

Funds. These funds give States certainty that they can meet their drinking water needs.

The bill is also fiscally responsible. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said America's Water Infrastructure Act will authorize these important projects and reduce the deficit at the same time. America's Water Infrastructure Act has received broad bipartisan support from Democrats, Republicans, local governments, and stakeholders. It originally passed out of the Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee unanimously, by a vote of 21 to 0. After reaching this consensus agreement, the House of Representatives passed the updated bill unanimously by voice vote. Simply put, America's Water Infrastructure Act is good for the entire Nation.

President Trump called on Congress to pass major infrastructure legislation. America's Water Infrastructure Act answers that call. By reaching this bipartisan agreement, my home State of Wyoming and the Nation will see upgrades, reforms, and new initiatives that deliver on the President's commitment to rebuild our aging water system. Now is the time for the Senate to take up this important bill and send it to the President for his signature.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

FUNDING THE GOVERNMENT

Mrs. ERNST. Mr. President, I rise today disappointed and frustrated.

Once again, we passed an ill-advised continuing resolution to fund much of our government. Once again, folks, we have passed the buck. Once again, we have failed to do our job.

One of Congress's most essential roles is to fund a responsible government that runs efficiently and effectively. We have a duty to taxpayers to not just simply give a thumbs-up on spending their money but to debate and consider whether programs are working to serve their needs. Unfortunately, we have been negligent in this solemn duty. Like myself, Americans are tired of this shortsighted habit of kicking the can down the road.

How did we get to this point, you might be asking yourself. After all, we worked across the aisle in an open and collaborative way and found a path forward to fund our national defense and the vital Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education. We recently passed a similar bill related to Energy and Water, Legislative Branch, Military Construction, and Veterans Affairs.

As we have seen, a continuing resolution was attached to this legislation for the rest of the government, including our vital Department of Homeland Security. Worse, this continuing resolution doesn't fund the government fully until the end of the fiscal year. No, it simply punts the ball to Decem-

ber 7. That is it. We will be back here before Christmas, and if experience is any sort of guide, multiple times after that before we can get the government fully funded.

I ultimately chose to vote yes on this continuing resolution because of what it means for our national security and our servicemembers who risk their lives every day for our security. Also, the continuing resolution included the Violence Against Women Act, a bill I could not allow to lapse given that this bill provides services for our most vulnerable. VAWA addresses the scourge of domestic violence that is so prevalent in our communities—crimes that often hurt women and children the most, often requiring them to be displaced from the only homes they know.

I believe we can strengthen this act in several ways by addressing changing circumstances since its last reauthorization 5 years ago by tailoring its language to better fit the needs of our communities. There are provisions we need to change and to work on, but we are not afforded that opportunity.

Tying our Nation's security and the Violence Against Women Act to the CR made it both the carrot and the stick. We are leaving services and programs that the American people rely upon open to partisan delay and political gerrymandering.

The people of Iowa elected me to come to Washington to be their voice and to instill much needed fiscal responsibility. Rather than pushing, procrastinating, and postponing for another 3 months, we should buckle down and build upon the great progress we have made this year by getting the remaining appropriations bills across the finish line.

We should debate the Violence Against Women Act in regular order so we can strengthen it and provide protections for those who need it the most. There are items I support in this continuing resolution, but we need to do our job. We need to fund the government. If we don't take action now, we will be back here month after month, year after year, doing the exact same thing.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BARASSO). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

SUICIDE PREVENTION

Mr. DONNELLY. Mr. President, I come to the floor to bring attention to suicide prevention, an issue of tremendous importance to families and communities across Indiana and our country.

The Senate will be introducing a resolution very soon recognizing suicide

as a serious public health problem and expressing support for designation of September as National Suicide Prevention Month.

Every year, we lose nearly 45,000 Americans to suicide. It is the 10th leading cause of death in this country and second leading cause for those ages 15 to 34. Think about that for a moment: 45,000 lives every year, 123 lives every day, 1 life every 12 minutes.

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention champions the message: "Be The Voice . . . Stop Suicide."

Whether we are Senators or family or friends or coworkers or even strangers, we can all play a role in helping to prevent suicide. We all must "be the voice."

So what is our voice?

Formally recognizing Suicide Prevention Month is a start, and I am proud to have cosponsored that resolution. Yet it can't just be about a day or a week or a month on which we pause to reflect. This is a heartbreaking challenge for our communities, and we must be working year-round and across the aisle—there are no Democrats or Republicans in this—to find the solutions that provide Americans with the help they need to get through their most trying times.

Over the past several years, Congress has found a number of bipartisan solutions to help address this tragic problem, but our work is far from done. There are still 45,000 Americans every year and their families and their friends who need our help. They need our action.

As I started my time in the Senate, I made it a focus to find bipartisan approaches to suicide prevention. In Indiana, suicide claims over 1,000 lives every year. That is one Hoosier lost every 8 hours. In 2013, my fellow Hoosier Jeff Sexton reached out to me to share the tragic story of his son Jake. Specialist Jacob Sexton, an Indiana National Guardsman, tragically took his own life in 2009 while on leave from a deployment to Afghanistan.

His story is far too familiar for Active, Guard, and Reserve servicemembers and for veterans as well. Despite representing less than 10 percent of the population, these Americans comprise almost 20 percent of the suicides. Their communities lose over 7,000 members every year as they struggle with the stresses of the military service that we as a nation and as a Congress ask of them.

So the question is, What can we do to help them and to prevent these tragedies?

Hoping to answer that question, the first bill I introduced in the Senate focused on suicide prevention in the military and in our veteran communities. Introduced in 2013 and signed into law in the 2014 National Defense Authorization Act, my Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act addressed a critical gap in mental healthcare for our troops. All too often, many of our