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

REMEMBERING LINDSEY GRAHAM

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, America lost a fearless patriot in our friend Lindsey Graham. He devoted his life to serving the people of South Carolina and this Nation. He never shied away from a difficult fight, and he always stuck to his principles.

It has been so moving to see all the tributes to his life and his legacy pour in from each side of the aisle. It speaks to who he was as a leader, statesman, and a public servant. He believed in robust, respectful bipartisan debate, and he knew that, in Washington, you can only solve problems by building a big tent and inviting people to join you. He did it time and again, across more than three decades in public office, working to protect our national security, strengthen our military, secure our border, protect kids online, and save our elections.

I had the honor of serving alongside him on the Judiciary Committee, including during his time as both chair and ranking member. He knew that peace and prosperity are only possible under the rule of law, and he fought to defend the rule of law.

Just a few months ago, Lindsey and I filed the 287(g) Expansion Act to encourage State and local law enforcement to partner with ICE and accomplish President Trump's goal of deporting criminal illegal aliens and keeping our communities safe.

Last month, we also introduced the Election Security Partnership Act to get more States to submit their voter rolls to DHS through the SAVE Program and secure our elections. On that issue, Lindsey was a champion of the SAVE America Act to ensure that only American citizens vote in American elections. The Senate should put election integrity measures on the floor for a vote and honor his legacy. That is exactly what he would encourage us to do.

It was so moving to see his sister DARLINE sworn into office yesterday to complete his term. My prayers are with her and with his family, friends, staff, and all who loved him. May he rest in peace.

BIRTH TOURISM

Mr. President, few things are more sacred than our citizenship. It is what empowers us to defend our freedoms, choose our elected representatives, and serve our Nation. It is what makes us ''we the people.'' Yet, for years, one industry has undermined this cherished institution, and that industry is birth tourism.

Each year, tens of thousands of foreigners give birth in our country with the intention and the only intention of securing U.S. citizenship for that child—for that child. These tourists are often wealthy nationals from China and Russia. Then they return to their home countries as soon as they receive that child's paperwork—their U.S. passport, their Social Security number.

Behind this appalling practice is a multimillion-dollar industry that helps clients exploit our Nation's immigration laws. What they are doing is helping people circumvent the legal process.

During President Trump's first administration, the Justice Department investigated this, and they actually charged 19 people for operating 3 birth tourism schemes in Southern California. These schemes brought thousands of Chinese nationals to our country to give birth.

The operators actually instruct their clients on how to apply for visas and trick the system. They instruct them on how to deceive U.S. Customs officials about the purpose of their stay, and then they instruct them on where to get medical care, where they are going be housed. They also purchased flights and then made those housing arrangements for those individuals while charging them tens of thousands of dollars.

This is fraud.

What we do know is that among the customers of these birth tourism companies are Chinese Government officials, including individuals affiliated with state-owned radio stations and the Public Security Bureau in the Beijing Municipal Government.

In a separate scheme, a company with branches in Miami and in Russia charged clients up to $49,000 to help them travel to our country to obtain citizenship for their newborns. On its website, the company boasted that it served—and I am quoting from the website—''the wives of dignitaries, oligarchs, and celebrities.'' So they admit they are committing fraud. They admit they are circumventing U.S. law.

What is so interesting about this is they take it a step further. They have come here. They have defrauded the system. They have deceived U.S. officials. They have the baby. They get their paperwork, and they are going to exit the country. So these companies now advise these women on how to gain permanent residency status through their newborn's citizenship.

Bear in mind, I have just said these are the wives and women who are a part of the Chinese Communist Party leadership. The website says, from Russia. It is oligarchs. It is celebrities. It is officials. They are giving birth and then having that child deemed a U.S. citizen and then leaving the country to rear that child with a Russian mindset or a Chinese mindset.

Last week, Governor Greg Abbott launched an investigation into a Texas hospital that advertised childbirth packages in Mexico with the tagline ''Have My Baby in Texas.''

So by exploiting our Nation's immigration laws, this industry helps clients obtain all the blessings of American citizenship and none of the responsibilities. Zero. Zip. Nada. Nothing.

You know, the question to ask is, Is this what our men and women in uniform have fought for when we talk about defending our Nation, our sovereignty, our freedoms? To have a cheap, fraudulent company conduct fraudulent activity and sell U.S. citizenship? Well, that is what they are doing.

Now think about what it takes to become a U.S. citizen if someone wants to be naturalized as a U.S. citizen. First, they must maintain continuous residency in the United States for 5 years, have good moral character, demonstrate an attachment to the principles of the U.S. Constitution and a firm grasp of U.S. and American history, display proficiency in English, and take an oath of allegiance to the United States.

Do those responsibilities and actions sound anything like what these birth tourism companies are out here selling? The answer is no, absolutely not.

Again, the Democrats work overtime trying to make illegal legal. We saw it through Joe Biden with the open border. We saw it with Cabinet Secretary after Cabinet Secretary who tried to find workarounds, who tried to say: We are going to enforce part of the law but not all of the law.

They want it to be convenient. They don't want any borders. They are just not going to stand and defend the United States.

The children of birth tourists avoid all of those requirements for naturalized citizenship. Yet—get this—they can vote in our elections. The day they turn 18, they can be voting. They can serve in public office. And yes, indeed, on a U.S. passport, they can come and go as they please.

To address this abuse of our laws, President Trump issued an Executive order last year that prohibited the newborn children of foreigners from obtaining U.S. citizenship. In a disappointing ruling earlier this month, the Supreme Court struck down that order, allowing this horrible practice of birth tourism to continue.

The Trump administration has vowed to use every legal avenue available to them to end birth tourism in America. Congress should do everything in its power to support this effort, which is why this week, I have reintroduced the Ban Birth Tourism Act. This bill would amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to ban birth tourism as a permissible basis for obtaining a temporary visitor visa to gain admission to our country. It would also add birth tourism to the list of immediately deportable offenses under the law. These measures would help ensure that future Democrat administrations cannot lay out the welcome mat for foreign visitors hoping to exploit our laws.

The way I look at it, our citizenship, being an American—and we have all stood and celebrated our great Nation as we have celebrated America 250, and we know that to each and every citizen, being a citizen is one of the greatest blessings. It means you are part of the greatest people in the greatest country on the face of the Earth. It must never be for sale.

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. MORENO assumed the chair.)

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JUSTICE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

HONORING SERGEANT SCOTT RIES

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, every day the men and women of law enforcement leave home not knowing what they will encounter. They live life with the uncertainty of what the next hazard is that they might encounter during the call that they receive to go protect and serve. Sergeant Scott Ries was shot and killed responding to one of those calls, and today I rise to honor one of Ohio's bravest sons, Sergeant Ries. We lost him on July 5, 2026, just a couple weeks ago.

Sergeant Ries served and protected his community until the very last moment when he was on one of those calls and was shot and killed and lost his life, and we all mourn his loss. Today, I want to take a few moments to honor his life, his service, and his legacy.

Sergeant Ries was 54 years old and a native of Doylestown. He was a 10-year veteran of the Rittman Police Department.

Before joining the Rittman Police Department, he served as a deputy with the Wayne County Sheriff's Office and as an officer with the Sugar Grove Police Department. You can see Sergeant Ries right there.

His colleagues remember him as someone who wanted people to know that when they called for his help, he would be there for them. And he was a person to respond with kindness and a community spirit.

Sergeant Ries was a devoted husband and father. I had a chance a few days ago to speak with his wonderful wife Michelle. He is remembered as someone who was deeply involved in his family's life, especially supporting his daughter's cheerleading activities.

Each year, in fact, Sergeant Ries and his wife Michelle volunteered their time raising money in a fundraiser for the cheerleaders. They would organize the dunk tank. Anybody that grew up in a small town knows what the dunk tank is. Pay a few dollars to throw a ball and dunk the police sergeant, and that is what Scott would do.

They helped support the cheerleading program, but it was one of the many things that he would do to help give back to his community and support life in a small town—a small, rural town in Ohio.

Sergeant Ries was also an alumnus of the Chippewa Local Schools and remained actively involved with the school long after graduation. A police sergeant in a small town, Chippewa Schools, is an important local leader, an important example, a mentor, someone to look up to, and that is who Scott Ries was. He certainly was that kind of figure in his local community.

Sergeant Ries was a dedicated public servant who put his life on the line every day and made the ultimate sacrifice in service to his community in responding to a violent call. But there is no way he could know it would have been his last because he responded as a dedicated public servant in law enforcement every single time he got the call.

His wife and children and loved ones and fellow officers remain in our prayers. I know how hard it is for them, having talked to several of them during the course of the last few weeks. They loved Scott, and it was hard for them, as you would expect, to confront his tragic loss. And we will mourn him. We will mourn his loss, honor his life that was defined by community, sacrifice, service, and courage.

So Sergeant Scott Ries gave his life protecting his community and his neighbors. I thank my colleagues for giving me a few moments to hear his story and to join me in honoring his service and celebrating his life.

So many times, so many days, these public servants, these law enforcement officials, are asked to show courage and give to their communities, and they do it humbly, as Scott Ries did for so many years. Unfortunately, sometimes we have to confront the tragedy of them losing their lives in service to their communities. We do that in honoring the life and service of Scott Ries.

I want to say to his wife Michelle and to his children and his colleagues in law enforcement that we will keep you in our prayers, we mourn his loss, and we honor his service.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 556

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, climate change is real. Simple proposition. Earlier this year, I came to the floor and asked my colleagues if they could all agree on that simple factual proposition. Well, they could not, so I return to the floor in hopes that our Republican colleagues could at least agree to some of the simple truths that make up the larger truth of climate change.

I asked if we could agree, for instance, that sea levels are rising as a consequence. There is really no dispute about that, but Republicans objected.

I asked if we could agree that the oceans are warming as a consequence. There is really no dispute about that either. In fact, they are warming by about 20 zettajoules a year. Nevertheless, Republicans still objected.

So I shifted my focus to economic threats. I asked if we could agree that climate change is driving up the cost of homeowners insurance or that it threatens home values. Very clear propositions demonstrated in real life. But, again, Republicans objected.

Well, the closer these threats are to your home, the harder they become to deny. So let me try a narrower simple truth today: Florida's insurance market is gravely stressed by climate risks. That is it. Can we all agree on that?

I have explained many times that climate change is driving an increase in severe storms, including hurricanes. This chart tracks billion-dollar climate disasters in the United States between 1980 and today. The pattern is crystal clear. As you can see, these events and their costs are increasing.

According to NOAA, of all the climate-driven disasters since 1980, hurricanes have caused the most damage—over $1.5 trillion total adding all that up—with an average cost of $23 billion per event.

And hurricanes hit southeastern States—particularly Florida—the hardest. Between 2020 and 2024, nine hurricanes hit Florida causing $244 billion in damages in Florida alone. They went on often to create more damage in other States—but $244 billion in Florida.

So what does the data show is happening in Florida insurance markets as a result? First, data I collected as chair of the Senate Budget Committee shows that Florida has, by far, the highest insurance nonrenewal rate in the country—that is the rate at which insurers say to their customer: I am sorry. I know you have been a good customer. We have been insuring you for years, but your property is now so endangered that we can no longer insure you. We are done. You have got to go find new insurance.

Florida: Highest nonrenewal rate in the country.

Second, Florida has, by far, the highest average premiums in the country—by some estimates, approaching $14,000 per year. Economists expect these costs to continue to rise.

This chart predicts future insurance rate increases as high as 300 percent in coastal Florida in the next 30 years—the period of a mortgage entered into today. Just do some quick math. If it is $14,000 now, a 300 percent increase, four times as much, you add—call it a $56,000 annual expense to own a home, and you run a present value of that simple math, that all comes off the value of the home.

Even at these high premium rates, many home insurers in Florida are at risk of insolvency. After catastrophic hurricane losses in recent years, many of the major insurers—including Farmers, Progressive, and AAA—all left the Florida market entirely leaving behind small, local, and less stable insurers. Many of those small, local, and less stable insurers have gone bust when claims come in. This insurance problem creates a mortgage problem in Florida. Banks won't finance a home mortgage unless the home is protected by insurance.

When banks originate mortgages, they often flip them to government-