

Again, Democrats across the country are now talking about this issue, even doing campaign ads about this issue. The Republican spinmeisters are telling their colleagues to avoid the issue. So it is obvious to everyone who is on what side.

Republicans can run but can't hide from the horror they have created. Yesterday's vote was only one step, not the end, of our fight to protect women's rights. This issue will keep coming back up again and again and again between now and when voters go to the polls later this year.

#### UKRAINE

Madam President, on Ukraine, in the immediate future, Republicans need to work with Democrats to pass another round of critical emergency funding for the people of Ukraine. We have a moral obligation to act and to act swiftly.

The House already passed a Ukraine package with overwhelming bipartisan support. It should be no different here in the Senate. Both of our caucuses heard loud and clear from the Ukrainian Ambassador earlier this week that time is of the essence.

I urge my Republican colleagues to work with Democrats to get a funding package done as soon as possible—ASAP. Republicans shouldn't block this bill. There is no reason—no reason whatsoever—not to get Ukraine funding approved fast.

I also call on my colleagues to swiftly pass additional legislation to arm the Federal Government with the tools needed to liquidate assets seized from Russian oligarchs—yachts, mansions, private jets, art collections, and more. It should be a no-brainer to provide the tools necessary to go after crooked Russian oligarchs, but, nevertheless, House Republicans bewilderingly opposed adding these tools in the House package. The Senate should do better. Both parties should work quickly and decisively to get this done through regular order. This issue can certainly be—it should certainly be—a bipartisan issue.

As the war in Ukraine enters its third bloody month, we must leave no stone unturned in making Putin and his cronies pay a price and in helping the Ukrainian people. Their fight against Russian aggression is a struggle between democracy and authoritarianism itself, so there should be no question—no question—about which side America stands on.

Again, I urge my Republican colleagues not to block this legislation but to work with us to quickly get this passed through the Chamber. Everyone can have their own idea, but if everyone has their own idea, we will get nothing done. We have to come together on a bill that has gotten broad bipartisan support in the House and in the Senate.

#### NOMINATIONS

Madam President, on nominations, it has been a productive week on the Senate floor when it comes to nominations. Earlier this week, the Senate fi-

nally confirmed a highly qualified and historic nominee to serve on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors: Lisa Cook.

Coming from humble beginnings in rural Georgia, where her family fought segregation, Ms. Cook will be the first Black woman to ever sit on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. She is a professor of economics at Michigan State, a member of the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago's Advisory Board, and she served as a senior economist on President Obama's Council of Economic Advisers. She absolutely belongs on the Board, and I am glad she was finally confirmed.

Yesterday, we also confirmed Alvaro Bedoya as a Commissioner on the Federal Trade Commission, breaking a 2-to-2 deadlock that has kept the FTC from full strength for over a year.

Mr. Bedoya's nomination is fantastic news for the American people. The FTC will be empowered to fight against price gougers, market manipulators, and go after bad actors using anti-competitive practices to drive up prices. We have been urging the FTC, for instance, to look at market manipulation and price gouging when it comes to gasoline, and now they will have the ability to do so because the Republican Commissioners refuse to move forward, but now we have a majority of Democrats on that Commission.

This week, the Senate also confirmed another Fed nominee, Philip Jefferson, and secured Democratic majorities on important labor-focused Agencies, including the Federal Labor Relations Authority. Next week, we will also start the process to confirm more Democrats to the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Finally, later today, the Senate will vote on Jerome Powell to serve another term as Chairman of the Federal Reserve. Few institutions are more important to help steer our economy in the right direction—and to fight inflation—than the Fed. Chairman Powell presided as Fed Chair during some of the most challenging moments in modern American history. I thank all of my colleagues—particularly Senator BROWN, chairman of our Banking Committee—who have worked to move forward with this important nomination.

#### U.S. INNOVATION AND COMPETITION ACT

Madam President, finally on USICA, today, our bipartisan jobs and competition bill will take another step forward when the conference committee holds its first public meeting.

The jobs and competition legislation is just what the doctor ordered to boost our economy, bring manufacturing jobs back home, and lower costs for American families. Many across the country want to see this bill done. A recent letter from over 240 State and local chambers of commerce called on Congress to act, citing its importance for critical technologies like semiconductors.

One economic analysis also found that enacting this bill would help add or preserve as many as 3 million jobs to

the U.S. economy—3 million jobs. And it could be more as new innovations and new markets unlock new opportunities yet unknown.

There is still a lot of work to do before we send this jobs bill to the President's desk, and not everyone is going to get what they want. But even so, today's first public meeting is a great step forward. The bill is the most worthy and important effort, one that will pay dividends for years to come.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

#### UKRAINE

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, for months, the brave people of Ukraine have been fighting valiantly in a war they did not ask for. Their defense of their homeland from the Russian invasion has already far surpassed the expectations of all the skeptics.

Ukraine is not asking anybody else to do their fighting for them. They ask only for the resources they need to defend themselves against this lawless aggression.

I strongly support the next package of lethal military assistance which the House has passed with an overwhelming bipartisan majority. I hope the Senate can reach an agreement to consider and pass this legislation today. The Ukrainians need it. We need to do it today.

Helping Ukraine is not an instance of mere philanthropy. It bears directly on America's national security and vital interests that Russia's naked aggression not succeed and carries significant costs. If Ukraine fails to repel Russian aggression, there is no question that the threat to America and European security will actually grow.

Our Nation's history is packed—packed—with painful reminders that America cannot wish away global problems that affect us and our allies simply by burying our head in the sand.

I applaud the strong Republican vote for this crucial assistance over in the House and urge my Senate colleagues on both sides to help us pass this urgent funding bill today.

#### U.S. SUPREME COURT

Madam President, now on another matter, 2 years ago, the Democratic leader addressed a crowd on the steps of the Supreme Court and threatened Justices if they didn't rule the way he wanted. Now far-left crowds are surrounding Justices' private family homes. They want to use intimidation to influence the outcome in a pending case. It should be easy for leaders to condemn. All Americans should agree

that judges and juries ought not to be subjected to threats or intimidation campaigns.

Admirably, some on the political left have spoken out against this fringe element. The Washington Post editorial board has condemned this. The No. 2 Senate Democrat, our colleague from Illinois, said:

I think it's reprehensible. Stay away from homes and families.

His counterpart across the Capitol, the No. 2 House Democrat, Leader HOYER, said:

We need to protect Supreme Court Justices and their families, period. We're a nation of laws, not of violence, not of intimidation . . . laws.

That was STENY HOYER.

But Leader SCHUMER and the White House will not follow suit. They won't condemn the harassment. They have basically endorsed it. And top Democrats are standing in the way of concrete action.

A few days ago, the Senate unanimously passed legislation to give the Supreme Court's in-house police force some additional authorities they need to do their jobs. This isn't controversial stuff. It cleared this Chamber unanimously. But House Democrats have been unwilling to promptly pass it.

Congressman JEFFRIES suggested yesterday this uncontroversial bill might be shunted into a lengthy committee process. Why in the world would that be done? These are essentially clerical fixes. They breezed through the Senate without objection. But House Democratic leadership wants to drag this out with hearings and markups, while mobs assemble at people's houses?

I hope this is some misunderstanding. I hope Democrats are not intentionally stalling these security measures until after the Court has issued its rulings. This would be reprehensible.

At the end of Pennsylvania Avenue, either President Biden or Attorney General Garland has apparently decided not to enforce Federal law. Like I explained on Monday, section 1507 of the Criminal Code makes it a crime right now to picket or parade with the intent of influencing a judge at locations that include a judge's residence. That is the law right now. People have been doing exactly that for days and days right now. But the Garland Justice Department is nowhere in sight.

One would think a DOJ, run by the former chief judge of the DC Circuit, would need no prodding—no prodding—to protect judicial safety and judicial independence. But at least so far, the Attorney General was quicker to pounce on concerned parents at school board meetings.

The Governors of Maryland and Virginia have had to write a joint letter to the Attorney General begging him to make his U.S. attorneys do their job and uphold the law.

So, yesterday, I sent the DOJ my own letter asking the very same question.

The Senate needs answers right now, and the Court needs security right now.

#### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Madam President, on a related matter, yesterday, we observed the beginning of ceremonies honoring National Police Week. Soon we will mark Peace Officers Memorial Day.

Tens of thousands of law enforcement personnel from across the country will gather here in our Nation's Capital to honor the service and the sacrifice of their fallen brothers and sisters.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the Kentuckians who have traveled here for the ceremonies. I am meeting with several of these law enforcement leaders this week to express my gratitude for their service.

The Commonwealth is home to every type of law enforcement officer you can imagine, from big city beat cops to smalltown sheriffs. They take a great risk every day to protect and to serve.

This week, I am thinking especially about the law enforcement officers Kentucky lost in the past year whose names will be added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial tomorrow—heroes like Graves County jailer Robert T. Daniel, who sacrificed his own life to save endangered inmates as a tornado bore down on their workplace in which he was employed; community pillars like Jefferson County Deputy Sheriff Brandon Shirley, who was shot and killed while working a second job in his uniform; role models like Louisville Police Officer Zachary Cottongim, who was struck and killed by a car while attending to an abandoned vehicle on the side of the road.

Yesterday, I met with Officer Cottongim's widow and former partner who are here in Washington for tomorrow's memorial. We are all praying for them as they mourn this tragic loss.

I am proud to cosponsor the resolution that officially designated National Police Week this year. America's law enforcement personnel are always there when we need them most. The least—the least—Congress can do is have their backs.

#### INFLATION

Madam President, now on one final matter, parents across the country are struggling to get their hands on the infant formula their babies need. Here are just a few of the letters I have received from parents and grandparents in my State:

We have been struggling to get formula for our granddaughter for months now. The situation has turned dire.

My 6-month-old Ezekiel has had to switch what he needs twice since his birth due to the shortages.

Another:

We traveled from Lexington, Kentucky through West Virginia and Virginia into Washington D.C. [but] every place we stopped . . . had empty shelves of baby formula.

This outrageous, unacceptable situation has been unfolding in slow motion

over several months. Much of it stems from a recall that resulted in a plant being shut down. But it seems that while President Biden's administration and the FDA knew all about this problem as it developed, they have been asleep at the switch in terms of getting production back online as fast as possible.

Both Republican and Democratic Senators have asked the White House and FDA for answers and gotten very few. The administration has got to be more proactive and forward-leaning. But yesterday, I understand that a White House spokeswoman wasn't even sure if they had a point person for this problem or, if they had such a person, who it might be.

Even before the acute shortages, soaring costs were also squeezing families. The inflation figures show the price of baby food has skyrocketed 13 percent in just 12 months. Overall food inflation is 9.4 percent year-over-year. That is the worst year for food inflation in 41 years.

It should not be this hard for Americans to feed their families. Parents need President Biden and his team to step up to the plate.

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

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

#### CORONAVIRUS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, 1 million deaths—unbelievable. But this week, it became very, very real. One million of our fellow Americans now have died from COVID, 1 million parents, grandparents, siblings, children, friends, neighbors. That is more Americans who lost their lives than the casualties in World War I, World War II, or the Civil War. That is the size of San Jose, CA, the 10th largest city in our Nation.

But behind those 7 stark figures are real people, including more than 33,600 in my home State of Illinois. One of those was a woman named Maria Elena Sifuentes. Maria lived in Chicago, where she worked at Communities United and organized for housing and education equity in her community. She had received her first COVID shot when she contracted the virus last summer. She passed away on June 10 at the age of 57 and left behind five children.

We also grieve the loss of Sergeant Ken Thurman and Officer Brian Shields, two 51-year-old veteran police officers who worked in Aurora at the police department. They succumbed to COVID infections last year, both within the same week.

When the pandemic first hit, this degree of loss was unimaginable. Some people dismissed COVID-19 and said that it was just like the ordinary flu