

In addition to St. Louis and Kansas City, the Department of Justice has launched Operation LeGend in seven other cities. This is not a Federal overreach. It is not the Federal Government, again, taking over local law enforcement. It is not the first step toward martial law. It is not a crack-down on peaceful protests. What it is, is a cooperative effort with cities that have been suffering from increases in violent crime.

Under this operation, officers have arrested, nationwide, more than 2,000 people, including 163 people for murder, and one of the people arrested was the alleged killer of 4-year-old LeGend Taliferro.

The rise of violence in cities this year—and particularly the cities I am talking about that have benefited, I think, from Operation LeGend—has been incredibly rapid and unbearably destructive, not to mention totally unacceptable. It has taken a toll on lives un-lived, families torn apart, communities terrorized, people wondering what is going to happen when they or their children walk out the front door or play in the backyard or, like little LeGend, are sound asleep in their beds.

Nothing we do can fully heal the damage, certainly, that these victims of violent crime and their families have suffered, but we can get the justice that both the victim and people who care about them deserve.

We may have a lot of disagreements in the Congress, but I hope we can agree that violent criminals belong behind bars. I hope we can all agree that all parents deserve a safe neighborhood where they can raise their children. I hope we can all agree that the police do a difficult and dangerous job, and they deserve all the support and appreciation we can give them.

Not long ago, LeGend Taliferro's mother spoke about her son and the pain of losing him. She said: "He was a ball of joy, and I want his legacy to live on and I want us to continue to fight against violence and get justice for my son and others." That is the end of that mother's quote, but it is not the end of a life that mother will now live without her son or the life he didn't get to live. And there are too many lives that didn't get to be lived, too many lives lost through needless violence.

Operation LeGend gives local law enforcement the valuable support they need to get violent criminals off the street. Again, it was named for an innocent 4-year-old boy. It could have been named for any of the thousands of other victims of violent criminals in dozens of other cities this year. It could have been named for St. Louis Police Officer Tamarris Bohannon, who was killed in the line of duty last month. It could have been named for the two officers in California who had a sneak attack as they were sitting and trying to secure the local transportation center just in the last couple of days. It is a tragedy that it had to be named for anyone.

While some people have sought to defund the police and to disparage the police, Operation LeGend is successful because it supports the police. These are some of the hardest jobs in America, second only to the families of people who care deeply about their loved ones who have decided to serve in that job to protect us all.

American communities are safer because of Operation LeGend. They will be safer as we continue to work toward greater and more effective community policing. They will be safer when people who are violent criminals are no longer walking around to perpetuate further violence.

I salute the Justice Department for their efforts and the local departments that have reached out and taken advantage of the moment to get something done that they were not able to get done by themselves.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

ISSUES FACING AMERICA

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, when I was growing up, I was raised to believe in the American dream. My mom taught me that we were blessed because God and our Founders created the greatest country ever, where anything was possible. We weren't allowed to complain. Debt, Big Government, socialism, and communism were bad. College was for a better paying job. Church on Sundays was absolutely not optional.

While I didn't always appreciate my tough-love, my-way-or-the-highway mom growing up, I now thank God every day for my mom and this country. She gave me the opportunity to experience every lesson this country had to offer before I was 20.

Sadly, the values that I grew up with are becoming a way of the past, but I believe these values, these virtues, can and should be part of our country's future. The left has worked hard over the last 50 years to discredit the values of the America I was raised with and the values of the America I want my grandkids to grow up with.

In recent weeks, we have seen the Democrats try hard to paint our President and the entire Republican Party as "darkness," but let me tell you what darkness would actually look like in America.

What if our country turned the keys over to the far left and turned away from capitalism in favor of socialism? The data is already in on that. The result would be the same as it has been throughout history: Socialism would destroy our economy and cause widespread poverty and oppression. Darkness.

What if our country just gave up on the battle to protect innocent human life and agreed with the political party that proudly embraces the killing of the unborn at any time, for any reason? Darkness.

What if we decide to change our First Amendment, editing out our freedom of

speech and freedom of religion, forcing Christians and Jews to retreat from the public square and silencing any who dare to speak up? Darkness.

What if America did what every authoritarian government in history has done and must eventually do—disarm the American people? Darkness.

What if we defunded our police forces across the country, even just partially? What would happen to public safety? How would life in our cities be affected? Turn on your TV for the answer. Darkness.

What if we allowed people to throw homemade bombs at police and burn down police stations and then pretended that these violent demonstrations are peaceful? Darkness.

What if we enacted the Green New Deal? Literal darkness.

What if we let China—a Communist country that systematically imprisons and murders its own citizens—take advantage of American workers and put them out of work? Darkness.

What if we teach our kids that America is a bad country with an evil history that must be erased and that America is fundamentally a morally bankrupt country? Darkness.

Republicans are fighting for issues that the American public care about. People want good jobs, a good education for their kids, and they want to live in safe communities. Republicans are working to defend our law enforcement, invest in our military, secure the border, and stop illegal immigration. Republicans are standing up to dictators in Latin America and to Communist China, after the Democrats have appeased them for decades.

Here is the fundamental difference between Democrats and Republicans: Democrats want to control your life; Republicans want to give you a life. Republicans want to give every American the opportunity to live their version of the American dream. Governments don't do that. Politicians don't do that.

The American people are dreamers, and if we get government out of their way, the innovation, determination, and entrepreneurial spirit of the American people and American business will shine bright.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the dangerous path that national Democrats are spiraling on down and to caution our countrymen not to follow them. Radicals on the far left have hijacked an otherwise righteous cause and are in command of a once proud political party that traces its heritage back to Jefferson and Madison.

The violence the radicals have unleashed threatens lives. The cancel culture they imposed curtails liberty. And their misguided means of creating economic equality endangers the pursuit of happiness.

Joe Biden, NANCY PELOSI, and their hand-picked Democratic candidates are

empowering the radical wing of today's national Democratic Party—the same people responsible for the chaos now on full display across our country. The national leaders of the Democratic Party offer them sanctuary.

They make excuses for radicals' destructive behavior, the way an embarrassed parent does for a mischievous child. To them, the riots that are occurring from Minneapolis to Indianapolis are only peaceful protests. Promises to defund police departments are just ways of reimagining police—whatever that means. It is the same sleight of hand that turns government-run healthcare into Medicare for all who want it.

Most Democrats will not publicly embrace the socialist policies the mob howls for because they know the American people will not buy it. But once in power, they will be all too happy to implement these radical policies, and that means a mainstream national Democratic agenda that will abolish and defund police departments; take away on-the-job insurance; pack the Supreme Court of the United States; raise taxes; give Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico the same number of U.S. Senators that the State of Indiana has; eliminate the legislative filibuster and, therefore, the right of the minority within this institution; and spend trillions of dollars of new government programs that Americans don't need or want.

They are allies—the destroyers and these national Democrats I reference—only they can't be straight with the American people about their alliance, and their leaders just can't seem to summon the simple moral clarity that says racism is evil and so is using it to justify violence and vandalism.

Blessedly, in my State, local Democratic elected officials have had enough. In fact, in recent weeks, several Hoosier public servants have left their party and they have become Republicans. To clearly understand the choice before us, we need only listen to their explanations why.

This is Brian Snedcor, mayor of Hobart, who just switched from a Democrat to a Republican. He says:

I must be true to my God, my family, myself and those that have supported and believed in me . . . I want Hobart to be a place for business to come and the American Dream to be achieved.

And then we have Dave Wedding, Vanderburgh County sheriff, who also just became a Republican. Sheriff Wedding says:

I'm tired of seeing fires set in our streets. I'm tired of people defying God, our church, our police, our government and everything we stand for.

I happen to believe that every regular American feels the same way, and they will look to us to protect the American Dream and put out the fires—literal and figurative—in our streets.

The choice that each of us must make in the coming weeks is pretty

darned clear: law and order or anarchy; an economy that is growing or employers and workers which are grounded; citizens who are free and flourishing or subjects dependent on government.

What the radicals don't understand is that though we were born by revolution, the history of America is one of steady progress—a determined march together for the common good and towards an ever better union. We have to lead that march.

When far-left Democrats offer dangerous ideas and unfulfillable promises, Republicans will counter with innovative thinking and results-driven policies. We will create ways to help every American access affordable healthcare, afford a college education, advance their careers, raise a family, and buy a home that they can call their own.

Republicans will play a part in the reinvigoration of economically disadvantaged areas, both rural and urban. Ours is an America where everyone lives free of fear and is able to speak their mind, and where citizens, no matter their color or their ZIP Code, can climb as high and fly as far as their ambition and ability allows.

Their way leads to a dead end, ours to an endless frontier. They tear down. We will build. The path forward is clear.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I would like to thank my colleagues for joining me on the floor today. It is clear that America is facing two separate, very different paths.

Last Thursday, the Democrats in this Chamber blocked much needed assistance to families and small businesses struggling to make ends meet amidst the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, and they did it for one reason only—politics. Our friends across the aisle didn't want to provide \$15 billion in childcare, more than \$250 billion of additional Paycheck Protection Program loans for small businesses, \$105 billion for schools, and \$20 billion for farmers.

While this aid is vital to my fellow Iowans, it would have helped families and communities all across the Nation, in red and blue States. There is no denying that the damage being caused by this pandemic is real. Businesses are being shut down, schools are being closed, and lives are being lost. Yet this toll is apparently not enough for the other side to set politics aside, even momentarily, to come together and help our fellow citizens with their daily struggles.

This senseless obstruction is leaving Iowa families to fend for themselves when they most need a helping hand. In so many ways, this represents the distinct difference between the two political parties at this very moment.

While Senate Republicans are leading efforts to get America back up and running and guarantee opportunities for everyone, Democrats are embracing obstruction and anarchy.

Following the murder of George Floyd by Minneapolis police, my friend Senator TIM SCOTT of South Carolina introduced legislation to tackle police reform in a meaningful way. The bill he proposed would have enacted long overdue policies, such as finally making lynching a Federal crime, ending the use of police choke holds, expanding the use of body cameras by law enforcement, and increasing other forms of transparency and accountability.

Yet despite the impassioned pleas of Americans across the country demanding justice for George Floyd and other African-Americans who have died in police custody, Democrats blocked the Senate from even debating Senator SCOTT's thoughtful police reform bill this past summer.

Shouldn't we all be able to agree, regardless of our party affiliation, that Congress needs to take action to guarantee that no American should fear walking on the streets, especially in their own neighborhood? That guarantee should include people of color and peaceful protesters, as well as our law enforcement officers doing their jobs.

As a consequence of the Democrats' obstruction, the streets in some of America's great cities have descended into a state of chaos and lawlessness, immersed in violence and vandalism, arson and murder.

When taxpayers turn to their elected leaders—whether for assistance to provide for their families during a pandemic, for protection from unfair policing practices, or for simple safety when walking down the street—the Democrats have responded with silence and inaction.

Even when I attempted to call up a bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act—a bill that is very personal to me and that also had bipartisan support—the Democrats objected to that bill as well. And the same was true for my commonsense bill, Sarah's Law, which would hold illegal immigrants who harm or murder an American citizen accountable.

It is no wonder that folks across this country are so frustrated with Washington and fed up with politicians. Folks, just one friendly reminder: Our country's direction will soon be decided by her people. America must now choose between two paths to take into the future, and that choice could not be starker.

At a time when we need leadership and reassurance, the Democrats are instead offering obstruction, lockdowns, and anarchy. Our friends across the aisle are actually promising—folks, they are promising—to increase taxes on hardworking Americans and even promising to defund the police. That is right, folks. You get to pay more taxes in exchange for less safety and security. That doesn't sound like a good deal to me.

Speaking of bad bargains, you can expect the Democrats to pass their Green New Deal if they are given the chance.

This radical environmental plan would destroy our very way of life in Iowa.

The roadmap offered by Republicans is much brighter, to say the least: reopening America safely; real reforms to end excessive use of force by police without putting the safety of everyone at risk by defunding the police; building upon the successful pro-growth policies that created the greatest economy and historically low unemployment rates for every demographic; and bringing the jobs that were exported under the previous administration back to America and ending our dependency on foreign nations like Red China.

Folks, with our country and the world facing one of the greatest health and economic emergencies in history, we simply cannot risk our recovery on the radical designs of the Democrats. Let's pursue the path towards a renewed United States of America that guarantees safety and greater opportunities for every citizen to pursue the American dream.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). The Senator from Illinois.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 549

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am going to make a unanimous consent request in a moment, but I would like to preface it by saying what it is about so that as we explain it after the unanimous consent request is objected to, it will be clearer.

In the nation of Venezuela, there exists today an incredible political situation. I have been there to see it. There is a dictator in charge, and life on the street is deadly—so deadly that millions of Venezuelans are fleeing the country as fast as possible.

There is a limitation on food and medicine. There is so much suffering and starvation and deprivation that these people have given up everything, and they are just leaving. The United States knows that this is under the leader, Maduro. It reached a point where it is physically dangerous—so much so that we have a warning to American travelers not to go to Venezuela, to stay away because it is too dangerous.

Yet thousands of Venezuelans now in the United States are facing the threat of being forced return to this deadly, dangerous situation. The same State Department that warns Americans not to travel to Venezuela is now trying to force those Venezuelans who are here as students and others to go back to this deadly situation.

Senator MENENDEZ and I and others think it just makes sense for us to give these people a shelter until it is safe for them to return to their home. That is what this request is about.

Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 549 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time

passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. THUNE. Reserving the right to object. On behalf of my colleague Senator LEE, who cannot be here to object on his own because he is chairing an Energy subcommittee hearing, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I know the Senator from South Dakota is making the objection on behalf of Senator LEE, and I have been called to do the same thing from time to time. I won't assign any political blame to him, but I will say this is a serious mistake and deadly mistake for these Venezuelans.

This is an issue which in many parts of America is red hot. Those of Venezuelan ancestry or those who are here in a temporary status cannot understand what just happened. They want to stay here safely. They don't want to be forced to return to this nation that is such a dangerous place under this dictator.

A number of times in the last year, Senator MENENDEZ, who is on the floor with me here, has joined with me on behalf of the Venezuelan people. President Trump boasts that he supports these people.

The idea is simple: While the country remains a dictatorial nightmare, grant Venezuelans in the United States temporary protected status or TPS. It is the kind of commonsense move a self-confident nation and one that really cares about humanity would do to demonstrate real leadership and accept.

TPS is a temporary immigration status provided to foreign nationals if returning to their country poses a serious threat to their safety for any variety of reasons—natural disaster, environmental disaster, extraordinary conditions, armed conflicts. Certainly by every objective measure, the situation in Venezuela today is deadly and dangerous. It is not a permanent immigration status we are seeking for these Venezuelans, just a measure of American decency and solidarity with those who might be in the United States when a calamity occurs in their home country. Prior administrations of both political parties have granted it for people from countries facing these circumstances.

The situation in Venezuela is dire. Currently, the United States is working with regional partners to foster an end to the disastrous dictatorship clinging to power in Venezuela.

I was there before the sham 2018 election. What I saw was heartbreaking—people starving and fainting at work from malnutrition; hospitals without power or basic medicines. I visited a Catholic children's hospital in Caracas. They told me they didn't have the basics to treat these children. Antibiotics and cancer drugs were unavailable.

Millions were fleeing this country and still are, as refugees into neighboring countries. There is brutal political repression. If you disagree with Maduro publicly, be prepared to go to prison. There is staggering government corruption and dismantling of the government's democracy. Now, the tragic impacts of coronavirus have made the situation worse as well.

I supported this administration's efforts to work with other nations to support the interim Presidency of Juan Guaido. I had a chance to speak with President Guaido on the phone yesterday. I am deeply moved by his courage and concern for the Venezuelan people amid the suffering. Think about what he is up against. Here is a man who at any moment could face imprisonment or worse.

It is remarkable that more than 2 years after an internationally discredited Presidential election, Venezuelan dictator Nicolas Maduro is now planning another illegitimate election instead of finally holding a fair, credible Presidential contest.

I asked President Guaido: Are there going to be any international observers of this international election coming up this December?

Oh, yes.

I said: Who?

He said: The Russians.

I said: What a coincidence. They are observing our election too.

Venezuela has tragically fallen from President Trump's attention. One simple step he could take is grant TPS to Venezuelans here in the United States. He repeatedly refuses. There are travel warnings to Americans telling people not to go close to Venezuela, but for the Venezuelans here on visa or TPS status: You have to go home. The President has refused, I suspect, because the depth of his anti-immigrant cruelty really has no limits.

Despite the chest-thumping to audiences in Florida about taking on Venezuelan dictators, President Trump has, in fact, turned his back on the Venezuelans in the United States who truly need his protection. Nobody should be surprised, as former National Security Advisor John Bolton wrote in his book, that the President praised Maduro as "smart" and "tough" and waffled on any kind of coherent policy in the region and told Bolton not to get too deeply involved. President Trump can't have it both ways.

I have met many Venezuelans in my home State of Illinois. I can tell you that they are desperately worried about being forced to return to the chaos, violence, and hopelessness of the current Venezuela.

The Trump administration's travel advisory says it all:

Do not travel due to COVID-19, crime, civil unrest, poor health infrastructure, kidnapping, arbitrary arrest and detention of U.S. citizens . . . Violent crime, such as homicide, armed robbery, kidnapping, and carjacking, is common.

Yet the Republicans come to the floor and object to our efforts to protect the Venezuelans who are doing