

pleas, the plea bargains, or the immunity granted to the President's employees, friends, and business associates, including those directly managing his political operation and serving in his White House.

And, yes, the investigations are still going on, as are the prosecutions, guilty pleas, and sentencing of the President's coconspirators in each of these four criminal matters. And we don't know; there may be many more shoes to drop from local, State, and Federal prosecutors, because when you start looking under the rocks piled around this President, you find ample evidence of systematic fraud, criminal activity, and coverup.

For me, this has nothing to do with the President's racism, his misogyny, his homophobia and Islamophobia. It is different than his ties to and support for white supremacy or the voice he lends to the wildest and most discredited conspiracy theories the dark right web and talk radio can come up with.

And as ugly as it was to hear, even his stark admission of sexual assault against women is separate from the systematic criminal activity he has clearly engaged in, much of which he, himself, has admitted unwittingly in television interviews.

His policies are clearly damaging to the moral fabric of the American people, but this goes beyond the President's attacks on law enforcement, his giveaways to big polluters and operations, his defense of the superrich, his assault on Federal workers, the plundering of the economy, and the lasting damage he is doing on a daily basis to our most important international relationships with allies and foes alike.

Vice President PENCE, with whom I served in this body, is someone I disagree with on almost every issue of importance, especially his offensive views on homosexuality, women's rights, abortion, race relations, immigration, and almost anything else; but by comparison, he is better, even if he is wrong on many, many policy issues. Therefore, while I do not relish a Pence Presidency, at this point, I feel it is an absolute necessity for the good of the country, for the good of our people, for the good of the world, and America's place in that world.

Mr. Speaker, in my letter, I humbly ask, as a proud American, patriot, public servant, a dad, a granddad, and a fellow human being, I ask the President to resign immediately.

Please resign and spare the Nation from this ongoing nightmare. Don't do this to us. Don't make us go down with you. Step aside, sir, for the good of our country and for the good of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I will include in the RECORD my letter to the President of the United States asking him to resign.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President of the United States.

CELEBRATING SAM SNIPES' 99TH BIRTHDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a resident in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who celebrated his 99th birthday last month.

Morrisville resident Sam Snipes has lived a life defined by service and community. Following in his father's footsteps in the legal community, Sam founded the Yardley firm, Snipes & Collins, after graduating from Temple Law School and Haverford College.

Sam served as a dedicated public servant for nearly three decades as a Falls Township solicitor. For his community service, Sam was honored with the United Way of Bucks County Founders Award and the Mark E. Goldberg Award from the Bucks County Bar Association, among other distinctions.

Sam truly embodies dedication to our home of Bucks County. He still lives on Snipes Farm, where he grew up, makes frequent appearances in parades and other community events, and serves on several boards.

Sam is truly a legend, and we wish him a very happy 99th birthday and thank him for brightening our community.

RECOGNIZING BABY BUREAU IN WARMINSTER, PENNSYLVANIA

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a nonprofit organization in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, that is actively working to assist underserved new mothers in our community.

The Baby Bureau, based in Warminster, distributes baby bundles to new mothers shortly after delivery in the hospital. These baby bundles contain toddler clothes for all seasons, generously donated by thoughtful parents throughout Bucks County and beyond. To date, The Baby Bureau has assisted over 2,500 babies and their families.

I extend my gratitude to founder Fran Wasserman for her dedication to our community's children and families. I applaud her leadership, which has led to The Baby Bureau's partnership with dozens of community organizations and local businesses, and I encourage all of our constituents to follow her lead.

RECOGNIZING BILL SOLOWAY

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, who embodies resilience, tenacity, and grit.

Last month, Lower Mayfield resident Bill Soloway took the gold medal in the 2018 Transplant Games of America, held in Salt Lake City, Utah. Open to individuals who have received organ, marrow, and tissue transplants, the Transplant Games offer competitions in a wide variety of sports, including basketball, track and field, and swimming.

Bill took the gold in badminton singles while earning bronze medals in

badminton doubles and cycling. Bill's successes are made even more remarkable due to the fact that he was the recipient of a heart transplant a mere 3 years ago.

After being diagnosed with congestive heart failure, it became evident that Bill needed a new heart. Despite such an intense medical procedure, Bill, who is an avid cyclist, was back on his bike only 10 weeks after receiving his new heart.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to call Bill my constituent, and I congratulate him on his success in the Transplant Games.

UNDERSTAND THE POWER A COURT CAN WIELD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, tens of thousands of Arizona teachers took to the streets to demand that Governor Ducey and the Arizona State Legislature do right by Arizona students. It did so because Ducey and the State GOP have crippled the State's public education system.

Arizona spends the second lowest amount of money per student in the country, and Arizona's teachers are paid at the second lowest rate in the country. Students and teachers alike describe textbooks held together by tape, moldy ceilings leaking on students, and classes so overcrowded that kids have to sit on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, that is not what schools in the richest country in the world should look like. That is why Arizona's teachers championed the Invest in Ed proposition, to secure over \$600 million in annual education funds for Arizona after Governor Ducey failed to provide the resources our students so desperately needed.

Over a quarter of a million Arizonans signed their names to get the Invest in Ed proposal on Arizona's ballot this fall. That is democracy in action. But last week, the Arizona State Supreme Court ordered the removal of the Invest in Ed proposition from State ballots based on a small technicality.

This appalling ruling is an insult to Arizona students, teachers, families, and to democracy. It is a blow to Arizona's education system and our economy. It is a naked power grab by the GOP that undermines our democracy by removing the right of voters to choose what is best for their kids and their communities.

Invest in Ed wasn't defeated because a majority of Arizonans votes against it. It wasn't defeated because it was opposed by an elected politician who can be removed from office in the next election. It was killed by Doug Ducey's supreme court, a court that Ducey and the Arizona Republicans packed with conservatives.

Governor Ducey fully understood the power a court can wield when he ran through his court-packing plan in 2016

to increase the size of the Arizona State Supreme Court. He knew the incredible power of a supreme court pick, even at the State level.

Mr. Speaker, we in Congress must not underestimate that power, especially now. Donald Trump has nominated Judge Brett Kavanaugh to fill a seat in the U.S. Supreme Court, and here is what we know:

Judge Kavanaugh believes that a woman has no legal right to full autonomy over her own body;

Judge Kavanaugh believes that the agency created to protect consumers from fraud and predatory lending is unconstitutional;

Judge Kavanaugh believes that access to affordable healthcare should be determined by your age or your gender or your preexisting condition;

Judge Kavanaugh believes that the President should be above the law.

Here is what we don't know:

We don't know what is in the hundreds of thousands of pages of Kavanaugh's records that the Trump White House has refused to release, contrary to a century of Supreme Court precedent. That is unacceptable.

The Invest in Ed decision in Arizona is a blatant example of judicial power gone wrong, judicial power used to undermine democracy.

If confirmed, Judge Kavanaugh would join a panel of Justices with this very same power: the power to keep gutting the Voting Rights Act, the power to keep green-lighting partisan gerrymandering, the power to keep signing off on GOP efforts to purge the voter rolls.

We cannot allow this to happen. Doug Ducey's State supreme court set back democracy in Arizona. What Doug Ducey did to Arizona, Donald Trump will do to America with this Supreme Court. We cannot let that happen.

My colleagues in the Senate should reject Judge Kavanaugh's nomination. Our democracy depends on it.

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OMINOUS SOCIALIST TREND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to sound the alarm about an ominous trend that seems to be taking hold in our Nation.

In June, a self-avowed democratic socialist jumped into the national spotlight in her quest to join this body. Many view her as carrying the mantle for a new socialist trend among some in the United States.

So, I ask, what would socialist policies mean for our country's future?

I have come to realize that a whole generation of Americans have grown up for whom the Soviet Union is just a distant historical memory. Many have no personal memory of when the Soviet Union came crashing down in 1991, which was dramatic proof that its so-

cialist system was a dismal failure. Many can't recall the feeling of national pride over the fact that, in contrast, the free economy of the United States had succeeded in producing the highest standard of living in world history.

So perhaps it is understandable that, for a new generation, the old, empty promises of socialism seem to carry a new allure.

Socialism, by definition, is the political and economic theory of social organization whereby production, distribution, and exchange should be owned and regulated by the community as a whole. In other words, what is mine is yours, and what is yours is mine.

Usually, it is the latter that gets people to buy in. That is, what is yours is mine. This concept holds a strong appeal for many people because it addresses legitimate concerns over inequity and injustice.

The problem is that, for all its high-minded fairness, socialism doesn't work. It is not just a castle in the air; it is the promise of a palace that is really built on quicksand. You don't have to look back to the Soviet Union to see this.

Venezuela is just the latest tragic example of socialism's devastation. At the beginning of the 21st century, Venezuela was one of the top 20 richest countries in the world. Today, its poverty rate is 87 percent, and its inflation rate is predicted to be approaching 1 million percent—yes, 1 million.

Once, Venezuela's capital was a tourist destination with a thriving culture. Today, it is the crime capital of the world.

This crisis is the result of the redistributive policies and the systematic destruction of economic freedom by a corrupt and elitist administration.

As President Trump said in his first speech to the United Nations General Assembly: "The problem in Venezuela is not that socialism has been poorly implemented, but that socialism has been faithfully implemented."

It is a sobering reminder that while socialism's torchbearers may change, the havoc it wreaks with its hollow promises remains the same. What we must remember is that America is not immune.

As President Ronald Reagan famously said: "Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it on to our children in the bloodstream."

Socialism, faithfully implemented, could cripple our Nation's peace and prosperity over time, just as it did in Venezuela.

It is easy to see the allure of socialism. Socialists say that they desire an equitable distribution of wealth and then characterize capitalism as rampant greed and materialism.

Ironically, it is typically the advocates of socialism who display the excess desire for material goods. There is the obsession with making things free,

from phones, to internet access, to a college education. There is the obsession with disparities in income, rather than a concern with job opportunities.

Socialism holds a strong appeal for many because it legitimizes coveting your neighbor's possessions, which was once commonly understood as against the Tenth Commandment. And the premises of socialism, all under the high-minded guise of fairness, are anything but fair.

Capitalism, on the other hand, is responsible for the enormous levels of philanthropic giving that we see in the United States of America, the most generous Nation ever known to mankind.

We must continue to speak out boldly, not based on fear, but based on facts. We must continue to tell the truth, regardless of its popularity. We must continue to implement policies that unleash the power of our free economy and create more opportunities for all Americans, like the recently passed Tax Cuts and Jobs Act with its bipartisan opportunity zones.

It is my firm belief that, in the marketplace of ideas, freedom will always win out over socialism on the bases of merit, evidence, and facts. But it cannot win if no one is making the case.

Mr. Speaker, let's continue to stand up and speak out. Let's make the case for freedom and opportunity for all Americans.

SHAM NOMINATION HEARINGS IN THE SENATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose Brett Kavanaugh's Supreme Court nomination and the sham hearings that are happening in the Senate today.

Even before President Trump nominated Judge Kavanaugh, Senate Majority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL warned that the millions of pages in Judge Kavanaugh's White House records would reopen controversies dating back to George W. Bush's administration and delay consideration of his nomination. But instead of following regular order, rather than obtaining Judge Kavanaugh's full record and sharing it in a timely fashion with all the Senators, Senate Republicans simply changed the rules. This is unacceptable.

The nine Justices who sit on the Supreme Court make crucial decisions about justice in our country. At times, the Court's landmark decisions have shown the best of who we are and what our country stands for, the ideas that our public schools should not be segregated based on race, that women have a right to make their own decisions about their bodies, and that everybody has the right to marry the person they love.

In other cases, Supreme Court decisions have been stains on our Nation;