

Her death, the tragedy around the circumstance of how she left this world, is one that is an open and raw and hurtful and horrific scar on Alaska and on the communities. It is a reminder that in my State—a place of extraordinary beauty, with beautiful people—there is a darkness that is very, very difficult to talk about. That darkness is reflected in the statistics that we see when it comes to sexual assault, domestic violence, and more brutal acts of murder inflicted, unfortunately, in a disproportionate way on our Native women and our Native children.

Yesterday in the Senate, we passed two measures that I have been working on for a period of time. Savanna's Act is legislation that was initially brought about through the good work of my friend, the former Senator from North Dakota, Senator Heidi Heitkamp. Heidi and I worked on Savanna's Act for a period of time. It is designed to improve coordination among all levels of law enforcement; increase data collection and information sharing; and empower Tribal governments with access to necessary law enforcement databases in cases involving missing and murdered indigenous women and girls wherever they occur, whether they are in a small, remote village or in our population centers.

Savanna's law was passed through the Senate in the last Congress and got stalled out in the House. So I took this back up, along with the help of my friend from the State of Nevada, Senator CORTEZ MASTO. Working with her, we have now been successful in moving it through the Senate. It traveled with another measure—a bill that was sponsored by Senator CORTEZ MASTO and cosponsored by me.

The Not Invisible Act improves the engagement amongst law enforcement Tribal leaders, Federal partners, and service providers. We also designate an official to coordinate efforts across agencies in establishing a Tribal and Federal stakeholders' effort to make recommendations to the Department of the Interior Department of Justice on how we deal with this, how we combat this epidemic of disappearance, of homicide, violent crimes, and trafficking of Native Americans and Alaska Natives. This is something we have been trying to shine the spotlight on.

We are making significant progress and headway in Alaska. Thanks to the efforts and the heart of Attorney General Barr, we have seen Federal funds come our way. We have seen commissions and a coordination among stakeholders that is truly unprecedented, but we have much, much, much work to do.

On this day, when in Alaska, we are recognizing the very short life of a beautiful child, Ashley Johnson-Barr. I thank my colleagues for working with us on these matters—helping us move Savanna's Act and the Not Invisible Act—and working together to do more as we deal with those who are trafficked, those who are assaulted, and

those who are violently murdered in their homes and in their hometowns. We have much work to do, but we have good coordination and good cooperation moving forward.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The 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.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of James P. Danly, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2023.

Mitch McConnell, Mike Crapo, Tim Scott, Chuck Grassley, David Perdue, Lamar Alexander, John Barrasso, Tom Cotton, Thom Tillis, James M. Inhofe, Shelley Moore Capito, Ron Johnson, Mike Rounds, Richard Burr, James Lankford, Jerry Moran, John Thune.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of James P. Danly, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2023, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

(Mr. COTTON assumed the Chair.)

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 71 Ex.]

#### YEAS—54

Alexander  
Barrasso  
Blackburn  
Blunt  
Boozman  
Braun  
Burr

Capito  
Cassidy  
Collins  
Cornyn  
Cotton  
Cramer  
Crapo

Daines  
Enzi  
Ernst  
Fischer  
Gardner  
Graham  
Grassley

Hawley  
Hoeven  
Hyde-Smith  
Inhofe  
Johnson  
Jones  
Kennedy  
Lankford  
Lee  
Loeffler  
Manchin

McConnell  
McSally  
Moran  
Murkowski  
Paul  
Portman  
Risch  
Roberts  
Romney  
Rounds  
Rubio

Sasse  
Scott (FL)  
Scott (SC)  
Shelby  
Sinema  
Sullivan  
Thune  
Tillis  
Toomey  
Wicker  
Young

#### NAYS—40

Baldwin  
Bennet  
Blumenthal  
Booker  
Brown  
Cardin  
Carper  
Casey  
Coons  
Cortez Masto  
Duckworth  
Durbin  
Feinstein  
Gillibrand

Harris  
Hassan  
Heinrich  
Hirono  
Kaine  
King  
Leahy  
Markey  
Menendez  
Merkley  
Murphy  
Murray  
Peters  
Reed

Rosen  
Schatz  
Schumer  
Shaheen  
Smith  
Stabenow  
Tester  
Udall  
Van Hollen  
Warner  
Whitehouse  
Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—8

Cantwell  
Cruz

Klobuchar  
Perdue

Sanders  
Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 40.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Iowa.

#### AMERICAN ENERGY INNOVATION ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last week, I introduced an amendment to the American Energy Innovation Act. My amendment addresses a critical shortcoming with whistleblower protections currently available to power sector employees and those who are responsible for maintaining and securing our Nation's electric grid.

For those who are unfamiliar, the electric grid is managed by a patchwork of public and private entities. Unfortunately, that means patchy coverage for energy sector employees under our current whistleblower protection laws. Federal workers are covered under the Whistleblower Protection Act, but other workers have to rely on State and local laws for protection if they exist.

For many on the frontlines, these whistleblower protection laws don't exist. Just last year, according to a news report, power company employees raised concerns about equipment introduced to improve efficiency that they believed posed a threat to starting wildfires. I hope we all remember the fires in California—I think 1 and 2 years ago or 2 and 3 years ago—with terrible destruction, terrible loss of life. Eighty-five people in California, I think, lost their lives because of that type of fire.

One of these employees raised his concern about the threat of this equipment starting wildfires. It was reported that he was fired for simply blowing the whistle. If it turns out the employee was fired for blowing the whistle in the interest of public safety, that should be unacceptable to all of us.

As a country, we should be encouraging whistleblowers who know of threats to the security of our electric grid to come forward and report what they know. We owe it to them to ensure that when they do, they will be

protected—in other words, not lose their job. Isn't that common sense?

That is exactly what my amendment does. My amendment makes it clear that power sector employees who report threats to our electric grid are protected from retaliation; if they are fired, they can file a complaint with the U.S. Secretary of Labor. In that regard, this amendment brings whistleblower protections for energy sector employees in line with more than a dozen other whistleblower laws established by the Congress in recent years. I have been involved in a lot of those whistleblower protection laws.

Next week is Sunshine Week—a time when we celebrate the importance of transparency and accountability in government. With transparency, you get accountability, and the public's business ought to be public. The protection of our citizens from forest fires that are a result of bad equipment that electric companies are using—if you report unsafe conditions, you shouldn't be fired for it.

When we think about securing our electric grid, sunlight and transparency bring accountability, but they also bring attention to potential risks to our public safety and to our national security. They can potentially save lives. That is something I am certain we can all get behind and should be behind.

I am very thankful to Senator MARKEY for cosponsoring the amendment and for his support of this amendment. I strongly encourage all of my colleagues to support this amendment as well.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SECURING AMERICA'S MEDICINE CABINET ACT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, on Tuesday, my colleague Senator MENENDEZ and I introduced the Securing America's Medicine Cabinet—or SAM-C Act—to encourage an increase in American manufacturing of active pharmaceutical ingredients. These are termed APIs.

We did this because China dominates this portion of the pharmaceutical manufacturing and given last night's news, I wanted to come back for a moment and highlight the important work that is being done in Tennessee and across the country to support our Nation's response to this coronavirus pandemic.

Many Americans are very concerned, as they ought to be, about the availability of testing. As you all know, this virus is novel, which means we did not have test kits on the shelves before the outbreak started. The tests that we do

have are not instant. When people think of an instant test, they think of a flu test or a pregnancy test. The test that is required for this virus is not an instant test, but this is in the works, and we do have top scientists at Vanderbilt University and other institutions who are developing faster techniques, but, for now, any test offered must be sent to a lab to be processed and analyzed. Although these tests provide important information, we must continue to focus on preventing transmission where we can.

Some of the other work that is being done will help lead us to a faster path for antivirals and for vaccines. There is work in East Tennessee, right outside of Knoxville, at the Oak Ridge National Lab. Researchers have been using cutting-edge technology to identify drug candidates for targeting the novel coronavirus. They are using Summit, which is the world's fastest supercomputer. What they have done is feed in information about the coronaviruses, MRSA, SARS, and H1N1—the different viruses—and they crunched it down, and they have identified 77 drug candidates for targeting the novel coronavirus that we know is COVID-19. Enabled by the screening of this database of more than 8,000 known drug compounds, the researchers accomplished in days what would have taken years for scientists to do in the lab.

In my remarks on the floor yesterday, I went into detail about the decades-long effort by scientists at Vanderbilt University's Denison Lab to study coronaviruses. I want to reiterate one important point—that all across the country, scientists just like our friends at Vanderbilt are developing the antivirals and the vaccines that will eventually be used to combat multiple strains of virus, not just this particular outbreak but in addition to this outbreak.

The United States is a leader in research and development of pharmaceuticals. Our labs, talent, and capacity for innovation are the envy of the world, but right now we depend heavily on Chinese and foreign companies to manufacture active pharmaceutical ingredients. When this happens, we lose control of our supply.

So while we have all of this great work done in Oak Ridge, TN, and we have this wonderful work done in the Denison Lab at Vanderbilt, we need something like the SAM-C Act to enable us to have access to these drugs and these compounds that they are identifying that we need. The SAM-C Act will not solve our immediate problem. Once passed, it will incentivize companies that specialize in development, manufacturing, and workforce training to bring those operations back to the safety of U.S.-based labs and institutes of learning, and it will expedite having the antivirals and the vaccines that are needed to prevent this.

I encourage all of my colleagues to think ahead, offer their support to S.

3432, and let's commit to securing our pharmaceutical supply chain.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### COASTAL ACT

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I would like to talk for a few minutes today about my favorite subject, which is Louisiana.

I could talk the rest of the day and through the entire weekend about the good things about Louisiana, but today I want to talk about one of our problems. It is not just a problem for Louisiana; it is also a problem for the United States of America; it is also a problem for the American people; it is also a problem for energy independence for our country. Louisiana is drowning. It is drowning because we are washing away. Our land is washing into the gulf.

I live about 250, 300 miles north of the Gulf of Mexico—sort of in the toe of the boot, if you think of Louisiana as a boot. If things continue as they are going, I may not be alive then, but my home—whoever lives in it after I am gone—will be gulf front property. Remember, my home is 250 to 300 miles from the coast.

Why is that happening? Why is our land washing away into the gulf? There are a number of reasons. I will mention two, in particular. The sea levels in the Gulf of Mexico are rising. We can have a rigorous debate about the reason for that, and I know many smart people think it is for this reason and others disagree and think it is for that reason, but we can't deny the fact that sea levels are rising whatever the cause. In fact, as the gulf meets the southern part of my State, it is rising about 12 to 13 inches every 100 years.

We have another reason, though, as to why my State is washing away—our land in southern Louisiana is sinking.

Why is that?

The Mississippi Delta, of which Louisiana is a part, is an ecological and hydrodynamic masterpiece. What God did in creating our State is just breathtaking. It used to be the Mississippi River, which runs right through my State, would overflow every year. It would deposit its sediment in South Louisiana. The water would recede and go back into the river channel, but the sediment would remain. After thousands and thousands of years, the land was built up. Then we leveed the Mississippi River. I am not saying we did the wrong thing by leveeing the Mississippi River, for we have increased the quality of life for a lot of Americans and enhanced our economy. When we leveed the river, we prevented it from overflowing so that it would no