

This Police Week, let's offer more than empty words. Let's provide the support and resources that our men and women need to keep themselves and their communities safe. Although nothing can ever be done to truly appreciate the sacrifice so many have made by laying down their lives, we honor them by supporting their fellow officers.

We must get our officers the tools and the training they need to do their jobs and to build trust with the communities where we all live, the communities that they are sworn to protect.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE FIGHTING IRISH

Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, 100 years ago this week, a legend was born. One hundred years ago, the champions of religious freedom refused to back down in the face of intolerance and hate. One hundred years ago today, the University of Notre Dame earned the moniker the "Fighting Irish."

On May 17, 1924, thousands of members of the Indiana chapter of the Ku Klux Klan gathered in South Bend, IN, for a rally, a rally called by their infamous leader D.C. Stephenson. The target that day for their despicable and misguided message of "true Americanism" was the Catholic institution of the University of Notre Dame, the young men who attended the university, and the Holy Cross priests who taught at it.

In the years that immediately preceded that fateful day, the KKK had watched with despair as Coach Knute Rockne and his football "Ramblers" had barnstormed across the country, winning praise for their fighting spirit and the university.

We can't forget that at the time, Catholics were a major target for the KKK in the Midwest, and Notre Dame's success on and off the field was an affront—an affront—to the Klan's false message of superiority.

So the KKK gathered outside the Golden Dome for what was to be a 3-day rally, complete with parades and speeches and dances and no small amount of overtly violent intimidation. You see, they weren't used to anyone standing up to them. They weren't expecting anyone to stand up to them. And little did they know that the mostly Irish Catholic student body across the street had no intention of being intimidated.

Little did they know that the students were so animated that the university president, Father Matthew Walsh—a World War I veteran—had been trying in vain to tell his students to stay safe and to shelter in the school.

Little did the KKK know that on that day, the intended aspersion that the student body had co-opted as their preferred nickname—the "Fighting Irish"—was about to reach a national audience.

As the story goes—no doubt colored with some apocryphal additions over the years—the Klansmen began arriving in South Bend and hundreds of stu-

dents marched out to meet them. At first, the students almost playfully offered to assist the Klansmen in finding lodging and food, sometimes leading them down allies, other times leading them back out of town.

However, when one KKK leader evidently became wise to the ruse and pointed a pistol at a student who had intended to pull down the unsacred cross of lights hung in a downtown third-floor window, well, as they say, all hell broke loose. Klansmen who chose to fight quickly met their match and scrambled out of town. Students grabbed produce—yes, even potatoes—from a local vegetable stand and hurled them at the cross, taking out all but the uppermost bulb.

At that very moment, legendary "Four Horsemen" quarterback Harry Stuhldreher launched an impossible shot. He threw a potato 40 feet in the air at the bulb, successfully darkening the last unholy light.

Moments later, the rest of the Klansmen were run out of town, tails between their legs. A subsequent exchange the next day led to another rout by Notre Dame running the record to 2 and 0 against the Klansmen that weekend.

That weekend, in describing the Notre Dame student body's takedown of the most vaunted KKK chapter in the country, several national papers seized on the "Fighting Irish" moniker that had previously only been applied to the football team.

If you are interested in more details about that fateful weekend, Notre Dame alum Todd Tucker has written an acclaimed book entitled, "Notre Dame vs. The Klan."

Events like the one that took place in South Bend, IN, often prove to be historical inflection points.

In early 1924, intolerance and hatred were on the rise in the country, not just in Indiana but from coast to coast. For many, it was easier to give in to the fear of an uncertain future than to work to build a better community.

But Indiana and the country were soon to turn a corner, and the timing couldn't have been more poetic. Rockne, Stuhldreher, and the rest of the "Fighting Irish" football team would pull off a perfect 10-and-0 season later that year en route to the 1924 national championship. And the Indiana chapter of the KKK would quickly fizzle after the rape and murder conviction of its leader, D.C. Stephenson, the next year.

As for the university itself and its brave and proud student body, it would be 3 more years before Father Walsh would reluctantly give in to the wave that started that May day in 1924 and officialize the nickname the "Fighting Irish."

But make no mistake, it was 100 years ago this week, in an act of defiance against religious intolerance, that the "Fighting Irish" truly came into being.

So on this day, we remember their bravery in exercising their most basic

of American freedoms as we celebrate the day they put the fight in the University of Notre Dame "Fighting Irish."

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Senator from California.

#### NIH IMPROVE ACT

Ms. BUTLER. Mr. President, today, I rise on the heels of Mother's Day to bring attention to the healthcare crisis facing America's mothers—most particularly Black mothers and the Black maternal health crisis.

I begin by acknowledging the invaluable contribution mothers make each day, kissing scraped knees and chasing monsters out of the closet. Mothers are indeed our Nation's true superheroes.

All across the country, mothers are the driving force for our economy. According to the Center for American Progress, mothers are to thank for most of the economic gains enjoyed by middle-class families over the past 50 years. Their data covering 1970 to 2013 show that women's increased labor force participation and increased earnings grew the U.S. economy by 13.5 percent, which translates to an additional \$2 trillion in economic activity.

According to the Department of Labor, 40.5 percent of working mothers are equal, primary, or sole income earners for their family—a fact that is especially true for Black mothers. In the United States, Black mothers are a critical part of our labor force, and 80 percent of them are the breadwinners for their families.

But these same mothers face a healthcare system that is failing them. The United States has the highest rate of maternal mortality in the world amongst high-income nations. Thousands of women in America have lost their lives due to pregnancy-related causes in recent years and over the past decade. While the birthrate in this country has declined by roughly 20 percent, maternal mortality rates have steadily risen.

This crisis is exacerbated in communities grappling with a lack of access to essential maternal healthcare. According to a report produced by the March of Dimes, one-third of the counties in the United States are considered maternity care deserts, meaning there are no hospitals providing obstetric care, no birth centers, and no obstetric providers. Imagine your loved one preparing to give birth and bring new life into your family having no choice but to drive hours away from home to seek care.

We know from the data that this crisis has not been felt equally. Among Black and Native indigenous communities, maternal mortality rates are two to four times higher compared to those of White communities.

The good news is that champions in this Chamber have spent years laying the groundwork in our path toward rectifying this crisis. In 2018, then-Senator, now-Vice President KAMALA HARRIS introduced the initial Black Maternal Health Momnibus Act. The

Momnibus, now led by the very own Senator BOOKER from New Jersey, is a comprehensive legislative package that would make historic investments to address every dimension of the Black maternal health crisis. I am proud to serve as a cosponsor of this much needed legislation.

The good news is that, since leaving this Chamber, Vice President HARRIS has remained consistent and insistent in carrying these efforts forward into the Biden-Harris administration, spearheading the administration's blueprint to address the maternal health crisis. The blueprint has led to key actions involving innovative models to improve maternal healthcare for low-income women and a national strategy to address maternal mental health and substance use disorders. This blueprint, paired with the passage of thoughtful legislative proposals such as the Black Maternal Health Momnibus, is exactly what we need to combat this devastating crisis.

As a Member of this Chamber, it is a privilege to truly be able to contribute to those legislative solutions and be a part of this fight. That is why I introduced the NIH IMPROVE Act, alongside Senator KATIE BRITT and Representatives UNDERWOOD and in the House, to help address some of these disparities.

The NIH IMPROVE Act authorizes the funding necessary to sustain the critical activities of the National Institutes of Health's IMPROVE Initiative, which supports research on how to reduce preventable causes of maternal death and improve health for women before, during, and after pregnancy. The initiative aims to address the foremost causes of maternal mortality in the United States as well as significant pregnancy-associated and pregnancy-related health complications such as diabetes, obesity, mental health, and substance use disorders.

This bill would provide the steady funding necessary, at least for the next 7 years, to ensure that NIH can continue to pursue this research into the root causes of our maternal mortality crisis. The bill will also help to build an evidence base to further improve maternal healthcare in underserved areas and target health disparities associated with maternal mortality and morbidity.

Just one example of how the IMPROVE Initiative is already supporting critical maternal health research is the story of a young researcher named Denys Symonette Mitchell, a doctor of public health student at Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine. Through the support of the IMPROVE Initiative, Denys and her colleagues are actively conducting pregnancy-related research to examine and eliminate maternal health disparities and ultimately reshape communities in need. Specifically, their research examines strategies to support healthy eating and increased physical activity among low-

income postpartum women with a history of diabetes during pregnancy—one of the many conditions associated with maternal mortality and morbidity.

Denys has said that NIH-funded studies such as this have transformed her educational experience and catapulted her professional aims as a training research scientist.

In addition to serving as a doctoral research assistant, Denys is also a Black mother. Denys is a manifestation, a real-life example that Black women, Black mothers, and all mothers are so much more than just a statistic; they are vigorously working toward solutions that we need to improve maternal health outcomes in this country.

The urgent research efforts called for and outlined in the NIH IMPROVE Act and Initiative will not only help to address our Nation's maternal health crisis; they will also help to support the next generation of Black mothers, scientists, and leaders such as Denys. The lifesaving research supported through the NIH IMPROVE Act will bolster solutions that are designed to combat the crisis that all women are facing.

Mr. President, I will close with this: In the majority opinion of the Dobbs decision that essentially ripped away the reproductive freedom of women that they had fought for for nearly 50 years, Justice Alito wrote:

Women are not without electoral or political power.

While I disagree with most of what Justice Alito wrote in this opinion, on this point, with him I do agree. The political and electoral power of women in this country demands the healthcare that we need, demands the healthcare that we deserve. Advancing the NIH IMPROVE Act will serve as a key step toward accomplishing that.

While I serve in this Chamber, I will continue to push and to push us to deliver the investments required to address this crisis head-on. I am committed to seeing this through for my daughter if she decides to become a mother, for every woman who chooses to be a mother, and for the future of the Nation they will shape.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The deputy whip from Hawaii.

#### KIDS OFF SOCIAL MEDIA ACT

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, over the past year, I have worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle on legislation to protect kids from the harms of social media.

The role of platforms like Instagram and TikTok in turbocharging the mental health crisis among our kids is clear—the data shows it; our personal experience shows it; warnings from experts like the Surgeon General confirm it—which is why last month, after months of work with the Commerce Committee and outside stakeholders, I introduced an updated version of my bipartisan bill called the Kids Off Social Media Act with Senators Cruz, Murphy, Britt, and many others.

The bill does a few very straightforward things. First, it sets the minimum age of social media use to 13. Second, it bans platforms from targeting kids under 17 with their powerful black-box algorithms. Third, it blocks social media sites from school networks—something that almost 90 percent of all schools already do.

Over the past several weeks, my team and I have continued to work with other Member offices as well as a wide range of outside stakeholders to refine the bill in important ways, and we continue to have productive conversations on strengthening the bill in order to best protect kids online.

Colleagues may have seen the hotline run on my bill, and we continue to work toward a markup. There are also several other bills pending on this issue, which I support. It is my hope that the Senate will consider all of these bills in short order and finally give kids the help and the protection they need.

Congress has to act in this area. We now have many good proposals, most of them not in competition with each other. Let's take some action.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

##### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

##### NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, every year, our Nation comes together to honor and remember the brave men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice in service to their fellow citizens. This week, National Police Week, stands as a testament to the unwavering dedication and sacrifice of law enforcement officers across our Nation, including those in my own State of Mississippi.

Every day, our law enforcement officers put on their uniforms, kiss their loved ones goodbye, and head out into the unknown, knowing that they may encounter danger at any moment. They stand as guardians of our communities, ensuring that peace, law, and order prevail, often at great personal risk.

We owe a debt of gratitude to these heroes, whose selflessness and bravery serve as an example of what it means to be a patriot. Their commitment to uphold the law, protect the innocent, and serve justice is at the foundation of what makes our Nation great.

As we honor those who have fallen, it is important that we also remember the families they have left behind. This week, we, as a nation, join the spouses, children, parents, siblings, fellow officers, and friends in mourning the loss