

conservative Federalist Society and other far-right organizations. He is the key architect of the rightwing campaign to take over the Federal courts, facilitating relationships between political donors and Justices, championing conservative political causes, and wielding a shadowy network of influence over Federal and State judges.

How can a Supreme Court Justice accept such lavish gifts, let alone fail to disclose them to the American people? The answer is very simple: The Supreme Court of the United States, the highest court in the land, does not have an enforceable code of conduct. Unlike employees of the executive and legislative branches—virtually all of them—unlike Members of Congress and all other Federal judges, the nine Supreme Court Justices alone decide for themselves what conduct is and is not appropriate.

More than 11 years ago, I asked Chief Justice Roberts to adopt a binding code of conduct for all Supreme Court Justices. I have renewed that request repeatedly this year, including last month when I sat literally physically next to the Chief Justice and spoke at the Judicial Conference. Some Justices have now publicly joined the call for an ethics code. I do believe the majority of the Justices on the Supreme Court are embarrassed by these disclosures and want this to come to an end.

So far, Chief Justice John Roberts and the Court have failed to do anything. In the face of the Supreme Court's failure, the Senate Judiciary Committee has exercised its constitutional right and duty to investigate this ethical crisis in order to craft and advance legislation to address it.

Beginning in May, the committee has sent letters to a number of these billionaires, activists, and organizations connected to the undisclosed gifts and travel. I am sorry to say I happen to believe that we have just seen a small amount of the lavish gifts that have gone to the members of the Court. Thanks to the investigative efforts of journalists, as well as the Senate Finance Committee, we have discovered some of these things, but, sadly, I believe there is much more out there.

We are seeking details about what exactly has been given to these Supreme Court Justices as well as how certain individuals and groups that have business before the Court gained such enormous access to the private lives of these Justices. Getting this information is critical.

While there has been reporting on the Justices' ethical failures, I am sorry to say that there is more information out there we need to find.

Just last week—listen to this—the Senate Finance Committee revealed that yet another wealthy benefactor, Anthony Walters, had forgiven a \$267,000 interest-only loan to Justice Thomas to purchase a luxury RV. Justice Thomas failed to disclose that.

So you understand what happened: The Justice, who seems to fancy these

RVs, had his eye on one that cost over a quarter of a million dollars. Mr. Walters agreed to loan him the money to buy the RV. Justice Thomas made one annual payment of interest on that debt, and then the debt was forgiven. And so the RV is his, a gift from Mr. Walters.

While the loan itself had been the subject of prior reporting, it was only through the Finance Committee's investigation—and the cooperation of Mr. Walters, let me add—that the favorable terms of the loan and its ultimate forgiveness came to light. In contrast to Mr. Walters' willing cooperation, Leonard Leo, Harlan Crow, and Robin Arkley—more of these fawning billionaires—have produced no substantive response and have otherwise stalled the Judiciary Committee's investigation.

Instead, their responses offer a host of baseless arguments that ignore the committee's constitutional authority to inform its legislative efforts. Their defensive and dismissive response make you wonder, What are they trying to hide?

I am not going to stand idly by as these fawning billionaires, with interests before the Court, use their immense wealth to buy private access to the Justices and then deny the Senate Judiciary Committee information to which we are lawfully entitled. That is why the committee will vote to authorize subpoenas to these individuals.

This has been a long battle for many of us, and my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE has shown extraordinary leadership on this issue as well.

Eleven years ago, it came to my attention that the Supreme Court just didn't have a code of conduct. How can we justify this? Nine Justices on the highest Court in the land, no code of conduct. What about the other Federal judges? They are bound by a code of conduct. If the Justices on the Supreme Court merely assumed the same code of conduct, with some modifications, we would at least say they are making a step in the right direction, but they ignored it, and they resisted it. In fact, Justice Alito and Justice Thomas have been belligerent when they have been confronted with these issues; that it is no one's business but their own as to what they do with their private lives.

Unfortunately, when you accept a post in public service, that is not the case. Our private lives become part of that public service. And certainly, if there is any suggestion of a conflict in a situation where individuals—billionaires—who have an interest before the Court are buying access and time with these Justices, that is certainly relevant to our work in the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Mr. President, as a member of the committee, you understand we have gone through this process very deliberately and patiently and slowly and reached a point where we believe subpoenaing this information is the only

way to get the facts before the American people.

I am hoping that this is successful; I hope that it becomes bipartisan; and I hope that we bring to this Court the type of reputation which it has enjoyed over the years.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). The Senator from Alabama.

ISRAEL

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to express my strong—very strong—support for Israel. On October 7, Israel was suddenly and deliberately attacked by a group of terrorists. Now, they didn't attack military institutions; they attacked citizens—citizens in Israel. It has been described by some as Israel's 9/11 or Israel's Pearl Harbor.

They killed women and children. They filmed themselves, and they broadcast it on the internet. They were proud. They were very proud of what they were doing. They killed more than 1,400 innocent people. This includes more than 30 Americans. Sometimes that is forgotten by our mainstream media.

This is the largest terrorist killing of Americans since 9/11. More than 100 people—100 people—are still held hostage by Hamas, and this also includes Americans.

So we need to do two things: First, we need to get the hostages out. That is very, very important. It has been too long. Then, we need to ensure that this never happens again.

You know, Israel can do both of these things. Israel has a highly—a very highly—advanced military and a highly advanced economy. The only way to ensure that Hamas cannot ever attack again, as Israel says, is to wipe them from the face of the Earth.

This is Israel's mission, and we hear this from their leaders every day. The role of the United States in this conflict should be to support and supply.

So let's first talk about support. Over the last 2 weeks, we have seen the left-wing protest against Israel and support of Hamas. It is hard to believe, but it is very, very, very true. We have seen them overseas in London and in Sydney, but we have also seen them here in the United States on college campuses.

To me, that is absolutely disgusting. I will just mention a few examples. Students at Harvard—at Harvard, mind you—defended Hamas for what they did. Next, they will be complaining about not being able to get jobs. I wonder why they won't be able to get jobs, especially in places like Wall Street.

Students at the University of California, Long Beach, handed out fliers with pictures of Hamas. The list goes on and on. But this tells us a lot about the state of our education in this country.

I was involved in education for 40 years. I can understand it. These kids don't know the first thing about the Middle East or about foreign policy. A

lot are not taught this. But they have been marinated in woke ideology since grade school at a lot of our public schools. Leftwing groups are siding with terrorists because of this.

Today, there are protests happening here at the Capitol, right here on Capitol Hill. The appropriations hearings with Secretary Austin and Secretary Blinken have been repeatedly—repeatedly—every few minutes, interrupted by leftwing, pro-Hamas protesters. Pro-Hamas leftists shut down a building in the House just a couple of weeks ago—shut it down. Now they want to shut down the Appropriations Committee. Many of these groups are funded by Democrat dark money groups.

These leftwing groups are calling for a cease-fire over in Gaza. This is like calling for a cease-fire after Pearl Harbor, as some of the leaders in Israel have said.

To me, a cease-fire is a surrender. A cease-fire means Hamas gets to kill civilians without any consequences after what they did on October 7. Every single Democrat in the Senate needs to condemn these leftwing groups—everybody. We all need to condemn these groups.

The left is making excuses for these terrorists. It is immoral, and it is un-American what is going on across our country and with these protests. We need to ensure that terrorists never ever attack anybody like this again. This requires, again, wiping off Hamas from the map. And as you listen to the Israeli leaders, that is exactly what they plan to do.

Israel is going to be able to do this. They are going to be able to do it themselves. They are not going to need our help, but they will need supplies. We need to ensure that they have what they need to wipe Hamas off from existence.

I support sending Israel more weapons if they need them. But, unfortunately, there is already an effort to tie Israel funding to Ukraine funding right here in this building.

President Biden sent over a request for a supplemental funding bill just this past week, and it includes \$14 billion for Israel. But it also includes \$60 billion for Ukraine. That is \$230 million a day. That is four times as much for Ukraine than it is for Israel. The war in Ukraine has nothing to do with the war in Israel. Israel is our No. 1 ally. Sometimes people forget that. Ukraine is not our No. 1 ally. They are not even in NATO.

The war in Israel is about killing terrorists who want to kill not only people in countries like Israel but also Americans. There is no reason Ukraine and Israel aid need to be in the same bill. I am against that. I am for funding Israel, first and foremost. So we need to vote on them separately. We ought to support Israel, and we need to supply Israel. We need to stand with them as they take on the terrorists. It is going to be a very, very tough and grueling job, but we support them.

SUNSHINE PROTECTION ACT

Mr. President, I also come to the floor today to talk about something a little bit different. This weekend, Americans are going to fall back. Daylight saving time, it is coming to an end. This should be the last time we ever have to fall back.

Senator RUBIO and I have introduced legislation the last 2 years that would do just that. It is called the Sunshine Protection Act, supported by a lot of people. Over the past 2 years, I have received countless calls from all over the State of Alabama to make daylight saving time permanent. We are living in the past.

Many Alabamians—including parents, senior citizens, farmers, and mental health professionals—have called my office in support of more sunshine in the evening. This is probably one of the top issues I get phone calls about, and we deal with a lot of them. But it is amazing how many phone calls we do get over this one topic. People across America agree that changing our clocks back and forth twice a year really makes no sense. It makes no sense sometimes and, as I said earlier, people call and say they are just sick of it.

The idea of daylight saving was originally known as “war time.” That is when it was started. It was first introduced as a temporary measure to save energy during World War I. Many studies have proven that extra sunlight in the evening has benefits for mental health, physical fitness, economic growth, and overall well-being. It is a simple way we could positively impact the day-to-day life of all Americans.

This bill is also a way to get something done that a lot of people care about. It affects everybody’s life in this country. Shifting clocks can disrupt sleep patterns. It is kind of like a jetlag. We are giving the entire country jetlag twice a year. But a permanent daylight saving time will have Americans maintain a consistent sleep schedule.

Studies show disrupting sleep patterns increases the risk of cardiovascular disease and other diseases. Northwestern’s medical school found that the “fall back and spring forward” comes with 9 percent spike in fatal car accidents and 24 percent higher risks of heart attacks. The long-term effects of sleep disruption include weight gain, headaches, and depression.

The time switch in the fall increases seasonal affective disorder. One study found that the transition from daylight saving time to standard time increases the number of hospital visits of depression by 11 percent. You would think we would listen to that.

Permanent daylight saving time with extra sunlight in the evening will also encourage more physical activity. Kids will be able to enjoy the outdoors more. Older Americans will be able to increase their vitamin D. Longer daylight hours in the evening have been proven to stimulate economic activity.

People are more likely to shop, dine out, and participate in group activities when there is light outside.

For one thing, it really affects our farmers. More sunshine during working hours means more time to work in the fields, which can translate into more profits, which our farmers desperately need. Permanent daylight saving could help farmers save energy.

In my State of Alabama, along with 17 other States, they have already passed legislation to end the outdated practice of changing the clocks. But the Federal Government must act to allow these State laws to go into effect. Making daylight saving time permanent would improve our health, bolster our economy, benefit our farmers, and put America on the path to a brighter future. It makes a lot of sense. It is time to move America forward and stop falling back.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

NOMINATION OF JACOB J. LEW

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today in support of Jacob Lew to be our Ambassador to Israel. We will have a chance to vote on that in a few moments, first on cloture and then, hopefully, on the confirmation, with the cloture being imposed.

The attack by Hamas on Israel earlier this month was heinous. It was evil. It was indescribably brutal.

I was just in Israel with 10 Senators—5 Democrats, 5 Republicans—and saw firsthand the scars and devastation. I saw the grief and the shock. We were there to make it clear that Israel has the right to defend itself; it has the obligation to defend itself.

We recognize that the ground campaign has started to eliminate Hamas. Hamas is evil. They are equivalent to ISIS and maybe, in some cases, worse. Israel’s security depends upon the demise of Hamas, as does the Palestinians’ future in Gaza depend upon Hamas being eliminated.

We have ongoing challenges. Two hundred-plus hostages are being held by Hamas. Their safe return is one of our highest priorities. We are all working very hard. President Biden has made it clear with the positioning of U.S. assets, as well as his engagement in the Middle East to prevent the escalation of this conflict. For those enemies of the United States and Israel trying to take advantage of the combat in Gaza to escalate the conflict, we have to make sure that does not happen.

We have a real challenge with the humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians in Gaza who are trying to escape the brutality of Hamas. We are now fortunate that we are able to start getting humanitarian trucks into Gaza. We hope to be at about 100 trucks a day through the Rafah gate. More is needed. We need to provide for the medical needs and safe passage for Palestinians trying to avoid the conflict. All of this is made much more difficult because of Hamas.