

We took an important step in the right direction last week after the House passed the companion legislation to USICA. I applaud the House for passing this legislation, and I join my Senate colleagues from both sides of the aisle in saying we were pleased to have gotten the ball rolling when we passed the USICA bill—formally known as Endless Frontiers—last summer.

There is a lot of work to do to enact USICA into law, so I look forward to moving quickly to a conference so the House and Senate can bridge the differences between our proposals.

Once again, I want to thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle for leadership on this very important legislation.

This will continue to be Democrats' focus: lowering costs, increasing wages, and bringing jobs back from overseas, while creating more jobs right here at home. It is what Democrats have worked on for the past 12 months as we have helped Americans get back to normal, and it is what we will continue to focus on as we enter year 2 of the Biden administration.

FORCED ARBITRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now on forced arbitration.

On a different matter, later today, the House is expected to pass bipartisan legislation to end forced arbitration for sexual assault and sexual harassment. Once this important bill passes the House, the Senate will move as soon as this week to quickly take up this bill and send it to President Biden's desk. Congress can finally act to empower victims of sexual assault and sexual harassment to speak openly by nullifying forced arbitration clauses that push survivors into an often secret and biased process. We will not waste this historic opportunity.

There are numerous good proposals that we can address here in the Senate on a bipartisan basis, and this is one good example. We hope to do more. The Senate's forced arbitration proposal, the Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act of 2021, passed unanimously out of the Judiciary Committee. Every Democrat and every Republican voted for it. I expect there will be strong, bipartisan support for it on the Senate floor. I want to thank my colleagues Senator KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND and Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM for their leadership on this important legislation.

BOMB THREATS AT HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, next, bomb threats at HBCUs.

All of us in the Senate are disturbed, sickened, and outraged, frankly, at the wave of anonymous bomb threats that have recently arisen across dozens of historically Black colleges and universities. Since the start of this year, at least 26 HBCUs in a dozen States and the District of Columbia have received

such threats, including a dozen schools last week. These bomb threats are clearly racially motivated, and I join my colleagues in condemning these acts of hatred in the strongest possible terms.

Bomb threats against HBCUs have an especially malevolent place in our country's history. Black Americans don't need to think that far back to when bombs were set off in the middle of the campus at Florida A&M University in 1999. To see these threats today is a reminder of the hatred we have yet to overcome.

Nothing can be more sickening than efforts to use fear, violence, and White supremacy in hopes of stealing the promise of a good education for millions of Black Americans. HBCUs are a vital part of our economy and education system, educating some of our Nation's greatest leaders, innovators, and activists.

I want to commend all the presidents, faculty, and staff across the country's HBCUs for responding to these acts of hatred with resolve and strength. And to all the students who attend HBCUs, this should never happen. Those responsible must—must—be prosecuted to the fullest extent of law.

My colleagues and I have been in communication with the FBI, Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Department of Education on steps the Agencies and the Senate can take to address these violent threats. We are confident those responsible will be held accountable.

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Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on an entirely different matter, normally I don't make a point of remarking upon actions and statements of the Republican National Committee, which by now has completely fallen under the control of former President Donald Trump and his inner circle, but last week, they crossed a line, issuing a statement that censured two Republicans who stood up to the Big Lie, while also describing the insurrection of January 6 as "legitimate political discourse." Their statement didn't even make mention of the violence that day.

There is no debate to be had here. January 6 was an armed insurrection. It was an attempt to reverse through violent means the outcome of a free and fair election, and it was fundamentally rooted in Donald Trump's Big Lie that the election of 2020 was illegitimate, which now the RNC seems to be giving its blessing officially.

For the national committee of one of America's two major political parties to officially sign on to the Big Lie—and more than that, to excuse the attack itself by attributing even a shred of legitimacy to it—is chilling and plainly dangerous. It puts us on a road where our democracy is at risk.

It is a sad commentary on how far the political arm of the GOP has gone that the RNC will go out of its way to punish its own Members who spoke out

against the former President's lies, while defending the rioters who tried to undo an election with mob rule. Theirs will be nothing less than everlasting shame.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

CHINA

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, this year's Winter Olympics are officially underway on the home turf of the Chinese Communist Party. Of course, Americans are rooting hard for our outstanding Team USA athletes, but this year's setting has also trained spotlights worldwide on the abuse and repression the CCP inflicts on its own people and aspires to inflict on much of the world. Unfortunately, this has also occasioned some instances of jaw-dropping tone-deafness and gullibility from American voices.

I noted on this floor several years ago that as China has modernized its economy, too many wealthy and powerful American actors have seemed willing to help whitewash the CCP's many abuses or at least turn a blind eye. Hollywood self-censoring our own American films to satisfy President Xi and his cronies is just one example.

Well, last week, one American broadcaster seemed to uncritically amplify the CCP's propaganda goal when they included a member of the oppressed Uighur minority in the opening ceremonies.

This broadcaster called the CCP's obvious propaganda stunt "an in-your-face response to those Western nations, including the U.S., who have called this Chinese treatment of that group 'genocide.'" President Xi couldn't have scripted it better.

Also, last week, a faculty member at a Big Ten university went on TV and compared China's secret police to American police officers and China's tyranny to America's voting laws. Here was the quote:

Who are we to criticize China's human rights record when we have ongoing attacks by the agents of the State against unarmed citizens, and we've got assaults on the voting rights of people of color in various States in this country?

Really? Beyond absurd.

The truth is, the CCP has turned Xinjiang Province into a giant oppression factory, where they enslave, sterilize, and commit genocide against the Muslim minority.

The truth is, the CCP has systematically worn down human rights and democracy in Hong Kong and jailed Hongkongers for speaking up.

The truth is, the CCP is an aggressive, irresponsible presence in the Pacific region and well beyond.

America's national security and economic competition with the CCP is a defining challenge for our country—and not just us but for all our friends and partners around the world, anyone who values an international order built on freedom and self-determination instead of their opposites.

Last year, the Senate took some bipartisan steps to strengthen America's hand in that competition. The bipartisan U.S. Innovation and Competition Act was not any Senator's or any committee's or either party's idea of a perfect bill, but this delicate compromise product made headway on issues from critical supply chains to counter-espionage, to intellectual property. And the Senate passed the bill last June, and the House has done nothing for 8 months—nothing from House Democrats from last June until just last week.

So a few days ago, instead of passing the Senate's careful compromise, House Democrats slapped together a partisan bill stuffed with poison pills and the kinds of things they tried to put in their reckless tax-and-spending spree that failed at the end of last year. They didn't even bother to try working with House Republicans. The whole exercise was completely unserious.

House Democrats' version mentions the word "climate" nearly as many times as it mentions the word "China." It pours billions into the U.N. Green Climate Fund so the United States can borrow money from China to give it to an international body, which can then give it to China.

Their bill even goes out of its way to include provisions on—listen to this—marijuana banking.

China has been steadily building up its military and economic might, and the Democrats' answer is to help Americans get high?

Drug overdoses on fentanyl just became the leading cause of death for Americans aged 18 to 45 across our entire country. Much of this poison pours into our country from, of course, China. And Democrats' plan to combat this is some more marijuana on the side?

Needless to say, this is not a winning strategy for a global competition between great powers.

So here is the bottom line. The bipartisan Senate USICA bill was itself a delicate compromise product. Any Democrats hoping to yank the bill to the far left or insert poison pills are badly, badly mistaken.

GERMAN CHANCELLOR OLAF SCHOLZ VISIT

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, on another matter, today President

Biden will welcome Olaf Scholz, the new German Chancellor, to his first visit to Washington since taking office.

Germany is a crucial ally of the United States. Tens of thousands of U.S. servicemembers reside in Germany, contributing to the collective security of the NATO alliance. According to the State Department, bilateral trade between our countries totaled more than \$260 billion in 2019.

Many in Washington on both sides of the aisle appreciated the increasing leadership role that Chancellor Scholz's predecessor, Angela Merkel, played in international affairs. Germany's overseas contributions in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Africa demonstrated a growing willingness to contribute to international missions that advance our collective security interests.

The German people have built the largest economy in Europe and the fourth largest in the entire world. They are indeed a major player, but there is no question Germany could do more given its influential role, including within the EU and NATO, to advance our shared foreign policy and security interests.

Back during the Cold War, the West German military was truly a capable fighting force, but Germany's military has been allowed to atrophy in the decades since. Today, it lags behind the state of the art and suffers from shortfalls in readiness and regular maintenance.

Germany endorsed the 2014 NATO pledge to commit 2 percent of its GDP to defense and 20 percent of that defense spending toward modernization by 2024. But it has taken very few credible steps to meet that pledge.

Meanwhile, threats to the alliance have only grown since 2014. Russia's and China's decades-long modernization efforts made it clear that 2 percent will not suffice for NATO to meet these growing challenges.

Here in Congress, we have demonstrated our commitment to NATO and to Europe's security. We hosted Jens Stoltenberg for a joint address to Congress 3 years ago. We have included measures supporting America's presence in Europe in our annual Defense bills, including significant investments in our European Deterrence Initiative.

So I hope that Chancellor Scholz will reciprocate and take this opportunity to reassure us about Germany's commitment to NATO and our collective defense. Our friends are too powerful and too prosperous not to contribute more militarily to our alliance.

Of course, building military capabilities takes time. But the urgent issue of Russian aggression in Europe also demands courage and firmness, and it demands it right now. We know how such resolve works. The United States and our allies displayed such firmness again and again in standing up to Soviet pressure, and West Berlin remained a free city because of it.

Chancellor Scholz has plenty of tools at his disposal to join his allies in send-

ing a strong signal to Putin that aggression against Ukraine would carry a tremendous—tremendous—cost.

So let's take one example. A bipartisan chorus in Congress has opposed the Nord Stream 2 Pipeline for years. We have viewed it as a new geopolitical tool for Putin to undermine Ukraine and divide Europe. Germany acknowledges the international community's concerns, hence German delays in moving the project forward.

It would be a powerful demonstration of German leadership for Chancellor Scholz to declare firmly and simply that Russian escalation in Europe will result in the termination—the termination—of Nord Stream 2—not another pause, the end of the pipeline, period.

Likewise, it would send an important message if Chancellor Scholz commits, like other NATO allies have done and like his own predecessor's national security advisor just recommended, that Germany will help Ukraine with legitimate military capabilities so that it can better defend itself against aggression.

So, in conclusion, Germany has been an important pillar in NATO and a strong ally of the United States literally for decades. We welcome the new Chancellor to American soil. The time is now—now—for Germany to stand up and protect the peace and defend the stable Europe that modern Germany itself has helped construct and from which it has greatly benefited.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

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Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, if you have any memory of the Soviet Union, you can remember that when Moscow was in its ascendancy in that region of the world, their plan included a revision of history. They rewrote chapters of history to make themselves look stronger and better and smarter and more powerful than they ever were.

And we used to mock that in the West and say: Don't they know that history speaks for itself? The facts speak for themselves. They did it time and again.

It was usually the product of authoritarian rule, where one man—strongman—would want his version of history to be written in the books and taught to the children.

Last week, we saw an exercise in Soviet revisionism in, of all places, Salt Lake City, UT. The Republican National Committee met in Salt Lake City, UT, for a national conference, and representatives came from all over the United States.

What they did to start that conference off was to censure two Republican House Members, LIZ CHENEY and ADAM KINZINGER from Illinois. To me, it was the lowest of low tactics to attack these two individuals who are making a bipartisan effort with the January 6, 2021, House committee to