

pro bono record includes helping sue the New York City government over policing and trying to reverse another person's robbery conviction. So I would urge Senators to oppose these controversial nominees.

I am proud to be one of many Republicans joining a new resolution from Senator CASSIDY begging this all-Democratic government to prioritize solutions for the violent crime wave. To start, the administration should stop this willful—willful—campaign to make the judiciary systemically softer on crime. Innocent Americans can't afford it.

#### UKRAINE

Mr. President, now on an entirely different matter, the Ukraine people and their fight to repel Russian invaders from their sovereign territory has been inspiring. The world is watching Ukraine respond to gut-wrenching violence with bravery and with unity.

I encourage President Biden to do more to strengthen Ukraine and NATO's defenses well in advance so as to deter Putin and improve Ukraine's initial ability to resist aggression. Many Republicans shared my view that President Biden should have done more to help Ukraine more quickly.

Fortunately, as the Ukrainians have stood strong, President Biden has done more and more to help them in the fight. We are now investing to ensure Ukraine's forces are equipped to win and the arsenals of NATO allies who have joined in support can be replenished.

As I explained yesterday, American support for Ukraine is not mere altruism. The outcome of Ukraine's fight to preserve its sovereignty will have massive consequences for our own strategic interests, both in Europe and much farther afield.

So let's start with just that continent. Europe is home to some of America's longest-standing friendships and deepest trading partnerships. If Vladimir Putin's thuggish imperialism found success in Ukraine, America and our allies would certainly feel the effects. Prior to the current conflict in Ukraine, Putin's creeping expansionism, his interventions and manipulations of so-called frozen conflicts from Georgia and Crimea and Transnistria, only emboldened him. He must be stopped.

Beyond Europe's borders, Putin's fellow strongmen are watching all this to find out whether it is safe to follow his lead. In Beijing, President Xi's Communist Party is looking for a green light to apply the Russian model to their own wish list of sovereign territories to subjugate, starting, of course, with Taiwan. For their part, the Taiwanese people know they are in the crosshairs. As they demonstrated in solidarity with the people of Ukraine, the warning on the island in recent months has been "Today Ukraine. Tomorrow, Taiwan."

As Taiwan's Foreign Minister put it recently in the Washington Post,

"[T]he war in Ukraine has made it clear to the world how important it is for democracies to stand shoulder to shoulder against authoritarian aggression."

Fortunately, fellow democracies in the Indo-Pacific are doing exactly that. Earlier this month, Japan's Defense Minister acknowledged that China has been "carefully observing" both "Russia's aggression" and the reactions of the international community. And Prime Minister Kishida reaffirmed that we must "never tolerate a unilateral attempt to change the status quo by the use of force in the Indo Pacific."

From Kyiv to Taipei and to Tokyo, America's friends and partners see Russia's behavior for exactly what it is: a dangerous spark to be stamped out. Ukraine is succeeding in large part because it took its security seriously. Especially since the 2014 invasion, Ukraine reformed its military training, doctrine, and operations. They abandoned the outdated Soviet model for a more dynamic Western approach. With help from the West, Ukraine invested in its capabilities.

Other allies and partners should heed these lessons sooner rather than later. They should invest in their own defenses, seek interoperability with like-minded partners, and seize opportunities to train with top-tier militaries like our own. We must continue to help them do exactly that.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

#### BUFFALO, NEW YORK, SHOOTING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, I joined with President Biden, Senator GILLIBRAND, and New York officials on one of the most difficult and painful trips imaginable.

Visiting Buffalo 3 days after the worst mass shooting in its history was harrowing. I met a young boy, just 3 years old, who I learned lost his dad on Saturday because his dad was at Tops supermarket buying a birthday cake for the 3-year-old boy—a routine errand for a joyous occasion, something every parent looks forward to. In the blink of an eye, his life was unfairly and cruelly taken away simply because he was Black and in a supermarket.

It is tempting to think that this evil is beyond comprehension, but we know it is just not true. We know the shooter drew from the same wells of hate and White supremacy that inspired other shootings in El Paso, Pittsburgh, Atlanta, Charleston, and other communities. By now, we know the shooter was inspired by a deranged conspiracy theory known as the "great replace-

ment." Indeed, in his online posts, he labeled the people he targeted as "replacers."

But the truth is that you don't need to visit the dark corners of the internet to see these White supremacist views anymore. You can find replacement theory on cable networks like FOX News, where Tucker Carlson used White replacement rhetoric on at least 400 episodes of his show. You can hear it at most Trump rallies every time the Republican standard-bearer vilifies undocumented immigrants and spreads the lie that they stole the 2020 election. Last night, the GOP in Pennsylvania nominated a hard-right disciple of the Big Lie as their candidate for Governor. You can also find many examples of replacement theory on Twitter. One House Member said in April that Tucker Carlson "is CORRECT about Replacement Theory as he explains what is happening to America."

The radical views of MAGA Republicans are taking over the GOP like a cancer. We saw it play out earlier this month in the wake of the Supreme Court's possible elimination of Roe, as they suggested national bans on abortion and championed restrictions without exceptions for rape or incest. Now we are seeing it here, as MAGA Republicans openly champion a repressive and conspiratorial view of who deserves to be called American.

To its credit, the Wall Street Journal Editorial Board wrote a few days ago that politicians have an "obligation" to condemn conspiracies like White replacement theory. But 4 days after the shooting in Buffalo, it is dangerous and disturbing to see that many on the right have pointedly refused to condemn replacement theory. This should be the easiest thing in the world to do, but many on the right, including too many in this Chamber, can't seem to bring themselves to say the obvious: that White replacement theory is evil and has no place in our politics, and any candidate or pundit who spreads it should be resoundingly condemned.

We are waiting to hear more of our colleagues condemn the MAGA right and condemn this horrible replacement theory. So far, there is just too much silence, even though a few have.

#### BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. President, on Ukraine, on a different matter, the Senate is moving forward on a number of high-priority items impacting our security, our economic prosperity, and our commitment to take care of veterans. So this is a busy week for the Senate once again.

Tomorrow, I expect the Senate will finish the critical task of approving another round of military, humanitarian, and economic aid for the people of Ukraine. This should already have been done and over with, but it is repugnant that one Member of the other side, the junior Senator from Kentucky, chose to make a show and obstruct Ukraine funding, knowing full well he couldn't actually stop its passage. For Senator PAUL to delay Ukraine funding for

purely political motives is to only strengthen Putin's hand. The majority—vast majority—of Democrats and Republicans want to see this legislation done, and get it done we will, as soon as tomorrow.

Off the floor, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee will mark up the nomination of Bridget Brink to serve as U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine. Ms. Brink's nomination is terrific news at a critical moment for Ukraine and the United States. She is deeply experienced. She has already won bipartisan support in this Chamber, and she is very much needed as the United States seeks to strengthen our democratic ties to the war-torn nation. Ms. Brink's nomination will be a top priority to the Senate when she comes before the Chamber.

#### RESTAURANTS

Mr. President, on a different matter—the restaurants bill—tomorrow, the Senate is going to hold a vote on legislation to help our restaurants, gyms, minor league teams, and other small businesses that have been utterly devastated by the COVID pandemic.

This bill, championed by my colleagues Senator CARDIN, a Democrat, and Senator WICKER, a Republican—which I very strongly support—will help restaurants and other small businesses like gyms that were left out in earlier rounds of emergency aid. Every proposal included in this package is bipartisan.

Some have said: Well, COVID is over, and the restaurants are back. I see them sort of full.

That may be true for some restaurants, but for just about every restaurant, there is a shortage of labor, and many are only opening at limited times. Most of the restaurants I speak to are either closed certain days, don't serve lunches, or whatever, because they can't find labor.

Let's not forget that many of the restaurants, particularly the smaller ones, the nonchain ones, had to borrow during COVID, borrow large amounts of money. They need to repay that money, and they can't do it based on their limited incomes that are occurring right now. If they don't get the money to pay it back, the lenders are going to foreclose and close restaurants that are already back on the road to prospering and recovering. That makes no sense.

We must pass this legislation. I hope we will get a good number of our Republican colleagues to join Senator WICKER in supporting this. Two years into this crisis, the idea that restaurant owners have all recovered could not be further from the truth.

Restaurants are part of the fabric of every Main Street and every tight-knit neighborhood. It is where friends run into each other on the weekends, grab a drink after work, have lunch after church. The same can be applied to minor league teams and local gyms and businesses that support theaters. These are places where Americans have always come together.

I was proud to champion the \$28 billion restaurant relief in the American Rescue Plan, but these establishments, as I mentioned, still need our help. Tomorrow, there should be a strong bipartisan show of support to help these businesses.

#### VETERANS

Finally, there is another area that we will be voting on. There is an important announcement this morning for our Nation's veterans. Chairman TESTER and Ranking Member JERRY MORAN of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee will announce a bipartisan proposal on comprehensive legislation to help millions of our Nation's veterans who struggle with sickness because of exposure to toxins during their military service, including exposure to toxic burn pits and Agent Orange.

This has for years—for years—been a top priority of mine. I have worked closely with advocates like VSOs and Jon Stewart and John Feal to get this Senate to act on this long-neglected problem. I am happy to see burn pit legislation has taken an important step closer to passage.

I thank Senators TESTER and MORAN for their good work. I strongly support the agreement reached by TESTER and MORAN, and it is my intention to have this on the floor of the Senate the week that we return from the Memorial Day work period.

Our veterans—we will see them on Memorial Day—are very eager for this bill. I hope veterans throughout the country will let their Senators know how important this legislation is. Our veterans need it, they deserve it, and we have a moral obligation to take care of those who have sacrificed so much for us.

#### TRIBUTE TO SUZIE ORLOVE

Finally, Mr. President, today I want to bring special attention and praise to Suzie Orlove, my beloved and talented and deeply dedicated director of constituent service, who is retiring today after 37 amazing years in my office. Imagine that. She has worked in my office—first as a Congressman, then as Senator—for 37 years.

Suzie and I first met in the second grade in P.S. 19, Miss Ruth Moore's second grade class, and we have been friends ever since. Suzie stood out even in second grade for her compassion and her intellect.

Soon after I was elected to the House, Suzie came to work in my office and dedicated herself to making government work for everyday New Yorkers. She became a healthcare policy expert, navigating Medicaid, Medicare, and facing down often intransigent health insurance companies for constituents who often face life-and-death challenges. She became a maven navigating the bureaucracy of Social Security for our seniors and disabled. Year after year, Suzie oversaw the process of interviewing and nominating extraordinary young New Yorkers to our military academies.

The list of people she has helped is practically endless. All across New York, there are so many people who are grateful to Suzie Orlove for helping them in ways when they really needed help. She is amazing, as is the number of staffers she helped train to serve New Yorkers with diligence. She trained my staff—everyone who came in—but she also gave lots of advice to the staff of other of my colleagues, first in Congress and now in the Senate.

She is amazing—amazing.

Suzie Orlove, every day you came into work, you were dedicated to helping people—something that has always been a part of you. You were the strong glue in the office, teaching so many others who came and went how to help people, do casework, and do it with fierce dedication but a friendly smile as well.

All our office staff—past, present, and future—are grateful to Suzie for who she is and what she has done.

Suzie, thank you for your service. To quote the old song, "We're gonna miss you when you're gone."

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

#### IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the majority leader reminds us of the tragedy that occurred in Buffalo over the weekend and how the shooter was somehow captivated by the notion of replacement theory—a theory which is so insane and so mean-spirited that it ignores what this country is all about.

A few minutes ago, over at what they call the House swamp, we held a press conference. Senator ALEX PADILLA of California, myself, Congresswoman ROSS, and Congressman BERA met with a group of young people. There were about 50 of them. Some were high school age; some were in college. They are the sons and daughters of people who came to the United States on H-1B visas. These are visas where people are allowed to come here for a period of years and work, and the visas can be renewed.

Children and families who accompany them are growing up in America, living in America, while the breadwinner goes off to work each day, but the clock is ticking. When the kids of these visa holders reach the age of 21, they are subject to self-deportation. In other words, they have no legal rights in America to remain.

The reason that they are in suspense for so long is that the green card backlog can be decades while the parents are waiting for permission to become legal in the United States on a permanent basis. So these young people live in uncertainty.

Senator PADILLA's bill is an effort—and I join with him in that bill—an effort to give them the opportunity to earn their way to citizenship, to become legal in America. Why would we give up this talent? These young people have grown up in America. They have