

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

USICA

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, during the immediate past recess, the bipartisan conference committee negotiations over the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act, otherwise known as USICA, have officially come to a screeching halt. It has been more than a year since the Senate actually passed this bill—more than a year.

Eight months later, House Democrats passed their own partisan bill, which looked more like the failed “Build Back Broke” agenda, rather than a serious attempt to protect our national security by countering the Chinese threat.

And earlier this summer, a conference committee was appointed and began negotiating a compromise bill that would finally fund the CHIPS Act and make other critical investments in our national security and competitiveness. Of course, the CHIPS Act was designed to try to bring back on shore American manufacturing of advanced semiconductors, which I will talk more about in a moment.

But with the CHIPS funding on the five-yard line, the majority leader, the Senator from New York, has tossed a grenade into the end zone.

And why would you possibly jeopardize such an important national security priority? Apparently, so Democrats can try to, yet again, pass their unpopular social welfare bill that doesn't even appear to have universal Democratic support. Forget the bipartisan bill to safeguard our national security; forget commonsense safeguards to protect our most critical supply chains; forget new American manufacturing jobs and big investments in States all across the country.

Senator SCHUMER has chosen to revive the “Build Back Broke” bill because we are just months from an election where polls suggest that his party is going to get swept out of control and then instead of majority leader, he will become the minority leader.

So let's take a moment to recall how we happened to get here. More than 2 years ago, Congress began working to bolster domestic semiconductor manufacturing and address a major supply chain vulnerability.

Semiconductors or microcircuits underpin all of the modern technology we depend upon every day: the cell phones in our pockets, the cars in our driveways, the tractors our farmers drive, and missile systems that our troops use abroad.

Chips keep us safe; they keep us connected; and they ensure that we have fresh food, clean water, and a way to

get to work every day. The United States relies on strong supplies of semiconductors, and we lead the way in chip design, but here is the kicker. While we lead the way in chip design, we outsource the actual manufacturing abroad.

That is right. We manufacture none of the world's most advanced chips—zero.

Seventy-five percent of these chips come from East Asia, and a whopping 90 percent of them are made in Taiwan. Given the explicit threat of war by the Chinese Communist Party against Taiwan, that is a grave cause for concern.

Furthermore, having just lived through a pandemic, consider what another pandemic or natural disaster might do to disrupt the supply chain of these critical semiconductors.

And when you consider the fact that global chip demand is expected to increase by 56 percent over the next decade, it is clear that the problem is going to get worse. A major disruption in our global chip supply would halt manufacturing on everything from laptop computers to cars, to anti-tank Javelin missiles being used in Ukraine against Russian aggressors.

This is a matter of both economic and national security, which is why addressing the chip shortage has been a bipartisan priority. In 2020, 96 Senators supported passing the CHIPS for America Act as part of the national defense authorization bill. That was way back in 2020.

And it took less than 6 months from the time it became law until the Senate passed a bill to fund the CHIPS Program. That bill was called the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act passed by the Senate with a vote of 68 to 32.

Despite the broad bipartisan support for the CHIPS Program, the House refused to pass the Senate bill not because it was a bad bill, but because it wasn't a partisan grab bag that provided billions for longstanding liberal policies.

Their “Build Back Broke” agenda was 6 feet under, and they saw a must-pass national security bill as a convenient way to resurrect it. Their partisan legislation known as the COMPETES Act, included handouts for labor unions, a key supporter for the Democratic Party. The labor bosses were promised some pretty big benefits that never came to pass, and this was the way that House Democrats saw to respond.

They also tacked on a range of unrelated partisan provisions, like an \$8 billion payment to a U.N. climate slush fund, which has provided more than \$100 million to China. The stated purpose of our efforts in USICA—the United States Innovation and Competition Act—has been to counter threats from China, not to subsidize them with taxpayer dollars, which apparently is what the House has chosen to do.

Well, throughout the conference committee process, Republicans have pushed back against the long list of un-

related and downright harmful provisions.

This bill should be about safeguarding our critical supply chains and strengthening our competitiveness, not doling out partisan political favors.

Negotiations have made progress, but, frankly, we are running out of time, and time is of the essence. Last month, more than 120 tech CEOs sent a letter to congressional leaders urging quick action on this legislation.

And we are seeing signs that a failure to act will lead to these critical investments being made not in the United States but outside of the United States, just the opposite of what we hoped to attain.

A company called GlobalWafers is planning to build a silicon wafer factory in Sherman, TX, that would create up to 1,500 jobs and produce 1.2 million wafers a month. These silicon wafers are an essential component of semiconductors.

But last month, Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo said the CEO told her that the plan was contingent on Congress passing the CHIPS Act funding. Unless the funding is approved by the August recess, the company will scrap plans for the facility.

A couple of weeks ago, the CEO of Intel expressed a similar sentiment. He said the company could expand chip production in Europe instead of the United States if Congress fails to pass this funding.

So the stakes are high, as is the need to move quickly, but apparently none of that matters to the majority leader and House Democrats. They have chosen to ignore this rapidly closing window of opportunity and the national security risks associated with the current chip shortage.

They have chosen to ignore the jobs and investments this bill would bring to States all across this country. They have chosen to ignore the symphony of voices from across the spectrum who want to get this done.

And for what? Apparently, another unwanted and unnecessary partisan spending spree—this trillion-dollar proposal known as a reconciliation bill, which is a spinoff of Build Back Better, which I affectionately call “Build Back Broke.”

This proposal would attack oil and gas producers at a time when gas prices remain at record highs, and one of the most urgent needs of everyday, working American families is to bring down the price of gasoline at the pump so they can afford to take their kids to school and go to work.

Yet the partisan reconciliation bill that the majority leader contemplates bringing up would actually make that problem worse, not better.

This partisan reconciliation bill would also increase taxes on American families, as their budgets are already being pummeled by inflation. And it could be that we are already in a recession, technically defined as two quarters of negative GDP.

Well, one thing President Obama recognized back after the great recession of 2008, is it is not a time to raise taxes, and apparently the current Biden administration did not learn that lesson, nor did the majority leader.

This bill would simply make inflation worse, not better. Why the Democratic leader has prioritized partisan politics over sound, bipartisan policy is lost on me. Why he would elevate partisanship above national security is lost on me. And why he would show contempt for the challenges families are facing due to failed policies of the Biden administration is lost on me.

But now he is doubling down. His decision to pursue this partisan reconciliation bill won't just hurt families, it risks our ability to pass critical CHIPS funding on a timely basis.

To reiterate the words of the Republican leader: There will be no bipartisan USICA as long as Democrats are pursuing their reckless tax-and-spending agenda. Our Democratic colleagues cannot spend their mornings working on a purely partisan spending spree for the next 4 weeks and expect Republicans to work with them on a bipartisan bill in the afternoon.

We simply don't have time for these antics. Bipartisan conference negotiations require compromise and confidence that the person sitting across the table from you is negotiating in good faith.

Senator SCHUMER's tactics have jeopardized the good faith that has driven this process up until now.

From the beginning, what was originally known as Endless Frontiers to now the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act, or USICA—this has been a big bipartisan effort.

Two years ago, I introduced the CHIPS for America Act with Senator WARNER, the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee on which I sit, and a Democrat. We worked in good faith to get it signed into law as part of the national defense reauthorization act. And we all worked together—68 of us—to make sure that the bill was funded through the bipartisan U.S. Innovation and Competition Act.

And more recently, I have been trying to help broker an agreement that can get this bill signed into law as part of the conference committee process. My desire to fund the CHIPS Act has not changed, but Senator SCHUMER's choices have taken an already difficult job and made it nearly impossible.

He is trying to turn what has been a bipartisan process into a partisan exercise. I hope the Democratic leader will reconsider and will abandon his partisan spending spree so that we can spend the next 3 weeks passing the CHIPS funding as part of the USICA with broad bipartisan support.

This is a matter of national security and economic competitiveness, and it should not become a victim of partisan games.

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

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

HONORING OFFICER JEREMIAH JAMES STORY

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today with my fellow Senator from Arkansas, Mr. COTTON, to honor Jeremiah James Story, a Perry County Detention Center officer, who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty last month.

Born in Conway, AR, Jeremiah was a 2020 graduate of Bigelow High School. Even as a young person, he was a dedicated public servant who loved his community and his country. In addition to working as a detention officer, he also served in the Army National Guard and aspired to become a State trooper. He wore his uniforms with pride and was passionate about giving back to others in a variety of ways. There was no gesture too small or unimportant for him to offer.

Jeremiah was also a man of deep faith, who never let pass an opportunity to share it with others. He devoted his life to following his Lord and Savior and was a longtime member of Riverview Baptist Church, where he routinely encouraged people he met to attend services with him.

With his Christian belief as his hope and guide, he demonstrated kindness and compassion for others and relied on the power of prayer to support and uplift others facing difficult situations.

Jeremiah's friends and family knew he was special and strived to live by the example that he set.

During a military training exercise last year, fellow troops recalled how Jeremiah suffered from trench foot, and while he was ordered to stay off his feet, he couldn't resist the urge to serve others. So in spite of instructions and consequences to his own recovery, he jumped up and filled water bottles for his fellow troops. That was the kind of person he was—a giver.

Those who served alongside him recalled the tough situations they experienced together. While it was taxing to be away from family and living in challenging conditions, Jeremiah did it with a smile on his face.

He served his community with tremendous care and devotion. We are so grateful for his example and willingness to do the tough and dangerous job of ensuring public safety.

At the young age of 21, he was taken far too soon. While his life on Earth was short, he left a lasting legacy through the way he treated, cared for, and loved others.

Even the inmates he was responsible for guarding appreciated his care and empathy. Several of them attended a memorial service for him to show their gratitude and their respect.

He will be dearly missed by many, including his closest loved ones, but his memory will live on as a hero who made a positive impact on all those whose lives he touched.

His death is a tragic reminder of the risk law enforcement officers face each day that they put on their uniform and leave the comforts of their homes and their loved ones to serve and to protect.

Senator COTTON and I are honored to pay this tribute to him to bring attention to his short but meaningful life and remember the noble calling he was willing to risk his life to answer.

I pray for his family, friends, and colleagues, as they mourn the fallen guardian who served others to the very end. May he rest in peace, and may God bless him and keep him and all those that he leaves behind.

I yield to Senator COTTON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, today, I join Senator BOOZMAN with a heavy heart to mourn the death of a young patriot and a selfless public servant.

Last month, Jeremiah Story, a member of the Arkansas National Guard and a correctional officer at the Perry County Sheriff's Office, died in the line of duty. Officer Story was only 21 years old. He worked at the Perry County Detention Center and hoped to one day become a State trooper.

He was known as an infectious source of joy among his friends and within his community, always uplifting those who needed cheering up and including those who felt left out. He was a devoted Christian who encouraged everyone to go to church and who shared the gospel with anyone who would listen. And he loved America, joining the Army National Guard as soon as he graduated from high school. Jeremiah Story was the type of selfless servant every young person should aspire to be.

Three weeks ago, Officer Story was in the process of booking a drug criminal at the Perry County Detention Center when the criminal pulled out a concealed pistol and shot Officer Story in the chest. He died soon thereafter at a Conway hospital, and the coward who shot him is now charged with capital murder, as he should be.

His murderer didn't get away with anything, didn't gain anything, didn't escape—nothing for this evil deed. He only snuffed out a bright, young, wonderful life.

He should know, and every criminal in our State should know, that justice will be rendered for this awful slaying.

In the aftermath of Officer Story's death, hundreds of Arkansans have come together to remember his life and mourn his loss. Among those who attended candlelight vigils for this special young man were the inmates at the Perry County Detention Center. The chaplain of the detention center said Officer Story was "loved by a lot of different people, not just outside but