

shutdown. The task now is for Democrats and Republicans to reach an agreement on yearlong funding legislation, and the only way that will happen is with bipartisan cooperation. Both sides are going to have to give a little on important issues to them.

Over the Thanksgiving break, both parties in both Chambers held talks about the appropriations process, and we hope to be well positioned to pass the first tranche of funding bills before the January 19 deadline.

But before the year is out, there is a lot of other work we must do here in the Senate. Members should be ready to stay here in Washington until all our work is completed.

We must, for one, finish the task of passing an emergency supplemental bill with aid to Ukraine, aid to Israel, humanitarian assistance to innocent civilians in Gaza, and funding for the Indo-Pacific. Time is short for us to act, so it is my intention to bring the President's national security package to the floor as soon as the week of December 4.

I want to be clear that aid to Israel, Ukraine, humanitarian aid for civilians in Gaza, and the Indo-Pacific are all related and demand bipartisan cooperation. We don't have the luxury to pick and choose our national security challenges.

On the other side of the world, Iran has been willing to prop up Hamas and is helping Russia's campaign in Ukraine. The Chinese Government is closely watching what we do in Europe just as much as what we do in the Middle East and the Indo-Pacific.

Russia, China, and Iran have grown closer over these past few years, working together to counter the United States at every turn. They see these conflicts as interconnected, so we must too.

I implore my Republican colleagues to work with us on aid to Ukraine. For the most part, Democrats and Republicans largely agree that we must help Ukraine, including my friend the Republican leader. So I hope we can come to an agreement on an aid package soon. The worst thing we can do right now—the worst thing we can do—is to make something as bipartisan as Ukraine aid conditional on partisan issues that have little chance of becoming law.

Sadly, that is what may well be happening right now because the biggest holdup to the national security supplement is an insistence by some Republicans—just some—on partisan border policy as a condition for Ukraine aid. This has injected a decades-old, hyperpartisan issue into overwhelmingly bipartisan priorities.

Democrats stand ready to work on commonsense solutions to address immigration, but purely partisan, hard-right demands like those in H.R. 2 jeopardize the entire national security supplemental package.

I urge my colleagues, as they think about that, to remember what Presi-

dent Zelenskyy told us when he spoke in the Old Senate Chamber. He said:

If we don't get the aid, we will lose the war.

Let me repeat that. Zelenskyy said:

If we don't get the aid, we will lose the war.

That is what is at stake with Ukrainian aid: the possibility of victory or defeat for the Ukrainian people and ultimately our Western way of life. And let's be clear: A victorious Putin would be an emboldened Putin. If Ukraine falls, Putin will keep going. Russia's authoritarian influence will expand. Other autocracies may feel emboldened, and democracy around the world could enter decline.

History will look harshly upon those who let partisan politics get in the way of defending democracy. Nothing would make Putin, Xi, and the Iranian regime happier than to see the United States abandon a democratic partner in its hour of need. So Democrats and Republicans need to stand together and pass Ukrainian aid, along with the rest of the supplemental package. If we allow Putin to prevail, it will come back to haunt us.

For the information of Senators, in the coming days, we will hold an all-Senators classified briefing on the situation in Ukraine so we can get the latest update about the situation on the ground and see the immense importance of passing another aid package. I urge everyone to attend.

MILITARY PROMOTIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on Senator TUBERVILLE's blockade, before the end of the year, the Senate must put a stop to a grave abuse carried out by the senior Senator from Alabama: the brazen, months-and-months-long blockade of over 350 military nominees.

The blockade of hundreds of military nominees, to push the hard-right view on abortion, is something that the majority of Americans do not support. Let's look at what happened in the referendum results over the last 2 years.

It is something never seen before in the Senate. It has cost our military preparedness dearly. It has thrown the lives of hundreds of families into limbo.

Members on both sides of the aisle are reaching a boiling point with Senator TUBERVILLE, and before the year is out, we are going to act to bring his blockade to an end.

In the coming weeks, I will bring a resolution to the floor, approved by the Rules Committee, allowing the Senate to quickly confirm the hundreds of military leaders that Senator TUBERVILLE has obstructed. I thank Chairman KLOBUCHAR and Senator REED and everyone else who has championed this measure, and I hope my Republican colleagues who care about military preparedness end up supporting this resolution or at least getting Senator TUBERVILLE to back down.

No matter what, we have an obligation to act because Senator TUBERVILLE's military holds are an anomaly in the history of the Senate. If every Senator did what Senator TUBERVILLE has done and held up military confirmations because of this or that partisan issue, no matter how deeply felt, it would grind the Senate to a halt. It would be a catastrophe for our military. We dare not go further down that road. We have gone too far already.

To all of my colleagues who don't want to see the military forever ensnared in partisan fights, I urge them to support this resolution or else implore Senator TUBERVILLE to stand down.

ISRAEL

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on the hostages, last week, an agreement was reached for a pausing of hostilities in the Gaza Strip to allow for the release of 50 Israeli hostages held by Hamas. This pause also allowed for the delivery of humanitarian aid for innocent civilians in Gaza. And a few hours ago—just a few hours ago—it was reported that all sides have agreed to extend this pause for 2 more days to allow additional hostages to be released.

I am so relieved that some of the hostages are coming home after enduring weeks of utter horror. I have met with many of their families. I have heard of the pain they have been in. We have cried together in Israel, in New York, and in Washington. And while much healing is ahead, I am relieved that some are home.

I am also glad that the temporary pause has allowed for critical humanitarian aid to enter Gaza and reach innocent civilians, who have nothing—nothing—to do with Hamas.

So the extension of the pause, the release of the 50 hostages, and the delivery of humanitarian aid are all extremely positive developments, but there is lots of work to do. We must keep working until all the hostages are freed. We must continue working here in the Senate to pass humanitarian aid for innocent civilians in Gaza, and we must ensure that Israel has the aid it needs to defend itself against the threat from the terrorist organization Hamas, so it can never again pose such a threat to Israel.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, before the Senate adjourned for Thanksgiving, we voted to extend Federal Government funding into the new

year. I am glad there was no appetite in the Capitol for saddling the Nation with a harmful and unnecessary government shutdown.

The short-term funding legislation produced by the Speaker of the House was an important step toward fulfilling Congress's responsibility to pass full-year appropriations, and work continues toward restoring the sort of regular order appropriations process that Senators on both sides of the aisle have set as our goal.

But the Senate convenes today with some extremely important outstanding business that we need to address this year. In a few short weeks, we need to deliver on several urgent national security priorities. For starters, a number of our colleagues are hard at work on the conference report of the National Defense Authorization Act. This is Congress's primary opportunity to shape America's national security priorities and set the course of strategic competition with major adversaries.

We need to empower our Armed Forces with a clear directive for the many challenges they face. We need to prepare them to deter and fight future wars, not drag them into political culture wars. We need to focus our military on geopolitics, not climate politics.

But at this especially dangerous moment, we also need to deliver supplemental resources to help both America and our partners defend against linked threats from our biggest adversaries: Russia, Iran, and China.

Make no mistake, the PRC is not deterred. Beijing didn't take a Thanksgiving break from its historic military buildup, its threats to the freedom of navigation in international waters, or its efforts to meddle in Taiwan's domestic politics.

Russia is not deterred. Putin hasn't eased off on his brutal conquest of Ukraine.

Iran is not deterred. The world's top state sponsor of terrorism has continued to underwrite an alarming surge in attacks on U.S. personnel in Iraq and Syria since the barbaric attacks of October 7.

Hamas is not deterred. Even during a temporary pause in fighting, terrorists are clearly determined, with Iran's help, to wipe Israel off the map "from the river to the sea."

America needs to stand with our friends and stand up to our aggressors, and Senate Republicans have been working for weeks to ensure that supplemental legislation includes robust investments in the hard power and defense industrial capacity we need to confront them head-on.

But on this side of the aisle, we also recognize that national security begins here at home. Last month's total southern border encounters marked the busiest October in decades of CBP records, and the harsh reality of the Biden administration's border crisis continues to impact millions of Americans in cities across the country.

So I am thankful that Senator LANKFORD, Senator GRAHAM, and Senator COTTON have been working diligently to produce legislation to address this crisis head-on. Senate Republicans have been laser-focused on actually fixing our broken asylum process, not just pouring more money into a system that is simply not working, and our Democratic colleagues would do well to take these efforts seriously.

The bottom line is simple: We don't have the luxury of addressing glaring threats to our national security one at a time. Crises don't solve themselves just because Washington can't muster the political will to address them.

Unfortunately, Senate Democrats have already suggested they want to condition urgent resources for one of our top security priorities on not addressing another one. Apparently, our colleagues are considering putting support for Israel on the chopping block unless we promise not to fix the border crisis they helped to create.

So, Madam President, this sort of cynical, shortsighted politics has denied the American people real border security too many times. The challenges facing America are connected, and the time to address them—each of them—is now.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Jeffrey M. Bryan, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

THANKSGIVING

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I am going to follow the lead of the Democratic leader, who noted what he did last week.

I was fortunate enough to be part of a family reunion of the Durbin family, honoring my sister-in-law Lorraine on her 90th birthday. She is a wonderful person and a mother of 10—9 boys and 1 girl.

We all gathered to enjoy Thanksgiving, the inevitable birthdays during that period of time, as well as anniversaries—63 Durbins. Somehow, America survived. We all came together for a wonderful week. They are wonderful people. I am so happy to be part of the family and to give honor to my sister-in-law Lorraine.

I would just say that, when it comes to the rewards of life, there is hardly anything that can match a loving family, and I have that.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Madam President, secondly, I would like to say, in response to Senator MCCONNELL, yes, we need to come together on a bipartisan basis to not only deal with bringing order to the border but, also, the issue of immigration. If we are going to hold up assistance to Israel and Ukraine until we try to solve the intractable problems and challenges that we have faced for over 30 years—because that is the last time we passed immigration reform—that is an unreasonable burden.

We can do things together so long as there are people of good will at the table of both political parties, but to say we are going to hold back military assistance from Ukraine and Israel until something is accomplished which we have sought to do for over 30 years may not be realistic. Let's be honest about it.

We want to make sure that the people that we support, our allies and those we have fought beside, will have the resources they need to be successful. We want to stop Vladimir Putin. We want to stop the terrorists who attacked Israel on October 7. Let's not create political hurdles of our own making and make that next to impossible.

ISRAEL

Madam President, over the recess, we saw some hopeful steps in the violence in Israel and Gaza. After more than 6 weeks of what must have been unimaginable horror, nearly 40 hostages were released by Hamas, with another 10 or so still, hopefully, to be released even today. These innocents should never have been taken in the first place, and it is long overdue that any still being held are released. This includes a young man with ties to our State named Hersh Goldberg-Polin, who was horribly injured during the October 7 terrorist attack by Hamas and subsequently taken hostage. I have spoken to his family, and I know you have as well. It is heartbreaking to think what they are going through.

The agreement to release some of the hostages included a pause in fighting to allow for desperately needed humanitarian supplies to help innocent Palestinian civilians. We must remind ourselves that it is the Hamas terrorism we want to eradicate. Unfortunately, thousands of Palestinian people are being caught in the crossfire.

I hope we can build upon this deal to negotiate the release of the remaining hostages and bring an end to the violence in a way that removes Hamas from power, allows the rebuilding of Gaza, and provides real progress toward a viable two-state solution.

A two-state solution will require political leadership and courage from all parties. I was really pleased to read President Biden's clear thinking on this in the Washington Post recently. He wrote: