

This is the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Chairman McCaul, who has an amendment that is very similar to the Cornyn amendment. Actually, it is a little bit tougher. So he doesn't like it. Xi Jinping doesn't like it. So we said: All right, Mr. Speaker. It sounds like a good compromise. Let's do it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Since that meeting, I think I have gotten a commitment, and I think Senator CORNYN thinks he has gotten a commitment from the Speaker of the House to a bunch of U.S. Senators, saying: Don't worry, we got this.

Since that time, I have been reading press reports. Now, look, the press can get a lot of things wrong. The press is saying: No, actually, the Speaker is not going to bring up a vote on the McCaul bill—which, by the way, in the House, will get 340 votes easy, and if that came back here, it would get 91, maybe more. So it would be super bipartisan, and this guy, this dictator, would hate it. Let's do it. Let's do it.

But just lately, the press is reporting that the Speaker is now saying: Maybe I won't do what I told the Senators. Maybe I am going to put some kind of Commission together, and we will study it.

Well, as you know, when you start studying things here, that is a way to kick the can down the road.

So my first priority here is to call out the Speaker of the House and say: Mr. Speaker, I am pretty sure you said you were going to bring the McCaul bill to the House floor soon—maybe before Christmas but certainly January. Let's get it voted on. We will pass it here in the Senate, I guarantee you. The majority leader will bring it up. Let's do that.

So I hope you continue to make that commitment, Mr. Speaker. It would be really disappointing if somehow a Congressman who is leaving—leaving—teams up with the people who don't want us to know how Americans are investing in this guy's military industrial complex. That wouldn't be good.

So I call on the Speaker to keep that commitment that he made to a bunch of U.S. Senators recently and not put forward some kind of baloney Commission that is just kicking the can down the road. That wouldn't be good.

But let me end with just a reason—like, why does transparency matter? Why does it matter? Well, I am going to give one small example, but it is a pretty good one.

This is a venture capital firm called Sequoia. Very successful. Americans. They benefited from being an American company working in the American economy. Really, really smart guys and women. Highly successful. Their executives are very wealthy, and that is great. This is a capitalist country; I love that.

But they were also known as one of these firms that were doing what I said: making big investments over many, many years in very high-tech

components of the Chinese economy—advanced computer chip manufacturing, quantum computing, things like that. I think that is wrong, that Americans and American executives and American investment dollars are going to China to help develop weapon systems that will be used to kill U.S. marines and U.S. sailors if we ever get in a fight in the Taiwan Strait.

So Sequoia Capital came to meet with me a couple years ago, and I essentially told them that. Hey, look, you are very successful. That is great. You live in the greatest country in the world. You have done a lot to help our economy. But why are you helping the Chinese economy? Why are you investing in things that are going to give them a military advantage over our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines? Why are you doing that?

They didn't have a good answer.

It wasn't a very cordial meeting, to be honest, because we didn't see it the same way. But at the very end of the meeting, actually, one of them got up and said: Well, you know, Senator, if we don't do these kinds of investments in China, the Saudis and Emirates will.

I was like: Wait. What? That is your drop-the-mic argument at the end? You requested the meeting with me. That is a pathetic argument. What about patriotism? What about American interests?

So I started kind of blowing the whistle a little bit on this company in hearings and stuff. We did a lot of research. They were doing a lot of big-time investments in some of the highest tech elements of the Chinese economy that will help their military kill American sailors and soldiers if we ever get in a fight. That is wrong.

So we started—some of us—putting a little pressure on these guys. Transparency. Calling them out—Americans doing this kind of thing. Well, some of that worked. They announced a big separation agreement. They are not going to do it anymore. They are getting pressure from the Congress—by the way, legitimate pressure.

Here is a headline from the Wall Street Journal: "Sequoia Made a Fortune Investing in the U.S. and China"—China high technology that will help their military—"Then It Had to Pick One." It had to pick one because Members of Congress were saying: Enough. That is transparency.

So we want to know how many more Sequoias are out there. It is a pretty legitimate ask. It is actually a very legitimate ask. It is so legitimate that 91 U.S. Senators voted for this. And we have one Congressman over there who is leaving—not sure where he is going; maybe he is going to Sequoia Capital—and he is blocking it.

So we need to fix this. We need to make sure the vast majority of U.S. Senators and U.S. House Members who want transparency on this really important national security issue—that this gets fixed.

So once again I am calling on the Speaker to keep his commitment,

bring the McCaul bill to the floor soon—next week, 2 weeks, January. But don't let one Congressman who is walking out the door thwart the vast, vast majority of the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House on a very important national security issue.

You know, a lot of us talk a lot about China and the threats. I have been coming out here since I got elected in 2015 to talk about the challenges of this dictator. He is a menace, dangerous, and they are growing their power. But do you know what? A lot of it is talk. A lot of it is talk. This was something that was action. It wasn't a huge deal—transparency, action.

Right now, we have Republican House Members—hopefully not the Speaker, but certainly the chairman of the Financial Committee, the Banking Committee—who are saying: No, I want to keep it in the dark, what Americans are doing to invest in making this guy stronger.

That is wrong. Mr. President, 99.9 percent of Americans would think that is wrong. So we need to fix it. The House needs to take leadership on this issue. And my Republican colleagues keep talking tough on China. It is time to act. It is time to act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FETTERMAN). The Senator from New York.

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to show framed photos of two individuals I would like to speak about today.

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

ISRAEL

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, as fighting has resumed in Israel and in Gaza, I met with three families whose loved ones became victims of Hamas. One was the sister of Tamar Gutman, a beautiful 27-year-old Israeli woman who disappeared on October 7. Tamar had been attending the Supernova music festival when the terrorists attacked.

Tamar's sister was in touch with her during the morning of the attack as Tamar and her friends tried desperately to hide from the attackers. But Tamar suddenly stopped responding to texts.

Her family presumed she had been abducted and held out hope that she might still be alive. But 27 days after the attack, they finally got footage that indicated that she had been killed.

Tamar's sister told me that as horrible as it was to see the image of her sister's dead body, it was a relief to see that her jeans were still on her body.

But later, when the family recovered or tried to recover Tamar's body to give her a proper burial, they only found a few bones from her thigh and her chest. Her body had been horrifically dismembered, mutilated, and burned.

I also met with friends of Ofir Tzarfati's, who was attending the

Supernova music festival as well. He, his girlfriend Shoval, and his friends were there to celebrate his 27th birthday. When rockets began to fall, the friends all got in their cars and began driving toward the exit, but there was a huge traffic jam. Suddenly, hundreds of people started running to the other side of the cars, yelling: "Terrorists! There are terrorists here! They shot a woman in the head!"

Ofir grabbed his girlfriend Shoval's hand, and they started running. People were freezing in fear and falling from gunfire around them. The couple and a friend hid for 4 hours behind a tree trunk. Shoval and others who had escaped say that Ofir was a hero, that he managed the whole situation to protect them, telling them when to run, when to crouch, when to hide. They saw his bravery, and they followed him.

When an Israeli driver came to offer help, Ofir helped his girlfriend and her friend into the car. But there were already eight people inside that car, and there was no room for him, so Ofir told them to go without him, and he got into another car. Shoval wanted to get in Ofir's car, but the driver already hit the gas and drove off. She called him on the way to tell him where to meet her, but he never made it.

Later, Ofir's loved ones learned that his car was attacked and that he was badly injured, but they held out hope that he was still alive and were told he had been taken captive. Sadly, on November 29, Ofir's family learned that his body had been found in Gaza.

These are just two among the hundreds of innocent people who fell victim to Hamas. But despite the profound grief and despair their families are experiencing, they are dedicating themselves to advocating for the innocent hostages still in captivity.

Last week, I also met with Merav Raviv, whose uncle, Avraham, and aunt, Ruti Munder, were kidnapped together with their daughter, Keren Munder, and her son, Ohad. Ruti, Keren, and Ohad were released, but Avraham is still being held by Hamas. He will turn 79 tomorrow. He is in very poor health, and he needs medication and care. His family said that a kind Israeli woman who was trained to be a nurse was trying to care for him in captivity, but since she has been released, they are very, very worried that he will not survive.

We know what Hamas thinks about the sanctity of human life by what they did to Tamar and Ofir. Every day that the hostages remain in captivity is another day that their lives are at risk.

It is time to bring every hostage home and reunite them with their families. It is the least that we can do to honor the memories of those who have been lost, those who have been killed, those whose bodies have been desecrated, and those who are in deep, deep sorrow.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 435, COL Andres O. Saslav, with the exception of COL John W. Sannes; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of the following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., section 624: to be Brigadier General, COL Andres O. Saslav.

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

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 443 and all nominations placed on the Secretary's Desk in the Coast Guard; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE COAST GUARD

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Coast Guard to the grade indicated under title 14 U.S.C., section 2121 (e):

To be rear admiral (Lower Half)

Capt Jason P. Tama
Capt. Arex B. Avanni
Capt. Gregory C. Rothrock
Capt. Jefnrey W. Novak
Capt. Adam A. Chamie
Capt. Zeita Merchant

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE COAST GUARD

*PN1108 COAST GUARD nominations (212) beginning MARK R. ALLEN, and ending JAMES B. ZORN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 24, 2023.

*PN1111 COAST GUARD nominations (11) beginning LORI A. ARCHER, and ending SHARON E. RUSSELL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 26, 2023.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023, AT 3 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, December 11, 2023.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 4:50 p.m., adjourned until Monday, December 11, 2023, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

JACOB B. SAUNDERS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

MARK C. MULLINAX

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

COLBY S. MILLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

SETH M. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

AARON R. MONKMAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

LASAUNDR C. ESTELLE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

PAUL B. FOWLER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

PAGE E. BROWN

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

SARAH A. SHERWOOD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be captain

WILFREDO MORALES

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant commander

DARY R. SAMPY, JR.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

ANGELA C. ANGELINI