

option when you have a divided government. Unconstitutionally acting without Congress is also not an option. There is exactly one way—just one way—to prevent a pointless, avoidable crisis: the bipartisan negotiation that Speaker MCCARTHY has been calling for since way back in February.

Seven of the last 10 debt limit hikes came with a bipartisan deal on spending levels. Let me just say that again. Seven of the last 10 debt limit hikes came with a bipartisan deal on spending levels.

Just 4 years ago, we had today's situation in reverse. What happened? Secretary Mnuchin was sent to negotiate with Speaker PELOSI. They struck a caps deal, and the debt limit was addressed. It was exactly the situation we have now, in reverse.

Yesterday's meeting was an overdue first step. I hope President Biden has begun to wake up. Even rank-and-file Democrats in the House and Senate say the President's refusal to negotiate has been untenable.

The Democrats can't waste any more time. The White House has to stop sleepwalking towards default and reach a spending deal with the Speaker.

CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT VOTES

Mr. President, now on another matter, tomorrow, Senate Republicans will create two more opportunities to hit the brakes on runaway regulation. Thanks to the efforts of the junior Senator for Wyoming and the junior Senator for Oklahoma, we will consider two more resolutions under the Congressional Review Act.

Senator MULLIN's resolution targets a decision by the Fish and Wildlife Service to "uplist"—"uplist"—a creature called the northern long-eared bat as an endangered species. This designation would have massive repercussions for landowners, businesses, and infrastructure projects across as many as 37 of our 50 States. More than 3,000 infrastructure and development projects are currently in limbo—3,000 infrastructure and development projects currently in limbo—waiting for the extra environmental consultations that the Endangered Species Act will require if this case of uplisting is allowed to stand.

And get this: The Biden administration itself admits that the recent declines in the population of this particular bat are due mostly to fungal disease, not human development.

I don't care how long this bat's ears are—it can't get veto power over 37 State economies. Senator MULLIN's resolution will prevent this absurdity.

The second resolution, sponsored by Senator LUMMIS, targets the Biden administration's attempt to make a sweeping change to the very definition of the word "habitat" in Federal law. The last Republican administration adopted a clear and explicit legal definition which gave builders, landowners, and small businesses some certainty and peace of mind, but President Biden has let the far-left throw all of that into chaos. Now American families and

businesses could be facing decreased property values and predatory legal challenges if they wind up on the wrong side of Democrats' moving the goalpost. Senator LUMMIS's resolution will reintroduce certainty and common sense.

I would urge every Senator to support both measures later this week.

REMEMBERING DENNY CRUM

Now, Mr. President, on one entirely different matter, yesterday the University of Louisville's legendary men's basketball coach, Denny Crum, passed away at his home.

For 30 years, Coach Crum helmed my alma mater's basketball squad and led the Cardinals to unprecedented success. Denny revolutionized the program and transformed the team into a spectacle all Kentuckians were eager to tune in to. He was a true legend.

Unique among coaches at the time, Denny sought to play the toughest teams in the country early in the season, knowing that those hard-fought matchups would prepare the Cards better than anything else for post-season success. That bold playbook earned the coach nicknames like "Cool Hand Luke" and, for always keeping his eye on the big dance, "Mr. March."

Thanks largely to his smart strategizing, Coach Crum led the Cardinals to two national championships and six NCAA Final Four appearances, earning Denny an induction into the College Basketball Hall of Fame. He brought national recognition to our school and city and forged a deep connection with the UofL community through his calm leadership both on and off the court.

Even after retiring, Coach Crum continued to serve as an ambassador for the university, raising money to support scholarships, athletics, and academics.

Denny was a great coach, a great friend, and more than anything, a great man. Elaine and I send our deepest condolences to Denny's wife Susan and to his family, friends, and fans as they mourn the loss of Denny Crum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, they say that baseball is the great American sport, and I am a fan. I love watching baseball games, especially the Cubs and the Cards and the White Sox in the region where I grew up. But possibly one of the greatest moments remembered in baseball actually didn't occur during a game; it occurred in 1939 when a baseball player by the name of Lou Gehrig of the New York Yankees gave a famous farewell speech at Yankee Stadium.

Gehrig was an amazing baseball player. Naturally, he is in the Baseball Hall of Fame. He was indestructible. His nickname was the "Iron Horse"—so durable, so dependable. He was always there.

In April of that year, 1939, he had removed himself from the game, saying

he couldn't play any longer. Then, just a few weeks later, he made his famous farewell speech at Yankee Stadium. He was sick and suffering from a rare disease, known as ALS, but he stood up there in front of that microphone. We can still remember it in our mind's eye—that black and white film—when he announced he was the luckiest man on Earth. He died 2 years later from ALS.

The disease, because of his prominence and the public sentiment and profile, became known forever as Lou Gehrig's disease. It is still with us. It still is as virulent and deadly as it was in his time.

I have come to know a number of people who have suffered from that disease.

Recently, just a few months ago, my dear friend Gary LaPaille, who was the State chairman of the Illinois Democratic Party when I ran for the U.S. Senate and who was a strong supporter, passed away from ALS.

A great friend of mine, Bill Brandt, who lives in the suburbs of Chicago, is now battling it.

This morning, I had a visit in my office from Brian Wallach. Brian Wallach and his wife Sandra have been dealing with the diagnosis of more than 6 years ago, of ALS. Brian is still with us, thank goodness, because of his determination and the determination of his family.

Brian is an unusual and extraordinary person. He was working in the Obama White House with Sandra when they decided to marry. He is an exceptional, talented individual, as is his wife Sandra, who served as my communications director for many years.

When the diagnosis was handed down, it was a few days before they brought home their baby from the hospital—a little girl—6 years ago, but they were determined that Brian was going to see as much of her life as possible even though he had been diagnosed with ALS. So they created an organization known as I AM ALS and set out with an agenda to beat the disease.

Brian has been an amazing fighter in dealing with that disease and in trying to find ways to cure himself but, basically, to cure others who might be diagnosed in the years to come. Their focus is on many different areas, but primarily it is on medical research. What they have achieved when it comes to medical research—just the two of them with their organization and many supporters across the United States—is nothing short of remarkable. For example, after a 5-year period in which no new ALS drugs were approved, the FDA approved two new drugs over the past year, and there is another one that I understand was announced just a few days ago. They were pushing for research to find ways to treat ALS successfully.

The reason I tell that story—and the fact that Brian was just in my office is fresh in my mind—is I hear the debate on the floor of the U.S. Senate about

our Federal budget. Part of our Federal budget—an important part of our Federal budget—is the budget for the National Institutes of Health. This is the premier medical research Agency in the world—in the world. I am proud of the fact that it is in the United States and that every day it is responsible for dramatic breakthroughs against diseases and illnesses all across the spectrum and all across the United States and benefits to the world. Their discovery of new drugs for ALS is just one indication of the good work that they do.

For instance, Collins was the head of the NIH for many years under Presidents of both political parties. He is so good—and I am glad he is still working with the Biden administration—he is so good that Presidents—conservative, moderate, liberal; all of them—wanted Francis Collins to head up the National Institutes of Health, which he did remarkably. He was part of the team that discovered the human genome, which literally changed overnight the way we approach medicine in the United States and around the world.

I met with Dr. Collins a few years back and said: I would like to help you at the NIH. I think your work is one of the most important assignments in the Federal Government. What can I do?

He said: Senator, if you could give me 5 percent real growth in NIH budgeting each year, my researchers will continue their inspiring work to find cures and find new drugs that will make a difference in the lives of millions of people.

I set out to do that with the cooperation and help of Roy Blunt, a Republican; with Lamar Alexander, a Republican; and with PATTY MURRAY, who has just been our North Star when it comes to medical research.

We said: Let's try to achieve the goal of 5 percent real growth each year with the National Institutes of Health. We were lucky in the last 10 years to do it six or seven times. The question is, Will we be able to do it in next year's budget?

Sadly, the budget proposed by the Republicans in the House of Representatives devastates the National Institutes of Health's budget—at least a 20- to 25-percent cut in the amount of money on medical research. What impact does that have? Well, I can tell you it has a direct impact on lessening the number of grants that are awarded each year for medical research, but, secondarily, it sends a message to the researchers who are working so hard across the United States that they can't depend on us in Congress to fund their needed research in the years to come. That will discourage some, and some will walk away from a lot of research that could be very promising. And to do that in the name of helping America is just plain foolish. In fact, it is offensive.

I would like to say to Speaker MCCARTHY and those who are endorsing his budget: Stop for a minute and con-

sider the impact of what you are doing. There are people and families all across America who are counting on medical research for someone they love, and that research is coming through in remarkable ways, unprecedented around the world.

To think that we would cut the medical research budget of the United States by 25 percent and to argue that that is in the best interest of our country is madness, and it is political selfishness.

I would just plead with my friends on the other side of the aisle: At the end of this debate on the budget, don't let medical research be one of the casualties.

There are so many important areas I can add to that list of things that are critical for the future of America, but I wanted to speak to medical research this morning because Brian Wallach was a visitor in my office, and he reminded me that the determination of Brian and his wife Sandra and many people just like them to push for medical research is literally making a difference so that Lou Gehrig's disease will one day be a disease of the past that we will have conquered.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. President, for more than 35 years, Congress has failed to fix the immigration laws of America, and this week that failure is going to be on full display on the news every night. That is because tomorrow the COVID-19 emergency measure known as title 42 comes to an end.

This program was first created by President Trump during the earliest days of the coronavirus epidemic, and for the past 3 years, title 42 has done nothing to address the challenges at our border. It has simply shut the border down and turned away families seeking refuge in America.

Title 42 is not only inhumane, it is ineffective. By turning our back on asylum seekers and leaving Federal and local officials unequipped to address this crisis, we have only created more chaos and misery at our border. At this moment, there are thousands of families who have fled unimaginable horror and have nowhere else to go. And title 42 certainly hasn't made our border more secure; it has only postponed the inevitable.

Truthfully, there is only one group of people who has benefited from title 42. I am sorry to say they are the transnational criminal organizations. How can that be? It is because for the past 3 years, title 42 has shut down nearly any ability for one to seek asylum in America. That means asylum seekers have had no other option than to seek illegal pathways into the country. So they turn to smugglers, human traffickers, who charge them thousands of dollars to take them on dangerous journeys across the border. And what happens when these asylum seekers are caught and sent back to Mexico instead of being processed under our Nation's immigration laws? The cycle

repeats itself again and again and again. These smugglers can multiply their profits by taking asylum seekers across the border over and over again.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, the illicit smuggling enterprise has become a multibillion-dollar operation. One reason this enterprise is raking in the profits is that lawmakers in Congress, right here in the Senate, have refused to reform our immigration laws and instead have relied on Executive actions like title 42.

Now, it is worth noting that the Biden administration is at this moment doing everything it can to create an orderly process at our southern border, with the limited tools of our current immigration law. With the lifting of title 42 in just a matter of hours, we will likely see a significant increase in migrants seeking asylum. It goes to show that title 42 has failed to reduce the demand for those seeking entry into America. Really, that demand has been piling up for 3 years. So to help to manage this expected increase in border crossings, the Biden administration is deploying every resource at its disposal. They have increased the capacity to process asylum seekers, expanded access to lawful pathways into the United States, and partnered with other countries, like Colombia and Guatemala, to create new processing centers away from the southern border.

While all of these steps are important, there is no action by the President alone that can address the fundamental problem we face. Our outdated immigration system is collapsing under the weight of modern-day challenges, and the only way to change it is by enacting comprehensive immigration reform. If it seems like it is impossible, it is not.

Last week, the MAGA majority in the House introduced a proposal they claim is a solution, but really it just codifies the failures of title 42. Their bill provides no new legal pathways for entering into this country, erases nearly all humanitarian protection for families seeking asylum, and makes the situation at the border even worse.

The fact is, the Republicans can try and build a border wall as high as they like, but it will not change the reality on the ground. And here is the reality: We in this world are in the midst of the worst refugee crisis in history. From Ukraine to Venezuela, 100 million people around the world have been displaced from their homes by war, by hunger, by political persecution, by climate change; and one in five of these refugees reside in the Western Hemisphere.

Simply ignoring this global humanitarian crisis solves nothing, and shutting down our border won't deter these families from still trying to find refuge in America. It will force them to extremely dangerous alternatives, like smugglers and cartel members who are raking in billions because of our public policy failures.