

blocking this lifesaving program is as shortsighted and nihilistic as siding with Vladimir Putin and failing to help Ukraine.

Just last week, the Bush Institute and a group of more than 30 retired Ambassadors and foreign policy leaders urged Congress to swiftly reauthorize PEPFAR.

They wrote:

Abandoning it abruptly now would send a bleak message, suggesting we are no longer able to set aside our politics for the betterment of democracies and the world.

With this, I agree completely. Right now, America's reputation on the global stage is being threatened by House Republicans' internal politics, but reauthorizing PEPFAR is common sense to reassure the world that Americans can push past partisanship and use our influence, resources, and power to save lives. Some things are simply beyond politics.

Former President Bush acknowledged this when he wrote in the *Washington Post* recently:

We are on the verge of ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic. To abandon our commitment now would forfeit two decades of unimaginable progress and raise further questions about the worth of America's word.

I couldn't agree more, and I call on my Republican friends to help reauthorize this historic, bipartisan, lifesaving effort without further delay.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Madam President, you see, bipartisan efforts are necessary to get meaningful things done in Washington. We accept that in the Senate. And right now, the most pressing item requiring a bipartisan effort is passing appropriations bills that finally fund the government for the next fiscal year. Government shutdowns should not be commonplace in Washington, and yet, under the other party's leadership, they have been.

Almost exactly a month ago, Congress narrowly avoided a government shutdown by passing a stopgap bill that funded the government at current levels for 45 days, until the middle of November. Forty-five days could have been enough for the two parties in the two Chambers to negotiate a plan, a compromise, but a few extreme Republicans got in the way.

Without a Speaker in the House of Representatives for more than 3 weeks, the House was unable to take action. The House was rendered useless in helping to create a plan to fund the government. And now, with only 18 days until the government's lights are turned off, time is running out. While the House was paralyzed and unable to govern, here in the Senate, we were diligently working across party lines to negotiate a funding package. For the past week, the Senate has been considering amendments on a package of three funding bills known as the minibus. The minibus provides funding for military construction as well as for the Departments of Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development.

And I worked with the Presiding Officer to ensure that the package includes important funding for the people, families, and communities of our State of Illinois. For example, it includes more than \$5 million for agriculture-related spending in our State, funding that will continue cutting-edge agricultural research in our State and send rural development dollars to small towns to make healthcare and emergency services more comprehensive in underserved areas. The package also earmarks more than \$16 million for military construction projects in Illinois, funding that will facilitate training and readiness for our men and women in uniform. It includes more than \$35 million in earmarks for community development and infrastructure projects to improve roads, transit, airports, and community centers.

This minibus will strengthen communities in Illinois and is being worked on, on a bipartisan basis. I am glad to support its passage, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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. SCHUMER. 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 MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I just got back from an important event at the White House where President Biden announced a first-ever Executive order regulating AI, artificial intelligence. I applaud the President for breaking new ground with this Executive order, and I told him that the Senate will work very closely with the White House to do more on AI through legislation.

Tomorrow, the Senate's bipartisan AI gang—Senators HEINRICH, ROUNDS, YOUNG, and myself—will meet with President Biden at the White House to talk about the next steps we can take to work together. While today's AI Executive order is a massive step forward, everyone agrees there is no substitute for congressional action. Congress must act, must take the next step to build upon, augment, and expand today's Executive order by the President, and we must do it through bipartisan legislation.

We must act with urgency but also with humility, balancing both innovation and commonsense safeguards because you can't do one without the other. We must act with urgency because other countries may take a lead on AI—and countries particularly with values we don't share. But we must act with humility because this is one of the hardest tasks Congress can undertake because AI is so complicated, so

far-reaching, and changing all the time.

On Wednesday morning, the Senate will bring some of the Nation's leading minds in labor, business, and tech to talk about AI's impact on America's workforce, as part of our third AI Insight Forum. And on Wednesday afternoon, we will hold our fourth AI Insight Forum to discuss areas where AI will have an especially high impact, including healthcare, financial services, and our justice system.

If the Senate's AI Insight Forums have made anything clear so far, it is that the government must be involved in AI, must be ready to invest significantly toward AI innovation, and that we don't have a lot of time. AI development is moving quickly. Adversaries like the Chinese Government are moving quickly. So Congress has to act quickly too. That is why I am encouraged that the Senate's efforts on AI so far have been both balanced and bipartisan.

We need a lot of voices at the table, not just AI developers, although they must be there, but critics worried about AI's potential harms and advocates from labor and civil rights and other areas. Everyone must have a hand in shaping the legislation.

But our AI efforts must also remain bipartisan. They have to be because the goal is to pass legislation, and that will only happen if both sides work together. So far, thankfully, bipartisanship is precisely what we have seen at the committee level, and through our bipartisan AI gang—which I am proud to be part of alongside Senators ROUNDS, YOUNG, and HEINRICH—we are making very good progress.

So, again, I applaud the President for today's first-ever AI Executive order and note that the Senate will build on today's announcement by working to get closer to passing bipartisan legislation. We cannot afford to wait.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Madam President, on the supplemental, tomorrow morning, the Senate Appropriations Committee will hear testimony from Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and Secretary of State Antony Blinken about why Congress must pass President Biden's supplemental request—with aid for Israel, Ukraine, the South Pacific, and humanitarian help for Gaza—and do so quickly.

Right now, America faces an unavoidable moment of truth. Democracy and freedom are under attack around the globe in ways we have not seen since the end of the Cold War. We must pass the President's supplemental as soon as we can, with bipartisan support, for a simple and important reason: It will make the world safer for the United States, our allies, and our democratic values.

In the Middle East, Hamas and its allies, like Iran and Hezbollah, seek nothing less than the total annihilation of Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East and the only Jewish

State on Earth. In Europe, Putin continues his onslaught against the Ukrainian people with the goal of not just subjugating Ukraine but reasserting Russia as a world power along the lines of the old Soviet Union. In the South Pacific, China's aggression continues to magnify, increasing military activities off the coast of Taiwan, ramming into Philippine Coast Guard ships, and having near misses with an American B-52 bomber over international airspace. That is what the Chinese Government is doing, and this is all in just the past few weeks.

And in Gaza we must ensure that humanitarian aid gets to civilians who need it urgently. This is one of the things that I pushed strongly for President Biden to include in his supplemental request.

All of these challenges share one thing in common: They directly impact—directly impact—America's national security, America's democratic values, and the international world order that has allowed democracy to take root. The way forward is exceptionally clear: We must pass the President's supplemental request, which has funding for Israel, Ukraine, and the South Pacific, while also providing critical humanitarian aid for Gaza.

America does not have the luxury of burying our head in the sand or leaving our friends to fend for themselves. If we want the world to remain a safe place for freedom, for democratic principles, and for America's prosperity, we must defend against those who are working hard to undermine us. So we need to pass this supplemental as soon as we can.

We need to work with our colleagues in the House to ensure all these forms of aid make it to the President's desk. We must not succumb to the false allures of isolationism that the hard right now professes, because the only thing that will achieve is to make America less safe.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Madam President, about what happened at Cornell, I am sickened and frightened by the news that has come out of Cornell University where, over the weekend, messages appeared on a noncampus online forum calling for violence—violence—against the school's Jewish community. The posts made specific references to a building on campus housing the Center for Jewish Living and called for violence toward Jewish students.

Cornell has decried this appalling act and has alerted the FBI. The incident targeting Cornell's Jewish community is utterly revolting, but, unfortunately, it was not an isolated occurrence. Across the country, on campuses and in public spaces, the ancient poison of anti-Semitism has found new life. The ADL reports that the incidents of anti-Semitism are up over 300 percent since Hamas's attack in Israel on October 7.

In cities ranging from L.A. to Indianapolis to New York—and, in fact, all

around the world—Jews are receiving death threats, vandalism, and public assaults for no other reason than because of who they are. In one instance reported by the ADL, a woman was punched in the face in Grand Central Terminal in New York. When she asked her assailant why he did that, he said: "You are Jewish."

Anti-Semitism is absolutely on the rise here in America, and we have an obligation—a strong obligation—to condemn this behavior whenever we see it, wherever we see it, and no matter who spreads it. Every single American—no matter his or her background, no matter their beliefs, no matter how they feel about the awful violence in the Middle East and its history—ought to condemn with full-throated clarity anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and all forms of racial and religious prejudice. We must condemn all forms of hate.

Nobody denies that people of good will can have disagreements about the conflict in the Middle East, but the redline is crossed when these disagreements lead to violence or threats of violence like what is happening, unfortunately, in too many communities around the country.

And no matter what our beliefs are, all of us must remain vigilant—absolutely vigilant—against critiques that quickly turn into threats of violence and outright anti-Semitism. Here in America, we must condemn anti-Semitism, always. We must condemn all forms of Islamophobia, always. We must fight all discrimination and preserve the values that make us American to begin with: that all people have dignity and a right to live securely always.

UNITED AUTO WORKERS

Madam President, finally, on the UAW, last Wednesday night, the United Auto Workers reached agreement with Ford Motor Company for better wages, better benefits, and stronger workplace protections. Last Saturday, the UAW reached a tentative deal with Stellantis, mirroring the agreement with Ford. And, today, it has been reported that the UAW has finally reached an agreement with GM, the last of the three automakers that the UAW was negotiating with.

Madam President, it is simple: When unions win, workers win, the middle class wins, America wins. These announcements are very good news not just for autoworkers but for all Americans who want better paying jobs and better working conditions.

Automakers have made staggering profits in recent years after workers made enormous sacrifices in the aftermath of the great recession. So now workers deserve those profits, and these agreements rebalance things in a fairer way, which had been unbalanced after 2008.

I am glad these tentative agreements have now been reached.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. 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.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, last Thursday, I traveled back to my home State of Texas but this time to the U.S.-Mexico border, along with Senator CRUZ—my colleague from Texas—as well as three of our non-Texas Senate colleagues. Senators BARRASSO, LEE, and RICKETTS joined us for a series of tours and meetings in the Rio Grande Valley, which is unlike any other place in America.

This has been one of many times that Senator CRUZ and I have welcomed our colleagues to the border because every time I hear people in Washington, DC, talk about the border, it is most likely something they have gleaned from movies or a novel that they have read somewhere. It is not based on reality.

And the truth is, the reality at the border has changed substantially from years ago when illegal immigration was primarily people coming to the United States to work and send money home. It has changed entirely to a global human smuggling enterprise that enriches the criminal organization to organize it, charging tens of thousands of dollars a head to people they smuggle into the United States. And if you come from special interest countries, like Iran, Syria, for example, you may have to pay tens of thousands of dollars, but you can still make your way in because of the broken border policies of the Biden administration, which I will talk about here in a moment.

It really is a shame that such a beautiful, vibrant region of our country that has benefited tremendously from the opportunities that come from living along an international border has been damaged and hurt in such an unfortunate way by the flood of humanity and drugs coming across.

Legitimate trade and travel have shaped the unique culture of our border and serve as a boon not just to local economies but to the entire American economy. But like so many other areas along the U.S.-Mexico border, this region has become overwhelmed by the weight of the current border crisis.

Last month alone, Border Patrol's Rio Grande Valley Sector—just one of many sectors of the Border Patrol—logged more than 45,000 border crossings. In the last year, nearly 340,000 migrants have crossed the Rio Grande Valley Sector, and, overwhelmingly, the Biden administration has simply just released them into the interior of the United States, which has, in turn, proved to be a magnet for more people to come.

If, in fact, the Biden administration wanted to deter illegal immigration, they would stop people from coming to