

to this very point just last week. The message was clear: White supremacists pose a dangerous and violent threat to our homeland.

Against this backdrop, the President's shocking remarks last night were, in fact, a continuation of deeply disturbing patterns of racist and anti-Semitic behavior that this President has allowed to take place on his watch.

Three years ago in Charlottesville, violent chaos and hatred were on full display for the world to see. As neo-Nazis openly marched in the streets, they chanted: "Jews will not replace us" and "blood and soil."

President Trump not only didn't denounce this anti-Semitic and racist rhetoric, he did something much worse. He did something much worse. He praised the White nationalists. He praised them as "very fine people." These were not very fine people.

Just last month, a teen vigilante asked his mother to drive him across State lines to the protests in Kenosha with a rifle. He went there to use it, and, in fact, he did. He took the life of two people and shot a third. He has been charged with homicide and rightly so. Instead of condemning this act of hatred, President Trump has hailed this murderer as a "hero."

But this is the norm for President Trump. The President's use of dog whistles and charged language gives a voice to White supremacy and empowers vigilantes. It is inexcusable, and it is indefensible.

This rise in hatred that the President fails to condemn is one of the reasons why, last year, I cofounded the Senate Bipartisan Task Force for Combating Anti-Semitism. The goal of this bipartisan, nonpartisan endeavor is to help stop hate before it starts, to call out bigotry and anti-Semitism wherever we see it—left, right, or center. I am proud of the work that we have done so far to push back on anti-Semitism right here in the United States, in Europe, in the Middle East, and around the world.

But the President's silence and his disturbing call to arms to White supremacist groups like the Proud Boys make our work that much harder.

Some of the President's defenders often write off his most troubling statements, claiming the President misspoke or that we just don't understand what he is trying to say or that is his speaking style or that he is just joking.

Let me be clear. He didn't misspeak last night. He didn't make a joke last night. And regardless of what others say, words matter. His words matter. He is the President of the United States.

Let me say today, as the President should have said last night—and I invite all of my colleagues here in this Chamber to join me in repeating this statement: I condemn White nationalism; I condemn racism; I condemn anti-Semitism; and I condemn and denounce the groups that promote these vile ideologies, the Proud Boys among them.

We must speak out, and we must take action. I urge my colleagues, again, on both sides of the aisle, not to be complicit in their silence. I want them all to join me. I want you all to join me in denouncing White supremacy, as President Trump failed to do, clearly and explicitly, in last night's debate.

This is not a partisan issue. It never will be a partisan issue.

I hope all my colleagues join me in denouncing hatred in all forms.

I yield back.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION INFORMATION ACT OF 2019

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I rise to, in a minute, ask unanimous consent to call up and pass the Inter-country Adoption Information Act of 2019, but first let me say that this is a strong bipartisan bill that was first introduced in March of 2019, with Senators CARDIN, BLUNT, KLOBUCHAR, TILLIS, BROWN, and WICKER as original cosponsors. When the House considered its version of the bill last year, it passed 397 to 0. Let repeat that, 397 to 0. No House Member objected to it.

Our country is divided on many issues right now, but one thing that unites most of us is the belief that all children deserve to grow up in a permanent, loving home. This is a matter of justice and recognizing the intrinsic dignity in every human being. Many, many Americans have done more than just hold this belief; they have acted on it, adopting children both domestically and internationally.

According to the most recent available statistics, however, intercountry adoption has dramatically declined in recent years. Last year, fewer than 3,000 children were adopted in the United States—down from nearly 23,000 in 2004. There are numerous reasons for this decline, many of which warrant continued efforts to ensure that orphan children are given the chance to grow up in a loving home, whether in their own country or here in the United States.

We must address any barriers by examining our own policies and how they are implemented and by working internationally to help more children grow up in families.

Each year, the State Department releases its annual report on intercountry adoptions—a key document that keeps families, adoption agencies, and policymakers informed about the state of adoption. The report is publicly available, and it includes, among other things, the number of inter-

country adoptions involving immigration to the United States and the country from which each child emigrates, the time required for completion of the adoption, and the information on the adoption agencies, their fees, and their work.

But to better tackle this issue, we need to provide more transparency and accountability about some of the critical factors affecting intercountry adoption. The Inter-country Adoption Information Act adds additional key elements to this report by requiring the State Department to provide information on, one, countries that have enacted policies to prevent adoptions from the United States; two, actions the State Department has taken which have prevented adoptions to the United States; and, three, for each of these, how the State Department has worked to encourage the resumption of intercountry adoptions.

There are children around the world whose only chance to grow up in a family is through the Inter-country Adoption Program. There are families in the United States who are eager to open their arms, their homes, their hearts to these children.

I ask unanimous consent, at this time, to call up and pass H.R. 1952, to further transparency accountability and to ensure we are working toward the goal of enabling all children to have families which love them. I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 1952 and the House proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1952) to amend the Inter-country Adoption Act of 2000 to require the Secretary of State to report on intercountry adoptions from countries which have significantly reduced adoption rates involving immigration to the United States, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (H.R. 1952) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### SENATOR KAY HAGAN AIRPORT TRAFFIC CONTROL TOWER

Mr. BURR. Mr. President, I now would like to talk about a special project in North Carolina which involves my former partner from North Carolina, Senator Kay Hagan.

We are currently in the process of building a brand-new FAA tower at the Piedmont Triad International Airport in Greensboro, NC. The bill before us

would name the currently under-construction air traffic tower after Senator Kay Hagan.

The late Senator Hagan worked tirelessly to secure the funding for the new tower, and it will serve as a fitting tribute to her legacy as a Senator and her work on behalf of the citizens of North Carolina.

Once completed in 2022, the 180-foot tower will not only provide a state-of-the-art traffic facility for PTI Airport but also serve other general aviation airports in a rather large geographic region. In one of her last public appearances, in June of 2019, Senator Hagan was able to participate in the groundbreaking ceremony of that FAA tower.

This bill has bipartisan support in the Senate, including Senators KLOBUCHAR, WARNER, and TILLIS. A companion bill has also been introduced in the House by Representative BUDD with a majority of the delegation supporting, including Representatives PRICE, BUTTERFIELD, and ADAMS.

This is a testament to Senator Hagan and shows how we can continue to work together to not only achieve great things for our constituents but also recognize the achievements of public servants like Kay Hagan.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 4762, introduced earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4762) to designate the airport traffic control tower located at Piedmont Triad International Airport in Greensboro, North Carolina, as the "Senator Kay Hagan Airport Traffic Control Tower".

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

Mr. BURR. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 4762) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows

S. 4762

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The airport traffic control tower located at Piedmont Triad International Airport in Greensboro, North Carolina, and any successor airport traffic control tower at that location, shall be known and designated as the "Senator Kay Hagan Airport Traffic Control Tower".

#### SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the airport traffic control tower referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Senator Kay Hagan Airport Traffic Control Tower".

#### SENATE BIPARTISANSHIP

Mr. BURR. Madam President, that is all the unanimous consent requests I

have today, but since the floor is vacant, let me take this opportunity to say that the American people have just seen that the Senate can function, the Senate can pass legislation, the Senate can find legislation that both sides agree on.

Yes, we, quite frankly, have issues on which we disagree, but why not spend the balance of this week, the balance of this year, focused on the things that we can find agreement on and come to this floor and debate them and pass them. There are many more things that we agree upon, on both sides of the aisle, than we disagree upon.

There are some hot-button issues that we will probably never find unanimity on, but there are many, many things that affect thousands, if not millions, of people's lives in this country that we can do by simple unanimous consent. It just takes a willingness of 100 members of the U.S. Senate to agree to take it up.

So I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle: Don't be the one or don't be part of the contingent that objects to something. If it is in the best interest of this institution, of this country, of the American people, let it come up. Let it have a debate, and let it have a vote—hopefully, a unanimous consent request like we have just seen.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### CENSUS BUREAU

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, there is a lot going on in America right now. We are in the middle of a pandemic where we have lost over 200,000 people. We have millions who are unemployed. We are only 34 days away from a Presidential election. It is easy to see that a lot of Americans could have missed the fact that we are also in the middle of a decennial census.

Under article I, section 2 of the Constitution, since 1790, the United States has conducted a census every 10 years. The U.S. Census Bureau is currently executing the 2020 decennial census. As we speak, census workers are conducting interviews and filling out survey forms in every community in our country despite the tremendous obstacles that have been posed by COVID-19. Their work is of utmost importance. I want to take this opportunity to thank them for their very challenging efforts.

The 2020 census will dictate apportionment of the House of Representatives for the next decade. In addition, Federal programs rely on census data to distribute more than \$1.5 trillion in funding every year to States, localities, individuals, and businesses. So the stakes are high for the census, and we have only one chance to get it right—one chance every 10 years.

As the vice chair of the Senate Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, I have worked with Members on both sides of the aisle to ensure that the Census Bureau has the resources it needs to ensure a complete and accurate 2020 census. This includes securing, for the past several fiscal years, the entire amount that was requested by the administration, including reserve funding, which has been critical to meet the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, in addition to funding, the Census needs sufficient time to get the job done right. To protect public health, on April 13, 2020, Census Director Steven Dillingham and Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross announced that the Census Bureau would delay field operations by 3 months and they asked Congress to delay reporting apportionment and redistricting counts by 4 months in order to "ensure the completeness and accuracy of the 2020 Census." That was Census Director Dillingham and Commerce Secretary Ross. Under this revised plan, the largest and most important field data collection operation to follow up with households that have been nonresponsive would run until October 31. On a bipartisan basis, this request from the administration was welcomed. We want to give the Census both the time and the resources that it needs to do the job right.

Over the course of the summer, the Trump administration installed new political appointees at the Census, and a number of reports indicated that the Trump administration was looking to rush the 2020 decennial census operations so that Secretary Ross—despite what he said to us last spring—could transmit the apportionment counts to the President by December 31, 2020.

Then, on August 3—just last month, August 3—Census Director Dillingham announced that 2020 field data collection and self-response operations would be shortened by a month, ending today, September 30. This decision to curtail operations was not based on the advice of career Census Bureau experts. Census data collection operations are incredibly complicated even under the best of conditions, but their complexity is greatly exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. In fact, this spring, experts made clear that a 4-month delay of statutory deadlines was necessary.

In May, Tim Olson, Director for Field Operations for the 2020 decennial census, stated:

We have passed the point where we could even meet the current legislative requirement of December 31. We can't do that anymore.

That was back in May.

After the truncated data collection operations were announced, a career official stated:

It's going to be impossible to complete the count in time. I'm very fearful we're going to have a massive undercount.

I share this fear. I am deeply concerned that cutting short data collection and processing operations during a global pandemic will necessitate changes that will be detrimental to the accuracy and completeness of the 2020 decennial census. In particular, I am concerned that the Census Bureau will reduce the number of attempts to count households and significantly increase the use of less accurate data collection methods. This could lead to a substantial undercount in historically hard-to-count areas. Those areas include Native American, rural, and immigrant communities. An undercount would mean that these communities would be left disenfranchised, without proper political representation and without millions of dollars of Federal funding.

We should be clear about the gravity of this outcome. This would be a constitutional crisis that further undermines faith in our governing institutions.

I called for the Department of Commerce inspector general to investigate why the Trump administration suddenly curtailed data collection operations. I have also requested that the Government Accountability Office conduct an investigation into how this rushed timeline could affect data quality and the overall completeness of the census count.

Last week, the Commerce inspector general released a preliminary report, finding what we already knew: that the decision to accelerate the 2020 census schedule was not made by the experts at the Census Bureau and that rushed schedule increases the risk to the accuracy of the 2020 census.

In particular, the report raises that the curtailed timeline does not provide schedule flexibility in the case of natural disasters. Unfortunately, over the last month, we have seen record wildfires out West and several hurricanes in the gulf. This has delayed operations in those regions.

The GAO came to a similar conclusion, publishing a report last month that found that cutting the timeframe for the 2020 census could increase the risk of an inaccurate count. One line from the inspector general's report really stuck with me. It said:

A statutory extension would permit the Bureau to adhere, as closely as practicable, to the 2020 Census plan it developed over a decade instead of the replan it developed over a weekend.

I hope my colleagues will review these reports. I know everybody is anxious to go home. I am anxious to go home. But I hope people will review these reports and join me in providing the Census Bureau the time the agency needs.

This last-minute attempt to shorten data collection and data processing isn't surprising, sadly. The Trump administration has made other attempts to manipulate the count for political gain. It has been well documented that political operatives have pushed the

administration and Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross to include a citizenship question as part of the 2020 census and in an attempt to reduce participation in immigrant communities. Ultimately, Secretary Ross's attempt to include a citizenship question was rejected by the Supreme Court.

We can't let these latest attempts to undermine the accuracy of the constitutionally mandated count succeed.

Last week, a Federal court issued an injunction preventing the Census Bureau from ramping down operations prematurely because there would be irreparable harm to communities from rushing the count. However, this could just be temporary. In defying the court, earlier this week, the Census Bureau announced a mere 5-day delay so that operations will now end on October 5. This is not long enough. The Census Bureau has also announced plans to appeal the court's injunction.

This is not solely a rural or an urban issue, a red State or a blue State problem. I hope my colleagues will listen to this because the States with the lowest percentage of households counted are Alabama, Louisiana, Montana, South Carolina,

Mississippi—Senator WICKER—and Georgia. Some of these States are on the bubble of gaining or losing Representatives, so an undercount, which is a real risk if operations are rushed and shut down prematurely, would have serious repercussions.

That is why I call on my colleagues to pass a 4-month extension of the Census's statutory deadlines so that the Trump administration is compelled to stick to the timeline it had originally announced. Congress already missed an opportunity to address this issue as part of the continuing resolution.

Again, there is bipartisan support for this extension, with a bipartisan bill filed. In addition, last month, a bipartisan group of 48 Senators sent a letter to Senate and House leadership that called for the inclusion of legislation to extend the statutory deadlines as part of the next coronavirus relief package, as the House has done in the updated Heroes Act that was released recently. We should also ensure that the data collection operations, including nonresponse followup and self-response, continue through October 31.

It is imperative for the census to count every person in the United States and where one lives. This includes communities that have had historically low participation in decennial censuses. The census is too important to allow meddling for political gain. We must take action immediately to ensure that the Census Bureau takes the time to get it right.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to use props during my speech.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CLEAN WATER

Mr. DAINES. Madam President, water is the most basic element of human life. In Montana, we depend on a steady supply of water to drink, to irrigate our crops, to water our livestock, and to provide energy through hydropower. Water is a precious resource, but there are still rural communities in Montana that face challenges to access and that are in dire need of Federal assistance. The health and economic risks associated with the lack of reliable water have increased because of the current pandemic.

I stand here today to highlight three bills that would ensure rural Montana communities have access to water.

S. 1882 would allow the 130 family farms in the Kinsey Irrigation Company and Sidney Water Users Irrigation District to continue the use of Pick-Sloan power, which they have reasonably relied on for more than 74 years. Thankfully, this bill has been passed out of the U.S. Senate and now awaits House consideration. I thank both Senate and House leadership for getting this bill to the finish line, and I urge my colleagues in the House to pass it.

Another Montana water priority is the bipartisan St. Mary's Reinvestment Act, which supports the St. Mary and Milk River Project by allowing the reconstruction and restoration of the over 100-year-old infrastructure. I am proud to be working with the entire Montana delegation on this important bill that supplies over 18,000 water users and municipalities along the Hi-Line, including the Blackfeet Reservation and Fort Belknap.

The catastrophic failure of a drop structure this past summer is proof that Congress must pass this bipartisan legislation. I spent time out there in July and saw firsthand the catastrophic failure of that drop and why it is so important to get this legislation passed. This bill is critical for Montana's families and Montana's farmers and ranchers along the Hi-Line.

I would also like to highlight my bipartisan bill, the Clean Water for Rural Communities Act. It is hard to believe that there are approximately 40,000 Americans across 12 counties in both Montana and North Dakota who currently do not have access to water that is safe to drink. In fact, I have brought with me today some examples of the drinking water that Montanans in the central and eastern parts of our State have shared with me.

Here is a sample that literally came from the tap of the Arnesons. It is hard to believe we are in 2020 and that a Montanan can open up a tap and see water like this.

This example came from the Good family. Again, it is yellow water, and this is black water. This is water that has literally come from the taps of Montanans who live in the eastern part of our State.

You see, iron content in these impacted areas is nearly five times the

Safe Drinking Water Act's standard, and nearly all residents must rely on bottled water. This water is so contaminated that it is corrosive to appliances, which requires residents to operate water softeners to avoid damage.

My bill would allow two regional, rural water systems to be rebuilt in order to provide Montanans access to reliable, safe water in central and eastern Montana. I don't think that is asking for too much. All we are asking for is reliable and safe water for thousands of Montanans. Both of these rural drinking water projects have been working with the Bureau of Reclamation for over 15 years to gain Federal authorization, and they can't wait any longer.

I rise on behalf of the 40,000 Montanans who lack access to clean water, and I urge the swift passage of the Clean Water for Rural Communities Act as well as the St. Mary's Reinvestment Act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

GREG KELLY

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I have a serious matter to discuss with the Senators about the U.S. relationship with our ally Japan.

Japan has been a valued American partner in the Pacific. It is our fourth largest trading partner and a close military ally. Our nations are better off because of the alliance between Japan and the United States, and I hope it grows stronger in the days ahead.

I regret that today I must be sharply critical of the Japanese Government. I rise to express concern over Japan's unjust treatment of an American citizen, Greg Kelly. It is a concern that raises questions about whether Americans can be comfortable about Japan's adherence to the basic rule of law. Mr. Kelly has become the latest victim of Japan's criminal justice system. Some have called it a hostage justice system. Even some leaders in Japan have called it a hostage justice system, because it is. It is unfair, harsh, and arbitrary. Japanese prosecutors have an alarming conviction rate of 99 percent, which is clearly designed to produce guilty verdicts.

Greg Kelly is a Tennessee resident who joined Nissan in 1988 and became a respected employee. He rose steadily within the company and in June of 2012 became the first American to join Nissan's board. Yet, shortly before Thanksgiving of 2018, his 30-year career at Nissan came to a crashing halt—a troubling halt to his career and to fundamental fairness.

A company executive lured him to Tokyo for what was supposed to be an urgent business meeting. Mr. Kelly was 2 weeks away from having badly needed neck surgery and was hesitant to travel internationally, but the Nissan executive assured him he would be home within a week, so Mr. Kelly boarded a Nissan corporate jet to Tokyo. In fact,

Greg Kelly had been lied to and was walking into a trap that had been designed by Nissan executives and Japanese authorities.

According to emails obtained by Bloomberg News, that Nissan executive was working in collusion with Japanese prosecutors to disrupt a merger between Nissan and the French auto company, Renault. Greg Kelly was involved in negotiating that merger. Their plan required framing him for bogus financial crimes and throwing him under the bus.

While he was en route to Tokyo, Nissan executives launched a "boardroom coup" to strip Mr. Kelly of his position. Government prosecutors seized his boss, Carlos Ghosn, chairman of the board of Nissan, for allegedly underreporting his income—another bogus charge.

Hours later, upon his arrival at the airport, Mr. Kelly was arrested on these trumped-up charges. Mr. Kelly was treated with cruelty by Japanese authorities from day one. He was kept in solitary confinement for 34 days. This American citizen, this resident of the State of Tennessee, was kept in solitary confinement, where he slept on the floor in the dead of winter and had no heat. He was interrogated daily, for several hours at a time, without having the presence of a defense counsel—a basic legal right.

This is the treatment given to our American citizen by Japanese authorities. His requests for medical attention were refused. When they did eventually allow him to get surgery, it was too late to do much good, and, predictably, Greg Kelly's physical condition got worse. Thankfully, Mr. Kelly was eventually allowed to live in a Tokyo apartment while he awaited trial. His trial began only this month—more than 650 days after his arrest.

With regard to former CEO Carlos Ghosn, in a celebrated escapade, Mr. Ghosn was able to escape from Japan to his native Lebanon after being released on bail, but Greg Kelly remains in Japan to this day and vehemently denies the charges against him.

It is noteworthy that the CEO of Nissan, Hiroto Saikawa, was involved in the same negotiations as Mr. Kelly. In other words, if Mr. Kelly is guilty of a financial crime, so is Mr. Saikawa. Yet, instead of being arrested, he was allowed to simply resign.

Japanese leaders may deny it, but it looks an awful lot like there is a double standard in Japan's justice system—a lenient standard for native Japanese and a much harder one for Americans. This double standard is not lost on American businesses, and it is not lost on this Senator. Japan should worry about the consequences of its behavior. A perceived legal bias could put a seriously chilling effect on our economic relationship as more Americans think twice about doing business in Japan or doing business with Japan.

Mr. Kelly's treatment in the Japanese courtroom has been no less appall-

ing. The trial began a few days ago, and the court allowed prosecutors to give a 6-hour presentation at the opening of the trial, with there being no simultaneous English translation.

They denied the same right to Mr. Kelly. He has yet to make his opening statement. Instead of letting Mr. Kelly speak in his own defense, the court then recessed for 2 weeks.

The proceedings have been incredibly slow and will continue to be incredibly slow. The trial is expected to last more than a year because Japanese rules allow the prosecutors to meet at the trial for only 6 days per month and also because the court refused to allow simultaneous English translation at the trial.

This is a stark reminder of how fortunate we are in this country, under our Constitution, which guarantees the right to a speedy trial.

I have zero confidence that the Japanese criminal justice system will give Mr. Kelly a fair trial. The fix was in for him from the beginning. His being lured to Japan, his wrongful arrest, his deplorable treatment in solitary confinement and in court are a scandal worthy of Vladimir Putin, not our allies in Japan. It should be an embarrassment for any modern democracy.

This is a matter that should have been resolved in the board room and by shareholders. This needless ordeal sends an unmistakable message to the American business community: If you do business in Japan, you had better watch your back. When it suits Japanese interests, they could set a trap for you, throw you under the bus, put you in prison, deprive you of your rights to counsel and your rights to return home, and waste years of your life needlessly. That is the message it sends to the American business community.

This is a shameful story for an ally of the United States, and it looms as an ominous shadow over the coming Tokyo Olympic Games, the recently completed U.S.-Japan agreement, and future trade negotiations.

Our two nations have shared in prosperity for decades because of mutual respect and mutual cooperation. I hope our Japanese friends will show a renewed interest in preserving that relationship, which has been harmed by the Greg Kelly fiasco.

The newly installed Prime Minister of Japan, Prime Minister Suga, needs to intervene in this matter. Japan needs to right this wrong and end this highly visible stain on its international reputation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

H.R. 8337

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, today, we in the Senate will vote on a continuing resolution to keep the government funded through December 11, 2020. It is the last day we can do that.

I strongly urge all Members to vote aye. The last thing our country needs

is a government shutdown in the middle of a global pandemic and an unprecedented economic crisis.

Now, the bill we are considering passed the House by a wide margin to show they were doing their job—sometimes a rarity in Washington. It provides funding for the government through December 11 at fiscal year 2020 funding levels and under the same terms and conditions contained in the fiscal year 2020 appropriations bills.

It also includes several authorization matters to extend programs that otherwise would expire, including important health and transportation and veterans programs.

Now, I am pleased the bill includes the emergency USCIS Stopgap Stabilization Act. This will help prevent furloughs of Federal employees at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, many of whom work in my home State of Vermont.

Now, these are dedicated Federal employees. They perform critical work, helping immigrants apply for citizenship and visas and asylum, and they have come to work every single day living under the threat of furloughs for months now, in the middle of a global pandemic, and all the while continuing their important work.

While I believe more fiscal year reforms and stronger oversight are needed at USCIS, this legislation will help stave off the immediate crisis while we work on a longer term solution.

I am also glad the bill includes nearly \$8 million for child nutrition programs, especially the extension of the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer. That is the P-EBT Program. That is important because it provides millions of children with additional monthly benefits for food purchases while schools are closed. And this assistance is desperately needed as families across the Nation struggle to make ends meet and to put food on the table.

Now, I support the continuing resolution. It is what I do in my role as vice chairman of the Appropriations Committee, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

But I cannot help but note the reason we need this is because of a dysfunctional Congress. It is a symptom of that. It is a senseless and entirely avoidable, made-in-Washington crisis.

The Senate Appropriations Committee should have been allowed to do its work. We could have completed all 12 appropriations bills months ago, and the majority of those bills would have had overwhelmingly bipartisan support of both Republicans and Democrats.

Apparently, the Republican leader did not want to allow that to happen, so we are left with a continuing resolution. It simply kicks the can down the road.

Not only did we not complete our work on the fiscal year 2021 appropriations bills, the Senate has not acted on a much needed COVID relief bill to address the impacts of the pandemic found in every town across America—

every single town, represented by every single Senator in this body.

Look what is happening across our country. Schools are struggling to safely educate our Nation's children, in both the classroom and, where necessary, remotely, without enough funding to do so.

More than 9 million children do not have access to the internet in their homes. In normal times, this would set these children far behind their more affluent peers who can access online educational resources. By doing nothing—by doing nothing, at a time when much of our Nation's children are remote learning, Senate Republicans and President Trump are choosing to leave these children behind, and these children are all over the Nation, in every single State, and they are being left behind. Inaction is a choice, and that choice is to actively prop up the cycle of poverty for yet another generation.

Look at the lines at our food banks. They are at a historic level during this enormous economic downturn. Today, in America, the wealthiest country in the world, one in four households are experiencing food insecurity during this pandemic.

Nobody in this room has looked their child in the eyes with the knowledge that you do not know where the next meal will come from. Think of those people who do, day by day, have to look at their children, knowing that they don't know where their next meal is coming from and how they are going to feed these children.

Inaction here and at the White House is a choice to let that child go hungry and force their parents to live with that terrible pain that comes when you cannot put enough food on the table for your family.

Families are struggling to pay rent and eviction moratoriums have expired across the country in every State. In July, it was reported that, in this economy, more than 43 million Americans—one-quarter of the adult population of this country—either missed a rent or mortgage payment or had little to no confidence they could make the next payment. That was two rent or mortgage payments ago, with no relief.

More than 31 million Americans were unemployed in August; 163,735 businesses have closed, and 97,066 of those have closed permanently.

States don't have the money they need to safely carry out an election that is only 34 days away and in the middle of a pandemic.

Without a legislative change extending critical deadlines, our ability to achieve a fair and accurate count in the 2020 census remains at risk—a census that is required under the Constitution of the United States, a Constitution we all have taken an oath to uphold.

American people are suffering, and politics are being played to keep that suffering continuing. But it is infuriating that the Republican leadership refuses to acknowledge this reality. In-

stead of doing their job and considering and passing full-year appropriations bills and a desperately need a COVID relief bill, Senate Republicans have focused this year almost entirely on packing the courts with rightwing, extreme judges. Faced with an unprecedented health and economic crisis, does this spur Republicans to action? No. But what does? Aha. A Supreme Court vacancy in an election year that under their own precedent—under Republican precedent—should not be filled until the American people have their say in November. All of a sudden, they are ready to go to work. That is shameful. At least on that, wait until the election. Let the American people speak.

You know, it is frustrating because we could have passed every one of those appropriations bills and not be faced with this. And I bet they would have passed overwhelmingly.

So if Senate Republicans want to keep the Senate in session during October, I say do it. There is plenty of work left undone. The Senate could act on the fiscal year 2021 appropriations bills, a COVID relief bill, or any one of the hundreds of bills the House has passed that are currently bottled up in Senator MCCONNELL's legislative graveyard.

But these pressing needs—pressing needs of people going hungry, being thrown out of their homes, not getting the medical care they need, facing the danger of COVID, something the President said would go away in the spring—their needs are being ignored while Republicans focus on filling a vacancy to the Supreme Court that should rightfully remain vacant until a month from now when the people have spoken at the polls.

Congress is failing the American people because Republicans, led by President Trump, care more about securing a hyperpartisan Supreme Court than the health and safety of the American people—all people. It doesn't matter their politics in this country. It is that simple.

Now, I remain committed to completing the fiscal year 2021 appropriations bills. I want to produce bipartisan bills before the CR expires on December 11. I think Chairman SHELBY shares this commitment. I look forward to working with him to complete our work.

When he was not blocked by his own party's leadership, we passed, by overwhelming margins, all of the appropriations bills. Let's work to complete our work. But for now, let's remove the threat of any more chaos in this country—prevent a government shutdown by passing this bill. I urge all Members of both parties to vote aye on the continuing resolution.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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



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

MOTION TO TABLE AMENDMENT NO. 2663

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to table amendment No. 2663.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 2663) was tabled.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on H.R. 8337.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the clerk will read the title of the bill for the third time.

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 84, nays 10, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 197 Leg.]

#### YEAS—84

Baldwin	Fischer	Peters
Barrasso	Gardner	Portman
Bennet	Gillibrand	Reed
Blumenthal	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Roberts
Booker	Hassan	Romney
Boozman	Heinrich	Rosen
Brown	Hirono	Rounds
Burr	Hoeben	Sasse
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Capito	Inhofe	Schumer
Cardin	Jones	Scott (SC)
Carper	Kaine	Shaheen
Casey	Kennedy	Shelby
Cassidy	King	Sinema
Collins	Klobuchar	Smith
Coons	Lankford	Stabenow
Cornyn	Leahy	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Thune
Cotton	Markey	Tillis
Cramer	McConnell	Udall
Crapo	McSally	Van Hollen
Daines	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Enzi	Murphy	Wicker
Ernst	Murray	Wyden
Feinstein	Perdue	Young

#### NAYS—10

Blackburn	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Braun	Lee	Toomey
Cruz	Loeffler	
Hawley	Paul	

#### NOT VOTING—6

Alexander	Moran	Sanders
Harris	Rubio	Tester

The bill (H.R. 8337) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### NAYS—46

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

#### NOT VOTING—6

Alexander	Moran	Sanders
Harris	Rubio	Tester

The motion was agreed to.

#### UGHUR INTERVENTION AND GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN UNIFIED RESPONSE ACT OF 2019—LAYING DOWN HOUSE MESSAGE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the House message to accompany S. 178.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 178) entitled "An Act to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.", do pass with an amendment.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

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

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 198 Leg.]

#### YEAS—48

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

#### UGHUR INTERVENTION AND GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN UNIFIED RESPONSE ACT OF 2019

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair lays before the Senate the following message from the House.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 178) entitled "An Act to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.", do pass with an amendment.

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House of Representatives to the bill, with McConnell Amendment No. 2652, in the nature of a substitute.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays on the pending motion to concur with amendment No. 2652.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 2673 TO AMENDMENT NO. 2652

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment to the motion to concur with amendment No. 2673.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. MCCONNELL], for Mr. TILLIS, proposes an amendment numbered 2673 to amendment No. 2652.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to table amendment No. 2673, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?