

Last Congress, Senator DURBIN and I compromised on a different version of this bill and agreed to let that version pass by unanimous consent.

Let me say that again. Last Congress, we reached agreement on a version of this bill that could have passed unanimously.

Today, to my regret, the sponsors have chosen to abandon those negotiations and instead are seeking to advance what I consider to be a dangerous bill that would make internet users unsafe. That is because the bill would weaken the single strongest technology that protects kids and families online. That is strong encryption. It will make it easier to punish sites using encryption to secure private conversations and personal devices.

While STOP CSAM sponsors claim that their bill does not target encryption, the bill explicitly allows courts to punish companies that offer strong encryption. It also would encourage scanning of content on users' phones or computers before information is sent over the internet, which has, in my view, the same consequences as breaking encryption.

Weakening encryption and other security technologies is the single biggest gift that can be given to the predators and dangerous criminals who want to stalk and spy on kids. Sexual predators will have a far easier time stealing and extorting photographs of children, tracking their phones, and spying on their private messages when encryption is breached.

Doing so threatens the privacy and security of every single law-abiding American.

I heard some talk about who supports the bill. Let me tell you who supports the bill. It is Big Tech. Google and X have endorsed that. Let me repeat that. Google and X have endorsed this bill. It is the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights and the American Civil Liberties Union who oppose it.

This is really about who are you for. I am here for women who depend on encryption to seek reproductive healthcare information. I am here for journalists reporting on sensitive stories in places where their messages could be intercepted and used against them. I am here for kids and teenagers seeking information about immigration laws as Donald Trump continues a brutal crackdown.

The key to better protecting kids online is to do what is effective, not what only sounds effective. Congress ought to focus our energy on giving law enforcement officials the tools they need to find and prosecute criminals responsible for exploiting children and spreading vile abuse materials online and to help prevent children from becoming victims in the first place. I repeatedly have given that support to prosecutors and law enforcement officials to do more to protect kids from being exploited.

I remain open to revisiting conversations with the bill's sponsors to get

back to a version that doesn't make the internet less safe. We did find a compromise in the last Congress, and I want to say to my longtime friend Senator DURBIN and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle that I am willing to work together to find another such compromise.

I urge, for example, my colleagues to support my bipartisan Invest in Kids' Safety Act, which I will shortly reintroduce. The bill would direct \$5 billion in mandatory funding to do three things: one, give law enforcement agencies the tools and personnel they need to catch the predators who create and spread CSAM; two, fund community-based programs to prevent at-risk kids from becoming victims in the first place; and three, invest in programs to support survivors of abuse. Any legislation that doesn't include those pieces is missing the point, and that is why I object today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Florida.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H. CON. RES. 58

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, when I talk to families in the State of Florida and around the Nation, I often hear how they are struggling to make ends meet. The cost of healthcare is up. Owning a home has become nearly unattainable.

The former administration pushed the American dream further and further out of reach for so many families all across our great Nation.

I grew up in public housing, and my family didn't have much. I look across the country and see families just like mine growing up, doing everything they can to make ends meet. But I knew back then that I had the opportunity to do anything because the American dream was alive. As Governor and Senator, my goal has been to keep the American dream alive so every family can have the same opportunities I did.

That dream and those opportunities don't exist under socialism. When crazy radicals in New York City and across this country villainize capitalism and push socialism, they forget they have benefited from the very system they criticize.

Socialism has never worked. It is an old, barbaric, discredited idea that failed every time it has been tried. Look at Cuba and Venezuela and the many families that fled those brutal regimes to live in my State of Florida. It kills those opportunities.

We need to drive down costs. The answer isn't more government; it is less. We don't need more government decisions. We need fewer government decisions. We need to do what we did in Florida—cut taxes, reduce government regulations, and grow jobs.

The United States was built on individual freedoms and opportunities and the right of every individual to pursue the American dream, despite coming from nothing, just like I had the opportunity to do. That is what this great country stands for.

This resolution is a stark reminder for the far left: Socialism is a failure, and Americans will always reject it.

As if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 58, which was received from the House; further, 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 (Mr. CURTIS). Is there objection?

The minority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Reserving the right to object, this is an interesting resolution. It passed the House of Representatives, and I am not sure what the vote was. My colleague and friend from Florida didn't draft it or write it, but he is offering it.

I took a look at it. It is hard to disagree.

Do I think that Vladimir Lenin or Joseph Stalin were bad people? You bet.

Mao Zedong, Fidel Castro, Pol Pot, Kim Jong Il, Kim Jong Un, Daniel Ortega, Hugo Chavez, Nicolas Maduro? Sure, no questions asked.

Do I think the Bolshevik Revolution was a good idea? I wasn't around at the time, but from what I have read, it was not.

What do I think about the Great Leap Forward in China, another example of socialism?

The list goes on and on. It lists the crimes against humanity which occurred by socialist regimes, and they should be listed and noted in this resolution.

Then it goes on to explain, in terms of Thomas Jefferson and James Madison, just what they mean by socialism in this resolution. And that is where you lose me, because when it is all said and done, I am a little worried.

When Franklin Delano Roosevelt created Social Security, do you know what they called it? Socialism. When Lyndon Baines Johnson created Medicare for millions of Americans, do you know what they called it? Socialized medicine.

So in your conclusion, where you say Congress denounces socialism in all its forms and opposes the implementation of socialist policies in the United States, does that include Social Security? Does that include Medicare? I would think those programs might be important in your State. They sure are in mine.

For that reason, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I actually was born in the great State of Illinois and lived in public housing there. I grew up in a family that could have benefited from things like Medicaid and the Food Stamp Program. We didn't have those. Those are great programs, and that is not socialism. Socialism is when we take from one group

and we just give to another with no real basis for it.

We want safety nets, but socialism is a failed ideology. Nothing in this resolution suggests that Medicare is socialism. Nothing says Social Security is socialism, because it is not. But it is a failed ideology and the antithesis of the American dream.

We have all been blessed. We grew up in a country that believes in capitalism. I invite any of my colleagues that believe socialism is good to visit Cuba or Venezuela. I don't see many people flocking there. I see them flocking out of there to my great State and other States.

If you want to come and talk about socialism, come to my State, especially in the city of Miami, where so many people had to flee because they had no country.

Socialism is a proven path to tyranny, starvation, as my colleague brought up—so many things in the resolution—death. I am always going to fight for capitalism.

We weren't able to get this passed. I don't think it suggests that great programs like Social Security, Medicare, food stamps, Medicaid—these things are not socialism. But when you are trying to destroy the dream of this country that you can start from nothing and be anything, we should all be in favor of supporting capitalism over socialism.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, one of the things we have to do before we open our Christmas presents in a couple of weeks is to pass the National Defense Authorization Act. This is one of the rare instances—and you can count them on maybe one hand—where we actually have good bipartisan cooperation, and it is for a good cause. It is in the defense of our Nation and in support of the men and women who wear the uniform and who keep us safe.

The Senate and the House have now released a final text that has been reconciled between the House and the Senate versions. All that remains now is for the House and then the Senate to pass the final version and send it to President Trump for his signature.

The National Defense Authorization Act is one of the most important pieces of legislation we pass each year. I believe we have done it—without exception, I want to say—for 63, 64 years in a row.

Now, I wasn't here for each of those years, but that is the history that has been handed down.

As I said, this legislation is critically important because it makes sure that our military has the necessary resources to achieve the missions of today and rise to the challenges of tomorrow. As we have seen even in the battlefield in Ukraine, the nature of modern warfare has changed dramatically with the advent of the ubiquity of

drones. With even poor countries like Yemen, where the Houthis send drones into countries like Israel or attack merchant ships in the Red Sea, we have had to use million-dollar missiles to shoot down basically cheap drones. Well, you can't continue that, you can't sustain that, so it is important that we update and modernize our military according to the threats and the technology available today.

Given our rather inconsistent record in other must-pass legislation, this is an impressive run of 56 years, my notes remind me, underscoring the importance the U.S. Congress has always placed on ensuring the fact that we have the strongest military in the world. We have the strongest military in the world not in order to fight but in order not to have to fight—in order to maintain deterrence. That is what President Reagan talked about and what President Trump has talked about—peace through strength. That comes with deterrence.

We are demonstrating the fact that we are committed to the defense of our Nation and our friends and allies around the world and that we are not afraid to make that investment. Any country that might decide to change the status quo and start a military conflict knows from the outset they are likely doomed to fail.

This year's NDAA, the Defense authorization bill, includes numerous important policies to strengthen our national defense, but perhaps the biggest success in this year's annual authorization bill is a significant win against the Chinese Communist Party. What I am referring to specifically is a provision that is in the reconciled bill that creates a vehicle for transparency on outbound investment from the United States into China.

We have known for decades now that China has attracted manufacturing from around the world into that country, to the detriment of manufacturing jobs here in America, and that they have used that technology they have learned and the workforce training that has gone along with it in order now to build weapons systems and threaten peace in the Indo-Pacific and threaten the United States—our position of dominance—when it comes to national security.

This provision that I will speak more to in a moment has been many years in the making. It goes back to 2021.

I tell people that the most important lesson I have learned here in the U.S. Senate is perseverance. If at first you don't succeed, try, try again, and that is what we did here. So in 2021, I partnered with then-Senator Casey on the initial outbound legislation. We worked through several different iterations of this legislation and listened to the input from stakeholders around the Nation—all with the goal of having notification, prohibition with regard to the investment of American dollars in China.

In 2023, I introduced the Outbound Investment Transparency Act and pushed

for its inclusion in the Defense authorization bill that year. The Senate voted 91 to 6 to include my amendment in the annual Defense bill that year. Obviously, this enjoys broad bipartisan support in recognizing the challenge and indeed the threat that China could pose. It is highly unusual, as we know now, to see that level of agreement in Congress, but given the preeminence of the threat, nearly every one of my colleagues supported that provision.

Unfortunately, after nearly unanimous consensus that this amendment was needed to counter the rise of the Chinese Communist Party, that provision was dropped when the House and the Senate went to conference.

Then, last year—back again—I continued to push for this provision and was adamant that we had no time to lose. Even so, the language on outbound investment was once again dropped from the Defense authorization bill.

I want to credit Speaker JOHNSON, who has led a valiant effort in the House to include this provision in the end-of-year continuing resolution, but of course, when everybody tried to add their favorite policy rider to the continuing resolution at the end of last year, the bill collapsed under its own weight, and all of those outside provisions were stripped out. Once again, we kicked the can down the road.

Now, if we were simply talking about some relatively routine function, like funding a bridge, this might have been something par for the course, but that is not what we are dealing with here. I am confident in saying we are living in one of the most dangerous times since the Second World War, and China is our most significant adversary.

President Xi has signaled that he intends to reincorporate Taiwan in 2027 into the Chinese nation. As we approach the end of 2025, this is just a little more than a year away.

China has made no secret also of joining hands with Russia in conducting joint military exercises. We see now, when it comes to Ukraine, where North Korea, Russia, China, and even Iran—sort of the hit list of greatest military threats—are joined together in opposition to the United States and Europe in supporting the people of Ukraine. So they have now locked arms against us.

Meanwhile, in the South China Sea, which is a very important international lane of commerce, China continues to aggressively expand its control by conducting military drills and creating islands out of shoals and other pieces of territory. They have deployed surveillance tools and inflamed tensions with their neighboring countries, like Vietnam and the Philippines, in an attempt to intimidate them.

Let's not forget they are the powerhouse behind the drug crisis we are facing at home as well. I am talking about the fentanyl crisis. It is well established that fentanyl has been the leading cause of death in America of young