

last tournament in 2015 with a back-to-back win this time as well.

I know my colleagues join me in offering the Senate's congratulations to the U.S. women's national soccer team for bringing this honor home.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, this week, the Senate will continue to make headway and confirm the President's highly qualified nominees for important Federal offices.

We will begin by considering Daniel Bress, who has been nominated to serve on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Mr. Bress is a graduate of Harvard College and the University of Virginia School of Law. Clerkships after law school included time at the Supreme Court clerking for the late Justice Scalia. Since then, he has built an impressive reputation in private practice.

I look forward to continuing the work of our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee, who favorably recommended Mr. Bress to the floor, when we vote to advance his nomination later today and vote on his confirmation later this week.

After him, the Senate will weigh three nominees for district court vacancies in Florida, Indiana, and Pennsylvania. After them, we will continue to staff up the executive branch with nominees for important posts in the Department of Education, the Department of Labor, and the EPA.

As I have said continually, I am sorry that it is necessary to file cloture on uncontroversial district court and Assistant Secretary nominees, but notwithstanding that hurdle, I am pleased that the Senate's modest rules change from several months back is proving successful and will enable us to get through this whole list of impressive professionals this very week. I look forward to getting these amply-qualified nominees on the job so they can go to work for the country and the American people can be governed by the government they elected.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

U.S. WOMEN'S WORLD CUP VICTORY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, let me congratulate the U.S. Women's National Team on winning the World Cup yesterday. It is the second title in a row and fourth overall, the most for any nation. Boy, did they make us proud.

The team's sustained level of excellence is something for all of us to exult

in, to be proud of, as are the heart, skill, and sheer joy the U.S. women bring to the pitch. As they make their way home, I send them my congratulations, my thanks, and a formal invitation for the team to come to the Upper Chamber for a celebration as they visit our Nation's Capital. It would be my honor to host America's winning team.

I want to send a special congratulations to the New Yorkers on the team, Allie Long and Crystal Dunn, the latter of whom made a crucial tackle in the final, leading to our second and decisive goal in the final period. New York is proud of them both, as well as the entire roster.

While today we celebrate their victory, we also recognize that these women athletes have challenges and they make us really think about the future of women's sports. They make us grapple with the deep unfairness in how female athletes are treated and paid compared to their male counterparts. Similarly, it is an unfortunate reality that women in the workforce see their male colleagues paid significantly more for the same work.

We have come a long way in terms of the prominence of and support for women's sports over the past decade, but we have not come nearly far enough. Every young girl who has had to play on weeknights instead of weekends because that is when the boys play, who has had to accept older equipment because the boys got the new stuff, who has had to play on the other field or rink or court because the boys were using the main one—every girl who has gone through that knows this to be true. As a parent of two girls who played soccer, basketball, baseball, and lacrosse, I know this to be true.

I think when it comes to U.S. women, it is absolutely right to be talking about their pay right now. They have shone a light on the fact that, in our society, women are simply not treated fairly because of their gender. Something needs to change here. What the U.S. women did was extraordinary, and they deserve to be compensated fairly. All women need to be compensated fairly, period. We ought to pay attention to this not just once every 4 years during the World Cup, but year in and year out.

How about the equal payment amendment that the House has passed? Why don't we put it on the floor of the Senate in honor of the women who won the World Cup? Why don't we do that, Leader McCONNELL?

I am sure there will be lots of encomia from the other side about these women. Let's act so we can help all women achieve equality—equal work, equal pay.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now on healthcare, tomorrow the Fifth Circuit will hear oral arguments in the case of Texas v. United States. The fate

of our entire healthcare system hangs in the balance. This challenge to the Affordable Care Act, brought by Republican State attorneys general and regrettably supported by President Trump and his administration, represents the latest efforts by Republicans to dismantle healthcare as we know it in America.

After failing to repeal our healthcare through Federal legislation, Republicans have now turned to the courts. If Republicans get their way in this case, the impact on Americans would be catastrophic; that is not an exaggeration—catastrophic. It would result in the elimination of protections for people with preexisting conditions, possibly increasing costs for 133 million Americans under 65.

If you have a son or daughter with cancer and the insurance company cuts you off, that is catastrophic, nothing less. How many people will go through that if our Republican friends have their way? It would result in skyrocketing prescription drug costs for seniors or Medicare. Let's say there is a lifesaving drug, but it is too expensive, and you can't afford it, that is catastrophic to most Americans.

Millions of people would be kicked off Medicaid, leaving the most vulnerable out to fend for themselves. Again, you desperately need care, but no one will give it to you. That is catastrophic.

Bring it all together, and what our Republican friends want to do is make Americans pay higher prices for inferior care. That is cruelty on a massive scale.

Of course, we have been here before. For nearly 2 years, the administration pushed Congress to repeal the ACA—a crusade that failed on the Senate floor multiple times. President Trump's budget calls for trillions in cuts to Medicare and Medicaid. He has opened up the floodgates for junk plans that don't cover the things that really count, like cancer treatment, maternity care, addiction services, and he has deliberately worked to make it harder for people to sign up for healthcare.

On that court case, 47 Democrats wished that we would join the lawsuit. We asked Republicans to join us in that. I think it was only one who was. Where are our Republican friends? They talk about wanting to preserve preexisting conditions, but they are mum when the administration they support tries to repeal them. It is hypocrisy—hypocrisy. If you believe in supporting people's protections for preexisting conditions, you oppose the lawsuit and join us in saying that lawsuit should not be filed. Our Republican friends know where the people are, but they are afraid. They are quivering that Donald Trump will be angry with them if they oppose his lawsuit. Shame on them.

Our Republican friends can never argue that they are the party of healthcare. When President Trump argues that Republicans are the party of

healthcare, God help the middle class. They are the party of no healthcare; the party of repeal with no plan to replace.

This lawsuit is just the latest salvo against the American people, and it shows that so long as Republicans are in power, the healthcare of the American people will not be safe. If they are successful in striking down the Affordable Care Act, Republicans—all of them—will own the consequences.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, last week, the DHS inspector general released a report detailing horrid conditions at border facilities. This is the President's own DHS inspector general saying how bad conditions were. Then we found reports of a secret Border Patrol workers' Facebook group that revealed a toxic culture at U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Everything we had heard anecdotally, everything we feared about the mindset of CBP proved to be true in that Facebook group.

Over the weekend, the New York Times and then the El Paso Times released the latest account of conditions at the Border Patrol station in Clint, TX. A facility built for 100 adults has become a modern-day internment camp for up to 700 children at a time, many locked up for weeks on end. Some children go without beds to sleep on. There are food shortages and insufficient sanitation. For heaven's sake, we read reports of children suffering from outbreaks of scabies, lice, and even chicken pox. This is cruelty—cruelty—once again.

These awful conditions show that for too long, the CBP has operated as an agency out of control. It must be reined in immediately, beginning with its leadership. Internal investigations will not suffice because CBP leadership—particularly Acting Commissioner Mark Morgan—is far too callous in their treatment of children and their families. Too many of the CBP leaders have had this attitude for too long, and it has infested itself down to too many who are the rank and file in that agency. We need untainted professionals to be brought in from outside the CBP structure immediately.

President Trump turns to his typical tactics of denial, distortion, and distraction. President Trump should be focused on fixing the problems that exist instead of blaming others. The truth, of course, is that we should never have been in this situation in the first place. The suffering imposed on migrant children is the result of the administration's own mishandling of family arrivals through Central America.

While Donald Trump says he is serious about fixing our immigration challenges, he has done just about everything to make matters worse.

President Trump, you want to fix the border? Then do what Democrats have

been asking you to do for a long time—let the asylum seekers apply for asylum in their home countries, increase the number of judges to process the cases, and, for heaven's sake, restore aid to those Central American countries of Honduras, El Salvador, and Nicaragua to help them crack down on gang violence and cartels so people will not flee for fear of their lives from the gangs.

President Trump, stop finger-pointing at Democrats for this mess of your own making. You are the President. As this problem festers and gets worse, the American people realize you are the Chief Executive. It is your problem to solve.

We will join you, if you have anything reasonable to propose, but just finger-pointing at Democrats for this mess of your own making, President Trump, is like poking holes in your own umbrella and then blaming the clouds when you get wet.

I urge President Trump and Senate Republicans to seriously consider these measures because unless we make structural reforms to our immigration system, we have done nothing to reverse what is happening at the southern border.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, President Trump's hypocrisy and his diving into mistruths over and over again reared its ugly head once again. We can't become used to it because it is such a bad thing for a President to be so abjectly dishonest about so much of what is happening and so much of what he does. It happened again.

Today, amazingly enough, President Trump tried to claim credit as a leader on environmental protection, of all things. This is laughable. The same President who pulled us out of the Paris Agreement, who has filled his administration with oil and coal cronies, who has slashed protections for clean air, clean water, and protections for public lands, and who has denied basic science now wants to call himself a leader on the environment. Give me a break.

Try as he might say otherwise, President Trump has proved himself probably the staunchest ally of the worst polluters of any President we have ever had.

On climate change, the President's record is particularly egregious. In 2 years, his government has gutted oil, coal, and pollution standards, has erased climate data from government websites, and even censored words like "climate change" from appearing in official government documents. This is somebody who is a leader of environmental protection? How gullible does he think the American people are? Even Trump supporters may agree with him on this issue, but to say he is protecting the environment is ludicrous.

Some of these things are just the tip of the iceberg. Would someone who is a

leader on environmental protection hire oil and coal lobbyists to run the EPA and Department of Interior and cripple the National Climate Assessment? He completely caves to the oil and gas industry. Every time they say jump, he says how high. Now he has the temerity—the gall—to say he is the leader of environmental protection. Again, give me a break.

To be fair, President Trump's speech does have one silver lining. The mere fact that he even spoke today on the environment forces us to an unavoidable conclusion: Climate change is real. It is a serious problem that deserves action, including action in this Chamber.

The Republican majority, Leader MCCONNELL, could take action on this issue at a moment's notice, but, for now, they are happy keeping their heads in the sand. They have not brought a single measure to the floor that would deal with the issue of climate, even as their views grow increasingly out of step with most Americans.

They cannot continue to keep their heads in the sand as our planet faces serious problems today and even far more serious problems for our children. It is an issue that can't wait a day longer, and yet the masters of this legislative graveyard refuse to act. I fear the majority in this body will refuse to act until either they are no longer the majority or, even worse, it is too late.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Daniel Aaron Bress, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

YOUNGSTOWN VINDICATOR

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, at the end of June, we received news that sickened so many of us. The Youngstown Vindicator, one of Ohio's greatest local newspapers, is closing after 150 years in business.

It is devastating news for a community that is already reeling from General Motors' abandonment of