

this crucial legislation would require the U.S. Attorney General to submit a report to Congress on the harms, lost opportunities, and harassment women have faced in athletics, as well as the effectiveness of State and Federal laws to prevent this abuse.

At the same time, it is imperative that we celebrate the accomplishments of the young women who practice, train, and compete every day to achieve athletic success. That is why I introduced a resolution to designate October 10—that would be Roman numerals X and X, like the female sex chromosome—as American Girls in Sports Day. Specifically, the resolution calls on sports governing bodies to protect women and girls in sports.

Young women across the country have suffered injuries, faced sexual harassment, and lost accolades because they were forced to share spaces designed for women with men. Together, President Trump and Republicans in Congress are working together to put an end to this assault on women, once and for all.

JEFFREY EPSTEIN

Mr. President, for years, we have known about financier Jeffrey Epstein's alleged sex-trafficking ring, that the abuse spanned decades and harmed untold numbers of vulnerable, young girls; and that a large network of high-profile, high-dollar predators took part in this horrific abuse. That is why, on the Senate Judiciary Committee, I have repeatedly requested a subpoena for the complete, unredacted Epstein flight logs from the FBI. I have also pushed for the release of Ghislaine Maxwell's unredacted "little black book" of contacts and addresses.

The American people have the right to know who flew on his planes, who witnessed the crimes, and who potentially participated in his global sex-trafficking ring.

Yet, time and again, in the last Congress, Democrat leadership and then-FBI Director Wray stonewalled my request.

Make no mistake, by blocking my request, they were delaying justice for Epstein's many victims.

But now with Republican control of Congress and President Trump back in the Oval Office, we are going to see some real change on this issue. Just last week, the President's excellent pick for FBI Director, Kash Patel, vowed to work with me in releasing the Epstein records and breaking apart the trafficking rings that harm countless women and children across our country.

To be clear, this is not a celebrity issue. This is about ending modern-day slavery and finding out who is participating in the sex-trafficking rings, and shedding some light on these crimes. That will bring an end to this widespread, pervasive abuse.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

#### CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the impressive pace by which this body is confirming President Trump's nominees to important Cabinet positions, to fulfill his agenda and his promises to the American people.

I think it is important to take a step back. November is a few months now in the rearview mirror, but President Trump completed the greatest political comeback in American history.

The Democrats did everything they could, including trying to jail him and bankrupt his family, to prevent him from stepping foot in the Oval Office—never again.

Well, guess what. On January 20, as we stood in that Rotunda, he completed that journey back—a journey that was highlighted by a reform agenda.

So what we see happening right now that the legacy media and my Democrat friends are losing their minds on every day was every single thing that he talked about: securing our border, being energy dominant, restoring accountability back in government, restoring our place on the world stage, after 4 years of humiliation, 4 years of lawlessness.

And just to give a few examples that the Supreme Court weighed in on, the student loan debt forgiveness scam—President Biden had no ability to do that. And I do find it interesting that my Democrat colleagues are, all of a sudden, talking about things that Presidents can and can't do.

Imperial Biden, with a stroke of his pen, tried to wipe out half a trillion dollars' worth of student loan debt. They were sued. I actually happened to file that lawsuit as attorney general of Missouri, and we won at the Supreme Court because the Supreme Court said: You can't do it.

Do you know what Joe Biden's response was? "Yeah, I don't really care about that." He kept trying to do it, and then he would get struck down over and over with each failed attempt.

He tried to force a vaccination, the COVID shot, on 100 million Americans through OSHA. An Agency that was created to make sure forklifts beep when they back up was suddenly now forcing a medical procedure on a third of the country.

The censorship enterprise directed Agencies to coordinate, collude, coerce with Big Tech companies to silence conservative speech.

This all happened in 4 years, and the American people sat in a jury box and watched all this. They saw it play out. They didn't want to become a banana republic. They didn't want lawfare to be weaponized to take out political opponents. And President Trump won the popular vote, including sweeping all of the battleground States.

So now here we are with an opportunity for real reform. Some of those people are already in place. Pete Hegseth was already confirmed—I sit

on the Armed Services Committee, along with Mr. President up here—and he promised to get rid of DEI. He is doing that. He promised to really, really focus in on China. He is doing that. He has talked about procurement reform. Our first hearing under Chairman WICKER was about procurement reform.

We have some serious issues to get at, but DEI is poison. It has hurt recruiting. It divides the room, has no place in our military. It doesn't have any place in our government at all, which is why I filed legislation this week to just get rid of all of it writ large across the government. It is discriminatory. It is divisive. And I think actually now the fever has broke. People see it, and there is an opportunity for reform.

Pam Bondi, who was confirmed yesterday and was just sworn in, was an excellent pick. I spoke on the Senate floor last night about why. I won't get into that all again, but we come from AG world. She is incredible, she is smart, she is respected, and she is going to restore credibility to the Department of Justice.

There are a couple more people I just want to mention to highlight I think why the American people are very excited about the reform that is happening.

We had the hearing of Kash Patel last week in the Judiciary Committee. I expect him to get confirmed as well.

The FBI was weaponized against its own citizens to score political points and to settle debts. It went after traditional Catholics. I happen to be Catholic. It went after traditional Catholics, set up a spy network. Because of the religious affiliation of another American, the FBI spied on them and viewed them as domestic terrorists because they went to Latin mass.

They also went after parents who had the audacity to show up at a school board meeting because they didn't like critical race theory in their classrooms. They were home during COVID. They saw what was happening. They didn't like it. They showed up to school board meetings. The teachers union complained. Joe Biden sent the guards out. Merrick Garland used the FBI to go after parents.

Then, of course, there is the lawfare that we saw against President Trump.

So Kash Patel is going to come in. He has a big job. The trust for the FBI is at an alltime low. It has plummeted. You can hardly argue with the reasons why. I laid out just a few. But, again, somebody that is going to come in and clean up.

Then the last person I want to mention, because there are a lot of great nominees—and to the credit of Leader THUNE, we will have gotten to I think 13 maybe by the end of this week, which is the pace that we used to be on before the last 8 years or so, back to the Obama years, when the President actually could get his team in place—is Russ Vought to be OMB Director.

For those in the Gallery and those folks watching at home, the Office of

Management and Budget deals with a lot of sort of the tentacles inside of government, where the wheels kind of turn, and you also get a glimpse of the opportunities to save money that have been neglected for far, far too long. We are \$36 trillion in debt. We are going to have an opportunity to vote on him I think tomorrow. We will see.

But the “hair on fire” histrionics we have heard the last couple days about—whether it is DOGE or Russ Vought, I am afraid my Democrat colleagues—they haven’t hit rock bottom yet. They don’t really get what November was about. They continue to be the ones that defend the status quo, the guardians of permanent Washington, of the establishment that—in an election cycle that was decided between the disrupters and the establishment, the people have weighed in.

So let them defend it. I think it is a fight that we want because you can’t really defend this kind of stuff: \$45 million for diversity inclusion scholarships in Burma; \$3 million for girl-centered climate action in Brazil; \$125 million to racialize public health; \$288,000 for diverse birdwatcher groups; USAID, which is in the center of the storm right now, and rightfully so, spent \$1.5 billion to “advance diversity, equity and inclusion in Serbia’s workplaces and business communities”; \$70,000 for the production of a DEI musical in Ireland; \$2.5 million for electric vehicles for Vietnam; \$47,000 for a transgender opera in Colombia—not Columbia, MO, or Columbia, SC, the country of Colombia; \$32,000 for a transgender comic book in Peru; \$2 million for sex changes and LGBT activism in Guatemala; \$6 billion to fund tourism in Egypt. This is what they are mad about, that the veil is coming down. Russ Vought is going to be part of this reform movement.

It is amazing to me the response I often hear on this floor: Well, what is \$2.5 million? What is \$6 million? What is \$1.5 million?

Tell that to the truckdriver working his tail off. Tell that to the waitress who is working an extra shift to afford to send her kid to a school that she wants them to go to or a family saving up to go to Washington, DC, to show their kids our Nation’s Capital. It is insulting. It is insulting to taxpayers.

So a reckoning, indeed, is coming. It is coming, and we have been waiting for far too long to have accountability in our government. Business as usual just isn’t working for working families anymore. So this team that President Trump has assembled and put together—I am excited for them to get to work. I am excited for a golden age of America. And I am excited for accountability finally to make its way to our Nation’s Capital.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, over the last several weeks, we have worked at record pace here in the Senate on

nominations. This has been one of those tasks that happen literally every time there is a new President that comes in, but the pace we have moved on nominations has been epic based on the last two terms of different Presidents. We have confirmed more people now in the Senate than were confirmed in the first 3 weeks of the Biden administration and in the first 3 weeks of the first Trump administration combined. It is because we have been willing to be able to run the clock and to be able to compress this.

Now, the nominations process does take a long time. Every single one of the Cabinet officials requires 30 hours of debate here in the Senate. Each one of the other individuals requires 2 hours of debate here in the Senate, and we have 1,200 people total that we have to get through.

But, at the beginning of this time period, we focused on the Cabinet-level officials, moving, for instance, Marco Rubio the very first day of the President being inaugurated, and we came into this Chamber that evening and were able to move Marco Rubio.

We started the hearings before the President was even sworn in, to be able to make sure that we are ready. We are literally doing hearings in committees, cueing up the next people, even as we are dealing with the folks that are on the floor, to be able to make sure we can move as rapidly as possible. This is not just about President Trump. It is about the United States and about us having a good operation for our government.

Let me give you a “for instance.”

Mr. President, you know extremely well, because you were part of this group to be able to move him, but Sean Duffy was actually sworn in. His nomination was done, his hearings were done, we confirmed him on the floor of the Senate, and within 24 hours, we have gotten the worst airline disaster that we have had in 15 years. That Secretary of Transportation was literally on the frontline within 24 hours, dealing with a terrible accident.

It is important that we have people in these roles.

We moved Doug Collins yesterday. Doug Collins, who himself is an Air Force Reserve chaplain, a veteran himself, will now be leading the VA. He is able to step into that role today, taking care of all those issues because we were able to get him confirmed.

Pam Bondi and all the issues that we need to be able to resolve within Justice—she can actually get started on those issues now because she has been confirmed. She is the new Attorney General of the United States.

All these different roles, as we move through them and through the committees, are vital for us to be able to get done. We are fulfilling the task that we need to do, whether that be for Secretary of State in international policy and the chaos happening right now in the Middle East, or whether that is Scott Turner and his experience that

he is going to bring dealing with Housing and Urban Development, and with people in poverty in our country that desperately are in need of getting access to housing. We are moving on these folks to make sure that we can actually fulfill the promise that needs to be fulfilled.

Mr. President, I just want to be able to remind everyone, we have more to go. We are going to continue to be here this week to finish out the Office of Management and Budget and Russell Vought in that role, because if we are going to deal with spending and we are going to make the government more efficient, we have to have leadership in the Office of Management and Budget.

That will be done this week, to make sure that we can continue to be able to implement the policies to be able to help the Nation to continue to move forward.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

FENTANYL

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, on April 1, 2020, U.S. Marine Corps veteran Jaime Puerto lost his 16-year-old son Daniel.

That dark day, Jaime found Daniel lying on his bed nonresponsive, ultimately seeing what looked like to be a half tablet of oxycodone on his dresser. Paramedics arrived and tried their best, but Daniel’s brain had gone too long without oxygen. Five days later, Daniel’s parents had to make an unimaginably difficult decision to take him off of life support.

Soon after, Jaime got a call from the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Office. He ultimately learned that pill was not an oxycodone pill. It was actually fentanyl made to look exactly like a pharmaceutical-grade oxycodone. That is what killed Daniel.

My colleagues on the Senate Judiciary Committee and I heard, yesterday, Jaime’s story. We heard the passion in his voice. You could still feel the hurt. The name of this hearing was “The Poisoning of America.”

We not only heard his story; we also heard of Bridgette Norring, whose son Devin lost his life to fentanyl poisoning the same week that Daniel died at the age of 19.

Devin had suffered from blackout migraines and dental pain to the point that he sought black-market prescription drugs—opioids—on Snapchat. This was the same platform where Daniel found the counterfeit pill that killed him.

On April 4, 2020, Devin Norring took what he thought was a Percocet. His younger brother Caden, just 14 at the time, found him in his bedroom the next morning. That Percocet was actually a counterfeit pill containing a lethal dose of fentanyl.

Daniel and Devin’s stories and what their families have been through are nothing less than heartbreaking, and it exemplifies what we are going through as a Nation—a national nightmare.