knowledgeable about all of the matters
I have talked about—propose such a
wrongheaded idea and one they know
will never become the law of the land?

Well, unfortunately, this is part of an
effort to intimidate and stigmatize people
from participating in the political
process. We know the majority
leader comes out to the floor and talks
daily about the Koch brothers, whom
he happens to disagree with, and he
disagrees with their right and ability to
participate in the political process
and to affect elections. He doesn’t talk
about other political actors, such as or-
organized labor, which has essentially
been carved out of the limitations on
political contributions and political
spending. He doesn’t talk about people
such as Tom Steyer, a former hedge
fund manager who says he will spend
$100 million against anyone who sup-
ports the Keystone Pipeline or anyone
who opposes his views on climate
change.

This cherry-picking in terms of try-
ing to intimidate people and to squelch
political speech is pretty apparent. It
becomes apparent because obviously
the majority leader is very worried
about the upcoming midterm election and
what happens when we see the pushback from voters in the Senate
races all across the country over the
last 5 years, and this great, huge
growth in government and its intru-
siveness in their lives.

Here is the bottom line: Free speech
is free speech, period. To quote a recent
Supreme Court decision:

There is no right more basic in our democ-
racy than the right to participate in electing
our political leaders.

As they said, there is nothing more basic.

As I mentioned a moment ago, thankully the Founders were wise
enough not only to give us the Bill of
Rights and our Constitution but to make it very difficult to amend in
the first place, so we know the major-
ity leader’s amendment has no chance
of actually passing. Yet its mere intro-
duction, the fact that a major political
party and a majority in the Senate ap-
parently believes in shrinking the First
Amendment in order to weaken their
political opponents, should be a cause of
broadspread concern in the country.

People ought to ask the question: Why
in the world would you propose to do
something as draconian and as dam-
aging as that?

Well, it is the kind of amendment we
would expect to see not in the greatest
deliberative body in the world, and cer-
tainly not in the Senate, but maybe
some banana republic or some country
that does not have our experience or
our foundation in constitutional self-
government. Therefore, it is not mere-
ly enough to reject this amendment
and then quickly move on to some-
thing else. We need to send a clear, un-
ambiguous message that our First Amendment freedoms
represent the bedrock of American de-
mocracy, and we will not agree to un-
dermine that, damage it, or otherwise
impair it on our watch.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The ma-
Jury leader says the time is expired.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, if my friend
from Wyoming wishes to speak, we will
go through the process for 3 or 4 min-
utes, and we will put the Senator on
what we call automatic pilot if he
cares to speak.

Mr. BARRASSO. I will be less than 2
minutes.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE
CALENDAR

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unan-
imous consent that notwithstanding rule
XXII, on Thursday at 1:45 p.m., all
postpomtore time be expired and the Senate proceed to vote on the con-
firmation of Calendar No. 796; further,
that following the vote on that nomi-
nation, which is Burwell, the Senate pro-
ceed to the consideration of Cal-
endar No. 519, and the Senate proceed
to vote on the confirmation of the
nomination; further, that if confirmed,
the motions to reconsider be consid-
ered made and laid upon the table with
no intervening action or debate; that
no further motions be in order to the
ingominations; that any statements re-
lated to the nomination be printed in
the RECORD, and that the President be
immediately notified of the Senate’s
action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there
objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. REID. With this agreement,
there will be two rolcall votes begin-
ning at 1:45.

Mr. President, we are moving this up
because we have 10 or so Senators who
are going to the 70th anniversary of
Normandy.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unan-
imous consent that we proceed to
morning business with Senators being
allowed to speak up to 10 minutes each.

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

STUDENT LOAN

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, in the fall
of last year, Adrian College in Adrian,
MI, made an announcement that re-
ceived national attention. Adrian, one of
the finest private liberal arts col-
leges in America, made a promise to
prospective students: Beginning this
fall, incoming students who graduate
from Adrian carrying student loan debt
and are unable to find a job that pays
above a set income will be eligible for
support from the college to pay part or
all of that student’s loan payments.

The plan was so notable is that it was
so far-reaching. It promises to make an
deep difference in allowing Americans
to pursue rewarding careers. And we can-
not let the disturbing trends in student
debt and college costs continue
 unabated, and I hope that, inspired by
the Adrian College example, we will act
to halt and reverse those trends.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Presi-
dent, due to unavoidable family com-
mittments, I was unable to cast votes
relative to the following rollcall votes:
Nos. 164 through 170 on Monday, June 2,
and Tuesday, June 3, 2014. Had I been
present, I would have voted yea in each
instance.