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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God, our help in ages past, at Your throne, we find our faith and strength. Lord, help us to know ourselves for who we are: people who are totally dependent upon Your mercy and grace.

In this great hour of human destiny, deepen in our Senators a sense of surpassing opportunity to permit You to use them as instruments for Your glory. Lord, fit them to protect our Nation from enemies, foreign and domestic, as You do for us all more than we can ask or imagine.

Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 25, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

ELIMINATE USELESS REPORTS ACT OF 2024

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany S. 2073, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany S. 2073, a bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require agencies to include a list of outdated or duplicative reporting requirements in annual budget justifications, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill, with Schumer amendment No. 3021 (to the House amendment to the bill), in the nature of a substitute.

Schumer amendment No. 3022 (to amend amendment No. 3021), to add an effective date.

Schumer motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with instructions, Schumer amendment No. 3023, to add an effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 3024 (the instructions (amendment No. 3023) of the motion to refer), to add an effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 3025 (to amend amendment No. 3024), to add an effective date.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

S. 2073

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as we all know, social media has been part of our lives for two decades. It has connected people in ways previous generations never could have fathomed. But with the benefits of social media also come the risks.

Many kids experience relentless online bullying. Kids' private, personal data can be collected and used nefariously. Predators can exploit or target kids. For kids who struggle with mental health, social media can magnify their anguish.

It has been decades—it has been decades—since the Federal Government has updated laws that protect our kids on the internet, but today, historically, the Senate has a chance to start changing that with bipartisan legislation.

This afternoon, the Senate will vote to advance two bipartisan bills: the Kids Online Safety Act, or KOSA, and an update to the Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act, or COPPA.

KOSA and COPPA represent something very urgent: a first step to keeping our kids safe on social media and other online platforms. I am hopeful that we can act on these two bills swiftly. They have already passed out of the Commerce Committee for the last 2 years, under the careful guidance of Chairman CANTWELL. KOSA has 68 cosponsors—bipartisan—more than enough to pass this Chamber.

Getting here wasn't easy. I have worked for years with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to prepare these bills for the floor. I want to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S5489

thank Senators BLUMENTHAL and BLACKBURN and MARKEY and CASSIDY. They have been a relentless and powerful force to get these bills moving. I made sure everyone had a chance to offer their input, and we worked together through any disagreements. Finalizing these safety bills has been a long and winding and difficult road, but one thing I have known from the start: It sure would be worth it.

We must remember that we could never have reached this point without parents of children who tragically took their own lives because of what happened to them on social media who came down here to relentlessly lobby and tell their stories. Over the past few months, I have sat down with these parents. I have listened to their stories. They are some of the most painful but important meetings I have ever had. We cried together. We looked at pictures of their kids—gone—and felt the deep frustration that we must do more as a society to keep kids safe online.

Looking at these pictures made me think of my own children, now in their thirties, and my grandkids—5, 2, and 1—Noah, Ellie, and Henry. The thought of losing them is incomprehensible.

The message from these parents has been simple and consistent: It has been long enough. The Senate must pass kids' online safety legislation with all due haste.

So, today, as we begin voting on these bills, I want to thank the parents who turned their grief into grace—the parents who turned their grief into grace. I want to thank them and thank them again.

Nobody would blame these parents if they preferred to process their pain in privacy, curse the darkness, but instead they have shared their stories, pushed the Senate into action, lit a candle to make sure other families won't suffer as they have been suffering and always will.

AI DEEPFAKES

Mr. President, now on AI deepfakes, it is an important bill, but it has been a busy and frenzied week in Washington, so there has been a lot of news about major speeches and congressional hearings. But this also deserves attention even though it passed late Tuesday night after most were gone.

This week, the Senate passed the DEFIANCE Act—a bill to combat the spread of sexually explicit, AI-generated deepfakes—and we also passed another act on fentanyl, which I will get to in a minute. These two bills passed, as I said, late in the evening Tuesday but deserve significant attention.

AI plays a bigger role in our lives than ever before, and while it has many, many benefits, it is also easier than ever to create sexually explicit deepfakes without a person's consent. These fake explicit images can ruin a person's life, especially if you are a child or a teenager. They can circulate online for years, if not forever, with no

or little recourse to hold abusers accountable.

Make no mistake about it, this is not a fringe problem. Ninety percent of deepfake videos are nonconsensual, and 2023 saw more deepfakes generated than every other year combined. Bad people—some for mercenary purposes, some just kids who do bad things—have learned about this, and the idea is spreading. No one is immune from it—not kids in school; not Members of Congress; not even, as we have learned recently, the most famous celebrities in the world.

The DEFIANCE Act will give these victims justice by allowing them to take civil action against those who generate and distribute deepfakes using AI and other technologies.

As I have said before, this DEFIANCE Act is one example of the AI guardrails I often talk about. AI is remarkable technology. It can spur incredible innovation. Maybe it will even cure cancer, things like that. But at the same time, we must be vigilant and pass guardrails to prevent its worst abuses from causing people great harm.

I am very hopeful that the House will pass this bill quickly. It got broad support here in the Senate.

I want to thank Senator DURBIN for leading the effort relentlessly on the DEFIANCE Act. I have been proud to support this bill every step of the way and encourage its passage. Tuesday night, we finally got it done in the Senate.

House, move quickly. Save people from the scourge of this horrible, horrible action.

PREVENTING THE FINANCING OF ILLEGAL SYNTHETIC DRUGS ACT

Mr. President, on Tuesday night, we also passed, as I mentioned, another significant bill, another crucial bill to combat the scourge of drug trafficking: the Preventing the Financing of Illegal Synthetic Drugs Act. This bill will get to the root of the financing behind deadly and destructive drugs like fentanyl and methamphetamine.

I want to thank every Senator who supported this bill, particularly our two amazing Senators from Nevada, CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO and JACKY ROSEN. They worked very hard to see that this bill passed.

This drug trafficking bill is the latest example of a concerted effort in the Senate to combat America's drug crisis.

Last fall, I met with Chinese President Xi, along with my colleagues—bipartisan—and we urged him and the Chinese Government to do more to crack down on Chinese companies that make precursor chemicals and send them to Mexico where the gangs turn them into fentanyl.

A few months ago, I led the Senate in passing the national security supplemental, which included the FEND Off Fentanyl Act.

We are making good progress in the scourge of fentanyl, which had tens of thousands of our young people die and

some of our law enforcement officers as well. So the American people should take note. There have been some very important things happening in the Senate recently to combat drug trafficking. This bill has already passed the House. It should go to the President's desk and be signed quickly—another marker, another action in our fight to end the horrible scourge of fentanyl, which has taken so many young lives.

WORLD TRADE CENTER HEALTH PROGRAM

Mr. President, I was just at a press conference on something else that we had to do to make America better. That is the World Trade Center Health Program.

We all know that in the aftermath of 9/11, many of our brave first responders suffered severe health complications, lifelong injuries, serious cancers. Many of them—far too many of them—are no longer with us. I remember them as they trod the halls to try to pass this legislation even though they were suffering from cancer.

My friend Ray Pfeifer, I think of him all the time. He is gone now, looking down upon us, smiling that we are moving forward.

I fought hard to establish and fund the World Trade Center Health Program and to help our 9/11 heroes get care at no cost to them or their families. That program has struggled with funding. We had to renew it year after year after year because there were some here in the Senate, some in the House, who said: I don't want to fund it permanently. But now we are attempting to fund it permanently.

Sadly, the program has struggled with funding over the years. But today we have good news, very good news. I just returned from a press conference with my colleague Senator GILLIBRAND and members, Democrat and Republican, of the New York delegation in the House where we announced legislation to permanently fund the World Trade Center program. That is right—not coming back year after year and getting a little more and a little more, but permanent. We need to fund it permanently. There are people still getting cancers, first responders and others, who rushed to the towers after 9/11. But their cancers don't show up until 10 or 20 or 30 years later. We can't leave them behind.

This funding will make sure everyone—everyone—who has been exposed to the toxins after 9/11 will get the treatment they need. And because the program screens early, we catch more people, we save more lives, and, frankly, it costs less to keep them alive.

I am proud to have secured nearly \$1.7 billion for this program over the last 2 years—\$1 billion 2 years ago, then \$700 million—just to keep extending the program because it was running out of money because more people were getting these cancers and other illnesses. It was clear to all of us we need to do more. By providing permanent funding to this program, our legislation will make sure our 9/11 heroes

never, ever have to worry again about getting the care that they need. They won't have to constantly traipse down on subways from New York and elsewhere to lobby Congress and go to those with somewhat hardened hearts and show them why it is needed.

Let's pass this bill. Let's make it permanent. I promise to those first responders, to Ray Pfeifer and all those who have been lost and fought for this, that I will do all I can to make sure this permanent bill becomes law by the end of the year.

PRESIDENT BIDEN

Mr. President, on President Biden, last night, the American people saw why Joe Biden will go down as one of our Nation's most consequential, most decent, most patriotic Presidents.

Over the last 3 years, he has amassed a record of accomplishment that has few equals in the history of the Senate. We, in the Senate here—many times bipartisan, sometimes not—worked hard with the President to create one of the great legislative records in the year 2022.

When President Biden entered office, America was in crisis. But today it is stronger, more prosperous, has a more hopeful future because of his steadfastness, his strength, his vision.

So this morning, I wish to say yet again: Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you. You have shown what the world looks like to put our country over self. You have restored dignity and honesty and integrity at the White House. I think of the song in Hamilton, "we're going to teach them how to say goodbye," that George Washington sang in the play about knowing when to stay and when to leave. Well, at this moment, Joe Biden is standing right next to George Washington and showing America he understood that message.

It has been an honor to work with the President to enact the most ambitious legislative agenda since the Great Society. With President Biden, we made tens of millions of Americans' lives better, and we will keep working with him until his term is complete.

TRIBUTE TO LAVERNE ALLEN

Mr. President, finally, as colleagues know, I rarely go anywhere without my either famous or notorious—depending on your viewpoint—flip phone. That means I will occasionally—just occasionally—forget to leave my phone in the cloakroom, as the rules say, when I am here on the Senate floor. And occasionally—just occasionally—it will ring in the middle of my remarks. You have heard that happen. Whenever it happens, the first thing I do is look up at LaVerne Allen, one of our wonderful Senate doorkeepers, as she is staring at my phone and very gently, but firmly, shaking her head as I quickly try to turn it off. LaVerne is one of the people in the Senate who can readily put me in my place.

But I am sad to say that after over 40 years—40 great years—LaVerne's time with the Senate will be coming to an

end next month. And here, we often celebrate elected officials who dedicate their entire careers to public service, but today, that light shines on LaVerne.

As a doorkeeper, she has helped maintain the order and decorum that defined the Senate for over 200 years. We are all, on both sides of the aisle—I am sure the Republican leader will attest—grateful for her work.

But I am glad to hear LaVerne will be moving on to bigger and better things. She will be spending more time with her son in Japan, where he is stationed in the Navy.

LaVerne, from the bottom of my heart and the hearts of all my colleagues, thank you, thank you, thank you. We will miss you. Best of luck in your next journey.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

TRIBUTE TO LAVERNE ALLEN

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, this morning, as the majority leader just pointed out, marks an important day for a longtime member of the Senate family who will depart for greener pastures next month. After 41 years of service, LaVerne Allen, a familiar and friendly face to so many of our colleagues past and present, is retiring from Senate Doorkeepers.

LaVerne has seen the Senate from many different angles. She has worn many different hats, from the card desk to the reception room. And for years now, she has welcomed Senators, staff, and visitors right here to the Senate Chamber.

Alongside the brave men and women of the Capitol Police, our doorkeepers control access to this historic institution. Here on the floor, they keep us safe. Up in the Galleries, they give citizens a chance to watch democracy in action.

After more than four decades, LaVerne has certainly earned a break from all of us. I understand that she is looking forward to some well-deserved R&R and, eventually, some exciting international travel to visit family.

So today, on behalf of the entire Senate, I want to congratulate LaVerne on her retirement, thank her for her years of devotion and service to this institution.

PRIME MINISTER NETANYAHU

Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, yesterday I was proud to attend a joint meeting of Congress and listen to Prime Minister Netanyahu's message from Israel to America. He reminded us of our Nation's deep friendship, of the savagery of our shared enemies, of the sacrifices brave Israelis are making to combat them on behalf of the entire free world, and of the enduring importance of American leadership.

It was a powerful address. I wish more of our colleagues had heard it.

But those who needed to hear it the most were otherwise occupied. Vice President HARRIS was on the campaign trail. Most of the Hamas apologists in Congress boycotted it. And, of course, a mob of far-left terrorist sympathizers was too busy vandalizing our Nation's Capital to tune in.

The lawless behavior of friendly radicals in our own country over the past 36 hours only underscores the challenge facing the world's only Jewish State.

When the Jewish people try to live in peace in their homeland, they are murdered in their beds. When Jewish students try to go to class, their classmates and professors lock arms to block their way. And when the leader of Israel comes to Washington, the same useful idiots and terrorist fifth columns clear their schedules to sow chaos.

On Tuesday night, criminals vandalized the hotel where Prime Minister Netanyahu was staying, scattered crickets across hallways, covered a dinner table with maggots, and pulled the fire alarm. Outside, unhinged Hamasniks screamed: We're going to kill all of you.

Then, after vandalizing private property, radical organizers called another play: vandalizing Federal property; tearing down and burning the American flag that flew over Columbus Circle and Union Station; defacing public monuments with terrorist screeds; and, unless someone doubt their seriousness, burning the Prime Minister in effigy.

Mr. President, yesterday was the 26th anniversary of horrific shootings of U.S. Capitol Police Officer Jacob Chestnut and Detective John Gibson in the line of duty. That day will always be a sobering reminder of the sacrifices of law enforcement and the price of protecting this sacred institution.

It is an especially difficult day of reflection for the brave men and women who follow in Officer Chestnut's and Detective Gibson's footsteps. And yet, officers of the Capitol Police had to spend it dispersing violent anti-Israel and anti-Semitic agitators.

I am grateful for the vigilance of the Capitol Police and partner Agencies on the job yesterday. Law enforcement knows better than anyone that, when it comes to radical attention-seekers, there is nothing new under the sun: not their tactics, and certainly not the slap on wrist they receive from soft-on-crime prosecutors.

This week, it is anti-Semites painting Hamas slogans on public property. But last year, as our colleagues may recall, it was leftwing climate protesters who took their cues from the Taliban and tried to destroy priceless works of art over at the Smithsonian.

One such case was a woman who tried to destroy a one-of-a-kind French sculpture in the National Gallery. She succeeded in damaging it and was sentenced this spring to 60 days in prison. And thank goodness she got that much. Prosecutors had only asked for 30

days—never mind that the sentencing guidelines recommend 5 years, given the gravity of her actions.

We know by now that street criminals aren't the only ones the Biden administration and criminal prosecutors like to let off easy. It is the wealthy ecoterrorists and the campus Marxists as well.

But I am still amazed at how allergic liberal prosecutors are to exercising their authority with an even hand. The DOJ has been more than willing to pursue maximum sentences for the Capitol rioters on January 6—and rightly so. My view has always been that when extremists aspire to sow chaos and violate our Nation's Capital, the prosecutor should throw the book at them—throw the book at them—no matter their motivation—no matter their politics.

But will they pursue the lawless radicals inspired by October 7 with equal vigor? Will the District's own government exercise the authority Congress has given it to maintain order and discourage lawless behavior? Don't hold your breath.

In the meantime, as our country reflects with new attention on the roots of political violence, I hope we will also reflect on our deep friendship with the only pluralistic democracy in the Middle East and support its fight against terror.

How do we show we are serious? By equipping our friends with more of the tools they need to defeat aggression, by investing heavily in our own arsenal and industrial capacity, and by getting off our hands and passing the National Defense Authorization Act.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. 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.

The Republican whip.

PROTESTS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, as I begin this morning, I want to take a moment to address the events that transpired yesterday just a few short blocks from where we are standing.

The summer months are busy tourist months here in our Nation's Capital, and for some, the view from Union Station is the very first sight they have of Washington, DC. Those who emerged from Union Station yesterday afternoon, however, were confronted not with the beauty of the historic station but with a scene of lawlessness. Violent protesters tore down American flags that fly in front of Union Station, lit at least one of them on fire, and raised Palestinian flags in their place. Others defiled the monuments in front of the station with messages, including " Hamas is comin'" and "Globalize the Intifada." Now imagine being a Jewish

person walking to work past those slogans.

We have a proud tradition of public protest in the United States, but there is a difference between exercising free speech rights and the vandalism and violence that we saw yesterday.

In addition to what we saw in front of Union Station and elsewhere, an anti-Israel protestor or protestors released hundreds of maggots and mealworms into the hotel where the Prime Minister and a lot of other people were staying. This is not part of the proud tradition of American political discourse; this is thuggery—pure thuggery.

I am frankly appalled by how little we have heard in response from Democrats. The President addressed the Nation last night. Could he not have added a few words on this disturbing display? What about the Vice President?

Every single public official and every single American should be united in condemning this violence and vandalism as well as rhetoric that elevates terrorism and foments anti-Semitism. We are better than this, and it is time we started acting like it.

S. 2073

Mr. President, I am pleased to say that during a summer in which Democrats have focused on show votes, we are actually going to vote this week on a substantial piece of legislation called the Kids Online Safety Act. Senator BLACKBURN has done a tremendous amount of work to deliver a bill that will take real steps to mitigate the harm that social media can do to children, and I am grateful for her leadership on this issue.

The package before us also includes legislation from Senator CASSIDY to update the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, and I applaud him for his work.

I am pleased also that my bipartisan Filter Bubble Transparency Act, which I introduced with Senator BLACKBURN and others, has been included in the final legislation. The Filter Bubble Transparency Act requires social media companies and other internet platforms to notify users that the content they are seeing has been selected for them by hidden algorithms which create a unique universe of information for each user—a phenomenon that is often referred to as the filter bubble. Platforms would also be required to give users a choice to switch to a version of the platform that is filter bubble-free. I am hopeful that, along with the rest of the Kids Online Safety Act, this will provide a meaningful way to address some of the more problematic aspects of the internet.

As I said, it is good to be voting on something substantial here in the Senate. We have done essentially nothing for 2 months other than vote on guaranteed-to-fail legislation that Democrats hope will somehow help them win votes in November.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. President, voting on the Kids Online Safety Act is not enough. We have a lot more work we should be doing, starting with action on one of the most important pieces of legislation we consider each year: the National Defense Authorization Act.

The Israeli Prime Minister's speech in Congress yesterday—a speech that a number of my Democrat colleagues and Vice President HARRIS chose to boycott—was a timely reminder of the dangerous world we face: Iran-backed terrorist organizations like Hezbollah, Hamas, and the Houthis fomenting terror and instability in the Middle East; an emboldened Russia engaged in a ground war against Ukraine on the doorstep of our NATO allies; an increasingly aggressive China and an increasingly endangered Taiwan.

The unfortunate truth is that we are not as prepared as we should be to confront these threats. We have service branches struggling with recruitment. We have ships that can't sail and planes that can't fly because of maintenance issues. We have shortages of munitions.

Our colleague Senator WICKER, the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, recently put forward a blueprint for rebuilding our military. He points out that our defense budget as a share of the economy has fallen to near historic lows—hardly in line with the threats we face today—and he proposes increasing the defense budget over the next few years alongside important reforms to put our military in a position of strength not just now but well into the future. It is a call we need to heed.

Last fall, the Strategic Posture Commission offered a disturbing assessment:

Today the United States is on the cusp of having not one, but two nuclear peer adversaries, each with ambitions to change the international status quo, by force, if necessary: a situation which the United States did not anticipate and for which it is not prepared.

[A] situation which the United States did not anticipate and for which it is not prepared.

That is a pretty disturbing analysis, and it underlines the absolute imperative of addressing our military readiness today, which brings me to this year's National Defense Authorization Act.

I am grateful that our colleagues on the Armed Services Committee have put forward a bill that, while it does not authorize all the investment our military needs, does take steps to address the challenges we are facing. This year's NDAA authorizes full funding for the European and Pacific Deterrence Initiatives and takes steps to strengthen our partnerships to counter Russia and China. It takes important steps to modernize our military and authorize financing for the technologies and weapons of tomorrow. It authorizes the purchase of new ships, combat vehicles, and aircraft to update our aging fleets.

I am particularly pleased to report that this bill includes full funding for the next steps of the B-21 mission, including necessary support facilities.

The Air Force calls the B-21 Raider—its new long-range strategic bomber—the future backbone of its bomber force, and I am incredibly proud that this mission will be hosted at South Dakota's own Ellsworth Air Force Base. One of my top priorities here in Congress is ensuring that the Air Force—and Ellsworth in particular—has everything it needs for this critical advancement in our Nation's readiness.

The Senate Armed Services Committee passed this year's National Defense Authorization Act on June 13. Well over a month later, the Democrat leader still hasn't found time for this critical legislation, nor is there any indication of when he will. It says a lot about the Democrats' priorities. But I hope that the Democrat leader will take a moment to consider that while he puts our defense on the back burner, our enemies are not delaying their ambitions or their aggressive activities. I hope he will bring this important and consequential legislation to the floor in the very near future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The majority whip.

DEFIANCE ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, whether you are a parent or a grandparent or just have children around you whom you dearly love, there is one thing that is going on in every household that should give you concern—genuine concern—about the safety of your kids. It is this. Have you ever seen your kids staring into the screen and wondering what they are doing? Are they speaking to a friend? Are they playing a game? Are they looking up some information? You hope it is something that is innocent, but you are never sure.

What we found in the Senate Judiciary Committee is that many kids are lured into the programs and messages of these pieces of technology, and their lives are changed for the worse.

This afternoon, we are going to vote on moving two measures which move to protect kids from the abuses which happen on the internet. It is long overdue.

The Senate Judiciary Committee has five bills that we reported out with unanimous votes—that doesn't happen in the Senate Judiciary Committee; unanimous votes, all the Democrats and all the Republicans—to protect children from the abuses which occur.

I have a measure called Children's Sexual Abuse Material—CSAM—that says basically that if your child was exploited by the internet and you tell the social media platform that is broadcasting it to stop and desist and they refuse to do it, they are liable in civil court; they can be held liable by a lawsuit. That is a good way to enforce a provision to protect the children. In the meantime, we are moving with other measures, and I would like to

speak about one that just passed this week.

We made a significant step earlier this week to address the problem of nonconsensual, sexually explicit deepfakes spreading online. Women and girls from all walks of life—from Taylor Swift, to Megan Thee Stallion, to high school girls in my home State of Illinois—have been victims of this form of image-based sexual abuse. Sadly, none of them have legal recourse against the perpetrators because the law is not keeping up with the technology.

Now this is starting to change. This week, the Senate passed my DEFIANCE Act, bipartisan legislation that will finally provide remedy for victims of nonconsensual, sexually explicit deepfakes. You have read about it in the newspapers when it comes to the celebrities, which I mentioned earlier. It happens every day across America.

This landmark legislation cannot become law soon enough. This form of image-based sexual abuse has skyrocketed in recent years. One researcher found that the number of non-consensual, pornographic, deepfake videos available online has increased 900 percent since 2019. Another found that over 24 million people visited a group of just 34 websites dedicated to nonconsensual, deepfake pornography in September 2023 alone. In total, non-consensual, deepfake, pornographic videos have been viewed almost 4 billion times—4 billion.

This explosive growth has been driven by advances in technology; namely, generative artificial intelligence. What used to take technological expertise and a lot of time can now be done with the push of a button. Countless apps can swap someone's face onto another person's body or can digitally remove someone's clothing so they appear to be nude.

Deepfake apps are often advertised as harmless entertainment, but when explicit images are produced and shared without the consent of the person depicted, the harm is very real. Imagine losing control over your own likeness and identity—how powerless victims feel when they can't remove the illicit content, can't prevent it from being reproduced repeatedly, and can't prevent new images from being created.

My partner on this legislation is Congresswoman ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ, who introduced a companion bill in the House. Like far too many women, she has been the victim of non-consensual, sexually explicit deepfakes. She has described how this image-based sexual abuse has resurfaced trauma and haunts her thoughts even to this day. Once these deepfakes are seen, they cannot be unseen. As she put it, "Deepfakes are a way of digitizing violent humiliation against other people."

The design and function of the internet amplify the scale and spread of this type of exploitation. Survivors of non-consensual, sexually explicit deepfakes

are often forced to relive their trauma and face ongoing harm that increases exponentially over time due to the viral flow of information on the internet and the difficulty of removing harmful content.

Tragically, our laws have not kept pace with technology, leaving victims with virtually no legal remedy. Time and again, victims are told that nothing can be done to help them because existing laws simply do not apply to deepfakes.

Thankfully, now the Senate has taken a step toward fixing this blatant disregard for the trauma suffered by individuals who are victimized by this crime. By passing this DEFIANCE Act, we have brought victims one step closer to taking back some power over their identity and giving them a day in court.

Our work is far from being done. I call on the House of Representatives to move on this issue immediately, to follow the Senate's lead and quickly take up and pass the DEFIANCE Act. In doing so, Congress will reflect the will of the vast majority of Americans who are demanding that Congress pass new laws to address nonconsensual, sexually explicit deepfakes.

According to a recent survey conducted by the University of Maryland, an overwhelming 85 percent of Republicans and 87 percent of Democrats support prohibiting these nonconsensual, sexually explicit deepfakes. Our constituents are concerned about what is happening online. Democrats and Republicans alike agree that Congress must establish guardrails to protect society from these changes in technology.

I want to thank Congresswoman OCASIO-CORTEZ for her leadership on this issue and her courage in speaking up. She has been an indispensable partner in crafting and advancing this bill.

I would like to thank the Senate cosponsors of this legislation, including some of my Republican colleagues like Senator GRAHAM, the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, Democratic Majority Leader SCHUMER, Senators HAWLEY, KLOBUCHAR, KING, and LEE.

This bill would not have come to fruition without the input of survivor advocates, including the Sexual Violence Prevention Association, the National Center on Sexual Exploitation, the National Women's Law Center, the National Network to End Domestic Violence, and many others. Their lived experience and leadership have shaped this bill and brought to it this stage of passage.

I also want to thank some of the other organizations that endorsed the bill: the Center for Democracy and Technology, the National Organization for Women, #MyImageMyChoice, RAINN, PACT, and Rights4Girls.

When the DEFIANCE Act is signed into law—if it is brought up and passed in the House—victims will finally—finally—have the ability to hold liable

those who produce, disclose, solicit, or possess sexually explicit deepfakes while knowingly or recklessly disregarding that the person depicted did not consent to the conduct.

Congress has waited long enough. It is past time to give victims of non-consensual, sexually explicit deepfakes the tools they need to fight back.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor today, and I congratulate the chairman of the Judiciary Committee for this important legislation that has been passed out of the Judiciary Committee. I encourage him to continue their efforts to hold large social media companies accountable for the way that information is used against American citizens, and I thank him for his good work.

I, too, want to come to the floor today and talk about the Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act that I hope my colleagues will advance today on a cloture motion so we can get on this legislation and hopefully speedily pass it through the U.S. Senate.

It has been more than 3 years now where families from all across America have come to the Nation's Capital and said that they have lost children to suicide; they have had children harassed and bullied and had to leave school and move to a different location. They have had the safety and security of their children threatened, as my colleague just mentioned, some of the bullying and activities that take place.

So today is about advancing forward on privacy legislation aimed at protecting our children by giving new tools to the Federal Trade Commission, with new authority to take up this cause and to clearly outline what we in the U.S. Senate think needs to be done today to better protect children.

I mentioned the 3 years and the number of families that have come to the Nation's Capital because they have been here many times and walked away many times discouraged because the same big media platforms have then, after they have left, come here and tried to lobby Members on the fact that they can't accept these ideas.

But today, hopefully we will be victorious in giving a few very particular tools to help us, to help our families, and to help children try to address this growing crisis.

As we have met with many of these families, it was very clear that we needed to give them something that they can fight back with. So two pieces of the Kids Online Safety and Privacy Act include two important pieces of legislation from the Commerce Committee.

The first is Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act, led by my colleagues Senator MARKEY and Senator CASSIDY. I want to thank them for their leadership on this important issue. It has really been a long time in

coming, particularly with Senator MARKEY who led on original legislation to protect children under the age of 13 from targeted advertising.

Many people will remember when we tried to say we were going to ban advertising on TV specifically to kids; we have tried to follow that up with the internet. And today, we are taking another step.

The three things that this important legislation does is that it raises that age from 12 to 16 of those kids who will be protected so that they cannot be targeted for advertising and it creates a new knowledge standard. So many of these companies got away with saying, "Well, you can't prove I knew they were kids. So, I could just keep doing what I'm doing."

We need more responsibility from the social media companies. And so, we are changing that knowledge standard from actual knowledge, which meant you had to prove—the FTC had to prove—that the company knew that it was actually targeting kids. Monitoring their kids' privacy is a tough task for parents who are trying to raise families, juggle jobs, do all of these things.

So that knowledge standard now has changed to fairly implied based on objective circumstances. So basically, it is saying to these social media companies, you cannot get away with just saying, "I didn't know."

You have to do a better job of understanding exactly where these advertisers are coming from, who they are targeting, and if you are helping to target these kids, but we are not going to let you target kids 16 and under. This is such an important issue because spending on digital advertising in the United States is expected to reach \$740 billion this year—\$740 billion.

It is a massive change in what has been revenue for our newspapers, our broadcasters, media, and news organizations that have all had to live by in a community, making sure that information was accurate, making sure that it was not abusive, or basically trying to increase a response by using more hate speech. No, no, no.

So all that advertising that went to our newspapers and TV stations and it is basically pulling the plug out from under them, is now in this massive online advertising world, in which, yes, there can be a lot of misinformation and a lot of using your own information to target you and to try to increase price.

Hopefully, we will get to legislation—comprehensive privacy legislation—with my colleague Representative CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS at some point in time on this. But what we are seeing is that public health showed that social media platforms earned nearly \$11 billion of that \$740 billion, \$11 billion targeting children.

We know that we don't like this. We know there is no reason for them to do this. We know that it creates perplexing challenges, and that is a staggering amount of money.

So, I so appreciate Senators MARKEY and CASSIDY, for basically giving us a new way to hold these social media companies accountable, saying that you do know that you are targeting these kids and also to basically raise the age to 16 and then allowing both attorneys general and the Federal Trade Commission to enforce this legislation.

The second piece that is included here, and both of these bills were passed out of the Commerce Committee, I think almost 2 years ago now. So we are glad and we appreciate Senator SCHUMER bringing them to the floor. So, we are glad that they are finally seeing floor action.

The kids' online safety bills, by Senators BLUMENTHAL and BLACKBURN, also very focused on giving parents tools to help fight back from social media companies or just change things that their young teens or parents want to change.

One of my constituents, a young girl from Bellingham, tried to set up her TikTok account to stop showing her videos about eating disorders. They find out, now, derived information about all of us, and if you clicked on anything, they can just take that information and constantly send you data.

In this case, she must have said something, did something, but all they wanted to do was basically continue to harass her with eating disorder videos.

Now, the Presiding Officer, the President, probably remembers we took action in getting a better resolution. We don't want any foreign actors creating malign actions against the United States through a platform, and our Department of Justice has shown that is exactly what is happening in some instances.

Those foreign actors could be pushing, or bots taking over, once that foreign actor has put information out there, basically saying, yes, let's just pummel the heck out of these teenagers with videos that will make them doubt themselves, make them basically second-guess or feel under the scrutiny of their colleagues and friends at school.

This legislation by Senators BLACKBURN and BLUMENTHAL will hold social media accountable for prioritizing their engagement in keeping kids safe. It requires platforms to use tools so that parents can control features. This helps either the parent or the child go in and change that and say: I don't want to have any of these ads placed towards my children. And it ensures that parents can report harms, and it requires companies to respond to those harms.

Now, my frustration with where we are with the FTC is I am sure the FTC has a big, fat file that has a lot of complaints about what has been done to 12-year-olds online. We are now increasing this to a higher age of up to 16 years old, but we need better enforcement by the FTC to look at these accounts, and

hold these companies accountable, and call them when they have data and information from parents about their not responding to help set up and change these social media accounts so they can better protect their children.

This is such an important piece of legislation before us today. It can't save the lives of people we have already lost, but it can help parents, and it can help all of us as a society rein in some of these controls.

The final piece I want to mention, Mr. President, is Senator THUNE's Filter Bubble Transparency Act, which is also included. This is Senator THUNE's attempt to try to get at what we call a blackbox algorithm where you don't even know what the algorithm is and what it is doing.

We had testimony before the Senate Commerce Committee by a Facebook whistleblower who basically said that the algorithm that the company chose to use was actually increasing hate speech online. And the reason why is because then it got more viewers and then it sold more advertising.

That was an important witness and whistleblower to come before the committee because it told us that we have to now understand, in a more important way, how much these kinds of ill effects can be targeted toward individuals without us knowing exactly what is going on.

So I think this is an important step, including Senator THUNE's language in here on filter bubbles. As I mentioned earlier, we have to do more, we have got to get a national privacy piece of legislation to protect all of us against the misuse of our own personal data by businesses and others who want to do us harm and put a stop to this acceleration at all costs of using our data for some juggernaut industry that probably hopes to reach \$1 trillion. But what will it do to us Americans in the meantime?

So I urge my colleagues to take these very prudent steps today to pass these kids' online privacy bills, give parents better tools, give all of us better protection, and upgrade these important aspects to the Federal Trade Commission and to attorneys general so they can be good policemen on the beat.

I thank the President, and I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 15 minutes and that Senator YOUNG be recognized to speak after that for up to 5 minutes prior to the scheduled vote.

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

80TH ANNIVERSARY OF GI BILL

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, good morning.

Last month, as some of us recall, marked the 80th year since President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, better known as the GI bill, into law—80 years.

In the eight decades since the GI bill was enacted, it has helped millions of veterans, including myself, to pursue an education, to become homeowners, and to live the full American dream. The GI bill truly transformed not only our economy but a lot more than that.

I was glad to recently lead a bipartisan resolution recognizing the importance of this legislation with Senator JERRY MORAN, Senator JON TESTER, and Senator JOHN BOOZMAN. As I have shared here many times before, the GI bill is often called the greatest legislation ever enacted in the history of the United States, including here in this Chamber.

First, the GI bill successfully enabled millions of servicemembers, including myself, to transition back to civilian life after serving our country at home and, in many cases, abroad.

Second, it uplifted millions of American families, and it reinvigorated our economy.

Third, it allowed for benefits awarded to our veterans to be passed on to their family members.

Fourth, it has paved the way for subsequent critical legislation that serves those who have served our country in times of war and in times of peace.

The effects of all four of these achievements are felt to this day, and I would like to take a few minutes, if I may at this time, to elaborate on the impact of each of those four.

First and foremost, the GI bill helped my parents' generation return to civilian life following World War II. This generation was well acquainted with hard times. Many of these folks had been raised during the previous world war and were just starting to rebuild their lives when the Great Depression ravaged the American economy, leaving one of every four Americans jobless. But despite hardship at home, these brave Americans answered the call to serve our Nation in World War II. One of those brave Americans was my father.

My father had been a chief petty officer in the Navy—a high school graduate from a West Virginia coal mining town. He and his brother and my brothers-in-law all served in World War II—several as chief petty officers in the Navy and others as sergeants in the Army or in the Marine Corps.

When the war was over, my dad came back to West Virginia and used the GI bill to learn how to fix wrecked cars. Most people don't think of the GI bill as something to be used to fix wrecked cars, but he did. That turned into a job for him in a place back in a West Virginia coal mining town. He fixed wrecked cars at Burlson Oldsmobile.

One day when he was working at Burlson Oldsmobile, having learned how to fix wrecked cars and do bodywork through the GI bill, he was visited by a claims adjuster from Nationwide Insurance. Nationwide, it turned out, had insured the wrecked car that my dad was working on that day at Burlson Oldsmobile. The fellow from

Nationwide Insurance engaged my father in conversation about how was the progress coming along in terms of repairing the wrecked car.

And they talked for a bit, and at the end of the conversation, he said to my dad: You know, you seem to have a lot on the ball for a guy who's fixing wrecked cars here at Burlson Oldsmobile. My dad went on to explain how he had been a chief petty officer in the Navy. For those who know the military, the top noncommissioned officer in the Navy is a chief petty officer. That is what my dad was and several of my uncles as well. That conversation with the claims adjuster from Nationwide Insurance that day actually led to a job where my dad became a claims adjuster for Nationwide Insurance.

Years later, my dad helped to run the national training program for claims adjusters for Nationwide Insurance—a guy with a high school degree who had a chance to serve in World War II and to benefit from the GI bill—to have a great career and to be able to provide for his family along with literally hundreds of thousands of other veterans.

But my dad is just one example of millions of Americans whom this legislation helped to set on paths to success.

My dad also illustrates the second reason the GI bill is among the greatest pieces of legislation ever passed: It has lifted up millions of hard-working Americans and helped build the middle class as we know it in this country today.

With a stroke of a pen, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed into law one of America's most ambitious investments in our workforce in our Nation's history. It has paid dividends to generations past and will, for decades to come, to generations in the future.

Among other things, the original GI bill provided a college education to add—listen to this—450,000 engineers, 240,000 accountants, 238,000 teachers, 122,000 dentists, 91,000 scientists, 67,000 doctors, and 1 or 2 folks who could fix wrecked cars at a place like Burlson Oldsmobile back in West Virginia.

Just like my dad, countless others used their GI benefits to learn a trade or to learn a skill, and it enabled them to lift themselves and their families up firmly into the middle class. It was clear then, as it is now, that the GI bill is, perhaps, one of the most worthwhile economic investments in our Nation's history.

According to a 1988 report from the Joint Economic Committee, it was estimated that, for every dollar that the United States has invested in our veterans through the GI bill over the years, roughly \$7 has been returned in economic growth for our Nation.

Almost never do we see legislation have the power to singlehandedly transform our economy and continue to do so not just for a couple of years but for decades. The GI bill exceeded and continues to exceed all expectations.

As many of my colleagues know, I have personally benefited from the opportunities provided by the GI bill. I would not be standing here today in this place, speaking on this floor, without the benefits provided me as a Vietnam veteran coming back from my third tour in Southeast Asia and eventually moving to Delaware and enrolling in business school at the University of Delaware. That education, along with my time as a Navy ROTC midshipman through Ohio State earlier in time, has enabled me to serve Delaware as their treasurer, as their Congressman—Congressman-at-large—as their Governor, and now, for the last 23 years, as their U.S. Senator.

The third reason the GI bill is truly extraordinary is that this legislation and subsequent legislation, like the current Post-9/11 GI Bill, allows for benefits to be passed on to family members of veterans who do not use or need the benefits themselves.

For my generation, when we came back from Southeast Asia during the Vietnam war, if we took advantage of the GI bill, that was fine. I did. But if we had a spouse, a spouse could not take advantage of it. If we had children—dependent children—they could not take advantage of the GI bill. That has all changed.

And for a GI who doesn't use the GI benefit today, if they have a spouse, their spouse can use it. Spouses can use it. If they have children, their children can use the GI bill. What a benefit—what a benefit not just for the GI but also for the spouse and their family members.

Today's GI bill allows countless veterans across our country to take advantage of these generous educational benefits or pass them down to their families.

Moreover, the Post-9/11 GI Bill includes a program called the Fry Scholarship—"Fry" is spelled F-R-Y—that ensures surviving spouses and children of fallen servicemembers have access to the hard-earned benefits of their family member who served and made the ultimate sacrifice for our country.

We have seen the impact of this legislation firsthand in my home State of Delaware, with families like those of the late-SSgt Christopher Slutman, a Marine veteran. A native Delawarean, Staff Sergeant Slutman bravely served as a New York firefighter and as a U.S. marine in Afghanistan. However, 5 years ago, he was tragically killed in combat, leaving behind his wife and their three daughters: McKenna, Kenley, and Weslynn.

Thanks to the Post-9/11 GI Bill, which extended the benefits of the GI bill to veterans who served after September 11, 2001, Staff Sergeant Slutman was entitled to a wide range of educational benefits. And after his tragic passing, Staff Sergeant Slutman's GI bill benefits were ultimately allowed to be passed down to his three daughters, thanks to the Fry Scholarship, which was one of the pro-

visions I was proud to support in the Post-9/11 GI Bill.

Last, but certainly not least, the GI bill is among the "greatest legislation" ever enacted because it has served as an excellent model for how we can continue to provide resources for our Nation's veterans.

Throughout my years in the Senate—and it has been quite a few years, almost 24—I have worked to advance critical legislation that delivers on the promise to serve those who have served our Nation.

In addition to the Post-9/11 GI Bill and the Forever GI Bill, I was proud to lead passage of a bipartisan amendment that finally closed something called the 90/10 loophole. For those who may not know, this loophole allowed bad actors in the for-profit college sector to take advantage of veterans' hard-earned GI benefits.

One veteran misled or mistreated is one too many, and I was proud that my Senate colleagues and I came together unanimously to pass the amendment that Senator MORAN and I authored to close this loophole. And we did.

We must also be on guard to root out the bad actors who try to take advantage of our veterans. That is why, just this week, I cohosted our annual veterans summit in Delaware with Senator CHRIS COONS and Representative BLUNT ROCHESTER, joined by Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough, to raise awareness of the deceptive marketing tactics deployed by those we know as "claim sharks."

Claim sharks are unaccredited lawyers and consultants who try to take advantage of vulnerable veterans by offering to help them file claims with the Veterans Benefits Administration and then go on to take a significant percentage of the benefit that the veteran should have received.

At our summit a week ago, we spoke with dozens of veterans about the free resources—free resources—available to them through the VA to help them avoid falling for scams and ensure that they know about the full range of benefits they are entitled to.

More recently, I cosponsored bipartisan legislation to impose penalties on these "sharks" so that we can further protect our veterans. After all, our commitment to care for our veterans, including safeguarding their hard-earned benefits, is a sacred obligation and one that I worked hard with many of our colleagues—Democrat and Republican—to fulfill.

In closing, it is clear that without the foundation of the original GI bill, our ambition to craft and pass generations of subsequent legislation to help our veterans might not have been possible. For all of these reasons, the lasting legacy of the GI bill leaves no doubt that it is truly the "greatest legislation" ever passed, in this Chamber and in this Congress, in the history of our Nation.

From my family and me to the veterans of today in the Army, Navy, Air

Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, and all of our branches, I am honored to lead this celebration of the 80th anniversary of the original GI bill. Here is to another 80 years and, hopefully, many more.

I will close with one thing. I used to think it was in the Bible that if you give a person a fish, you feed them for today; if you teach a person to fish, you feed them for a lifetime. As it turns out, that is not in the Bible. That is not in the Scriptures. For years I said it was.

Finally, I used that line in a speech back in Delaware. I said at the end of my speech that—I talked about our obligation to try to make sure that people have the ability to feed themselves and their families. As it turned out, there was a preacher in the audience when I said those words. He spoke to me after my speech, after the program was over. He said: Those words are not in the Scriptures. Those words are not in the Scriptures—the idea that we have an obligation to teach a person to fish so they can feed themselves and their families and all.

He said: That is really not in the Bible.

I said: Well, it ought to be. It ought to be.

We have an obligation to help people, not just to give people something. But if they are hungry and they need help, we have an obligation to help. But the real obligation we have is to make sure that, ultimately, they can help themselves; that we can help them help themselves.

One of the great things about the GI bill is that it enables our service men and women to help themselves as they go forward in the future with their lives and to help their families.

It is a great piece of legislation, and we celebrate it here today for the 80th year since its original enactment in this Chamber.

With that, I am going to yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

REMEMBERING JIM MORRIS

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the life and legacy of Jim Morris. Jim Morris is one of the most influential civic leaders in Indiana's history, and he passed away earlier this month.

I first met Jim Morris about 20 years ago. It was when I returned home to Indiana, after spending time in the military and after a brief stint as a staffer here on Capitol Hill. The only thing I remember about that initial meeting was that it wasn't particularly memorable.

Jim Morris wasn't the kind of man who would bowl you over with his charisma or his magnetism. This wasn't his style. It was never about him. But, over time, the weight of continuous heartfelt interactions with Jim could change a person. Indeed, you might say they changed an entire city.

Jim Morris died July 12. He was 81. He had a 60-year career of service, all

told, to the city of Indianapolis, the State of Indiana, and even to the world.

Though Jim would bark at the title “model,” in my mind he was, in many ways, a model American citizen.

Jim grew up in Terre Haute. He attended Indiana University. It was there that he fell in love twice, once with the school itself and once with his beloved wife Jackie. And that endured.

In 1967, not long after graduation, he became chief of staff to a young mayor of Indianapolis named Richard Lugar. Since that moment, almost nothing great in our capital city happened without Jim’s involvement. He helped launch a university in downtown Indianapolis, until recently known as IUPUI. He was involved with the building of the Indianapolis Zoo, the Indianapolis Colts, and the Indiana Pacers. They all had Jim’s fingerprints on them.

Jim understood that the key to healthy organizations and healthy communities was to connect and empower others and ensure that seriousness of purpose was met with civil discourse.

In 2002, Jim took that approach global when he was appointed to lead the United Nations World Food Programme. He served as executive director of the program for 5 years, caring for and delivering aid to men, women, and children around the world who experienced a level of poverty that is difficult for us to imagine.

These monumental headline-grabbing accomplishments were only a part of who Jim Morris was, though. Indeed, his true legacy was far deeper, more personal, and, I dare say, more beautiful.

He always counseled friends to expand their work to its widest possible sphere of impact, to help more people, or—as he sometimes put it—to find someone who could use a boost.

He practiced what he preached. Indeed, countless Hoosiers have been affected by the small acts of altruism: funding local food banks, building neighborhood basketball courts, and similar generosity that we will never know about.

His servant’s heart, no doubt, stemmed from his deep and abiding faith in God. He was an active member in the Second Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis. He didn’t boast about many of his accomplishments. Instead, he lived a life worthy of the Gospel of Matthew, chapter 20: “Whoever wants to become great among you, must be a servant”—a servant.

I think about our “forgettable” first meeting often. I could be wrong, but Jim probably would have made a poor candidate for public office today. But, you see, that was a choice.

For me, Reverend Henry summed it up at Second Presbyterian, last Friday, in his memorial meditation to Jim. He said that Jim Morris chose—he chose—hope over despair, connection over division, gentleness over meanness, courtesy over discourtesy.

There is power in that choice. Jim Morris chose to be a decent man. He knew, and we must never forget, that no man can truly be great if he is not good. Now, more than ever, we need good men and women like Jim Morris in every corner of our Nation—men and women who become great through selfless service to their communities and endeavor to make life better for the rest of us.

I yield the floor.

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|------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Rubio Schmitt | Scott (FL) Scott (SC) | Sullivan Tuberville |
| NOT VOTING—5 | | |
| Cramer Lee | Menendez Padilla | Vance |

The nomination was confirmed. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider 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.

VOTE ON WAY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Way nomination?

Mr. CARPER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 79, nays 16, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 218 Ex.]

YEAS—79

| | | |
|--------------|--------------|------------|
| Baldwin | Fischer | Reed |
| Barrasso | Gillibrand | Ricketts |
| Bennet | Graham | Risch |
| Blumenthal | Grassley | Romney |
| Booker | Hassan | Rosen |
| Boozman | Heinrich | Rounds |
| Braun | Hickenlooper | Sanders |
| Britt | Hirono | Schatz |
| Brown | Hoeven | Schumer |
| Budd | Johnson | Shaheen |
| Butler | Kaine | Sinema |
| Cantwell | Kelly | Sinema |
| Capito | King | Smith |
| Cardin | Klobuchar | Stabenow |
| Carper | Lankford | Tester |
| Casey | Lujan | Thune |
| Cassidy | Lummis | Tillis |
| Collins | Manchin | Van Hollen |
| Coons | Markey | Warner |
| Cornyn | Merkley | Warnock |
| Cortez Masto | Moran | Warren |
| Cotton | Mullin | Welch |
| Crapo | Murkowski | Whitehouse |
| Daines | Murphy | Wicker |
| Duckworth | Murray | Wyden |
| Durbin | Ossoff | Young |
| Fetterman | Peters | |

NAYS—16

| | | |
|-----------|------------|-----------|
| Blackburn | Hawley | McConnell |
| Cruz | Hyde-Smith | Paul |
| Ernst | Kennedy | |
| Hagerty | Marshall | |

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Nevada.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the senior Senator from Ohio be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions from July 25, 2024, through July 26, 2024.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

ELIMINATE USELESS REPORTS ACT OF 2024—Continued

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—AMENDMENT NO. 3085

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, if good intentions created good laws, there would be no need for congressional debate. I have no doubt that the authors of the bill on the floor genuinely want to protect children, but the bill they have written promises to be Pandora’s box of unintended consequences.

The Kids Online Safety Act, known as KOSA, would impose an unprecedented duty of care on internet platforms to mitigate certain harms associated with mental health, such as anxiety, depression, and eating disorders.

While proponents of the bill claim that the bill is not designed to regulate content, imposing a duty of care on the internet platforms associated with mental health can only lead to one outcome: the stifling of First Amendment-protected speech.

Today’s children live in a world far different from the one I grew up in, and I am the first in line to tell kids: Go outside and touch grass. With the internet, though, today’s children do have some advantages. They have the world at their fingertips, and that can often be a good thing. Just about any question can be answered through the internet by finding a scholarly article or a how-to video with a simple search. Doctors’ and therapists’ offices close at night and on weekends, but support groups are available 24 hours a day online, 7 days a week, for people who share similar concerns or who have had the same health problems. People can connect, share information, and help