

that I did not say “equity” but “parity”—25 women clerks and 23 men. In 2014, in fact, all four of Judge Kavanaugh’s clerks were women—a first for a judge on the DC Circuit. There have been 84 percent of those 25 women who have gone on to Supreme Court clerkships, thanks, in large part, to Judge Kavanaugh’s guidance and support.

Here is how they conclude their letter:

As you likely know by now, Judge Kavanaugh has two daughters, Margaret and Liza. If they decide to follow in their dad’s—and grandmother’s—footsteps and become lawyers, they will enter a legal profession that is fairer and more equal because of Judge Kavanaugh.

We have also heard from Professor Amy Chua, who has served on Yale Law School’s clerkship committee for most of the last decade. During that time, 10 Yale Law School graduates have clerked for Judge Kavanaugh, 8 of whom are women.

She emailed them to ask about their experiences. As she explained in the Wall Street Journal, they lauded his work ethic, his commitment to excellence, his humility, and his decency, and “to a person they described his extraordinary mentorship.”

One woman said:

He’s been an incredible mentor to me despite the fact that I am a left-of-center woman. He always takes into account my goals rather than giving me generic advice.

With respect to Judge Kavanaugh’s approach to deciding cases, Professor Chua pointed out that he “actively seeks out clerks from across the ideological spectrum who will question and disagree with him” because “he wants to hear other perspectives before deciding a case.”

“Above all,” she observed, Judge Kavanaugh “believes in the law and wants to figure out, without prejudging, what it requires.”

Again, we have already heard so many speak up to recommend this impressive nominee.

In the weeks ahead, we will hear more, including from Judge Kavanaugh himself, when our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee conduct hearings on his nomination. Yet I wanted to call special attention today to the warm words of those who have worked with and for Judge Kavanaugh. They have seen firsthand just how rigorously he approaches his work as a judge and how graciously he shares his time and his talent with others. Judge Kavanaugh is certainly an impressive nominee.

TAX REFORM

Mr. President, on another matter, fueled by American workers and job creators and assisted by the pro-growth policies of this Republican government, our economy continues to surge ahead.

Last week, we examined the Department of Labor’s June jobs report, which indicated another month of remarkable growth—213,000 new jobs. On

Friday, economists at the Florida Chamber of Commerce announced that the Sunshine State’s GDP had surpassed \$1 trillion for the first time. That is \$1 trillion for the GDP of Florida. If Florida were a sovereign nation, it would be the 17th largest national economy in the world. In the past year, Floridians, alone, have created 182,000 new jobs. It is hard to argue with the facts, but it is even harder to argue with reports that come straight from hard-working Americans.

Last month, during his visit to Duluth, MN, President Trump met with local workers and job creators to discuss tax reform and economic growth in their communities, and he heard them loud and clear. Republican policies are working.

Adam Morse, a production truck-driver for U.S. Steel Minntac, told President Trump that “the tax plan is working, and I’m seeing a difference in my paycheck.”

Ray Klosowski, Commissioner of the Duluth Seaway Port Authority, says that the past year has brought significant steps forward for the port and the jobs it supports. They added a first-ever intermodal freight area, which has allowed Duluth to process containers from the west coast and significantly expand shipping capabilities. There are millions of dollars in new contracts and commitments to hire hundreds of new workers at the port. Mr. Klosowski summed it up, saying:

The customers . . . we’ve been used to—our old tried-and-true customers—have experienced expansion because of the new tax structure. . . . They’re coming to us with more business than we’ve [ever] seen in the past.

Our Democratic colleagues are still grasping for ways to put a negative spin on all of this good news and the Republican policies that are helping it along. But all around the country, Americans are trying to get their attention so that they can explain just how tax reform, regulatory reform, and the rest of our policy agenda are helping to improve their businesses and their lives.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRUMP-PUTIN SUMMIT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, like any patriotic American—Democrat, Republican, or Independent—I was appalled by the press conference that capped off the President’s trip to Europe this morning. President Trump hardly pressed President Putin on a single issue, saying that “both countries” are responsible for the state of relations between the United States and Russia.

When it comes to interference in the 2016 elections, the President has managed to point the finger at just about everyone except the culprit. The one person he hasn’t blamed is the man who is actually responsible—Vladimir Putin. Rather than taking the opportunity to confront Putin and stand up in defense of the United States, rather than demanding that Putin hand over the Russian intelligence agents who were indicted last week, the President took the word of the KGB over the brave, hard-working men and women of the CIA. It is amazing. When has a President ever done something like that—believed our enemies instead of our own intelligence agents, who have worked so diligently and hard to keep us safe?

Vladimir Putin’s goal for over a decade has been the weakening of American leadership and the erosion of vital international alliances, such as NATO, that promote American values of democracy, freedom, and open markets. He has labored for 10 years, and he didn’t get very far, and now President Trump is handing him the keys to the city.

President Putin could hardly have scripted a more successful foreign trip for his interests than the one we have just witnessed by President Trump. Now, because of President Trump’s inexplicable actions, Americans and citizens of the world from one end to the other are scratching their heads, saying: What is going on inside the President’s head? Because of the President’s almost inexplicable actions, a single, ominous question hangs over the White House: What could possibly cause the President to put the interests of Russia over those of the United States? Millions of Americans will continue to wonder if the only possible explanation for this dangerous and inexplicable behavior is the possibility—the very real possibility—that President Putin holds damaging information over President Trump.

The questions of the moment—now that our security has been put at risk by the President—are these: Where are our Republican colleagues? Where are the Republicans who cheered Reagan’s famous challenge to Gorbachev to “tear down this wall”? Where are the Republicans who demanded a strong response from President Obama when Putin annexed Crimea? Where are the Republicans who surely know in their hearts that trusting Putin over American intelligence, defense, and law enforcement diminishes the standing of our great country?

Now is the time, if there ever were one, for Republicans to stand up. If we wait much longer, our global alliance will fracture; the institutions America created in the ashes of World War II will crumble; and our allies will consider abandoning us, maybe even embracing China, if the consequences—economic and military—are devastating for our country; and Putin’s Russia will emerge all the stronger for

it. American power, prestige, and even our economy will be deeply damaged.

I am pleading—pleading—with my Republican colleagues to push back by doing four things:

First, ratchet up—not water down—sanctions against Russia.

Second, join us in demanding that the President's national security team immediately come to Congress and testify.

Third, end attacks by so many on the hard right on the Department of Justice, the FBI, and Special Counsel Mueller. These attacks are beyond the pale, but now that the President has done this with Putin, these attacks are dangerous to the future of the Republic.

The special counsel needs to finish his work. The President needs to sit for an interview with the special counsel, as previous Presidents have done and as Republicans demanded of President Clinton.

The President has no problem breaking bread with a man who maliciously attacked America during our elections, but he can't sit down with a man charged with investigating it—Special Counsel Mueller. Please. What is the President afraid of? What is he hiding that we don't know?

Fourth, our Republican colleagues must demand with us that the President insist that the 12 indicted Russians be sent to the United States immediately to stand trial.

Every one of these actions is important. Every one should be bipartisan. Every one of our Republican colleagues, no matter what their ideologies within the Republican Party are, should choose country over party—what is good for America over the politics of the moment. Let us show strength and not fear when President Trump shows weakness, as he has today.

I am asking Leader MCCONNELL and Speaker RYAN, both friends, to make sure the four things we have asked for are done. I am pleading with them, for the sake of the country, to do so.

The President is doing grave harm to the standing of the United States, to the strength of the United States, to the security of the United States, and to the economic robustness of the United States by kowtowing to Vladimir Putin. The President will continue to do it if he is not checked, and the best check is our Republican colleagues, if they only have the decency, the honor, and the courage to stand up at a time when the moment calls for it. Some have—Senator MCCAIN, Senator GRAHAM, and Senator SASSE—but where are the others? Where is Leader MCCONNELL?

The summit today was an insult to all Americans—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. We have to stand up together and push back.

NOMINATION OF BRETT KAVANAUGH

On a related matter, Mr. President, I wish to speak for a moment on President Trump's nomination of Brett Kavanaugh to the Supreme Court.

We know President Trump promised to pick a judge who would be hostile to a woman's right to choose—to *Roe v. Wade*—and to the healthcare law, including protections for Americans with preexisting conditions. That is incredibly troubling in and of itself, but I have little doubt that every one of those 25, in the eyes of the Federalist Society and the Heritage Foundation, which put together the list, would do those two things that would so hurt America in my judgment.

There is another troubling aspect of Judge Kavanaugh's nomination: His views on Presidential power and whether Presidents should be treated as though they are above the law. Judge Kavanaugh seems to take an almost monarchical view of Executive power. He has written that a sitting President should not be subject to criminal or civil investigation or prosecution while in office. He has even written that a President doesn't need to enforce a law that the President "deems" unconstitutional. It contradicts the well-settled principle—something at the heart of our Constitution and what the Founding Fathers in their greatness did back in 1789—that Presidents should not be above the law.

Now, those are dangerous beliefs at any time, but at this moment in time, with this President, those beliefs are especially dangerous. Anyone who followed the President's trip overseas and his summit today with President Putin saw a reckless, self-centered President willing to bully allies and comfort adversaries, seemingly on a whim.

President Trump's first 1½ years in office has been marked by numerous examples of the President stretching Executive authority, testing the rule of law, and the separation of powers.

Now, more than ever—and especially in light of today's events—we need a Supreme Court Justice who understands and respects the important boundaries the Constitution and our system of government place on the Chief Executive. We don't need a Justice who is ideologically predisposed to favor almost unchecked Executive power, especially with Donald Trump as President of the United States.

Judge Kavanaugh has clearly tipped his hand that he prefers to give broad deference to the Executive. Perhaps that is why Judge Kavanaugh was ultimately selected from the list of 25. That all had been given the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval by the Federalist Society, intent on repealing *Roe*, and by the Heritage Foundation, intent on rolling back government-involved healthcare, whether it be ACA, protecting preexisting conditions, or Medicaid.

Special Counsel Mueller's probe appears to be discovering more and more evidence of President Putin's interference in our election and potential cooperation of American citizens in that interference. Given that a Justice Kavanaugh could one day be faced with a ruling on the matter of whether a sit-

ting President can be indicted or subpoenaed, I hope Senators from both parties scrutinize Judge Kavanaugh's beliefs about Executive power.

On all other courts, potential defendants don't get to pick their jurors. The President—particularly this President—shouldn't have that power either.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. ERNST). The Senator from Connecticut.

TRUMP-PUTIN SUMMIT

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, in my lifetime, no American President has ever had a more disastrous overseas trip than the one that was just concluded by President Trump—5 days of disaster after disaster, insult after insult, capitulation after capitulation. Today, Donald Trump has America weaker in the world than at any time in recent memory.

Let's start with what just happened today that has the whole world reeling. To the shock and horror of the American public, President Trump stood on stage with Vladimir Putin and told the world that he believes Putin when Putin insists that Russia did not try to interfere in the American elections in Trump's favor in 2016.

Despite what President Trump wants us to believe these days, there are still some truths left in the world. Not everything is political spin. Not everything in the world today is up for debate. Russia did attack our elections in 2016. They plan on attacking our elections in 2018. In 2016, they did so with the explicit purpose of trying to elect Donald Trump. All 100 Senators agree on this. Every U.S. intelligence agency agrees on this. Every U.S. law enforcement agency in the country agrees on this. Everyone working for Donald Trump in his national security cabinet agrees on this.

Now, we actually have the specific names of the specific Russian individuals who carried out these attacks. They have been indicted by Donald Trump's Department of Justice. There is simply no question, no debate over whether the Russian Government engaged in a massive, willful, illegal campaign to push the 2016 election to Donald Trump. It is a fact.

President Trump, no doubt, doesn't like this fact. First, because there is an investigation that is pending right now over the outstanding question of whether he knew it was happening and whether he and his campaign team coordinated with the Russians to make that happen. There is increasing evidence that this might be the case, but we will have to wait for the Mueller report to know.

Second, without the Russians' help, it is possible that Donald Trump might not be President. We don't know this, but the slim margins where the President prevailed in certain States leave room to surmise that without Russia's help, Donald Trump might not have been elected President.

Regardless of whether Trump coordinated with the Russians and regardless