

protectees, many of them—thousands of them healthcare workers who are doing essential work every day. We can get a decision from the Court any day.

Will we be better off if 41,000 of these DACA healthcare professionals are deported from this country in the midst of this pandemic? No sensible person believes we would be. If the Court rules in favor of President Trump, up to 200,000 essential workers in America would be sidelined in the middle of this national emergency. Many of them face deportation.

I sent a letter to the President, with 37 of my Senate colleagues last month, urging him to extend the work authorization for DACA recipients to the end of the year. It is not too much to ask. They have lived in this country for years, and they passed a criminal background check.

For goodness' sake, Mr. President, don't get tough on these people when we need them the most.

But if you consider what the President said about immigrants over and over again, I know it is unlikely that he is going to have a moment of caring when it comes to their future, so Congress has to step in.

The HEROES Act, which the House of Representatives passed last week and which we did not even consider this week in the U.S. Senate, includes a provision to automatically extend work authorizations for DACA recipients. This is what they are talking about when critics of that House action come to the floor and talk about all the benefits for undocumented people living in this country—the extension of DACA protection for thousands of essential workers in this country who are protected by DACA.

They say: Oh, it sounds like they are opening the doors for illegal people to come in here and get royal treatment in America.

The opposite is true. These are people who are risking their lives providing healthcare and essential services across America. The HEROES Act that passed in the House of Representatives simply said we are not going to deport them. What a radical suggestion, that we could use their help and we need their help through the rest of the year. We certainly do. Those who come and mock this provision by saying it is just a giveaway to illegal immigrants are really doing a disservice to these people and the sacrifice they are making.

Ultimately, we need to give these Dreamers a chance to become citizens. I believe it now, and I have believed it for 20 years. It has been that long since I introduced the DREAM Act, a bipartisan bill, which would accomplish that.

Last year, the Congress passed the Dream and Promise Act, which would have solved this problem based on the DREAM Act. The vote was 237 to 187 in the House. Leader MCCONNELL has refused to even consider calling that measure for consideration in the Senate. And it isn't because we are over-

worked; just take a look at this empty Chamber.

Over the years, I have come to the floor of the Senate more than 100 times to tell the stories of Dreamers. I want you to know who they are. These stories show what is at stake when we consider the future of DACA.

Today, I want to tell you about Javier Quiroz Castro. Here is Javier dressed for work. He is the 121st Dreamer whose story I have told on the Senate floor.

Javier's parents brought him to the United States when he was 3 years old. He grew up in Nashville, TN. His father worked in construction as a bricklayer. His mother cleaned homes and office buildings. As the oldest child and the best English speaker, Javier took care of his three younger siblings and helped his family navigate the challenges of being in America.

Javier went to a private Christian college in Nashville, Lipscomb University. At Lipscomb, he discovered his love of nursing. He enrolled in the school of nursing and did his clinical training at Vanderbilt Medical Center. Javier graduated in May 2013 with his bachelor's in science of nursing. Javier received the Spirit of Nursing Award, which each year is given to only one nursing student who has best delivered quality care.

Because President Obama established DACA in 2012, Javier had a chance. Before that, he had no chance to become a registered nurse in this country. But he had a chance, and he took advantage of it.

Javier now lives in Houston, TX, and works at Houston Methodist Hospital. He is part of the team taking care of patients with COVID-19. This is what he wears to work.

Javier wrote me a letter. Here is what he said:

Thanks to DACA, I have been able to save a lot of lives. I have been able to be there with patients at their final moments of life. I have been able to take care of people of many different backgrounds, nationalities, races, socioeconomic levels, and cultures.

This wouldn't be complete if I didn't introduce you to Javier's daughter. Take a look at this beautiful little girl. This is Isabelle Quiroz. A few weeks ago, she took her first steps. I bet you she is about the same age as my granddaughter, whose birthday is Friday of this week. She is about to take her first steps too. This beautiful little girl, Javier's little girl, her faith and future are at stake, too, in this debate in the U.S. Senate.

I want to wish Isabelle a happy birthday tomorrow and my little granddaughter Jill a happy birthday on Friday.

Javier's wife is also a nurse. She and Javier worry every day about not infecting their baby daughter as they go to work to save other people, but they still get up every day and go to work to care for their patients.

I want to thank Javier Quiroz Castro for his service. He is indeed a

healthcare hero. He is an immigrant healthcare hero. He puts himself and his family at risk in order to save American lives. He shouldn't have to worry about a decision across the street at the Supreme Court which would deport him back to a country he cannot even remember.

We must do better. We are better than that as a country, to say to someone like Javier: Well, thank you for working so darn hard. Thank you for getting through nursing school with the highest grades. Thank you for your professionalism. Thank you for risking your life for America. But I am sorry, buddy, you are undocumented. Get out of the country.

The bill that passed the House would protect him until the end of the year—until the end of the year. Yet Members come to the floor and mock this bill and say: Oh, you are trying to give things away to illegal immigrants. Illegal immigrants like Javier? Get real. Get serious. Be human.

We have to do better for Javier and the DACA recipients. They are counting on us—those of us in the Senate—to solve this crisis created by President Trump's action.

As long as I am a Senator, I will continue to come to the floor of the Senate to advocate for Javier and the Dreamers. I have done it for a long time, but the job is not finished. It would be an American tragedy to deport this brave and talented nurse who is saving lives in Houston, TX, as we speak. We must ensure that Javier and hundreds of thousands of others in our essential workforce are not forced to stop working when we need them the most.

Ultimately, we need to pass legislation that demonstrates who we are, what we believe in, and what our values are. What does it say about America if we say to Javier "We don't need you"? We do. We need him and so many just like him who are performing essential services at this time of national emergency.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

THOUSAND TALENTS PLAN

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, last week I came to the floor of the Senate to talk about how the tragic spread of the coronavirus around the world underscored the need for us to focus on the persistent challenge of China not playing by the rules.

In the case of coronavirus, that was about China not telling the World Health Organization, not telling other countries, and not telling their own people what was happening in terms of the coronavirus and not taking steps to stop international travel early on. That wasn't playing by the WHO rules—the World Health Organization rules—and the result has been devastation. It has meant the spread of the virus. So much of that devastation we

have seen around the globe, in my view, could have been avoided had they played by the rules.

Unfortunately, not playing by the rules applies to China in many other areas too. We have talked a lot about trade on the floor of the Senate, to be sure that there is a level playing field between China and the United States and making sure they play by the international trading rules. But here is another one where China and the Chinese Communist Party have not played by the rules, and that is with regard to obtaining our intellectual property, our innovation, and our research.

In the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, which I chair, we found not playing by the rules to be the case when we conducted a bipartisan, year-long investigation into how China has used so-called talent recruitment programs—most notably its Thousand Talents Plan—to steal U.S. taxpayer-funded research to help fuel the rise to both the Chinese military and the Chinese economy over the past 20 years. It has been going on for two decades.

You might ask, how has this happened? How could this be possible? This is how it happens. Every year, Federal grant-making agencies, like the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Energy and their National Labs, the National Science Foundation, and others, give out more than \$150 billion in U.S. taxpayer funds for research. That is quite a bit of money.

For the most part, this system works well. American taxpayers send the money to these Federal grant-making agencies here in Washington, which then give it out to the best researchers and the best research labs in the country. It has resulted in important new breakthroughs in science, technology, healthcare, energy, military equipment, and more.

The NSF helped fund the creation of the internet. The NIH has funded research into very successful and innovative treatments for cancer and other diseases. So there is a lot of good stuff coming out of these research dollars. It has made America really the leader in the world on innovation and new ideas.

For the most part, this Federal research funding has enjoyed broad bipartisan support here in the Congress. But guess what. It has also attracted interest from researchers around the world who want the chance to take a part in this cutting-edge research. That is good, too, as long as they play by the rules.

What we have learned and we proved through our report is that this system is very vulnerable to theft by other countries. That is exactly what has happened in the case of China.

China has made no secret that its goal is to surpass the United States as the world leader in scientific research. They have seen an opportunity to get ahead by exploiting this system of taxpayer-funded grants and the open and collaborative research enterprise that we have in this country. They have taken advantage of that.

Specifically, the Chinese Government has systematically targeted the most promising U.S. researchers. So they find out somebody is doing some research on something interesting to them, and they systematically target that person. They have been paying these grant recipients to take their research—remember, research paid for by U.S. taxpayer dollars—and apply what they have learned here in labs over in China at Chinese universities affiliated with the Chinese Communist Party.

The research they are taking over to China isn't just going toward academic purposes. That wouldn't be right, either, because our taxpayer dollars are going in to fund this research. They are then leapfrogging us by getting that research. But it is not just for academic purposes. Often, the research ends up going directly into things like advancing China's military, which has made great strides in the last two decades, advancing its technological growth, its economy, its manufacturing processes, and so on.

A State Department witness at one of our Senate hearings on our report said this: "The Chinese Communist Party has declared the Chinese university system to be on the front line of military-civilian fusion efforts for technology acquisition." So there is a clear link here between the research going to these Chinese university labs and that same research being used to allow China to effectively leapfrog us in terms of their military improvements and their economic growth.

Part of the reason it has gone on so long, frankly, is because we have been asleep at the switch. We haven't been focused on this. We do have an open, collaborative research system in this country, and we haven't been effective at cracking down on this intellectual property theft. That is starting to change, and I am appreciative of that.

It started to change, frankly, in the wake of our subcommittee investigation. The Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations hearings also helped. Our report also helped. During one of our hearings, the FBI actually acknowledged what has been happening. This is what the FBI said: "With our present-day knowledge of the threat from Chinese talent plans, we wish we had taken more rapid and comprehensive action in the past, and the time to make up for that is now." I appreciate the candor. I appreciate the fact that the FBI was willing to say: Now that we have learned all of this, we should have been acting on this a long time ago. We are going to do it now and make up for lost time.

They have been much more aggressive. Since our hearing and detailed report last November, we have seen a number of high-profile arrests of academics in this country who have consistently hidden their participation in China's Thousand Talents program and have taken research over to China.

You may remember hearing about this issue earlier this week when a Har-

vard professor named Dr. Charles Lieber, who was the chair of Harvard University's chemistry department, was accused of secretly taking money from China and sharing his U.S. taxpayer-funded research with the Chinese Government. It was really a shocking example of this.

But he is not the only case. In March, we received news of another arrest of a professor who used to work at West Virginia University who participated in Thousand Talents. In this case, the Justice Department found that he had convinced his employer—a U.S. public university—to give him paid parental leave funded by American taxpayers while he went to China to work at a university there to continue his work on specializing molecular reactions used in coal conversion technologies. This is from West Virginia University.

These two cases would be bad enough on their own, but since the start of this month, we have actually had three more cases announced by the Department of Justice and the FBI in relation to this Thousand Talents program. I commend the DOJ and the FBI for their work to continue to crack down on this program and to go after these problems, but they need better tools to do it.

About 2 weeks ago, a former Emory University professor pled guilty to falsifying his tax returns to conceal his work for the Chinese Government. The professor worked simultaneously and secretly for 6 years for both Emory University and overseas for Chinese universities affiliated with the Communist Party of China, conducting similar research projects at both institutions. Despite this clear conflict of interest, he failed to report any of his at least \$500,000 in foreign income on his Federal tax returns.

That very same day, a professor at the University of Arkansas was arrested on charges of wire fraud for allegedly failing to disclose his ties to the Chinese Government, despite being required to do so as a grant recipient of money from NASA—NASA.

Just this past week, we found out that this problem had reached my home State of Ohio when the Department of Justice announced the arrest of a researcher previously affiliated with the world-renowned Cleveland Clinic. This researcher had received more than \$3.6 million in taxpayer-funded grants from the National Institutes of Health—again, taxpayer dollars. To secure that grant, he is accused of lying to hide the fact that he was given a deanship at the university in Wuhan, China.

He is also accused of lying about his Chinese Government-funded research directly overlapping with his NIH-funded research. According to the criminal complaint, he received \$3 million in funding from China to run a shadow lab in Wuhan to replicate his Cleveland Clinic research, along with free travel and free lodging funded by the Chinese Government. It says he even admitted

that he hand-carried samples of biological material from Cleveland, OH, to Wuhan. Those samples are still stored, by the way, in China.

It also states that he did not disclose that one of his Chinese grants required that he be in Wuhan for 10 months of the year at the same time he was also employed full time at the Cleveland Clinic, again, working on NIH-funded research.

I commend the Cleveland Clinic for working with the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office to ensure that we were able to stop this from happening.

As a Thousand Talents member, the criminal complaint also alleges that this individual recruited around 40 to 50 other U.S.-based researchers for his Chinese university by hosting events at Harvard and other schools in the United States.

This is a big deal, and it needs to stop. I commend the Assistant Attorney General for National Security, John Demers, for his work on this and other cases and also U.S. Attorney Justin Herdman of the Northern District of Ohio, FBI Special Agent in Charge Eric Smith, and all the members of their team for their work on this Cleveland Clinic case.

Again, these cases are all positive steps in the right direction, but the problem, as you might notice, is that none of these criminal charges and arrests were actually based on participating in a Thousand Talents program or even hiding that from the U.S. Government research institutions or universities. The criminal charges and arrests were all for other crimes, like perjury, wire fraud, and tax evasion. That is because, amazingly, failing to disclose on a grant application to receive U.S.-taxpayer funds that you are receiving compensation—clear conflict of interest—from a foreign government and giving them your research is not currently a crime. That needs to change.

One example: The Emory University professor, according to the law, only committed tax fraud, while the Arkansas professor only committed wire fraud. The fact that these are technically only financial crimes show that we are still just nibbling around the edges of this problem. It is time for us to get at the underlying flaw in our research enterprise of talent programs enticing researchers here in the United States to steal for other countries. We are going to need targeted legislation that will take direct action against this practice, and that is exactly what we have done.

Along with a group of colleagues, including Democrat TOM CARPER, the ranking member of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, we are introducing the Safeguarding American Innovation Act, which is going to build on the recommendations made in our PSI report and address some of these root causes of the ongoing IP theft that is currently going on.

First and foremost, our bill is going to help the Department of Justice go

after the Thousand Talents participants by allowing DOJ to hold Federal grant recipients accountable for failing to disclose their foreign ties on Federal grant applications. This isn't just about more arrests, either. We should all agree that transparency and honesty in grant applications are critical to the integrity of U.S. research, and this provision will help to promote those principles.

Our bill makes other important changes, as well, based on the recommendations in our report. It requires the Office of Management and Budget, or OMB, to streamline and coordinate grant-making between these Federal agencies, so there is needed accountability and transparency when it comes to tracking the billions of dollars of taxpayer funds in grant money that is being distributed.

We have worked closely with NSF, NIH, Department of Energy, and others on this important piece of legislation. They agree it is important. It allows the State Department to deny visas to foreign researchers who are seeking to access sensitive U.S. research when there is a threat to our economic or our national security. This may surprise you, but they can't do that now. Career Foreign Service officers and employees of the State Department have begged us for that authority.

Our bill also requires research institutions to have safeguards in place to prohibit unauthorized access to sensitive research because we found that to be a serious problem. And our bill ensures transparency by requiring universities to report any foreign gift of \$50,000 or more, and it empowers the Department of Education to fine universities that repeatedly fail to disclose these gifts.

Right now, our No. 1 priority is and should be solving the coronavirus crisis. I get that. By the way, the FBI sent a notice around last week to universities and research institutions saying: Watch out because there are actually Chinese hackers trying to get your research on coronavirus. It just happened last week.

I have to tell you that in the context of this crisis, we have to reevaluate how we do business with China. We have to look at this with fresh eyes and realize that in many areas China has not been playing by the same set of rules as the rest of the world.

We talked about that earlier, with regard to trade and with regard to reporting on the coronavirus. I think in a fair and straightforward manner, we have to lead in insisting that there be a level playing field, whether it is the WHO or whether it is transparency with coronavirus or trade policy or how research is acquired.

My hope is that our PSI report and the legislation we are introducing will let us reset the way we conduct our research. Our goal should be to continue to reward those who come to our shores and discover new breakthroughs in science and technology. We want that.

We are very proud of the fact that we are the most innovative country in the world and we are known for our research enterprise. We want to continue that, but we want to do it in a smart way. We want to be sure that we are keeping China and other nations and competitors from stealing that research for its own purposes. I know we can achieve that balance. Our legislation does that.

I look forward to getting support from both sides of the aisle because this is a problem we should all be concerned about.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— S. 3608

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to talk for a few minutes about the Coronavirus Relief Fund Flexibility for State and Local Government Act. Before I get to my motion, I just want to make a couple of points.

Point 1, as you know, we have passed four bills dealing with the pool of misery America and the world find themselves in with respect to the coronavirus. We have spent a breathtaking amount of money. I never imagined that I would vote for bills of the magnitude that I have voted for, but we all did what we had to do.

If you add up the four bills, we have spent \$3 trillion so far. I have expressed it this way before, but I am going to keep doing it because it is just a breathtaking amount of money: \$3 trillion is 3-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0 taxpayer dollars. We may have to spend another \$3 trillion.

As you know, we set up some facilities at the Federal Reserve. They are called 13(3) facilities, through which the Federal Reserve is loaning money to American businesses to try to keep them afloat after the government shut down the American economy.

The Federal Reserve cannot lose money. I am not suggesting that all \$3 trillion that the Federal Reserve ends up loaning out will remain unpaid. I hope not. But for the portion that does go into default, we are going to have to appropriate money to cover those losses. We already appropriated \$450 billion, but if the losses go higher, we have to cover them.

We have spent \$3 trillion for certain and, potentially, we are going to have to spend another \$3 trillion. It is a staggering amount of money. The entire U.S. economy, the greatest economy in all of human history, to put things in context, is \$21 trillion a year. That is how much we produce a year if you add up all the goods and services that we, as Americans, produce.

As you know, Speaker PELOSI has introduced yet another bill, a fifth bill. The House has passed it. It was on a party-line vote. I think one Republican voted for the bill. A number of Democrats voted against it. It was a close