

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

come to the protection of these families.

The lack of accountability and consequences of their actions that Big Tech has enjoyed for decades has allowed the likes of Amazon, Meta, Snap, and other tech companies to ignore the risks their platforms pose to kids. KOSA and COPPA, as they are known, are positive steps toward changing this dynamic that I can support, but we need more. We have got to get serious. If we create civil liability for wrongdoing, there will be an enforcement mechanism powerful enough to deal with these companies.

I will continue to advocate for a vote on my STOP CSAM Act and other measures that make the internet safer for our kids.

With that, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, it has been a remarkable couple of weeks in our country: the attempted assassination of President Trump; the decision made by President Biden to—nonwithstanding having won all the primaries and being, essentially, the chosen leader of the Democratic party on the presidential ticket come November—his decision to step down in what can only be described as a political coup to install the Vice President as the Democratic nominee, even after months upon months of elections where the votes of people who participated in the Democratic primary have now simply been disregarded in favor of a handful of leaders in the smoky, smoke-filled rooms here in Washington, DC, deciding who should be their standard bearer.

But tomorrow we have another very significant event occurring: Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu is in Washington this week and will address Congress tomorrow. More than 9 months have passed since that terrible day on October 7 when Israel was attacked by Hamas terrorists. These attacks were against innocent civilians, not the Israeli defense forces, and these terrorists brutally murdered more than 1,200 Israelis without any warning and violently assaulted countless others. They took 251 hostages—many, unfortunately, have died, while 120 of them still remain in Hamas custody, including 8 Americans.

Over the last several months, Israeli forces have faced attacks not just from Hamas but from another terrorist proxy—or I should say two of them—Hezbollah from Lebanon in the northern part of the region and its proxy, the Houthis, in Yemen.

Sadly, many on the far left in our country have chosen to take sides not with our friend and ally Israel but with the terrorists—with Hamas, with Hezbollah and the Houthis against our friend and ally Israel. They have repeatedly called for a cease-fire, notwithstanding the fact that Israel is still under threat from Iranian proxies;

and they have attempted to frame Prime Minister Netanyahu as the villain here for a war begun on October 7 when terrorists attacked innocent Israeli civilians.

At a time when many Americans and, sadly, many Members of Congress do not seem to understand why America's support for Israel is so critical, I hope Prime Minister Netanyahu's remarks tomorrow will provide some clarity and some context. There is a saying that has been going around for years: If Hamas laid down its weapons today, there would be no more violence. If Israel laid down its weapons, there would be no more Israel. Hamas is not fighting for peace; it is trying to wipe Israel off the map.

This is an existential threat to the State of Israel and the people of Israel. The United States cannot tiptoe down the line between good and evil. We must make a choice, and we must make a stand. And that stand should be with Israel.

Prime Minister Netanyahu's joint address to Congress is an opportunity to reaffirm our shared values and highlight the pivotal role that Israel plays in promoting stability and democracy in an admittedly volatile region. I look forward to hearing his remarks tomorrow, but I am concerned about one critical absence. There have been news reports that Vice President HARRIS, who is now on track to become the Democrats' Presidential nominee, will not be in attendance. Reports are she is scheduled to speak at a sorority convention in Indianapolis. But this isn't a last-minute or unavoidable scheduling conflict. The date of Prime Minister Netanyahu's speech was announced in early June. And in any event, I am sure the sorority convention would forgive the Vice President for attending to this important event here in Washington, DC, and perhaps reschedule for another time. But to openly boycott the leader of Israel at a time like this is irresponsible. The Vice President's decision to skip this joint address is clearly a snub, and it foreshadows a continuing trend in U.S. foreign policy that started under the current President. And, obviously, it is designed to send a message to Prime Minister Netanyahu and Israel.

We have already heard some Members of this body call for Prime Minister Netanyahu—basically, for there to be an election to replace him, an unprecedented intrusion into the affairs of a sovereign nation, another democracy. It is disgraceful and embarrassing to see the pandering to extremist elements in the Democratic party.

Sadly, the Vice President isn't the only one shying away from showing support for one of our critical allies. Media reports say that this Chamber's President Pro Tempore, Senator MURRAY, is boycotting the speech as well.

I am not surprised that some of the more radical Members of the Democratic conference may boycott, but it is shameful when their top leadership is so willing to abandon a key ally.

In light of these dynamics, I hope the majority leader, Senator SCHUMER, will make it clear where he stands and that he doesn't condone skipping one of the most important sessions of Congress in recent memory just to get more air time on cable TV.

Given the partisan antics at play, I am relieved to hear that the Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman, Senator BEN CARDIN, will sit behind Prime Minister Netanyahu tomorrow.

I don't recall when the Vice President and the President pro tempore declined to sit and the chairman of a standing committee, like the Foreign Relations Committee, was called upon to fill in. But good for him. He understands the important message that this address sends and has stepped in to do what others have refused to do.

Still, the world is watching the Vice President more closely than ever before, now that she is on a path to become the Democratic nominee for President. They, of course, are analyzing every word, every move, every signal, every decision. If the Vice President keeps up with her current plans to boycott this address, it will send a chilling message about her foreign policy priorities and the future of U.S.-Israel relations under a potential Harris administration.

It also demonstrates a disregard of the commitments we have made as a nation to our allies. At a time when the tyrants and dictators of the world are drawing closer together, America cannot abandon our allies.

As Israel faces ongoing threats in a hostile neighborhood, it is imperative that the United States stand steady beside Israel. Israel must have confidence that, regardless of who is elected in November, the relationship between the United States and Israel will remain strong.

You know, it is not just the message we send to Israel; it is the message we send to Iran, the No. 1 state sponsor of international terrorism, and its proxies—Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis in Yemen. The Vice President, whether she appreciates it or not, is sending a message to America's enemies as well. As Joseph Stalin reportedly said, "you probe with bayonets. If you find mush, you push on. But if you find steel, you withdraw." Unfortunately, the message that the Vice President is sending by not attending this address and respecting our friend and ally Israel sends a message of mush, not steel.

As we face growing challenges around the globe, including the threat of Iran's nuclear ambitions and the spread of terrorism, we need leaders who will unequivocally support our allies and uphold our commitments. I can only hope that the Vice President will change her mind and make that commitment this week. I would congratulate her if she did.

But as we look into the future, America needs leaders who understand the