

simply doesn't work like that. The process of purchasing, manufacturing, and deploying this lethal aid takes a lot of time, which, to be frank, we do not have.

Senator SHAHEEN and I have recently introduced a bipartisan bill called the Securing American ARMS Act to remove some of the hurdles and the bureaucratic delay in replenishing those stockpiles. It will give the Department of Defense the ability to fast-track the procurement process. That includes times like these when the United States is providing defense articles to an ally or a partner that is under armed attack by a U.S. adversary.

Our bill would also give the Defense Department the ability to expedite the delivery of defense articles to our allies and partners in need. This will allow us to continue to provide critical support to Ukraine—but not just limited to Ukraine—all without compromising our national defense or our ability to meet other obligations around the world.

I appreciate Senator SHAHEEN working with me on this bill, which now has more than a dozen bipartisan cosponsors.

When the Senate finally begins consideration of the Defense Authorization Act, I hope this legislation will be a part of it. At the same time, as a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, I am hopeful we can also reauthorize the U.S. intelligence community, which usually takes a ride on the Defense Authorization Act.

The hard-working men and women of the intelligence community carry out missions day in and day out that inform key policy decisions and the work of the U.S. military. Of course, being intelligence operators, their work is not acknowledged necessarily like a member of our uniformed services, but their service is vital to our missions and our interests around the world.

One great example of the role the intelligence community played in the runup to Russia's invasion of Ukraine was that our intelligence community was able to provide skeptical allies with irrefutable proof of Russia's intentions and showed exactly what Russia was planning before February 24. I have no doubt that this intelligence contributed to the unified response in the days and weeks following. And we engaged in enhanced information and intelligence sharing on a real-time basis that I think has helped facilitate Ukraine's strong national defense and now counteroffensive that they are currently engaged in, trying to recapture some of their territory that Russia has previously occupied.

I want to particularly recognize the chairman and the ranking member of the Senate Intelligence Committee—Senator WARNER, a Democrat from Virginia, and Senator RUBIO, a Republican from Florida—for their leadership in helping us pass the Intelligence Authorization Act unanimously in July. Like other authorization bills, this

outlines funding levels for the intelligence community, but it also contains legislative oversight of America's intelligence apparatus.

Strong oversight is crucial to ensuring accountability, while enabling our intelligence professionals to accomplish the complex and difficult missions the American people demand of them. With the ongoing war in Ukraine and threats from China continuing to grow, we need intelligence at the speed of relevance. This is how we help assure everyone, from our policymakers to our warfighters, that we will have the tools to maintain America's preeminent global position and ensure the defense of our homeland.

I appreciate the hard work of Senator RUBIO and Senator WARNER to advance this reauthorization, and again, I hope, when we take up the Defense Authorization Act at some point, that it will be included.

So, Madam President, let me just conclude where I started. The National Defense Authorization Act is a must-pass piece of legislation. We have passed it for 61 years in a row. Yet, when I hear Senator SCHUMER, the majority leader, talk about things we need to do before the midterm elections, I don't hear a peep out of him on his intention to move that Defense Authorization Act.

Providing for the common defense is one of Congress's most basic responsibilities. If we can't keep the American people and our democracy safe, we will have failed in our first and most urgent duty. There is far too much at stake to let the NDAA linger on the Senate calendar for more months. So my hope is that the majority leader will bring this bill to the floor this month and provide Senators who are not on the Armed Services Committee an opportunity to participate in the process by debating and offering amendments like the one I described earlier so we can strengthen our national defense at this critical moment in our Nation's history.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, what a great time of the year—county fairs, State fairs. The weather is changing. People are getting outside more. It is not quite as hot in most places. Parents have smiles on their faces because their kids are going back to school. College is starting up.

That is what I want to talk about today. Our college campuses are ramping up. There are a lot of good things going on with that. A lot of young people are for the first time going to college, going out for the first time in their lives and making their own decisions, away from home for the first time, putting their budgets together, having to go by their own time with nobody to wake them up, having to wash their own clothes, having to do things they have never had to do be-

fore. For the first time in their lives, they are responsible for themselves 24 hours a day.

I did that for 40 years coaching college football, coaching high school football. It was amazing how many young men and women whom I worked with never saw the Sun come up in their lives. If they played for me, they got to see the Sun come up. We got up early and stayed late.

So it is an important time for all of our young adults in college, K-12—very important—for our high school, elementary, and junior high school kids. For many, many years, it has been an important part of all of our lives in the United States of America, and it has been one point that has made us better than everybody across the world in terms of education. We educate our young people from K-12. Everybody has an opportunity to go to college for an extended education. It is a great opportunity. It is fun to watch. I had a chance to watch a lot of young people have some great opportunities and make a lot of things out of themselves.

I used to tell my players when I coached that you are living in the greatest country on the face of the Earth. If you are born in this country, you hit the lottery. A lot of people don't understand that. If you go to some of these other countries, you will figure it out real quick. But the United States of America, this country, really owes you nothing other than one thing: It owes you an opportunity—an opportunity to do what the heck you want to do or be who you want to be. If you work hard, you might have a chance. A lot of times, you are going to get knocked down. Do you know what this country does? It gives you a chance to get back on your feet and go again. It doesn't owe you one thing other than that. If you take advantage of it, you can achieve it.

For many years, institutions of higher education were great examples of the great American experiment. They were places where free speech was not only allowed but encouraged, and innovation and problem-solving were required for success. Success created some of America's favorite pastimes.

College sports, which have become a piece of our national identity, started a couple of weeks ago. They have immense benefits for young men and women who get involved in sports. But higher education became the envy of the world, as I said earlier. Our colleges and universities produced new research, technologies, and medicines and molded the talent and the talented minds to use these new developments that make our country a better place and make our country No. 1.

But this trend, I hate to say, is changing. Activists have fundamentally shifted higher education to become a vehicle to further their political agenda, and now they are set on forcing American taxpayers to pay for the overpriced indoctrination and taking athletic opportunities away from

those who have worked so very hard to train and compete.

Let's start with the pricetag associated with higher education. The cost of attending college has skyrocketed, but these institutions have done little—very little—to ensure their value has increased along with the increase in price, the increase in tuitions. Bloated school administrations continually drive budgets and tuitions up, to the point where a lot of people can't afford to go to school anymore.

President Biden recently decided to throw gasoline on this fire by attempting to use Executive authority to, as he calls it, forgive student loan debt for millions of Americans. His plan will forgive up to \$20,000 in student loan debt for Pell grant recipients who make \$125,000 a year or less and \$10,000 in student loan debt for all those under the same salary cap.

Think about that. A college-educated person making a six-figure salary would essentially get a \$10,000 handout from hard-working Americans, the majority of whom did not go to college themselves and are struggling to provide for their families thanks to soaring inflation driven by our comrades on the left, Democrats' reckless spending in the last 2 years.

Despite the administration's attempt to convince the country that they are focused on fighting inflation, this debt transfer scheme will do exactly the opposite. It is going to make prices higher. In fact, the Penn Wharton budget model projects the total cost of President Biden's loan forgiveness plan and changes to the other loan programs could cost the American people more than \$1 trillion.

Folks on both sides of the aisle have rightfully criticized this plan because of its clear and indefensible cost, and I share those concerns with everybody that is against this.

I am also concerned about two additional long-term effects of this decision. One, it does nothing to fix the broken system that led to soaring costs of college in the first place. It will, in fact, make college even more expensive. If we are going to do something, let's fix the problem. We are not fixing the problem. We are just adding to the problem. And, two, it allows students and graduates to avoid the consequences of their own actions, further hindering young people from becoming independent, free thinking, and responsible. The thing about education is learning responsibility, and this does exactly the opposite of teaching responsibility at a level where they need to learn.

All Americans, including those who, like me, chose to take on debt attending college must be responsible for their own actions. Hard-working taxpayers who did not go to college should not have to assume the debt of others because this administration decided to fulfill a campaign promise right before a midterm election.

Further, this degradation of the value of college is just the latest in a

decades-long effort by those on the left to fundamentally change higher education and force their agenda on campuses across our country, and it comes right after this administration announced its plan to attack another key part of the American system—athletic competition and the level playing field created by title IX.

I began my career coaching high school a long time ago. But before that, title IX was created in supporting women athletics. I started coaching a few years after title IX was started, and I have seen from the very beginning what title IX has done for women across this country—girls and athletes—and how it has made leaders of young girls and young women who would have never been afforded the opportunity had title IX not passed.

Title IX, to me, is one of the best things this Federal Government has ever done, bar none. It has given the opportunity of a level playing field for young girls to have that opportunity they would have never had. What it did, it said boys and girls have to have the same facilities, coaches, and same athletic budgets, also the same scholarships if they went to a university. Men could not have more than women. And we have seen the explosion of women sports, bar none.

When I was coaching years ago, 3 to 6 percent of the high school girls—3 to 6 percent—played high school athletics. Today, we have close to 60 percent. Why? Because of title IX, because of more sports that title IX afforded and bigger budgets for women athletics. It did a tremendous service to women and girls across this country. I am proud of the progress this country has made and the immense talent that it has brought out because of what title IX has done.

But this anniversary, which was the 50th anniversary in June—think about that, 50th anniversary, how time flies. I am not that old. But the 50th anniversary of title IX was in June. This anniversary comes at a challenging time now for young girls and women in sports. The ability to train and compete fairly is under attack from activists and this current White House. Since 2003, at least 28 biological males have won titles in various women's events around the world. Think about that. Now we are allowing biological boys and biological men to compete against girls and women in sports, and they won 28 titles. How fair is that?

If the current administration and the activists pushing this policy have their way, biological males winning women's sports championships would become the norm. It will be an everyday occurrence. That is not fair. It is not fair for a young girl or woman that has trained all her life in a sport to, at the end of the day, have to compete for a championship against a young boy who says or thinks that he is a woman. What is right about that?

In July, the Department of Education published and proposed a rule to change how title IX is implemented in

order to better align with the administration's progressive agenda. These proposed changes would require schools to allow—this is in title IX now—will allow biological males to compete in women's sports.

Last week, I submitted a public comment to Secretary Cardona that clearly and strongly condemns this new proposed rule. Expanding the definition of sex to include gender identity, to identify whoever you want to identify as, will cause lasting damage to the level playing field title IX originally was created for, which was for women. The change to title IX would be a monumental setback for the generations of women who have benefited from the law over the last 50 years.

So what are we going to do now? We are going to go back to square one because somebody wants to change it. The Department should not move forward with this proposal and not change the rule but, instead, work with Congress on legislative action meant to strengthen protections afforded women in the original statute.

As I know from firsthand experience, participating in college athletics is about more than winning and losing. There is a lot more to it. Student athletes learn many important lessons by participating. It sets our country apart from other countries all over the world—like the value of hard work, discipline, commitment, responsibility. Athletes learn how to work together, be loyal to each other, play for a cause, take responsibility for their own actions, learn how to win—but, more importantly, learn how to lose. Perhaps most importantly, they teach student athletes that free and fair competition allows the best team to win.

That is why I am so strongly opposed to this administration's plans to devalue education and unlevel the playing field in the name of leftwing progress and indoctrination.

These attacks on higher education and women's sports must stop. To best prepare America's young people to be the next generation of leaders our country needs, I am fighting back against these policies, like dismantling title IX and haphazardly forgiving student debt. That encourages young adults to break the rules and ignore their responsibilities.

Instead of making our colleges more expensive and less fair, Congress should be focused on reforms to get to the root of the cause. Universities should be encouraged to cut budgets and lower tuition rates. Students graduating high school should be steered toward career and financial decisions that make sense for them and that they can afford. Everybody doesn't need to go to college.

Lastly, we must reject these ideologies and mobs on the left who don't believe in free speech in the classroom and on our college campuses. Our country cannot thrive without allowing young adults to freely and fairly learn, grow, develop, and create on

and off the field. We must protect that fair playing field while encouraging college students to take responsibility for their own actions and financial decisions, something all of us here in Congress should learn to do as well.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RAILWAY LABOR MANAGEMENT DISPUTE

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, this afternoon, I come here with genuine concern about the possibility of the failure to resolve a railroad labor management dispute, and I express my support for that resolution.

I represent a State, the State of Kansas, its people, America's largest supplier of wheat, and a top leader in agricultural markets of many other crops. I can tell you that a labor strike would disrupt the stability of our ag markets and could prove catastrophic to our global food supply.

At a time in which hunger is rampant around the world, again one of the last things we need is more difficulties in getting agriculture, commodities, and food to people around the globe who are looking for a meal tonight. In my State, corn, soybeans, grain, sorghum—that harvest is underway, and farmers need to be able to ship their crops by train around the country and to our ports where the grain will be sent to feed that hungry world.

In parts of Kansas facing severe drought, feed yards, places that we feed cattle, are shipping grain in from other areas of the country to feed their livestock.

Rail service is critical to making sure these producers are able to get the feed they need and to keep their livestock fed and healthy. The U.S. rail network moves critical agricultural commodities across the Nation, and a complete shutdown of the rail system would result in devastating consequences across an already weak supply chain.

The Association of American Railroads found that a nationwide rail shutdown could idle more than 7,000 trains and lose more than \$2 billion a day in missed economic output. As the deadline approaches, we are already seeing the impact of contingency planning by railways, showing that a full shutdown would be totally unacceptable.

With the trucking industry and other transportation systems already at their maximum capacity, there is no alternative plan that could mitigate the losses in case of a rail transportation strike and that rail service coming to an end.

I have been in regular contact with our rail leaders, including those at Union Pacific and the Kansas City

Southern, Burlington Northern Santa Fe, and I continue to urge all parties to reach an agreement.

Our constituents deserve certainty that will come from reaching that agreement. In the event that the conclusion is not reached, I will utilize my opportunities as a Member of the Senate, as a Member of Congress for congressional intervention and work to shield the impact of a rail shutdown across the Nation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

ISRAEL AND TAIWAN

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, on November 11, 2001—exactly 2 months after the September 11 attacks—President Bush spoke to the United Nations General Assembly about the universal threat of terrorism.

I want to share just a few lines from that speech:

The suffering of September the 11th was inflicted on people of many faiths and many nations. All of the victims, including Muslims, were killed with equal indifference and equal satisfaction by the terrorist leaders.

Time is passing. Yet, for the United States of America, there will be no forgetting September the 11th. We will remember every rescuer who died in honor. We will remember every family that lives in grief. We will remember the fire and ash, the last phone calls, the funerals of the children.

And the people of my country will remember those who have plotted against us. We are learning their names. We are coming to know their faces. There is no corner of the Earth distant or dark enough to protect them. However long it takes, their hour of justice will come.

Every nation has a stake in this cause. As we meet, the terrorists are planning more murder—perhaps in my country, or perhaps in yours. They kill because they aspire to dominate.

Now, 21 years later, I fear that President Biden and many of my Democratic colleagues have forgotten the lessons they learned from that day and in the years that have followed.

What I recall most about the weeks and months following the attacks is that everyone I talked with, no matter their politics, believed that we were facing a battle of good versus evil.

There was a real clarity of conviction that demanded we all choose a side. Would we stand with freedom or with the enemies of freedom? You can dither and dally all you want on national security policy, but there was not much dithering to be done on that point, at least not in 2001.

But now, in the mainstream media and at the highest levels of the Democratic Party, we see that clarity of conviction ceding ground to moral relativism. It infected this weekend's remembrance. It infected the debate surrounding Joe Biden's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan. And it has all but derailed any serious discussion about emerging threats, not just from terrorist organizations but from hostile regimes that the Biden administration seems determined to appease.

During this past August work period, I had the opportunity to visit two of

the hot spots. Working with our counterparts in Taiwan and Israel was illuminating for many reasons. I wish every single one of my colleagues would get off their computers, get on a plane, and go talk to them about what it is like to spend every day on the frontlines in this battle against the new "axis of evil."

Here in the United States, we are blessed by the benefit of physical distance from the hot spots. And it is no guarantee of protection, and I believe it has lulled many of my colleagues into a false sense of security concerning the threats we face.

Our friends in Taipei and Jerusalem don't share this benefit. They spend their days watching missiles fly closer to their homes and listening to authoritarian propaganda from Beijing and Iran that threatens innocent families with extinction for the crime of simply existing.

In Israel, they are gravely concerned about the Biden administration's desire to enter into a new nuclear deal with Tehran. They worry that this will move Iran closer to a nuclear warhead. They are concerned about what would happen with the billions of dollars that would flow into Iran's coffers. What would happen with sanctions relief? How will they use this money?

Overall, their fears are dominated by the knowledge that, yes, indeed, Iran is the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism. How will they use the money to finance the work of their proxies? They are particularly concerned how this will instigate growth and expansion of terrorism in Palestine.

In Taiwan, they are concerned about the growing intensity of Chinese Communist Party aggression. I have also heard grave concerns from other island nations that if China overruns Taiwan, they could be the next to fall.

But above all, they conveyed a strong desire to continue working with the United States. Yes, we are their preferred partner. They need our foreign military sales. They want to be able to defend themselves. It means they have to increase their defense capabilities.

Taiwan and Israel aren't the only hot spots that should concern us, but they both represent the first line of defense against the growing influence of the new "axis of evil."

The one thing I heard, over and over again when I was overseas, is that if we allow these nations to become overrun, it will start a domino effect in the Indo-Pacific and the Middle East that will be difficult, if not impossible, to stop.

And as we have seen before, when we give nations like China and Iran an inch, what do they do? They take a mile.

So it is incomprehensible to me that Joe Biden and the Democrats are not doing everything—everything—in their power to stop this from happening.

Over the past few years, I have watched the President and his allies treat the threat posed by the new "axis