

the memory of a President under fire. President Trump came within a millisecond and a millimeter of losing his life that day.

Our Nation has a painful history with political violence and has mourned Presidents and watched great leaders cut down in their prime. Political violence is never the answer. We resolve our disputes in this country through elections and through free speech.

So today, I am calling for this unanimous consent of a resolution to unequivocally condemn political violence of any kind and honor the victims of these terrible acts.

One year ago at Butler, we lost a great American, Corey Comperatore, a man who, in the blink of an eye, instinctively shielded his family from gunfire, sacrificing his life in an extraordinary act of courage. We also honor David Dutch and James Copenhaver, who survived critical injuries in the same brutal attack.

These men that day came in peace to participate in the civic life of our Republic, never imagining that they would leave either losing their life or fighting for their lives.

All acts of political violence must be met with swift condemnation from all elected officials, Republican or Democrat.

This resolution further honors other law enforcement officers, first responders, medical personnel, and Secret Service agents who answered the call of duty when it mattered the most. They ran towards danger when America was under attack. These brave men and women served their fellow Americans regardless of their party affiliation or race, sex, or nationality.

It shouldn't be difficult to find bipartisan support to stand against political violence. The assassination attempt of former-President and now-President Trump is not a partisan matter. Standing against violence should never be partisan.

So today, we are saying something very simple but important—that we unequivocally stand against political violence in all forms. I urge my colleagues to stand with me today and pass this resolution.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 363, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 363) solemnly marking the one-year anniversary of the attempted assassination of President Donald J. Trump, condemning the multiple attempts against the President's life, condemning those who incite violence against political officials, and honoring the victims of the shooting.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHMITT. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to,

the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 363) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

HEMP

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the original intent of the 2018 farm bill's Federal hemp legislation and the need to restore it.

Earlier this year, a report from the University of Kentucky found that cannabis-related poisonings among Kentuckians under 18 rose by 43 percent between 2023 and 2024. As you can see here, emergency room visits are rising steadily as well: "Cannabis-Related Emergency Department Visits Climb in Kentucky, Especially Among [Young People]."

Calls to poison control centers in Kentucky regarding cannabis have doubled in the last 5 years, and more than 40 percent—listen to this—have been about children under 12.

Children all over the Commonwealth, from Laurel County to Jefferson County, are facing serious health and safety concerns due to THC poisoning from hemp-derived products, and so are children all across the country. It is not just a Kentucky problem.

How did we get here? Let's go back to the beginning.

Back in 2014, I lead the effort to secure pilot programs for industrial hemp, and I led the effort to legalize the crop in 2018. This industry has seen tremendous growth, especially in Kentucky. Hemp is used in food, clothing, paper, plastic, and many of our consumer products. Its versatility gave farmers hope for a new and profitable cash crop.

Unfortunately, some companies looking to make a quick buck have been exploiting a loophole in the 2018 farm bill by taking legal amounts of THC from hemp and turning it into intoxicating substances. They take these synthetic chemicals and use them as ingredients in appealing snack and candylike products and distribute them in familiar packaging.

Here, it gives you an example of how these hemp-related, THC-related factors are packaged in candy that looks very much like candy being consumed by kids all over the country. This is, by definition, a real problem.

Children love candy. They can recognize well-known brands of candy before they can even read. As you can see from the chart that we were just talking about, the packaging on these

snacks is nearly identical to Oreos, Doritos, or Skittles. Little do kids know that these products are laced with intoxicating synthetic chemicals. Young children are consuming these snacks thinking they are candy, not poison.

On top of that, these products are easily accessible and can be purchased at convenience stores. Some of them are even more intoxicating than actually smoking marijuana. Let me repeat that. Products more potent than marijuana can be bought off the shelf of a gas station.

Look, for years, I have called on the FDA to regulate these products. They have not taken the initiative to do so, which has certainly been an ongoing disappointment.

That is why we are here today. The language I recently attempted to secure in the Agriculture appropriations bill would have kept these products out of the hands of children while preserving the hemp industry for farmers.

For the sake of those misguided by my opponents on this issue, let me clarify a few things: You will hear from some that this language would have meant the total destruction of the hemp industry. Well, obviously, that is wrong. Under my language, industrial hemp, and CBD would have remained legal, period. Period.

Some predicted there would be widespread economic downturn to farmers should this language become law. Wrong again.

Hemp makes up less than one-hundredth of 1 percent of all farmed acres in the United States. I want the number to grow and to grow a lot. That is why I secured the legalization of hemp production back in the first place.

As long as I have been a Senator from Kentucky, I have supported our farmers. I am proud to have served on the Agriculture Committee my entire career in the Senate because of its importance to Kentucky. From the tobacco buyout program to tax relief for the sale of farmland, I have made sure our farmers have the tools they need to be successful in volatile markets. My language would not have changed that.

This language would have remained in the appropriations package had one Senator not derailed the process. You know, it is one thing to call yourself an advocate for hemp farmers, but if you didn't support the 2014 pilot program and you didn't support the 2018 farm bill that legalized hemp production and you would have blocked a major step forward on this appropriations package if it had included my language to close the bad-actor loophole, then what does being an advocate actually mean?

This package funds a significant portion of the Federal revenue, from Agencies that provide critical resources to our farmers to law enforcement, military, and our veterans, just to name a few.

We need the appropriations process to function. Congress needs to do its job and fund the government. And I, for

one, do not intend to be an obstacle. So in order to move the package forward, I allowed my language to be stripped from the bill. But my effort to rule out bad actors, protect our children, support farmers, and reaffirm our original legislative intent will continue.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MOODY). The Senator from Florida.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 1627

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, I rise today to talk about an issue of great national importance that affects every family in America.

We know the Federal Reserve has been wildly unaccountable for years under Jay Powell's leadership. Beyond his failed monetary policies leading to destroyed markets and misallocated capital, Powell has also overseen regulatory failures and numerous reports of unethical practices among its own members, all of which were overlooked and enabled by the Fed Board's hand-picked inspector general.

This malpractice and lack of transparency and accountability have seriously undermined confidence in our financial system. We can work to address this and start repairing the broken trust of the American people today by passing my bill, which is simple: Establish an independent, Senate-confirmed inspector general at the Federal Reserve. Every other government Agency has one. Surely the government's largest Agency should have one. It is just common sense to establish a Senate-confirmed inspector general at the Fed.

This inspector general would finally be independent of the Fed Board, who are the very people they are tasked with investigating in order to bring accountability to the Fed on behalf of the American people.

This must happen now. In recent years, we have seen hundreds of allegations of voting members of the Federal Reserve engaging in shady and unethical investment trades while in possession of insider information about the Fed. We have seen the collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and others.

We have seen a complete mismanagement of the Fed's policies while a culture of corruption has arrived at the Fed, and we are seeing billions of taxpayer dollars being spent to renovate the Federal Reserve headquarters in Washington, DC, all while the Fed is operating at a loss.

You might wonder, as I do, why no one gets fired or is held accountable and why no changes have been made. It is because Jay Powell is Chair, and the Federal Reserve's inspector general is appointed by and reports to—guess who—Jay Powell and the Fed Board, period.

It is a clear conflict of interest constructed with a perverse pay structure that enables issues to go unchecked and covered up for too long at the expense of the American people. The American people want to know their central bank is doing the right thing.

The Fed makes decisions that impact their lives each and every day. For families like mine, growing up without much, the Fed's choices can decide if they can afford their mortgage or put food on the table. Families across our Nation deserve a Federal Reserve that they trust is working in their best interest.

I would like to thank Senate Banking Committee Ranking Member ELIZABETH WARREN, Senator LUMMIS, and Senator MORENO for working with me on this important bill. I would now like to yield to my colleague Senator MORENO to say a few words about the legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Ohio.

Mr. MORENO. I rise to draw some sunlight and daylight with what is actually going on at the Fed. There is a lot of commentary that you hear in the news and social media, sometimes in a world here of hyperpartisanship, the facts get lost. So I just want to support and emphasize how important the legislation is that Senator SCOTT is proposing.

Back about 8 years ago, the Federal Reserve Board of Governors decided to renovate four buildings—four buildings that they have in Washington, DC.

They came up with what I think is a very, very high budget, \$2.1 billion to renovate—not to build new—but \$2.1 billion to renovate four buildings. Huge number; big, big number. Now back 7 or 8 years ago, the Federal Reserve was bringing in hundreds of billions of dollars in profits, as they have for decades. So you think, well, maybe this is a needed expenditure. I don't probably think that if we had some hindsight we wouldn't have embarked on that path, but they did.

One of the four buildings is on New York Avenue. They call it the NYA building. They decided to take that out of consideration. So now you have three buildings; the budget would have been somewhere around \$1.6 billion.

They completed the Martin building about 3 or 4 years ago for about 25 percent over budget for the original estimate back in 2017, and here is where we are landing: The Eccles and 1951 building, the ones you see when you drive down Pennsylvania Avenue, the iconic picture of the Fed building, that total renovation should have cost about \$1.6 billion. It is now together—all three buildings—it is now approaching \$3.1 to \$3.2 billion. The cost overrun is more than the entire cost to build CityCenter. Think about that for a second, on a renovation. The Chairman of the Federal Reserve—clearly one of two things is happening—either he is absolutely not paying attention to this project, or he is completely inept in managing it. Either way, what we need desperately is exactly what my colleague from Florida is suggesting—an independent body that would go in and say: What the heck is going on here?

Because I don't know about the Presiding Officer, but you go around Flor-

ida or I go around Ohio or when my colleague goes around Michigan, it is a little hard to explain why an organization like the Federal Reserve, which is losing hundreds of billions of dollars, is spending billions to renovate a building when their actions are costing them personally thousands and thousands of dollars on their car loans, their home loans, their credit card, their business loans.

There needs to be transparency. We need an independent Fed, we do; it is a proud history here in America. That is what has made our financial system strong.

But sometimes, even in the best institutions, you end up with incompetent leaders. And that is the case with Jerome Powell. And that is why we need an independent investigator to go in there and take a look at what is actually going on.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. I yield to the Senator from Wyoming Senator LUMMIS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Ms. LUMMIS. Madam President, I rise to support commonsense legislation that will bring transparency and accountability to the Federal Reserve Board and Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Currently, the inspector general of the Fed is appointed by the Fed Chair. This is highly unusual, and it means that the inspector general has no independence from the management of the Fed and is susceptible to influence. This is an unacceptable arrangement. I think we all agree that inspectors general cannot do their jobs without independence.

Democrats who are objecting to this commonsense legislation today have made inspector general independence a priority for years, and rightfully so, until today. Think about that. Democrats are saying they are OK with being complicit in the mismanagement of the Fed that we are seeing today. We are witnessing unprecedented mismanagement of the Fed.

The Fed overrun—and it was just discussed by my colleague from Ohio—it has overrun its budget for its building renovation by at least \$700 million, and Chair Powell appointed the inspector general who is now tasked with examining this fiasco. Do we expect the Fed's inspector general to do anything other than immunize the Fed Chair from further scrutiny and say everything is on the up and up?

I won't have any confidence in the Fed's IG and its findings until that person has statutory independence from the Fed Chair. The Federal Reserve has grown too powerful, too insulated, too comfortable, and they are operating in the shadows. And this is the minimum we can do to start getting this independent Agency some scrutiny. They don't even respond to FOIA requests.