

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.

In the years since then, Washington's voluntary decision to decline a third term has shaped our Nation's conceptions of political power and the Presidency. On Sunday, President Joe Biden's decision to decline the Democratic Party nomination was certainly in the spirit of that tradition.

I have known Joe Biden for almost 30 years. A passionate policymaker, a committed representative, and an all-around good man, President Biden represents the best of us in public life. And what can never be in doubt is his fierce dedication to our Nation.

Throughout his entire public career, President Biden put our country first. Through immense personal tragedy, through setbacks and obstacles, President Biden held steadfast in his faith with America.

Joe Biden was a Senator-elect from Delaware when he learned that his wife and three children had been involved in a car accident, and, tragically, his wife and a daughter lost their lives. Though living with the pain, which he later described as unbearable, 2 weeks later, as Joe Biden stood by the hospital bed of his two little boys, he was sworn in as Senator of the United States.

Every day he decided to take the Amtrak train from Washington back to Delaware and went back and forth between Washington and Delaware every night to be home with his boys. The moniker we have all become familiar with, "Amtrak Joe," was born with that experience.

Then, 40 years later, while serving as President Obama's Vice President, Joe Biden's son Beau died of brain cancer. And again, through personal devastation, Joe Biden continued to faithfully serve America because when our Nation needed him, when we needed him most, he was always there.

Mr. President, 4 years ago, we faced an election that asked us all to face the reality of what we are as Americans. Joe Biden was determined to beat Donald Trump 4 years ago to bring decency, rationality, and empathy back to the White House, to put our country back on track and restore the soul of our Nation. He did just that.

In the past 4 years under President Biden's leadership, America has seen incredible growth, recovery, and progress. Thanks to Joe Biden, we recovered from the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic. Millions of Americans were vaccinated. We passed the American Rescue Plan and financially supported working families, addressed the public health crisis, rescued the economy. Normalcy, slowly but surely, returned to America.

Thanks to President Biden, we have created nearly 16 million jobs. The unemployment rate has been at or below 4 percent for 30 consecutive months. That is the longest stretch in half a century of those good news statistics.

Thanks to President Biden, infrastructure week went from being a broken promise by former President Trump to a reality. We passed a bipar-

tisan infrastructure law that is replacing our aging infrastructure, expanded access to clean drinking water, high-speed internet, and better prepared ourselves to address the climate crisis we are facing.

Speaking of the climate, thanks to President Biden, we took historic action to address the climate crisis through the Inflation Reduction Act, the most significant investment in clean energy sustainability and climate resilience in the history of America.

And we laid the groundwork for American leadership in sectors of the future with the CHIPS and Science Act, bolstering American competitiveness for generations to come.

Because of Biden's leadership, we were able to enact the most significant gun safety legislation passed in nearly 30 years, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act.

Thanks to President Biden, nearly \$170 billion in student loan debt has been forgiven for nearly 5 million Americans. Prescription drug prices are lower too. We made historic health insurance coverage gains, and the fight for reproductive rights remains central.

And as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am proud to say we have confirmed 202 article III judges and counting, adding to the Federal bench—and keeping Joe Biden's promise—the first black woman in the history of the United States to serve on the Supreme Court.

And that is only domestically. On a global stage, President Joe Biden has restored faith in America as a trustworthy ally and a world power, global leader, there when the world needs us.

For the past 4 years, we have been competing more aggressively with China, rebuilding and expanding NATO, and standing up for democracy and countering the threats of autocrats like Vladimir Putin.

The legacy President Biden will leave behind is nothing short of remarkable. A grateful Nation thanks him for his dedication to each and every American. History will remember him as one of the most successful modern presidents. He acted in the tradition of great Americans such as George Washington. He put the interest of his country and his political party over his personal interest. His decision could not have been easy, but it is the mark of a true statesman. I am honored to call Joe Biden a colleague, a friend, and a fellow American.

KIDS ONLINE SAFETY AND PRIVACY

Mr. President, I want to turn to another important topic.

If you ask parents and grandparents, one of the greatest fears they have about their children is this cell phone. How do you know what those kids are doing on that cell phone? Hour after hour, we hope it is just conversation or games, something innocent; but we know it can be something much, much more.

I want to congratulate Leader SCHUMER on his decision to introduce a kids' online safety package. The Senate Judiciary Committee, which I chair, has worked tirelessly throughout this Congress to address the danger Big Tech is posing to our children and grandchildren.

In February of last year, the committee held a hearing on how to protect our kids online. We heard from a mother who lost her son after he was bullied online, a teen advocate who struggled with the impact of social media on her mental health, and many experts. In January, the committee held a historic hearing with the five Big Tech CEOs. The room was filled with survivors, parents, and family members whose lives have been impacted by Big Tech's failures. The emotion I felt during that hearing as I looked at their faces was unforgettable. Their grief was palpable, but so was their sense of purpose. They were there with a mission to confront the CEOs and demand that Congress finally enact legislation to make the online world safer for our kids and hold these tech companies accountable.

The hearing demonstrated that kids' online safety has widespread, bipartisan support. Mr. President, you know this personally. No other topic has brought the Members of that committee together from across the political spectrum as powerfully as this one. We proposed five different measures to enforce the law against the Big Tech operations that pay no attention to what is happening with what they broadcast on their media, and the final vote in that committee, a committee which is as diverse as anything ever gathered in Congress, was unanimous—Democrats and Republicans agreed. How about that, America? Can you believe it? On an issue that important, every single Senator of both political parties voted for the legislation. That is why I think we can get into an honest conversation about helping families fight this danger to their kids and grandkids. We need to move towards the provisions that we have enacted in the committee.

Bipartisan support was further demonstrated when the committee unanimously reported all five bills, including my STOP CSAM Act that will finally hold Big Tech accountable.

Here is what it boils down to: Bills that are coming to the floor from the Commerce Committee are good bills, but they turn to the Federal Trade Commission and other Agencies to enforce the law and police these Big Tech companies. That is not enough. I have talked to the heads of these Agencies. They are willing to take on this responsibility, but they need dramatic increases in resources and personnel to make it work.

In the meantime, our approach is to hold the companies civilly responsible, with the possibility of lawsuits and litigation to enforce it. That will get their attention, and they will finally