

face hurdles on the road to confirmation.

Will any of them muster the courage to join Democrats in actually holding Blanche accountable and demanding answers regarding the host of concerns I have outlined today? Time will tell.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

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#### FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, 87,000, that is how many lives were at risk in August 2024 when Austrian security services thwarted a devastating terrorist attack on a Taylor Swift concert in Vienna.

Many of these lives could have been young girls from around the world, including Americans. Now this tragedy was halted because, thanks to section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, Austrian authorities were able to cancel the concert and apprehend the plotting terrorists, all because U.S. intelligence Agencies were able to share critical intelligence gathered under section 702 authority before the attack occurred.

In 4 very short days, title 7 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, including this essential service, expires. We can't let that happen.

Section 702 happens to be our most nimble and effective intelligence collection tool. Section 702 equips our military with a strategic advantage. It protects our troops overseas, and it keeps terrorists, foreign adversaries, and dangerous illicit drugs from harming Americans, enabling over 90 percent of synthetic drug disruptions.

It helps our intelligence and law enforcement community to defend our homeland from attacks, and it is essential for protecting our cyber security infrastructure.

Title 7 then is critical to our national security, but it doesn't just protect us from security threats; it also protects us from government abuse and government overreach.

Now, if title 7 expires, not only do we lose section 702's utility, we also lose all of its civil liberties, privacy, transparency, and accountability measures. There is a dangerous assumption that the program will function seamlessly if this statute expires on Friday.

Well, I hope the certifications issued a few months ago will still apply in the event of the statute lapsing. This is not a certainty. There will be high-stakes litigation and a very real possibility that intelligence collection will cease, at least temporarily. And in this work of intelligence gathering, minutes do matter. Letting 702 lapse is a real gamble that we can't afford to take.

So let's be very clear, if section 702 lapses, our adversaries will benefit greatly and Americans will suffer. In other words, we will be less secure in our safety as well as our privacy. Over the last few weeks, I have worked

closely with Senators COTTON and WARNER, the administration, the national security community, and Members of the House to develop a product that delivers meaningful reforms while maintaining section 702's essential operational effectiveness.

This product is bipartisan, bicameral, and it strikes the right balance. The reforms in our bill build on the substantial reforms passed by the Congress in 2024. Again, I want to be clear that the reforms of 2024 that goes by the acronym RISAA are working. FBI query compliance is at 98.9 percent, with the remaining noncompliant queries due to typos and other harmless errors.

This isn't the same program plagued by abuse a few years ago that civil libertarians rightly condemned and by their condemnation brought about some of the reforms in the 2024 bill. Because our bill builds on what the House sent us a few weeks back, it retains and strengthens the provisions and the good progress made by our colleagues in the other Chamber and, at the same time, adds 11 additional reforms that deliver real transparency and accountability.

So let me list just a few. First, it requires the Justice Department to rescind and replace the Department of Justice memo drafted by the previous administration that, quite frankly, illegally restricts congressional oversight access to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

Now, why the previous administration didn't want to carry out the transparency requirements of the last Congress, I don't know, but they didn't do it.

Secondly, it gives Congress a voice in the amici appointment process by requiring leadership to submit a bipartisan list of candidates to whom the FISC court is obliged to give the highest preference.

Third, it levies criminal penalties on those who willfully violate querying standards.

Fourth, it limits and clarifies the definition of an "electronic communication service provider," thus addressing a concern of civil liberties groups across the political spectrum.

Fifth, it requires the FBI monthly to submit U.S. person query justifications to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court and the Civil Liberties Protection Officer for review.

And, sixth, it requires noncompliant queries and abuse to be referred to the inspector general.

Now, there is other points that could be made, and I could go on, but I think the point is very clear when it comes to transparency and accountability that we have added to what was started in 2024.

There is no doubt that this bill is a compromise. That is how things are done in the U.S. Congress and, particularly, in the Senate. This bill isn't the clean reauthorization called for by the administration. This bill also isn't the

maximalist approach called for by some skeptics of this program.

This bill reflects what the American people expect and the American people deserve: the reauthorization of a very important national security tool but coupled with meaningful guardrails and transparency.

If title 7 lapses, not only will these thoughtful and thorough reforms fail to become reality, but we will lose many of the key reforms instituted in the last reauthorization of 2024.

This section 702 is the most transparent and most scrutinized intelligence collection in history. If it lapses, so does Congress' essential insight into and oversight of its functions.

So we owe it to our constituents to protect them from threats, from terrorists, and other adversaries, but also to defend their privacy and civil liberties. Our bipartisan, bicameral, thoughtful bill accomplishes both goals.

I appreciate the collaboration with my colleagues Senator COTTON and WARNER, and I appreciate the collaboration and engagement from the administration and from our national security partners.

I am grateful for the engagement from the House of Representatives. We got this bill to a very good place, and it is the kind of a bill that should have significant support from both sides of the aisle.

Now, we need to finish this job. We need to put aside partisanship and do what is right by the American people. We need to advance this bill to the President's desk and reauthorize this very critical program.

My Democratic colleagues should recognize that walking away from this deal isn't hurting President Trump; it is hurting the American people.

I hope my colleagues appreciate this bill for what it is, and I pray that we can consider this bill later this week. And I urge everyone in this Chamber to vote yes on reauthorizing section 702 in this very careful and very thoughtful way now before the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

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#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH). The Democratic leader is recognized.

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#### ANTI-WEAPONIZATION FUND

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, well, just about everyone in America hates Trump's slush fund, but every Senate Republican but one is culpable for allowing Trump to go forward with the slush fund. Again, people in America hate the fund. Every Senate Republican allowed Trump to go forward with the slush fund. They supported a reconciliation bill that had no restraints on Trump's corrupt slush fund even after Democrats forced vote after

vote in trying to ban the fund. The American people will remember how Senate Republicans sided with Trump instead of them, and it doesn't bode well for the GOP.

Yesterday, Trump showed how empty Todd Blanche's promise is to drop the MAGA slush fund. Asked whether he would stop trying to give cash payouts to his corrupt cronies, convicted criminals, and January 6 insurrectionists, Trump said:

If it was up to me, I'd pay them the kind of money that they deserve.

What they deserve? The only thing January 6 insurrectionists deserve for maiming police officers is to sit in a prison cell, but Donald Trump and Senate Republicans think the rioters deserve a cut of Americans' paychecks.

Trump went on to say:

I think the weaponization fund is a great idea, and so do many other Republicans.

Listen to that, America. Donald Trump has no intention of dropping his slush fund.

You don't have to be a Senator to see just how corrupt—just how crooked—Trump's slush fund scheme is, but Senate Republicans chose not—not—to outlaw Trump's plan to line his pockets with Americans' tax dollars. Senate Republicans are complicit in Trump's corruption.

Democrats set up a procedure and used reconciliation to show exactly where Republicans stood on the slush fund, and the American people were aghast. Republicans could have supported Democratic amendments to ban the slush fund permanently. Republicans could have voted for our amendment to prevent taxpayer-funded payouts to violent January 6 rioters. Republicans could have stood with the American people, but, instead, they reaffirmed their loyalty to Trump and his corrupt administration.

#### IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, yesterday marked 100 days since Donald Trump launched one of the most foolish misadventures in the history of American foreign policy. Trump launched his disastrous war with Iran without a clear objective, without a coherent strategy, and without a care for how it would endanger our brave servicemembers and hurt the American people.

One hundred days later, Trump still has no idea how to extricate America from this mess of his own making, and he still doesn't seem to care that the American people are struggling to bear the costs at the gas pump every day.

Trump said it himself:

I don't think about Americans' financial situation.

He doesn't think about it—the No. 1 issue facing the American people, and he doesn't think about it. What kind of President is that?

Trump had better start thinking about Americans' financial situation

because, as it becomes more and more dire, Americans are becoming more and more livid. Costs on everything from gasoline to groceries to consumer goods are through the roof because of Trump and his war. American families have spent an extra \$750, on average, these past 100 days to meet the rising costs of Trump's war, and every time Americans go to the pump and see a gallon of gasoline costing well over \$4, they know whom to blame—Donald Trump.

For 100 days, Trump has claimed that peace is just days away, only for negotiations to crumble over and over and over again. Trump's efforts at peace by press release won't stop the fighting. Congress need to reassert its powers under the Constitution and end this war. Soon, Senate Democrats will force another vote on a War Powers Resolution to end the war—the ninth opportunity we have given Republicans to do their jobs and dig themselves and Trump out of this hole.

The walls are closing in on Trump and the U.S. economy. Republicans need to find their courage and end this war.

#### NEW YORK KNICKS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on the Knicks playing tonight, New Yorkers love the New York Knicks. Some of us remember the good old days when the Knicks won the championship with Debusschere and Bradley at the forward, with Willis Reed in center, and with Earl the Pearl and Clyde as the point guards. Those were the glory days, and the glory days are back.

So, with the New York Knicks set to play the San Antonio Spurs in a few hours, tonight ought to be all about the game, the players, and the fans, but Donald Trump wants to make tonight all about himself like he always does. Midtown has to shut down. Bars near the Garden are about to take a huge hit on what should be their biggest night of the year, and free watch parties near the arena have been canceled because Trump can't bear letting anyone else be the center of attention for one night.

After waiting nearly three decades to see the Knicks play in the finals, New Yorkers deserve better than this.

Knicks fans would give Trae Young wearing a Reggie Miller jersey a warmer welcome than the one they will give Donald Trump when he walks into Madison Square Garden tonight. Knicks fans know that tonight is about New York, not about any one New Yorker.

Best of luck to the Knicks tonight. You will hear us from the streets of New York to the Senate floor: "Knicks in Four!"

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BANKS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### NAVAL WEAPONS STATION CRANE

Mr. BANKS. Madam President, Indiana sits at the crossroads of America, but we also sit at the crossroads of more than just freight traffic and geography. Indiana is also the crossroads of our country's defense industrial base.

Indiana's defense and manufacturing industry is helping to make America stronger each and every single day. And now that one of our most important military assets, the Naval Weapons Station Crane, will be getting a one-star Reserve flag officer, Indiana's defense industry will be stronger than it has ever been before.

And I just wanted to come to the floor today, as we begin this week, and talk about the important role that Indiana is playing in leading America's defense industry.

Indiana has one of the highest concentrations of manufacturing jobs anywhere in the country, and we have a great business environment, which is why we have a major defense footprint. In my backyard, in Fort Wayne, IN, a number of companies are located there, like BAE Systems, L3Harris, Raytheon, Ultra Maritime, and General Dynamics. They all call Northeast Indiana, where I live, home, employing thousands of Hoosiers.

Indiana leads the Nation, as well, in steel production, and the steel mills in Burns Harbor forge the steel plates that make up our Navy's ships.

And Indiana is home, as well, to some of the brightest minds that are working in national security and national defense. We have top engineering schools that send their graduates to Crane Navy base. Schools like Purdue, Notre Dame, Trine, and Rose-Hulman pump out a lot of engineers who get good-paying jobs at Crane and in a number of these defense companies.

At Purdue University, the Hypersonics and Applied Research Facility is running some of the most advanced wind tunnel tests anywhere in the world, and the results of those tests will help better our advanced missile technology.

Purdue also has a presence at Crane at the WestGate@Crane Technology Park, a 750-acre campus dedicated to the research and development of hypersonics, energetic materials, and micro-electronics.

At Notre Dame, the Hypersonic Systems Initiative is focused on researching and developing advanced hypersonic flight vehicles. Notre Dame is also part of the Naval Engineering Education Consortium, a Navy-funded research and workforce bridge that allows Notre Dame students and faculty to work on hypersonics projects that are taking place at Crane Naval Base.

But perhaps more important than all of that, our coveted asset is the Crane