

ago today, that last year we pursued on a bipartisan basis and passed the STOP School Violence Act, which provides, over a 10-year period, \$100 million a year for strengthening school security, providing school training to identify threats before they take action, and creating school threat assessments and crisis intervention. That has passed.

It is why this year I have reintroduced the Extreme Risk Protection Order and Violence Protection Act, which will dedicate the Department of Justice funds to incentivize States to give law enforcement the authority to prevent individuals that pose a threat to themselves or others the ability to purchase or possess firearms, so that if information like what was available to authorities in Parkland is available to people now, they can actually go to court—to prove their case with due process, and take the guns away from this person before they go out and commit this crime. More importantly, they can alert their parents to secure the guns at home so they don't use that gun to commit the crime.

I have also introduced a bipartisan bill, the Threat Assessment Prevention and Safety Act. It creates a task force of experts to provide recommendations for a national strategy to keep our communities safe from targeted violence through threat assessment and management, which experts say is the best way to identify potential killers before they act.

If something like this had been in place, it is highly likely that authorities, putting all this together—what we know today—would have said this individual is a serious threat and we need to do something about it before they take action.

And, finally, yesterday, Senator GRASSLEY and I reintroduced the EA-GLES Act, which would reauthorize and expand the U.S. Secret Service National Threat Assessment Center to help communities proactively mitigate threats of violence in schools.

It is my hope that this terrible tragedy and what we have learned about it will guide us and will provide us a road map of concrete steps that we can take to empower communities, schools, and police departments and parents and families with the tools they need, not just to identify people who are potentially violent but to prevent it from happening and to get out ahead of it—maybe it is a risk assessment or maybe it is institutionalized mental health or wraparound services, but anything that can be done.

I raise all of this today because if you were to speak to the families, as I know my colleague from Florida and I often do, they will tell you that the most important thing we can do to honor the memory of their children whom they lost in this terrible tragedy is to make sure it doesn't happen to anybody else.

Now, there is one more thing we would like to do to honor the victims of this tragedy. My colleague Senator

SCOTT and I have put forth a resolution that commemorates this day. It honors the survivors. It pledges continued support for their recovery. It recognizes the strength and resiliency of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and the community that surrounds it. It expresses gratitude to the emergency medical and healthcare professionals of the community for their efforts in responding and caring for the victims and survivors. Most of all, it commemorates the victims who were killed in the attack, and it offers the Senate's heartfelt condolences and deepest sympathies to the families, loved ones, and friends of the victims.

Madam President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 71, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 71) honoring the Memory of the Victims of the Senseless Attack at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School 1 Year Ago.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. RUBIO. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 71) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. RUBIO. I yield the floor.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from Florida be given 3 minutes to speak on the resolution of his colleague from Florida, and then I speak on leader time, to be followed immediately by Senators WHITEHOUSE, SCHATZ, and MERKLEY.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, I thank my colleague Senator RUBIO for standing with me to remember the victims and their families on this tragic anniversary and for his unwavering commitment to school safety.

Alyssa Alhadeff, Scott Beigel, Martin Duque Anguiano, Nicholas Dworet, Aaron Feis, Jaime Guttenberg, Chris Hixon, Luke Hoyer, Cara Loughran, Gina Montalto, Joaquin Oliver, Alaina Petty, Meadow Pollack, Helena Ramsay, Alex Schachter, Carmen Schentrup, Peter Wang—one year ago today, these 17 souls were taken from us in a brutal act of violence. They were sons and daughters, brothers and

sisters; they were students and athletes and musicians and teachers. Not a day goes that I don't think about that day and the amazing people who were snuffed out by the deranged actions of a madman.

Over the course of the last year, I have spent countless hours with the families of the victims. Unfortunately, I wish we had never met like this. They have been partners in our efforts to ensure that this never happens again. We worked together, along with educators, mental health professionals, and law enforcement, to pass the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School Public Safety Act, to make sure our State does everything in its power to prevent tragedies like this from happening again.

Today, the State of Florida stands united with heavy hearts. Nothing we say here today can bring back the lives that were lost. Nothing we do can replace the angels of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School who were taken from us too soon. But we must never forget them. We must honor their memory every day, and we must rededicate ourselves to the goal of ending violence in our schools.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, later today we will vote on the agreement by the conference committee to keep the government open, as well as provide additional border security. Once again, I applaud the members of the conference committee and their staffs. They were the nub here, and they did outstanding work, nights and weekends, to reach an agreement. We knew that if the conference committee were allowed to work, they could bring this together. The agreement is a validation of the idea that when you put Members of both parties in a room to negotiate in good faith, when everyone is willing to give and take, progress is never out of reach. So, again, I thank the members of the committee.

The agreement is a reasonable compromise. It provides additional funding for smart, effective border security. It does not fund the President's wall, but it does fund smart border security initiatives that both parties have always supported, including increased security at our ports of entry and humanitarian assistance at our border. Most importantly, it will keep our government open.

Everyone, I believe, including the President, wants to avoid a repeat of what happened before Christmas. Everyone wants to avoid another senseless government shutdown. I expect Congress will pass this bill sometime this afternoon, and President Trump should sign it immediately.

THE GREEN NEW DEAL

Madam President, on another subject, this morning, I challenge Leader McCONNELL to say that our climate change crisis is real, that it is caused by humans, and that Congress needs to act. Let me elaborate.

The Republican leader fashions himself as someone who doesn't waste time with political stunts. I am not sure I could count the number of times he has shrugged off a piece of legislation by calling it a "futile gesture" because the President will not sign it or because he thinks it would be a waste of the Senate's time.

Yet, on Tuesday, the Republican leader announced he would bring up his Green New Deal resolution for a vote because he wants to make sure everybody has the "opportunity to go on record and see how they feel" about it, knowing full well his entire party will vote against it, including himself, and that it will not pass.

Since Republicans took control of this Chamber in 2015, they have not brought a single Republican bill to meaningfully reduce carbon emissions to the floor of the Senate—not one bill. Republicans have controlled this Chamber for 4 years and have not brought a single bill to significantly reduce carbon emissions.

We are supposed to conduct the business of the Nation. We are supposed to tackle our country's greatest challenges. Well, climate change is the No. 1 threat to our planet, yet not a single Republican bill that addresses climate change in a meaningful way has reached the floor—not a one. In fact, the Republican majority has spent the Senate's time on legislation that would make climate change even worse. In one instance, the Republican leader moved to repeal a commonsense and vital program to reduce methane emissions, and it failed only because a few brave Republicans joined all of the Democrats in voting no.

Now, with amazing irony, the first measure to address climate change from the Republican leader—the first one in 4 years—will be one that he wants all of his Members to vote against. Let me say that again. The Republican leader announced he is going to bring up a resolution he intends to vote against.

That is what the American people hate about Congress, the pointless partisan games. Next time you see congressional approval level hovering around 15 percent, don't ask why. This is why: Leader McCONNELL proposing resolutions so he can vote against them and never proposing anything on this subject, climate change, that is constructive.

I hope the American people are paying attention because they need to see what is going on here. The American people need to see that this is all there is to the Republican plan to deal with climate change. This is all they can muster—a political stunt, not designed to make progress, not designed to move

the ball forward. They are bringing a resolution forward so that they can all vote against it.

This cheap, cynical ploy evidently represents the sum total of Senate Republicans' leadership on the vital issue of climate change, an issue that cries out for serious engagement by Members of both parties. But rather than seriously engage on the issue, our Republican colleagues are taking a page from President Trump's petty playbook, trying to make this a game of political "gotcha." They are taking their lead from the President, a man who is so willfully ignorant and foolish

that he thinks he is clever by ridiculing the global scientific consensus

on climate change whenever it snows.

Well, the American people are not laughing. They weren't laughing when a U.S. Senator brought a snowball to the floor of this Chamber to mock climate science. They weren't laughing when President Trump called climate change a hoax perpetrated by the Chinese. The rest of the world isn't laughing either, not when basically every country in the world—including Syria, North Korea, and Iran—is working together to reduce carbon emissions while the Trump administration has forced the United States to sit on the sidelines. I would say to our Republican colleagues that this is no game, and it is no joke. Climate change is deadly serious, and the time for all of us to treat it that way is now, before it is too late.

So when the Republican leader says he wants to bring the Green New Deal resolution up for a vote, I say: Go for it. Bring it on. You think it might embarrass Democrats to vote on a non-binding resolution that some of us may support but not others. Trust me, we will be fine because the American people know that our entire party actually believes that climate change is happening and it is caused by humans. We actually believe the consensus of the worldwide scientific community that climate change is an existential threat to this planet, one that threatens not only our children and our grandchildren but all of us right now.

We actually believe that we need to do something about climate change. Do Republicans believe that? Do Republicans agree with the overwhelming consensus of the scientific community? Does Leader McCONNELL? I seriously want to know, and so do the American people.

So today, I am issuing a challenge to the majority leader. I don't do this often, and my colleagues know I would rather work in a bipartisan way on climate change, but this stunt—his cynical stunt—demands a response.

I challenge Leader McCONNELL to say that our climate change crisis is real, that it is caused by humans, and that Congress needs to act. That is what two-thirds of the American people agree with—two-thirds.

My strong suspicion, unfortunately, however, is that McConnell can't say

that and won't. Leader McCONNELL has voted six times against sense-of-the-Senate resolutions that climate change is real and human activity has contributed to it. He has dodged the issue time and again, but maybe his opinion has changed. So when Leader McCONNELL brings his Green New Deal resolution forward for a vote, we Democrats demand our own amendment votes. Let's see if anything has changed since 2015, when only five brave Republicans were able to vote yes on a resolution saying climate change is real and caused by humans. Two of them aren't even here anymore.

If Leader McCONNELL blocks amendments, we will know where he and his party stand: against science, against fact—ostriches with their heads buried in the sand as the tide comes in.

If Leader McCONNELL allows amendments, allows an actual, real debate on climate change, we will see which of our Republican friends are finally ready to admit that climate change is real—is happening right now—and are ready to act on it. Unlike what Leader McCONNELL is proposing, that would be actual progress.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, let me start by thanking Leader SCHUMER for his incredible remarks this morning. There is a surge of energy around this issue. He has represented that surge of energy very well. He challenged the other side of the aisle to bring it on. Let me sign up right now as the proud member of the "bring it on" caucus. Bring it on. We are looking forward to this conversation on our side.

It is clear that the people of America want action. The polling is immensely strong on this issue. It is clear that the people of America see this issue in their daily lives. This is not academic theory any longer. They see the wildfires. They see the droughts. They see the floods. They see the sea level rise. They see the fish moving about. This is in their lives now, and the polling shows that.

A vast majority of Americans say they are—and this is the word in the poll—"worried" about climate change. The world has reported they see this as the No. 1 issue facing the world's security.

Against that backdrop of an active, engaged, and knowledgeable American population and a world that is looking for the United States to lead, the city on the hill, what—what—do we get from the Republican majority in the Senate? We get a bill, a measure brought to the floor—the first time, as Leader SCHUMER pointed out, that the Republican-controlled majority has brought any meaningful legislation related to climate change to the floor—that they intend to vote against.

Who brings a bill to the floor that you intend to vote against? How is that possibly sincere or serious, and what is