

authority to assist the Federal Government in our immigration enforcement efforts by codifying the 287(g) Program that is so critical. This would enable law enforcement entities just to move forward with that. They wouldn't have to apply for the program.

This month, I also introduced legislation that is backed by the White House that would establish a Deportation Shot Clock. This would require the Federal Government to deport an illegal alien within 15 days of removal proceedings being commenced. This would empower the Trump administration to expedite deportations and ensure that we are getting criminals off our streets faster than ever before.

While Democrats and the leftists out in L.A. are siding with criminals, President Trump and the Republicans here are doing everything we can to help make America safe again.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, in recent weeks, new reports have confirmed what the American people had witnessed for 4 years—that President Biden was in serious decline while in office and struggled to fulfill his duties as President of the United States.

To cover all of this up, a close group of close aides and family members, including Hunter Biden and First Lady Jill Biden, reportedly made decisions on behalf of the former President while shielding him from the public eye. Even President Biden's Cabinet Secretaries struggled to reach him, and I am quoting one Secretary here:

There was clearly a deliberate strategy by the White House to have him meet with as few people as [possible].

That is according to a Cabinet Secretary.

Another one said that the President could only “give you 4 to 6 good hours a day.” Everybody knows that you cannot work 4 hours a day and be out of Washington, DC, 40 percent of the time and be the leader of the free world. That is impossible.

While members of the Biden administration are finally speaking out, for years, many of my fellow Tennesseans and I have watched as we saw then-President Biden appear to be unfit to serve in the most demanding and powerful position in the world—and, yes, we have been concerned. Yet, when we raised the alarm, Democrats and the media called us conspiracy theorists and dismissed video evidence of President Biden's decline as “cheap fakes.”

The latest reports confirm that Democrats and the media covered up the former President's decline, but they also point to a much bigger issue: Who was making decisions in the White House while President Biden was tucked in and asleep?

Over 4 years, the Biden administration enacted thousands of new regulations that are costing the American people \$1.8 trillion a year. Who made those decisions?

He appointed 235 far-left judges to the Federal bench. Many had never

been a judge. They had no judicial experience. They had never clerked for a judge. They were activists.

He abused the President's pardon power to protect Biden's family members and to free violent criminals. Yes, of those last-day pardons, it appears he signed only one. That was the one for Hunter Biden.

Because most of these actions were signed with the auto pen, Biden may not have been aware of these actions. That would mean that for 4 years, a small group of insiders was making decisions in the President's name. It was a direct attack on our Nation's constitutional order. Every single American deserves to know who was running this country while he was in office.

That is why earlier today, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on a Biden coverup and heard from constitutional scholars who outlined the legal implications of having a President who was absent from his job. This is just the first step in uncovering the truth, and we are going to continue to push for transparency and get to the bottom of the issue to ensure something like this never happens again.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

GENIUS ACT

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, yesterday I voted against final passage of the GENIUS Act. I think the majority of my colleagues agree that we need sensible regulation of cryptocurrency and stablecoins to protect consumers, safeguard our financial system, and close down their use in illicit finance of criminal activities that jeopardize our security. But this bill missed the mark and was pushed through without the opportunity to vote on several amendments that would have strengthened it.

Stablecoins have been called “the new kingpin of illicit activity” as a tool of money laundering, payment in ransomware attacks, and financing for criminal and terrorist activity. The bill purports to bring stablecoins into the Anti-Money Laundering regulatory regime, but does not adequately enforce those requirements at a time when the Trump administration is rapidly dismantling crypto investigation and enforcement units at the Department of Justice and SEC. It fails to address crypto “mixers,” which make it more difficult to trace illicit transactions; instead, it calls for further study of the issue. And it includes a

loophole to allow Tether, a foreign stablecoin issuer that has been used to help Russians evade U.S. sanctions, to have access to U.S. markets. Several Senators put forward amendments to address these national security risks, including Senator PETERS, who offered a change that would create a system for tracing stablecoin transactions that is similar to the way we track other financial transactions. The majority leader did not allow consideration of any of these amendments.

The GENIUS Act fails to adequately protect consumers or our financial system, allowing risky assets to provide the required 1:1 peg for stablecoins, limiting the number of issuers subject to financial audit, and failing to give the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau clear authority to offer the same protections from fraud a consumer has when using a bank account. There were amendments to fix these issues; they did not get a vote.

But perhaps most egregiously, this GENIUS Act does nothing to constrain President Trump's rampant crypto corruption. It does not address the meme coin the President marketed in exchange for access to an exclusive dinner. And it doesn't address the President's family stablecoin, which has already been used by a state-owned Emirati company to execute a \$2 billion transaction. It is clear that anyone who invests enough in the President's crypto schemes—including foreign governments—will have access to the highest levels of our government. Senator MERKLEY offered an amendment to ensure that no government official—not the President, not Members of Congress—can issue stablecoins or other cryptocurrencies. The majority leader blocked its consideration.

We have experienced the dangers that weak regulatory structures have posed to consumers, investors, and our financial system. We have paid to bail out industry after those systems have failed. We had an opportunity to strengthen the GENIUS Act, build safeguards around a growing sector, and stamp out its use in corrupt and criminal activities. Instead, we barreled forward without even a vote on those amendments. Because we could not make those critical improvements, I voted against the bill.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted yes on rollcall vote No. 313 on the cloture motion, Motion to Invoke Cloture: Gary Andres, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services.

I was necessarily absent, but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 314 on the cloture motion, Motion to Invoke Cloture: Olivia Trusty, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Federal Communications Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2025.

TRIBUTE TO MARK A. MONE

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I rise to honor Mark A. Mone, the ninth chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, UWM, on his retirement from the position. Over the past 11 years, Dr. Mone has transformed UWM into a top-tier research institute, through strong partnerships and investments, advancing equity through education, and addressing societal issues through research and strategic re-invention.

From early in his career, Dr. Mone showed a strong commitment to public service. A first-generation college graduate, Dr. Mone earned his B.A. in organizational management from Central Washington University during his initial career as a chef, food and beverage director, and senior leader in hospitality operations. He went on to earn an M.B.A. from Idaho State University and a Ph.D. in organizational behavior and organization theory from Washington State University, credentials that would guide his exemplary leadership in higher education.

Dr. Mone continued his commitment to public service at UWM, transforming thousands of students' futures through meaningful community partnerships. He co-created and served as founding chair of the Higher Education Regional Alliance—a partnership with 17 colleges and universities and 10 economic development and community partner organizations—to increase the number of college graduates and address the growing need for highly skilled talent in the State. He also cofounded and coled M-Cubed—a critical initiative of UWM, Milwaukee Public Schools, and Milwaukee Area Technical College that jointly serve more than 120,000 students—to close the achievement gap.

In addition, Dr. Mone achieved remarkable capital and operational successes throughout his time at UWM, which were enabled by his leadership of the Made in Milwaukee, Shaping the World comprehensive campaign, achieving over \$251 million, and continuing with record fundraising years. These financial successes have led to the creation and enhancement of key facilities such as the Lubar Entrepreneurship Center, the Kenwood Interdisciplinary Research Complex, the Orthopedic Hospital of Wisconsin Center, and the soon-to-be-completed chemistry building. Renovations to the UWM Student Union and the College of Engineering and Applied Science have further modernized campus infrastructure and enriched student experiences.

Perhaps most notably, Dr. Mone has championed UWM's mission as an access institution, expanding opportunities for first-generation and underrepresented students while simultaneously enhancing academic excellence and research prominence. His dedication to student success and community engagement has left an incredible mark on thousands of lives across Wisconsin and positioned UWM as a leader in addressing the challenges of the 21st century.

As Dr. Mone embarks on the next chapter of his life, I offer my heartfelt congratulations and deep gratitude for his unwavering commitment to higher education, the city of Milwaukee, and the entire State of Wisconsin. He has made a significant impact on the UWM community, and his enthusiasm, dedication, and efforts will be greatly missed.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF FRANK PEPE PIZZERIA NAPOLETANA

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana, a bona fide institution in Connecticut.

Frank Pepe was born in the foothills of Maori, Italy, near Naples. He immigrated to the United States as a teenager in 1909, having neither money nor fluency in English but with a strong work ethic and ambition to make a life for himself. After briefly returning to Italy to fight in World War I, he met Filomena Volpi in Maori in 1919. Together, they moved back to New Haven, marrying and settling down to raise a family.

In New Haven, Frank worked first in a pasta factory and then in a bakery on Wooster Street. While at the bakery, Frank began making his own version of the classic "apizza"—then a relatively obscure ethnic dish—and selling them off of a special headdress in the Wooster Square market. As his tomato pies became increasingly popular, he eventually saved enough money to buy a wagon before taking over the bakery's operations in June 1925 and officially establishing Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana.

In his early years, Frank employed a small staff of relatives. His wife Filomena was especially invaluable. Unlike Frank, she could speak and write English and so took over the pizzeria's administrative and other business-related operations.

Business was booming, and in 1937, Frank bought the larger building next door at 157 Wooster Street, where the primary New Haven location still stands. Frank also became incredibly active in the New Haven community, coming to be known as "Old Reliable" for his numerous contributions to his neighborhood and unwavering love for his growing extended family.

Frank Pepe passed away in 1969, leaving the pizzeria to his two daughters Elizabeth and Serafina. They continued to expand the pizzeria, purchasing the old bakery next door in the late 1970s and reopening it as Frank Pepe's The Spot.

Frank Pepe's reputation as one of—if not the—premier pizzerias in the country continued to spread far and wide. In the early 1990s, Elizabeth and Serafina retired and passed the pizzeria on to their children Anthony, Francis,

Lisa, Bernadette, Genevieve, Jennifer, and Gary, who still operate the business to this day. They have also overseen its expansion across the country, now having 17 stores in 7 States.

Frank Pepe's story is truly quintessentially American: an immigrant who came to America in search of a better life, bringing with him an element of his cultural heritage that bettered his community. And Frank Pepe's continues to make some of the best pizza in the world. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring the 100th anniversary of Frank Pepe Pizzeria Napoletana and the tremendous legacy of the Pepe family.●

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS MCGUINNESS

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Chris McGuinness of Polson, MT, for his selfless and unwavering commitment to the safety of his community.

Mr. McGuinness is renowned by his peers as being the epitome of a genuine volunteer. While maintaining a full-time engineering job and volunteering with local organizations, Mr. McGuinness has dedicated up to 15 hours a week volunteering with the Polson Fire Department for the past 25 years. During his time with Polson FD, McGuinness earned the title of captain and is consistently commended for his hard work and dedication to the department.

In addition to his time spent volunteering with the Polson Fire Department, McGuinness also volunteers for the Polson Rural Fire Department Search and Rescue and with the Polson High School tennis team. McGuinness finds joy in helping others; from responding to emergency calls to his day-to-day life around town, he is constantly inspiring others to service.

Volunteers are the backbone of many smalltown and rural communities around Montana. Often, our volunteers are overlooked and not thanked enough for all that they do to support the organizations that keep our communities thriving. It is the generosity and kindness of people like Mr. McGuinness that Montana became known as the Last Best Place.

I am pleased and honored to recognize Polson Volunteer Fire Captain Chris McGuinness for his steadfast commitment to his community. I am confident that your dedication to serving others has not only inspired those around you but is making a truly positive impact on the people of Polson. You make Montana Proud.●

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment and with a preamble:

S. Res. 227. A resolution condemning Hamas for its premeditated, coordinated, and brutal terrorist attacks on October 7, 2023,