

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;