

President Trump—not the hard core—and they are appalled by the simple ineptitude of this administration. Substantively, even more important, how can you run a country like this? How can you make a major order, major doing, and not check it out with your Homeland Security Secretary, with the Justice Department and the Attorney General?

I will say, if this continues, this country has big trouble. We cannot have a Twitter Presidency. We cannot have a Presidency that thinks: Oh, this sounds good. Let's just go do it and not think the consequences through. Most of all, we cannot have a Presidency that does not understand the beauty and depth of America, in this case when it comes to immigrants.

We have been an amazing country. In the city in which I live there is a big lady in the harbor with a torch. It is a beautiful symbol. Americans revere it and admire it. The world reveres it and admires it. Why? Because it says: America will be a place where people can take refuge if they are persecuted religiously, politically, and then they can build a great life for themselves.

That is a beautiful thing. That moral force of America helps us win wars, helps us win support, helps us be the greatest country in the world that everyone admires.

Of course, we need a strong military. Of course, we need a strong economy. Praise God, America has had both through the decades, but we also have been a moral beacon, "God's noble experiment," as the Founding Fathers called it. In those days, as now, we have welcomed people from distant shores and said: Come be Americans.

Our President is trampling on that, to be honest with you. The idea that immigrants are preponderantly criminals and preponderantly terrorists is absurd. They are the future of America. In my State of New York, 25 percent of the people are foreign born, probably as high as 40 percent if you are either foreign born or had a parent foreign born.

They are great New Yorkers. I was with a Syrian refugee this week. He and his wife and his children had just come. His parents were American citizens. They had come to America in 1970. The parents and Mr. Elias, who lived in the Bronx, came here. He was a tailor. We don't have that many fine tailors in America these days. It is a lost art. So people who do it tend to be immigrants; mainly from Italy is my experience.

But he was a tailor from Syria. He then did what immigrants do in America. He founded a little business. He reupholsters boats, a lot of them in a place in the Bronx called City Island. He built a company. He made America better. He is a Syrian immigrant.

His children and grandchildren were in danger. A suicide bomber had even blown up himself in front of their home nearly killing them. They just got in this month. Had Donald Trump's Exec-

utive order been in effect several weeks earlier, they would not have been able to get here. They might have perished. They might have been hurt.

Similarly, another guy I met is Mohammed. Mohammed knows English. He was so impressed by America, by the lady with the torch, by our values, by what we stand for, that he volunteered to be a translator for our soldiers. He put his life in danger for doing that.

Then he began to get threats from the terrorists in Iraq. He is an Iraqi. His wife was in danger. His children were in danger. He came January 5. Again, had President Trump and his evil order—and that is what it is, it is evil—gone into effect January 1, for all we know Mohammed would have died for helping our soldiers.

Do we have to prevent terrorists from coming into America? Absolutely.

The greatest source of terror are lone wolves. Americans, citizens—ISIS gets its evil ideas in their heads, and they do terrorist things.

JOHN MCCAIN, my colleague, the senior Senator from Arizona who is an expert on this stuff, said: This Executive order will encourage and increase the number of lone wolves.

Here is another group that needs tightening, I would suggest to the President and his minions: those available in the Visa Waiver Program. If you are a country that has generally been friendly to us, there is something called the Visa Waiver Program, which means you can come into this country with very few questions asked, very little vetting.

Refugees are vetted for 2 years. That is why not a single refugee from any of the countries that were proscribed by the President has committed an act of terror here—not a single one.

I heard someone defending the President saying: Well, all these people would have come in; the terrorists would have come in had they done it slowly and announced a date.

Well, we have done it like this for 15, 20 years, and we haven't had a single terrorist come in. What kind of absurdity is that?

Anyway, the Visa Waiver Program allows people from, say, France and Belgium to come into this country with few questions asked. We have seen French citizens, Belgian citizens do terrorism. They would be allowed to come into this country to do it here. Why aren't we tightening that up? That is what should be done.

So I am going to conclude. The evening is late.

Sally Yates was a profile in courage, a profile in courage. Maybe some of her courage, her insight, and her wisdom would rub off on the people in the White House. Maybe they will back off and repeal this Executive order, and then we can work together and truly try to tighten up the laws, the actions of the administration to prevent terrorists from coming in.

This Executive order makes us less safe. It was poorly done in a slipshod,

quick way that foretells real trouble in the White House, and, most of all, it has done more to tarnish the great American dream, the great moral force of America that has, in part, made us the greatest country in the world—in 1, 2 days, undoing the work of generations.

Please, Mr. President, reconsider. Really think about this. Don't just tweet. Don't just get mad. Don't just call names. Think about it. Change it. Repeal it.

It is too far gone to change; we have to repeal it. And then maybe we can work together on tightening up some of the areas that I have talked about.

I see my friend from Arizona has come to the floor, and I will not hold him up, so I yield the floor.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

(At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

#### VOTE EXPLANATION

● Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I was unable to cast my vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Rex W. Tillerson to be Secretary of State because I was addressing a joint session of the State legislature in New Mexico. If I had been present, I would have voted no.●

#### BUDGET RECONCILIATION REPORTING DEADLINE

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, section 2001 of S. Con. Res. 3, the concurrent resolution on the budget Fiscal Year 2017, directs the Committees on Finance and Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions to report changes in laws within their respective jurisdictions to reduce the on-budget deficit by not less than \$1 billion each for the total of fiscal years 2017 through 2026. Those committees were instructed to submit their recommendations to the Committee on the Budget no later than January 27, 2017.

For the information of colleagues, the reporting deadline has passed, and the Budget Committee has not received reconciliation recommendations from either committee. While committees have not complied with the deadline, the Senate retains the ability to utilize the instructions contained in section 2001 of S. Con. Res. 3.

#### TRIBUTE TO GARY SCHNEIDERS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to honor an Iowa teacher who has clearly had a major impact on his students and his community because I was contacted by a number of Iowans regarding their desire to find some way to recognize him. The following is what they told me.

A teacher of 39 years at Columbus High School in Waterloo, IA, Gary Schneiders has been awarded the

McElroy Trust Gold Star Teacher of the Year in the Cedar Valley and Teacher of the Year at Columbus High School.

During his time at Columbus, Gary Schneiders has taught world history, applied economics, current world history and advanced placement European history. Through his world history and European history classes, Mr. Schneiders has taken it upon himself to educate his students about the many sacrifices our military men and women have endured throughout history.

This February, Gary Schneiders will be leading his 12th group of students to France and Belgium for a 12-day trip "To Experience, To Learn, To Honor, To Remember." This is the theme each year for his AP Euro trip. Mr. Schneiders leads the students along World War I's Western Front starting in Verdun, France. His students experience the battlefields and trenches of the First World War. They visit some of the great museums and monuments honoring the soldiers who fought in the war. Most importantly, they go to many of the cemeteries and memorials to the many soldiers who fought for the various countries in that Great War. At the American memorials and cemeteries like Flanders Field and the Meuse Argonne, the largest American cemetery in Europe, the students lay flags and roses at each Iowa soldier's headstone. They also lay a wreath at the memorial itself, where Taps and the National Anthem are played. Because World War I is little remembered these days, the American cemeteries see very few visitors from the United States. The administrators of these memorials and cemeteries are excited to see Mr. Schneiders each year with his fresh class of students.

During the latter part of the AP Euro trip, Mr. Schneiders takes his students to the beaches of Normandy. He shows the students firsthand what difficulties our soldiers had in taking the beaches. On their last day in Europe, Mr. Schneiders takes his students to Omaha Beach and the Normandy American Cemetery. Mr. Schneiders takes his students down to Omaha Beach so they can see the distance our soldiers had to cover while carrying heavy packs and under constant fire. The students then go up to the top of the beach where the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial is located. The students again put American flags and roses at each soldier from Iowa. They also take the sand they brought from Omaha Beach and wipe it over the name on each headstone so the name of the soldier and the State of Iowa becomes easily visible. The students again lay a wreath and Taps and National Anthem are played throughout the cemetery.

Two weeks after returning home, Gary Schneiders and his students put on a presentation for the local veterans and community. The students set up various multimedia exhibits to share the experiences from their trip. This

has become a great event each year for local veterans and the community.

To conclude, I was told that Gary Schneiders' dedication to his school, veterans, and his students has been invaluable to his community. If Gary Schneiders has anything to do with it, his students will continue "To Experience, To Learn, To Honor, To Remember" our veterans. So I congratulate Gary Schneiders on his dedication to his school, students, veterans, and community.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### STATE OF THE UNION ESSAY CONTEST FINALISTS

• Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, I ask to have printed in the RECORD some of the finalist essays written by Vermont high school students as part of the seventh annual State of the Union essay contest conducted by my office.

The material follows:

KEELAN DURHAM, OXBOW HIGH SCHOOL  
FRESHMAN (FINALIST)

Climate change is the most important issue facing our nation and the biggest challenge our world has ever faced. It threatens us at the most immediate level—the very land, water and air that we have called home for thousands of years. Addressing climate change will require tremendous policy shifts and changing massive amounts of infrastructure that we have spent many years and billions of dollars making. And it will require people and governments to collaborate at a worldwide level. The United States is the richest most powerful country in the world. We have achieved this position in world politics by being a leading force in creating prosperity and democracy around the world. However, by achieving this, we have wreaked havoc on the environment at the expense of the greater world. Now, we have a moral obligation to lead the world in implementing strong policies toward a renewable future. If we fail to address climate change, both our nation and nations around the globe will suffer tremendous consequences. According to the environmental protection agency's (EPA) "Climate Impacts on Coastal Areas", Rising seas alone will cause the United States to lose a projected 28,800 square miles of land. This would submerge large parts of fourteen US cities, displace 25 million people, and destroy billions of dollars worth of real estate. Rising seas would claim beautiful areas all along the coast such as the beaches of Culebra the multi-million dollar condos of Malibu or of the beautiful coast of California. Outside the United States, small island countries that have done very little to cause global warming could be wiped of the face of the planet.

As the richest most powerful country with the oldest, and arguably the strongest, democracy ever we need to take bold action and implement strong policies to stop global warming. There are many things the United States can do to address climate change. We could put a price on carbon pollution; this would create a disincentive to use oil and possibly hurt oil companies profits. We could create strong incentives and grants for renewable energy; this would make it easier and cheaper for individuals and businesses to install renewable energy like solar or wind. A huge step forward would be to ban coal mining and oil extractions from public lands—just this would keep millions of tons of CO<sub>2</sub>

out of the atmosphere and greatly help the environment. Merely stopping all new gas and oil infrastructure in its tracks would be a huge step in the fight against climate change. There is more we can do but this would be a start.

Currently the United States has been doing very little to combat global warming. The Paris Agreements were a step in the right direction but oil companies still have many members of congress working for them and with Donald Trump as president progress will likely will be lost and not made. This is why we must fight for this issue, and all issues that we know are important. If we do this, we show the oil companies and corrupt politicians that this government is for "we the people of the United States" and not "we the super huge and super rich corporations of the United States". Together we can make huge progress towards a renewable energy future and towards protecting our environment for future generations.

MORGEN EDWARDS, MILTON HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR  
(FINALIST)

My fellow Americans, our country spends more on training men and women to go to war than what it does on training our family members and our neighbors to come home. We spend more money on the military as whole, than what we do our veterans. Our veterans deserve more benefits through an increased budget of ten percent, we must reform the VA, and help to put an end to the 22 veterans who commit suicide a day. To help put an end to veteran suicide rates, there should be funding to create a separate organization to solely focus on the mental health of our veterans, readjusting them to civilian life, and acting as a twenty-four hour hotline to help prevent veteran suicide. This should be comprised of experts, and people who can adequately represent them when it comes to congress and budgeting.

In order to save our veterans, we first must provide the VA with a better budget, in order for the VA to provide veterans with access to benefits. The projected budget for the president to spend on the VA as of 2017 is 182.3 billion dollars, and according to the VA this is a "4.9% increase over the 2016 enacted level." If we increase the budget by ten percent to start out, than the VA could have more money to provide our veterans with better benefits, thus helping to cut down on wait times by employing more qualified individuals, while helping to provide more options for care and help to the men and women who need it. According to Military times "The average wait time across the system as of May 15 was 6.89 days for primary care, 10.15 days for specialty care and 4.4 days for mental health appointments, according to the report." Wait times should be no more than three to four days, and if at all possible we should try cutting that down even more, to ensure the safety of our veterans.

We must train our veterans on how to readjust to civilian life, help them to find and maintain jobs, help them find housing and teach them about PTSD and mental health awareness. We must train them to not be afraid to speak out about their mental health. Most importantly, we must not send them away when they seek help, telling them to "just forget about it." If we have the means to train them to go to war, than we must take those same means but apply it to training them to come home. No longer should we send of veterans home to fend for themselves. If we have the resources to send them to boot camp to go to war than we have the resources to send them to boot camp to come home. We should try and expand the Wounded Warriors Project, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, and American Veterans and their efforts to provide transition programs.