

## BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, for as long as I have known Joe Biden, I have known him to be a man of one thing: a man who fervently loves his country. From the moment he was elected to the New Castle County Council to his swearing in as Delaware's Senator at age 30, to his elevation as our Nation's 47th Vice President, and to his election as our 46th President, Joe Biden's North Star has not changed: serving the people of the United States of America.

This weekend, President Biden made the kind of decision only a true patriot can make, choosing to pass the torch and to step away from the Presidency at the conclusion of this term.

I know President Biden's decision wasn't an easy one, but, once again, he put the needs of his country and our future first. It is a bittersweet moment but one that fills every single one of us who knows President Biden with limitless gratitude.

On behalf of a grateful Democratic caucus, on behalf of a grateful Senate, and on behalf of a grateful nation, I wish to say thank you—thank you—to President Biden for dedication to our country, and we will keep working with him every single day until this term is done.

By willingly passing the torch, Joe Biden is precisely the kind of leader George Washington would have hoped for. In his Farewell Address, our first President affirmed that elected office belongs to no man or woman alone but to the people above all. Two hundred thirty years later, President Biden honors George Washington's example in a way few Presidents ever have.

But to those of us who have known Joe Biden all these years, we know that this is who he truly is: a man of profound decency. He is, at his core, an honorable man, a family man, a man of faith. And he restored those qualities to the Presidency after 4 years of disaster under the previous administration.

Now, future generations will look at Joe Biden's Presidency and see it was one of the most consequential in American history. It may seem like a lifetime ago, but when President Biden entered office, America was in crisis. A once-in-a-century pandemic was claiming thousands of lives by the day. Our economy was on life support. And in the aftermath of January 6, American democracy was hanging by a thread.

Three and a half years later, America is stronger, more prosperous, and our future is brighter because of President Biden's leadership. And it has been the honor of a lifetime for me to work side by side to bring the Senate Democratic agenda to life here in the U.S. Senate.

With President Biden, we have created 15 million new jobs since the depths of the pandemic, the most in a single term. With President Biden, we have lowered the cost of prescription drugs for tens of millions of Americans. We empowered Medicare to negotiate

with drug companies for the first time ever. We have made insulin \$35 a month for millions of seniors. And we expanded affordable healthcare to more Americans than ever before.

With President Biden, we enacted a generational infrastructure bill to rebuild America, fixing her roads and bridges and highways and lead piping and expanding broadband to so many rural and inner-city areas that didn't have it. I was proud to lead these efforts in this Chamber.

With President Biden, we passed the first gun safety law in 30 years, the first since the Brady bill that I led as a Member of Congress back in the 1990s. And I remember working then with Senator Biden on gun legislation, both the assault weapons ban and the Brady Law.

With President Biden, we enacted the boldest clean energy bill in the history of our Nation: the Inflation Reduction Act. Because of this bill, our kids will breathe cleaner air, our communities will see less pollution, the next generation will enjoy millions—millions—of new, good-paying, green jobs that will last for generations—jobs with a future.

With President Biden, we revived America's grand tradition of scientific research and technological innovation. With the Chips and Science Act, advanced manufacturing is coming back to America, to cities like Syracuse and Albany, but also in States like Arizona and Ohio and Idaho and Texas and so many others.

And with President Biden, America has led the free world to defend democracy in its hour of need. He united the nations of NATO to stand with the people of Ukraine against Vladimir Putin, and NATO is stronger and larger today than it was when he took office.

Incredibly, Mr. President, there is still much, much more. President Biden led the way in appointing the first Black woman to ever serve on the Supreme Court: Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. I worked with him and my colleagues here in the Senate—I thank so many of them—to confirm more than 200 Federal judges, the most diverse slate of judicial and Federal nominees America has ever seen. We worked with him on historic veterans' health reform. We expanded Federal protections for marriage equality—all this and more.

Truly, President Biden's legislative accomplishments are without equal in our recent history.

Of course, the work is not done. This is not a moment of culmination because we have a lot of work left to do. For everything that has transpired these past few weeks, one thing has not changed: Senate Democrats will continue working with President Biden and with Vice President HARRIS and with the entire Biden-Harris administration to make life better.

It was so typical of the President. When he called me to tell me the news that he was not running again, he said:

But we have a lot more work to do over the next several months. It shows you the commitment of the man to making the lives of people better.

So we will continue to work on those issues, but, for now, I want to say for a grateful nation: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Joseph Robinette Biden.

What an amazing legacy President Biden will leave for future generations. History will say of this moment: Here was one of our great American Presidents. He is a leader who made the most difficult choice at the most important moment because he believed it was the right thing to do. Here is someone who put country ahead of self until the very end.

## KIDS ONLINE SAFETY ACT AND CHILDREN AND TEENS' ONLINE PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Now on KOSA-COPPA, when you are a parent, there is no greater pain imaginable than the pain of losing a child—in my case, I might say a grandchild as well. We all think of it almost every day when we have kids, when we have grandkids: What if they are gone? How would we even go forward?

My kids are now adults and have kids of their own. But I remember when they were little, nothing mattered more to me than keeping them safe. As parents, that is what we want to do—keep our kids safe as much as we can, to shield them from the harms they are too young to handle, and to ensure we as a country guard against those who would prey or exploit or otherwise harm our loved ones. I feel this way as strongly as ever as a grandparent when I think of my three beautiful grandchildren: Noah, who is age 5; Eleanor, who is age 2; and Henry, who is age 1.

Unlike decades past, ensuring our kids' safety today means ensuring their online safety, to protect kids from online bullying and exploitation and other risks to their mental health.

Social media has helped hundreds of millions of people to connect in new ways over the last two decades, but there are also new and sometimes serious health risks that come along with those benefits. We cannot set these risks aside. On this issue, we desperately need to catch up.

So this week, I am proud to say the Senate will vote on kids' online safety. For the information of Senators, I am announcing that this week, the Senate will take up two bipartisan bills to protect our kids while they use the internet—the Kids Online Safety Act, or KOSA, and the Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act, or COPPA. Today, I will move to lay a message before the Senate that I intend to use as a vehicle for the substance of those two bills. Members should prepare for a cloture vote on the message as soon as Thursday.

Passing kids' online safety, Mr. President, as we all know, as you

know, has been months in the making. This has been a long and bumpy road, but one thing I always knew for sure was that it would be worth it. I worked closely with Members on both sides of the aisle to get the bills ready for the floor—Senators BLUMENTHAL and BLACKBURN, MARKEY and CASSIDY, and so many others. I made sure that Members on both sides had plenty of time to offer their input, work through disagreements, and arrive at a consensus. Now, after months of hard work, the moment to act has arrived, and the Senate should pass these bills swiftly.

Nothing has galvanized me and so many others of us here in the Senate more to act on kids' online safety than meeting with parents who lost loved ones. Over the past month, I met with many parents from New York and from around the country whose kids took their own lives because of what happened to them on social media. Some of these kids were bullied. Others were targeted by predators or had their personal, private information stolen. Practically all of them suffered deep mental health anguish in some way and felt like they had nowhere to turn. And in far too many cases, their suffering ended in tragedy, as they took their own lives.

I can't comprehend the pain these parents have felt. No one would fault them if they hid away, if they mourned their children away from the spotlight and processed their grief in private. But the parents I have met are amazing. They have done the opposite. Instead of retreating into darkness, they lit a candle. They worked doggedly to ensure other parents don't have to endure the pain they did.

I was just talking to one of the New York parents who was here. That is what she said. It so touched me: I want to make sure what happened to my child doesn't happen to others.

These parents made their children's memory into a blessing—a blessing that now bears fruit in the form of legislation that will prevent other kids from meeting the same terrible fate.

So, for me, this effort is personal. To every Senator who has been a parent, it is personal. When I talk to parents who lost their children, see the pictures of their kids, I think of my kids when they were little, and I think of my grandchildren today. The loss shatters your heart. I think to myself, if we could get these bills done, it would do so much good for millions of families across the country.

We are going to get this done.

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I thank the Senators who labored tirelessly on these bills, especially BLUMENTHAL and BLACKBURN for their work on KOSA, MARKEY and CASSIDY for COPPA, and Chair CANTWELL for her excellent leadership on the Commerce Committee. I look forward to voting on advancing KOSA and COPPA here on the floor later this week.

I yield the floor.

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. 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

#### SECRET SERVICE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, since the Senate last convened, our Nation has seen two attempts to circumvent the American people's right to choose their leaders.

The first, of course, was the first time in more than a century that a former President of the United States was shot in an attempted assassination. That happened to Theodore Roosevelt.

This murderous assault on our democratic process very nearly robbed millions of Americans of their choice for the next President. It has been reassuring to see Americans united in their horror at this brazen act of political violence. The near-disaster on July 13 violated the trust of the American public, and restoring that trust will require transparency and accountability. I said at the outset that the resignation of the Director of the Secret Service would be an important step in that direction, and I am encouraged she has taken that step today.

The Director is on record describing her agents' responsibilities as "a zero fail mission." Clearly, on July 13, the Secret Service did fail the mission. The important questions now are why and how. Apart from internal inquiries and FBI investigations, Congress's oversight authority entitles us to answers.

Yesterday, the House Oversight Committee spent hours questioning the Director of the Secret Service. Unfortunately, the Senate majority hasn't yet shown any intention of conducting oversight of its own. Democrats who so often express concern about threats to democracy have yet to look seriously at the failures of the Secret Service.

The Judiciary Committee, for its part, appeared to be more concerned with resurrecting failed judicial nominations than getting to the bottom of the first near-assassination of a former President in 100 years. Until earlier today, Chairman DURBIN apparently intended to spend the committee's time taking another look at radical Judge Sarah Netburn, a nominee his own committee rejected once for engaging in political activism from the bench and lying about her actions under oath.

It is crickets at the Homeland Security Committee as well. Chairman

PETERS has three meetings on the calendar for this week but not one about the near-assassination of a former President.

A former President of the United States came within an inch of his life just days ago. An innocent participant in the great tradition of American campaigns was killed, and two other attendees were seriously wounded. The American people deserve to know how this happened and what steps are being taken to ensure that it won't happen again.

#### VICE PRESIDENT HARRIS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Fortunately, a despicable act of political violence failed, but just 2 days ago, a different decision succeeded in erasing the will of millions of American voters.

Leading Washington Democrats prevailed upon President Biden to toss out primary results and leave the nomination in limbo while party bosses anoint another candidate.

One thing is for certain: If they formally nominate President Biden's preferred successor, the choice facing working Americans remains the same. Vice President Harris owns this administration's record. Her fingerprints are all over the past 4 years of failure.

She has cast tie-breaking votes for radical judicial nominees, for soft-on-crime prosecutors, and for the reckless spending her party's top economists actually condemned. She has flouted her responsibilities as the administration's border czar and presided over the worst border crisis in American history.

The American people cannot afford 4 more years of open borders, violent crime, or historic inflation. In November, they may well reject it.

#### ISRAEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, now on another matter, tomorrow, the Capitol will welcome Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu, the democratically elected leader of America's closest ally in the Middle East to address a joint meeting of Congress for the fourth time.

It is a pivotal moment for the United States-Israel alliance and for Israel's war against savage Iran-backed terrorists. This is an existential conflict for Israel, but it is also a test of America's reliability and a challenge to the entire free world.

I look forward to hearing the Prime Minister's remarks. Unfortunately, some of the leaders who could learn the most from the experience of the battle-tested, duly elected leader of a sovereign democracy apparently will not be among us.

The Vice President, who traditionally presides over joint sessions of Congress, apparently can't spare the time to demonstrate even symbolic support for the only democracy in the Middle East.

Of course, Israel deserves more than symbolism. It deserves the time, space,