

Here is what I think we can do in the days ahead and what we can have as our basic findings. As a nation, we need to be prepared for this. There are a couple of ways we can do it, and we have made very clear proposals in order to take this on.

We need to give security clearances to each and every State so that if we discover something on the Federal side and if anyone in the intelligence community identifies there is a problem, one can rapidly get to a State and ask, are you aware of this? That was not present in 2016. We didn't have points of contact between the Department of Homeland Security and every secretary of state in each State so they could also maintain rapid security, not only just normal communication but at the classified level as well.

We need the DHS to voluntarily engage with every single State and ask, would you like an additional layer of cyber protection? I can't imagine a State would not choose to add an additional layer on top of its existing cyber protection.

We also need to encourage States to be attentive to any vulnerabilities they have in their election systems. This is not something we can do at the Federal level. At the Federal level, we don't tell States and counties and precincts how they should do their elections; that is a State's unique responsibility.

We have a different election system in Oklahoma than what they have in Louisiana and in Texas and in Kansas. Although there are border States right around us, you would think we would all share and do it exactly the same, but we don't. That is actually a strength of our system. The Russians can't get into one system, hack into it, and then get into our entire election system, because States do it differently across the country. Yet we do need to be attentive if any State has a vulnerable system.

Right now, the greatest challenge we have is with the States that actually use paperless voting systems, for there is no way to verify the accuracy of those votes. If all of the votes are done electronically—and there are States that don't do it, like mine. We don't do it that way, but some States do. In fact, there are five States that do it that way. You are basically walking up to an iPad, pushing different buttons, and then walking away. That all looks very clean, and there is no threat like there was in 2000 of hanging chads because you can see it there. The problem is, if there were a problem with that software, there would be no way to verify that vote.

In my State, you mark on a paper ballot, and you run it through an optical scan. At the end of election day, they count up all of the things from the optical scan, and the paper ballots are secured away. If there is a question about a machine and its count, we can go back and verify it.

In other States, they have systems that are very similar to that of an iPad

in which you can kind of push your way through the buttons on it, do it all electronically, and look at it. When you decide "this is exactly how I voted" and you push the final button, it prints a paper receipt, basically, that is kept there. Then you can verify how you voted on the paper, which is stored on the machine, and you can also look at it electronically. It is very clean and very easy. There are other places that only use paper and count it all by hand because they are in the rural areas.

Any of those systems work. There is no reason for the Federal Government to tell each State how to do its local elections, but we do need to encourage those States to have systems that allow them to go back and audit and verify. We don't need to have anything at the end of election day that makes Americans doubt the strength of our democracy or the capability of our democracy to hold an election.

So here are the basic recommendations that are coming from the Senate Intelligence Committee and with which I will concur:

States should continue to run elections. We do not need to federalize elections, and we do not need to require that there be Federal certifications for election machines. There is no reason to play Mother May I? with someone in Washington, DC, on how it works. States need to run their elections, but the Federal Government should always be there to assist States and to say: If you have a question or if you want a second opinion, we can offer that.

The DHS should continue to create clear channels of communication between the Federal Government and appropriate officials at the State and local levels. Again, in 2016, when Jeh Johnson contacted State officials and said there was a problem with the election that was coming, State election officials pushed him away and said: We don't know who you are, and we don't know why you are calling us. We can't ever have that again.

The DHS should expedite security clearances for appropriate State and local officials.

The intelligence community should work to declassify information quickly. The last time the warnings came out about the Russian engagement in our election, it took over a year for States to learn that it was the Russians who had been trying to reach into their systems. That can never happen again.

On a national level, we should create voluntary guidelines on cyber security, best practices for public awareness campaigns, promote election security awareness, and work through the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, the National Association of Secretaries of State, and the National Association of State Election Directors. All of them have a role. We should have active communication among each other and among the DHS. States should also rapidly replace outdated, vulnerable election systems.

I have had some folks say to me: Do you know what? Those five States that don't have auditable systems are going to need Federal assistance because it is going to be expensive. That seems like a great argument unless you look at the 45 other States that have figured out how to do it without Federal assistance. This argument that it is going to take \$1 billion to help those last five States do what the other 45 States have found a way to do without Federal assistance just doesn't wash with me. Those five States can do the same thing that the other 45 States have done and have auditable, efficient election systems.

We don't want Russia, Iran, or North Korea to tamper with our elections in 2020 or, for that matter, for there to be any domestic interference. We need to be able to prove the accuracy of our elections, and it shouldn't be a challenge for us in the days ahead. We are 8 months away from these elections, and we need to complete what we have started.

I do need to mention one thing. I am exceptionally proud of the DHS and the work it did in 2018. There were no grand stories about election problems in 2018 because the DHS officials worked tirelessly to help States and walk alongside them. State secretaries of state and local volunteers all around the country worked exceptionally hard to pay attention to the election issues. We cannot stop focusing on that. We need to be aware that the Russians don't just do it once; they do it over and over again, as every one of our European allies can tell us. They will keep coming with misinformation, and they will keep coming to try to destabilize. We, as well, can be clear and push back on this in the days ahead.

I have a bill called the Secure Elections Act, which we worked on for a couple of years, that answers all of these questions, and I look forward to its passage. In the meantime, I am grateful that those at the DHS are paying attention to this, and I encourage them to continue to not only consider these recommendations but to apply them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 2019

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, following leader remarks on Thursday, June 13, 2019, the Senate be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak up to 10 minutes each; further, that at 10:45 a.m., Senator PAUL or his designee be recognized to make motions to discharge S.J. Res. 20 and S.J. Res. 26 and that the motions to discharge be debated concurrently until 11:30 a.m., with 7 minutes reserved for the chairman and ranking member, respectively; further, that at 11:30 a.m., the

Senate vote in relation to the motions to discharge in the order listed and that following disposition of the motion in relation to S.J. Res. 26, the Senate proceed to executive session and the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Crawford nomination; finally, that if cloture is invoked on the Crawford nomination, at 1:45 p.m. on Thursday, the Senate vote on the confirmation of the Stilwell nomination and the Crawford nomination; further, that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider consider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LANKFORD. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

NET NEUTRALITY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it is hard to believe that this week marks 1 year since the Trump administration and Federal Communications Commission Chairman Pai, chose to reverse the Commission's stance on net neutrality. What is net neutrality? The principles are simple. Internet service providers should be required to treat all internet content and traffic equally. They should not be able to block access to websites, to reduce the speeds at which consumers browse the internet, or charge consumers more based on the types of websites they are visiting.

The Trump administration believes that companies should be able to freely block or slow down consumers' access to the internet in the interest of higher profits. My Democratic colleagues and I believe that all content should be treated equally, and corporate financial interests should not be more important than protecting American consumers.

The fact is that most Americans agree with us. The decision to rollback net neutrality was unpopular a year ago, and it remains unpopular today. In March of 2019, a poll conducted by tech research firm, Comparitech, found that four in five Americans support net neutrality.

Make no mistake, at times, it seems like we are living in one of the most partisan times in our Nation's history, but on the topic of net neutrality, 86 percent of Democrats, 79 percent of Independents, and 77 percent of Republicans support protecting a free and open internet for American consumers.

Now more than ever, constituents are engaging with the issues of the day and are willing to let their elected officials know their views on what is important to them. I can tell you that, of the physical mail and emails my office receives, net neutrality has been one of the most important issues to Illinoisans. Since January 20, 2017, my office has received almost 200,000 letters on the topic of net neutrality, and by a mile, constituents are in support of the principles of net neutrality and want to reverse the action taken by the FCC.

I have got news for you: the Members of the House have heard their constituents loud and clear. Two months ago, the House passed the Save the Internet Act that would reaffirm the government's commitment to net neutrality and prevent major corporations from slowing down, blocking access to, or charging more for certain websites. When this bill arrived in the Senate, what have we chosen to do? A measure containing principles that 77 percent of Republicans support and received bipartisan support last Congress? Not a thing.

Leader McCONNELL and Republicans have instead proceeded to turn the Senate into a legislative graveyard. They have prioritized doling out lifetime appointments to our Federal courts while refusing to take action on many of our Nation's pressing most issues, including demonstrating a commitment to upholding a free and open internet.

REMEMBERING MOLLY HOLT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the passing of Molly Holt. Known affectionately as the Mother of All Korea's Orphans, Molly Holt dedicated her life to advocating for disabled, often homeless, children and adults in South Korea. Born to international adoption pioneers Bertha and Harry Holt, Molly carried the family legacy with a steadfast dedication to serving those less fortunate.

Molly first traveled to South Korea as a young nursing graduate, eager to assist her father as he attempted to provide care for the many children left orphaned by the Korean war. She spent most of her life working tirelessly with the residents of the Holt Ilsan Center in Korea, a long-term care facility for children and adults who have special physical, medical, or mental needs. Molly was a champion for the children at the Holt Ilsan Center, who affectionately referred to her as Unnie or big sister. It was through her steadfast advocacy that many children housed at the center were able to find permanent, loving homes.

Molly Holt will be remembered as an exceptional Oregonian, a woman who was guided by her strong convictions towards a life of charity and compassion. Even in the face of a debilitating illness, Molly remained committed to serving the people that she loved with her whole heart. Her passing is a loss

that will be felt across the world, but her legacy of earnest, passionate service will continue to inspire us for decades to come.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF TANGIPAHOA PARISH

● Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, today I wish to acknowledge the 150th anniversary of the founding of Tangipahoa Parish in my home State of Louisiana. It is a parish filled with hard-working and patriotic citizens who work day in and day out to better our State and our Nation.

Tangipahoa Parish is located in the section of the State known as the Florida Parishes. The word Tangipahoa means "those who gather corn" and refers to a sub-Tribe of Native Americans called the Acolapissa. The parish is 823 square miles, with the Mississippi State line serving as its northern border and Lakes Maurepas and Pontchartrain at its southern border.

This part of our State is rich with history. The Natives used this area as part of a route to travel between Mobile and Pensacola and through Pass Manchac to Illinois and the Great Lakes. The Acolapissa Tribe also led Bienville and Iberville through Manchac, where they named two nearby lakes "Maurepas" and "Pontchartrain" to honor the French finance ministers who supported the New World colony, which Bienville named New Orleans.

The French and Spanish controlled their Louisiana territory for some time. However, the British controlled the Florida Parishes. The Louisiana Purchase gave Louisiana to the United States, but the Florida Parishes were not a part of the purchase. It was an international boundary between the Spanish and the United States until 1812 when Louisiana was named a State.

In the mid-1800s, the railroad industry brought development into the area. However, people felt inconvenienced by the distance they had to travel to conduct business in the nearby parishes. To solve this, citizens carved out their own parish from the four surrounding parishes. The boundaries were solidified by law in 1869, which created Tangipahoa Parish.

Tangipahoa Parish is home to the State's third largest public university, Southeastern Louisiana University. It is also known for its many festivals, including the Strawberry Festival, the Sicilian Heritage Festival, the Italian Festival, and the Oyster Festival. The pop icon Britney Spears is from the town of Kentwood, in Tangipahoa Parish.

Happy 150th anniversary to Tangipahoa Parish. You are etched in our colorful and rich history. Thank you for all of your contributions to our beautiful State that we are fortunate to call home.●