

free from foreign interference? Why would Leader MCCONNELL and every one of our Republican colleagues, who now have failed to step up to the plate even though some of them work with our colleagues on bills, ignore the admonitions of the Founding Fathers, who said that foreign interference is a grave danger to democracy? What could be the downside of ensuring our elections are fair and free? I ask that question of Leader MCCONNELL.

The only excuse I have heard is he says that additional action isn't necessary. Well, Mr. Mueller, who has done far more investigative work on this than just about anybody else, cleared up all of that yesterday. He didn't say we have done enough already. He didn't say we are on top of it. He said that much more needs to be done.

Leader MCCONNELL, do you disagree? Is Mueller wrong? Are all the experts wrong—the FBI, appointed by President Trump; the NSA, appointed by President Trump; and all those leaders who say we need to do more? We have heard them.

We are going to continue our fight for election security. We are not going to let Leader MCCONNELL put the bills passed by the House into his legislative graveyard without a fight. You are going to hear from us on this issue over and over again.

The legislative graveyard of Leader MCCONNELL is known from one end of the country to the other. Americans know he doesn't want to help them. He doesn't want to help middle-class Americans.

The graveyard of our Republican colleagues, in obeisance to powerful and special interests, gets larger, more stunning, and more debilitating to this country every day.

Yesterday, Democratic Senators requested unanimous consent to pass some election security legislation that they have worked on, much of which was bipartisan. The Republican majority blocked them. Soon—I believe in about an hour—I will be asking unanimous consent on the House-passed election security bill. It is sitting here. It is in the leader's drawer. Is he going to let this go to the legislative graveyard? We will see in an hour. I hope at least one of my Republican colleagues will come to the floor and urge that we vote on this or at least debate it and amend it—one.

The Republican leader's intransigent resistance to this effort is inexplicable. Why he wants to put election security in his legislative graveyard is impossible to explain on a logical basis. I believe his intransigence and his resistance are untenable.

When I move in about an hour for unanimous consent to bring the House bill to the floor, maybe something will be chirping in some of the brains of some of my colleagues here and say: We can't allow the Russians to interfere, and we have to do something.

If they don't agree with what the House passed, let them propose amend-

ments or let them propose an alternative, but let us debate. This is a national security issue of paramount importance.

I urge my friend the leader to stand down and let election security come to the floor. If he doesn't, all of America will know, when Russia interferes, why.

BUDGET AGREEMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on another matter—this is on deficits. I am not in the habit of commenting on every opinion issued by newspapers I don't typically agree with, but this week, the Wall Street Journal wrote such a howler of an editorial that I feel compelled to.

The Wall Street Journal editorial board criticized the latest budget agreement for its increase in domestic spending, wringing its hands over the effect on deficits, while simultaneously praising defense spending, which the editorial board believes, for some reason, has nothing to do with deficits.

This, by the way, is the same editorial board that played head cheerleader for the Republican tax bill, which contained such mammoth tax cuts for the biggest corporations and the already wealthy that it will add \$2 trillion to our deficits—\$2 trillion. Huge tax cuts contributed more to the deficit than all of these spending programs put together, but the Wall Street Journal cheered on the tax cuts and now says: Don't spend for the middle class on things like education and infrastructure that have broad support in America and helping kids go to college. Don't spend on that because it increases the deficit, but it is OK to pass massive tax cuts for the rich and the big corporations that are already profitable.

So, for the sake of the record, the Wall Street Journal editorial board believes deficits are really bad but only if they are caused by investments in Americans' healthcare or education or infrastructure. When deficits are caused by defense spending and when deficits are caused by tax cuts for the wealthy, they are peachy.

The truth is, so many of my Republican friends have engaged in the same egregious bit of hypocrisy. So I have a few words this morning for my deficit-scolding friends Mick Mulvaney and the Wall Street Journal editorial board: A deficit is a deficit is a deficit. They try to make the argument that massive tax cuts won't create a deficit, but all the numbers that are coming in now and are projected in the future say that is just not true. If the Wall Street Journal really cared about deficits above all, they wouldn't have supported the tax bill.

When the Senate debated these tax cuts in 2017, there were several proposals on the table—many Democrats and Republicans supported them—that would have reduced taxes on corporations while remaining deficit-neutral.

Many would have changed the Tax Code in ways I didn't support, but nonetheless they would have held revenues and expenditures in line. We didn't hear a peep out of the Journal to support those proposals—oh, no. Democrats even put together a deficit-neutral middle-class tax cut at the time, but Republicans ignored it and pushed through Congress a bill that lined the pockets of the wealthy—blowing a \$2 trillion hole in our deficit. The Wall Street Journal could have said something then. They didn't. They were asleep at the switch. They were asleep at the switch then, and they are crying now.

The fact is, Republican tax cuts for the wealthy and endless wars in the Middle East, championed by George Bush and the Republican Party, are the big drivers of the Nation's debt and deficit, not nondefense domestic spending.

President Obama, to his credit, cut the budget deficit in half during his term. The last time we had a surplus was under a Democratic President, Bill Clinton. In fact, every single Republican administration has added to the deficit, while every single Democratic administration has shrunk it since 1981—Reagan, deficit increased; H. W., deficit increased; Bill Clinton, deficit goes down; George Bush, deficit increased; Obama, deficit goes down; Donald Trump, deficit going up. What does that say?

So, to the Wall Street Journal editorial board and my Republican friends who are silent about Trump-era deficits but rail against domestic spending, I say: Spare us. Enough. Enough with this deficit hypocrisy.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, finally, on climate, I want to congratulate my dear friend, one of the most intelligent, hard-working, articulate Senators we have, SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, on reaching a rhetorical milestone. Usually "rhetoric" and "milestone" don't go together, but in his strong eloquence on the environment, they do.

Yesterday, Senator WHITEHOUSE gave his 250th speech on the subject of climate change. Many Members of this Chamber have yet to speak 250 times on the floor in total, much less on a single topic. Senator WHITEHOUSE's speeches have covered everything from sea level rise to polar cap ice melting and the effect of climate change on our economic security and our national security. He has diligently shone a light on the impediments to legislative progress on climate change, and he waxes fervent and poetic, condemning the web of dark money that funds fraudulent climate research and lobbies against climate action.

Much more important than Senator WHITEHOUSE's milestone, of course, is the issue he is talking about. Each passing week brings another proof point that climate change is happening

right now and reshaping our planet for the worse, moving so quickly that, at some point, we will not be able to recover no matter what we do.

The world will be so much worse for our children and grandchildren. I think of my 8-month-old—just turned 8 months on the 24th—my little grandson. Will his world be the same as ours? Will it be just as beautiful, or will it be flooding and fires and changes that make his life and the lives of his whole generation far more difficult? If we do nothing, that will happen.

Carbon levels in the atmosphere are at the highest point ever in human history. Just days ago, NBC reported that this will be the hottest July on record. Last month, June, was the hottest June on record.

We all know the consequences will be devastating, just devastating to our planet if we fail to take action soon. It is time for the Senate to debate serious, significant policies to address climate change. And, parenthetically, it is another place McCONNELL's legislative graveyard unfortunately gains—gains more and more. He will not do anything on climate change, as important as it is.

Let me thank Senator WHITEHOUSE for his leadership on this issue. Maybe Leader McCONNELL will read his 250 speeches and have a change of heart. I doubt it, but who knows? I wish that all of my colleagues on the other side would listen to him and join Democrats in our efforts to pass legislation to combat climate change.

PUERTO RICO

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, finally, one more point on Puerto Rico. Last night, the Governor of Puerto Rico, Ricardo Rossello, announced he will resign on August 2. I am glad that the Governor has listened to the voices of the people of Puerto Rico. It is clear he lost their trust, their respect, and certainly the mandate to govern. The most important thing now is a quick and orderly transition of power so that our fellow citizens on the island can turn the page on this difficult chapter and move forward.

No matter what, we have to stand with the people of Puerto Rico. The island is still a far way off from recovery after the devastation of recent hurricanes. It is essential that the local Puerto Rican economy continue to recover and that basic services performed by the government continue undisturbed as that process continues.

As a new Governor enters office, we pledge to do whatever we can to ensure the people of Puerto Rico receive the aid and the support they need. We fought incredibly hard on the disaster bill to make sure the people of Puerto Rico are not treated worse than any other U.S. citizens. The events of the past 2 weeks should in no way inhibit that aid from reaching the island quickly and efficiently. It is so badly needed. I will be watching and doing

everything in my power to guarantee that is the case.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I come to the floor today to sound once again the alarm against Republicans' efforts to throw the lives of millions of families into chaos and uncertainty and to urge my colleagues to reverse course and join Democrats to protect people's healthcare before it is too late.

A few weeks ago, President Trump and Republican attorneys general argued in court to create a healthcare crisis for families in our country. If Republicans win their blatantly partisan lawsuit, the consequences could be sweeping and devastating. Tens of millions of people who have healthcare coverage through Medicaid Expansion or the exchanges could lose it, as could many young adults who are on their parents' insurance.

Over 100 million people with pre-existing conditions could lose protections that stop insurance companies from charging them more, excluding benefits they need or denying them coverage entirely. Patients could lose protections that require insurers to cover essential health benefits like prescription drug costs, maternity care, emergency care, or mental healthcare and more. Limits on how much patients have to pay out of pocket could go away, while lifetime and annual caps on patients' benefits could come back even to those insured through their employers.

Republicans have refused to acknowledge what is actually at stake now for the patients and families whose health they are putting at risk, and they have made it all too clear that despite the horrible consequences they are setting up, despite the lives they are throwing needlessly into jeopardy, Republicans are going to go full steam ahead with this reckless lawsuit to strike down healthcare for millions and without any plan to do anything if they win.

Some Republicans have tried to dodge this fact by saying they will fig-

ure it out after they win. That is an incredibly telling and incredibly alarming position. It is about as comforting as an arsonist telling you he will rebuild your house after he burns it down.

Let's be clear. Republicans have no plans for the patients who lose their coverage, no plans for the families who will see their healthcare costs go up, and no plans for people nationwide who rely on these protections for pre-existing conditions that could be taken away. They have no plan for all the people who will be hurt by the damage they are fighting to cause, and families expect better. They deserve better.

This is not rocket science. People want us to protect their healthcare, not take it away. They want us to bring healthcare costs down, not send them certainly higher. They want us to fight for them, not against them.

Republicans have made the wrong choice time and again. So I call on my Republican colleagues to stop this chaos and work with us. Let's fight for patients before it is too late. The clock is ticking, and patients and families are watching closely. If Republicans in the Trump administration refuse to end this partisan lawsuit, families and patients will be the ones who suffer the consequences, and they will not forget the Republicans who stood by and cheered and let it happen.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MOON-MARS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, those of us who have had a chance over some time now to work with the former Speaker of the House, Newt Gingrich, know that he is a man of ideas and is often thinking well beyond the moment. I had a chance the other day to read a paper that he prepared on President Trump's Moon-Mars Development Project, and I want to borrow heavily from his thinking as I talk about this project today.

It is an important time. We just spent significant time remembering, appreciating, and looking back at the 50th anniversary of American astronauts landing on the Moon and returning safely. Fifty years goes more quickly than you might think.

But for the first time in that 50 years, we are really at a point where there is a chance that we could cease to be the leading power in space. We decided we were going to become the leading power in space; we became the leading power in space; we have been the leading power in space. But that is