

No. The most dangerous threats we face are all linked together—all linked together.

Take it from the author of the last administration's National Security Strategy. Russia, Iran, and China "see the U.S. as weak and in decline" and are willing "to put aside their differences to collude against American interests." They are extraordinarily willing.

Finland is investigating a case of suspected sabotage by a Chinese ship against an undersea communications cable and gas line connecting the newest member of NATO to Estonia—one of the alliance's most stalwart backers of Ukraine.

Putin's Russia is reportedly helping Iran develop a space launch vehicle—a critical step toward building intercontinental ballistic missiles. In return, Iran isn't just sending Russia kamikaze drones to kill Ukrainians; it is helping build an entire drone factory—a drone factory—on Russian soil.

A Russia state energy company is reportedly providing China with highly enriched uranium. China is swarming social media platforms with pro-Hamas propaganda and protecting both Iran and Russia in the U.N. Security Council.

America doesn't have the luxury of facing these threats individually. Our ability to contend with complex, simultaneous threats is exactly what our adversaries are testing: a Russian war in Europe, Chinese aggression in Asia, Iran-backed terror in the Middle East, and a southern border that is dangerously lacking in credible enforcement. This is the reality we face right now. The Biden administration's supplemental request falls short of adequately addressing all of these linked threats.

Let me explain again what this moment actually requires.

In Europe, the administration needs to provide a clear strategy for a Ukrainian victory. That means prioritizing the lethal military capabilities Ukraine needs right now—no more half measures, no more hesitation.

As former Secretary of State Pompeo put it last week, Americans should be "accelerating the flow of weapons and ammunition to Kyiv" because abandoning Ukraine would bolster our adversaries.

We should be empowering Agency inspectors general to continue the unprecedented oversight and accountability work we have built into U.S. assistance since the beginning of Putin's escalation last year. We should continue to invest in expanding America's defense industrial base both to replace capabilities Ukraine is using with newer for our own use and to ramp up production of the ones Israel, Taiwan, and our Indo-Pacific allies and partners need.

In Israel's case, it is especially important that we take stringent measures to ensure no humanitarian assist-

ance bound for the people of Gaza can be intercepted by Hamas terrorists.

I have said before, for any of this supplemental security funding to pass the Senate, we will also need to implement serious policy changes at the southern border. Senate Republicans will not rubberstamp the Biden administration's bailout for a problem it created. We are focused on policies to slow the flow—slow the flow—of illegal migration and secure the border.

America's strategic goals are crystal clear: degrade Russian military strength and prevent major war in Europe; reestablish credible deterrence against Iran and its terrorist networks; grow our defense industrial base to equip our military and our allies in the Indo-Pacific to raise the costs of Chinese aggression; and restore real border security right here at home. That is exactly what the Senate should be focused on.

ANTI-SEMITISM

Now, Mr. President, on another matter, since October 7, a nationwide reckoning with the ancient scourge of anti-Semitism has centered on America's most elite academic institutions, and the eye of the storm has been a cadre of the country's most radical leftist faculty.

Recently, the University of California's Ethnic Studies Faculty Council released a letter condemning Israel as a "globally acknowledged apartheid." The council called the UC system's official response, which correctly identified the butchery committed by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic jihad as terrorism, irresponsible, and it claimed for itself the mantle of moral—moral—authority.

Well, of course, tenured Marxists do not have to worry much about real-world consequences, but university administrators, recruiters, fundraisers, and students—well, they do.

So, in response to this faculty group's terrorist propaganda, one member of the University of California's Board of Regents published a strongly worded letter of his own. Here is what he said:

Let me be crystal clear with no ifs, ands, or buts—I . . . will do everything in my power to protect our Jewish students, and for that matter, everyone . . . from your inflammatory and out of touch rhetoric.

Unfortunately, too many other administrators have been unable or unwilling to speak with such moral clarity, and the consequences for their institutions are actually piling up.

The billionaire philanthropist who just a few years ago made the biggest donation in the history of Penn's Wharton School is now leading a revolt among influential donors that stretches across the Ivy League. He has pledged to close his checkbook, and by one account, he is talking to "half of Wall Street," urging them to do likewise. One prominent national law firm has gone as far as setting up a legal assistance hotline for students experiencing anti-Semitism on campus.

Apparently, the most successful alumni of the most elite schools in America want nothing—nothing—to do with institutions that aid or abet anti-Semitism. Well, good for them. Good for them.

And it is not just private funding on the line. This week, the Secretary of Education called a play from his Republican predecessor's playbook and told major universities that he was willing to use title VI of the Civil Rights Act to withhold Federal funds if they permit anti-Semitic discrimination on their campuses. Of course, the Secretary couldn't help but couch his warning in "both sides" rhetoric about Islamophobia, as has been the Biden administration's practice in the past month.

Well, tomorrow, our colleagues on the HELP Committee will convene a roundtable discussion addressing the topic at hand: a glaring rise in anti-Semitic hate on campuses. I am very grateful to Ranking Member CASSIDY for leading this effort to highlight the legal responsibility universities have to protect Jewish students.

As our former colleague, the president of the University of Florida, put it without hesitation after October 7, "our Constitution protects the rights of people to make abject idiots of themselves."

Fortunately, the Constitution also protects our right to condemn these people in the strongest possible terms.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, over the past 2 years, something profound has taken place on this Senate floor. We have been building one of the most important accomplishments of the Biden era's administration: the confirmation of highly qualified, independent, even-handed judges to the Federal bench.

This week, the Senate will confirm the 150th lifetime judge since President Biden took office. This is a historic slate of judges who I believe will rule with reason and restraint. These judges respect the rule of law, adhere to precedent, and, above all, answer only to the U.S. Constitution.

Some Senate Republicans, including their leader, have not been shy in criticizing these nominees. According to the minority leader's retelling of history, under the former President, Senate Republicans "spent 4 years confirming staggeringly qualified and incredibly brilliant men and women to the courts." I would like to set the record straight.

For each judicial nominee who comes before the Senate, the American Bar Association conducts a nonpartisan peer review and ranks their qualifications. Those rankings are based on integrity, professional competence, and judicial temperament.

During the Trump administration, Senate Republicans confirmed eight—eight—Trump nominees who were

found unqualified to serve on the Federal bench by the American Bar Association. Compare that to President Biden's record.

During the Biden administration, not one—not one—of the 150 judges we have confirmed had an unqualified rating—not one. So when I hear some Senate Republicans waxing about the glory days of judicial nominees under President Trump, I can't help but wonder what they are talking about.

Are they talking about that district court nominee who had never tried a case but had instead worked as a ghost hunter and written blog posts defending the Ku Klux Klan?

What about another Trump trial court nominee who had never tried a case, never examined a witness, never taken a deposition, never argued a motion?

Or the Sixth Circuit nominee who likened abortion to slavery?

How about the Ninth Circuit nominee whose colleagues called him "arrogant, lazy, an ideologue, and lacking in knowledge of the day-to-day practice" of law?

In addition, Senate Republicans relied on increasingly absurd criticism in an attempt to undermine President Biden's nominees. Some Republicans on the Senate Judiciary Committee criticized one of Biden's nominees as soft on crime because she had dedicated her career to exonerating wrongfully imprisoned individuals, mainly using DNA evidence. That is right. Senate Republicans argued that releasing people from prison who did not actually commit the crime is somehow dangerous for society.

Just last week, one of my Republican colleagues criticized a nominee who had served as a Federal prosecutor for 16 years because he did not ask a judge to impose a sentence that was higher than the maximum sentence allowed by law in one case.

Let me be clear. This nominee would have been asking a Federal judge to violate the law if he had made such a request. Those types of attacks are simply not credible.

President Biden's nominees are qualified, and they have demonstrated impeccable temperament.

Something that stands out about these nominees, aside from their exceptional qualifications and loyalty to the rule of law, is the professional and demographic diversity they bring to the bench. When you go into a Federal courthouse today and look at the judges who are likely to be trying or deciding a case, you are going to find more diversity than ever before.

Under President Biden, in fact, we have made history, confirming more Black women to the Federal circuit courts than all prior Presidents combined. Of course, we also confirmed the first-ever Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, and we have confirmed historic numbers of Asian-American judges, Latino judges, and LGBTQ judges.

It is not just demographic diversity that we have seen under President Biden. It is also professional diversity. In the past 2 years, we have confirmed more circuit judges with experience as public defenders than all prior Presidents combined.

For the record, I voted over and over again for former prosecutors—White males. The bench is made up of a lot of people whom I have voted for in the past, and I believe that they were ready for the job and competent to handle it. But we believe now that there should be more diversity, and this President is making sure the nominees sent our way meet that standard.

We have confirmed State court judges, Federal magistrates, bankruptcy judges, and prosecutors who have made significant and critical contributions to this country's justice system. One of President Biden's nominees served as a special prosecutor in the trial of Derek Chauvin for the murder of George Floyd. And we have confirmed jurists with experience protecting the rights of voters, the rights of workers, civil rights, women's rights, and LGBTQ rights.

Another notable aspect of this record—and this, I am very happy to report—is that the vast majority, nearly 90 percent, of all these judicial confirmations have been bipartisan. Even on the appellate courts, over three-quarters of President Biden's nominees have received support from both sides of the aisle. This focus on qualified, consensus nominees goes a long way toward restoring trust and faith in our judiciary.

Let me also remind you that, in the first 2 years of the Biden administration, we had a 50–50 Senate and a 50–50 Judiciary Committee. We needed bipartisanship for anything to work.

The American people deserve Federal judges who not only look like America but understand what it means to be an American. That is an important part of our work that we began under President Biden. It is a work we must finish.

We celebrate these 150 judges, and we will continue elevating jurists who are qualified, principled, and committed, above all, to protecting our constitutional rights. The American people deserve nothing less.

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. THUNE. Mr. 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.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, engraved on a wall at the Korean Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC, are these words: "Freedom is not free."

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It is a stark reminder that our freedom has come at a cost; that it has been bought and paid for in blood, in dark days and terrifying nights of battle, in fear and loneliness, in Christmases and holidays and birthdays spent far from home, in visible wounds and in invisible wounds.

And on Veterans Day, above all, we remember this. We remember that we live in peace and freedom because men and women have answered our country's call, have stepped up and said, "I will serve," and have paid a price for that service.

One of my greatest honors as a U.S. Senator is having the opportunity to interact with military veterans. And in addition to meeting veterans around South Dakota, I have had the immense privilege of visiting with veterans who come to Washington, DC, on Honor Flights.

For anyone not familiar with the organization, Honor Flight is a nonprofit that exists to bring military veterans to Washington, DC, to visit the memorials that have been created in their honor.

At its inception, it focused on bringing World War II veterans to DC, but now, with members of the "greatest generation" few and far between, Honor Flights have been filling up with veterans of Korea and Vietnam as well as critically ill veterans from all eras.

I have been lucky enough to participate in three Honor Flight visits so far this year, organized by Midwest Honor Flight, which is our local Honor Flight hub in South Dakota. And the chance to interact with these heroes who have sacrificed to defend and preserve American freedoms is not something I take for granted. Seeing the look in their eyes as they visit the memorials—knowing that for some it will be the last opportunity they have to visit—is a profound privilege and a reminder of all these men and women have given for our country.

It is also deeply moving to hear from the family members who accompany these veterans, a number of whom have told me how cathartic these visits have been for their loved ones—sometimes marking the first time they really talked about their wartime experience.

On multiple occasions when I have been down at the memorials visiting with Honor Flight veterans, I have seen students with school groups come up to these veterans and thank them. It is really an amazing thing to witness. And it has made me reflect on just how important it is that children have these opportunities to see and thank our veterans and to understand what they have given us.

Ronald Reagan once said that freedom is always only one generation removed from extinction. It can't be passed on in the bloodstream. It has to be fought for and defended and handed down for our children to do the same or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children's children what it was once like to live in the United States of America where men are free.