

can be just plain creepy. But with effective cyber security legislation, we can help protect America's privacy.

It seems the White House agrees too. We were glad to see such a strong statement of support yesterday for the strong bipartisan and transparent cyber security bill before the Senate. The President's spokesman said "the Senate should take up this bill as soon as possible and pass it." That is what the President's spokesman said just yesterday about the bill that is currently on the floor. It is easy to see why. This bipartisan legislation would help the public and private sectors protect America's most private and personal information by defeating cyber attacks.

It contains important measures to protect "individual privacy and civil liberties," as the top Democrat on the issue put it. It has been scrutinized and supported overwhelmingly—14 to 1—by both parties in the Intelligence Committee.

Our colleagues said they would be happy to consider the bill in a timely fashion—a couple of days "at the most" is what the Democratic leader told us—if allowed to offer some amendments. That seemed reasonable enough to me. That is why I offered a fair proposal yesterday that would have ensured at least 10 relevant amendments to be pending and debated for each party. That is actually more than what Democrats have been asking for. So I think everyone was a little taken aback when they chose to block the proposal anyway.

I am still determined to see if we can find a way forward on this bipartisan bill. Republicans support it, Democrats support it, and President Obama supports it. I am asking colleagues to join me to open debate on it today. With a little cooperation, we can pass a strong bipartisan cyber security bill this week.

TRIBUTE TO RUSS THOMASSON

Mr. MCCONNELL. Now, Mr. President, on one final matter, I know my friend from Texas will have some words to say about the man who has been helping him run the whip operation so effectively the last few years, and I know Senator CORNYN won't mind if I share a few thoughts first.

Russ Thomasson is preparing to bid farewell to the Senate after many years in the trenches. He is one of the most approachable and good-humored staffers around here. He is also incredibly effective.

This former intelligence officer always has his ear to the ground. When he takes the pulse of the Senate, it is with uncommon precision.

Russ loves a good nail-biter too. And in a more open, more freewheeling, and, by definition, more unpredictable Senate, you are inevitably going to have a few of those as well. What is important is that with Russ's help, we almost always seem to push through.

Russ has all of the qualities you would look for in a highly successful member of our leadership team—always willing to take on the difficult but necessary tasks, unafraid to offer his candid advice, working each vote until the gavel falls, and defined by loyalty and integrity. This is someone whose judgment I value greatly.

I am glad Russ's son Austin got to see him in action. He has had a front-row seat as a page here in the Senate. We hope Austin will be seeing more of his dad soon, the same with his sister Sasha and Russ's wife Cindy.

Thank you, Russ, for your service to the Senate. You have been an invaluable member of our team, and you will be truly missed.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

NUCLEAR AGREEMENT WITH IRAN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the Iran accord is the result of many years of hard work by lots of people. Congressional committees are conducting hearings to listen to the administration's case and others. For example, this evening at 5 p.m., we will have an all-Senators classified briefing. At that meeting, we will hear from Dr. Moniz, the Secretary of Energy, a man imminently qualified as a scientist—an MIT physics professor who is world famous for his scientific prowess—and Wendy Sherman, one of America's truly great diplomats during the last 20 years.

We have yet to see the language of the legislative response to the accord that has been negotiated. I know that Senator CORKER and Senator CARDIN are working on that, but it is not out yet. It is incumbent on Congress to review this agreement with the thoughtful, level-headed process that an agreement of this magnitude deserves.

Let's hopefully remember that we all agree, and now the world agrees, that a nuclear-armed Iran is unacceptable and a threat to our national security, the safety of Israel, and the stability of the Middle East. Like many Senators, I am continuing to consider this matter. I am looking forward to the briefing tonight. It is altogether appropriate for Senators to consider this deliberately and with the understanding that this is very important. I admire those Senators on both sides who have come to a conclusion on how they feel about this. A number of us have not and are looking for more information to better understand this very important time in the history of the world.

FUNDING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Mr. REID. Mr. President, on another matter, unless Congress acts, there will be a government shutdown on October

1. That is a short time away—less than 2 months. Every day that passes we are another day closer to the crisis of an unfunded Federal government.

For months we have been warning Republican leaders that there is a need to find a solution to these budget problems. We have offered to meet with them. We have urged them to negotiate. The answer is always no answer.

The Republican leader knows he must negotiate. Here is what he said yesterday: "Different parties control the Congress from control the White House, and at some point, we'll negotiate the way forward." I am sure that didn't come out exactly the way he wanted, but I think I get the picture. He believes we have two Houses of Congress that are different from the White House. I am quite certain that is what he meant to say.

Regardless, the question remains: Why does the Republican leader continue to decline our invitation to sit down and craft a bipartisan solution and do it now? Why does he continue to tell us no? This should not come as a surprise, however, because Republicans are in the habit of governing by manufactured crisis. We have seen that over the past 7 months.

Their obvious distaste—some say hatred—of government generally is so deep that many take pleasure in closing it. We hear that from the statements that have been made over the last few days. That could explain why they keep fighting to not move forward on negotiations and finding excuses to simply close the government. Lately it has been women's health. They are going to close the government because they don't like the way women are getting their health care.

In the 1990s Republicans shut the government to force cuts in Medicare. In 2013 they shut the government to force repeal of the Affordable Care Act. It is clear that both of those times were total failures.

Earlier this year Republicans came within hours of shutting down the Department of Homeland Security. That is the agency which is tasked with keeping our homeland safe. They came within hours of closing down the whole Department.

There is always a new reason—some grievance from the partisans at FOX News, some complaint from whiners on talk radio, some attack from radicals in the tea party. It makes one wonder: What will be next? Will the Republicans again use shutdown extortion to try to repeal ObamaCare or to attack immigrants or to cut Social Security or to privatize Medicare?

As I just said, there is a new one. They are targeting the health of women in America. Could it be any more obvious that the Republican Party doesn't care about the health of women? That is obvious from the statements that have been made. The legislation before this body says money that goes to this organization which they dislike—other agencies will take

care of it. Well, we have learned that in Texas alone, hundreds of thousands of people simply wouldn't be able to have the care they need. Yesterday Jeb Bush went so far as to say this, a direct quote: "I'm not sure we need half a billion dollars for women's health issues."

Unfortunately, the attack on women's health is only one example of the many legislative riders Republicans are pursuing. This isn't just talk; they have actually done it in the various bills that have come out of the House in the appropriations process and over here by the Republicans. These partisan riders have nothing to do with funding the government and everything to do with ideology and special interests.

For example, there is a legislative rider to block implementation of the Affordable Care Act, which would deny health coverage to millions of Americans—that, after almost threescore different attempts to repeal ObamaCare. Each of them turned out the same: They were defeated overwhelmingly.

There is a legislative rider on behalf of Wall Street to protect institutions that are too big to fail, making taxpayers more vulnerable to future bail-outs.

There is a legislative rider to undermine the President's work to address the dangers of climate change. And the dangers of climate change exist. Spread across all the news today is the fact that the Forest Service is going to be spending 75 percent of its money fighting fires in the future. There will be no money left for anything other than fighting fires.

There is a fire going on in California now. It is 15 or 20 percent contained. There are 7,000 or 8,000 firefighters trying to stop that fire from spreading even more. That is only one of the many fires burning as we speak.

There is a legislative rider in their legislation attacking immigrants by undermining President Obama's recent Executive actions.

There is a legislative rider to block the Federal Communications Commission from implementing its recent net neutrality order. Let's not forget that this is what the Republican leader wanted; in fact, this is what he promised. It was just last month that he told the Lexington Herald Leader that he and Republicans would "line the interior appropriations bill with every rider you can think of." In this instance, he certainly is a man of his word.

Democrats disagree with these Republican attacks, and we are going to resist them. We believe in standing up not for billionaires and tea party ideologues but for everyday, working families. Take sequestration, for example. While Republicans want relief only for the Pentagon, we insist on equal, dollar-for-dollar treatment for the needs of America's middle class—for jobs, for education, for health care. We insist on strengthening Social Security and Medicare, not cutting and

privatizing them. And we insist on supporting women's health, not gutting it.

We know that Republicans disagree with us about these middle-class priorities, but I hope these disagreements—serious though they are—won't get in the way of keeping the government operating. Whatever our differences, we should act responsibly. We should at least be able to agree to not shut down the government. Republicans should not once again take legislative hostages to get some rightwing prize that is within their grasp.

Mr. President, would the Chair announce the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CYBERSECURITY INFORMATION SHARING ACT OF 2015—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 754, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 28, S. 754, a bill to improve cybersecurity in the United States through enhanced sharing of information about cybersecurity threats, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COTTON). Under the previous order, the time until the cloture vote will be equally divided between the bill managers or their designees.

The Senator from California.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, it is my understanding that although the Senate had been scheduled to vote at 10:30 on a cloture motion, that time might be changed. However, I wish to make some further remarks in addition to what I said yesterday on the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act.

I think it is fair to say that I have been very disappointed over the past couple of days that we have not moved to this bill more quickly and that we haven't reached an agreement to take up and begin considering amendments. There has been a lot of talk about committee jurisdictions and germaneness of amendments and process issues that the American people just don't care about and which, frankly, don't make anyone safer. So I wish to take a few minutes to point out what we are really talking about.

Here are a few facts and figures. As I said in my remarks yesterday, cyber attacks and cyber threats are getting more and more common and more and more devastating. This isn't going to stop. It is going to get worse, and it affects everyone. That is why last night the White House had a simple message, and I hope my colleagues will hear it. A White House spokesman said yesterday: "Cybersecurity is an important national security issue and the Senate

should take up this bill as soon as possible and pass it."

Here is why this is so important.

Last year the cyber security company McAfee and the Center for Strategic and International Studies, which we call CSIS, estimated that the annual cost of cyber crime is more than \$400 billion—that is the annual cost—and could cost the United States as many as 200,000 jobs. That is not my analysis; that is the analysis of security experts. Also last year the cyber security company Symantec reported that over 348 million identities were exposed through data breaches—348 million people had their data exposed.

Poll information out this week from the Financial Services Roundtable shows that 46 percent of Americans were directly affected by cyber crime over the past year—that is almost one-half of the American population—and 66 percent are more concerned about cyber intrusions than they were last year. Why are people so concerned? Well, here is a list of 10 of the most noteworthy cyber breaches and attacks from the past year and a half.

Of course, we all know OPM. June of this year, Office of Personnel Management. There was an announcement that roughly 22 million government employees and security clearance applicants had massive amounts of personal information stolen from OPM databases.

Primera Blue Cross. In March of this year, Primera Blue Cross, a health insurer based in Washington State, said that up to 11 million customers could have been affected by a cyber breach last year.

Anthem. In February 2015, Anthem, one of the Nation's largest health insurers, said that hackers breached a database that contained as many as 80 million records of current and former customers.

Sony Pictures Entertainment. In November of last year, North Korean hackers broke into Sony Pictures Entertainment and not only stole vast amounts of sensitive and personal data but destroyed the company's whole internal network.

Defense Industrial Base. A 2014 Senate Armed Services Committee investigation found over 20 instances in the previous year of Chinese actors penetrating the networks of defense contractors to the military's Transportation Command.

JPMorgan Chase. In September of last year, it was reported that hackers broke in to their accounts and took the account information of 76 million households and 7 million small businesses.

Home Depot. In September of last year, Home Depot discovered that hackers had breached their networks and may have accessed up to 56 million credit cards.

eBay. In May of last year, it was reported that up to 233 million personal records of eBay users were breached.

There are people here who are concerned with personal information.