

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,

and material support to guarantee its security and defeat the terrorists who started this war.

But no matter how many times I say it, no matter how many of our colleagues affirm Israel's right to exist, no matter how sternly the President insists his commitment to Israel is "ironclad," America's actions speak otherwise.

The administration's policy toward Israel has often compounded the challenges our ally faces. It has withheld critical military assistance and tried to micromanage Israel's military operations.

Washington Democrats have struggled to forcefully condemn the scourge of anti-Semitism and terrorist sympathy running rampant across university campuses and throughout the American left.

Instead, they have indulged the mob, engaging in grotesquely hypocritical efforts to meddle in Israeli domestic politics and call for the removal of its democratically elected leader. And this is just in the past 9 months that the Commander in Chief's failure to deter enemies of Israel and America is a debacle years in the making. The chaos fomented by Iran and its proxies across the Middle East is no surprise when you consider the seeds this administration has sown:

Desperation to return to a failed nuclear deal told Iran that it, once again, held leverage over America. Rescinding the Houthis' terrorist designation told Iran-backed groups that America isn't serious about imposing consequences for their savage violence. A humiliating withdrawal from Afghanistan invited allies and adversaries alike to question America's competence and America's resolve. Failure to respond decisively to Iran-backed strikes against American personnel, interests, and partners across the region told the world's most active state sponsor of terrorism that the world's only superpower was unwilling to act like one.

Today, America and our partners are reaping the consequences of the Biden administration's weakness. This weekend's deadly strike in Tel-Aviv was the latest in more than 200 Houthi attacks on Israeli soil since October 7. Is it merely a coincidence that this attack landed just yards from a U.S. diplomatic facility?

The same terrorists are holding global commerce hostage in the Red Sea and happily trading thousand-dollar drones for million-dollar U.S. Navy interceptors.

They have concluded—correctly, it seems—that waging war on America and our interests is a low-cost proposition. And this isn't the calculus of some autonomous terrorists. We are talking about a campaign coordinated by the master terrorists in Tehran. As one Hezbollah field commander told a reporter recently, "The Iranians want us to escalate, so we are escalating. . . . The Iranians control every bullet we have."

The sworn enemies of the Great Satan and the Little Satan are emboldened. They are wreaking havoc on America and Israel for pennies on the dollar. And they are working with Russia, China, and North Korea to challenge the American-led order all around the world.

Just as core U.S. interests are at stake in Russia's war against Ukraine, they are at stake in the Middle East as well. Tomorrow, as on numerous occasions in our history, Congress will hear from a close friend of America on the frontlines against this global effort to undermine the American-led order.

Prime Minister Netanyahu deserves our attention, and Israel deserves a friend that lives up to the name.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

##### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. And under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Kashi Way, of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, first, I ask unanimous consent that the senior Senator from Georgia be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions from July 23, 2024, to July 24, 2024.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

##### TRUMP RALLY SHOOTING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I heard the remarks a few minutes ago of the Republican leader of the Senate, and I wanted to respond because he referred to our Senate Judiciary Committee. What happened in Butler, PA, the attempted assassination of former President Donald Trump, was shocking and unacceptable conduct on the part of those who were authorized and responsible for his safety.

There is no question in my mind that there is a bipartisan feeling that we

may have our differences on issues and other matters, but when it comes to the protection of all elected officials, particularly in this case a former President of the United States, we should all put the resources necessary and strategy necessary to keep them safe at all times. Thank God Donald Trump, whom I disagree with on many issues, survived that experience. It would have been horrible for this Nation and for his family if the wind had changed a little bit. He was 1 inch away from losing his life. Let's be honest about it.

How in the world did that happen? With all of the law enforcement and all of the Federal officials present, what went wrong? Well, the former Director, who resigned today, said that there was a failure, and she accepted responsibility for it. I think we have to get more information as this case develops, but we want to do it in an orderly fashion.

The House hearing yesterday was the beginning; 5 hours of testimony that revealed some things, but clearly not enough when it comes to what happened on that day. And the decision at the Senate level has been the subject of bipartisan cooperation from the start.

There is nothing partisan about this issue. There shouldn't be. And for anyone to suggest that we are not responding to the needs of the Nation to learn valuable information, Senator McCONNELL is just wrong. And I invite him to reach out to the Republican leaders and the committees affected—the HSGAC committee as well as the Judiciary Committee—and he will learn that we have been working on a hearing for next week, which is the last week we are in session before the Democratic National Convention. And we are going to do our best to get the witnesses there who will produce the information so we learn more about it.

This has been a bipartisan effort from the start, and it should be. It should be all the way. There is no partisanship involved in the security and safety of elected officials. It is a bipartisan, nonpartisan issue, and we have to do everything in our power to keep people safe. So I am hoping that Senator McCONNELL will reach out to the staff of the Senate Judiciary Committee and the HSGAC committee, to realize that we are working on that hearing next week as we should.

##### BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, students of history know that our Nation has been shaped not only by those who choose to seek higher office but many times by those who choose not to. In 1796, George Washington announced that he would not run for a third term as President in his Farewell Address to America.

Although the two-term limit would not be enshrined in law until almost 200 years later, George Washington's actions—choosing not to run for President, largely in response to the Nation's heated political climate—set a precedent, a valuable one.