

certainly be felt in this Chamber. During his 33 years of public service, Lindsey achieved a great deal. He used his role on the Senate Appropriations Committee to make sure that South Carolina's hard-earned taxpayer dollars went back home. He was a fierce and outspoken advocate for the most vulnerable among us—the unborn. He led the fight to repeal section 230 because he believed in protecting the next generation online. He believed in blind justice, in defending the Constitution, and in confirming judges to the bench who would uphold the law. And he was an incredible colleague, mentor, and friend.

This list of accomplishments, while it doesn't even span all of the things he did, is impressive, but it is this legislation—this legislation we are voting on today—that he told me would be the most consequential piece of legislation that he ever led and got to the President's desk. Now, that is saying something.

It is an honor to now help champion one of his highest priorities, and not just for Lindsey, but importantly for the doctrine which he so deeply and passionately believed; that is, peace through strength.

Today, we have an opportunity to advance this legislation at a critical juncture in the war, where Russia is the weakest that it has been since the start of the war more than 4 years ago. This legislation will give the President the tools and the economic firepower that he needs to sanction individuals who fund Russian war and its machine, to stop countries from purchasing Russian oil and gas that is Putin's financial lifeline, and it will also hold the regime in Tehran accountable for fueling 47 years of terrorism around the globe.

There is no reason this legislation should not advance with overwhelming bipartisan support, and I hope that that is what we see here today.

Ukraine and the world need this war of aggression to end.

As I reflected today on Lindsey's service and his life and so many memories that I have of him, one thing came to mind. When we were leaving Normandy after being there for the 80th anniversary of D-day, he said to me: I want you to remember how important the decisions we, as political leaders, make because if we fail to do our job, young men and women are sent into harm's way. He said: There is no doubt the "greatest generation" earned that title, and he said the decision that was in front of us right now—as he reflected on all of this—was that people miscalculated Hitler. He said many were doing the exact same thing to Putin, and he believed that that miscalculation would ultimately be an enormous mistake.

So let's honor Lindsey's memory the best way we know how, by responding to Putin's war of aggression with a show of strength and vote today to hold the Kremlin accountable. It is

time now to get the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act of 2026 to the President's desk. I hope my colleagues will join me in doing just that this evening.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

SANCTIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first let me thank the Senator from Alabama for her poignant and strong and much needed words.

Let me thank my colleague from New Hampshire, along with Senator BLUMENTHAL, for leading the fight in this very important issue.

Now, I just got back from a beautiful service honoring Lindsey Graham. The service honoring Lindsey Graham today was a tribute not only to our friend Lindsey but to his belief that America can act as a positive force on the global stage, especially in Ukraine.

I didn't agree with Lindsey on many things, but Lindsey understood something Trump has yet to learn: It takes resolve to earn respect.

Instead of standing strongly behind Ukraine and squarely against Vladimir Putin, Trump has tried and failed to pander to Russia. At a time when Ukraine is turning the tide in the war against Putin, we must show the Ukrainians that our Congress and our country are fully behind them and show Putin that his war is a losing battle because the people of the United States and this Senate stand behind the Ukrainians.

With this bill, we are going to show the Russians we mean business. We are going to impose steep, mandatory sanctions to clamp down on the Russian war machine, drain the Kremlin's war chest, and truly cripple the Russian war effort.

That is how you make a bully like Putin listen, by putting real pressure on him to end this devastating war. Words will not do; actions matter. This is strong action, strong medicine.

And Trump should not pass up—better not pass up—this opportunity. If Trump tries to abuse these tools and continue kowtowing to Putin, he will only make himself and our country look weaker.

Make no mistake, there is an overwhelming majority in this country that wants to see Russia defeated and Ukraine victorious in this fight against Putin's authoritarian invasion.

President Zelenskyy has reiterated that Ukraine is changing the tide in this war and gaining momentum every day. We are seeing it happen with our own eyes.

Lindsey Graham spent his final days trying to help Ukraine achieve victory. We ought to do the same in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

MAIL-IN VOTING

Mr. President, now on mail-in voting, Trump's desperation—this is my open-

ing statement since we just opened at 5 o'clock.

Trump's desperation to avoid accountability at the polls this November grows every passing day. Yesterday, Trump begged the Supreme Court to help him block mail-in ballots in every corner of the country.

Hey, Donald, did you also tell the Court that you yourself voted by mail just a few months ago? Everyone knows that mail-in voting is safe and secure, and apparently so do you.

It is absurd. Trump is pleading for the highest Court in the land to make it harder for millions of Americans to vote using the same method he used to submit his ballot earlier this year.

We all know why. Trump sees the writing on the wall for November and thinks he can escape accountability from voters. Trump knows just how bad a bind he is in. Trump can't defeat the crippling costs. Trump can't defend the crippling costs working families see every time they go to the grocery store or the gas pump. Trump can't defend the rampant corruption that has allowed his family to make billions of dollars off the American people. And Trump can't defend the unrelenting chaos he has unleashed in American streets.

But Trump can't defend himself from Americans' wrath at the ballot box in November either. Senate Democrats are working around the clock to make sure that every eligible American voter can cast their ballot without interference, intimidation, or obstruction.

You can hear in every lawsuit, Executive order, and desperate plea to the Court: Trump is afraid of the voters, not of voter fraud.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Hampshire.

SANCTIONS

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today in support of the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act.

I want to applaud Senator SCHUMER's comments about supporting this legislation to try and end the war in Ukraine. I applaud Senator BRITT and Senator WICKER, and, of course, Senator BLUMENTHAL who has worked for over a year to get to this point and thank Senator DARLINE GRAHAM for her efforts to support this legislation.

I had the privilege of traveling with Senator Graham earlier this month on what tragically turned out to be his final codol.

We all know that he was a tireless advocate for Ukraine. He knew that Ukrainians stand on the frontlines of freedom. This legislation is designed to cut off Vladimir Putin's most important resource in his war against Ukraine: his money.

And you can see from this poster, what this legislation does is impose mandatory sanctions that target Russia's war machine; it clamps down on Russia's shadow fleet; it strengthens financial and export restrictions; and it

enforces targeted duties on top purchasers of Russian oil and gas.

This includes sanctions against the Russian central bank, which keeps Russia's war economy afloat; Sberbank, the country's largest lender; and Gazprombank, which has helped finance Russia's energy exports. It also sanctions Russia's energy sector and the executives who run it, the major state energy projects that generate billions for the Kremlin, and future arctic energy projects designed to keep that revenue flowing.

For the first time, this bill would impose sanctions on the Russia shadow fleet and any foreign vessel that is used by the Russian Government for sanctions evasion. It would impose tariffs on imports from the top five countries buying Russia crude oil or natural gas, and it would impose tariffs on imports from those top five countries facilitating Russia's oil sanctions evasion.

We know who topped that list in 2025; it was China. They topped both lists. They continue buying Russian oil, even as Russia kills civilians and kidnaps Ukrainian children.

And as sponsors of this bill, we have worked hard to protect our allies, those who have worked hard to get off of Russia's natural gas purchases.

Now, some have raised concerns about the tariff provisions in this bill. They say that President Trump has used tariffs indiscriminately to target our closest allies.

Well, I agree. But in the case of this bill, Congress is explicitly directing these tariffs for one unambiguous purpose: to increase the pressure on Vladimir Putin and end his unprovoked war against Ukraine. That is why this bill is narrowly targeted at the worst actors supporting Russia.

I saw the consequences of Putin's strategy firsthand earlier this year on a congressional visit to Odessa. It was winter. Ours was the first official congressional delegation to visit Odessa. The Russians had destroyed every bridge going into the city, except the one that our convoy crossed over that the engineers—Ukrainian engineers—had managed to patch together.

And, sadly, it is not a new phenomenon because Russia deliberately targets civilian infrastructure to break the will of the Ukrainian people, and it attacks American businesses. It attacks the grain silos of ships that help feed the world.

And you can see what they are doing. This is a rescue worker at a Philip Morris factory in Kharkiv. They have attacked Coca-Cola, Cargill, Mondelez. Others have been deliberately hit. And when we met with businesspeople who were working for those American companies in Ukraine, they said they believed they were being deliberately targeted by Russia.

So for those people who are concerned about the tariffs, consider the cost of continuing to do nothing. Pressure is the only language Vladimir Putin understands. It is the only thing

he responds to, and that is why it is critical that we pass the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act today.

The Ukrainians are making great progress. They are striking deep inside of Russia. They are targeting defense factories and oil facilities that enable Putin's war. And now is the time for us to do everything possible to put pressure on Putin. President Zelenskyy supports this bill. Everything that reduces Russia's revenues reduce the ability for Russia to continue the war against Ukraine.

As ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I believe this is the only bill that Congress has before it that has a realistic path forward for imposing new sanctions on Russia. This is our best opportunity to support Ukraine, who are defending not just their country, but the rest of Europe from an increasingly aggressive Russia.

And so I call on all my colleagues to vote for this bill to send Vladimir Putin a bipartisan message in a language that he understands. Let's pass the Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Mississippi.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, first, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the cloture motion on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 454, H.R. 5334.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SANCTIONS

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, and now let me join with my colleagues from New Hampshire and Alabama in urging a strong "yes" vote on the motion to proceed to Lindsey Graham's sanctions bill.

A number of us gathered today, as we have already heard, at the National Cathedral for Senator Lindsey Graham's funeral. And in a few moments, we will vote to advance a bill that Lindsey Graham made possible.

During the past few days, we have heard a number of stories about Lindsey Graham's many idiosyncrasies: his endless energy—he has been called the Energizer Bunny—his quotable jokes, his nonquotable quips, his one-of-a-kind personality.

We also remembered his steadfast love for freedom and his intolerance for tyrants. The bill we will vote on in a few moments reflects those aspects of his personality.

I have suggested that it is his greatest political achievement. It took a Senator like Lindsey Graham to bring this bill so far. In this environment, with these stakes, he brought together so many parties. It seems he did this almost through the sheer force of his will. I have seen that drive for 32 years since we came to Washington together as freshmen in 1994.

Again, I say this could turn out to be Lindsey Graham's greatest legislative achievement. The Lindsey Graham sanctions bill will advance the cause of freedom, and it will combat Vladimir Putin's war machine. It will go after Vladimir Putin, his inner circle, and the shadow fleet they use to evade sanctions. It will hold accountable those who purchase the most Russian oil and gas. It will also take aim at China's investments in Russian weapons production. It will maintain sanctions pressure on Iran. These policies will save human lives. They will pave the way for even more impressive battlefield achievements by Ukraine.

The Ukrainians have been resourceful from day one. For 4 years, the freedom fighters have managed to stand against a country four times the size of theirs. And today, Ukraine is using long-range drone strikes to take the war to Russia. I hope to meet with President Zelenskyy of Ukraine soon. He regularly refers to these drone strikes as long-range sanctions. Let's give Ukraine even more sanctions, even more tools to fight back against the dictator Putin.

This bill will be a moral achievement. It is a clear statement about the aggressor in Russia and the nation he is attacking.

Ukraine targets facilities in Russia used to wage war. On the other hand, Vladimir Putin targets apartments, neighborhoods, churches, and corner stores. As Ukraine defends its homeland, Vladimir Putin callously sends the sons of Russia into bloodshed. He is not persuaded by appeals to human rights.

I have made no secret of my complete disgust for the dictator Vladimir Putin and for his many war crimes against the Ukrainian people throughout this unprovoked conflict. If we have learned anything about the Russian despot Vladimir Putin over the course of this war, it is that the slaughter of civilians and even his own Russian troops give him no pause. His soulmates are the dead dictators of the previous century—Pol Pot, Hitler, Mussolini, and Stalin. Vladimir Putin's name deserves to be stated among those disparate war criminals.

He disregards human life, but he does prize the strength of his war machine. For this, Putin relies on his energy sales, and that is what we are getting to with this bill. This legislation will help curtail those energy sales. It will put maximum economic pressure on Vladimir Putin. This is the one thing—apparently the only thing he understands.

President Trump and President Zelenskyy have long extended the hand of peace. Time and again, Putin has answered with more violence, more destruction, and more innocent Ukrainian and Russian lives snuffed out.

Lindsey Graham understood Putin's calculation, and he wrote a bill to hit Putin where it hurts. We will have a