

ever gets everything they want. And . . . it's critically important that we deal with these very, very important objectives even if we don't get on either side everything we want.

That was from the Democratic leader in the House of Representatives.

Meanwhile, the Democratic whip on the Senate side was part of the bipartisan group who suggested dropping the most controversial aspects and focusing on those things on which we agree.

So the answer really lies with Speaker PELOSI and the Democratic leader here in the Senate. Are they going to heed the bipartisan calls to deliver critical coronavirus funding, or are they going to continue to block relief for Americans?

Around our country, Americans are struggling under the worst wave of the virus to date. They need more help. Above all, they need the vaccinations that will help bring this pandemic to an end. We can pass additional coronavirus relief legislation this week. To quote the majority leader, let's "get it done."

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM BARR

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, yesterday evening, President Trump shared the news that Attorney General Bill Barr will be leaving the administration in the coming days, and I want to take a moment to publicly thank the Attorney General for his service to our country.

Under two different Presidents and at two very different times in our country's history, Bill Barr gladly answered the call to service. His steadfast leadership has enabled the Department of Justice to continue its mission at a pivotal moment in our Nation's history.

I particularly appreciate Attorney General Barr's attempt to get to the bottom of some of the abuse of power by the FBI and the Department of Justice during the latter part of the Obama administration and early in the Trump administration.

During his time as Attorney General, Bill Barr has consistently fought to improve the safety of our communities across the country by attacking violent crime and aggressively countering transnational criminal organizations. He has been a champion of Project Safe Neighborhoods, which has strengthened community partnerships and helped to reduce crime rates across our country.

He has taken aim at the threats that exist beyond our borders, from drug cartels in Mexico to economic exploitation and outright theft by China.

Through it all, he has been as dogged in preventing injustice as in pursuing wrongdoing.

So I want to thank the Attorney General once again for not only answering the call to serve a second time but also for once again serving with distinction and integrity.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. President, on another matter, this week is set to be the final week for the 116th Congress, and the American people are counting on us to do our job. We have until this Friday to fund the government, and I hope we can pass legislation that provides more certainty than the stopgap bills that have become the norm in recent years.

It is simply impossible for government Agencies and Departments like the Defense Department to plan with short-term continuing resolutions. They need a longer term so they can plan and actually spend taxpayer dollars far more efficiently.

This is also a final opportunity to reach an agreement on another coronavirus bill, something that has been on our to-do list since this summer.

There is no reason why we shouldn't be able to send a stack of bipartisan bills to the President's desk for his signature. These may seem like small ball compared to some of the big issues like keeping the lights on for the government or another COVID-19 relief bill, but they are very important bipartisan pieces of legislation.

JENNA QUINN LAW

Mr. President, one of those bills is the Jenna Quinn Law, which I have spoken on here on the Senate floor many times. The goal of this legislation is straightforward—to stop child sexual abuse. It will help us do that by building on the success of what is now known as Jenna's Law in Texas and other States, which requires training for teachers, caregivers, and other adults who work with children, who will receive specialized training on how to detect and report and thus prevent child sexual abuse.

The signs of child sexual abuse are unique from other forms of child abuse and correctly identifying these signs is integral to bringing children out of sexually abusive situations. You might ask, If there is a Texas State law providing for this, why do we need a Federal law? Well, not every State has done what Texas has done, but also they need the funding to help pay for this specialized training. That is what the Jenna Quinn Law that is pending in Congress will do, and it will encourage other States without similar laws to implement innovative programs to address child sexual abuse. There should be few things more unifying than the war against child sexual abuse, which is why this bill passed the Senate unanimously earlier this year.

But days have turned into weeks and weeks have turned into months, and the House still hasn't passed the Jenna Quinn Law. It is not because House Members oppose the bill. If it came up on the floor today, nearly every Member of the House of Representatives would vote for it.

This bill hasn't been able to pass the House because one chairman—a Democratic chairman—won't even give the House a chance to vote on it. For months, Education and Labor Committee Chairman BOBBY SCOTT has refused to move the Jenna Quinn Law. Despite repeated requests from countless child advocacy groups and a bipartisan group of Senators and Congressmen, it continues in purgatory on the committee calendar.

Senators HASSAN, SMITH, and I sent a letter to Congressman SCOTT urging him to take action and to allow this lifesaving legislation to pass the House this year. He responded to our letter, saying he will continue to hold this legislation because he wants to add it to other more complicated legislative measures next year.

So when it comes to detecting and preventing child sexual abuse, Chairman SCOTT thinks we can wait until next year.

We can't wait until next year.

In short, he admitted that this legislation is so important and so valuable that he can't let it pass on its own. It has to drag other, more controversial, more partisan pieces of legislation along with it. And just when you think things can't get any worse, they do.

As I said, this legislation will provide funding to the States and will encourage States, like Congressman SCOTT's home State of Virginia, to implement it. You would think that Congressman SCOTT would care. If he didn't care for the bill that would benefit the rest of the country, you would think he would care about how it would benefit his constituents in his home district of Virginia. Virginia doesn't currently require this training for teachers, caregivers, and other adults who work with children, and this legislation would fix that.

Making this matter even more urgent is the pandemic. Experts believe that the unique conditions created by COVID-19 have caused instances of child sexual abuse to go up, while the number of reports has gone down. Families are experiencing a range of new stressors, including everything from job losses to financial instability, to health anxiety, all while isolating at home with their children. And the children who aren't going to school each day are out of sight from the teachers, busdrivers, and other adults they would otherwise come in contact with who are most likely to identify and report child sexual abuse. Adults who work with children are the No. 1 reporters of that abuse.

So there could not be a more urgent need for this legislation. This is not a partisan pet project. It is legislation that will save the lives of children across the country. Victims in my home State of Texas and Congressman SCOTT's home State of Virginia would experience the lifesaving benefits of the Jenna Quinn Law.

A couple weeks ago, the Dallas Morning News published an editorial titled,

"If Congress can't even pass a law to help save kids from sex abuse, what can it get right?"

Well, that is a fair question and a tough but necessary question. When you see what Chairman SCOTT is doing, it is easy to see why Congress's approval rating is so abysmal. If a high-ranking leader of a House committee will block commonsense legislation that is directed at stopping child sexual abuse, how can the American people have faith in Congress's ability to accomplish anything?

Now is not the time to play politics or use child sexual abuse victims as leverage. This bill is one step away from going to the President's desk, and Congressman SCOTT is the only one standing in the way.

It is time to quit playing games and allow the Jenna Quinn Law to pass.

TRIBUTE TO CORY GARDNER

Mr. President, now on one final matter, we are less than 1 month away from the biannual changing of the guard in Congress before we gavel out for the year. I want to say just a few comments about our friend from Colorado who will soon be leaving the Senate, Senator CORY GARDNER.

Senator GARDNER has proudly represented the people of Colorado for 15 years, first in the State House, then in the House of Representatives, and now in the U.S. Senate.

Once you get to know CORY, it is easy to see how this "boy from Yuma" became such a trusted voice for his home State.

For starters, he is a prime example of what Ronald Reagan called a "happy warrior." At the end of his speech in 1985, President Reagan spoke about the pursuit of high ideals like liberty, freedom, and fairness, and the reasons our country has to be hopeful and optimistic. He said: "So, let us go forth with good cheer and stout hearts—happy warriors out to seize back a country and a world to freedom."

Those qualities of "good cheer and stout hearts" could not be a more appropriate description of our friend from Colorado. Senator GARDNER has maintained a very keen understanding of the challenges we have faced as a nation, and he channels his passion and his optimism in finding solutions to those challenges.

There is no question that he does get results. In the 6 years he has been in the Senate, CORY has accomplished more than some Senators have accomplished in double or maybe even triple that time. He has been a strong voice on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and has helped lead changes to counter some of the most pressing threats facing our country.

He helped pass the first-ever sanctions on North Korea to denuclearize one of the most untethered states and nations in the world. He fought to hold China accountable for their gross human rights violations, specifically those targeting the Uighur people. He has led efforts to strengthen the rela-

tionship between the United States and Taiwan.

But I think the accomplishments he is most proud of are those that hit much closer to home. Cory introduced legislation to designate 9-8-8 as a national suicide prevention and mental health hotline. It is impossible to know how many lives have been and will be saved by simply adopting this three-digit phone number.

This last year, he led in the passage of the Great American Outdoors Act, the largest conservation bill in a generation.

A big factor in CORY's success has been his relationships with his fellow Senators—not those backroom transactional relationships you think of, perhaps, when you think about politics, but I mean real friendships with folks throughout the Capitol Complex. If there were a Mr. or Ms. Congeniality contest in Congress, CORY would win by a landslide.

It is common to see him talking not only with Senators from both parties but staffers in other offices. He was once a staffer in Senator Wayne Allard's office. So he can identify with them, as well as the Capitol Police, and the countless men and women who keep Congress running, from cafeteria workers to cleaning staff.

He greets every person with the same genuine smile and is glad to spend a few minutes chatting, asking about your family, holiday plans, or how someone's day is going. That sincerity—his willingness to listen and deal with people on such a human and personal level—is something we need more of, not less of, here in Washington, especially these days.

So the Senate will miss our happy warrior and the trademark positivity he brings to even the most contentious debates. And while we are sad to see him go, I know this isn't the last we will hear of or see of CORY GARDNER. The only thing more enduring than his energy is his drive to help people from all places and in all walks of life.

So, while our colleagues are sad to bid farewell to our friend CORY, we know that Jaime, Alyson, Caitlyn, and Thatcher are all eager to have him back home in Yuma and see more of him and spend more time together.

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

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

IMMIGRATION

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, millions and millions of people will breathe a bit easier on January 20. That relief will be especially sweet for those who suffered under Donald Trump's cold-hearted approach to immigration and asylum.

The President has built a wall to immigrants, but it is not made of fencing or brick and mortar. The President has rebuilt the infamous paper wall, like that of the 1930s, which kept too many Jews out of the United States, trapping them within the murderous regime of Nazi Germany.

The paper wall was built on anti-migrant regulations, including one targeting anybody who might become a so-called public charge. It was reinforced by racism, anti-Semitism, and nativism. It created bureaucratic roadblocks that had no purpose other than to frustrate applicants, block visas and refugees, and slow immigration to a trickle. That is awfully familiar to those who watched Donald Trump succeed horribly at repeating some of America's worst immigration mistakes.

In the last 4 years, I have often thought about my late mom and dad who were refugees to America. My parents were German Jews who fled the Nazis.

Not all of our family got out. My great-uncle, Max, was one of the last to be gassed at Auschwitz.

When my father arrived here at 13, he barely spoke any English. He studied hard. When the war came, my dad, who wasn't exactly built like Captain America, wanted more than anything to wear the uniform of the U.S. Army. My dad essentially talked his way into the service. He joined the Army's psychological warfare division because, with his fluent German, my dad wrote propaganda pamphlets that our planes dropped on the enemy soldiers that were retreating further and further back toward Berlin.

I have seen those pamphlets, and—with a little son pride—they were smoking. They just told the Nazis they didn't have a chance. In contrast, the materials their military dropped on our soldiers was written in mangled English—comical stuff. My dad has really been singled out. He is in the Holocaust Museum for his contributions for helping our Army beat the Nazis, and after the war, he became a journalist and an author.

My mom came in 1939, a few years after my dad. During the war, she served in the Women's Army Corps. She was in England, France, and Germany, and on the wall at home is a picture of my mom in her WAC uniform. You can look at that picture, and you can see pride in serving our country from every single pore.

After the war, my mom had a long career as a research librarian, and she worked even harder raising her oldest son, who mostly wanted to play NBA basketball instead of hitting the books.

Both my parents felt so blessed that they could get out of Germany. They made it over the paper wall. They had a chance to become Americans.

Most Jewish families in the United States have stories just like these. Some were able to get out; others were left behind, and some were lost.