

to leverage American leadership to bring an end to this human suffering. Human lives are at stake, and America's moral credibility is on the line.

Inflicting human misery for its own sake is not a strategy. Starving the people of Gaza has not released any hostages or gotten us any closer to a cease-fire. The current trajectory is unsustainable.

I do not believe that the answer to death and destruction is more death and destruction. There is this phrase in Gaza. It is an acronym. WCNF: Wounded child, no surviving family. I can't think of a worse way to begin your life than to be a child or a baby wounded with no family. This phrase takes on new meaning as we are hearing stories out of Gaza of parents starving to death to give what little food they have to keep their children alive.

So here is what I believe. I believe in the humanity of all of God's children, and that is why I pressed the previous administration and the Netanyahu administration to get more humanitarian aid into Gaza. I voted to give \$10 billion in humanitarian aid to Gaza and other humanitarian crises. And just this month, I joined more than 40 of my colleagues calling for the large-scale expansion of humanitarian aid, and I urged the Trump administration to resume diplomatic efforts to end this war.

I also called on the administration to end the U.S. support and financing for the shady, private organization that has been connected to deadly violence against starving people seeking food in Gaza.

We must instead resume support for the existing U.N.-led aid efforts with enhanced oversight to ensure that help reaches those in need. My North Star in this whole conflict is a world that embraces the children on both sides of this conflict because here is the thing that even mortal enemies have in common: All of us want our children to be OK. We all want our children to be safe.

And I said this on the floor of the Senate when I called for the cease-fire at a time when folks felt like you couldn't even say the word. This pressure has prompted temporary pauses in violence and some aid, but it is clear that these piecemeal steps are failing.

America is Israel's friend. However, being a friend to Israel does not mean being complicit in its government's immoral actions unfolding even as I speak. Israel's strength is rooted in its allies, but allyship—true allyship—involves accountability.

Here is when I know I have got a good friend; good friends tell you the truth. We must tell Netanyahu he must change course. The Israeli Government's current path is hurting the country's global standing and support in the world.

So in the end, this growing humanitarian crisis is not good for Israel. Good friends tell you the truth, and

that is why, yesterday, I voted in favor of the joint resolutions of disapproval.

I have been thinking of the words of my mentor, my hero, who happened to also be my parishioner, the late, great John Lewis. John Lewis said that when you see something is not right, not fair, not just, you have to speak up. So I am speaking up. I am speaking with my lips and my legs because the acid test of your faith is your commitment to the most marginalized members of the human family. We must work toward saving lives and centering our common humanity, returning the hostages home to their families, and securing peace and safety for all those in the region.

Last year, I had the honor of meeting with the late pontiff, Pope Francis, at the Vatican. And I was struck by something the Pope said to me. He said to me that there was a small parish in Gaza that he called practically every night just to check on them, just to pray for them—leader of Catholics all over the world. He called that little parish to pray with them.

Well, the other day, that church was bombed. As it turns out, there was no sanctuary for them even in the sanctuary. So tonight, I am going to say a special prayer not only for the people of that parish but for the people all around me. I am going to pray for peace, but we don't just pray with our lips, we have to pray with our legs.

We have to work for the world that we dream of for our children. History may not remember the debates that we had in these Chambers, but it will remember whether we acted when children were starving and hostages were languishing.

Silence is complicity. Inaction in the face of famine is a choice. So let us choose life, dignity, and a peace worthy of the ideals we claim to pursue.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

#### NOMINATIONS

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, it is Thursday afternoon here in the U.S. Senate, and I am going to come down and talk about the Alaskan of the Week. It is the best speech of the week, I think—the pages would agree; they are all nodding—because it talks about someone who is really amazing. This week is a really impressive story, I will tell you.

Normally, the “Alaskan of the Week” is kind of the wrapup bell, signal, for the Senate, for the press. They kind of know the week is coming to an end. But not today. We are still working before the summer August work period to try to get some of President Trump's nominees confirmed—it is a huge part of the Senate's duties—and we are trying to get cooperation from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

Now, why am I talking about this? Because I know the “Alaskan of the Week” speech—you know, millions of Americans tune in. It is like must-see

TV when they are all watching. The press watches. So I just want to explain a little bit of what is going on here because we have this unprecedented blockade by Senate Minority Leader CHUCK SCHUMER—that is not good for the Senate as an institution, and by the way, all the Democrats know that; it is not good for the country—to getting the President—his people—confirmed to help run the government.

It has never been done before. What do I mean? The way the Senate works—it is a really important chart here. The way the Senate works is, when we go to confirm nominees—you know, Cabinet officials and very important nominees; some who are controversial, some who aren't—a lot of times, the Senate moves, because there are so many of them, with a package of nominees. We usually take a big package, negotiate it, and then they come to the floor as a package agreed to by leadership, and we do what is called a unanimous consent request. We don't vote on each one. It might be a package of 100. And the majority leader will say: I move by unanimous consent to confirm these hundred nominees.

This happens all the time. This has been happening for hundreds of years in American history. Guess who stopped that tradition? The current Senate minority leader, Senator SCHUMER of New York.

Now, why would he do that? Look at these numbers. In George H.W. Bush—during his first term, 98 percent of the people confirmed for that administration—Democrat, Republican—were done by this unanimous consent model. We package them up, we bring them to the floor, we do a unanimous consent, and they are all passed. Nobody objects. This is the way to do it.

So, remember, this is cooperation. You need Democrats and Republicans in this great institution, the U.S. Senate, to do this to help the government work.

OK. President Clinton, same thing. Republicans did unanimous consent requests on 98 percent of the people in the Clinton administration—civilians, not the generals and admirals.

George W. Bush got a little smaller—still 90 percent. So the Democrats worked with George W. Bush to confirm all his nominees.

Obama. Republicans worked with President Obama to confirm 90 percent through unanimous consent—big packages of nominees to get confirmed so the government can work.

President Trump's first term was a lot less. So all of a sudden, the Democrats are saying “We are not going to cooperate as much during Trump 1,” but still 65 percent of the nominees were packaged up, brought to the floor, unanimous consent. Let's move them. Did that. OK. You know, so there was a little bit of like, hey, you didn't help President Trump too much.

So with President Biden, it was less, but it was still way more than half—almost 60 percent. President Biden's guys

would come here. “Hey, we want to get all these guys confirmed.” We Republicans said “All right. Let’s put them in a package. All right. We will confirm a hundred here, a hundred there.” Almost 60 percent of all Biden nominees were confirmed in that way—unanimous consent, quickly.

A lot of times, before the August work period, we will get big packages done.

So that is American history.

Look at the number for President Trump’s second term. Can you see that? I want the American people to see that. Zero. Zero. Zero.

Like what the heck is Senator SCHUMER doing?

By the way, a lot of Democrat Senators who I talk to—I have good friends over there—they are embarrassed by that number, by the way. They are embarrassed by that number. Zero percent.

Now, why do you think Senator SCHUMER is doing that? Because he cares about the Senate as an institution? Nope. Because he wants to help us run the government? President Trump won fair and square; he needs to get his people into office to run our great government? Nope. Certainly don’t want to do that. We all know this.

I am going to reveal a little secret here in the Senate. This is fully driven by the far-left wing of the Democratic Party, OK? I mean, we are talking the anti-Israel, pro-Hamas wing. We are talking the defund-the-police wing. We are talking the open border wing. I mean, the far-left crazies of the Democratic Party are driving the Senate minority leader to go to zero, because they are telling him: You have got to resist the Trump administration. So he is listening to them.

Look at that, America. Zero percent. It has never happened in U.S. history. I hope our friends in the media write about it. It is unprecedented. And the vast majority of Democratic Senators who I have talked to are embarrassed by that number.

So hopefully we are going to get some kind of an agreement. We will see. But maybe not. We will stay here. Look, I am ready to stay here as long as it takes, because this is ridiculous. And one guy is blocking it—the minority leader of the U.S. Senate—because he is kowtowing to the far left, left, left crazy wing of the Democratic Party to resist. And we think that is good for America right there? It is embarrassing. If you are a Senate Democrat, that is embarrassing.

So I am going to switch gears to a much better topic.

Like I said, normally this would be the last speech of the week, but it is not because we are still here. We will keep plugging away. We are going to vote to confirm a lot more of President Trump’s Cabinet. We have to do it one at a time—one at a time—because there is no cooperation, as there has been throughout American history. So we will do it the hard way.

I applaud Majority Leader JOHN THUNE for saying: Hey, let’s try. We are still trying to get an agreement. Maybe they will move this number up a little bit. But that is an embarrassment. Every Senator knows it, and every Senator here knows why it is zero. Not guarding the institution. Not trying to help the American people run their government. It is nervousness from some of the Democrat leaders about their far-left, extreme, open border, defund the police—you know, the whackos are driving it. So we will keep plugging along.

TRIBUTE TO ANGELA HARRIS

So, Mr. President, let me get to my Alaskan of the Week because this is a great story, and it is very inspiring. I want all the pages and every American and certainly everyone back home in Alaska to hear about Angela Harris.

Now, I always do a little update on what is going on back home. I was back home last weekend. Summer is in full swing. The fish are running. Boy oh boy, the Kenai River is having a world record sockeye salmon run. I got to do a little fishing last week on the Kenai. It is incredible.

If you love fishing, America, come on up. There is no better fishing in the whole world. By the way, the Kenai River is just spectacular. This unreal glacial blue river. It is just amazing. It is majestic. It is indescribable.

The midnight sun is out in Utqiagvik, Barrow, our northernmost community, the sun still won’t set for another few weeks. It has been up for weeks—no sunset. Just a great community there.

The summers in Alaska just have so much energy. It is everywhere. It is in our waters. It is in our salmon streams and rivers. It is tourists. We have a lot of tourists, millions. And we have our great Coast Guard, America’s Coast Guard, always on duty, ready to respond, ready to protect.

So the Coast Guard, we are coming up on the 235th birthday of the Coast Guard. Our great men and women of the Coast Guard, for over two centuries, have been always ready—“semper paratus”—to defend our Nation, guard our waters, respond to disasters.

By the way, we got some heroic Coast Guard members doing great work recently in the horrible floods down in Texas. I had the opportunity to meet them.

And in Alaska, with more coastline than the rest of the country combined—that is right, 33,000 miles of rugged coastline in Alaska; that is more than the rest of the country combined—the Coast Guard is on duty all the time.

In 2024 alone, they responded to almost 1,000 calls and saved over 200 lives just in my State alone. You want to talk about heroic members of our military. And, of course, that is not all they do. Alaska’s Coast Guard is uniquely positioned on the frontlines of national security. I like to talk about it a lot in the Armed Services Com-

mittee, but we are seeing an unprecedented push by the Russians and Chinese into Alaska’s airspace and Alaska’s waters. We just had a Russian “Bear” bomber, couple of strategic bombers, in our ADIZ, Alaska air identification zone, just last week. Our military had to go—fighters go up and intercept them.

But our Coast Guard helps monitor these kinds of incursions and keeps our northern maritime border secure. They do this all across our State in communities like Kodiak, Sitka, Valdez, Juneau. They are our friends. Coast Guard members are our neighbors, our mentors, our volunteers. They are really integrated into their Alaska communities where they serve, and we owe them a huge debt of gratitude.

So with the passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, one element that is really not getting a lot of coverage, which is so great, is that that bill secured the biggest investment in the U.S. Coast Guard in U.S. history. It is not an exaggeration; that is what happened. Over \$25 billion for our Coast Guard. And they need it. I love our military, all services. The Coast Guard is often the redheaded stepchild in terms of getting up-to-date equipment and gear and cutters and hangars. This is a home run for the Coast Guard in terms of capital investments: 17 new icebreakers—right now, we have 2 icebreakers, and 1 is broken; Russia has 54; we are way behind—and 40 new helicopters, 22 cutters—I mean, this is a generational investment for the Coast Guard. And as the chairman of the Commerce Subcommittee overseeing the Coast Guard, this was a top priority of mine. And I worked closely with our Commerce Committee chair, Senator CRUZ. We are making this happen: giant investment, huge home run for our Coast Guard and the communities that support them, like Juneau, AK.

On August 10, I am going to be hosting the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Commandant of the Coast Guard. We are going to be in Juneau to commission the U.S. Coast Guard vessel the *Storis*, an icebreaker, to be homeported, finally, in Alaska. We have been trying to get an icebreaker homeport in Alaska forever. You would think the Coast Guard would want to put an icebreaker where the ice is. Well, they are finally going to do it, and that is going to be great.

It is going to be a great August. I am hosting several of President Trump’s Cabinet—Secretary Duffy, Secretary Turner, Secretary Kennedy, Secretary of Homeland Security Noem. It is going to be a busy time up in Alaska.

So we love our Coast Guard, and we are finally making the proper investment.

So why am I talking so much about the Coast Guard? Because our Alaskan of the Week, Angela Harris, is a coastie, and boy oh boy, is she a fierce competitor of a Coast Guard member.

Let me just give a little bit of a quick bio of her: A mother, a fierce