

and official documents, which you obviously do as part of any affirmative action program, he has compared that to the Nuremberg laws.

If you look at the issue of sexual violence, he has made fun of Take Back the Night marches and described women who are active and concerned about sexual violence as—his words here—“campus gynocentrics”—maybe he pronounced it gynocentrics, I do not know—campus gynocentrics. When you are talking about sexual violence, that is not just a normal word to use. When you are talking about affirmative action, reference to Nazi Nuremberg laws is just not normal.

He has argued that gun regulations are “pointless”—I am quoting him here—“pointless and self-defeating because guns reduce crime.” Really? Ask the victims of the firearms massacres happening at such a horrifying rate in this country how guns reduce crime.

With respect to the rights that have been enshrined in our Constitution and recognized in *Roe v. Wade*, giving women the right, to some degree, of self-determination about when to have children, he described the rights codified in *Roe v. Wade*—I quote him here—as “radical abortion rights advocated by campus feminists.” Good luck, on an issue related to a woman’s right to choose, getting a fair hearing from this character once he is enrobed.

He mocked the gay rights group Human Rights Campaign, which he said incessantly exploited the slaying of Matthew Shepard for both financial and political benefit. We engage in some pretty acid rhetoric around here, but about a young man who was murdered about being gay, that is just appalling. If you are in his court on an issue in which the rights of LGBT folks are involved, there is almost no way that you could believe that a judge that has thought or said anything as vile as that could ever give you a fair hearing.

With respect to the question of diversity, which many of us consider to be one of America’s greatest traits, social scientists, he said, have found that greater ethnic heterogeneity, i.e., social diversity, is associated with lower social trust. Ethnically heterogenous societies exhibit less political and civic engagement, less effective government institutions, and fewer public goods.

First of all, I don’t think that is true. I don’t think that stands to scrutiny. But, second of all, it is just kind of a creepy thing to be saying, that we would be a better country if we marshaled ourselves together into our ethnic enclaves, which “provide the groundwork for social trust and political solidarity”—not in my world, not in Rhode Island. That is not the way we work. I don’t think that is the way America works.

So whether you are looking at diversity, whether you are looking at gay rights, whether you are looking at a woman’s right to choose, whether you are looking at safe regulation of guns,

whether you are looking at sexual violence against women, whether you are looking at affirmative action in colleges, you can find something truly creepy that this individual has said. That, on top of all the other disqualifying factors, makes him perhaps the worst candidate that Donald Trump has tried to put on the Federal bench—by the way, that is in a crop of doozies.

The problem here is that people are going to come into these courts and they are going to have a feeling that no American litigant should have and that is that I have got a judge who is predisposed against me, that it doesn’t matter what my cause is. It matters who I am.

And, sadly, I don’t think this is the bug in these Trump judicial appointments; I think this is the feature. I think it is the intention of the dark money fueled apparatus that has got this assembly line of unusual and peculiar judges cranked on to our courts to actually make sure that our courts are more likely to rule for certain people than others, that they are more likely to rule for polluters, that they are more likely to rule for gun companies, that they are more likely to rule for dark money political operators.

There are essentially, at this point, with this nominee to a Circuit Court of Appeals, no standards left—no standards left. I can’t imagine anybody much worse.

It is a sad day.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The Senator from Kansas.

S. 2330

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, today in the Commerce Committee, following an in-depth 18-month investigation to examine cultural and systemic issues regarding abuse in the Olympic movement, Senator BLUMENTHAL and I introduced bipartisan legislation, the Empowering Olympic and Amateur Athletes Act of 2019. It was accompanied by an investigative report, findings, and recommendations. I am pleased that the Commerce Committee approved that legislation today. This marks a significant step forward to improving the protections and representations provided to our amateur athletes.

The subcommittee that I chair exercises jurisdiction over the U.S. Olympic Committee and amateur sports at large, and I remain fully committed to ensuring the health and safety of all American athletes. Our Empowering Olympic and Amateur Athletes Act would enact reforms to the U.S. Olympic system by strengthening legal liability and accountability mechanisms, restoring a culture of putting athletes first, and fortifying the independence and capacity of the U.S. Center for Safe Sports.

Our investigation, which led to the foundation of the provisions in this bill, included four subcommittee hearings, interviews with Olympic athletes and survivors, and the retrieval of

70,000 pages of documents. This was also made possible by the supportive leadership of the committee—the chairman and ranking member, Senator WICKER and Senator CANTWELL—and the contributions of the committee staff, including the contributions of my staff and those of former Chairman THUNE and Ranking Member NELSON.

Also, I want to take this moment to thank Mr. GRASSLEY, the Senator from Iowa and the chairman now of the Finance Committee. For a portion of the time we were dealing with this issue, he was the chairman of the Judiciary Committee. He, too, made contributions to our legislation, and his continued leadership on this issue in general has helped to move this bill forward and out of the committee today.

During our investigation, Senator GRASSLEY indicated an interest in working together to protect amateur athletes. After we introduced the legislation, I am pleased we were able to include provisions from his legislation that was just introduced yesterday here in the Senate. Specifically, the substitute amendment included funding accountability language for safe sports, clarification on mandatory reporting parties related to child abuse, and new reporting requirements to improve transparency. Senator GRASSLEY was also successful in working with Senator PETERS to include whistleblower protection language in the bill during today’s markup.

Again, I thank Senator GRASSLEY for his leadership and commitment to the health and safety of our amateur athletes.

Additionally, there were thoughtful contributions to our legislation—most recently, in the form of our substitute amendment—from other members of the Commerce Committee, including Senator GARDNER of Colorado.

I also thank my colleague Senator BLUMENTHAL, the ranking member of the subcommittee, for his steadfast and ongoing support and leadership that he has shown throughout this long process.

This investigation and legislative process started out as a bipartisan effort to provide substantive policy protections to amateur athletes and has remained as such. That bipartisanship has continued and will continue to be prioritized as we push for timely consideration of this legislation on the Senate floor.

Finally, I would be remiss not to express my sincere and humble thanks to the survivors for their bravery in guiding our policymaking with their testimonies and ongoing input throughout the process. Their willingness to recount and relive their traumatic experiences played a vital role in informing Congress as it seeks to address key reporting, governance, and resource issues within the Olympic system. This critical legislation would not have happened without their active involvement.

I will never forget the question that was asked of me by one of the survivors

as we were gathered together in the Russell Senate Office Building. The question was this: Why was there more than one? It is a question we would always hope to answer. There should never be a victim or survivor of sexual abuse. And if there is one, there should never be a second.

The sad thing about this circumstance in which we found ourselves and in which the athletes found themselves was that not only was there one, but there were many more. We should be able to take that call—why was there ever more than one?—and make certain that we do everything to keep it from ever happening again.

I thank my colleagues in the Commerce Committee for their support on this critical legislation. I look forward to working with the leader and my Senate colleagues as we push to enact these necessary reforms.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, before I get into my comments on Agent Orange, I just want to thank Senator MORAN and Senator BLUMENTHAL for leading the charge on making sure that our Olympic athletes are protected. There are some who say that government has no business in this realm; I couldn't disagree with them more. The fact is, this is a wrong that I think Senator MORAN and Senator BLUMENTHAL have tried to right. I just want to thank them for their leadership.

Mr. MORAN. I thank the Senator.

AGENT ORANGE

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I stand here today because the Trump administration continues to turn its back on our Nation's veterans, many who are suffering from illnesses relating to Agent Orange.

Agent Orange is a very toxic defoliant that was used in Vietnam. Everybody who was there was exposed to it because it was used in such great volume.

By denying eligibility to the folks who have suffered from that exposure the benefits and care they need, they are not doing right by our veterans. The fact is, there is no logical reason behind it except for the fact that they don't want to pay for it. They don't think the exposure to these toxic chemicals in Vietnam are a cost of war. Well, they are.

Today, we are telling Acting Chief of Staff and Acting Office of Management and Budget Director Mick Mulvaney and other White House officials to do their jobs and make sure these veterans are taken care of.

It is time for this White House to do right by the 83,000 veterans—that is 83,000—who are currently suffering and dying from significant health conditions associated with Agent Orange exposure. This administration—the Trump administration—needs to stop ignoring the overwhelming scientific evidence put forth by medical experts, scientists, and veterans.

Internal documents obtained by a veteran through the Freedom of Information Act revealed that in 2017 President Trump's first VA Secretary, Dr. David Shulkin, tried to do right by these veterans. At that time, the VA proposed to expand the list of presumptive health conditions associated with this toxic herbicide to include bladder cancer, Parkinson's-like symptoms, and hypothyroidism so that these veterans could become eligible for the benefits they earned if they had these conditions, but Mick Mulvaney and the White House objected. They didn't want to spend the money. They said they wanted more studies—studies that would have effectively run out the clock as more and more of these veterans suffered and died.

Since then, the National Academy of Medicine found evidence that hypertension has even greater evidence of association to Agent Orange exposure than the conditions Dr. Shulkin attempted to address. Yet the White House still refuses to take care of these veterans. They refuse to expand the list to include these four conditions: parkinsonism, bladder cancer, hypertension, and hypothyroidism.

More have suffered and more have died. These are Vietnam veterans who are in their sixties, seventies, and eighties. But this administration—the same folks who are quick to beg for nearly \$20 billion for an ineffective border wall that Mexico was supposed to pay for and who are happy to put a \$1.5 trillion tax bill on the government's credit card—refuses to recognize that this is a cost of war and that they need to do right by the Vietnam veterans—veterans who have already waited decades for the benefits and the care they desperately need.

It is pretty simple. Do the right thing. If you claim to be an advocate for the veterans, no more excuses and end the wait for these veterans and their families. These veterans and their families have already sacrificed greatly, and they should not be forced to wait 1 minute longer. This issue needs to be dealt with, and it needs to be dealt with today.

I yield the floor.

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

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

NATIONAL HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH  
AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I rise today to talk about a resolution that I have introduced with my fellow Senator from Maine, SUSAN COLLINS, and 11 other fellow Senators from both sides of the aisle—truly bipartisan—to designate November 2019 as National Homeless Children and Youth Awareness Month.

Specifically, this resolution highlights the issue of children and youth homelessness and supports the efforts of businesses, organizations, educators, and volunteers who are dedicated to meeting the needs of homeless children and youth.

In the 2016-to-2017 school year, there were 1.3 million children and youth—I repeat, 1.3 million children and youth—who experienced homelessness in the United States.

In West Virginia alone, our schools have identified more than 10,500 students experiencing homelessness. This is simply unacceptable, and we must do more to support our future generations. That is why I am a firm believer that there are five promises—five promises—we, as adults, should make to every child.

No. 1 is every child must have an unconditionally loving and caring adult in their life. That is the first. Every child must know that someone loves them unconditionally. No matter what you do and no matter what mistakes you make, at the end of the day, that person loves you. It could be your mom or dad; it could be a grandma or grandpa; it could be an aunt or uncle; or it could be a neighbor, someone who knows they have your back no matter what.

No. 2 is every child must have a safe place to call home where harm cannot enter. I would hope it is the home they live in. Sometimes it is not always the case. Sometimes it might be a school. It might be an after-school program. It could be a church. It could be a neighbor's home. Every child growing up has to have somewhere safe in their life where harm cannot enter and they are protected.

No. 3 is every child must have a healthy start and access to a nutritious diet. I think that is why you have seen in our school systems that we have expanded our nutrition programs from breakfasts to lunches. When I went to school way back when in rural areas, we had no cafeterias and no lunches, but for some reason, I could always tell when my mom or other parents had put an extra sandwich in the lunch pail knowing that we couldn't eat it but somebody could. There were always those who kind of stepped in and helped others.

Now we have that. Every child has to have a healthy start and access to a nutritious diet if they are going to grow and be engaged and, basically, be productive.

No. 4 is every child should be taught a livable skill so that they can make their own way through life. Primary and secondary education is free in America. It makes us different from every other country in the world. We commit to every child that they can get an education to be literate—every child. That is why education should be held to a higher standard to make sure that they have a skill set.

There should be no child graduating from high school who is not ready to