

Since Republicans refuse to move forward in a bipartisan manner, the agency charged with enforcing our campaign finance laws will continue to remain ineffective. This undermines our country's political institutions, and it does not serve our country's best interests.

Many people refer to the Senate as the world's greatest deliberative body because the Senate, as an institution, is designed for the careful consideration and debate of legislation and nominations. When we erode the bipartisan norms that make us the greatest deliberative body, we end up allowing unqualified nominees who hold extreme views to be appointed to important positions in our government just at a time when we should be doing the opposite.

In addition to these process concerns, today we are also being asked to move forward with a nominee to the FEC who doesn't believe in basic campaign finance law. The FEC was created to enforce campaign finance law, so it is critical that the agency be staffed by Commissioners who believe in its mission so it can police people from both parties.

Mr. Trainor has consistently worked to dismantle the rules that keep corruption out of our political system. He has spent his career arguing that people should not have to disclose political spending and has worked to stack the deck against voters by gerrymandering districts in Texas to dilute minority voting power.

Trainor's views on disclosure are inconsistent with decades of Supreme Court precedent, including the views of late Justice Scalia. When fellow Republicans in the Texas Legislature worked to require politically active nonprofit organizations to disclose their donors, Trainor challenged them and said that such a law "would have a chilling effect on anybody's ability to speak."

Let's just step back. Those were fellow Republicans on the Texas Legislature simply trying to put some reforms in place so we knew where those donations were coming from, and he spoke out against that.

Moving forward with this nomination today may restore a quorum, but it does not serve the American people. The American people deserve an FEC that works, an agency that enforces the law and protects our political system from corruption. At a time when unprecedented amounts of dark money and foreign money are flowing into our elections and influencing our courts, a fully functioning FEC is critical to safeguarding our political system.

When it comes to the agency in charge of enforcing our campaign finance laws, the absolute minimum qualification should be that the person actually believes in the mission of the agency. Is that too much to ask?

We need to focus on how we can help the American people safely vote during this pandemic. I mean, we need to

focus on this pandemic, instead of the series of votes that we have seen this week, but if we are going to decide who should serve on the FEC during this pandemic, it should be someone who believes in the mission of the FEC.

We need to work together to hold hearings with bipartisan groups of election officials, like we have been working to do on the State level when it comes to how to vote in this pandemic. There has been a lot of good work going on with Republicans and Democrats, Governors and Secretaries of State. We need to do the same thing in this Chamber as we approach major legislation and as we approach our working with the FEC.

I oppose the process by which this nominee has come to the floor, and I believe the nominee's extreme views are disqualifying for this important office. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote no on this nominee.

I yield the floor.

#### 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 E. Trainor III, of Texas, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2023.

Mitch McConnell, Chuck Grassley, Joni Ernst, John Barrasso, Deb Fischer, John Cornyn, Roger F. Wicker, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Rob Portman, Shelley Moore Capito, Steve Daines, Lindsey Graham, Pat Roberts, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Richard Burr, Mike Crapo.

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 E. Trainor III, of Texas, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2023, shall be brought a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rules.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE), are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 95 Ex.]

#### YEAS—50

Barrasso	Gardner	Perdue
Blackburn	Graham	Portman
Blunt	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Roberts
Braun	Hoeben	Romney
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cassidy	Inhofe	Sasse
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Loeffler	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McSally	Toomey
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	

#### NAYS—43

Baldwin	Hassan	Rosen
Bennet	Heinrich	Schatz
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schumer
Booker	Jones	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kaine	Sinema
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Udall
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Peters	
Harris	Reed	

#### NOT VOTING—7

Alexander	Markey	Whitehouse
Brown	Rounds	
Burr	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 50, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of James E. Trainor III, of Texas, to be a Member of the Federal Election Commission for a term expiring April 30, 2023.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, Americans have come together in this moment. We have come together to defeat the coronavirus. We have come together to ramp up testing, to ramp up healthcare, and to reopen our communities and our country.

The coronavirus has brought out the best in so many ways in America and in the American people. From our frontline healthcare workers taking care of patients to scientists and researchers working on testing, on treatment, and on vaccines, to those in public service keeping essential parts of the government running day in and day out, to those working on supply chains to deliver goods 24 hours a day, and to those who are staying at home to keep themselves and keep others safe, Americans are in this together.

It is interesting because all we are seeing from the other side of the political aisle is more of the same old politics and name-calling. President

Obama is taking cheap shots at President Trump; Speaker PELOSI just put out a \$3 trillion bill that reads like the Democratic Party platform; and Joe Biden is holed up and hiding in his basement. Is this the best the Democrats can offer? Is this the best they can do? Biden, Obama, and PELOSI should be embarrassed. This is not leadership.

Republican policies in the CARES Act that we passed actually have had significant results—real results—with the Paycheck Protection Program making sure 50 million Americans are still getting their paychecks, economic impact payments, which are reaching 130 million families. These are policies that are going to build a bridge for the country to get to the other side of the devastation done by the virus, and, still, more money and resources from the CARES Act are slated to go out to States, to hospitals, and to small businesses all across America.

All together, between Congress and the Federal Reserve, we have injected close to \$9 trillion into the economy in just a couple of months. All of this money is nowhere close to having even been spent. In fact, it is only because of the steps we have taken already—the efforts of Governors across the country, the work of this administration—that the House Democrats have found themselves in a position, as they were last Friday, of wasting time and energy on a fantasy bill.

Republicans now have two jobs. The first is to get the country back on track, and the second is to not allow the Democrats to try to exploit the crisis that is upon this country for their own political gains.

Democrats are pushing their agenda as a cure-all for the virus. Let me be clear. It is not. It is simply a solution for their electoral problems.

Yesterday, the New York Times published a front page article. Online it was called “Seeking: Big Democratic Ideas That Make Everything Better.” In the printed copy, they changed the headline to say: “Biden Pursues Ideas to Match Scale of Crisis,” “Left Senses an Opening for a Bolder Agenda.” The article goes step by step on how the pandemic is being used by the Democrats to make sweeping changes in their policy platforms in their effort to remake America, basically consistent with their dangerous Democratic socialist views.

They are planning, according to this, to get rid of their so-called center-left policies that they had additionally and initially envisioned. They are now courting what they call leftwing allies. They are adopting the ideas of single-payer healthcare—one size fits all healthcare, with the government making decisions for you rather than you or your doctor making decisions for you. They are adopting ideas through labor unions, liberal think tanks, progressive institutions. They have taken over the Democratic Party, and they are all beholden to NANCY PELOSI.

Democrats are using the coronavirus so that their favorite groups get a giveaway. That is what it reads when you take a look at that \$3 trillion bill that NANCY PELOSI dragged across the floor of the House last Friday night with Members of her party kicking and screaming about voting for it. That is what we see.

Some were kicking and screaming because the \$3 trillion bill that started as a \$1.5 trillion bill didn't get big enough, didn't include enough of their far left socialist agenda. This is not a solution for the crisis facing America. It is not a solution for the crisis that we are facing with coronavirus. It is not a solution that we are facing with a crisis of a shut-down economy, shut down by the government in an effort to protect ourselves from the disease. Oh, no. What we see here is a partisan political playbook. It is the Democrats' agenda for the 2020 election.

The efforts to get the coronavirus behind us and get our communities and our country open must be targeted, must be temporary, and must be tailored to the needs of our communities at this critical time in our Nation's history. Ultimately, it is time for America to open swiftly and smartly and safely.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I first want to give a thank-you to everybody who is working right now and all the folks who are required to be here with the Senate in session. I wish we were focused on those things right now that are directly related to making sure everybody is going to be able to continue to be safe and to focus on what we need to do to safely reopen the economy rather than what we are voting on this week. I want to thank all of you for being here.

I also want to send condolences and thoughts to everyone who has lost a loved one in this crisis. We are approaching, this weekend, 100,000 Americans. If that doesn't give us a sense of urgency right now to effectively address this health pandemic and to get this right and to work together, I don't know what does.

I rise today with a real sense of urgency. I think it is important to understand how we got here so we know what we need to do going forward.

On January 20, the first case of COVID-19 was reported in the United States, the same day as the first case in South Korea. Our White House didn't act. They were, unfortunately, more worried about the stock market than people in the supermarket.

In South Korea, they did act. Within 8 weeks, they were testing 40 times more people per 1 million of their citizens than we were. By April 14, they had 10,000 cases, and we had over 600,000 cases because there was no sense of urgency to do what needed to be done to take this seriously. Now we know that we are well beyond that.

Unfortunately, on the American side, in the weeks and months that came after January 20, the White House slow-walked declaring a national emergency. They failed to quickly implement widespread testing that was being done all around the world and in every other country, and they dropped the ball on getting the essential medical equipment and supplies doctors and nurses still need to treat people and keep them safe. Their reckless delay made us the world leader—the world leader—in the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths. When you think about it, we are a little over 4 percent of the world's population; yet we have about 30 percent of the deaths because of a lack of urgency and the inaction from the very beginning to be able to get our country's arms around this deadly virus and what was happening.

Now 4 months have passed, and as I mentioned, more than 90,000 to 100,000 Americans have passed away from COVID-19. Think about that. When we look at over 90,000 lives, that is as if a whole city in Michigan just disappeared from the map; yet the White House and the Republican leader and our friends across the aisle continue to show a lack of urgency about this crisis.

On March 14, the House of Representatives passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. It had a whole range of things that were incredibly important in it: COVID testing so that you could get free testing if you needed it, increased Medicaid funding for States, extended unemployment help for more workers. It established 14 days of paid sick leave for people who lost their paychecks because they had to stay home due to the virus, and the bill provided nutritional food for moms and babies and families. Yet the Senate leader felt no urgency to pass it right then. The House passed the bill on a Friday night, in the middle of the night. All we had to do was to stay until Saturday and get it done, but there was no sense of urgency for the nurses and the doctors and the unemployed workers and the small business owners and the hungry families. They had to wait. They had to wait until the next week, for the Senate leader to go home for the weekend. The leader returned to Washington, but his sense of urgency still wasn't there.

So, while the White House didn't act and the Republican leader didn't act, I will tell you who did act: The Governors acted. Democratic and Republican Governors stood up, and they leaned in to protect their citizens. I am so grateful for what our Governor and her great team have done in Michigan and for all of our mayors and local communities that leaned in, for their taking whatever resources were available and putting them right out there to make sure people's lives were being saved—the No. 1 priority. They have been stepping up and taking the action needed to save lives over and over and over again in this crisis.

Frankly, that is what the White House said should happen. Remember the words of President Trump's when he tweeted:

Governors must be able to step up and get the job done. We will be with you all the way.

Unfortunately, when he said "all the way," he actually meant to find your own way, which puts us where we are right now, today, in trying to help them get resources for critical State and local services.

The vacuum of Federal leadership has real-life consequences. I released a report today that shows the price American families will pay if the White House and congressional Republicans refuse to support State and local services. Our Democratic Policy and Communications group, which is supported by all of the Democratic Senators, is saying we have to act. There are real consequences. Families and communities will pay the price if we do not act and step up and have their backs.

Through no fault of their own, our States and local communities are facing critical budget shortfalls—up to \$650 billion over 3 years—that far exceed what States lost after the great recession. Without urgent Federal assistance, these cuts will affect our safety, our children's educations, and our quality of life. Yet the Republican leader said he has not yet "felt the urgency of acting immediately." Maybe States should go bankrupt, he said.

I can tell the White House and the Republican leader who feels the sense of urgency. He is the healthcare worker who has been laid off and doesn't know when he will get paid and what he is going to do to take care of his family. He is feeling a sense of urgency. He is the student whose school might have to be cut back, and they are the teachers who are going to be laid off through the severe budget cuts. They feel a sense of urgency. The woman who can't continue treatment for opioid addiction because of cutbacks at her local community behavioral health center feels a sense of urgency right now. It is the community that is cutting back on its police and fire departments and the 9-1-1 call centers in order to save money because the President said that he would be with them all the way but who now is saying "No way. You are on your own" that feels a sense of urgency. She is the mom who is waiting in line for hours in her car at the local food bank to try to get some food for her children for today, not next month. It is not "Hey, we have 2 or 3 months." She wants them to eat today and tomorrow and the next day. She feels a sense of urgency.

Americans across the country are feeling a sense of urgency, and it is urgent that we act to meet this moment so that they understand, in this horrendous moment and through no fault of their own—the health crisis and the economic crisis and so on—that someone really does have their backs. We need to help our State and local gov-

ernments continue paying vital workers who educate our children and keep us safe and provide all of the essential services. We need to extend unemployment benefits so that people who are out of work will be able to pay the rent and feed their children. We need to approve access to healthy foods for families in need right now. We need to create a heroes fund to ensure that essential workers who have taken the most risk to keep our country running, to keep us safe, and to save lives during this pandemic receive the additional hazard pay, the compensation, that they deserve.

They need to know they are essential and not expendable. Just saying thank you is good, but it is not enough when you are worried about paying your own mortgage while you go to work to save somebody else's life or put food on your own table for your family. Our country can do better for them. That is what the House bill did. That is what the Senate needs to do.

We need to invest in our State and local health departments so that we can continue to fight the virus and keep our communities safe. That should really be a no-brainer right now, the fact that we need to support our health departments that are on the frontlines of tracking what is happening and get the critical information so the right decisions can be made to keep us safe and the right decisions can be made so as to safely reopen our economy, which we all want and know needs to happen.

Actions have consequences. I am here to say that inaction also has consequences. Inaction has consequences. We are losing lives; we are losing time; and every part of the economy is being affected. It is time to act. It is time for this Senate to act, not on more judges over and over and over again, but on the things that the American people need to have happen, that the people of Michigan need to have happen so they can be healthy and survive the virus and also be able to survive economically for their families, for their businesses, for their farms.

MITCH MCCONNELL may not feel a sense of urgency, but I do on behalf of the people of Michigan. It is time for the Senate to act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I yield to the Senator from Oklahoma for a unanimous consent request.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent, at the conclusion of the remarks by the Senator from Connecticut, that I be recognized to speak for whatever time I may consume.

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

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I concur in the remarks of my friend from Michigan. A lot of our constituents have long thought that there has just been an enormous gulf between the

conversations that we have in the U.S. Senate and the conversations that are going on at people's kitchen tables, that are going on between friends and neighbors at the supermarket. They think that what we worry about here is guided by lobbyists and K Street and political action committees and that it really doesn't have much to do with what they care about.

I don't know that their perception of that gulf has been any bigger than it is right now because the message that Senator MCCONNELL and the Senate Republicans are sending is that there is no urgency, that there is no need for the Senate to act, that we have done everything that needs to be done for the time being when it comes to the depression levels of unemployment in this country, the lines that go on for blocks for families who can't afford food to pick up groceries and the schools that are scrambling to figure out how the heck they are going to reopen with the revenues for their municipalities and counties and States that are cratering through the floor.

So it just tears people's hair out right now to know that there is a piece of legislation that has been passed in the House of Representatives that will help millions of families who are in meltdown crisis right now as they have lost their jobs, as they, maybe, have sick loved ones, and as they don't know when life will get back to normal, but the Senate is doing nothing.

I understand my Senate Republican friends wouldn't have written the bill that passed in the House. It is understandable in that there is a different party in control of the Senate than is in control of the House of Representatives. Of course, there is going to be a difference in priorities. Yet the decision to not even take up the House bill—to not try to amend it, to not try to draft a version of our own to fill these enormous gaps that families are feeling right now—is maddening to the people whom I represent back home who feel that sense of urgency that is not shared by the folks who haven't lost their salaries or their healthcare benefits in the U.S. Senate.

Earlier today, we tried to take a small step forward to better protect our constituents and try to bring this pandemic to an end. Senator DURBIN offered a pretty simple resolution that would have just expressed the sense of the Senate that we should join with nations around the world to try to develop a vaccine for COVID. I don't agree with the President. I don't think that it is all hopeless until we find a vaccine. I think that we can take steps in our communities through State leaders to try to reopen our economy even before we have a vaccine. Obviously, that is the goal for which we all strive, and we are much better off if we work with other countries to develop that vaccine.

As we speak, there are very promising discoveries that are being made in other countries. Many of the countries are allies of the United States.

There is, in fact, an international effort underway to help pay for that vaccine development. Probably the most prominent of those efforts is something called CEPI, the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations. Curiously, though, all of our friends—all of our allies—and some of our adversaries are members of that coalition, but the United States is not. So, if this coalition were to develop a vaccine and if it were to get there before the United States, then we wouldn't have a seat at the table to be able to decide where that vaccine goes. It is a question as to whether we would be able to get it to the United States if we are not sitting at that table. Why not hedge our bets?

I hope the dollars that we have proposed here in the U.S. Senate lead to the discovery of a vaccine's happening here, but if it doesn't, why would we not also want to be part of a coalition like CEPI so that, if it were to discover the vaccine first, we would get the benefit of it or, at the very least, we would get a say in where it would go. That is all the resolution said. Yet we couldn't get it passed.

This resolution was especially important because there is something extraordinary happening right now. It is not as if the Trump administration has decided that it is not going to go forward with membership in CEPI because it is going to lead a different international coalition. No. In fact, the Trump administration is taking a giant step back from the world and from international organizations just at the moment when it is the most necessary for us to be cooperating with the rest of the world in finding a vaccine or in stamping out this virus.

Remember, how we stopped Ebola from becoming a crisis in the United States is by being present in Africa to make sure that it didn't reach our shores. The Obama administration understood that travel bans and walls couldn't stop a virus from entering one's country, so you have to stamp it out everywhere in order to be protected here. So, just at the moment we need to be more engaged with the world, the Trump administration is withdrawing us from it.

Witness the President's unprecedented attacks on the WHO. Now, there is a stipulation. The WHO is not unlike any other major, multinational, international organization. It has flaws, and it has inefficiencies, but there is no way you can stand up an international coalition to manage the coronavirus or prevent the next pandemic without the World Health Organization. Color me skeptical that the President is sincerely interested in reforming the WHO. It seems as if it has been a fairly recent interest of the White House. One of the ways I can tell that is that we have a seat on the governing board of the WHO. If we have legitimate grievances over how the WHO is run—and I am amongst those who has a laundry list of reforms I would like to see at the WHO—then the proper way to ex-

press those grievances would be through our seat on the board of the WHO. But do you know what? It has been vacant for 3 years. The Trump administration hasn't put anybody on the board. It nominated somebody, but then Senator MCCONNELL didn't bring him up for a vote. Then his name had to be withdrawn, and it took another 10 months for the Senate to finally put somebody on it in the middle of this crisis. So we have been absent from the WHO for 3 years.

Now the Trump administration is leveling some pretty serious criticisms at that organization. Many of them are crystallized in a letter that the President released to the world last night. What is extraordinary about this letter is that it is almost as if the President took a letter that detailed his administration's failings with respect to how it addressed the early moments of coronavirus and just substituted in the WHO for the Trump administration, because in this letter to the WHO, it reads: "The World Health Organization has repeatedly made claims about the coronavirus that were either grossly inaccurate or misleading."

Here is President Trump on January 22:

Question: Are there worries about a pandemic at this point?

No, not at all. . . . We have it totally under control. It's one person coming in from China, and we have it under control. It's going to be just fine.

If you want to talk about the leading world figure making misstatements about the seriousness of the coronavirus, it is President Donald Trump, especially in January and February, when we could have been getting a head start.

Further in this letter, it reads: "[T]he World Health Organization has been curiously insistent on praising China for its alleged 'transparency.'"

Here is President Donald J. Trump on January 24. This isn't in answer to a question. This is just an unsolicited remark about China on his Twitter account.

He writes:

China has been working very hard to contain the Coronavirus. The United States greatly appreciates their efforts and transparency. It will all work out well. In particular, on behalf of the American People, I want to thank President Xi!

There was no more enthusiastic cheerleader for China and its response to the coronavirus in January, February, and March than our own President.

If President Trump wants to level criticisms at the WHO for being too soft on China, he has to look himself in the mirror and understand that it frankly would have been hard for the WHO to stand up and contradict its most important donor and patron, the United States of America.

On February 7, the President was given this question:

Are you concerned that China is covering up the full extent of coronavirus?

President Trump's answer:

No. China is working very hard. . . . They're working really hard, and I think they are doing a very professional job.

On February 18:

Mr. President, are you still satisfied with how President Xi is handling the coronavirus?

Answer: I think President Xi is working very hard.

Question: Some people don't seem to trust the data coming from China. Are you worried about that?

Trump: Look, I know this: President Xi loves the people of China. He loves his country, and he's doing a very good job.

February 26, the question is:

How can you legitimately trust President Xi and the Chinese?

Well, I can tell you this: I speak to him; I had a talk with him recently. And he is working so hard on this problem. . . . And they're tough and very smart.

There is no one who was defending China more vociferously in January and February than President Trump. It came on the heels of his decision to pull two-thirds of the CDC scientists out of that country, to shutter a program that was tracking viruses around the world, including China, and now the President has compounded that error by pulling the United States out of the WHO, an imperfect but absolutely necessary body that can be the only natural source of convening for a fight to stop coronavirus over the course of this summer and this fall and to prevent the next pandemic.

This is a moment when we should be putting a foot forward into the world and leading—and leading. There is no wall; there is no travel restriction that can stop this virus. Why do we know that? Because the President crowed about his travel restriction on China, and we found out that 400,000 people got here from countries subject to the ban before and after it was put into effect.

He sends out pictures on a regular basis of a wall going up with Mexico. That didn't stop this virus from getting here. We need to be present on the world stage right now.

Finally, if the President's complaint is that China and the WHO are too close, then by withdrawing from the WHO, we are effectively exacerbating the problem that the President identifies as one that needs to be solved. Why? Because yesterday President Xi accepted an invitation to speak before the WHO—an invitation that President Trump turned down—and he pledged to lead the world's response to the humanitarian suffering caused by coronavirus.

Now, color me skeptical about China's intentions, but the fact is, they were on that world stage putting \$2 billion into that effort yesterday, and we were nowhere to be found. The greatest beneficiary that comes from the United States' stepping back at this moment and walking away from the WHO is the Chinese Government. I believe that our security will be defined by our ability to contest efforts by China to grow its

power around the world. We are gifting them—gifting them—an advancement of their power and influence through our refusal to take part in WHO, our refusal to lead the effort to reform it, and our refusal as called upon in this resolution that was objected to earlier today offered by Senator DURBIN to be part of the global effort to try to find a vaccine.

I yield the floor.

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

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I was sitting through the last two speakers and listening to them. You can tell that it is an election year. The Democrats want to defeat President Trump, and I think sometimes a tactic to use is to get someone's strongest point and try to turn it into his weakest point. In this case, we have heard in just the last few minutes that the President is handling the coronavirus completely wrong, that he is critical of and then he was friendly to—I couldn't quite figure out the relationship with China. I know the Democrats in this Chamber are generally perceived as the close friends of China and President Xi and the rest of them.

Also, to talk about what Speaker PELOSI has done in terms of the bill that was passed in the House and the criticism that we are not taking up that bill, well, all that bill is—we are not supposed to be talking about anything in all of this heavy spending except doing something about coronavirus. This is something that no one had anything to do with. We didn't know it was going to happen. We had no preparation for it. I have never experienced it in my life. Yet I do remember so well when this body, this Senate, was working on a coronavirus bill and we were to be voting on it on a Sunday at 6 o'clock in the evening, and the Speaker of the House, NANCY PELOSI, came dancing in. It was the first time I even knew she was in town because the House wasn't in session, and she stopped it. She used her influence to try to stop it and successfully did stop it. The vote was taking place at 6 p.m. on a Sunday night, and nothing happened except a stall from then until 6 p.m. on Thursday night, when we finally did vote on it. In the meantime, how many days passed? How many people died in the meantime?

Then, when they come up in the House and they come up with a bill that is supposedly their answer to the coronavirus, it has nothing to do with coronavirus. It has to do with the very liberal Democratic agenda taking advantage of the fact that this crisis is on us in order to use this to try to get things passed. I am talking about—now, I don't have any notes down here with me. I don't know whether she is using gun control or what other efforts they were using in that bill, but it is one that has no place in the discussion when we are talking about coronavirus.

The tragedy there, the people dying—and to credit this President, I have to

say, he has done a great job in addressing this. He is the one who, every single day, is there with top medical people and afterward, at the end of the day, having a news conference and getting from the public what can we do better that we haven't been doing. He has handled it in a very, very effective way. But that is not why I am here on the floor.

#### TRIBUTE TO TOM COBURN

Madam President, I would like to read into the RECORD a speech I made here on the Senate floor on December 11, 2014, about another Senator from Oklahoma. I am here with something that is very sensitive to me that I want to share.

I wish to make some unscripted comments, but sincere and from the heart. I hope I am accurate when I say this, that I think in some respect I discovered Tom Coburn. I suspect that Tom and I are the only two who have ever had a major, high level national political discussion in Adair, OK. I remember hearing that there was a very conservative doctor from Muskogee. I remember calling him up at that time and asking him to run for the House of Representatives, which he did. He kept his commitments and did everything that he was supposed to do. I always remember that day.

As Senator Coburn knows, we have a place my wife and I built on a big lake in Oklahoma back in 1962.

A lot of people outside of Oklahoma don't realize that Oklahoma has more miles of freshwater shoreline than any of the 50 States. It is a big lake State. She and I built our place way back a long time ago.

When I drive up there, I go through Adair, and I go through that little sheltered area that is half torn down now. They tore down the biggest bank in town. Every time I go by there, I have to say I recall meeting for the first time with a young doctor named Tom Coburn.

I regret to say that there are times in our service together when we have not been in agreement on specific issues, and I think we have a characteristic in common. I think we are both kind of bullheaded, which has created some temporary hard feelings, but there is one thing that overshadows that. Jesus has a family, and His family has a lot of people in it. Some are here in this room. Tom Coburn and I are brothers.

In the 20 years I have been here in the Senate, I don't believe I heard a speech that was as touching and sincere as the speech I heard from my junior Senator a [short time] ago.

I really believe that in spite of all the things that have happened—and there were some differences, but they were minor—that he never ceased to be my brother, and I want to ask the Senator right now to forgive me for the times I have perhaps said something unintentionally that was not always right and was not always from the heart. But I want my junior Senator to know that I sincerely love him and am going to be hurting with him with the troubles he has right now, or might have in the future, and will sorely miss him in this body.

I ask that the RECORD show that I sincerely love my brother, Senator Coburn.

Madam President, that was a speech I made on December 11, 2014, and it sounded funny because, after the disagreement that we had, he and I were talking just a short time ago, and that was well after this speech I made in

2014, and neither one of us could remember what issue it was that we disagreed on, but we knew there was one there.

Here is the truth. There was no one like Dr. Tom Coburn. There was no one like him in Oklahoma. He was a simple country doctor from Muskogee. He was a family doctor. He delivered thousands of babies in Northeastern Oklahoma. I told him when he was running for the first time: You don't have any problems. All you have to do is get all the babies you delivered and have them bring their families along, and it will be an overwhelming victory.

There was no one like him. He was a true fiscal conservative who stayed true to his purposes. He had skills that made him arguably the most thoughtful adviser in the Republican conference.

I think this is somewhat characteristic of doctors. It is part of their culture. They advise people. People listen to them. And that was Tom. Tom was always an adviser to everyone. In every policy decision, Tom sought to be a faithful steward of the taxpayers' money and a dedicated public servant to Oklahoma.

He had an impressive record of service in the House of Representatives, as well as serving in the Senate with me, but nothing about that legacy would have mattered to Tom. Tom knew what mattered in life. What mattered in life was his family—Carolyn and his three daughters.

Carolyn, I suspect you may probably even be watching right now, and I want you to know how many people in this body—Tom is not here anymore, but how many people love you and Tom. Tom knew what was important in life and in Jesus. He is a brother in the Lord. He is my brother.

He will always be a Member of this institution, but we need to make it official.

So, Madam President, in honor of his life and legacy, I would like to ask unanimous consent that the Senate approve a resolution in honor of the life and legacy of Tom Coburn, a doctor from Muskogee.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR THOMAS ALLEN COBURN

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 583, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 583) honoring the life and achievements of former United States Senator Thomas Allen Coburn and expressing condolences to the family of Thomas Allen Coburn on his passing.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.