

Our adversaries are working together to make America and our friends less safe and less secure.

It is time for the Commander in Chief to lead allies and partners in an international effort to impose meaningful costs on Iran, threatening the things its leaders hold dear, and changing this regime's violent behavior.

We can't afford weakness. We can't afford to be deterred by Iran. The easiest way to hasten escalation and a wider war is to show you are unwilling or unable to meet aggression with strength. There is only one way to stop a bully.

So it is time for the Commander in Chief to stand by our allies and stand up to our adversaries. He can actually begin that today.

But it is also time for Congress to deliver the urgent investments that our industrial base, our forces, and our partners will need to meet and outcompete the growing and linked threats that we face.

The Senate passed an urgent national security supplemental 2 months ago—2 months ago. It would help meet the urgent needs of Ukraine's resistance, equip Indo-Pacific allies to deter PRC aggression, replenish Israel's stocks of critical capabilities, and expand our own capacity to refill and deploy the arsenal of democracy.

Anyone taking the challenges we face seriously knows that these unmet needs are absolutely urgent. So I will once again urge our House colleagues to take up this legislation without delay.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT

Madam President, on a related matter, in December, the Director of the FBI told our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee that when he surveys threats to the homeland, he saw "blinking lights everywhere."

Iran's efforts to kill Americans, compromise our communications and data, and collect intelligence on U.S. soil are already well-known. At this point, so are the hundreds of known or suspected terrorists encountered along our borders in just the current fiscal year.

At the end of the week, an essential authority America's law enforcement and intelligence professionals rely on to monitor and mitigate serious threats is actually set to expire. The crucial window into the activities of those who wish America harm is set to go dark.

Of course, a few days ago, the House passed legislation that reauthorizes section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act before it lapses. This historic authority should not be controversial, and it should not be conflated with well-known FBI abuses of FISA's title I.

Section 702 provides the authority to collect the communications of foreign nationals located overseas when they are reasonably likely to yield intelligence value. In practice, this means suspected foreign terrorists or foreign intelligence operatives—again, all of them located overseas.

Section 702 both gives us this critical information and places guardrails on how this collection is conducted. Importantly, it does not authorize the surveillance of Americans for which a warrant is already required.

Have there been problems in the FISA process from malfeasance and incompetence? Yes, there have. That is why the bill includes the most significant accountability reforms to the FBI in generations.

The bill includes the most significant reforms to FISA—both section 702 and title I—in a generation. The bill the Senate will receive this week already places firm parameters on the FBI's ability to query the database of lawfully collected foreign intelligence for communications that might involve U.S. persons, either as a target or an asset of a foreign terrorist or intelligence operative.

It creates further new reporting requirements to increase accountability for abuse and misconduct in the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court system, including direct reporting to Congress on adverse personnel actions and noncompliance.

And it imposes new, serious criminal consequences for unlawful disclosures of court proceedings.

I say all of this as context for any demands that the Senate place further limits on the use of FISA critical authorities.

Let me be clear: The data collected under section 702 is collected lawfully. It is entirely reasonable under the Constitution. Any incidental collection of communications by or about U.S. persons is also reasonable.

Every court that has looked at that question has said so, and they are right. Misguided efforts to require a criminal law warrant to sort and organize those data on U.S. persons would end—end—the ability of the FBI to keep Americans safe. Frankly, they would forget the lessons of 9/11.

So I will oppose any such efforts and urge my colleagues to do the same. We have until Friday to avoid a dangerous lapse in a critical tool for identifying and stopping espionage and terrorism against the United States. If any of our colleagues believes that now is an appropriate moment to make this mission even more difficult, I would be very interested to hear that rationale.

America is facing the most dangerous combination of national security challenges since the end of the Cold War. I will not be a party to any effort to make it harder to meet these challenges, and the Senate will not allow vital security authorities to go dark.

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. SCHUMER. Madam 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

NATIONAL SECURITY SUPPLEMENTAL

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, Saturday evening, Iran launched over 300 missile and drone strikes against Israel, the first direct attack against Israel from Iranian soil in history. For five harrowing hours, the sounds of explosions and sirens reverberated throughout the night in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and across the country. Tens of thousands of Israeli citizens barricaded themselves and braced for the worst. On that long night, all of us were on tenterhooks as the missiles from Iran came down.

I strongly condemn the attacks by the Iranian Government and urge them to refrain from escalating hostilities. What Iran did was dangerous, unjustifiable, and threatens to plunge the Middle East into a widespread war. So I strongly urge the Iranian regime to cease their reckless behavior from both its forces and those of its proxies.

Now, when the attack came, thank God, Israel was ready. Israel was ready because of the United States' ironclad commitment to its security.

The night of the attack, I was in touch with senior administration officials who told me that, with help from the United States, England, France, and some Arab nations, the overwhelming majority of all Iranian missiles and drone strikes were successfully intercepted.

The damage to Israel, thank God, was minimal. Only one serious casualty was reported. We pray for her recovery.

Today, above all, I breathe a sigh of relief for Israel—relief that injuries were minimal, relief that the damage was not worse. But, of course, it was no accident that Israel endured Iran's attack largely unscathed. On the contrary, Israel endured because America's support for Israel's security is ironclad. The success of Israeli missile defense, developed in cooperation with the United States and with U.S. funding, is a testament to the United States' longstanding security cooperation with Israel. It is why so few of Iran's missiles and drones ultimately hit their targets. So I commend the Israel Defense Forces, I commend President Biden and our military leadership and our brave Armed Forces, and I commend our partners who worked together with Israel to avert calamity.

Iran's reprehensible attack against Israel has made a few things very clear:

First, Israel is surrounded by adversaries who seek its destruction. We saw that on October 7. We saw it again this weekend. We dare not waver in our commitment to help Israel defend itself from these threats.

Second, the fact that so many nations came to Israel's aid, including some Arab nations, shows Iran is becoming more and more isolated. Iran's attack should be swiftly and universally condemned. Their attack risked

provoking a wider conflict in the Middle East, and we cannot have that. So I am pleased that many nations banded together and held the line against the Iranian regime.

Third, Israel's attack underscores the best way to help Israel is for the House to swiftly pass the Senate's bipartisan national security supplemental. The House must rush to Israel's aid as quickly as humanly possible, and the only way to do that is passing the Senate supplemental ASAP. In fact, there is no reason for the House not to move on the Senate's supplemental as soon as today.

Yesterday, I got on the phone with the President, with Speaker JOHNSON, Leader MCCONNELL, and Leader JEFFRIES and made it clear that the uncertainty and delay over the supplemental has to end. We all had consensus that we need to aid both Israel and Ukraine.

If House Republicans put the Senate supplemental on the floor, I believe it would pass today, reach the President's desk tonight, and Israel would get the aid it needs by tomorrow.

Let me say that again. If House Republicans put the Senate supplemental on the floor, I believe it would pass today, reach the President's desk tonight, and Israel would get the aid it needs by tomorrow.

If the House could finish the job by the end of the day, why wait?

Now, the Senate supplemental not only gives Israel the tools it needs to repel future attacks, but it also provides Ukraine the aid it needs against Putin. I spoke with the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine yesterday, who told me the situation in Ukraine is beyond desperate. With few air defenses, there is little stopping Russian drones from targeting Ukrainian powerplants and leaving more and more residents without electricity. And the danger here is that these power outages will become a long-term problem. She told me the equipment that was destroyed is so large—the kinds of transformers and other machineries—that it takes a long time to rebuild them and replace them.

The U.S. Ambassador reiterated President Zelenskyy's point that Ukraine will lose this war unless it gets the defense materials, the ammunition, and the anti-aircraft resources it needs immediately. Those powerplants are taken out because Ukraine is running out of the ability to defend itself from these vicious attacks.

At this treacherous moment for global security, it would be a grave mistake to think the conflict in the Middle East is unconnected to the conflict in Europe. That is why the best way to help Israel and to help Ukraine is to pass the Senate supplemental this week. I have called on Speaker JOHNSON to do that.

Enough with the delay. Enough with the uncertainty. Enough with promises to take action. I urge the House to get going today on the Senate supplemental. It is vital for the future of

Israel, for the future of Ukraine, and for the future of the West and democracy.

SENATE AGENDA

Madam President, now, on the Senate agenda, the Senate has a very busy few days in store this week. Before April 19, the Senate must finish approving legislation to extend FISA's 702 authorities. The House is expected to send us an extension sometime this evening, after they address a few minor procedural delays.

Once the House sends us the FISA reauthorization, I plan, as early as tonight, to take the first procedural step for the Senate to begin consideration. With less than a week to go before FISA authorities expire, time is a luxury the Senate doesn't have. Republicans need to work with us in a bipartisan way to ensure this program with important implications for our national security does not lapse.

Now, as the Senate works on FISA authorities, we will also have to deal with the House vote to impeach Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. For now, we still expect the Articles of Impeachment to arrive in the Senate sometime tomorrow afternoon. Should that happen, the Senate will swear in Members as jurors the day after the articles are presented.

As I have said repeatedly, impeachment should never be used to settle a policy disagreement. That would set a horrible precedent for the Congress.

Nevertheless, the Senate's plan has not changed since last week. We are ready to go whenever the House sends us the articles. We want to address this issue as expeditiously as possible.

TAX DAY

Madam President, now on Tax Day, today is Tax Day, and thanks to reforms Democrats passed in the Inflation Reduction Act, tax filing season has become smoother than ever for more and more taxpayers. For the first time, an unprecedented number of Americans, including thousands of New Yorkers, were able to file for free directly with the IRS using the Direct File pilot program. Next year, we want to expand the program even more.

But, sadly, Republican obstruction on the tax bill meant that this year, millions of families and small businesses continued to face higher tax bills. If Republicans drop their obstruction and work with us, we could expand the child tax credit for 16 million families, enable the construction of 200,000 affordable homes, deliver tax relief to disaster-stricken communities like East Palestine, while also restoring incentives for innovation and capital investment.

The House overwhelmingly passed the tax bill with bipartisan support at the end of January. It should be no different in the Senate. This Tax Day, I urge my Republican colleagues to join Senate Democrats in supporting this bill so we can deliver this relief to American taxpayers.

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. DURBIN. Madam 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.

IRAN

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, some years ago, I had the privilege of visiting our American servicemembers stationed in the U.S. Navy Fifth Fleet in Bahrain—an impressive group keeping a close eye on Iran.

Despite a relatively pro-Western population, Iran's hard-line leadership regularly has threatened the United States' interests and its allies.

Iran has long funneled money and weapons to some of the region's worst proxies— Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis—some of whom have attacked U.S. personnel in Iraq and Syria. That is why I supported the Iran nuclear agreement under President Obama—not because it would stop Iran's belligerence in the region but because it would prevent it from doing so armed with a nuclear bomb.

Well, this weekend, we saw the Iranian threat in a massive attempted attack on Israel—one that Israel, with the help of the United States and other allies, was thankfully largely able to thwart. I hope cooler heads will prevail and keep this conflict from escalating in an already unstable region of the world.

But make no mistake, because former President Trump petulantly withdrew the United States from the Iran nuclear agreement—an agreement that was working to contain that dangerous program—Iran is inching ever closer to a nuclear weapon. Iran has also cozied up to Vladimir Putin—surprise—who is desperate for weapons from any rogue regime to fuel his disastrous war in Ukraine.

So it seems to me it is long overdue for House Republicans this week to stop doing Russia's bidding by blocking the Senate-passed national security supplemental.

MAYORKAS IMPEACHMENT

Madam President, I would like to speak on an unrelated topic now—about the partisan charade House Republicans have made of the impeachment process.

The two impeachment articles filed against Secretary Mayorkas are nothing more than an attempt to politicize this solemn constitutional tool to distract from the very real fact that the House Republicans are struggling to govern.

The Senate only has the power to convict, remove, and disqualify officers whose conduct meets the constitutional standard for impeachment. Listen to the standard very closely as spelled out in the Constitution: "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors." Neither article that