

My bill would also impose stricter disclosure of gifts Justices receive, enhance existing recusal laws, and require the flotillas of phony front groups who lobby the Court through friend-of-the-court briefs to disclose their actual funders and connections.

My bill passed the Senate Judiciary Committee last summer, with the warm and welcome support of the Presiding Officer, and is now awaiting a vote on the Senate floor. Democrats stand ready and willing to deliver on President Biden's and Vice President HARRIS's goal of bringing real transparency and accountability to the Supreme Court.

President Biden and Vice President HARRIS also announced their support for 18-year term limits for Supreme Court Justices, with new appointments to the Court occurring every 2 years. That would counter the Republican Supreme Court Justices' penchant for strategically timed retirements that tip the Court into Republican hands.

Term limits are a commonsense proposal with long bipartisan support. Supreme Court Justices, including Chief Justice Roberts, have expressed support for term limits. Even some of our Republican colleagues have endorsed the idea. A Fox NEWS poll earlier this month showed that this idea had support from more than 75 percent of Americans.

Fortunately, Democrats stand ready to deliver on this idea too. My Supreme Court Biennial Appointments and Term Limits Act, which the distinguished Presiding Officer is a cosponsor of, would make the Court more representative of the American people and lower the political stakes of Supreme Court nominations.

Under our bill, the President would appoint a new Justice every 2 years. Justices would serve full time on the Court for 18 years, after which they would acquire a form of senior status—something familiar to anybody who knows Federal courts, where, in district courts and circuit courts of appeal, judges go on senior status regularly.

These Justices on senior status would remain on the Court to hear the original jurisdiction cases that are required by the Constitution for the Supreme Court to entertain. The nine most recently appointed Justices would hear what the Constitution calls appellate jurisdiction cases, which the Constitution expressly gives Congress the power to regulate.

So Congress can pass this long-overdue reform while preserving judicial independence and without a constitutional amendment.

President Biden noted that he has overseen more Supreme Court nominations as Senator, Vice President, and President than anyone living today. Vice President HARRIS, a former member of the Senate Judiciary Committee herself, has echoed the President's calls for reform. Both the President and the Vice President have immense

respect for our Supreme Court and for a strong and independent judiciary. They have demonstrated it through their lifetimes. That is exactly why we should listen to them when they tell us that the time has come for reform at the Supreme Court.

This has been a long and often lonely fight in the Senate. The big-money, rightwing apparatus has tried over and over to shut me up. I think I may have a record for hostile Wall Street Journal editorials, and may I tell the Wall Street Journal editorial board: Thank you. That is a badge of honor.

Realization of what is needed to save the Court from itself has spread—first through the Halls of Congress, then into the national consciousness, and now to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. That is good reason for hope.

So bravo, Mr. President and Madam Vice President.

Now it is up to us in Congress to deliver and repair and redeem this captured Court.

To be continued.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (MR. BOOKER). The Senator from Mississippi.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN EDDIE CROSSMAN

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I rise today to commend a great public servant, CAPT Eddie Crossman of the U.S. Navy, a friend, an outstanding sailor, and a dedicated patriot.

This year, after nearly three decades of service, Captain Crossman is retiring from the Navy. I know I speak on behalf of my colleagues, my staff, and a grateful nation when I say: Thank you for a job very well done.

Since he left the Naval Academy in Annapolis as a young ensign in 1996, Captain Crossman has set the standard for excellence and achievement. Today, on the other side of his Navy career, I want to give Captain Crossman a proper send-off by saying a few words about this remarkable public servant.

This summer, I traveled with Eddie on a congressional delegation trip. As usual, he was a top-notch Navy liaison with superb attention to detail and a winning, positive attitude. We could not have accomplished so much without him. I know my colleagues would be able to share similar stories—very many of my colleagues.

As a member of the Navy Senate Legislative Affairs team, Captain Crossman made sure no Senators' question went unanswered. He has left no delegation unsupported. The relationship between this body and the Navy is better because of his efforts.

This summer's visit to three of our strong allies capped a working relationship between Captain Crossman and me that began in 2009, when I was lucky enough to have him join my office as a defense legislative fellow. In that role, he conducted himself with distinction. He took his job seriously, completing thorough research and staff work, but he didn't take himself too seriously.

I remember one day—Halloween—when the captain entered my office

dressed in full costume, not in a Navy uniform. He had taken on the "Schoolhouse Rock" character Bill from Capitol Hill. He worked in that outfit all day alongside the rest of my staff, who were wearing the usual business attire. I can only attribute his costume to his zeal for the legislative process.

His work in my office clearly benefited the people of Mississippi and the United States, but I would be remiss if I did not mention how the people of Mississippi have supported Captain Crossman, particularly the shipbuilders of Mississippi.

The captain was at sea when COVID-19 hit the United States, extending his deployment to 206 days at sea—the longest consecutive deployment for a warship in U.S. Navy history. He completed that charge as commander of the USS *San Jacinto*. That vessel, the one that carried him on his lengthy deployment—historic deployment—was built on the Mississippi gulf coast. Earlier this year, it was my privilege to pay one final visit to some Mississippi shipyards with Captain Crossman.

I have traveled the country and the world with this fine young man—in some sensitive places and stressful situations. I have come to know the measure of CAPT Eddie Crossman—his industry and talents, his energy and character. I know he will continue to excel in whatever he does next.

I have served with a lot of military liaison people. I seldom come to the floor to do as I am doing this afternoon. But on this occasion, for this fine Navy officer and this great American and great friend, I say: Fair winds and following seas.

I yield the floor.

Mr. CARDIN. Would my colleague yield for a comment?

Mr. WICKER. I would be glad to yield to my friend.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. To Senator WICKER, I am glad that you mentioned Eddie Crossman. As you know, we have had a chance to be together when Eddie Crossman has been our escort.

And I just want to underscore that your comments represent my thoughts as well. He is a true professional. I told him that what he has done in making sure that our representation around the world is done in a professional manner, that we stick to the important reasons for our missions, that he handles all of this with safety and the way it should be done—he is an incredible individual who served our Nation.

And I just really want to join you in thanking him for his service to our country and his service to the U.S. Senate and advancing policies of our country globally that are critically important for our national security.

So I thank you for taking the time. I should have thought about it and done it myself, but thank you for giving me the opportunity to stand with you to thank Eddie for his service.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, reclaiming my time, the distinguished chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations

Committee has plenty to do to distract him from thinking of making remarks. I am delighted that he happened to be within the sound of my voice for this occasion.

And as Senator CARDIN proceeds toward the last 5 months of his distinguished service, in both the House and Senate, I do think it speaks volumes that he has been so appreciative and benefited so much from the great patriotic work of Eddie Crossman.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Maryland.

SUDAN

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to once again call attention to the ongoing conflict in Sudan. Our Presiding Officer knows about this conflict very well. It is one of the most tragic circumstances that we have anywhere in the world. The humanitarian crisis is beyond description. The ethnic cleansing and tragedies of two factions at war has made this a living hell for so many people in that region.

After more than a year of brutal violence, the two sides may come together soon to talk. We certainly hope that is the case. This is a critical first step to ending the fighting that erupted last year in a country that has seen decades of war.

I want to acknowledge the Biden-Harris administration and Special Envoy Tom Perriello for their work in Sudan. It was not easy to get here, and I hope the effort to launch a dialogue this month is successful.

Despite the best efforts of this administration, the violence and humanitarian crisis continues, and the international community is falling willfully short.

While we wait for talks to begin, civilians on the ground are being killed, abused, and forced out of their homes. Nearly 11 million people have been displaced, half the population—close to 26 million—face crisis levels of starvation. So 750,000 people are on the brink of starvation. According to one published report, 2.5 million more people will die because of the conditions related to the conflict and the use of food as a weapon of war.

Credible rights organizations claim that genocide has once again occurred in Darfur. I remember Darfur, and we said never again. And it is happening again in Darfur. But there are no clear U.S. or U.N. plans to ensure humanitarian access across borders or across military lines.

As the chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I come to the floor to say we need to take urgent action now. We need to work with our partners and allies to pressure the parties to agree to an immediate ceasefire and for both sides to make it stick this time.

To its credit, the Biden-Harris administration has imposed sanctions on a variety of actors, including at the senior levels of both warring parties.

But our partners and allies have not followed suit. In fact, just this week, the Sentry released an analysis of the multilateral sanctions regime and found that the European Union, in particular, has lagged behind in this implementation.

It is time—it is past time—to do more. It is time for our allies to prioritize these measures so we are speaking with one voice to the warring parties.

We need also to work urgently with our African and European partners to devise concrete measures the international community can take to protect civilians from a repeat of last year's mass atrocities. And we need to focus on the next phase: creating and protecting space for the Sudanese civilians to establish a path toward a peaceful democratic transition and accountability for those responsible for the atrocities in contravention of international humanitarian law, including unspeakable acts of sexual violence and systematic use of starvation as a weapon of war.

We should not let them get away with their corrupt schemes that pillage the Sudanese people's resources. We should not let them extinguish Sudan's transition to democracy. That means taking steps against those actors who supply or facilitate arms and military materiel to any side in Sudan.

It means enforcing the existing United Nations arms embargo and pushing for its extension to cover all of Sudan so that neither side responsible for the violence is protected or immune.

And it means working collectively through the United Nations and other multilateral institutions to support these efforts. And it means that the international community and the United Nations must pursue any and all means to deliver humanitarian assistance into the hands of the Sudanese people and ensure robust funding for the humanitarian response as the situation demands.

Sierra Leone is taking up the presidency of the Security Council. It is imperative that we work together on action plans to protect civilians, on support for coordinated peace negotiations, on initiatives to end the impasse on humanitarian access, and on accountability.

I have said this before, but every life is precious. The Sudanese people want to live in peace and security and prosperity. And so I urge all those who fight for justice, for those who fight against atrocities, for those who fight against famine, let us come together with the Sudanese people and, after decades of war, let us end this conflict once and for all.

NATIONAL MINORITY MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

Mr. President, I have been in the Senate now for 18 years, and I am proud of the progress that we have made in dealing with mental health. I served in the Senate with the late Senator Ted Kennedy as he fought for

mental health parity. So that once and for all we would find that a person who suffers from mental illness would get the same type of respect, attention, and coverage as someone suffering from a physical illness.

We recognize that mental health is an illness, and mental health parity was important. We have made progress. During COVID-19, I was very proud that we had bipartisan efforts to expand telehealth to mental health because we recognize that access was critically important and that during COVID, getting access to healthcare was particularly challenged.

And then in the Safer Communities Act, which we all supported here, we provided help to our children in our schools suffering from mental illness. So we have made progress. We have made progress. But more needs to be done.

I rise today to urge my colleagues to recognize that we have just completed July as National Minority Health Awareness Month. So I want to comment on the gap that exists in regard to mental health services and our minority communities.

This July, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health is focusing on improving mental health outcomes for all communities through this year's theme: "Be the Source for Better Health."

Let this month—and all month—serve as an opportunity to bring awareness of these mental health challenges and recommit our efforts to tackling longstanding health disparities in the United States.

Unfortunately, the subject of mental health is surrounded by stigma. About half of all people in the United States will be diagnosed with a mental health disorder at some point in their life. Mental illness can have a devastating impact on the individual as well as their surrounding community.

Racial and ethnic minorities often suffer from poor mental health outcomes due to multiple factors, including lack of access to quality mental health care services, cultural stigma surrounding mental health care, discrimination, and overall lack of awareness about mental health.

Today, because of deep-rooted inequalities that exist in our society, including those in our healthcare system, communities of color continue to face health disparities that result in poorer quality of life and lower life expectancies when compared to their White counterparts.

According to the Kaiser Family Foundation 2023 analysis, 39 percent of Black or African-American adults and 36 percent of Hispanic Latino adults who reported fair or poor mental health were less likely than White adults to say that they received mental health services in the past 3 years.

In our country, we are incredibly fortunate to have the National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities at the National Institutes of