

leery of encouraging more Executive action. That means most of the power here in Washington is exercised out of the White House and not done here in the people's House, here in Congress.

I encourage the administration to lead by example and encourage all of us to do the same—to try to work together for our shared priorities and create real and lasting change for our country.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNIZING UTAH NATIONAL GUARD

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, some of our Nation's finest answered the call of duty here in our Nation's Capitol over the last 2 weeks to assist with the peaceful transition of power and make sure that it was in fact peaceful. These dedicated men and women in the National Guard have taken an oath to protect that bedrock document, the Constitution of the United States, and, indeed, they have fulfilled that duty.

Some of our very finest in the National Guard came here to serve from my home State of Utah; 321 troops that have discharged their duties with distinction and honor came from the Utah National Guard.

The majority of Task Force Utah consisted of soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 222nd Field Artillery, 65th Fires Brigade, also known as Triple Deuce. Additional soldiers came from 204th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and the 19th Special Forces Group (Airborne).

I rise today to honor and thank these really selfless women and men. These past weeks, the Utah guardsmen were stationed at the Madison Building of the Library of Congress, just across the street from the Capitol. For many of these soldiers, it was their first time ever visiting Washington, D.C.

Major Brent Mangum of the Utah National Guard remarked that as the soldiers were stationed at buildings, they saw these quotes on the walls—quotes from our Founding Fathers—and as they were working in these buildings, you could see them pausing during the day, reading the quotes, and then stopping to reflect on them.

I, myself, had the great privilege, in a couple of different groups, to give some of these men and women a tour of the Capitol Building before they left to go back to Utah. It was a great honor to meet and get to know these dedicated guardsmen and to learn from their stories and to see firsthand their caliber as people and, most importantly perhaps, their visible commitment to the United States of America.

This idea, this principle, in this great land of ours—the greatest civilization human history has ever known—was something that they are independently committed to defending and protecting, even at the sacrifice of their own security and their own ease, which they would have otherwise enjoyed over the last couple of weeks.

One of the most remarkable things about these citizen soldiers is the way in which they tirelessly serve their communities, and I say that meaning both inside and outside of their Guard duty.

My Salt Lake City office was lucky enough to have one of these fine young soldiers, Alfredo Lopez, as an intern a few years ago.

Alfredo immigrated with his family from Peru at the age of 10, and they began to build a life here in the United States. In addition to serving the people of Utah in my State office, he also was on Active Duty with the Marine Corps before he joined the National Guard. Alfredo, in all of his endeavors in our country, has sought only to give back. He is grateful for this country and wants to make sure it is a strong, safe, and secure place in which to live.

Another guardsman who was here, Jay Bartholomew, is a prison guard at the Gunnison prison in Sanpete County, UT. He is the son of my friend Scott Bartholomew, a county commissioner in Sanpete County. Jay has followed in his family's footsteps to serve his local community.

Other guardsmen in Utah are engaged in their communities in all sorts of ways. Some are teachers, some are firefighters, some are policemen, and some are medical professionals. You name it; they have done it.

Many have now answered the call of duty on the frontlines of another crisis as our Nation faces the current pandemic. These guardsmen have played a significant role in providing testing, moving and storing personal protective equipment, and other support missions to assist Utah's Department of Health COVID-19 response.

Now, Utah Governor Spencer Cox has entrusted them with another critical mission. The Guard will be on the frontlines to help ramp up the delivery of vaccines to our State. The Guard has put together teams that can mobilize throughout Utah to deliver vaccinations and antibody infusions within a matter of hours and save a whole lot of lives and prevent a whole lot of suffering in the process.

I have no doubt that they will continue to administer this duty with dedication and with excellence, just as they do with every other assignment with which they are tasked. In everything they do, members of the Utah National Guard seek to serve and strengthen our communities, our country, and our State, and we are all better off for it.

It has been such an honor to have these selfless men and women in our Nation's Capitol. I have enjoyed get-

ting to know them and look forward to visiting again with them soon, and I thank them for their service.

ABORTION

Mr. LEE. Now, Mr. President, I would like to discuss another important matter. This past week, we marked the anniversary of a deadly day in American history. It has resulted in the loss of millions of innocent American lives. That is the anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

Since January 22, 1973, more than 60 million unborn children have been lost to the scourge of abortion. This week, we honor and remember those lives, as well as those who have been hurt by the pains of abortion.

In a normal year, tens of thousands of Americans would be marching down Constitution Avenue this Friday to do so. This year, as with so many other things, the March for Life will instead be virtual. But, nonetheless, Americans will continue to march, whether virtually or in person where they can.

The theme of this year's march is "Together Strong: Life Unites!"—a fitting theme following a year ripe with division, violence, and loss. Now, more than ever, we must unite as a nation, turning with hope toward the future—hope that our Nation will heal, hope that justice will prevail, and hope that the grievous act of abortion will be forsaken. Given our country's history, in which we have stubbornly made mistakes but, thankfully, have come around in the end, there is much reason for hope. But we cannot heal and we cannot unite if we don't honor and respect all of the American people, born and unborn.

So many of the deepest injustices in our country's history stem from one dark dangerous thing; that is, when we have rejected the dignity of the human person, when we have denied the humanity of our brothers and sisters, when we have discriminated against others based on the way they look, think, love, or worship, and when, because of that, we have looked at them not as people but as things and as mere objects to be acted upon.

As abolitionist William Lord Garrison put it, the worst kind of oppression to be regarded with the greatest degree of indignation and abhorrence is "that which turns a man into a thing."

Now, we have discriminated against a whole class of people not based on the color of their skin but on their age and development.

But it doesn't change the truth. The truth is that a baby inside the womb can respond to human touch by the age of 8 weeks and feel pain by the age of 20 weeks—who can recognize her mother's voice even before she is born; who has a perfect little nose, fingernails, and a beating, fully functioning heart, her own distinct unique DNA, and her own unique unrepeatable soul.

Science and medicine are only confirming what we know deep down, that unborn human beings are in fact little

persons. The evidence is only getting plainer by the day.

When we deny the humanity of our brothers and sisters, as we have seen throughout our history and over the past year, the inevitable and tragic result is violence. Abortion does undeniable violence to the baby and undeniable violence to the mother. Thankfully, looking back at the past decade, we have made significant strides toward building a culture that respects, values, and even protects all human life, even in its simplest, earliest stages of development.

Many States have ensured that public funds are directed toward pregnancy health centers, rather than abortion facilities, providing life-affirming alternatives to families in need. And in just the last decade alone, States have passed more than 400 pro-life laws—more than one-third of all pro-life laws that States have passed since *Roe v. Wade* was decided. This is indeed reason for hope.

Through our laws and with our lives, we ought to affirm the truth that the lives of both the mother and the baby matter and that healthcare should heal, protect, and preserve both of those lives.

I have introduced legislation to help our laws affirm that very truth. Through my bill, the Abortion Is Not Healthcare Act, we have a chance to stop the tax deductibility of abortions, which are currently categorized as “medical care” by the IRS, because we must be serious: Whatever else it may be, of course, elective abortion is not healthcare. That is why physicians literally take an oath to do no harm. The government should not offer tax benefits for a procedure that kills hundreds of thousands of unborn children each and every year.

We also have the chance to prematurely stop the use of American foreign aid—the opportunity permanently to stop the use of American foreign aid—from funding or promoting abortions overseas and perpetuating violence against women and of children abroad, especially baby girls.

The Protecting Life in Foreign Assistance Act will save countless lives across the globe, and it affirms the truth that the lives of all unborn children, regardless of where they are from, have dignity and worth.

As the lyrics of a children’s song in my church—a song that I sang in Sunday school as a child—say about each one of us, I am a child of God. We are all one human family, all children of God—these littlest among us, too, who cannot yet sing for themselves, but they will soon. They will soon.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

FILIBUSTER

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, in the 2020 elections, Americans chose an evenly-divided Senate—half Republican, half Democrat. Evenly divided. Since the Vice President is able to break a tie when it comes to specifically organizing the Senate, Democrats have the majority.

Now some Democrats want to lower the threshold for all the votes so that to pass anything, all they would need to do in case of a tie vote would have the Vice President be the tiebreaker. That is the way that a majority works. When there is a tie and the Vice President is in one party, they get to break the tie in that direction, of course.

What we need to make sure of, though, is that there is fairness in the process. The traditions and how this institution works are that we have a filibuster. Sixty votes is how legislation is passed.

We know that the press and sometimes folks in Congress say it is hard to pass a law. Well, it is not supposed to be easy. It takes discussion. It takes negotiation. It brings people together. That is the idea of needing 60 votes—to bring people together to get a bipartisan consensus so that all the voices are heard; that there is a majority, and the minority voice is heard, and it forces us to find common ground.

Frankly, I think there is too little of finding common ground in Washington already. The last thing America needs is even more divisiveness. This is a big, diverse country. We don’t need 50 percent of the country plus one to run roughshod over all the others. That is why our Founders were so careful to protect the rights of the minority. That is why they created the Bill of Rights, why they created the electoral college, and why they created the U.S. Senate. The Founding Fathers didn’t want the Senate to be a copy of the House. We are intended to be a check on the House.

There is a story that President Washington compared the Senate to a saucer used to cool down a cup of tea. President Madison compared it to a fence. We are not supposed to be a smaller version of the House of Representatives. The Senate is supposed to cool things down. We are supposed to think things through. We are supposed to stop bad ideas and stop the House from moving too fast. Changing the rules of the Senate would make that impossible.

Lowering the bar to 50 votes could also be a blatant power grab, which is 50 votes and the Vice President. The Democrats could even add States to the Union—specifically States that would elect more Democrats to the Senate. It would give them even more Senate seats, could even give them a permanent majority in the Senate.

With 50 votes plus the Vice President, Democrats could also pack the

Supreme Court with liberal activist judges—judges who legislate from the bench, not judges who apply the law as written. That would give them a permanent majority both in the Senate and on the Court.

With a single rule change, one branch of government, one Chamber of Congress, could be under permanent Democratic control. It is no surprise that it is tempting to Senate Democrats and that the far-left branch of that party is demanding that occur.

You remember that when President Trump was in office, Republicans had a chance to do exactly the same thing. In fact, former President Trump repeatedly asked us and told us that we should do just that. In one particularly memorable example, he tweeted: “The U.S. Senate should switch to 51 votes.” He said: “Dems would do it, no doubt.” More than 30 different times, President Trump asked that Republicans end the filibuster. We didn’t. We stuck to the intentions of our Founding Fathers. We protected the rights of the minority, and we put country before party.

If Democrats won’t stop the power grab for the good of the country, then they should at least do it for their own good.

Democrats have had 50 votes and the Vice President for only a few days. In fact, when Democrats were in the minority, 33 Democratic Senators said they didn’t want to change the rules. They signed a letter, and that letter called for the preservation of the rights of the minority. Twenty-seven of those Democrats are still Members of the Senate today. One of those Democrats is now the Vice President of the United States, Vice President KAMALA HARRIS.

Even President Biden called the idea of eliminating the filibuster “a very dangerous move.” The White House Press Secretary told us last week President Biden still opposes changing the rules.

If Democrats go down this road and break the rules of the Senate, they are doing more than just hurting the institution; they are admitting their ideas don’t have broad bipartisan support. Think about that. If the Democratic agenda had the support of the American people, then they wouldn’t need to change the rules. If Democrats could find bipartisan support to pass their tax increases, they would leave the rules alone. If Democrats could find bipartisan support to pass the Green New Deal and higher energy costs that come with it, they would leave the rules alone. If they could restrict gun ownership, they would leave the rules alone. They can’t, and they know they can’t. They know the American people have looked at their progressive agenda and said: No, thank you.

President Biden’s inaugural address last week talked a lot about unity. He said that “with unity we can do great things.” I agree.

I ask my Democratic colleagues if they agree with the President’s inaugural address, or do they really think