

American moral tradition. It broke faith with our core values, and it broke trust with freedom seekers across the globe.

This very day there are dissidents all over the globe struggling against totalitarian regimes in darkness. To them, America has always said and America still says: We see you. We stand with you. We may make long and deliberate decisions about how we engage in the world and about what particular commitments are prudent to exercise at different times with different allies, but we have always spoken unequivocally about the universal dignity of 7.6 billion people. To those who struggle, we have always said: We see you, and we stand with you.

These simple truths matter. The moral responsibilities of the Office of the Presidency matter. When we don't affirm these basic truths, it is a failure to who we are, and it is a failure to do what we do. It is a betrayal not just to the millions of people who were denied free and fair elections in Russia this week, but it is a failure to people all across the globe who are struggling in darkness against tyrants.

Each and every Member of this Senate—all 100 of us—was elected in the kind of free and fair election that Vladimir Putin fears—the kind of election that he would not win. Vladimir Putin is a coward. Vladimir Putin is a despot.

Just this month, Vladimir Putin tried to assassinate a political dissident and his daughter on NATO soil in the UK. Given that we have taken an oath in this body, after our free and fair elections, to uphold and defend the Constitution—given that—we ought not, in this body, find it difficult to say basic true things, like that we condemn leaks by the President's staff against him. We also condemn Vladimir Putin's sham election. We condemn a Russian despot who aims to make Soviet tyranny great again.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

#### TRIBUTE TO THAD COCHRAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, back in 1985, I was a second-term Member of the House of Representatives and a member, I was proud to say, of the House Appropriations Committee. The Committee chairman was a man by the name of Jamie Whitten. He was from the State of Mississippi. He was a Mississippi Democrat. Yes, there used to be Mississippi Democrats.

Jamie Whitten had been a witness to a great deal of American history. He was on the floor of the House as a newly minted Congressman from Mississippi on December 8, 1941, when Franklin Roosevelt delivered his "Day of Infamy" speech.

There I was speaking to this same man 44 years later, and I was a junior member of his Appropriations Committee. I knew that Appropriations, under the House rules, had several members who were also represented on the Budget Committee. So one day I went to Chairman Whitten from Mississippi and suggested to him that I wanted to be on the Budget Committee in the slot reserved for Appropriations members. Chairman Whitten looked down at me and he asked: Why do you want to be on the Budget Committee?

I said: I think it is good because the Budget Committee makes the spending decisions and blueprints that Appropriations and other committees follow.

He kind of sat back in his chair and Chairman Whitten said to me: Well, if you want to be on that committee, you can be on that committee, but I want you to remember one thing, the Budget Committee deals in hallucinations and the Appropriations Committee deals in facts.

I will never forget that exchange. I served on the Budget Committee and again in the Senate on the same Budget Committee, and I have come to believe that Chairman Whitten was not that wrong in his conclusion. I call that "Whitten's Law." It remains one of the most important lessons I have learned about the Federal budget.

I have learned other lessons from Mississippi politicians, and one of them is a man by the name of THAD COCHRAN, my colleague from the State of Mississippi and one of my friends who cochaired the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee with me. I shouldn't say cochaired; I am the ranking member on that committee and he, of course, is the chairman. THAD COCHRAN taught me and others many important lessons about the Federal budget and about public service in general.

THAD COCHRAN is a man of humility and integrity, and he is a man of his word. He is a conservative Republican who values principle and cooperation over pointless confrontation. He prefers common ground to scorched Earth because he knows it is better to build on.

Senator COCHRAN and I have served together in the Senate for more than two decades. For much of that time, we have both been on the Senate Appropriations Committee. He has been the committee's ranking member and chairman twice. In all of those years, I can only think of a time or two when he and I disagreed so completely on an issue that we found ourselves unable to find that principled compromise. Some may call that "old school." I call it leadership in a representative democracy.

As a member and two-time chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator COCHRAN's skill as a negotiator has served Mississippi and the United States exceedingly well. He has helped keep his State and our Nation strong and safe and economically sound.

In a time that increasingly prizes the quick profits and short-term vision, THAD COCHRAN has helped to protect and increase America's investments in scientific, technological, and medical research. That is a proud part of the legacy he leaves.

His voice is common and quiet, but don't be fooled. When it comes to protecting the interests of his State or this Nation, he is tenacious.

That was never more apparent than in the weeks and months after Hurricane Katrina pummeled the Mississippi gulf coast and other States in 2005. Senator COCHRAN helped secure appropriations that enabled thousands of homeowners in Mississippi to rebuild after their insurance companies turned them down.

As the former chairman and now ranking member of the Appropriations Committee Defense Subcommittee, I worked closely with Chairman COCHRAN to protect critical national security priorities in my State of Illinois, and he has worked hard for his State.

Behind every Senator, of course, there are hard-working staff members without whom we could not do our jobs. Senator COCHRAN's personal staff and his committee staff are first-rate public servants. I want to thank them too. They have been part of a winning team with Senator COCHRAN. Their hard work and loyalty on his behalf and on behalf of the Senate has served this Nation well.

I wasn't surprised the other day when I learned that Senator COCHRAN had been an Eagle Scout. I was surprised to learn, however, that he once failed in pursuit of a Boy Scout merit badge as a young man. He learned a lesson from that experience that he said has stayed with him all his life: Always be prepared.

THAD COCHRAN's adherence to that lesson, his remarkable skill as a negotiator, and his deep integrity and honesty are qualities we could all do well to emulate.

I thank Senator THAD COCHRAN and wish him all the best as he departs the Senate, and I thank him for his great service to Mississippi and to America.

#### REMEMBERING LOUISE SLAUGHTER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week Congresswoman LOUISE SLAUGHTER of New York passed away after representing the Rochester area of that State for more than three decades. She was tough, unfailingly gracious, and wonderfully effective in helping people throughout her life.

LOUISE carried titles you don't see often around here. She was the Congress's only microbiologist. She was also a blues and jazz singer as well. She was a fighter, first and foremost, earning the respect of her colleagues and even those who disagreed with her. I have counted her as a friend and an ally in many causes.

She hailed from Harlan, KY, the daughter of a blacksmith in a coal

mine. LOUISE can trace her lineage to the legendary Daniel Boone, and you can hear it in her voice.

She went to college and graduate school at the University of Kentucky to study microbiology and public health to honor her sister who passed away due to pneumonia at a young age.

She went on to serve in both the Monroe County legislature and the New York State Assembly before joining Congress in 1986 to represent the Rochester New York area, which includes the area around the historic Seneca Falls Convention.

She was one of only 29 women in Congress when she first arrived and quickly became a champion and a trailblazer for the American worker and the American women.

LOUISE coauthored the landmark Violence Against Women's Act in 1994, curbing domestic violence and aiding its victims.

She also helped shepherd the Affordable Care Act through Congress as the very first woman to chair the House of Representatives Rules Committee.

LOUISE's storied career has included defending her constituents against Big Business and bringing national attention to pressing medical issues. She introduced the first legislation barring genetic discrimination in 1995. It finally became law in 2008.

She introduced a bill every Congress to fight drug-resistant bacteria.

In 2015, President Obama incorporated parts of LOUISE SLAUGHTER's plan to identify superbugs and increased funding for new antibiotics and vaccines into the administration's initiative to encourage the responsible use of antibiotics in livestock.

LOUISE also introduced the first bill to ban insider trading by Members of Congress.

She did all of this, and some of it controversial, and still won the respect of her colleagues.

I worked with her on many projects, from the Bicameral High-Speed and Intercity Passenger Rail Caucus, to demanding the Supreme Court adopt an ethics code.

It was not a coincidence that on the day when news of her passing broke, the words "nicest" and "Rochester" were trending on Twitter in Washington, DC.

Through all of her hard work, she was smart and kind and always funny. She will be missed by her colleagues and friends and family, including her three daughters, Megan, Amy, and Emily Robin; seven grandchildren, Lauren, Daniel, Emma, Jackson, Mason, Linus, and Ione; and one great-grandchild, Henry.

LOUISE was a great Congresswoman. I am going to miss her as a colleague and a friend.

#### DACA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this crisis we face in this country involving DACA is a crisis that was created when

President Trump announced the end of the program on September 5 of last year and gave us a deadline of March 5 of this year to come up with an alternative. Many of us, including the Presiding Officer, battled mightily to do that—a bipartisan effort with compromise on both sides—but we never could come up with a proposal the President accepted. As a consequence, the destiny of the DACA recipients is uncertain.

They are now temporarily protected by an injunction from two different Federal lawsuits—an injunction which could end in a matter of weeks or months. In the meantime, their status is so uncertain that it is difficult for them to make plans for their lives. That is where we are today.

DACA has been a huge success. It is a program designed to give those who were brought here as children, toddlers, and infants an opportunity to become part of America—a legal part of America—and an opportunity to one day become citizens.

DACA was an Executive order of President Obama's which President Trump has now abolished. There is no protection, other than the court injunction for those who are facing the end of DACA.

Yesterday, I convened a meeting with some of my Senate colleagues with the Secretary of Homeland Security, Kirstjen Nielsen. Here is what we learned: As of yesterday, more than 35,000 DACA renewal applications are pending because of these court orders. Of these pending renewal applications, 10,000 were from recipients whose DACA protection had already expired. Tens of thousands more Dreamers have DACA protection due to expire soon. Around 13,000 DACA permits could expire in March, another 5,300 in April, and nearly 14,000 more in May.

Understand what happens: When a person is protected by DACA and loses that protection, technically, they can be deported. In addition, they cannot legally continue to work in the United States.

There is some good news, though. Secretary Nielsen promised me that the Department of Homeland Security will not deport any DACA recipient with a pending DACA application, even if their DACA status has expired. I thank her for that commitment, and I intend to hold her to that commitment. Many lives are at stake.

However, for DACA recipients whose status has expired, that same Department will not authorize them to work unless and until DACA is renewed, so there can be a gap in their employment. Understand that the people we are talking about are not folks, by and large, with part-time jobs. They are teachers. They are medical professionals. Some of them are serving in our military.

What we now know about the expiration of this work permit is that tens of thousands of DACA-eligible individuals could be forced to leave their jobs

while their applications for renewal are pending and before those applications are approved.

Then consider the fate of Dreamers who are eligible for DACA but never reached the necessary age to attain that status. They can no longer apply for DACA because President Trump's decision prohibits them after September 5. If a child turns 15, the youngest age at which they can apply for DACA, they are now blocked from applying because of the President's decision.

The nonpartisan Migration Policy Institute estimates that in addition to 800,000 DACA recipients, there are an additional 1 million Dreamers eligible for DACA. Because of President Trump's decision to end DACA, 1.8 million Dreamers are at risk of deportation and cannot work to support themselves and contribute to the only country they know and the country they love.

President Trump called on Congress to legalize DACA, but he has, unfortunately, refused to accept six different bipartisan offers to achieve that. One of those offers also included \$25 billion for his wall. Yet he wouldn't accept it.

Let me tell my colleagues the story of one of these young people, as I have done before. I have come to the floor of the Senate more than 110 times to tell these stories. I just think when you hear the stories of an individual, it helps us understand what the real issue is.

This is a photo of Irving Calderon. He is the 112th Dreamer I have talked about on the Senate floor. When he was 7 months old, Irving was brought to the United States from Mexico by his parents. He lived in California for 10 years and then moved to Texas where he currently lives. His childhood memories include Disneyland, going to the beach, and celebrating Christmas and the Fourth of July with his family.

Irving found out he was undocumented when he was 12 years old. At first he didn't believe it because he said there is nothing about him that wasn't American. Then, as he got older, he realized he couldn't get a driver's license, he couldn't work, he couldn't save money for college, but he didn't give up.

In high school, Irving maintained a 4.0 grade point average. He was a member of the Honor Society and the student council. He served as president of the school's chapter of the Future Business Leaders of America, played varsity basketball and tennis.

Because of his accomplishments, Irving was accepted into the University of Texas at Austin. In college, he served as director of the Hispanic Business Students Association, and under his leadership, the group adopted a street to clean. Irving organized events for underrepresented high school students and middle school students and volunteered at an orphanage every Thanksgiving.