(3) \$15,250,000,000 of unobligated funds previously made available to the United States Agency for International Development shall be rescinded; and

(4) The emergency designations in Division B in this Act shall have no force or effect.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays on my motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 817

Mr. McCONNELL. I have an amendment to the instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] proposes an amendment numbered 817 to the instructions of the motion to refer.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.