

The bill (S. 2661), as amended, was passed.

Mr. GARDNER. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, this is a big deal for the lives of so many people across the country, and I am grateful to our colleagues that we were able to get this passed today.

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. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

USA FREEDOM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2020—Continued

FISA

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, we have just voted on an amendment by Senator LEE, which passed overwhelmingly. As we in the Senate are working to defeat this invisible enemy, the coronavirus, we are also mindful that there are other real threats around the globe. That is why the amendment that we just passed was so important to be debated and discussed and dealt with—the bill that is on the floor—because the Senate is debating a bill to provide national security tools to our intelligence community.

We want to make sure they have the right tools, the tools that work, that provide national security but also freedom for American citizens.

Now, this is unfinished business because these tools under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act have been left on the shelf, expired now for nearly 2 months.

Before Congress departed the Capitol due to the coronavirus, the Senate passed a bipartisan bill to temporarily keep these authorities in place. The House Democrats left without acting on what the Senate had passed. Speaker PELOSI left town, and she left our national security frozen.

Now, this week, Congress is going to pass a 3-year reauthorization of these authorities under FISA. These authorities are known as the business records provision, the roving wiretaps provision, and the lone wolf amendment.

The business records provision, or section 215, as it is known, compels telecommunications companies to provide call records relevant to investigation.

The roving wiretaps provision allows surveillance of multiple cellphones of an investigative target. This allows national security operators to keep up with a target, even as she or he goes through burner phones.

The lone wolf amendment allows national security operators to investigate

targets unaffiliated with a specific terrorist organization. That is why they are called lone wolves.

Combined, these tools give the intelligence community and law enforcement important capabilities: to surveil bad actors, to get to them before they get to us, and to take apart their networks. Congress put these authorities in place after 9/11. They have been updated with broad bipartisan support numerous times. Importantly, the tools have helped keep our country safe and strong now for nearly 20 years after 9/11.

There have been abuses of the FISA process unrelated to these provisions, which this bill also addresses. The bill puts in place safeguards to ensure FISA applications are accurate and complete, with multiple layers of approval before an application goes to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. The bill also makes the FISA process more accountable, from the Attorney General on down. Those who hide information, those who engage in misconduct, or those who disclose information will be met with prison time.

The bill provides a greater role for Congress to make sure there are another set of eyes on FISA applications.

All together, these are significant reforms that the Attorney General has said will protect against abuse and misuse in the future. He went on to say the bill deserved broad bipartisan support, and I agree.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I also come to the floor today to discuss America's relationship with China. The coronavirus has made clear that our current relationship with China is built on a house of cards. It is simply too risky.

We have to learn the lessons from this global pandemic. The outbreak has taught us that the time has come to break away from dangerous aspects of the relationship. By mishandling and manipulating the crisis, China has revealed itself to be not worthy of our trust.

Let me be clear. The Chinese people are not to blame for any of this. The people of China have also suffered tremendously. It is the Chinese Communist Party that is at fault. The virus could have been contained had it not been for the Chinese Government's unscrupulous coverup. China knew the risk months before the rest of the world; yet Chinese communist leaders destroyed key evidence, they underreported the number of coronavirus cases, and they misled the world about its deadly, rapid spread. In fact, Chinese leaders silenced the heroic Chinese doctor, Dr. Li, who tried to sound the alarm and who later died from the virus.

China's deceit doesn't stop there. China has repeatedly denied U.S. officials access to the country to uncover the truth about the deadly disease. Meanwhile, the Chinese Government

continues to engage in a disinformation campaign to try to avoid blame.

With this track record, China cannot continue to control international groups like the World Health Organization. The United States is the World Health Organization's single largest financial supporter. Yet, from the start, the World Health Organization blindly accepted Chinese leaders' false reporting, and they understated the threat.

Today, America knows how dangerous it is to depend on China not just for information but also for essential equipment, for products, for materials, for minerals, and certainly for medicine. China didn't warn the world when the outbreak began. Instead, China secretly hoarded masks and protective gear. China knew that global shortages would soon follow. Then China threatened to cut off lifesaving antibiotics and other critical drug exports to the United States.

The virus should have been contained in Wuhan, China. Tens and tens of thousands of Americans and hundreds of thousands of people worldwide have died as a result of China's failure.

Looking forward, America should focus on priorities right now to protect ourselves from future health crises.

No. 1, not again, not ever will America rely on information from international health organizations. We should set up direct bilateral health relationships with other countries. U.S. personnel on the ground must include monitoring of health data in their national security determinations.

No. 2, not again, not ever will we let people travel to the United States from countries where there is a major outbreak. We should restrict travel early on, just as President Trump did with regard to China.

No. 3, not again, not ever will America be without an early warning system. Our gateway cities, in particular, need better monitoring and surveillance of health issues when people enter the United States.

No. 4, not again, not ever will America rely on critical health equipment from China. We should encourage U.S. companies to create Western and American supply chains. That way our frontline workers have what they need in the time of crisis.

No. 5, not again, not ever will we be exclusively sourced for critical drugs from China. We should diversify supply and bring home as much of our supply chain as possible.

No. 6, not again, not ever will our hospitals be taken for granted. They should be classified as critical infrastructure and our healthcare workers—our nurses, our lab technicians, our first responders, our doctors. Critical infrastructure and frontline workers should be properly resourced around our Nation.

No. 7, not again, not ever will Americans rely solely on the Centers for Disease Control for testing. President Trump proved that when called upon,

our private sector has an incredible multiplier effect.

No. 8, not again, not ever will we allow public misrepresentation and confusion concerning an urgent health issue. The American people deserve timely, credible, and accurate information—the same as for tornadoes, hurricanes, and other disasters.

No. 9, not again, not ever will we be dependent on China for trade and goods, especially not for critical infrastructure and technology.

No. 10, not again, not ever will a previous administration leave an incoming administration without an updated, forward-looking bipartisan policy and preparedness program on pandemics and without a pathway for the products and equipment needed to go along with it.

By taking these sensible steps, we will be able to protect the health and the well-being of the American people. These 10 priorities will make America and Americans stronger, safer, and more secure.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, this week, the Congress continues to work on a bipartisan basis to try to respond to this coronavirus pandemic. We have heard that the House of Representatives, under Democratic majority, has a new proposal. We have ideas on our side. We have already passed four pieces of legislation that deal with the coronavirus pandemic. The total spending is about \$2.5 trillion that has already been spent.

The Speaker of the House proposed a new piece of legislation this week that I think the House will vote on Friday. That is another \$3 trillion. It is actually more than the previous four combined.

The legislation that she is proposing has a lot of items that aren't directly related to the COVID-19 crisis. They are, as some have said, a wish list of priorities, and others have said in the media that it is more of a messaging bill. We will see.

Among other things, it says, as an example, that they want to change the current law, which says that you are limited in terms of how much of a Federal tax deduction you can take for State and local taxes. That is called the SALT issue. They want to repeal that. That cost, by the way, is about \$180 billion—something like that. It would result in about 50 percent of the tax benefit going to the top 1 percent of taxpayers. That doesn't sound like something that is going to be impactful in terms of the coronavirus pandemic we face.

I can think of a lot of better ways to spend that money, including more testing, including ensuring that small businesses can get back on their feet, ensuring that our healthcare system is sound, and other things. We are going to continue to work on that.

My hope is that, as we did with the previous four, we can figure out a way

to come together—Republicans, Democrats, House, and Senate—and look at what we have already spent, \$2.5 trillion, and see how it has been spent, understand what some of the gaps might be and address those gaps.

As we are working on this issue, this pandemic is continuing to wreak havoc all over the country. It has been devastating, let's face it. We now have 30 million—30 million—of our fellow Americans who have lost their jobs and are looking for unemployment insurance. These are people who lost their jobs through no fault of their own. They lost their jobs because the pandemic infected the economy, and they don't have a place to work.

I know friends of mine, people I have known for a long time, who have never been unemployed and are unemployed now for the first time. They are getting unemployment insurance for the first time. They want to go back to work, but they don't have a job right now. That has been devastating to them and to a lot of small businesses. I talked to people who have poured their lives and their resources into these businesses. A guy tells me, I have been doing this for 40 years. I started with a couple of people and got to a few more and a few more. And now, boom, my doors are closed. Think of the movie theaters and the bowling alleys and the small restaurants, the hotels, anything to do with travel and tourism, and these businesses are in tough shape. So is the beauty parlor and the nail salon and the barbershop.

This is testing our resolve in ways that we had never expected. I guess that is part of the point, we had never expected it because we weren't prepared for this kind of pandemic.

Congress, again, has tried to help with these four measures we already passed. I think they have helped, particularly with a lot of the small businesses, and our healthcare system has been helped. Trillions of dollars—\$2.5 trillion of taxpayer funds have gone out to try to be a rescue package to help people weather this storm.

Again, I hope the next package can be effective, not just in weathering the storm but also in getting the economy moving—more stimulus, giving small businesses the tax relief to encourage them to invest more and add more jobs, maybe some smart spending in terms of infrastructure; things like rural broadband that will create more jobs immediately but also bring us closer to having real access for people in poor areas of our country to be able to do the small business development, to do telehealth, to do telelearning through broadband. There are some things I think we can do that will actually help to stimulate more economic growth.

As we work to address these problems at home, let's not forget how we got here. My colleague from Wyoming just talked about this, but there is a clear consensus now about one thing, which is that this all started in Wuhan, China, which is a huge city in China,

Hubei Province, and that information about this horrible virus was concealed by the Chinese Communist Party. Systematically and very deliberately they kept the rest of the world from knowing about it.

By the way, they kept it from their own people too. To the point made earlier, this is not about the Chinese people. This is about the Chinese Government, meaning the Chinese Communist Party, deciding: Oh, gosh. We have a problem here. Let's not tell anybody—which goes against all the rules. If you are a country and you have a virus that is spreading, your responsibility—particularly as a member of the World Health Organization—is to tell your own people but also tell the rest of the world so that you can contain that virus. They concealed it, deliberately. They must be held accountable for that.

Think of the devastation they have caused, not just in our country but around the world—the number of people who have died, the people whose lives have been turned upside down, the economy that has been destroyed by this.

This information, this critical information, having been withheld from the Chinese people and from the world has had a devastating impact. At the start of this year, in January, apparently the Chinese Communist Party said: Don't worry. There is no human-to-human transmission of this virus—no human-to-human transmission of this virus. They knew otherwise.

By the way, 4 million cases worldwide tell us they knew otherwise—4 million cases. It all started in one place, in Wuhan, China. There are now 4 million cases.

This is something that is serious, and we need to address it. We are also told that the Chinese Communist Party allowed people to travel from Hubei Province, from Wuhan city—not to other parts of China, apparently, but to the rest of the world.

If they had cut off travel to places like Italy and the UK and the United States, we would not be where we are now. Luckily, our administration acted quickly to shut off immigration from China, from those hotspots, and for American citizens and the green card holders, they had to go into quarantine. That helped, but the virus was already here.

Very disturbing to me is apparently some Chinese Communist Party disinformation went out claiming that America was at fault somehow. This was classic propaganda disinformation. It is adding insult to injury. Right? Not only did they not do what they should have done, to tell the world about this and to help us to be able to contain this virus—and, by the way, the World Health Organization was there to help them. We were there to help them. We offered to go in. They wouldn't let the World Health Organization experts come in for well over a month after they knew. Some say it was a few

months because they probably knew it the end of last year. They must have, given the number of cases they had. They also kept the experts out from the United States who could have been helpful.

The World Health Organization is an international body where you have membership, and they have requirements where you are required to report data. You are required to have them come in when you have a virus like this. Of course, we didn't know it was a pandemic at the time, but we had a virus here that was concerning. Instead, it appears the World Health Organization, instead of being an early warning system for the rest of us, all around the world, which is what they should be—a virus starts, and they are the ones who go in and deal with it—instead of being an early warning system, in a sense, they were apologists for China.

That is why some of us have called for an investigation of the World Health Organization. We have asked the United Nations to convene a special panel, some of us, to be able to look into this issue so that it is not just America. The rest of the world ought to be involved in this as well. All of the members of the WHO ought to be concerned. I believe they are, about the deference they showed to China, at a time we needed them to be on the spot helping.

We now find ourselves forced to rely on the source of the virus, China, for a lot of our PPE, personal protective equipment. Think of the masks and the gloves and the gowns that our frontline healthcare workers need and others who are now interfacing with customers and working together as co-workers. We have to rely on China for this. In order to safely treat the COVID-19 patients who are sick and because of this virus that originated in China, we now have to rely on China for this safety equipment. That is unfortunate, and that needs to change.

We need to produce more of this here from more reliable sources. We are hearing reports about delays in shipments now. We are hearing about poor quality products—all of this is combining to affect our ability to be able to respond.

The virus has brought pain and suffering to our shores and to countries all around the world. Again, if they had followed the rules, if China had played by the rules—again, not the Chinese people who were also kept in the dark but the Chinese Communist Party—if they had followed the rules, we wouldn't be in the situation we are in.

By the way, none of this is news when it comes to China's behavior on the international stage. Getting China to play by the rules has been a constant theme of mine and others for a long time.

Fifteen years ago, I was a U.S. Trade Representative, and I brought forward the first successful case against China in the World Trade Organization be-

cause they weren't playing by the rules. I also wrote a report entitled "Top to Bottom Review of U.S.-China Economic Relationship" that made policy recommendations to improve the equity, durability, and balance of our trade relationship with China. My No. 1 priority was China.

When I was there, I established, for the first time, a USTR prosecutor just for China. One of the recommendations was supposed to put a negotiator in China from the U.S. Trade Rep's office. It is there now.

Here in the Senate, as the chair of the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, I have now led three bipartisan investigations on China, including the Chinese Communist Party's use of what is called the Confucius Institute at our high schools, sometimes grade schools, at our colleges and universities.

We learned more than 100 U.S. universities had allowed the Chinese Government to operate these centers, which often come with stipulations, requiring them to comply with Chinese law—Chinese law—even when they are operating in the United States. We know some of these Confucius Institutes have been used as platforms for economic espionage.

By the way, since we published our report in February of 2019, a year ago, more than 20 Confucius Institutes in the United States have closed their doors. Why? Because people have looked into this and determined this is not just a cultural exchange. This has other aspects to it; as an example, not being able to teach the real history of China, as if things like Tiananmen Square did not exist. That is not something we should allow to happen in this country. That doesn't comply with our standards here of honesty and intellectual standards that says you have to teach the actual history, not what the Chinese Communist Party says is the history. Our students shouldn't be subjected to that.

These Confucius Institutes have also spent a lot of money in this country. Schools have taken money and have not properly reported it. That is what our report indicated. As a result, the Department of Education is now cracking down on some of these schools to say you have to, at a minimum, report the funding.

Our subcommittee is right now wrapping up its review of three Chinese Government-owned telecom firms that the FCC, the Federal Communications Commission, licensed to operate here 20 years ago.

We share concerns with the Justice Department regarding these telecommunications companies complying with U.S. law enforcement requests and whether these entities pose a national security risk by being vulnerable to exploitation by the Chinese Government and the Chinese Communist Party.

Last year, the FCC denied a license to China Mobile to operate in the

United States for these same reasons. That investigation is coming to a head. We are going to have a report coming out soon. We will learn more about this. But again, we have to be sure we are not naive; that we understand what is going on when these Chinese telecommunications firms are here in this country.

The third Permanent Subcommittee investigation involves another instance where China has not been playing by the rules as it relates to stealing U.S. research and technology, often paid for by U.S. taxpayers. Before the coronavirus put so much of our country on hold, we were preparing to introduce legislation that was a result of our bipartisan report and our yearlong investigation. That report details how China has used what is called talent recruitment programs, most notably what is called the Thousand Talents Plan, to steal U.S. taxpayer-funded research. It turns out this has been going on for a long time. For 20 years, this has been going on. It has helped fuel the rise of the Chinese military and the Chinese economy during those 20 years.

You might ask, how has this happened? Every year, Federal grantmaking agencies, like the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Energy's National Labs, or the National Science Foundation, give out taxpayer dollars for research. By the way, it is about \$150 billion a year. It is a lot of money.

These are important research projects. This is a good thing for our country. It leads to new breakthroughs in science and technology. It is helping make the United States the world leader in innovation. Your tax dollars coming to Washington, going to the Department of Energy, the National Institutes of Health, and National Science Foundation, out to researchers and colleges and universities and research institutes—\$150 billion a year—have led to a lot of breakthroughs.

The open and collaborative nature of research that is done here in the United States is one of the reasons we attract some of the best and brightest scientists and researchers from all around the world to take part in this research. Yet what we have learned—and through our report, we prove—is that this system is very vulnerable. It is vulnerable to theft by other countries, and that is exactly what is happening in the case of China.

China has made it no secret that its goal is to surpass the United States as the world leader in scientific research. One way it has been doing that is by using secret contracts with researchers here in the United States. Again, it is doing research that is funded by tax dollars—medical research, scientific research, military research. The Chinese Government has actually been paying these people to provide information to the Chinese Government to take this research and pay for it by U.S. tax dollars. It is wrong, and it needs to stop, and our legislation is intended to do just that.

At one of our Senate hearings on the report, a State Department witness said: “The Chinese Communist Party has declared the Chinese university system to be on the front line of military-civilian fusion efforts for technology acquisition.”

In other words, the Chinese Communist Party has decided this talent recruitment program is going to be well funded. We are going to pay American researchers to give us their stuff but then also to connect them to the Chinese university system, which the Chinese Communist Party is using as the way to get technology, to acquire technology. Again, it is not a new problem. This has been going on for two decades, but we have done little in this country to stop it because we have this history of being so open and accessible with our research.

The FBI came to our hearing and acknowledged this. From the Federal Bureau of Investigation, they said that “it should have taken more rapid and comprehensive action in the past” to respond to these Chinese talent recruitment programs. Yes, they should have. Yes, they should have.

Fortunately, the FBI and the Department of Justice have now taken a different approach. They have begun stepping up their efforts this year with several recent high-profile arrests and having charges filed, but, again, more laws and practices need to change to stop U.S. taxpayer-funded research from being stolen in this way to benefit our No. 1 global competitor, which is why we are introducing this legislation.

The legislation is called the Safeguarding American Innovation Act—to protect American research and strengthen our national security. The legislation makes five necessary reforms to address the flaws in our current research enterprise and to stop intellectual property theft and promote a more secure and transparent process that is consistent with the recommendations we laid out in our report.

First, the report found numerous cases of U.S.-funded researchers who failed to disclose foreign sources of compensation on their Federal grant applications. This issue has been highlighted this year. You have probably heard about it because you may remember that earlier this year there was the shocking arrest of Dr. Charles Lieber, the chair of Harvard University’s Chemistry Department, who was being paid both by Harvard and the Thousand Talents program by the Chinese Communist Party, it turns out.

According to the FBI, without Harvard’s knowledge—he didn’t tell Harvard—Dr. Lieber was being paid up to \$50,000 a month in salary by the Chinese, \$150,000 annually for living expenses, and more than \$1.5 million to establish and run a shadow lab in China. Interestingly, the lab was in Wuhan, China. None of this was disclosed on his Federal grant application

from which he got U.S. taxpayer money. If it had been disclosed, he wouldn’t have gotten the money. That is just wrong.

The criminal complaint is based on his not telling the truth to the Federal investigators, even though he was essentially defrauding Harvard and defrauding the U.S. Government’s funding sources, but that is not a crime. Failing to disclose compensation from a foreign government is not currently a crime. We make it a crime. That is part of our legislation. The bill gives the Justice Department the ability to hold Federal grant recipients accountable for hiding their financial ties to foreign governments by failing to disclose them on Federal grant applications. Transparency and honesty on grant applications is critical to the integrity of the U.S. research enterprise and to stopping this theft. That is in our legislation.

Second, despite there being more than \$150 billion in taxpayer funding going to these Federal research agencies every year, there is no unified tracking process to determine where these funds go. The National Science Foundation, for instance, doesn’t have anyone who handles grant oversight. Again, we have been too lax. That is why the bill requires the Federal Office of Management and Budget, the OMB, to streamline and coordinate grantmaking between the agencies to ensure that the billions of taxpayer dollars going to research every year can be accounted for every step of the way. Having this information is also going to save time and money for our research institutions and our universities. They will now know where the funding is, where it is going, and how it is being used.

Third, the State Department is on the frontline here in vetting visa applications for visiting scholars and visiting students, but it is not permitted to deny visas to individuals who come from overseas who are intent on stealing U.S. research. That is just wrong. Our research enterprise in this country must remain open. We agree with that, for we want to attract people from around the world, of course, but we have to have commonsense safeguards to prevent bad actors from taking advantage of our openness. The legislation does that. It authorizes the State Department to deny visas to foreign researchers who seek to access sensitive U.S. research when it is determined that doing so will pose a threat to our economic or to our national security.

By the way, the State Department wants this authority. The career officers who came and testified before us said we would like to have this authority because we know we are letting people in who are coming for one reason and one reason only, and that is to take U.S. research.

Fourth, our report detailed a systematic lack of knowledge at the U.S. research institutions about the threat posed by the Thousand Talents Plan

and other forms of academic espionage. For example, we found that the Thousand Talents program had recruited a member who downloaded more than 30,000 files from a Department of Energy National Lab. These are our top National Labs in the country—highly secretive. There were 30,000 files that were downloaded without authorization, of course, and that researcher took those files with him back to China. Our bill requires that research institutions have safeguards in place to prohibit the unauthorized access to sensitive research. They have to tighten it up.

Finally, we found that nearly 70 percent of U.S. universities have consistently failed to report substantial foreign gifts as required by current law. Our bill ensures transparency by requiring universities now to report any foreign gift of \$50,000 or more and empowering the Department of Education to fine universities that repeatedly fail to disclose these gifts.

Now, there are some in the university community who don’t love our legislation. I would just ask them: Given what has happened, given what we know is happening in terms of the theft of U.S. research, are you really going to stand in the way of legislation that just says you have to report when you receive more than \$50,000 from a foreign government? Is that too much to ask? I don’t think so.

Right now, they are supposed to report gifts of a higher level, and 70 percent of them have failed to do so. So it is not too much to ask, and I would hope that the university community will be supportive. Many are, but some are apparently saying they are going to try to block this legislation.

Don’t do that. That would be wrong.

The failure to stop the coronavirus early on has highlighted how China does not play by the rules, whether they be the World Health Organization’s rules or the trade rules we talked about earlier, and now it is with regard to this issue that we are dealing with in terms of taking U.S. research back to China in order to fuel China’s military and China’s economy.

When this pandemic passes and our universities and research institutions reopen their doors, I have no doubt that we will, once again, continue to attract the best and the brightest. Why? Because our research enterprise is the best. We are innovators, and we provide funding for it, and we have such great opportunities here in this country to do research. People like to come here, but we cannot sit idly by as our top global competitor steals that research. The Safeguarding American Innovation Act is an important step toward protecting it for the safety and security of every American.

Now, more than ever, we have to adapt to the fact that China is not going to play by the same set of rules as the rest of the world. It has been 15 years since we put out a USTR report

stating that our relationship with China lacks “equity, durability,” and sustainability.

Right now, our No. 1 priority is solving the coronavirus crisis. We have to do that. There is no question that it ought to be our focus. Yet, in the context of this crisis, we also need to reevaluate how we do business with China. We have to look at this with fresh eyes. My hope is that this legislation we have talked about this evening will help to allow us to reset the way we conduct our research so we can continue to reward those who come to our shores to discover new breakthroughs in science and technology while we keep China and other nation-state competitors from stealing that research for their own purposes. We can achieve that balance, and we must.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to our police officers all around the country. The men and women in blue serve us every day in Ohio and every State represented in this Chamber. This week is National Police Week. In normal times, right now we would have tens of thousands of officers here in town. They do a big parade every year. We have them in our offices. We get to meet with them and thank them for their service. We would be able to have the opportunity to hear their stories—to hear some of the brave, brave stories of those who have lost their lives over the past year. They do a wonderful presentation down at the memorial to thank and pay tribute to those officers.

Yet, even during this coronavirus, I am pleased that, this Friday, folks around the country will be showing their support anyway. They can't come here in person, but people are going to be displaying blue ribbons and blue lights on their homes. The service to our communities that these police officers give us every day has been more valuable during this crisis than it has ever been, and I thank those police officers for going out every day and putting their health right now and even their lives, as they always do, on the line for all of us.

As I said earlier, I want to be sure that our municipalities and our counties have the ability to pay those police officers so as to keep them out on the street. That is why we need the flexibility in the Federal funding that is going out because the budgets of these municipalities are constrained. Because of the bad economy—because of the coronavirus—we have to be sure that police officers are taken care of.

This week, National Police Week, is a time of pause, a time to think about the sacrifices these heroes make every day in order to keep our communities safe, which is what they do every single day. They take dangerous criminals and weapons and drugs off of our streets. They enforce the laws we write here in this body. We write a lot of laws here. They are the ones who are in the trenches—on the frontlines—enforcing them. Even their very presence

helps to deter crime and keep our communities safer. So we thank them for the risks they take for themselves, and we thank their families for the sacrifices they make for all of us.

This week is a time to think about the police officers in our country who have died in the line of service over the last year. Again, this would normally be done in person down at the memorial, but I want to talk about the four brave individuals who have lost their lives in Ohio since we last had a National Police Week, which was a year ago.

In January, Officer Dale James Woods, of the Colerain Police Department in Southwest Ohio, was tragically struck and killed by a vehicle while he was responding to a traffic stop. Officer Woods devoted his entire life to public service. He served for 15 years in the town's fire department—the Colerain Fire Department—and then 15 years as a police officer. He did everything that could be asked of an officer. They tell me sometimes he would be staffing the dispatch station. The next day, he would be tracking down a lost dog. The next day, he would be out there helping a citizen with a complaint. He did everything that was asked of him with unwavering professionalism and the commitment that we all come to expect from our police officers.

Officer James Woods of the Colerain Police Department, thank you.

The same can be said for Clermont County Sheriff's Deputy William Lee Brewer, Jr., who died in the line of duty in February of 2019 during a standoff with a criminal. Deputy Bill Brewer was a 20-year veteran of the force. He was a local guy, someone whom everyone in the community knew and loved. He gave his life for that community—the ultimate sacrifice an officer can make. I attended his funeral and had the opportunity to meet a lot of his fellow officers and hear stories about him. I also got a chance to meet his wonderful family. I can say he was admired and respected by all. The turnout for that funeral was unbelievable.

Last November, we lost Detective Jorge Del Rio, a decorated 30-year veteran of the Dayton Police Department. Detective Del Rio had been working with the DEA, the Drug Enforcement Agency, on a task force to crack down on drugs coming into a community that had been ravaged by the opioid crisis. This was during a time when Dayton was one of the communities in the country that had the most opioid overdoses and all of the crime related to that, and Jorge Del Rio was there to help. He was shot twice in the face while serving a warrant in relation to an investigation into drugs. From the crime scene, investigators recovered cash, fentanyl—the deadliest of all the opioids—and marijuana, along with weapons. Detective Del Rio fought bravely for his life, but in the end, his wounds were too much to bear.

This is an issue that is very personal to me. I have spent a lot of my time working on this drug crisis and trying to get Congress to pass legislation to stop this addiction so that officers like Detective Del Rio don't have to fight and die in fighting this scourge in our communities.

I was honored to attend Detective Del Rio's visitation, where I joined hundreds of grateful citizens in an arena. Again, the turnout was unbelievable with fellow officers, DEA officers, and police officers. Officers came from all over the region. When I spoke with Kathy—his wife—and their family, I told them his sacrifice was not in vain and that he would always be remembered as a hero of Dayton, OH.

Earlier this spring, we lost another hero, Springdale Police Officer Kaia LaFay Grant. On March 21, Officer Grant was helping her fellow officers chase down a suspect who was fleeing by car. During the pursuit, the criminal deliberately rammed his vehicle into her cruiser, which caused her to crash. Officer Grant's injuries, sadly, were fatal. An 8-year veteran of the force, she was the first ever casualty of the Springdale Police Department and the first female law enforcement officer in the tristate area to die in the line of duty in more than 100 years. Officer Grant was only 33 years old. My thoughts are with her family as they deal with this tragic loss.

Although these heroic officers were taken from us, their examples can never be taken away and will not be. Ohioans will remember them as models of bravery and service, as examples of fellow citizens who, on behalf of all of the rest of us, have the habit of walking into danger rather than running away from it.

In our Nation's history, more than 24,000 police officers have died in the line of duty. Think about that—24,000. Serving as an officer is a dangerous job, I know, but we have legislation that we think would help save the lives of some of those officers who put themselves in harm's way.

I was proud to join colleagues last year in sponsoring legislation called the Back the Blue Act. It is very simple. It says, if you target law enforcement officers, you are going to pay a very, very high price. That is appropriate. We think Back the Blue Act, which would increase penalties on those who would attempt to harm or kill a police officer, is going to make a difference because it will send a very strong message in helping to deter some of these crimes. Ultimately, I think that it will make our heroes in blue safer and help to save lives.

Again, I urge my colleagues to join me in standing tall with our police officers and thanking them this week for what they do every day to protect us. Let's back the blue. Let's do everything we can to ensure that our police officers know we are with them and that we are at their side as they do their critical job every day to protect us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 12 noon tomorrow, the Senate vote in relation to the Paul amendment to H.R. 6172, if offered. I further ask that at 1:30 p.m. tomorrow, the Senate vote on the passage of H.R. 6172, as amended, as under the order of March 16.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

CONFIRMATION OF TROY D. EDGAR

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to the confirmation of Troy Edgar to be Chief Financial Officer of the Department of Homeland Security.

The nominee would have authority over the transfer and reprogramming of funds within the Department of Homeland Security. While he has pledged to notify Congress in advance of any such action, this administration has made it clear that it will continue to use every available tool to fund the wall that President Trump said Mexico would pay for and his administration's abusive immigrant detention policies. For that reason, any nominee to this position merits heightened scrutiny.

I am alarmed by rampant overcrowding and squalid conditions in DHS detention facilities. Despite DHS IG reports and numerous congressional inquiries and hearings, the Department has consistently mismanaged these facilities and shown a disregard for the care of those in its custody. To date, 674 detainees and 39 detention facility personnel have tested positive for COVID-19. Notwithstanding its failure to ensure the safety of its facility personnel and detainees, the Department has continued to use its transfer and reprogramming authority to increase the number of detention beds. Last August, DHS transferred or reprogrammed \$271 million, including \$155 million from the FEMA Disaster Relief Fund, to expand ICE operations at the southern border.

A promise to notify Congress does nothing to stop these activities. I am confident that anything short of a statutory limitation on transfer and reprogramming authority will be ignored and that any official who stands in the way of these efforts will be circumvented or fired. The Senate should not confirm a nominee with the power to approve such actions until reasonable limits are enacted into law. For that reason, I voted against this nominee.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, our Nation commemorates National

Police Week in May, bringing together law enforcement officers, families, and public safety advocates from across the country to the Nation's Capital to pay respect to law enforcement officers who lost their lives in the line of duty last year.

The coronavirus outbreak in our country has disrupted the public tributes in Washington and in communities across the country. However, COVID-19 will not diminish our heartfelt gratitude to the fallen and those they left behind. This year, an online virtual candlelight vigil has replaced an in-person national ceremony to honor fallen officers from across the Nation.

Sadly, the State of Mississippi lost four officers in the line of duty last year. These brave men are being recognized this week, and their names have been added to the National Law Enforcement Memorial here in Washington, DC.

On May 5, 2019, Officer Robert McKeithen, 58, of Biloxi, was ambushed and tragically murdered. An Air Force veteran, Officer McKeithen served with the Biloxi Police Department for 24 years and planned on retiring by the end of the year. He was dearly loved by his family, friends, and fellow officers.

Constable Willie West, known as Hoot, was first elected in 1971 as constable of Lowndes County District 1 and was serving his 13th consecutive term. He had previously served with the Columbus Police Department and Lowndes County Sheriff's Office. He had a total of 52 years of law enforcement service and was a founding member and first president of the Mississippi Constables Association. On May 6, 2019, Constable West was serving civil papers when his vehicle struck a tree. He succumbed to his injuries a few days later at the age of 81, leaving behind a son, two daughters, five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, his mother, brother, and two sisters.

Chickasaw County Deputy Sheriff Jeremy Voyles died in a single automobile crash while conducting an investigation on August 27, 2019. He was assigned to the North Mississippi Narcotics Unit. Prior to joining the sheriff's department, Voyles served as a law enforcement officer with the Mississippi Department of Transportation. He is survived by his wife, two young children, and his parents.

On December 12, 2019, Panola County Constable Eula Ray "Raye" Hawkins, 57, was killed when his vehicle was struck by a stolen pickup truck being pursued by other officers. Constable Hawkins served in law enforcement for 29 years. He is survived by his son, who serves with the Batesville Police Department, a daughter, one grandson, and two sisters.

I join the families, fellow officers, and communities of these four Mississippi officers, who dedicated themselves to bravely serving the people of my State, honoring their lives with a

deep sense of gratitude for their service.

My heart aches any time a law enforcement officer is lost, whether it is in the line of duty or not. Their names may not grace a national memorial, but their service still merits recognition.

For instance, long-time Lawrence County Deputy Sheriff Robert Ainsworth and his wife, Paula, were among the 14 Mississippians who lost their lives in terrible tornadoes that hit my State on Easter Sunday. In his last act, Deputy Ainsworth, a Marine Corps veteran who died trying to shield his wife from harm, demonstrated the selflessness and bravery that is characteristic of so many in law enforcement.

Law enforcement officers risk their lives daily to help keep us safe, and any loss of an officer profoundly affects entire communities. My admiration for the law enforcement community, who remain deeply dedicated despite the dangers of their noble profession, knows no bounds. We acknowledge their brave service and fortify our support of their work to serve and protect our families and our communities.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:02 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the pursuant to section 201(b) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6431), and the order of the House of January 3, 2019, the Speaker appoints the following individuals on the part of the House of Representatives to the Commission on International Religious Freedom for a term effective May 14, 2020, and ending May 14, 2022: Ms. Anurima Bhargava of Chicago, Illinois and Dr. James W. Carr of Searcy, Arkansas.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4504. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Small Business Administration Business Loan Program Temporary Changes; Paycheck Protection Program - Additional Criterion for Seasonal Employers" ((RIN1505-AC67) (31 CFR Part 120)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 12, 2020; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4505. A communication from the Senior Legal Advisor for Regulatory Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Filing Fees for Notices of Certain Investments in the United States by Foreign Persons and Certain Transactions by Foreign Persons Involving Real Estate in the United States" ((RIN1505-AC65) (31 CFR Part 800 and 802)) received in the Office of the President