

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

and that it would go away and mysteriously disappear. But now that we have crossed this tragic threshold, we must take stock of where we are and where we are headed.

More than 2 years into this pandemic, COVID is still a threat to America and the world. In fact, infections nationwide are up 50 percent over the past 2 weeks. Hospitalizations are up 20 percent. That is the case in Illinois as well as our neighbors in the region. The Commonwealth of Kentucky, home of Minority Leader McCONNELL, had the highest COVID death rate in the country over the past week.

The one thing worse than being swamped with another wave of COVID cases is being caught unprepared. Right now, we are sleepwalking into the next potentially deadly wave, and we know the virus will continue to mutate and pose threats. We need to learn from our 2 years of experience with Delta and Omicron and act now and be ready, be prepared.

Over the weekend, the Biden administration warned that new subvariants could fuel a wave that is forecast to infect 100 million Americans—almost a third of our population—over this fall and winter. Yet last week, Health and Human Services Secretary Becerra testified to the Senate Appropriations Committee: “[B]ut in order to be ready for that, we have to start purchasing today.” That is what Secretary Becerra said. If we wait for the surge to hit, it is too late.

Last week, it also was reported that the administration will run out of COVID vaccines by September 1 if the FDA authorizes second boosters for all adults. How can America be caught in this situation again—even with vaccines—unprepared?

Because Federal funding has dried up to reimburse hospitals and health centers for testing, we don't have a complete picture of how many new infections are actually showing up. The University of Washington estimates the true number of infections is five times higher than official reports.

So the alarm bells are ringing, and a looming vaccine crisis is right around the corner. Other countries in the world get it. They understand it. They are racing ahead of us to secure supplies of vaccines, but because of resistance from Republicans in Washington, we are not doing that.

So why won't the Senate act to pass this COVID legislation—obviously necessary legislation—right now? It was more than a month ago that Senators Schumer and Romney, together with half-a-dozen bipartisan Senators, announced a \$10 billion emergency COVID package. It is not everything we want; it is not everything we need; but it is an urgent measure that seeks to address the crisis.

Instead of just getting this done, politics were inserted. There were demands for amendments or else. The process broke down. Instead of getting the job done, Republicans are playing

politics. They are demanding poison pill riders on issues unrelated, like immigration.

With summer approaching, Americans are eager to keep the face masks off for good and move past the pandemic. I get it. Everybody wants the kids back in school. They want them home for vacation. They want to take family vacations. They want to go out to dinner—all things that are part of the joy of life. I share the sentiment, but we have to deal with the reality of this virus. It is changing every day, and it has surprised us so many times before.

Even the most persuasive political speech isn't going to change the course of this virus. Rather than reacting to whatever deadly curve ball gets thrown at us next, we must be ready beforehand with the right tools to keep us moving in the right direction. I don't want to come to the floor to mark 1½ million dead Americans or 2 million dead Americans due to the virus.

The time to provide additional funding is not now; it was weeks ago. It is incredible to me that, after what this Nation has gone through—1 million dead Americans—we are still debating over whether we should be prepared for the next stage of the virus. Shame on the politicians who are inserting politics into a life-and-death debate.

Without this funding, we could very well lose the progress we have made in containing COVID. We cannot tolerate that sort of setback, especially at this pivotal moment where continued progress puts us on the cusp of what we dreamed of 2 years ago: finally putting an end to this pandemic, finally returning to normal.

While Senate Democrats and the Biden administration have taken tremendous strides with getting shots in arms, supporting local businesses, and getting our kids back in school, we still have a lot to do.

To my Republican colleagues: Drop the political antics. Join us in making this responsible investment to save lives and prevent the pandemic from once again spinning out of control. We know a new wave could be coming, and we need to sit down and face this public health issue for the reality that it is.

Let's not waste time with irrelevant, anti-immigrant rhetoric. Let's do something that helps the American people and work together to drive America's recovery forward.

PROTESTS

Madam President, we had a meeting of the Senate Judiciary Committee this morning, and the committee discussed at the outset threats that have been reported against judges, Justices, their families, and their homes. This committee has responded with a bill—a bipartisan bill—by Senators Cornyn and Coons to provide more security protection for the Supreme Court. I fully endorse it, and I am glad that it passed unanimously. It should have.

There have been complaints this week about demonstrations in front of

the homes of Justices and others. I have made my position clear. I think that such demonstrations are totally unnecessary, unwise, and should be discouraged. In some cases, they are reprehensible.

The pressure that is trying to be applied on these officials by protesters, whether they are for or against a certain issue, are just unacceptable. I stand by that position, and I believe that Democrats and Republicans agree that we have to be serious about protecting those who are elected to public office at every level from harassment, intimidation, and, above all, from any violence.

I condemn those attacks on anti-abortion organizations in two States: Wisconsin and Oregon. The fire-bombing that took place in one—that is unacceptable. Violence is never acceptable in a democracy.

Having said that, I beg my Republican colleagues to show some consistency. I was here January 6, 2021, when this insurrectionist mob, inspired by President Trump, came up, crashed down the windows and floors into this Capitol, and marched on this Chamber. I was on the floor of the U.S. Senate when we were advised by the Capitol Police to evacuate as quickly as possible to save our own lives. I was in this building when several of the Capitol Police stepped up and showed dramatic heroism. Some of them lost their lives as a result of it.

Five to seven people died on January 6, 2021, as a result of what happened that day. A hundred and fifty law enforcement officials were attacked. And how did the Republicans respond to that? Senator McCONNELL personally stopped any effort at a bipartisan commission to determine what caused that attack and how to avoid it in the future. He personally came to the floor and objected. I heard him do it.

The only investigation that has taken place is in the Democratic House of Representatives and, thank goodness, several Republican Congressmen and women have stepped forward.

I want to salute from my own State Republican Congressman ADAM KINZINGER. He joined this bipartisan effort to investigate January 6, 2021. He is retiring now. He paid a heavy price for his decision, but it was a principled decision. I respect him for it.

The same with Congresswoman LIZ CHENEY. We probably don't agree on half a dozen issues, but I have to tell you, I admire her and respect her courage for stepping up and saying she wanted the investigation in the House to be bipartisan and, therefore, she was going to be part of the panel. I respect her very much for that.

Next month, we are going to have public hearings in the House of Representatives on this issue. We should have had a bipartisan commission looking at January 6, 2021, but Senator McCONNELL and Republicans stopped it.

What did the Republican National Committee say in the official release