

Freedom is, indeed, a fragile thing. It is easy to take it for granted when you have it. But it is not a guarantee, and it must, indeed, be fought for and defended constantly by each generation.

Seeing those schoolchildren interact with veterans who have helped secure our freedom reminded me of the importance of handing down an understanding of that freedom to our children, of teaching them just what our military men and women have fought and died for, and of reminding them that it will be their responsibility to preserve it.

Seeing those schoolchildren and veterans interact also reminded me that we should hold up our veterans to young people, not just as examples to revere but as examples to imitate. We should make sure that young people know that serving their country in the U.S. military is one of the noblest paths that they could take and that while military life is a life of sacrifice, it is also a life of meaning and purpose, one that offers pride and brotherhood and the lasting knowledge that your labor has made a difference.

On Veterans Day and every day, I am grateful to those who have answered our Nation's call and taken up arms in defense of liberty. May God bless all the men and women who serve or have served in the U.S. military and may He help us to live lives worthy of their sacrifice.

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. BARRASSO. 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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.

#### ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about this dangerous rise that we are seeing in anti-Semitism. We are seeing it in this country, and we are seeing it all around the world.

One of the most important vows that our Nation made to the Jewish people is the vow of "never again." I have a simple question. Are we doing everything that we can to keep that vow in the wake of October 7 and the Hamas terrorist attack against Israel? A month ago, Hamas killed more Jews in a single day than at any time since the Holocaust. Yet some students, professors, and public officials in our country are indulging and even endorsing this act, which to me is torture and mass murder, and anyone who has witnessed the videos could say nothing but torture and mass murder.

Once again, the Jewish people are being threatened simply for who they are and for what they believe. It is happening to individuals all around the country and around the world. There are those who are praising the horrific

mass murder, torture, and kidnapping of Jews by Hamas terrorists. Some of that praise is even coming from right here in Washington, DC, and across our country.

Anti-Semitic incidents of vandalism, harassment, and assault are up almost 400 percent compared to this time a year ago. In October of 2022, there were 64 total anti-Semitic incidents reported in America. October 7, 2023—the day Hamas attacked Israel—since that day to today, over 300 reported incidents. That is a 400-percent increase compared to last year, and that is in America alone.

Anti-Semitism is festering on college campuses. You probably heard about several of these incidents. Fifty-one student groups, including at Berkeley, the University of Michigan, and UCLA, signed a letter in support of Hamas's brutal terrorist, murderous attacks. Students at George Washington University, right here, located in our Nation's Capital, held a vigil that they described as a "Vigil for the Martyrs of Palestine." And they projected "Glory to our Martyrs" right on the library wall. It is disturbing and it is hateful.

A pro-Hamas mob at Cooper Union University in New York City stormed the library. The mob started banging on doors and windows. Jewish students were trapped. They feared for their lives. Eventually, they had to be escorted to safety. No one has been punished.

A Cornell student was arrested last week for posting anti-Semitic death threats on the school's messaging boards. Weeks earlier, a Cornell professor said he was exhilarated by Hamas's brutality. Students at Tulane University, which is 40 percent Jewish, were also attacked. Pro-Hamas protesters tried to burn an Israeli flag. One speaker at Princeton University went so far as to equate Israel with Nazi Germany. After a mass murder of innocent Jewish mothers, fathers, children, and Holocaust survivors, radical students and professors in this country have the gall to compare the Jews to those who sought to systemically kill them during the holocaust.

Let's imagine that we are Jewish students who go to these schools and live in these communities. Here is how one Jewish student describes her situation on campus. This young lady said:

It is terrifying to see classmates call for violence against Jews so confidently and so publicly.

In other words, for many Jewish students, "never again" has turned into "nowhere is safe."

The University of Wyoming, rightly, has called out the evil in the wake of the terrorist attack against Israel. Our University President, Ed Seidel, and our Provost, Kevin Carman, condemned the "heinous . . . acts of terrorism" against Israel. Every university should do the same.

America can't turn its back on the Jewish people of Israel or on Israel. That is exactly what I fear we are seeing right now.

Hamas's brutality is front page news every single day. Israel is clear-eyed in its mission to destroy Hamas. Instead of standing shoulder to shoulder with our closest ally in the Middle East, the Biden administration is currently calling for a "pause." The United Nations' 120 members recently voted in favor of a resolution calling for a cease-fire. In the House of Representatives right down the hall, a group of Members known as the Squad are also demanding a cease-fire. I didn't hear them call for a cease-fire when Hamas attacked Israel. They only want Israel to stop defending itself. That is the role of the Squad.

There already was a cease-fire before October 7. Hamas broke that cease-fire. More than 1,400 innocent Israelis and Americans are now dead. A pause or a cease-fire now would only help Hamas dig in and rearm. I am against a pause. I am against a cease-fire. America should never take action that could help terrorists prevail. To me, that is what a cease-fire would do.

Instead of a cease-fire, we need to cease paying Hamas; we need to cease paying Iran; and we need to cease being silent in the face of anti-Semitism.

Moments like this are very concerning and also moments like this are very clarifying. America has existed from the very beginning to protect our freedom of religion. As President George Washington wrote in a letter to a Newport synagogue in 1790—he said America promises to give "bigotry no sanction."

America stands on the values of respect and toleration.

When we vowed "never again," we meant it and continue to mean it today. As we confront the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust, our entire Nation must do everything we can to keep our word.

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. SCHMITT. 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.

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to bring attention to a problem that is plaguing our great country.

Americans and the rest of the world woke up on October 7 to horrific scenes in Israel, and the ensuing news reports of Hamas's terrorist attack brought to light even more gruesome details—thousands of innocent Israelis slaughtered, babies decapitated, people burned alive, horrific scenes of brutality and brazen disregard for humanity by Hamas terrorists. Israel and American hostages are still awaiting rescue.

These past few weeks following the terrorist attack, there has been a frightening rise of anti-Semitism, particularly on college campuses and from

younger generations in America's major cities.

Jewish students at Cooper Union in New York City had to shelter in a library while pro-Palestinian students banged on windows and doors in a frightening incident. Anonymous posters on a Cornell message board threatened violence, all while a Cornell professor proclaimed Hamas terrorist attacks to be "exhilarating" and "energizing." Countless videos show students and even teachers tearing down missing posters for Israeli hostages. The list goes on and on.

Some may be surprised by these incidents, but for those who have been paying attention, it is anything but shocking. For years, the American left has embraced identity politics—DEI and critical race theory. For years, students at some of this country's most elite colleges have had this race essentialism, this oppressor-versus-oppressed ideology, hammered into their heads.

They have tried to make moral equivalence between Israel and Hamas. Every single situation or issue is viewed through the lens of race or other immutable characteristics.

If you don't rank high enough on the totem pole of grievances or score well on the oppression matrix, well, then your views aren't as important. Being right has taken a back seat to your skin color.

DEI and CRT are fruit of the poisonous tree of cultural Marxism, and it is playing out right now in our streets. The proof is in the numbers as well. A Harvard CAPS/Harris poll states that when voters were asked whom they sided with in the Israeli-Hamas conflict, 95 percent of voters age 65 or older said Israel, while only 5 percent said Hamas. In the 18-to-24 age range, 52 percent said Israel, while 48 percent said Hamas. That is a startling generational divide and shows just how entrenched this divisive ideology is.

This ideology completely strips people of their individuality. Ideas don't really matter as much as what the person speaking looks like. It is completely antithetical to the core tenets of our Constitution and the American experiment. It places an unhealthy emphasis on race. It strips people of their dignity and the many layers that define us. It rips away the ties that bind us, and that is exactly the point for these cultural Marxists.

We need to return to the American idea—equality of opportunity, not certainty of outcome or so-called equity. We need to prioritize merit over characteristics that people have no control over. We need to push back against the poisonous DEI and CRT ideology—an ideology that has even made its way into grade schools, where school-age kids are being forced to participate in things called a privilege walk. Until we do that, we will continue to see more race essentialism from groups like Black Lives Matter and more chants of "from the river to the sea." That is not

what America is about, but we better get real about the problem before it is too late to fix it.

NOMINATION OF RAMON ERNESTO REYES, JR.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today the Senate will vote to confirm Ramon Reyes to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

Judge Reyes received his B.S. from Cornell University, his J.D. from Brooklyn Law School, and his LL.M. from NYU Law School.

Judge Reyes began his legal career with the New York City Council as a legislative attorney. After taking a year to clerk for Judge David Trager on the Eastern District, he spent 3 years in private practice before joining the U.S. attorney's office in the Southern District of New York as an assistant U.S. attorney. While in the U.S. attorney's office, Judge Reyes handled a wide range of civil and criminal matters, including cases involving civil rights violations, healthcare fraud, false claims, and environmental issues. In 2004, he was appointed deputy chief of appeals.

In recognition of his broad experience and legal acumen, including three jury trials and three bench trials as an AUSA, Judge Reyes was appointed in 2006 to serve as a Federal magistrate judge in the Eastern District of New York. Since taking the bench, he has presided over 33 trials that cover a range of issues including criminal matters, employment suits, and civil rights cases.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Reyes as "well qualified," and he has the strong support of Senators SCHUMER and GILLIBRAND.

I will be supporting his nomination, and I urge my colleagues to do so, as well.

Mr. SCHMITT. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I would request that the scheduled vote be initiated.

VOTE ON REYES NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Reyes nomination?

Mr. REED. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 299 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Butler	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Lujan	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden

NAYS—48

Barrasso	Fischer	Murkowski
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Ricketts
Braun	Hagerty	Risch
Britt	Hawley	Romney
Budd	Hoeben	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young

NOT VOTING—1

Scott (SC)

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 373, Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2028. (Reappointment)

Bernard Sanders, Catherine Cortez Masto, Jack Reed, Richard J. Durbin, Ben Ray Lujan, Peter Welch, Alex Padilla, Brian Schatz, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Jeanne Shaheen, Christopher A. Coons, Patty Murray, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tammy Duckworth.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Charlotte A. Burrows, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2028 (Reappointment), shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.