

No consultation, no nothing—that is not the way you would go about putting together a bill that you really want to pass. That is not the way to go about things if you really want to solve our immigration problem.

When Stephen Miller, one of the President's most virulently anti-immigrant advisers, is in the room crafting an immigration plan, it is a surefire failure. The fact that the President is announcing his bill today provides a further bit of irony because, this afternoon, the new Statue of Liberty museum opens. There is no greater symbol of Americans' openness to immigration, of the greatness of America, than the Statue of Liberty, which reaches out to people from every corner of the globe. It towers over nearby Ellis Island, where generations of hopeful strivers shuffled off boats into a new life and into a new country and helped build America into the greatest country in the world.

The White House immigration bill is an insult to our grand tradition of welcoming immigrants from all walks of life, and it is an appropriate metaphor that the President, today, is skipping the opening of the new Statue of Liberty museum, even though he is in New York, simply to go to political fundraisers. He skips real immigration reform and offers a political document, and his trip to New York embodies that ironically and metaphorically.

IRAN

Madam President, on Iran, this has been a chaotic week in the news about the Trump administration's position on Iran. We have gone from reports that the Trump administration's national security team was discussing possible troop deployments—one newspaper, the New York Times, reported 120,000—to coverage now of infighting among the President's staff about the credibility of the threat from Iran.

As usual, the signals indicate chaos coming out of the White House—individuals fighting with each other, no real plan, no real pattern, and no discussion with the American people or with the Congress.

Yesterday, personnel were evacuated from our Embassy in Iraq, and Republicans in Congress have now started to echo the same saber-rattling we typically hear from folks like Ambassador Bolton. At this moment, the only thing that is abundantly clear about the administration's Iran policy is its lack of clarity and the lack of consultation with Congress and with the American people.

Congress has not been fully informed about the intelligence. We have not been properly consulted about the administration's strategy, to the extent one exists.

More importantly, the American people deserve to know what is going on here. They are rightfully skeptical and tired of wars in the Middle East—a skepticism many of my Republican friends across the aisle don't seem to share. We need to get a better public

understanding of what President Trump and Republicans in Congress plan to do.

Yesterday, I called on Acting Secretary of Defense Shanahan and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs Dunford to testify publicly before the Armed Services Committee so that the American people can at least get an idea of what is being cooked up here. We have learned, sadly, in Iraq, when things are done behind closed doors and the American people aren't fully informed, it can lead to significant foreign policy blunders. So they should come up here—General Dunford, Acting Secretary Shanahan, as well as Secretary Pompeo—and I hope that request will be granted.

HEALTHCARE

Now, Madam President, on healthcare and our friends creating the Senate graveyard, as well as the abortion bill in Alabama, the House has passed over 100 pieces of legislation, many of them with bipartisan support, only to get buried in this graveyard of a Chamber. Leader McCONNELL, who controls the calendar, prefers to run it as a legislative graveyard.

Let's take healthcare as an example, the No. 1 issue the American people care about. Our colleagues in the House passed a modest bill to protect families from getting charged more if they have a preexisting condition. It should be bipartisan, and most Republicans—or many of the Senate Republicans say they agree with that policy when asked. Well, we have a bill that does it, and what does Leader McCONNELL do? He just deep-sixes it and sets aside another tombstone for his legislative graveyard.

What about today's House vote on another set of healthcare bills to protect people with preexisting conditions and help them sign up for insurance? What is the fate of those bills in the Senate? Will Leader McCONNELL sentence them to the same legislative death as all of these other proposals or will Leader McCONNELL actually allow us to debate something of great importance to the American people, to amend it, and then vote on it? Hopefully it will pass. I believe it would.

What is Leader McCONNELL afraid of? Is he afraid the American people will get protection from preexisting conditions? Is he afraid he might anger some special interest? Is he afraid he might anger President Trump? We have a higher obligation here.

Instead of debating those crucial pieces of legislation, Leader McCONNELL has treated the Senate like a rubberstamp for the Trump administration's often radical nominees. For 3 straight weeks, we have only processed nominations, including several judges who are merely unqualified ideologues or merely unqualified.

This matters. The judges we have heard from are narrow. Many have offered bigoted remarks in the past, really bigoted. They are not who a judge should be. A judge is supposed to walk

in the plaintiff's shoes and the defendant's shoes, and then come up with a decision that is governed by existing law. These people are ideologues, many of them stooges and acolytes for the Federalist Society. Now we have in Alabama the most radical anti-abortion bill in the country, inviting a challenge to *Roe v. Wade* in the courts. So the effort by the Republican leader to remake the Federal judiciary into a conservative redoubt has a direct impact on these legal challenges.

If you ask most of the Republican Members in this Chamber “Are you for repealing *Roe v. Wade*, hook, line, and sinker?” they would say, no, they are not or they would mostly be silent; they would be afraid to answer. Then they vote for judges who want to do it, either frontally or by various deep cuts. When our Republican friends vote for these radical, hard-right judges, they are saying they want to repeal *Roe v. Wade*, even if they will not say it directly.

So I say to my colleagues, much as you prefer to remain silent on the Alabama Republican abortion bill, your votes for the hard-right, anti-*Roe* judges speak volumes—volumes. I would say the whole impetus of the Alabama bill is now that we have very conservative, anti-*Roe* judges on the Supreme Court, supported universally by the Members of the other side, they feel they have the boldness to introduce a bill that actually repeals *Roe* instead of just curbing it.

CHINESE TRADE POLICY

Madam President, finally, something good that I think the administration has done. I was pleased for two reasons to see the administration issue an Executive order laying the groundwork for the Commerce Department to ban all purchases of telecommunications equipment from China's State-controlled firms.

First, it was a good decision for our national security. We have long known the threat posed by foreign telecommunications companies, particularly Chinese firms like Huawei and ZTE. The tentacles of the Chinese Government are deep in these two companies. Our intelligence and defense communities, concerned about our own security here in America, have banned the use of Huawei products in the military and labeled its technology a national security threat. That is serious stuff.

So I applaud the decision to protect our networks from potential malware, foreign surveillance, and cyber espionage, and I applaud the administration. They backed off on ZTE 1 year ago, despite the overwhelming support in this Chamber for not letting ZTE sell products, but they are now doing the right thing on Huawei, which is even a greater danger than ZTE.

There is a second reason this is a good decision, aside from national security. It is called reciprocity. In America, we make great products, and time and again, when we make great

products, the Chinese don't let us sell them to China. They instead keep the product out, steal the technology, and then produce it themselves. Well, it is about time there was a little fair play—a little fair play. China, for years, has sold products—likely with stolen IP—here in the United States cheaply while denying America access to its markets.

Reciprocity matters. A lot of people say to get China to negotiate, tariffs aren't the way to go. I have made my views on that clear, but reciprocity is another way to go. If China doesn't let our best stuff in, we are not letting theirs in. Open up. Play fair. If we don't do something about China today, our economy will be second-rate 10, 15 years from now, and our children and grandchildren will suffer economically, make no mistake about it.

Telecommunications, especially 5G technology, are already a major focus of American innovation. We shouldn't let Chinese companies worm in on the cheap and put American businesses at a disadvantage. The United States, with our allies, should lead to the development of a safe, secure, and economically viable alternative to the 5G architecture of firms like Huawei that are subject to the infiltration by the Chinese Government, which has shown no qualms about stealing everything of our intellectual property that they can.

I would say to our European, Japanese, and Australian allies, stick with us on this; it will benefit everybody—everybody. China is our No. 1 global competitor, and it is about time they played fair. What was done yesterday with Huawei by Secretary Ross will help make that happen, and it is a very good decision.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The Senator from Missouri.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I have come to the floor to be joined soon by my colleague and cochair of the Senate Law Enforcement Caucus, Senator COONS, to honor the men and women who work for us every day to help protect us every day during Police Week. This is an annual event. It brings law enforcement officers to Washington from around the country and of course including my State of Missouri.

As it turns out, Police Week is really a bad week to rob a store in Washington with a town full of policemen. Just last week, several would-be robbers came out of a robbery and almost ran into a group of St. Louis area policemen and a New Jersey policeman. They immediately chased down and arrested the perpetrators of that crime.

Criminals are often not very smart, but you have to be particularly not smart to decide you are going to rob a store in Washington during Police Week. Thank goodness for those who wear blue and work to serve us and protect us every day and even do that

when they are off duty and hundreds of miles away from home. So congratulations to those officers for what they did while they are here, and nobody is very surprised by that.

When Senator COONS and I came to the Senate a little over 8 years ago, we started trying to find a law enforcement caucus to join, and found out there wasn't one, so Senator COONS said to me: Let's just start one, and we did. This is the week.

We get a chance every year to talk about, specifically, what happens this week. We look for opportunities through the year to, No. 1, honor the people who work here protecting us every day, and, No. 2, to talk about things happening in the country that affect the people who protect us and protect police and sheriff's departments. This is the time of year, frankly, when the tragic loss of family is so evident as we add people to the police memorial.

Four Missourians were added to that list this year. Deputy Sheriff Aaron Paul Roberts of the Greene County Sheriff's Office—the county I live in—died when his patrol car was swept into the Pomme de Terre River after he responded to a 911 call. Deputy Roberts had served with the Sheriff's Office for about 1 year, but he had previously served with the Willard Police Department for 4 years. He is survived by his wife, daughter, and by his parents.

In April of 2018, Miller County Deputy Sheriff Casey Shoemate was killed when his vehicle collided with an oncoming vehicle while responding to a structure fire. He had served with that department for about 1 year as well, but he previously worked in two other Missouri police departments. He is survived by his two children, his fiancee, his parents, and his siblings.

In March of 2018, Clinton Police Department Officer Christopher Morton was shot and killed when he and two other officers responded to a 911 call. As Officer Morton and his colleagues arrived at the scene, a man began shooting at them. The officers returned fire. They entered the building. The subject continued to fire. He fatally wounded Officer Morton and injured two of Officer Morton's colleagues whom I had a chance to visit with at that department not long after this incident.

Officer Morton had been with the Clinton Police Department for 3 years. Prior to that, he served in the U.S. military through the Missouri Army National Guard. He had been deployed to Kosovo. He had been deployed to Afghanistan. His parents and siblings, I know, worried about him there but wouldn't have, in their wildest imagination, thought he would be killed at home near his hometown when reacting to a 911 call from a house.

In March of last year, FBI Special Agent Melissa Morrow, of Kansas City, died from a brain cancer she developed following the 9/11 terrorist attack on the Pentagon. She had been assigned to

the Evidence Response Team of the FBI Washington Field Office. She spent 10 weeks after that event recovering and processing evidence from the site in hazardous conditions. Melissa is survived by her parents, her sister, a niece, and a nephew.

The names of these fallen men and women were added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial here in Washington and to the Wall of Honor at the Missouri Law Enforcement Memorial over the last month. They will be remembered by people who benefited from and remember their bravery, their dedication, and their sacrifice.

This is a time when we honor those who serve us, particularly for lives which have been lost, but it is also the time to think about what we can do to serve them in a better way, to be sure they have the equipment they need, the resources they need, and the training they need.

I mentioned at an event earlier today that for the last 50 years, law enforcement and emergency rooms have also been, unfortunately for everybody involved, the de facto mental health delivery system in the country. Officers now take crisis intervention training to be sure they are really prepared when they are dealing with someone whose intent is not criminal, but their activities are impacted by their mental health issues and what to do in that situation so everybody is better served.

We have worked hard to see that the Regional Information Sharing System in our State, headquartered in Springfield, is properly funded. The High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas Program has the center for our region in Kansas City. Those are things that Senator COONS and I have worked together on to do our best to fund.

Two different times now, we have worked together to extend the Victims of Child Abuse Program. Last year, we again introduced the bill. I think the previous extension had been a 5-year extension, and we came to the end of that. This is the program where, at 23 centers in Missouri, people understand how to get the forensic information, the testimony they need from kids who have either been the victims of crime or witnesses of crimes.

Every law enforcement person I have talked to, Senator COONS, every prosecutor I have talked to believes that what happens at these victims of child abuse centers can't be replaced anywhere else.

Now we are working together on the National Law Enforcement Museum Commemorative Coin Act, a bill that the Senate passed last year, and the House didn't get to it. We want to do that again. The Law Enforcement Museum in Washington would be the beneficiary of the proceeds from that coin after the cost of the coin is paid. We are going to be working together on that.

We have worked with other colleagues. I have worked with Senator PAT ROBERTS of Kansas on the Kelsey