

capabilities, long-range strike capabilities, and the full range of hard power necessary to change our adversaries' behavior.

It is time for the administration and Congress to step up and put our money where our mouth is.

NET NEUTRALITY

Mr. President, on another matter, 6 years ago, the junior Senator from Massachusetts warned that "There will be a political price to pay for those on the wrong side of history" in the Republican efforts to repeal Obama-era net neutrality rules. Then-Senator Harris warned that the end of net neutrality would "imperil our economy while reducing innovation, entrepreneurship, and creativity."

Senate Democrats claimed such a repeal would mean that "you'll get the internet one word at a time." In the assessment of one leftwing House Member, it was "a threat to our democracy." Others said the result would be "the end of the internet as we know it." Well, the last time I checked, the internet is still here, working just fine, and I am still receiving emails without issue. In fact, the year net neutrality was repealed, internet speed increased nearly 40 percent—so much for imperiling the economy and stifling innovation as more and more Americans do business online.

But Washington Democrats have yet to learn from their mistakes. Apparently, they just can't help trying to tie up every corner of our economy with more and more redtape. Last week, President Biden's FCC voted to reinstate the Obama-era rule to reclassify broadband from an information service to a public utility. Effectively, this would mean a return to the outdated Obama-era policy. It would enable Washington to impose new taxes, regulations, and tariffs on broadband providers and drown innovation in even more redtape—more government control of a core means of communication.

Of course, when Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996, we made it crystal clear that the internet is an information service and not a public utility. The law never gave the FCC authority to reclassify it as such.

Well, that didn't stop the Obama administration regulators from trying. But back in 2016, I was happy to co-sponsor legislation that would reverse their misguided net neutrality regulations. In 2017, I commended FCC Chairman Pai for reversing these regulations and allowing the internet to flourish. Chairman Pai's approach was in keeping with the longtime bipartisan consensus of a light regulatory touch. This is the approach that allowed for the rapid growth of the internet and the adoption of groundbreaking technologies it drove.

I am proud to join several of our Republican colleagues in urging the FCC to preserve this particular approach and turn back the egregious missteps from the Biden administration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

ISRAEL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, adults are suffering and children are starving to death in Gaza. That is a fact. It has been that way for weeks, if not months. Part of the problem, obviously, is it is a war zone. Because of that, many of the people, innocent civilians, have been caught up in the throes of conflict and have died as a result of it.

In an ordinary time, there are approximately 500 truckloads a day shipped into Gaza—500. In this time of war, an attack by Israel on Hamas in Gaza, the number has been reduced to 200—200—because the ports of entry have been closed by the Israelis for security purposes. Closing them means less food, medicine, and water is available for the people living in Gaza. They suffer and they die, particularly the children.

There has been an effort underway for months to persuade the Israelis to allow more of the basics of human life to enter Gaza, but the Israelis have resisted that suggestion for the most part. What have we done in response? Well, we have decided, through President Biden, to have an extraordinary effort—a landing area where trucks can be brought into Gaza from the sea, from an oceangoing vessel, and make things available to the people who live there. It is a life-and-death mission, and for us to walk away from it at this point would be not only foolhardy but cruel—cruel.

The notion, the argument that was just stated on the floor that Hamas is infiltrating these supplies and taking them for their own purpose has no evidence in fact—none. Over and over again, in phone calls which I have been part of to United Nations personnel on the ground, they assure us there is no evidence of that whatsoever.

So this humanitarian effort by the United States, by President Biden, is not only appropriate, but it is absolutely necessary. It is an emergency situation. I commend the administration for their actions in trying to feed these people in Gaza as they sit in a war zone and watch their children die, hospitals close, and the homes they had totally destroyed.

Let's do this and show them we as Americans really do care. We are not supplying terrorists; we are trying to supply children—children who are starving to death in Gaza. I thank President Biden for his leadership.

FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES

Mr. President, today is May 1. For many students, this is college decision day—about the time when they have to commit for next year's school year, pave a pathway for a better future.

For Chicagoan LaKesha Howard-Williams, a straight-A student who dreamed of attending college to pursue art, this was certainly the case. LaKesha was accepted to a nonprofit college outside of Chicago, but she decided to move back home and transfer to a community college near her home.

Sadly, her parents lost their home during the 2008 recession, and shortly after she moved back, her father passed away. LaKesha's family was struggling, and she eventually left community college to go to work.

After some time in a low-paying job without a college degree, LaKesha decided to go back to school to finish her education. However, her family could not afford to send her to a prestigious arts college. As she began researching scholarships, LaKesha was flooded with brochures for a for-profit college, the Illinois Institute of Art.

Mr. President, I don't have to tell you that is a name that is close to the actual Illinois Art Institute, which is a well-known and respected institution, but this Illinois Institute of Art was a lot different.

After being heavily pursued by the Illinois Institute of Art, LaKesha applied to it. They accepted her within days of her application and immediately encouraged her to take out student loans. This was the first sign of foul play. Her family was hesitant to see their daughter assume this kind of debt, but the school assured her it would be "well worth it," so she took out loans so she could enroll in this phony Illinois Institute of Art.

Although disappointed by the quality of her instructors and coursework, she was determined she was going to finish and get her degree, but as the weeks went by, more and more red flags appeared.

In 2017, an organization called Dream Center bought the school and promised an even better education, but things didn't improve for LaKesha. Then the school's President left suddenly and the staff disappeared. The final red flag was when the school lost its accreditation—something that it hid from the students for 6 months. Then it suddenly announced it was going to close at the end of the year.

LaKesha was able to transfer, but before moving to a better quality school, she estimated she would have more than \$70,000 in student loans from the Illinois Institute of Art.

Unfortunately, LaKesha is far from the only student who has been duped and deceived by the predatory for-profit college industry. For years, for-profit colleges have lined their pockets at the expense of students and taxpayers. These organizations mislead students into enrolling in programs that offer low-quality instruction, substandard job prospects, nontransferable course credits, and a worthless degree. Even more sickening, they deliberately target the most vulnerable—low-income students, first-generation students, veterans, students of color. They go after them with aggressive marketing tactics and promises of well-paying jobs.

Mr. President, I am going to give you two numbers. I warn you in advance that these two numbers are both going to be on the final, so listen carefully. Although for-profit colleges enroll only

8 percent—8 percent—of America's college students, they account for 30 percent of Federal student loan defaults—8 percent of the students; 30 percent of the student loan defaults.

How does this happen? Well, after aggressively marketing themselves, for-profit colleges pressure students to take on as much debt as possible to pay for courses that would cost far less at a community college or even a 4-year university.

Once students enroll and are on the hook for huge amounts of debt, the schools provide low-quality education and little support. If they manage to graduate, students end up with degrees that are practically worthless, working jobs that they could have been hired for prior to enrolling, and struggling to pay back crippling debt.

Extensive investigations have revealed the deception of some of the worst actors.

This morning, the Department of Education announced \$6.1 billion in student loan discharges for 317,000 students who attended the Art Institutes—317,000, including LaKesha. In Illinois alone, nearly 13,000 students will see more than \$250 million in borrower defense discharges.

In its investigation, the Department found that the Art Institutes misrepresented their employment rates to prospective students.

Imagine, if you will, a student with a family that has never had anyone go to college, knows just in the vaguest terms what they are getting into. They send their daughter to sign up and enroll in one of these colleges. She says: Mom and Dad, I had to sign up for student loans. It is the only way I could have gone to school.

They think to themselves, well, maybe that is the sacrifice people make to get a college degree that ends up with a good-paying job.

It turns out it is a phony operation from start to finish—falsified income data for graduates, denied career services for graduates. They learn, unfortunately, years after they get the debt started, that they have a worthless investment.

The Department found similar and deceptive practices in other for-profit colleges, like DeVry. DeVry in Chicago promoted false job-placement rates. Grand Canyon University—sounds impressive, right?—lied to students about the cost of its programs.

The Obama administration started to require accountability measures, but under the Trump administration and Secretary DeVos, lapdogs replaced the watchdogs. Then-Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos hired top officials who had worked for the for-profit industry.

It is long past time that we hold these profit-hungry, fraudulent institutions accountable.

What rankles me the most is the fact that these students are not only victims, with student debt up to their ears, but they have to change their life

plans, their career plans, because of this indebtedness and the fact that their degrees are virtually worthless.

I met some of these young people. They sadly tell the story of living in their parents' basement because they had no alternative with the debt they incurred in these worthless for-profit schools. That is the reality. The sad part, the tragic part, the infuriating part is that the owners of these for-profit operations take all that money from student loans, offer nothing in return by way of education, and eventually, when they go bankrupt—and they virtually all do—they end up off the hook. They don't have any personal liability.

I have been calling for greater scrutiny of for-profit colleges for more than 10 years on the floor of the Senate. Aside from flying in the face of providing a high-quality postsecondary education, these for-profit colleges are costing taxpayers millions of dollars. Despite well-documented misconduct, for-profit colleges received more than \$14 billion—\$14 billion—in Federal student aid in the 2022 to 2023 school year—\$14 billion from the Federal Government.

That is why today I am once again sending a warning letter, for the 11th consecutive year in a row. I am sending it to every high school in my State asking them to ensure students receive accurate information about the college they want to attend, including the risks associated with attending a for-profit college.

I wondered when I first sent that letter out whether anyone would even open the envelope and if they did, would it mean anything. It is amazing. These schools tell me: Thank you for doing this. It is a reminder, and we put right in front of the students and say, "The Senator sends a letter each year to warn us about these schools. Be careful."

These for-profit schools undermine all the work and resources high schools devote to students, and warnings to avoid them can be the difference between a successful future and one saddled with a lifetime of student debt.

I urge my colleagues, join me in sending a letter to high schools in your State warning kids who are being inundated with advertising by for-profit schools that they may not be making the right decision if they head in that direction.

It is long past time that we hold for-profits accountable for the pain they are inflicting on our kids. They are exploiting our students and enriching themselves. Let's make sure that no young person gets conned into attending a duplicitous, profit-driven institution.

What percentage of high school graduates end up at for-profit colleges? That is right. Eight percent. And what percentage of student loan defaults are for students at for-profit colleges? Thirty percent. Eight and thirty, those two numbers tell the story.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Republican whip.

ENERGY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, "Amid explosive demand, America is running out of power." That was the title of a Washington Post article this March highlighting some of the challenges facing our Nation's electric grid.

Vast swaths of the United States are at risk of running short of power as electricity-hungry data centers and clean-technology factories proliferate around the country, leaving utilities and regulators grasping for credible plans to expand the nation's creaking power grid.

The state of our Nation's electric grid is becoming a matter for serious concern. Our grid has been weakened by increased demand and the move away from conventional energy sources, and we are rapidly approaching a situation in which there will not be sufficient electricity to keep up with demand.

And it is against this backdrop, against the backdrop of an aging, weakened grid struggling to meet even current needs that the President is attempting to force the widespread adoption of electric vehicles.

Last month—the same month in which the Post published its report on how America is running out of power—the Biden administration finalized emissions rules for cars and light- and heavy-duty trucks that will have the practical effect of forcing car and truck companies to electrify a huge portion of their sales lots.

That will place incredible new demands on our power grid—demands that our grid is unlikely to be able to sustain. And to add insult to injury, at the same time that the President is preparing to place enormous new demands on our grid, he is also implementing regulations that will weaken our grid even further.

After endangering existing powerplants with its so-called "Good Neighbor" rule last year, last week, the Biden administration issued new carbon capture and emissions regulations that will reduce the amount of electricity plants provide to the grid and almost, unquestionably, force coal-fired plants—which still, by the way, make an essential contribution to our Nation's electricity supply—it will force them to close.

If not overturned, these rules are likely to result in a gaping hole in the U.S. electricity supply, just as the President is forcing more Americans to turn to electricity to power their cars, not to mention the fact that they will saddle consumers and businesses with higher energy costs for less reliable energy.

When he is not trying to weaken our electric grid or force a move to electric vehicles that our grid cannot support, the President is taking aim at conventional energy production.

Less than 2 weeks ago, the administration announced that it would be