

Congressional action is required if we want to send additional military assistance.

The matter here is very simple, as President Zelenskyy told us in December. Ukraine will win the war against Russia if more aid is approved by Congress, but, if no more aid is approved, Putin will win.

We dare not hand Eastern Europe over to Vladimir Putin. The supplemental is how we ensure that Western democracy is protected.

The work is not easy. It is very hard. There are still some issues outstanding, but we remain committed to bipartisanship, and we will keep working because we want to get this done.

IMPEACHMENT

Mr. President, on the Mayorkas impeachment effort in the House, last night, while most Americans were fast asleep, a House committee voted to advance the absurd effort to impeach Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas.

The Republican House majority is moving forward with the sham impeachment effort, despite producing no evidence that Secretary Mayorkas has committed any crime. House Republicans have not shown that he has violated the Constitution. House Republicans have failed to present any evidence of anything resembling an impeachable offense.

Instead, what House Republicans are doing by advancing the sham impeachment effort is denigrating our Constitution, all for the sake of appeasing one person and one person only, Donald Trump.

And let this be clear: This unserious spectacle by House Republicans does nothing—nothing—to secure our border.

While Senators on both sides of the aisle are actually negotiating in good faith on border security, House Republicans keep exploiting the border only for political gain—only to help Donald Trump on the campaign trail—instead of working to solve the problem.

There have already been many shameful and embarrassing moments in the Republican House majority, but abusing the Constitution by pursuing this sham impeachment effort is a new, ignominious low.

MIFEPRISTONE

Mr. President, on the mifepristone amicus brief, yesterday I signed on to an amicus brief with over 260 of my Democratic colleagues urging the Supreme Court to reverse a dangerous circuit court ruling restricting access to mifepristone. We just learned that the Supreme Court will hear this case on March 26.

The FDA ruled mifepristone safe over two decades ago, but the hard right continues to seek its prohibition. The hard right's attacks on a drug that has been deemed safe for two decades shows how unhinged and limitless their desire is to eliminate freedom of choice in America. And the consequences of the hard right's anti-women agenda has al-

ready proven destructive to an appalling degree.

New research shows that there is a significant increase in the number of rape-related pregnancies—rape-related pregnancies. This is truly horrific. All survivors of sexual violence deserve access to a full range of physical and mental healthcare services; but, tragically, today they don't have that. This is the new reality for women in a post-Roe America.

These extreme abortion bans have caused chaos and inflicted irreparable harm to thousands of women whose stories we will never hear. Democrats will not stand by and watch the hard right continue its all-out assault on reproductive rights. We will continue fighting to protect a woman's right to choose. We will not stop until we prevail.

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. MCCONNELL. 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.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

BURMA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, it has been 3 years since a thuggish military coup derailed prospects for democracy, unity, and self-determination in Burma. The military—or Tatmadaw—has engaged in a ruthless, systematic war against the people of Burma. This war has displaced roughly 2½ million people. Last year alone, it claimed over 15,000 lives.

And, of course, the junta has placed tens of thousands of innocent people behind bars for opposing the military regime. Right now, nearly 2,000 members of the National League for Democracy, Burma's leading pro-democracy party, are being unjustly held as political prisoners, as are many others from all corners of Burma's society and its myriad ethnic groups.

Undoubtedly, the most well-known political prisoner is my friend Aung San Suu Kyi. For the longtime leader of Burma's pro-democracy movement and for the hopes she represents, I can only imagine the 3 years of pain, suffering, and frustration.

I would hope my colleagues would join me, on this third anniversary of the coup, in calling for the unconditional release of all political prisoners in Burma. In the face of sustained repression and brutal violence, the people of Burma continue to resist. Working together, increasingly across ethnic and religious lines, they continue to defy the heavy fist of the junta. In recent months, forces resisting the Tatmadaw have conducted promising counteroffensives and drawn significant defections from the ranks of the

pro-junta military. They are determined to establish a new democratic Burma committed to coexistence, justice, and the rule of law.

As I have said repeatedly, the world must encourage and support their efforts. The United States must urge more of our allies and partners to join in applying maximum pressure to the ruling junta, to state-owned enterprises like the MOGE, and to their enablers abroad.

There is also more the Biden administration can do to help the people of Burma. For one, it is past time to implement the bipartisan BURMA Act and deploy its new authorities and resources to engage and provide non-lethal assistance to those struggling to resist the junta, including ethnic groups and organizations on the frontlines of this terrible conflict.

The conflict in Burma is not just about freedom or justice. It has also been a boon to China and Russia. Both of our adversaries have armed the Tatmadaw for a healthy profit and growing influence. Beijing also has its eyes on critical infrastructure projects it sees as expanding its strategic reach into the Indian Ocean. Foremost among these is a \$7 billion deepwater port in Rakhine State.

I would encourage my colleagues to look at a map and consider just where this complicated country of more than 50 million people sits. Geography may not exactly be destiny, but it certainly matters. The outcome of the conflict will matter in the geostrategic competition unfolding all across Asia.

Throughout my career, I have been proud to be a voice for my friend Aung San Suu Kyi and for her fellow democracy advocates in Burma. I have been proud to celebrate their remarkable progress and to call attention to their setbacks and ongoing struggle. And the American people should be proud that so many are willing to risk so much to follow their example of self-government.

As the people of Burma begin to turn the tide of the conflict, I will continue to stand with them against the Tatmadaw thugs who seek to snuff out the bright light of their future. I hope my colleagues, the administration, and America's friends in the region and democratic countries around the world will do the same.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. President, now, on another subject, tomorrow the world-leading innovators that have produced medical cures here in America will face yet another compliance deadline from Washington Democrats' price-fixing scheme. As I have discussed before, the so-called Inflation Reduction Act includes a price-fixing mechanism that requires drug manufacturers to agree to a crooked negotiation process, pay an excessive fine or take their drugs off the market.

By February 1, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS, are required to send each drug company a

little Valentine's Day gift: their initial "maximum fair price" offer for each selected drug. Calling this price-fixing scheme a negotiation is like calling a bank robbery a transaction. In any fair negotiation, either party has the ability to walk away from a deal they don't like. But in this case, if a drug company fails to agree to the "maximum fair price" determined by unelected bureaucrats in a government Agency, the company has two options: They can agree to pay an excise tax capturing up to 1,900 percent of the drug's daily revenue; if not, the IRA would force them to withdraw entirely from participation in the Medicaid and Medicare programs.

So, unsurprisingly, multiple drugmakers have sued the Federal Government over the IRA's price-fixing racket. The companies have argued that the IRA's requirements constitute an uncompensated taking of property in violation of the takings clause.

In response, my colleague from Vermont, Senator SANDERS, decided to call the CEOs of all these companies to testify before the Senate HELP Committee, and the timing is no coincidence. As a recent editorial pointed out, "Mr. SANDERS doesn't want to negotiate, or conduct actual oversight. He wants to keelhaul the CEOs as punishment for suing the government."

Of course, the ultimate victims are not the innovators but the patients who will never receive lifesaving treatments. By one estimate, the incentives eliminated by this scheme would have delivered nine times as much funding for cancer research as then-Vice President Biden's own 2016 Cancer Moonshot Initiative provided.

The simple truth of the matter is that socialism doesn't work. The government can't wave a magic wand and make prices go down. And expressing anger about prices to a CEO won't lower prices either.

So perhaps instead of holding show trials on high prices, Washington Democrats might reconsider how their own reckless taxing and spending policies have created an economy that is failing innovators, patients, and working families alike.

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.

IRAN

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, the Nation received tragic news on Sunday morning. Three American soldiers were killed in an attack by an Iran-backed militia against Tower 22, a base in northeast Jordan that sits near the border of Syria and Iraq. More than 40 servicemembers were also injured in the attack with 8 requiring evacuation.

Families of the fallen and injured are in our prayers, as are the families of the two Navy Seals who were lost at sea off the coast of Somalia earlier this month, during a dangerous nighttime raid to interdict Iranian missile parts being shipped to the Houthis in Yemen.

We owe all of these military members a tremendous debt of gratitude.

There will no doubt be an investigation into how the drone that killed our soldiers on Sunday was reportedly mistaken as a friendly drone. But with more than 165 attacks against U.S. troops over the last several months, the risk of a U.S. fatality has been very high, and the half measures so far pursued by the Biden administration have failed to stop us from reaching this tragic milestone.

That is because the Biden administration's posture is missing a key element. It is possible to deter an adversary from taking certain actions by having the military capabilities to deny their success or to impose a crippling response. But having the military might alone isn't sufficient for a credible deterrence. These capabilities must be—have to be—backed up with a clear willingness to use them.

So when the Biden administration repeatedly asserts that we don't want to escalate with Iran, that we don't seek a war with Iran, the Iranian regime sees that as permission to set loose its terrorist proxies. It is unquestionably true that we would prefer to avoid escalation in the region. I am not here to call for war with Iran. And if the ayatollahs in Iran are to be believed, they say they do not want war either.

But if every diplomatic admonishment and so-called proportional response to the Houthis or Iran-backed militias comes with a caveat that we are not seeking to escalate, it is interpreted as "we won't escalate." This is not the language of deterrence, and it neuters the ability of our counterstrikes to compel any change in behavior.

So what should this administration do in response to the 165-plus attacks against U.S. forces in Iraq, Syria, the Red Sea, and now in Jordan? First and most importantly, keep all options on the table. Let the Iranian regime guess the lengths to which we will go to protect our troops from attacks, combat terrorism, uphold our freedom of navigation in the Red Sea, and help our ally Israel. Second, the President, as Commander in Chief, needs to take decisive action and articulate his strategy to the American people. I will defer to our military leaders on what measures will send the clearest message to Iran that its days of enabling attacks against U.S. military targets are numbered.

But there is no question that we need something more compelling than the President's handful of airstrikes, which have clearly done nothing to deter Iran and its proxies. When the stakes are this high and American lives are on the line, half measures will not cut it.

When it comes to President Biden's handling of Iran, a course correction is long overdue. First, there was President Biden's attempt to reinstate the Obama administration's flawed Iran nuclear deal. Then there was the Biden administration's attempt to unfreeze \$6 billion in Iranian assets as part of a deal to free American prisoners. Thankfully, the administration ultimately refroze those funds in the wake of Hamas's October 7 attack against Israel, but unfreezing them in the first place was a serious mistake.

It isn't just this kid-glove treatment that has emboldened and enabled Iran; the President's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan on a timeline announced to our enemies seriously dented perception of America's resolve.

Then there are things like the President's decision to restart funding to United Nations' Relief and Works Agency, otherwise known as UNRWA. New intelligence has confirmed what we had long suspected, and that is that roughly 10 percent of UNRWA workers in Gaza have ties to Islamist militant groups. Worse, at least 12 members actually participated in Hamas's October 7 attack, with two kidnapping an Israeli woman, two raiding an Israeli kibbutz, and another providing ammo to Hamas terrorists.

President Trump stopped sending taxpayer dollars to UNRWA in 2018 in response to reports that its staff held affiliations with Hamas and promoted anti-Semitism in classrooms. So why in the world—why in the world—would the Biden administration restart this funding without certifying it wouldn't be used to support terrorism? Another unforced error that has harmed our credibility in the eyes of our adversaries.

So what happens next?

President Biden needs to demonstrate resolve and leadership in bringing a swift end to Iran's campaign of terror. He must forcefully respond to Iran and show that the United States will be unwavering in defending our national interests, especially our troops.

He needs to seriously reconsider the reported plans to withdraw U.S. troops from Iraq and Syria based on an arbitrary timeline rather than security conditions on the ground, which will only be interpreted as a retreat by Iran and its terrorist proxies.

It would also be nice if he stopped stifling American energy and unfroze the liquified natural gas export approvals he recently halted so that our allies aren't forced to turn to countries like Russia and Iran for energy supplies.

This is a critical time. The eyes of the world and particularly the eyes of our adversaries are on our President. I hope—I sincerely hope—he will step up to meet the challenge.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.