Syria. Clearly, President Biden's strikes against desert warehouses have not given our adversaries pause. The world's leading state sponsor of terrorism remains demonstrably undeterred.

Right now, we have a responsibility to equip Israel to destroy Hamas, deter violence against American servicemembers, and invest seriously in American hard power—a language our adversaries in Iran, in Moscow, and in Beijing actually understand. Supplemental national security legislation is our chance to uphold this responsibility.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. President, on another matter, as my colleagues and I on this side of the aisle have made abundantly clear, national security begins with border security, and any serious supplemental legislation with a shot at passing the Senate in the coming weeks will have to take meaningful steps toward fixing the Biden administration's border crisis.

On President Biden's watch, record-setting illegal migration has strained border protection facilities and personnel to their breaking point. On this President's watch, catch-and-release has gone from a shortsighted policy option to the dangerous first resort for a profoundly broken asylum and parole system. Right now, immigration courts are facing over 2 million pending asylum cases. That backlog has grown by 50 percent just since President Biden took office. The average asylum case waits more than 4 years for judgment. Talk about sending the wrong signal to legitimate asylum seekers and to bad actors alike.

A wide, bipartisan consensus continues to acknowledge that this broken system is the central problem driving the border crisis. Even the administration's border czar, Secretary Mayorkas, has acknowledged that the way the United States handles asylum claims needs to be ''reformed from top to bottom.'' Well, that is exactly what Senate Republicans have been working on for weeks. Senators LANKFORD, GRAHAM, COTTON, and CORNYN are trying in good faith to help DHS solve its problem by identifying policy changes that restore a measure of common sense to the way we process asylum claims and grant parole.

But at the same time, the Democratic leader has called border security measures ''the biggest holdup'' for passing a national security supplemental. Well, he is right about one thing: The single largest obstacle in the way of urgent resources to help Israel, Ukraine, and Taiwan is Democrats' refusal to address the crisis at the southern border.

National security begins right here at home, and the sooner our colleagues admit it, the sooner the Senate can move forward on the urgent business before us.

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.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, artificial intelligence—or what is referred to as AI—has been with us for quite some time now. And whether it is the chatbot providing help on Amazon, or personalized recommendations on Netflix, or the algorithms that are curating your social media feeds, these days, most of us interact with artificial intelligence on a daily basis. But as the release of ChatGPT to the public last year demonstrated, artificial intelligence is about to take a giant step forward.

The AI applications I have mentioned, like chatbots and personalized recommendations, are examples of so-called narrow AI, which is AI trained to perform specific tasks. But ChatGPT is an example of the next generation of AI—artificial intelligence systems set up to imitate the human brain and produce original content based on the assimilation of vast sets of data.

This next generation of AI—so-called foundation models which underpin systems like ChatGPT—offers tremendous possibilities: advances in medicine, in farming, in manufacturing, the automation of routine tasks, new ways to manage infrastructure, better and more resilient supply chains, advances in national defense. And the list, literally, goes on and on.

But as with any sophisticated technology, this next generation of AI presents risks as well. And those risks are heightened by the enormous capabilities of AI and the potential for this technology to pervade every corner of our society. And our goal needs to be encouraging the promise of AI while putting safeguards in place to minimize potential dangers.

The light-touch approach the United States has taken to internet regulation is a good model to follow as we approach AI regulation. The explosive growth of internet innovation in the United States is, in large part, a result of the fact that the government has not weighed down this sector of the economy with heavyhanded regulation. And we should maintain a similarly light touch when it comes to AI to encourage innovation and keep the United States at the forefront of the next generation of artificial intelligence.

Leadership in AI will benefit our economy. And there are also serious security reasons why staying at the forefront of the AI revolution is important. There is no question that AI will come to play an important role in national defense, and falling behind adversaries—like the Chinese Communist Party—could put our country at a serious disadvantage when it comes to our

national security. So we need to start establishing some basic rules of the road that will allow AI innovation to flourish, while at the same time minimizing the dangers that it presents.

The race to regulate AI has already started. President Biden has released a sweeping Executive order that empowers multiple government Agencies and Departments to regulate all AI systems, and even the algorithms that recommend our next movie on Netflix or remind us that we need to order more paper towels.

And internationally, the European Union has continued to press forward with a heavyhanded regulatory regime. It is time for Congress to ensure that innovation in the United States continues. Regulating AI by Executive order is not the way to go about things.

Even if the President's Executive order on AI weren't overly broad and heavyhanded, Executive orders are, by their very nature, not permanent, since they have the potential to be reversed or amended at any time—and stand a good chance of being reversed or amended when a new administration comes into office. This creates uncertainty for companies, which can stunt expansion and innovation.

The right way to approach AI regulation is to pursue a bipartisan, nationwide approach in Congress that will protect innovation while putting in place the necessary safeguards for the riskiest applications of this technology.

To that end, shortly before Thanksgiving, I introduced bipartisan AI legislation with Senator KLOBUCHAR and several of our Commerce Committee colleagues from both parties. Our bill is intended to establish some basic rules of the road for artificial intelligence while protecting the ability of companies to innovate and advance this technology.

Our bill focuses on two things: transparency for consumers and a tiered, risk-based framework for oversight of the highest impact applications of AI. On the transparency front, our bill would require any large-scale internet platform that uses generative AI to create content to clearly inform consumers of that fact. One of the risks presented by generative AI is the difficulty distinguishing AI-produced content from human-produced content.

Now, that may not be a huge issue if the content we are talking about is an amusing meme, but it is a real issue if a consumer is trying to figure out whether information or an image is real or whether it has been generated by AI. So requiring transparency about whether content is being produced—or at least partially produced—by generative AI needs to be a priority.

The second part of our bill deals with high-impact and critical-impact AI, that is, AI applications used to make significant applications in particularly high-risk sectors. Our bill establishes a two-tiered system for overseeing these applications.

Critical-impact AI applications—for example, like those used to make significant decisions in the operation of critical infrastructure—would be required to self-certified compliance with testing evaluation, validation, and verification standards.

What does all that mean? High-impact AI applications will be subject solely to transparency reporting requirements. Importantly, this part of the bill is carefully tailored to apply only to AI applications making complex decisions in high-risk sectors and is meant to respond directly and narrowly to the recent leap in capabilities of foundation models that power them.

I believe that the bill Senator KLOBUCHAR and I have introduced is the right first step when it comes to AI technology. Unlike the White House's Executive order, our bill doesn't instantly assume that artificial technology is bad and that it should be subject to heavyhanded government intervention, nor does our legislation rush us into regulations before we have a clear idea of what aspects of this technology need to be regulated and in what way.

Instead, our bill puts in place guardrails to mitigate the dangers posed by the highest-impact AI application, while leaving American innovators and entrepreneurs free to move forward with innovation.

I am grateful to Senator KLOBUCHAR and our other cosponsors for working with me on this bill, and we will continue to welcome ideas to further improve our legislation. Legislation on this issue of this magnitude calls for the deliberation of the committee process and regular order consideration, and I will work to ensure that we take it up in the Commerce Committee in the coming months.

This bill will probably not be the last bill that Congress needs to consider when it comes to AI, but I believe it is the right place for us to begin. And I look forward to working with colleagues from both parties to getting this bill through Congress and across the finish line.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO PEGGY J. DUNN

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, thank you for the opportunity to address my colleagues here on the Senate floor today.

I come here with a smile on my face because the individuals I want to recognize today are friends, and they are wonderful people who have made a difference in the lives of many of their fellow citizens back home in Kansas.

I want to recognize a lifelong Kansan who has served her family, her community, and her State. Peggy Dunn has been serving the city of Leawood as mayor since 1997 and has cultivated a flourishing and beautiful community. In January, Mayor Dunn's last term will come to an end. Her dedication to the city of Leawood will not be forgotten, and she will be greatly missed.

Peggy J. Dunn was born in greater Kansas City and has been serving the city of Leawood for 31 years. Prior to being mayor, she was a city council member for 4 years until she was sworn in as mayor in 1997.

Mayor Dunn has played a critical role in the growth of Leawood, and during her years in office, many, many notable developments have been made. Shopping centers such as Park Place and Town Center, Mission Farms and Prairiefire have brought immense expansion and success to the area. Buildings like the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection reveal the architectural beauties of the city. These developments were deliberately planned and came to fruition with guidance from Mayor Dunn.

Mayor Dunn has dedicated her life to creating a lasting community by forming relationships with Leawood's business leaders, volunteer organizations, religious communities, and residents, working together for the city's success.

I have seen her meet people and I know when I meet her—every time there is a conversation, you know that she cares about you. She listens, and she cares that way for the people of her city and the people of the State of Kansas.

Through Mayor Dunn's work, new fire stations, police headquarters, and courts protect the community. Beautiful parks, golf courses, and recreational centers provide opportunities for residents and visitors alike to enjoy what the city has to offer. Mayor Dunn is a servant leader. She is an innovator, and she is totally dedicated to her community.

Leawood, the city, has close relationships with sister cities. In 2003, Mayor Dunn and Mayor Peter Weiss of the Gezer region in Israel signed a resolution in agreement to become sister cities. Since then, Mayor Dunn has hosted delegations from abroad and traveled to Israel multiple times. Additionally, Leawood dedicated the I-Lan Park to its sister city in Taiwan. The park is home to a lovely Taiwanese garden, an open play space, and a piece of art called Cloud Gate.

Through Mayor Dunn's leadership, Leawood has a very bright future ahead.

Mayor Dunn's family has played a key role in her success as a leader. She has 4 children with her husband Terry and 14 grandchildren. I guess, needless to say, Mayor Dunn has plenty to keep her busy as she retires as mayor.

Thank you to her family for supporting Peggy during her tenure.

I congratulate Peggy on her retirement and wish her the very best in the future.

Thank you, Mayor, for all you have done for the city of Leawood, its citizens, and all you have done for the State of Kansas.

TRIBUTE TO MIKE BOEHM

Mr. President, for two decades, Michael Boehm has served as the mayor of Lenexa, KS, and he will now retire in January, having served as the longest serving mayor in the city's history.

Mike has built his life and career in Lenexa. He is a lifetime resident, and Mike knows the ins and outs of his community. I have never met anyone who knows more about Lenexa than Mike Boehm. He understands the unique importance of every single business on Main Street and the men and women who run those businesses.

During his 20 years as mayor, the population of Lenexa has grown by nearly 20,000 residents. That is remarkable growth, and it is a testament to the quality of the community he has led.

Under Mike's leadership, downtown Lenexa was transformed with the relocation of city hall and the development of a new downtown district known as City Place. With new shops, restaurants, parks, and public spaces, Lenexa is attracting new families and young people who want to put roots down in Kansas. Mike also worked to open the Lenexa branch of the Johnson County Library system, as well as to bring the District Aquatic Center to the city of Lenexa.

I admire Mike's leadership and determination for the city. I have always, always appreciated my conversations with Mike, whether he is visiting me here in Washington DC or when I am meeting with him in Lenexa. He is a true public servant, and the city and State are better because of Mike's service.

I have enjoyed many times conversations on the phone and in person, with solid and good advice about what is in the best interest of the people of Lenexa and Johnson County and Kansas. Mike has been significantly helpful to me as we have worked to try to make sure good things happen in all places across our State.

I congratulate Mike on his retirement and look forward to seeing what this next chapter holds for him.

NOMINATION OF JEFFREY M. BRYAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Jeffrey Bryan to the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota.

Judge Bryan received his B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin and his J.D. from Yale Law School. After clerking for Judge Paul A. Magnuson of the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota, Judge Bryan worked in private practice at Robins Kaplan Miller & Ciresi LLP on a range of complex civil matters and Federal white collar criminal cases. Judge Bryan then went on to serve as a Federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's