

in Orlando, and they continue to be at the forefront of our efforts now.

We just passed the annual National Defense Authorization Act. It will go a long way toward helping Americans confront global security challenges today and toward preparing the next Commander in Chief to take on the threats tomorrow.

We are now working to pass an appropriations bill that will give the FBI and other law enforcement officials more of the resources needed to track down and defuse threats right here on American soil. As we consider that measure, we are continuing to explore additional tools that can help prevent devastating terrorist attacks, such as tools to help us permanently address the threat of lone-wolf terrorists and to help us connect the dots when it comes to terrorist communications.

Now is the time for Democrats to finally join with us in pursuing serious solutions that can actually make a real difference.

As we said on Tuesday, there will be amendment votes on this bill. There will be amendment votes on this bill. Yesterday, we were prepared to begin that process but were unable to get amendments pending because of the extended floor debate that went on until 2 o'clock this morning. We will try again today to move forward with amendments from both sides, and once there is an agreement to do so, we will update everybody.

So, look, of course, no one wants terrorists to be able to buy guns. No one wants terrorists to be able to buy guns. So if Democrats are actually serious about getting a solution on that issue and not just making a political talking point, they will join with us to support Senator CORNYN's SHIELD Act. It will give the Justice Department the ability to prevent known or suspected terrorists from purchasing firearms. It will protect the constitutional rights of all Americans. It will go a step further as well and actually allow terrorists to be taken into custody if a judge finds probable cause.

Now, that is a serious solution on this issue. Let's remember, however, that this issue represents only a piece of a much bigger challenge. Director Brennan also told the Intelligence Committee today that "despite all of our progress against ISIL on the battlefield and in the financial realm, our efforts have not reduced the group's terrorist capability and global reach." That is Brennan.

If we want to prevent ISIL-inspired and directed attacks, we have to defeat ISIL in Iraq and in Syria. If we want to prevent ISIL-inspired and directed attacks, we have to defeat ISIL in Iraq and in Syria.

Here is what that means. From the White House, it means we don't need another lecture or another threat to veto the Defense bill. It means we need real leadership and a plan of action to defeat ISIL.

From our colleagues here in the Senate, it means we don't need more cam-

paign talkathons like we witnessed yesterday, preventing us from actually voting. It means we need serious solutions and hard work. After all, that is what our constituents sent us here to do.

We may have gotten held back by a day, but now we are able to keep moving forward to set up votes on both sides, just as we always expected.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2578, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2578) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell (for Shelby/Mikulski) amendment No. 4685, in the nature of a substitute. Shelby amendment No. 4686 (to amendment No. 4685), to make a technical correction.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

OBAMACARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, most mornings when the Senate is in session, the minority leader comes to the floor—Senator REID—and talks for a while, and he sometimes talks about things in the news. So I come today to the floor to talk about a headline in the news today—in the New York Times, of all places—with this headline: "Obamacare Premiums Are Rising, and Not by a Little." "Obamacare Premiums Are Rising, and Not By a Little" is today's New York Times headline.

It is interesting that when I hear Senator REID come to the floor, so often he is coming to the floor to defend the Obama health care law. A couple of weeks ago he came to the floor and he said that ObamaCare is "continuing to work." Those are his words. So today I find interesting the New York Times story with this headline: "Obamacare Premiums Are Rising, and Not By a Little." It says:

Even in urban areas where competition was expected to be brisk and the risk pool young and healthy—

"Expected" is the key word there—

insurers appear to be struggling. In 14 major cities, insurers are asking for 2017 increases twice as big as 2016.

Twice as big as last year—yet Senator REID says ObamaCare is continuing to work.

The next day after he said that, he said that the Affordable Care Act is

working. Well, I don't know anyone who could be a Member of the Senate and could actually be going home to their home States on the weekends and listening to people who live in their home States who could believe that ObamaCare is working.

Across the country, people are seeing how much more money they are expected to pay for their health insurance premiums next year. I just read that story from today's New York Times.

Yesterday's Washington Post said:

Premiums for health plans sold through the federal insurance exchange—

the one that Democrats came to the floor and said they loved and was going to work—

could jump substantially next year—

That was from the Washington Post yesterday—

perhaps more than at any point since the Affordable Care Act marketplaces began in 2013.

Does Senator REID read the newspapers? Does he talk to his constituents? Otherwise, how can he be so terribly confused about the impact of this health care law and the damage it has done to the American people?

So far, 31 States and the District of Columbia have released information on what insurance companies plan to charge next year. The average American is facing premiums that are 22 percent higher than this year. That is what is bringing about these headlines in the Washington Post and the New York Times.

In Iowa, an insurance company says that it wants its customers in the ObamaCare exchange to pay as much as 43 percent more next year. One customer wrote in to the State insurance division and said: "You're killing me."

Does Senator REID understand the impact of this law?

Another wrote in and said: "Who can afford this? It's disastrous."

Does Senator REID note any of that?

In North Carolina, the largest insurance company in the State said it plans to charge people an average of 19 percent more next year.

In Pennsylvania, one company says it is going to charge people up to 48 percent more starting in January.

In Arizona, people are facing premium increases of 53 percent. That is the average increase in Arizona.

So it is not surprising to see a headline in the New York Times today—and I hope Senator REID read the paper: "Obamacare Premiums Are Rising, and Not By a Little."

Well, whose fault is this? Who should people across the country blame when they see these outrageous price increases that affect them at home? Well, I believe they should blame Senator REID and every Democrat in Congress who voted for ObamaCare and all of the expensive requirements, regulations, and restrictions.

So the question is, Is ObamaCare working? Let's use President Obama's