

default crisis. Instead, avoid default using the same approach we did under President Trump twice and under President Biden once: Democrats and Republicans, working together, without preconditions. If Republicans agree to that, there will be no default.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Mr. President, now on GOP extremism and our FBI resolution, today, the Governor of Florida is meeting with a group of hard-right GOP extremists here in DC. As the Governor comes to the Nation's Capital, the ink is still not dry on the bill he signed a few days ago banning practically all abortions in Florida after just 6 weeks.

The Florida law is not the only one. Over a dozen States in the country now have near total bans on abortions. Idaho, for instance, is now the first State to explicitly outlaw out-of-State travel for abortions. That is sinister.

Freedom of choice is not the only victim of GOP radicalism. Over 11,000 Americans have now died from gun violence in the United States this year in school shootings, birthday parties, and New Year celebrations. But what are Republicans doing in response? They pose with machine guns on their Christmas cards. They gin up the NRA. They even expel State representatives who dare speak out against GOP inaction, as the Tennessee State House did to two members of color earlier this month.

Republican radicalism is even taking aim at law enforcement. A few weeks ago, President Trump called for cutting funding to the Department of Justice and the FBI because of personal grievances, and, to date, we have still yet to hear Speaker MCCARTHY or any Republican leader speak up against this dangerous idea.

But there is good news. The Members of this Chamber will have a chance to do the right thing and stand up for Federal law enforcement later this week. That is because, today, I will be introducing a resolution denouncing the former President's call to cut funding to our Federal law enforcement, and Senators will have to choose between standing with President Trump and his dangerous, dangerous view that we ought to cut funding for law enforcement and the FBI or will they stand with public servants to keep America safe? Again, where will they stand—with the former President's dangerous call to cut funding to Federal law enforcement or with the American people who want to be safe?

The FBI and DOJ do critical work to protect our communities against drug trafficking, gun violence, terrorism, and so much more. We just, yesterday, in New York saw an example where Federal law enforcement arrested two individuals for running a secret, unauthorized Chinese police station right in the middle of Lower Manhattan.

Do Republicans agree with President Trump that funding for Federal law enforcement who guard against terrorism and CCP encroachment should be cut

or even eliminated? Again, this is the kind of resolution that should pass unanimously.

If Senate Republicans block this provision, they will be telling the American people that the GOP has been utterly consumed by extremism, where not women, not schools, not even Federal law enforcement are safe.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mr. President, now on Yom HaShoah and the campaign against anti-Semitism lifted by one patriotic American, today is Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day.

Each year on this day, we are called to do something that sounds simple: "remember"—in Hebrew, "zakar." But it is much more than mere recollection. It is a moral charge to ensure the Holocaust never, never fades from memory.

Two months ago, on my first codel as majority leader, I visited Yad Vashem in Jerusalem and the Dachau concentration camp in Germany. The trip was deeply personal for me because many of my ancestors were wiped out by the Nazis in western Ukraine.

Yom HaShoah is especially important today in the face of the pernicious, poisonous, and dangerous rise of anti-Semitism in our society. I commend the many dedicated individuals and organizations actively working to rekindle the light of tolerance that has kept anti-Semitism at bay. One important effort is done by Robert Kraft's Foundation to Combat Antisemitism, which recently launched its Stand Up to Jewish Hate campaign to raise awareness about the rise of anti-Semitism in America.

The Stand Up to Jewish Hate campaign is a powerful reminder that we must never allow anti-Semitism to flourish and that we all have a role to play in standing up against bigotry.

I want to thank Mr. Kraft's foundation for their essential work, and I ask unanimous consent to have printed into the RECORD at this point the transcript of one of his videos illustrating the efforts of the Stand Up to Jewish Hate campaign.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

TRANSCRIPT OF DIGITAL AD FROM STAND UP TO JEWISH HATE AND THE FOUNDATION TO COMBAT ANTISEMITISM

VISUAL ON SCREEN:

Black backdrop throughout the ad. A small blue square appears on the right side of the screen, representing the size of the population of Jewish Americans in the US.

TEXT ON SCREEN:

"Did you notice this blue square on your screen? Maybe you did. Maybe you didn't."

VISUAL ON SCREEN:

Blue square moves closer to the center of the screen.

TEXT ON SCREEN:

"But that's the point. The size of this square is 2.4% of your screen."

VISUAL ON SCREEN:

Blue square moves even closer to the center of the screen.

TEXT ON SCREEN:

"The same size of the Jewish population of in the US."

VISUAL ON SCREEN:

Blue square moves to the very center of the screen and enlarges to take up nearly half the screen.

TEXT ON SCREEN:

"Yet Jews are on the receiving end of 55% of all religious crimes"

VISUAL ON SCREEN:

Photographs of anti-Semitic messages and crimes appear on screen, including a poster reading "Wicked Jew Devils," "Hitler was right", and the image of graffiti of a swastika.

Headlines appear on screen: "NYPD Warns about Possible Anti-Semitic protests." "Law enforcement warns of Potential Neo-Nazi 'Day of Hate'"

On screen appear photos of families grieving and police activity.

TEXT ON SCREEN:

"Show them your support. And share this blue square"

VISUAL ON SCREEN:

The Blue Square reappears next to the image of a hashtag.

Ten images of appear on screen showing supporters posting social media messages in support of Jewish Americans, using the hashtag and blue square

TEXT ON SCREEN:

"Let the Jewish community know they are not fighting alone. Anymore"

VISUAL ON SCREEN:

Blue square returns to the center, with a hashtag and final message

TEXT ON SCREEN:

Stand up to Jewish hate. StandUpToJewishHate.org. Paid for by the Foundation to Combat Anti-Semitism inc.

Mr. SCHUMER. On this solemn day—on this solemn day—we owe it to the survivors, their families, and the world to continue bearing witness to the tragic legacy of the Holocaust and keep repeating our conviction and our prayer: Never again.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. President, on Senate business, it is a busy week here in the Senate. We are starting with a very important bill that is going to help so many communities, particularly rural and suburban communities in America, and that is the Fire Grants and Safety Act, which I expect to pass the Senate this week.

The overwhelmingly bipartisan legislation would ensure that two important Federal grant programs that support our firefighters—SAFER and AFG—remain available. We had a 96-to-nothing vote last month to move forward with the fire grants legislation, and I hope it portends swift action this week.

And on the nominations front, we are continuing to move ahead. On Thursday, the HELP Committee will hold a confirmation hearing for President Biden's nomination for Secretary of Labor, Julie Su. Julie Su is an outstanding nominee who will be a strong fighter for America's workers, and we should confirm her.

And for the information of all Senators, tomorrow, Members will receive a classified briefing from the administration on the leaked classified U.S. documents on the war in Ukraine.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE

Mr. President, one final note on the IRS, today is Tax Day, and thanks to the additional resources provided to

the IRS in the Inflation Reduction Act, this tax-filing season has been much smoother for taxpayers.

Five thousand additional customer service agents were hired and call waiting times were reduced by 85 percent. There have been legitimate complaints across the country that when you call the IRS because you need help, it takes forever for them to answer. To reduce those by 85 percent because of the IRA bill that we just passed last summer is a very good thing. Thanks to our work, this party's work—it was opposed by every Republican—the IRA now has the resources to modernize the Agency and cut wait times, saving people heartache and making sure middle-class families get the credits they deserve. The Agency will do this while cracking down on tax enforcement for the uber-wealthy and biggest corporations.

I want to thank my colleagues for their work.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I want to address an extremely unusual request that our Democratic colleagues have made with respect to the Judiciary Committee.

Our dear friend Senator FEINSTEIN is a titanic figure and a stateswoman. Elaine and I have been honored to count the Senator and her late husband Dick as close, personal friends for many, many years. We miss our colleague. We wish her the very best for a speedy recovery and a smooth return.

In the meantime, our colleague's temporary absence has really not ground the Judiciary Committee to a halt. So far this Congress, the committee has reported out 40 judicial nominees—listen to this—more than half of them—more than half of them—on a bipartisan basis.

Let me say that again. More than two dozen judicial nominees have been reported out this Congress on bipartisan votes.

There are more than a dozen article III judges already waiting on the Executive Calendar, and a whole bunch of the nominees currently in committee are likely to receive bipartisan support as well. So the administration does not face any obstacle to moving nominees who are remotely qualified for the job. People who are mainstream and qualified have a path forward.

Yet some of the same far-left voices who have attacked Senator FEINSTEIN in the past are now suggesting that the Senate move her off the Judiciary Committee indefinitely—indefinitely. The stated reason, the supposed emergency, is that Senate Democrats are unable to push through the small fraction of their nominees who are so extreme—so extreme—and so unqualified that they cannot win a single Republican vote in Committee.

Let me say that again. The far left wants the full Senate to move a Sen-

ator off a committee so they can ram through a small sliver of their nominees who are especially extreme or especially unqualified.

There are four main nominees whom our Democratic colleagues are currently unable to move. One of them threatened an underage abuse victim while representing her prep school. One of them didn't know what article II of the Constitution says. One of them didn't know what a Brady motion is. The fourth one argued that the sex offender registry—listen to this—does not help keep children safe. Those are the four they are having a hard time moving. They are not on track to get bipartisan support.

It is purely the Democrats' political choice to hold relatively more reasonable nominees hostage so the unqualified ones can move in a pack. So even though they could move a number of less controversial nominees right now—right now—they want to sideline Senator FEINSTEIN so they can ram through the worst four as well.

I understand our Judiciary Committee colleagues report they cannot find a single past example where their committee let a Member be temporarily replaced in this fashion that some Democrats are advocating.

So let's be clear. Senate Republicans will not take part in sidelining a temporarily absent colleague off a committee just so Democrats can force through their very worst nominees.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican whip.

TAX DAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today is Tax Day, and I think it is probably fair to say it is not most Americans' most favorite day. No one enjoys writing a check to the IRS or contemplating just how much of his or her yearly earnings goes to the Federal Government, especially when the Federal Government doesn't always make the best use of taxpayer dollars.

If you have a question for the IRS, things can get even more grim. The IRS does not exactly have a reputation for excellent customer service. During fiscal year 2021, the Agency answered just 11 percent of the 282 million calls it received—11 percent. That means that 250 million taxpayer calls went unanswered—250 million. And 2022 was barely better. During fiscal year 2022, 87 percent of taxpayer calls—87 percent—went unanswered. Any business with a customer service record like that would soon be out of business.

That is not even the worst of it. On top of its customer service problems, the IRS has a troubling record of mishandling taxpayer data. Everyone remembers the infamous targeting of conservative groups for extra scrutiny under the Obama IRS. Then there was the 2021 leak or hack of confidential taxpayer information that ended up in the hands of the left-leaning organization ProPublica and was used to advance a partisan agenda. Last September, the IRS reported that it had

inadvertently posted confidential taxpayer data for around 120,000 individuals on its website. Then, after fixing its mistake, the IRS inadvertently made much of that same information public again just 2 months later.

It is no surprise that interacting with the IRS doesn't exactly inspire confidence. Given the IRS's record, you would think everyone could agree the Agency is ripe for reform. Democrats, however, apparently thought the Agency was simply ripe for more funding, a lot more funding—funding targeted not toward reforming taxpayer services but overwhelmingly toward increasing tax enforcement.

The so-called Inflation Reduction Act Democrats passed last August contained a staggering \$80 billion for the IRS. Just 4 percent of that funding—4 percent out of \$80 billion—was earmarked for improving taxpayer services. More than half, roughly \$46 billion, was earmarked for increased audits and other tax collection efforts.

But that is not all. President Biden is now proposing to boost the IRS's budget by 15 percent next year—over and above the massive funding boost the IRS already received from the Inflation Reduction Act. And it doesn't even end there. The President's budget would also provide a separate and additional \$29 billion to the IRS for enforcement—again, in addition to the \$46 billion for enforcement the IRS received last August.

I don't need to tell anyone that President Biden's campaign to flood the IRS with unprecedented funding is motivated not by a desire to improve the Agency's performance but by a need to find money to help offset some of the cost of Democrats' Green New Deal schemes and other big-government spending.

There is reason to be concerned about where the President will be getting all this money he expects to collect. The IRS has pledged not to use its increased funding to raise audit rates on small businesses and households making under \$400,000 a year "relative to historic levels." But not only is it not clear what the Agency means by "historic levels," there is also nothing to prevent the Biden IRS from going back on that commitment—if, for example, the President finds he can't pay for his Green New Deal schemes just by increasing audits of higher earning taxpayers.

Suddenly and dramatically increasing the size of any government Agency is a cause for concern. Are there plans in place to make sure the money is used wisely, efficiently? Can the Agency in question handle such a swift expansion? These are serious questions no matter what Agency we are talking about, but these questions are particularly relevant when the Agency in question—in this case, the IRS—is already doing a poor job of handling its basic responsibilities.

Any funding infusion like the \$80 billion the IRS received in August should