

many of the perpetrators actually were promoted. We did something about it. As members of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, we recognized, in 1975, the countries that comprise the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, including Russia, committed to basic human rights for their people, that their government would be honest, and that they would protect the rights of their citizens. The Helsinki Final Act gave every member state the right to question what other States were doing in compliance with the Helsinki Final Act ideals.

It is legitimate for us to question what Russia is doing in carrying out its commitment, so we did something about it. I introduced legislation known as the Magnitsky Act. I want you to know this was a bipartisan effort. My partner in the passage of the Magnitsky Act was the late Senator John McCain. My partner in passing the Global Magnitsky Act and the Magnitsky Act is my good friend ROGER WICKER, who is the chair of the Senate U.S. Helsinki Commission. We worked together to make sure that we passed these Magnitsky Acts.

What does it do? What it does is the country does not hold accountable those who violate basic global human rights of its citizens; we impose sanctions. Those sanctions prevent that individual who perpetrated these acts from visiting the United States through the issuance of a visa or participating in our banking system.

Why do we do this? Today, we heard from Mr. Kara-Murza, who is one of the activists on human rights in Russia who has been poisoned twice by the Russian Government. What he said about the mantra of the Kremlin is: They steal at home and spend abroad. They don't want their money in rubles; they want their money in dollars. So if we can prevent them from using our banking system, we can really make it hurt.

Let me tell you how important this is. It is not limited to Russia. We passed the Global Magnitsky law so it applies to all of the countries where they have violations of human rights.

If you want to know how important this statute is, it has been reported that when Mr. Putin and Mr. Trump met in their first summit, the first order of business that Mr. Putin raised with President Trump was: Can't we get rid of these Magnitsky sanctions? Believe me, they work. They deter bad actors around the world. It is a legislative initiative.

We talked today about the fact that there is one common ingredient in every country that has considered the Global Magnitsky laws; that is, the initiative that comes from the legislators. There is a natural reluctance among the bureaucrats not to burden themselves with additional problems in their bilateral relations with other countries, but we recognize that it is important for America, the leader of the democratic world, to speak up for

democratic principles. We passed the legislation. We didn't have the enthusiastic support of the administration, but we did it. We did it. And we wanted it to be a global standard that was clear to human rights violators, but we needed other countries to act.

I am pleased that other countries have followed the U.S. leadership. The UK, Canada, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania all have enacted similar Global Magnitsky bills. Currently, Japan and Australia are considering similar bills and legislation.

Today, we had a very positive conversation with the European Union, and they are considering the passage of a Global Magnitsky bill. This would add 27 countries to be covered under the Sergei Magnitsky law.

This is one of the, I think, leading moments for the U.S. Senate and Congress, where we showed leadership on behalf of speaking out for those otherwise who would not be heard. As a result of our action, I am convinced we saved many lives, and we made it clear that in our foreign policy, we will embed that in the principles that have made this Nation the great democratic Nation it is, the respect for universal human rights.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO ASYA BRANCH

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, it gives me great pleasure to rise this afternoon, as I do, to commend an outstanding young American. In this case, a young Mississippian; namely, Miss Asya Branch, from Booneville, MS, who was recently crowned as Miss USA 2020.

For those of you from Michigan, take some pride. She was born in Michigan but moved to Mississippi at an early age and spent her childhood in Booneville, as I said. She graduated this year from my alma mater, the University of Mississippi, having studied broadcast journalism.

Miss Asya Branch has experienced dizzying success during the past 2 years. In 2018, Asya Branch won the title of Miss Mississippi under the Miss America Organization. The following year, she became the first African-American woman to win the other State title, Miss Mississippi USA. She is only the seventh person in history to hold both State titles: Miss Mississippi and Miss Mississippi USA. And now she is the first-ever Miss Mississippi USA to win the Miss USA crown.

Asya Branch has been competing in pageants since 2016, when she won her first preliminary title in the Miss Mis-

issippi competition. She went on to win Ole Miss's Parade of Beauties competition and numerous local titles. She has gained wide recognition because she is beautiful, well-spoken, and she is a gifted vocalist. But, also, there is a serious part of her platform and serious personal story of Asya's in overcoming adversity, and I admire that so much in Asya Branch. She speaks openly about her father's 10 years in the State prison, resulting in his absence for much of her upbringing. That difficult period shaped who Asya Branch is and gave her strength and a unique perspective on incarceration.

During the Mississippi pageant, Asya's platform was empowering children of incarcerated parents. Can you imagine the courage of a young woman taking that on as her platform? It enabled her to reach out to other children, encourage them that their lives do not have to be defined by their circumstances.

During her year as Miss Mississippi, she was part of a White House roundtable, where she discussed criminal justice and prison reform, much as we did here on the floor of the U.S. Senate. And the First Step Act—she discussed this act with President Trump and Vice President PENCE, Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant, and lawmakers, including Senator HYDE-SMITH and me.

She also started the Love Letters Program in which she donated stationery and stamps to inmates, allowing them to write to their loved ones. In her new role as Miss USA, she plans to expand Love Letters to a national level and continue advocating for criminal justice and prison reform.

You can see why I am so proud of Asya Branch and so impressed with her accomplishments. She has the honor of holding two State titles and now a national title. This speaks to her unique gifts, accomplishments, courage, and passion for bringing about constructive change to the world.

I commend Asya for her example of perseverance. She has made Mississippi proud, and I think she is going to make the United States proud as she moves forward next year to the Miss Universe pageant, where I am sure she will do well. I encourage all Americans to root for her next year, as we will certainly be doing at my house.

I yield the floor.

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

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

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, here it is November 18. It seems like the election was a few years ago. Time is flying

by, but there is still a lot of work to be done here in the 116th Congress.

I hope that our friends across the aisle will reconsider their objections to working with us on another COVID-19 relief bill. I know back home in Texas, many small businesses that received PPE loans are uncertain, for example, what the tax consequences are going to be associated with that. Many of them, for whom that was a lifeline, are running out of that lifeline due to the passage of time.

We also know we need to pass an appropriations bill before the December 11 deadline to both avoid a government shutdown and give our government agencies the ability to plan and operate with certainty.

Of course, perhaps most significantly, we need to pass a final version of the National Defense Authorization Act. The foremost obligation of the Federal Government is the peace and security for the American people. We do that by passing the defense authorization act and funding our military each year on an annual basis. This bill determines how we maintain our military bases, modernize our aircraft, and invest in the next generation of aircraft and weaponry.

Of course, we know that our adversaries—most notably, countries like China and Russia—are moving very quickly to modernize their military and their weaponry in a way that could jeopardize the balance or the deterrence of our current systems. It is very, very important.

This is also how we supply our servicemembers and their families with the money they need to provide for their families. It is how we take stock of the evolving threat landscape—things like hypersonic glide vehicles—and ensure our country is taking active steps to counter threats on the horizon.

The most important thing, I think, Ronald Reagan taught us or reminded us of is “peace through strength,” that weakness is actually a provocation to the bullies, tyrants, and dictators who will take advantage of any opportunity. It causes instability and perhaps even miscalculation and people taking risks that, ultimately, will lead to armed conflict. The best thing we can do to maintain the peace is make sure the United States of America remains the preeminent military force on the planet.

Of course, it is no secret that, in recent years, China has emerged as one of the greatest threats to world order. It is increasingly belligerent and well resourced and continues to demonstrate a lack of respect for basic human rights and dignities.

The challenge of China is they don't play by the rules. I know back when China became part of the World Trade Organization, there was a hope expressed that maybe by becoming part of the World Trade Organization, they could join the other rules-based economies and countries, but they have not. They continue to steal intellectual

property, and they continue to want to dominate the United States, both economically and militarily, in the long run.

The Chinese Communist Party has made no secret of its desire to flex its economic and political power throughout the world as evidenced by their Made in China 2025 Initiative. It seeks to advance Chinese dominance in high-tech manufacturing for everything from electric cars to advanced robotics to artificial intelligence to seemingly innocuous devices like jetways at airports.

One major component of this plan is semiconductor manufacturing, and China is making serious headway. Since 2000, China has gone from manufacturing zero chips to 16 percent of the global supply, and it plans to invest another \$1.4 trillion in the semiconductor technology.

Why is this important? Well, because these microcircuits that have gotten smaller and smaller and smaller and make up the working components in everything from iPhones to our weapons systems—these have become harder and harder to manufacture.

In fact, one of the things this COVID virus has taught is the vulnerability of our supply chains. Right now, one of the sole sources of the most sophisticated semiconductor that goes into everything from our iPhones to our national defense systems is manufactured overseas, primarily in Taiwan.

While China has upped its production of semiconductors dramatically and its investment, the U.S. has dropped to producing roughly a quarter of the world's semiconductors to only 12 percent. That is a big problem.

First is the obvious economic implications. Giving up a significant global share of manufacturing means missing out on thousands—indeed tens of thousands—of high-paying jobs that could be stationed right here at home.

It also ignores the benefits of a strong U.S. manufacturing supply chain to support products made by the United States and our trading partners. Our growing dependence on others, including China, for semiconductors also poses a serious national security risk.

As I said, these chips are everywhere. They are also critical components to our infrastructure, things like cell towers, hospital equipment, missile defense systems. Our most critical technologies rely on a product we are looking for a country overseas to supply, whether it is Taiwan or China or some other country.

Earlier this year, we, of course, experienced how dangerous that is. It is as simple as things like personal protective equipment. China has long been a major supplier of masks, gloves, and gowns, and other PPE used by our healthcare workers. That didn't seem to be a problem because they could always make it cheaper, but when the virus hit, we found out it was a serious problem.

By the time the virus began spreading to the U.S., China had been battling it for a number of weeks, maybe even months. So when it came time for American hospitals, clinics, and healthcare providers to beef up their supply of personal protective equipment, the supplies were already depleted or we were dependent on China to produce them.

Healthcare workers did what they could by reusing masks throughout an entire shift in order to conserve supplies. Hospitals were pleading with the general public to donate any unused personal protective equipment so their workforce could remain safe. We didn't reach that point because of lack of preparation, but because of our reliance on other countries, namely China, to produce that medical gear.

This has been a wake-up call, I think, for me and, I think, certainly many others about our supply chain vulnerabilities. It is a clear signal that we need to take action to secure other critical supply chains.

When it comes to semiconductor manufacturing, that is easier said than done. Building a new semiconductor foundry is a very, very expensive undertaking. It simply will not happen without a robust private-public partnership. We know our adversaries are making a big down payment on their own semiconductor manufacturing.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development estimates that 21 major semiconductor firms across a number of countries received more than \$50 billion in government support between 2014 and 2018. This is not exactly a market that is going to depend purely on the private sector. It is going to require the Federal Government to step up if we are going to bring that manufacturing onshore and if we are going to reduce our vulnerabilities, both from an economic and national security perspective.

Some of the countries investing, though, in manufacturing these technologies are South Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Ireland, Germany, and—yes, you guessed it—China. We have lost ground to our global competitors, and unless we take action, it is estimated that, by 2030, 83 percent of global semiconductor manufacturing will be in Asia—83 percent. We simply can't allow that to happen. The U.S. needs to make a strategic investment in semiconductor manufacturing to regain lost ground, and this year's National Defense Authorization Act includes the critical first step.

I introduced a bill, along with our colleague, our friend from Virginia, Senator WARNER, called the CHIPS for America Act, and a version of this bill was adopted as an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act. It had bipartisan support—a vote of 96 to 4. It will help restore American leadership in semiconductor manufacturing by creating a Federal incentive program through the Department of Commerce in order to encourage chip manufacturing here in the United States.

In short, this will help stimulate domestic advanced semiconductor manufacturing and boost both our national security and global competitiveness. It will enable us to bring the manufacturing of these critical devices back home and strengthen the supply chains for our military systems, our critical infrastructure, telecommunications, healthcare, agriculture, manufacturing, and virtually every other industry you could name.

Senator WARNER and I have worked closely with Senator COTTON, of Arkansas, and with Senator SCHUMER, of New York, in drafting this bipartisan amendment. I am glad our colleagues in the House have approved a similar amendment to their legislation, and I am eager to see the final version in the conference report. When the NDAA makes its way to the President's desk, it will mark the 60th consecutive year in which Congress has passed such bipartisan legislation to fund, supply, and equip our Nation's military.

I appreciate the strong bipartisan support of Chairman INHOFE, of the Committee on Armed Services, and Ranking Member REED, and I am eager for this legislation to come to the floor for a final vote, but the next step is to secure funding for the programs to incentivize domestic semiconductor manufacturing. We have been working with the administration, particularly with Secretary Mnuchin, Secretary Ross, and Secretary Pompeo, who have identified this as a major vulnerability and have worked with us to try to close that gap. I have enjoyed working with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to ensure that we provide full funding for this legislation, but we are not there yet.

This is the key to our long-term national security and economic competitiveness, and it is my top priority in the coming weeks as the Senate prepares to consider appropriations bills. A secure semiconductor supply chain will strengthen our national security, and our economy will reap countless benefits by bringing these manufacturing jobs back to the United States.

As we work to counter increasingly sophisticated adversaries around the world, passing the National Defense Authorization Act and funding these new programs could not be more important.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 864.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of J. Philip Calabrese, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of J. Philip Calabrese, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Ohio.

Mitch McConnell, James E. Risch, Joni Ernst, Marsha Blackburn, Mike Crapo, James Lankford, Thom Tillis, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, Pat Roberts, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, John Hoeven, Jerry Moran, Lamar Alexander, Mike Braun, David Perdue.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to proceed to legislative session.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 835.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Kyle Hauptman, of Maine, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board for a term expiring August 2, 2025.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Kyle Hauptman, of Maine, to be a Member of the National Credit Union Administration Board for a term expiring August 2, 2025.

Mitch McConnell, Shelley Moore Capito, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Joni Ernst, Roy Blunt, Mike Rounds, Mike Crapo, James Lankford, John Hoeven, Thom Tillis, John Cornyn, Michael B. Enzi, Todd Young, Lindsey Graham, Tim Scott, James E. Risch.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 650.

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

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Kathryn C. Davis, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Kathryn C. Davis, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Mitch McConnell, Roy Blunt, Mike Rounds, Todd Young, Pat Roberts, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Thune, Kevin Cramer, Thom Tillis, Michael B. Enzi, James Lankford, John Barrasso, Joni Ernst, Lamar Alexander, Rob Portman, Tim Scott, Steve Daines.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations, Executive Calendar Nos. 856 and 369.

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

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be