to the airport to get home to listen to Oregonians who have been clobbered by several megafires unlike anything we have seen in my home State of Oregon. On top of that, in addition to the megafires, there are numerous other fires.

Just up the road from my hometown of Portland, the Eagle Creek fire has merged with the Indian Creek fire and spread over an area of more than 31,000 acres. What we have seen—again, just staggering in its implications—the fire jumped the Columbia River into Washington State. It is ravaging our iconic Columbia River Gorge. This is a treasure beloved by the millions of people who visit every year and the people of my home State.

Next to me is a shot of the fire which has been burning in the Columbia River Gorge now for days. Although it appears the first sparks of the Eagle Creek fire were ignited by a young man, it is clear the inferno was accelerated by the unusual heat in early September. Now the lives and the homes of Gorge residents are under threat, and a world-renowned treasure in my home State has been devastated.

Sadly, this wildfire devastation this month has rippled across Oregon. The Chetco Bar fire in Southwestern Oregon has consumed more than 167,000 acres—an area bigger than all of Portland. The Umpqua North fire east of Roseburg and the Milli fire in Central Oregon have torn through tens of thousands of acres each.

I could go on. The point is, my home State is getting pounded by these fires, and the West is getting pounded by these fires. The skies glow orange at night as the flames burn on. Families wake up to ash on their windshields. Schools are closed, and people have been warned to stay indoors because it is not safe to breathe the hazardous air.

On the Air Quality Index map from the Environmental Protection Agency—which I have here—you can see the effects of the nightmare which has settled in over most of Oregon, Idaho, Washington, and large parts of Montana. As I speak, there are a million and a half acres ablaze across Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, Wyoming, Nevada, and Utah. One-third of these burning acres are in my home State alone. This year is virtually guaranteed to be the worst fire season in history in terms of the total area burnt.

I served as chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee for a time, chaired the Forestry Subcommittee. I have sat in so many committee hearings and heard again and again about the dangers these fires pose to our States. The fact is, the fires are getting hotter, they have gotten bigger, they have gotten tougher to fight, and this is a years-long pattern in the West. It gets hot. It gets dry. There have been inadequate efforts to go in there and thin out the dead and dying material. Then we have a light-

ning strike in our part of the world, and then all of a sudden, we have an inferno on our hands.

This time, as I indicated, it seems as if some of the problem was due to that set of firecrackers, but this is a yearslong pattern in the West. Frankly, the same warming trends that have worsened the fires seem to have added fuel to storms that developed in the Gulf of Mexico and over the Atlantic.

My seatmate, Senator Nelson, has been telling us about what his region is faced with. The victims of all these disasters and the communities that will continue to face these growing threats need the government to come up with smarter policies to try to prevent as much of this as possible. That is why I wanted to wrap up my remarks by way of talking about the bizarre way the Federal Government budgets for fighting fire.

In the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I have led a bipartisan effort for years now. Senator MIKE CRAPO, the senior Senator from Idaho, and I had 260 groups—forestry groups, scientists, environmentalists—join us in the effort. What has happened over the years is the Federal Government has shorted prevention, and then, because of the conditions being hot and dry and lightning strikes or what have you, we have a big fire, and then the Federal Government, to put the fire out, borrows from the prevention fund, and the problem gets worse. That is what we call fire-borrowing. The reason I call it bizarre is that the idea of ripping off prevention, which we need most, defies common sense.

We have a dangerous, worsening cycle known as fire-borrowing. Shoddy budgeting today leads to bigger fires tomorrow, and it needs to stop.

I remember not long ago—because this does so much damage to natural resources policy—the distinguished minority leader of the Senate, Senator Schumer, signed on to our bill. We all wondered, well, what is the situation in New York? It turned out they had a problem with a bug and a baseball bat, and the natural resource agencies had trouble dealing with that challenge because so much of the funds had been frittered away with this broken system of fighting fire.

That is why I have now called on the President to include a funding fix in any request for an upcoming disaster aid package. Several of my western colleagues and I—Senators from both sides of the aisle—are calling on Leaders McConnell and Schumer today to include a fix in any disaster aid package that comes before this body.

As I said, this battle has gone on for years. I think I mentioned to my friend from New Mexico that this issue with respect to fire-borrowing has been the longest running battle since the Trojan War. It has gone on and on and each year wastes more and more money on a broken system of funding the fight against wildfires.

Senator CRAPO has been an instrumental partner in this effort. He also has a proposal that in effect builds on what we have been working on for years in the Banking Committee. I support that proposal as well.

I want it understood that there is a lot that has to be dealt with here in the Senate. There have been some horrible disasters-Houston and now the South. with what Senator Nelson is going to wrestle with this weekend. We have a lot to do. But when we are talking about western communities getting hit by a wrecking ball, which is exactly what these mega-fires do, I want it understood that we western Senators, Democrats and Republicans, are going to be teaming up to make sure, as we said in our letter today to Leaders McConnell and Schumer, that a fire fix that is based on common sense, sensible practices to try to prevent fires to the greatest extent possible, has to be a focus of priority business in the Senate. Too many western communitiesthe kind I am going to see this weekend-are faced with destroyed homes, businesses, lost recreation dollars, lost timber revenue, cleanup costs, and forest and range land restoration efforts.

The West cannot wait any longer for Congress to break this dangerous cycle that defies common sense, shortchanges wildfire prevention, and does it year after year. What western Senators are going to do is work together in a bipartisan way, which is what you have to do when your constituents are faced with these kinds of problems. I can tell you, in Oregon or Montana or Idaho, when you have one of these mega-fires, nobody is sitting around waiting to hear about just the Democratic approach or the Republican approach; they want to know what the Federal Government is going to do to help these hard-hit western communities.

It is absolutely essential that the Senate act soon. I have urged the President of the United States, who campaigned as a champion for these communities and the workers who live in them—I have said: Mr. President, do not ignore the West.

Democratic and Republican Senators, given all the promises that have been made over the years, are going to insist that with fires of this magnitude—we have seen plenty of fires in the past, but we haven't seen the kind of thing I have just described that isn't very far from my hometown and across the State—given the urgency of the situation, western Senators of both political parties are making it clear to Leaders McConnell and Schumer and the President of the United States that we need the Federal Government to act, and we need it to act now.

Mr. President, I yield the floor. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

DACA

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, we had promises from the White House that the President would treat DACA recipients with great heart. I don't believe it

is great heart when he abandons protections for our Nation's Dreamers. It is an unfortunate pattern, and I hope it changes, facing historic low approval ratings, the President desperately rallies his dwindling supporters by exploiting fear and resentment. Such conduct is shameful and unbecoming of the presidency, an office intended to represent our proudest ideals—not play to basest instincts. I have been here with every President since President Ford, both Republicans and Democrats. We agreed on some things and disagreed on some things, but the Presidents have always seemed to want to present and represent America's proudest ideals.

We live in an unprecedented time when our President prefers to divide us, rather than unite us. Instead of honoring the sacrifice made by transgender individuals serving in our Armed Forces, President Trump decided to ban them from serving at all. When white supremacists violently rallied around hate in Charlottesville, resulting in the murder of Heather Heyer, the President equated those who promote bigotry with those who oppose it. There is no equation. The bigotry shown there and the hate shown there is wrong.

This week the President targets another vulnerable population—Dreamers. Dreamers are American by almost any definition. They came to the United States as children through no fault—and by no choice—of their own. Those of us who have had children or grandchildren know they don't make those kinds of choices. They play by our country's rules. They grow up. They have no criminal records, and seek only the chance to contribute to their communities and make them better. America is their home. Often, it is the only country they have ever known, just as my maternal grandparents came from Italy and found a home in Vermont or my great grandparents—paternal grandparents came from Ireland and found a home in Vermont. They wanted that to be their home. That was the American dream. When you threaten the Dreamers, you threaten the American dream itself.

The President's attempt to justify this decision as deference to Congress or respect for our courts is disingenuous, at best. It strains reason that a President who signed 90 Executive actions in his first 100 days suddenly cares about deference to the Legislative Branch. It borders on laughable that a President who doggedly defends a Muslim ban found likely to be unconstitutional by multiple courts, is now cautious about the litigation risk of defending DACA in court.

Dreamers are our friends and neighbors. They are students in our schools and universities in all our States. They serve our country in the military. They are among the first responders who come to save your life when there is a fire. Consider, for example, Jesus Contreras, a Dreamer and a paramedic,

who saved American lives during Hurricane Harvey. If we had thrown him out, he wouldn't have been there saving those lives. The President's decision to end DACA is nothing but a cynical ploy to rally the anti-immigrant voices within his base while attempting to escape responsibility for deporting some of the most inspiring Americans in our country.

On Tuesday, I received a letter from Dr. Juan Conde, a DACA recipient and resident of Vermont. Dr. Conde was brought to the United States by his mother as a child. In 2007, his mother lost her life battling cancer. This tragedv inspired him to find a way to help cancer patients like her. Unable to pursue his dream of being an oncologist due to his immigration status, he initially decided to pursue a Ph.D. in cancer research. But Dr. Conde wanted to treat cancer patients, not just study the disease. After receiving DACA status, he was able to pursue his dream of directly helping patients, applying to and being accepted into the University of Vermont's Larner College of Medicine, where he is currently pursuing his medical degree. He hopes to spend his career here in the United States treating cancer patients and researching the disease that has taken the lives of millions of Americans, including members of my own family.

Dr. Conde is the face of DACA. Dreamers have enormous potential and determination to contribute to the only country they have known since childhood. To deny them these opportunities because they were brought here as children by their parents would be cruel and inhumane, motivated more by the toxic xenophobia of this administration than by any coherent policy goals. Stories like Dr. Conde's reveal why President Trump's decision to rescind DACA is as senseless as it is callous.

Now the fate of DACA is in the hands of Congress. We can bring up a vote on this if the Republican leadership will allow that in the House and the Senate. Some Republicans have spoken out against the President's decision. It is easy to speak out. Act on it. Vote on it. We Democrats stand ready to protect our Nation of Dreamers. We stand ready to defend the American dream. I hope we are not standing alone. I would invite our Republican friends—stand up with us. Stand up with those Dreamers. I guarantee you, you have some living in your State. I guarantee you, just as my grandparents and my great-grandparents did, they can make America a better country.

Mr. President, I see other Senators on the floor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise to speak briefly about the news this week that the President is terminating the Executive action protecting DACA recipients—Dreamers as we know them—but also putting the burden on the

shoulders of this body, the article I branch, to find an appropriate solution.

The President often said as a candidate—and even in his early days as President-that he understood some things about these youngsters. He called them incredible kids, and he also said they would be fine. He did not use that language often in talking about immigrants so those were positive phrases that led many to hope he would continue the DACA Program. Many in his administration wanted him to. Others in this body—this speaker wanted him to continue the program, but he announced he was terminating it in 6 months and asked Congress to step up.

I wanted to just tell you about a couple of youngsters I was with last week. I had a roundtable on DACA at Northern Virginia Community College, which is one of the largest and most diverse community colleges in the United States. I held that this last week. I had eight students. They were a fascinating mixture of young men and women. I just wanted to come and share some things about their stories because it demonstrates how these young people, these Dreamers, are a source of strength for our country and that we need to accommodate them.

Renata was one of my youngsters. She came to Virginia when she was 3 years old with her parents, her older brother, and sister. She graduated high school with an advanced diploma. Some of us know the International Baccalaureate diploma, which is rigorous. Now, with DACA, she is studying at George Mason, getting a degree in clinical psychology. She does brain injury research. She wants to do that research to hopefully help people like returning veterans who suffer from brain injuries.

Giancarla is a DACA recipient from Virginia. She came here a decade ago to be reunited with her parents. She hadn't seen her parents in 7 years. She received DACA in 2012. She went to Radford University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in international economics. Giancarla described how she is so appreciative of where DACA has gotten her in life, but she told me the night before we met, she had a conversation with her sister. Her sister was in high school and calling her big sister to describe how scared she was about what would happen if DACA was taken away. She talked about her little sister as a hard-working and studious kid, and she is worried she will not be able to go to college anymore and may be separated from family.

Min is a young man who is a Korean-American born in Korea and a DACA recipient who is at George Mason studying cyber. He talked about his desire to serve the United States and help us with cyber expertise but how the removal of DACA could hurt his studies and could hurt his ability to get security clearances to be able to offer his talents to the country.

Gloria, the fifth of these examples—there were eight students there—is an

interesting young lady from Nigeria. She was born in England to Nigerian parents and brought here as a youngster. She will be the first DACA recipient in Virginia to graduate from law school, William and Mary Law School. She wants to graduate in December and help new Americans with immigration issues.

We talked about all kinds of concerns they have: deportation of themselves or family members, ability to get a driver's license, the ability to lawfully work and pay taxes—and all of these young people work and pay taxes right now—the ability to get instate tuition, which for many is the difference to being able to get a higher education. We talked about all of it, but we also talked about their love for this country, and the fact that for these young students, this country is all they know. Deportation back to a place they don't know is not really an option.

I was also happy to have at this roundtable—because we talked about there is no such thing as a DACA recipient without a DACA ally-parents, teachers, family members, attorneys. They have a support group, and it is really important to acknowledge them too. We had officials from George Mason University, a public, comprehensive university in Virginia; Northern Virginia Community College, one of our community colleges; Marymount College; Catholic University in Northern Virginia—all of these allies, as well as representatives from other groups.

The former publisher of the Washington Post, Don Graham, came. He is funding, with others, a scholarship program to help Dreamers cover cost gaps if they have to pay out-of-State tuition, and this is working to help hundreds of Dreamers across the country. We talked to them and expressed our thanks to them for what they are doing.

I also read stories this week—and I will say this and conclude—about other students. Juan is a 2017 graduate of Virginia Tech and now makes Blacksburg his home. He came to Virginia at age 5 and he said this:

It's really hard for me to think of myself as anything but a Virginian and an American. It's really hard to have that part of my identity detached from me.

That is how he views the reversal on DACA.

Guadelupe from the Shenandoah Valley—one of Virginia's very rural areas but has a significant number of DACA recipients. She started her freshman year at Bridgewater College, a small private college in the Valley. She says:

This is the only country I've ever known . . . I've pledged my allegiance to the stars and stripes every day.

This is the country to which these young people pledge their allegiance, owe their allegiance, want to express and act to demonstrate their allegiance. They are doing it already. They are making us proud. We need to step up. It was my great pleasure in June

2013 to join with the Senators from New Mexico, from Vermont, and nearly 70 others on the floor to do a comprehensive immigration reform that included many things but included a protection for these Dreamers. It was part of the education of a naive, young Senator who was in my first year to think: Great, we did something in the Senate. I am sure the House will do something, but 4 years later, not only did they not ever take up our bill even in committee, they didn't even pass anything by way of comprehensive immigration reform that we could put in a conference together.

Now the weight of this is on our shoulders with 6 months. Talented students like these 800,000 nationwide, between 12,000 and 13,000 in Virginia, have that fear, that anxiety: Are we going to be forced back into the shadows or, worse, are we or our family members possibly going to be deported?

I will close and say these youngsters again pledge their allegiance to the United States, and they are demonstrating every day that we are richer as a nation because of them. Why would we not want to have these talented young people pledge allegiance to us rather than elsewhere? America has always succeeded because we have been a great magnet for talent—growing our own talent and celebrating it but willing to attract talent from around the world. The society that attracts talent in the 21st century is going to be the society that succeeds. The most precious resource in life right now is not oil. It is not water. It is talent. These Dreamers have it, and we should want it. I hope my colleagues will work together in a bipartisan way, both Houses, to provide a protection.

With that, I yield the floor and notice other colleagues here waiting to speak on the same topic.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. UDALL. Mr. President, thank you for your recognition. I am honored to come here today and follow Senator Leahy and Senator Kaine and their speeches on DACA. I have also watched over the last couple of days, and I think almost every Democratic Senator has been down to the floor to speak with passion about this issue. I am just so proud of our caucus and our Members who have stood up and called the President on this issue.

Today, I stand with millions of Americans protesting the President's heartless decision to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program known as DACA. This inhumane and cruel decision threatens the hopes and aspirations of our country's young Dreamers, and there is no doubt it will harm the economy. I call on all Members of Congress—especially the Republican leadership—to act now and to act swiftly to keep families together and allow these kids to realize their huge potential by making DACA the law of the land. That is what we need to do, make DACA the law of the land. If the President will not do the right thing, then Congress must take action and Congress must do this.

Democrats, Republicans, and Independents across New Mexico and throughout our country agree that Dreamers deserve to live and work in the United States. According to a Morning Consult-Politico poll released this week, 76 percent support allowing them to stay—76 percent Democrats, Republicans, Independents. What a big number.

Most Americans agree that our Nation benefits from the contribution immigrants make in our communities and our economy. They believe our government should honor its promise to Dreamers. Many of these young people came here as small children and have not known any other country.

Take Roxana. Roxana came to Santa Fe, NM, when she was 1 year old. She is now 22. She registered with DACA as soon as she could. She completed the paperwork, paid the fee, and she has complied with all of the requirements. She now works as a medical assistant with La Familia Medical Center in Santa Fe. La Familia is a great healthcare clinic. It provides excellent medical care to everyone in Santa Fe, including many immigrants and low-income patients.

Roxana loves her work at La Familia, and she loves being able to help her fellow immigrants. Roxana had plans to go to nursing school, but the President's action to end DACA jeopardizes those plans and puts them on hold. In Roxana's words, "Santa Fe, NM, is my home. It's where I know people. It's where I've lived. It's where I've grown up. It's my life. It's something that is mine but doesn't truly belong to me."

Those are her words. We must give Roxana and the hundreds of thousands of Dreamers what should truly belong to them.

Dreamers more than pull their economic weight in our country; 97 percent are employed or are in school or do both. They work in Fortune 500 companies and public schools. They labor on farms and dairies. They create businesses, volunteer in our communities, pay taxes, and pay into Social Security and Medicare. Why would we choose to kick some of our most talented and most productive workers out of the country? Why kick some of our best and brightest young people out of this country?

Ending DACA would cause chaos for employers. Forcing these motivated young people out of work could cost us 700,000 jobs—as many as 30,000 a month. That adds up to \$460.3 billion in economic output over the next 10 years. Medicare and Social Security contributions could drop by \$24.6 billion over the same period of time.

One of those young people who contributes in New Mexico is Brandon. Brandon came with his mother from Mexico to the United States when he was 2 years old. Brandon goes to college and studies every day to be an architect, and he makes straight A's. He holds down a job to help support his family with medical bills and volunteers in his community. Brandon is grateful for the DACA Program that has given him the opportunity to work and pay taxes. Yes, he is grateful to pay taxes.

This President continues to divide our country like no other President we have known. Every day it is clear that his values are not in line with ours. I increasingly believe he is not fit to lead this great Nation.

His campaign began with anti-immigrant and racist rhetoric. He accused Mexican immigrants of being rapists and criminals, and his bigoted words have never stopped. He called for a wall along the entire border with Mexico-a wall that would cost billions of tax dollars and which border communities don't want. He called for a ban on Muslim refugees—turning our backs on people who are fighting terrorism and who value the freedoms that we have here in the United States. He tacitly accepted the support of the Ku Klux Klan, neo-Nazis, and bigots in Charlottesville. He pardoned a law enforcement officer who terrorized the Latino community in Maricopa County, AZ, with unconstitutional raids and who forced detainees into inhumane living situations. Joe Arpaio is not a "good guy" as President Trump called him. Joe Arpaio is the criminal.

This President doesn't seem to value—let alone embody—the principles that America stands for, and now he wants to kick out of the country young people who do value this country—like Carlos.

Carlos was brought to New Mexico from Mexico when he was less than 1 year old. New Mexico is the only home he has known. Because of Carlos's immigration status, his opportunities were limited. He couldn't play sports in school, couldn't go on field trips, even though he pledged allegiance to the United States with his classmates.

Carlos registered with DACA 2 years ago and, in his words, he was given wings. He is a full-time student at New Mexico State University, studying to be a mechanical engineer. He volunteers as a firefighter. He works as a server at a local restaurant. He began a drive to help Hurricane Harvey victims. Carlos says:

We as DREAMers have proven ourselves to be worthy of being here in the United States.

There are 800,000 young people like Roxana, Brandon, and Carlos hoping to do their part to make our country strong. By any measure, DACA has been a huge success. We already have the outlines of a program that works for America. We in Congress must roll up our sleeves and make this program the law of the land, and we must make sure that America truly does belong to Roxana and all of our Dreamers.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll. The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RELIGIOUS TESTS

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I have been doing a lot of thinking lately about the fascinating men and women of America's founding generation. I want to share with you one of their stories.

Jonas Phillips was a penniless Jewish immigrant to America. He was an indentured servant, a hard-working businessman, and an American patriot who served in the Philadelphia militia during the Revolutionary War. During the British occupation of New York City, he sneaked messages past the censors by writing notes in Yiddish, understanding that his adversaries wouldn't be able to understand or decipher it easily.

Years later, Phillips addressed a letter to George Washington and to other delegates at the Constitutional Convention assembled in Philadelphia. He urged the delegates not to include a religious test in the Constitution as any kind of requirement for service for the Federal Government because no man, he wrote, should be "deprived or abridged of any civil right, as a citizen, on account of his religious sentiments."

Jonas Phillips wrote this letter for a reason. He wrote this because Pennsylvania, the State where he lived, required officials to swear that the New Testament was inspired by God. As a faithful Jewish person, Jonas Phillips could not do that.

"By the above law," he wrote, "a Jew is deprived of holding any public office or place of government."

Thankfully, Jonas Phillips' letter—Jonas Phillips' prayer—ultimately would be answered. The Convention had voted unanimously to ban religious tests for Federal office. The language the Framers inserted into the Constitution was unequivocal upon this point. It said that "no religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States."

When the Founding Fathers wrote the word "ever," they meant it. That word means something in the Constitution, and we need to protect it.

I feel the need to stress this point because of the conduct of some of my colleagues. Yesterday a Notre Dame law professor, Amy Coney Barrett, came before the Senate Judiciary Committee on which I serve. She had been nominated as a prominent legal scholar and lawyer in this country to be nominated as a circuit judge. That is why she was before our committee.

Her nomination has been endorsed by prominent legal scholars from across the political spectrum and across the country, including Neal Katyal, President Obama's Acting Solicitor General in the previous administration. Nevertheless, at Ms. Barrett's confirmation hearing, a number of my colleagues insinuated that her Catholic faith would somehow prevent her from applying the law freely and fairly.

Here is an actual quote from that hearing: "Dogma and law are two different things," remarked one of my colleagues. "When you read your speeches, the conclusion one draws is that the dogma lives loudly within you, and that is a concern."

Another one of my colleagues even went so far as to ask Professor Barrett to confess her faith under oath in the committee. "What is an orthodox Catholic?" this committee member asked. "Do you consider yourself an orthodox Catholic?"

If these remarks had been some sort of bizarre, one-time aberration, I probably would have passed them over in silence. But I feel compelled to speak out because I wondered whether a pattern might be emerging—a pattern of hostility toward people of faith who come before this body.

Just a few months ago, another eminently qualified nominee, Russell Vought, appeared before the Budget Committee to be considered for a post in the Office of Management and Budget. One of my Senate colleagues used his time to question this nominee, not about management or about budgets but about the nominee's evangelical Christian beliefs.

"In your judgment," asked this Senator, "do you think that people who are not Christians are going to be condemned?" Mr. Vought explained to the committee that he is an evangelical Christian and that he adheres to the beliefs espoused by evangelical Christians. That apparently wasn't good enough for the questioner, who later stated that he would vote against Mr. Vought's nomination because he was not "what this country is supposed to be about."

This is disturbing. This is not what the country is supposed to be aboutsome sort of inquiry into one's religious beliefs as a condition precedent for holding public office in the U.S. Government. These strange questions have nothing to do with the nominee's competence, patriotism, or ability to serve among and for Americans of different faiths equally. In fact, they have little to do with this life at all. Instead, they have to do with the afterlife-what comes after we die in this life. To my knowledge, the OMB and the Seventh Circuit have no jurisdiction over that.

This country is divided enough. Millions of Americans feel that Washington, DC, and the dominant culture despises them, and how can they not when they see their leaders sitting here grilling patriotic citizens about their faith like inquisitors. How can they not feel that their values are not welcome in this Chamber within this government?