

measure of fiscal responsibility and integrity. It is simply unsustainable to have a \$31 trillion debt and say: Well, we want to raise our credit card limit, but we don't want to have an adult conversation about how we are going to pay the money back. That simply is not the way things work in the real world, and it shouldn't be the way things work here in Congress.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). The Senator from Tennessee.

ONLINE SAFETY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, the dangers children encounter when they go online have increased exponentially since social media platforms took over our lives. Just a few years ago, cyber bullying dominated our conversations about kids and the virtual world. Now those cyber bullies are joined by drug dealers, sex traffickers, pedophiles, and influencers who glorify mental illness, eating disorders, and self-harm.

Last week, the Biden administration decided to pay some attention to this pressing issue. While I am glad to see the White House get behind us on this issue, I would be remiss if I didn't point out that they are far behind.

Over the past 2½ years, the Senate has dedicated an incredible amount of time and energy to investigating the harm these threats have inflicted on young people. When Senator BLUMENTHAL and I led the Commerce Committee's Consumer Protection Subcommittee, we hosted five separate hearings investigating the inherent dangers children encounter online. The Judiciary Committee hosted a sixth this past February. During those hearings, we produced more than 500 pages of testimony. This is just the testimony from witnesses who have come before us in those hearings.

In addition to this testimony, we have collected hundreds more pages of evidence illustrating the devastating impact Big Tech has had on the lives of children and teens. We also found proof that these online companies knew they had lost control of their platforms, and still, even knowing it, still they made the affirmative choice to not protect their users. They did this knowing children were at risk.

On top of that are the additional hours we spent talking to parents who tried to protect their children. We also independently confirmed just how easy it is for predators to target young people with dangerous content.

I would implore my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to confront what is in these pages of testimony. Familiarize yourself with what we heard during these hearings and in conversations—heartbreaking conversations—with families and stakeholders. As you do, remember that the examples we discussed in committee weren't just available for children to access; in many cases, there was no hiding from it, which seems unbelievable until you actually speak to young people about

how pervasive this harmful content and many times illegal content is. This is why Senator BLUMENTHAL and I spent time talking to kids and teens about their firsthand experiences with dangerous content.

The Presiding Officer knows this issue well. He has worked on kids' online privacy. He did that when he was in the House, and he has done it in the Senate. So he knows the importance of the steps we have taken not to limit the conversation just to grownups but to talk to teens and children, and that is what we have done. No one has a better understanding of what is happening to teens online than teenagers.

So we invited them into the room and asked them: What can we do to be helpful?

What they told us that they needed was something that is more proactive and more enforceable than what the Biden administration has chosen to offer.

According to the White House's announcement, HHS and the Commerce Department will lead an interagency Task Force on Kids Online Health and Safety. Their job will be to identify harms to minors from online platforms and then develop voluntary guidance, policy recommendations, and a toolkit for industry.

That sounds awfully familiar, doesn't it? We have been doing that here in the Senate for more than 2 years. Yet the White House wants to start from scratch. What is the point in that? We know what the harms are. The harms have been articulated.

We also know that voluntary guidance will do nothing to make online platforms safer. We tried that kinder, gentler method, and it failed. It does not work. Social media platforms have proven to us that they are incapable of self-regulation. Why is that? Because, when our children are online, our children are the product. They are data mining our children. They are selling that data to the highest bidder.

The second item I want to highlight is a good development but one that will complement rather than replace work we have already done here in the Senate.

According to the White House's announcement, DHS and the Justice Department will work with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to create combined image repositories to help identify victims of online trafficking and sexual abuse. This is promising because it puts law enforcement on the frontlines. That is an important distinction, but this effort needs our support, which means staying the course on existing legislation to bolster both law enforcement and NCMEC's legal authorities.

On that front, this week, the Judiciary Committee will consider the REPORT Act. It is a piece of bipartisan legislation I sponsored with Senator OSSOFF that will require online companies and social media platforms to report known instances of child sex traf-

ficking or enticement on their platforms. It will also substantially increase the fines imposed for failure to report this abuse to NCMEC.

Importantly, the REPORT Act also includes another one of my bills, the END Child Exploitation Act, which requires online platforms to preserve reports to NCMEC's cyber tip line for a period of 1 year. By extending this retention period, we can ensure that law enforcement has enough time to access evidence and to prosecute these crimes.

This bill will also make it easier for NCMEC to transfer these cyber tip line reports to law enforcement, which will, in turn, help law enforcement prosecute cases faster and put more offenders behind bars—no more excuses.

You know, it is so interesting. I have talked to Tennesseans, and they thought this would already be the law—that these social media platforms would have to report these sex traffickers, these pedophiles, these drug dealers, these child sexual abuse images, and things that were online. They are surprised that they don't and that they don't take them down. So no more executives coming up here to the Hill to give us excuses for why they are not able to do this and complaining about how hard it is to tackle criminal perversion on their platforms—they need to get busy with this.

The policies laid out in the REPORT Act are critical to helping Silicon Valley and law enforcement stop predators. As I said, they ought to be the first ones to stand up and say: We have got some bad actors over here. We are going to take them down.

There should be bipartisan agreement on this. Everybody should say: Let's do this, and let's do it now.

I know I can't be the only person in this Chamber who is wondering why these big tech companies haven't kept their own promises to make the online world safer for kids and for teens.

The White House's plan for voluntary guidelines and toolkits gives these companies far too much credit. As I said, they have proven to us they are incapable of self-governance.

Why are they incapable? Because they need the eyeballs of our kids on their sites for longer stretches of time. That means the data is richer. That means they sell that data. They are putting profit before the safety of our children. Go talk to these parents who have lost their kids. Go listen to these teens who are recovering from social media addiction.

This is why, earlier this year, Senator BLUMENTHAL and I reintroduced the Kids Online Safety Act. It has 34 bipartisan cosponsors and the endorsement of more than 200 bipartisan organizations.

First, it would force platforms to give families the ability to protect minors' information, disable addictive product features, and opt out of algorithmic recommendations. Next, it would give parents the safeguards needed to protect their children's online experiences as well as to provide a

dedicated channel to report harmful behavior. Those are things that currently do not exist.

Most parents are shocked when they go onto these platforms, and when they are trying to report cyber bullying, they don't hear a word back from the platform or, maybe months later, they get an email that says: This content does not violate our community standards.

How disgusting.

Many of these parents know what is going on, and they are trying to help. They know what their kids are seeing, and they know predatory content. Content that promotes self-harm, suicide, eating disorders to minors will now, indeed, be a problem for these platforms to deal with when we pass the Kids Online Safety Act.

Parents are tired of the denial, the deflection, and the disrespect that is shown to them and their children by these social media platforms. Our kids deserve better than what these platforms and big tech companies are dish- ing out to them. They deserve protec- tion on these sites.

As the Presiding Officer well knows, there are things that are illegal in the physical space but that are allowed in the virtual space on these platforms, and these platforms do nothing—noth- ing—to take this down.

In addition to making it difficult for these social media platforms to skirt the provisions of KOSA, we are requir- ing in that legislation a requirement for an annual risk assessment and ac- cess to data sets we can use to access and assess safety threats to underage users. It is time to make certain that safety is there, that it is safety by de- fault, safety by design for our children.

Both the REPORT Act and the Kids Online Safety Act have earned the en- thusiastic support of bipartisan policy- makers, advocates, medical profes- sionals, tech experts, and families from across the country. It is time we pass this legislation.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF DARREL JAMES PAPILLION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Darrel James Papillion to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Lou- isiana. Born in Eunice, LA, Mr. Papil- lion received his B.A. from Louisiana State University and his J.D. from LSU's Paul M. Hebert Law Center. He then clerked for Associate Justice Catherine D. Kimball of the Louisiana Supreme Court before entering private practice at a law firm in New Orleans. In 1999, he moved to Baton Rouge, where he has maintained a busy trial and litigation practice. He has signif- icant experience in both State and Fed- eral court, and he has tried over 30 cases to verdict, including more than a dozen jury trials.

In addition to his legal practice, Mr. Papillion has served as a special pros- ecutor for the East Baton Rouge Dis- trict Attorney's Office, as a mediator, and as a court-appointed special mas-

ter in the Nineteenth Judicial District Court in East Baton Rouge Parish. He has also taught law school courses at both LSU and Southern University in Baton Rouge. And he has served as president of both the Baton Rouge Bar Association and the Louisiana State Bar Association. The American Bar As- sociation rated Mr. Papillion as unani- mously "well qualified" to serve on the Eastern District of Louisiana. He has the strong support of both of his home State Senators—Mr. CASSIDY and Mr. KENNEDY—as well as the Louisiana legal community.

During Mr. Papillion's confirmation hearing, Senator KENNEDY called him a "lawyer's lawyer." I couldn't agree more. Mr. Papillion has deep ties to Louisiana and decades of legal experi- ence that will serve him well on the Federal bench. I strongly support his nomination, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I suggest the ab- sence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I ask unanimous consent that the vote scheduled for 5:30 p.m. begin.

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

VOTE ON PAPILLION NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate ad- vise and consent to the Papillion nomi- nation?

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient sec- ond.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Pennsyl- vania (Mr. FETTERMAN), and the Sen- ator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRA- HAM), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 31, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 133 Ex.]

YEAS—59

Baldwin	Brown	Capito
Blumenthal	Cantwell	Cardin

Carper	Kennedy	Sanders
Casey	King	Schatz
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Schumer
Collins	Lujan	Shaheen
Coons	Manchin	Sinema
Cornyn	Markey	Smith
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Stabenow
Duckworth	Menendez	Tester
Durbin	Merkley	Van Hollen
Feinstein	Murphy	Vance
Gillibrand	Murray	Warnock
Hassan	Ossoff	Warren
Heinrich	Padilla	Welch
Hickenlooper	Peters	Whitehouse
Hirono	Reed	Wicker
Hyde-Smith	Romney	Wyden
Kaine	Rosen	Young
Kelly	Rounds	

NAYS—31

Blackburn	Grassley	Paul
Boozman	Hagerty	Ricketts
Braun	Hawley	Rubio
Britt	Hoeben	Schmitt
Budd	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Daines	Marshall	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Mullin	

NOT VOTING—10

Barrasso	Fetterman	Tillis
Bennet	Graham	Warner
Booker	Murkowski	
Cruz	Risch	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, sec- tion 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the noti- fication of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's in- tention to see that relevant informa- tion is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the re- porting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No.