

The solution to the problems we are seeing at the Supreme Court is a simple one. They need, like every other court in America, to adopt an enforceable code of ethics. Every Federal judge in the country is bound by a code of ethical conduct and a set of ethics rules and enforcement mechanisms, except for nine—the nine Justices of the Supreme Court who sit across the street from this building.

I first urged Chief Justice Roberts to adopt a binding, enforceable code of conduct over 11 years ago. Sadly, he didn't accept my suggestion, and he continues to ignore the issue today.

This is the John Roberts Court. It will go down in history as the John Roberts Court. He has the power and, I believe, the moral obligation to straighten up this mess and restore the integrity of this court.

When the Court reconvenes in October, there is a tradition for someone to announce: Oyez, oyez, oyez. This honorable Court—how can they call it an honorable Court in light of these disclosures?

I honestly believe that, before they broke for this vacation period, Justice Roberts would announce reforms that really count and finally start to restore the integrity and reputation of the Court, but so far, nothing.

Next week, the Senate Judiciary Committee, which I chair, will vote on the Supreme Court Ethics, Recusal, and Transparency Act. This bill, introduced by Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island will require the Supreme Court to adopt an enforceable code of conduct, and it will also add new recusal and transparency requirements under Federal law.

The legislation does not distinguish between Justices appointed by a Democratic President or a Republican President. It requires a code of conduct enforceable against all Justices.

I was disappointed to learn today that one of the Republican leaders has publicly come out in opposition to any enforceable code of ethics established by the Judiciary Committee on the U.S. Supreme Court.

What is he thinking?

We live by those standards of disclosure and limitation and enforcement of ethics. Despite our unpopularity in many public opinion polls, think about if this Congress lived by the same standard or lack of standards as the U.S. Supreme Court. By making sure the highest Court in the land doesn't have the lowest ethical standards, our legislation would be the key first step in restoring confidence in the Supreme Court.

The markup will be next week. I sincerely hope that, before that time, Chief Justice Roberts will step up and accept the responsibility for his Supreme Court to establish credible standards of integrity.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

(The remarks of Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. CARPER pertaining

to the introduction of S. 2274 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. CARPER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The Senator from Nebraska.

CHINA

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, last week, we celebrated the birth of our Nation. The first Americans took long, dangerous journeys across the Atlantic Ocean in search of better lives, far away from a regime that stripped away their God-given rights and their freedoms all too often.

Our Founders fought a revolution against absolute power. They chafed against the control of the British Empire. Americans united against encroachments on liberty and emerged victorious, just as we have done many times since then from Great Britain to the Soviet Union.

As we look back on our history, we should consider our future as well. The United States faces a threat environment growing more dangerous by the day. Authoritarian adversaries, including China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea, are accelerating their efforts to chip away at global stability and undermine America's national security.

A couple of weeks ago, a radio host asked me an important question: What is the point of modernizing our nuclear deterrents? Don't we already have the capabilities we need to defend ourselves? And, if we build up a stronger arsenal of nuclear weapons, doesn't that just increase the risk of nuclear war?

My answer was related to the history I have just discussed: From the Revolutionary War to the world wars to the Cold War, Americans have prioritized a strong national defense and the tools we need to achieve that when we are faced with existential threats. The character of war changed after the advent of nuclear weapons. And during the Cold War, the United States recognized that we needed to have a strong nuclear deterrent to preserve the hard-fought peace that we had won. We worked overtime to ensure that our Commander in Chief had every option to deter and, if necessary, to fight back against threats.

We were successful. We deterred the Soviet Union from using its nuclear weapons destructively because its leaders knew we could hit back harder with a push of a button. It is comparable to a game of chess: You are never going to make a move that leaves your king threatened on all sides. If the Soviet Union had deployed a nuclear weapon, it would have quickly been surrounded on all sides by a retaliatory strike Moscow knew it might not survive.

A diverse and effective nuclear deterrent gives our country the ability to say: Checkmate. Not today. And it makes other nations think hard about what moves they might make. In other words, it deters authoritarian regimes from attacking the United States and attacking our allies.

During the Cold War, we prioritized the production of nuclear weapons and delivery systems because we recognized their essential role in deterring nuclear conflict. We must return to that mindset if we want to get ahead of today's looming national security challenges.

Our adversaries understand this. Earlier this year, the U.S. Strategic Command—STRATCOM—publicly confirmed that China possesses more intercontinental ballistic missile launchers than we do here in the United States. China is on track to triple—to triple—its nuclear arsenal by 2035. That is just a decade away. Stated plainly, one of the most ominous authoritarian regimes in modern history is building a nuclear force that is fundamentally altering global deterrence dynamics, and they are doing it at a pace faster than anyone imagined.

As our adversaries race to expand their nuclear arsenals, what are we doing here in our country? Well, since the fall of the Berlin Wall, our Nation has sidelined our nuclear enterprise. We have underinvested in the modernization of our nuclear triad.

That word "triad" refers to the three military fronts of land, sea, and air. The land-based leg of the triad is comprised of our intercontinental ballistic missile fleet. The sea-based leg of the triad refers to our ballistic missile submarines, and the air-based leg of the triad refers to our bomber fleet and certain fighter aircraft.

A full triad expands the number of options that our Commander in Chief has at his disposal. Each leg of that triad presents unique advantages. Military planners need diverse capabilities to ensure that our Nation can act decisively in any scenario. If we can strike from anywhere at any time, our adversaries will hesitate before taking aggressive action.

The problem is that we have been too slow to replace and upgrade those systems. As former STRATCOM Commander Admiral Richard testified before the Senate Armed Services Committee last year, we have "submarines [that were] built in the '80s and '90s, an air-launched cruise missile built in the '80s, intercontinental ballistic missiles built in the '70s, a bomber built in the '60s—part of our nuclear command and control that predates the internet, and a nuclear weapons complex that dates back to the Manhattan Project."

Our nuclear deterrent only serves to deter our adversaries so that no one will ever use a nuclear weapon if that deterrent that we have is safe, reliable, and effective. To ensure it remains so in the future, it must be modernized. Underinvesting is a huge mistake, and we need to tip the scales back in our favor by bringing our systems rapidly into the 21st century. The good news is that there is big bipartisan support for modernization.

I am the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee's Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, and

our subcommittee overseas STRATCOM, which is headquartered in my home State of Nebraska. STRATCOM does indispensable work at the helm of our Nation's strategic nuclear deterrence.

Over the last 10 years, I have worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle so that we can get key modernization provisions into the annual National Defense Authorization Act. We have continued this vital support in the fiscal year 2024 NDAA, which the Senate will consider this month.

This year, I have also fought to keep the Sea-Launched Cruise Missile Program—or SLCM—fully funded by the NDAA.

In the Strategic Forces Subcommittee, where we have held multiple hearings and briefings, classified and unclassified, with senior military and civilian leaders as well as a number of outside experts, we concluded—again, on a bipartisan basis—that the Biden administration's attempts to cancel the SLCM Program would make our nuclear deterrent less effective in the 2030s and beyond. So we have included a provision in the bill to create a program of record for SLCM. This will prevent the premature cancellation of the program without future congressional consent.

I also fought to secure provisions that would support the Sentinel Program, which will replace our aging ICBMs across the country. This program is the most significant and complex weapons system in recent U.S. history, and it will cover an aggregated land area almost as large as the State of South Carolina.

Both Chambers of Congress are considering their versions of the NDAA this month. I am proud of the work that my colleagues and I have accomplished with this legislative package that is coming to the floor. I urge my fellow lawmakers as well as the President to support the vital measures that we have included in this bill. I will continue to support modernization efforts, and I am confident that we will produce a strong final NDAA to send to President Biden's desk.

But our work in the Senate isn't done when the NDAA passes. We still have to back our defense priorities up with real dollars through the appropriations process. I am a member of the Appropriations Committee, as is the Presiding Officer, and I know that we are committed to working together to be able to allocate all the funds that are necessary so that we can maintain a strong national defense.

The world has changed since the fall of the Berlin Wall, and we are now, for the first time in history, facing two peer adversaries with significant nuclear arsenals. Now is not the time to shortchange our national security. It is a time for us to work together to strengthen our national security. This means that President Biden needs to cooperate with Congress so that we can get our NDAA passed.

America was born by uniting in defiance of outside threats, and we have done it many times since then. I am hopeful that we will live up to our history as new challenges loom.

As a Member of Congress, I will continue working with colleagues from across the aisle to strengthen our national security. For the sake of our safety, our legacy, and our freedom, I urge my fellow Members and the President himself to do the same.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to use several props during my remarks.

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

TRIBUTE TO SILAS JAMES HOGG

Mr. KENNEDY. Silas James Hogg. I want to introduce Silas to you, Madam President, to the American people and to my colleagues in the Senate.

I would love to be able to put his photograph up here because he is a fine-looking young man, but for privacy reasons, I have decided not to.

Silas and I go to the same church, so, in some ways, we have kind of grown up together. His mom and dad are Jeff and Shannon Hogg, two wonderful people, two great parents. Silas has a sister named Ellie Grace. Ellie Grace is splendid in her own right. Maybe someday I will come down to talk about Ellie Grace, but today I want to talk about Silas.

Silas is a rising eighth grader. He just finished the seventh grade. Next year, he is going to attend the Brighthouse Learning Academy.

In his spare time, he likes to play with his mom and dad and sister. He is very close to all three of them. He has a motorized bike that he likes to ride around his neighborhood. He likes to play LEGOs. He likes to play video games. He has three pets: two dogs and one cat. Toby and Milo are the pups. Kahn is the cat. Kahn probably rules the roost.

Silas, as I alluded to, is—I hope you are listening, Silas. Silas is whip-smart. He is kind. He is special in every way, and he is what cool looks like.

Why am I talking about Silas? I just want to thank him. Over the break, Silas gave me a present. It was heartfelt from him, I know, and it was heartfelt when I received it.

First, he gave it to me in this envelope. It was very safe. He stapled it together. He gave me a pen. Silas knows I am always losing pens. And he gave me—we are still talking about what it is, but it is a glass stone or crystal. We are in the process of researching it.

But, Silas, I can't tell you how much this meant to me and does mean to me, my new pen—we are not going to lose it; I am going to put it right here—and my new lucky stone.

You are special, Silas. You are special in many, many ways. And I want you to know, Silas, that I am bringing

back home to you—in thanks for your gift, I am going to give you a gift. I am going to give you a gift of the seal of the U.S. Senate.

Silas is one of Louisiana's best and brightest. He has challenges—gosh, we all do—but he rises above them every day.

Thank you, Silas.

NEW ORLEANS

Madam President, let me talk about another subject quickly, one of my cities, my city of New Orleans. It is iconic. The whole world knows it.

I have told this story before. I am going to tell it again because it illustrates my point.

My first job in government was with a reform Governor called Governor "Buddy" Roemer. That was at a time when Japan and its economy—it is still strong today, but it was rising high and looking good back in the late eighties.

Governor Roemer decided to take a trip to Japan to try to entice our Japanese friends to come invest in Louisiana. Governor Roemer came back, and he said: Kennedy, you will never believe what happened to me.

I said: Tell me about it, Governor.

He said: My first meeting, I was meeting with 50 Japanese businesspeople.

He said: I thought I would break the ice, so I asked all of them, "How many of you have been to Louisiana?"

Governor Roemer said three or four people raised their hands. So then he turned to this group of 50 Japanese businesspeople and said: OK. Second question, "How many of you have been to New Orleans?"

He said 25 people raised their hands.

My point, of course, is that New Orleans is special. It is special to the world. It is special to America. It is special to me. I used to live there. My son was raised there for a while. I met my wife there.

Every State and country in the world would love to have a New Orleans. We are 300 years old. We were founded in 1718. We are envied for our food, our music, our architecture, our diversity, our dialects, our merriment, our festivals, our celebration of life. People in New Orleans dance with the music on and without. It is a special city.

But my city, Madam President, has hit a rough patch. Crime is strangling a free people nowhere more than the city of New Orleans. I regret to say this, but it is safer to walk down the streets of Mogadishu than it is some of the streets in my city of New Orleans.

I know others are having a crime problem. It doesn't make me feel any bit better.

Last year, New Orleans was the murder capital of the world. We had 265 people murdered. That is double since 2019. And that doesn't include the burglaries and the carjackings and the break-ins and the thefts and the other crimes of violence, the rapes, the property crimes. Our 9-1-1 program is a mess.

We are trying to deal with this, but we are not just taking it lying down.