

have different views about the Mueller report.

I urge my friend the Republican leader: Disentangle yourself from the self-serving desire to sweep the Mueller report and all of its findings under the rug. Recognize that it is indisputable that Russian interference is a great threat to our elections, that the Mueller report helped corroborate and document that, and work with us. For the sake of America, Leader MCCONNELL, work with us to protect our country from foreign interference in our elections in the future. Do not—you cannot; you must not—sit on the sidelines.

DISASTER RELIEF

Madam President, on another issue, yesterday we heard Leader MCCONNELL say he would like to get a disaster relief package done by Memorial Day. Democrats in this Chamber are going to hold him to that standard, and we will make sure the package provided will have funding for all affected communities, from Hawaii all the way to Puerto Rico.

My colleagues from the Midwest and South are starting to feel the heat. According to press reports, they are going to Leader MCCONNELL and saying, “We have to get something done,” because they realize, justifiably, that with each passing week, the cost of inaction grows. Cities in Iowa have endured another round of flooding. In the South, the hurricane season is around the corner. We need to get disaster aid out the door.

When you want to know why it hasn't happened, first and foremost, it is because President Trump disrupted a bipartisan bill that would have passed a month and a half ago and said: No aid for Puerto Rico. Second, our Republican colleagues in the Midwest and in the South willingly went along with that, thinking they could roll over Puerto Rico, roll over the House, and roll over Democrats in the Senate.

Well, now you have learned that is not happening. So work with us on a bipartisan package. We want to get it done. We want to see aid go to every part of the country, including the Midwest, including the South, including Florida, and including Texas, but Puerto Rico must be treated similarly and fairly.

I promise that we could solve this impasse in a moment. If Republicans in the Senate agree to treat Puerto Rico fairly, a disaster package will pass this Chamber like a hot knife through butter.

Our position is very simple: Democrats support a package for disaster relief that provides support for all affected Americans: Hawaii, California, Iowa, the South, the Atlantic coast, the Pacific islands, and the island of Puerto Rico, and we are not going to move forward unless everyone is included and everyone is treated fairly.

NOMINATIONS

Madam President, on nominations, today is a great example of how Leader

MCCONNELL and the Senate, in place of real legislative progress and in place of helping the middle class in this turbulent world in which we live, simply used floor time as a legislative graveyard to only rubberstamp extreme and unqualified nominees with no legislating. We have become a legislative graveyard under Leader MCCONNELL's leadership, and the middle class and people trying to get there suffer.

This afternoon, Senate Republicans are going to confirm Janet Dhillon to be the Chair of the EEOC. This move to restore a quorum by confirming a Republican nominee, while refusing to consider Democratic nominees—which had been the Senate's tradition to always do these nominees in a bipartisan way, one Democrat and one Republican together—is going to imperil equal pay rules and protections for LGBTQ workers.

This afternoon, the Senate will vote to end debate on the nomination of Michael Park to the Second Circuit. A quick overview of Mr. Park's experience reveals some pretty outlandish views.

In private practice, he advanced arguments that would limit the civil rights of millions of Americans on matters pertaining to the census and educational opportunity. He represented groups in an amicus brief against the constitutionality of Medicaid expansion and worked to defend the Kansas effort to defund Planned Parenthood.

Since the Second Circuit covers my home State of New York, I met with Mr. Park to try to understand why he was being nominated for a lifetime position as a circuit court judge. Frankly, his principal qualifications seemed to be that he is a card-carrying member of the Federalist Society.

Mr. Park has little experience and little judicial background. He is an ideologue. He doesn't have the kind of balance and integrity and compassion and understanding of both sides that any judge needs. It will be obvious to anyone who reviews his record that he lacks the breadth and objectivity that we prize in our judges, but my Republican friends, like Leader MCCONNELL, have a singular goal: to remake the Federal bench in their image. So Federalist stooges, like Mr. Park, who aren't qualified for District Court, are being rammed through as circuit court judges.

The Senate ought to reject this confirmation. In the less partisan Senates of the past, it wouldn't even have come forward, but, regrettably, instead of legislating, instead of doing things for the American people, all Leader MCCONNELL is doing is ramming through these nominees, most of whom are way out of the mainstream, far away from the views of most Americans, and unqualified for their jobs.

This wouldn't have happened years ago. I hope my colleagues, when they look at Mr. Park's record, will do the right thing.

WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE

Madam President, finally, on women's healthcare, later today, a group of Democratic Senators will come to the floor to highlight what has been a campaign—a campaign—by Republicans to strip women of the right to make their own healthcare decisions.

At the Federal level, the latest salvo in their offensive is the title X gag rule, which would hurt low-income individuals' access to reproductive health. In my view, this is a disgusting attempt to restrict women's freedom. The effects of the policy are real and threaten the lives of women across America.

Take Natarsha, one of my constituents in New York. She was 33 years old when she found two lumps in her left breast. She went to see the gynecologist at Planned Parenthood. Natarsha was diagnosed with breast cancer and underwent treatment. Now, praise God, more than 5 years later, her cancer is in complete remission. If not for the exams and other prevention offered by Planned Parenthood clinics across the country, Natarsha and other women like her might never have received lifesaving diagnoses, but Republicans, time and again, have pushed to defund Planned Parenthood and threatened access to the essential care it provides.

Republican-led State legislatures across the country, emboldened by President Trump, have continued their attack on the reproductive rights of women. Just last month, both South Carolina and Ohio passed bills banning abortion after only 6 weeks of pregnancy, when many women may not even know they are pregnant. Just yesterday, Georgia's Governor signed his State's version of that bill into law.

Since taking office, President Trump and his Republican colleagues have prioritized—prioritized—restricting women's reproductive freedoms. They believe they know better, and they impose their views on American women. That is just wrong.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 3 minutes to address the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK NOMINATIONS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, the Senate is finally holding long overdue votes on nominees to the Export-Import Bank of the United States. To me, this is about Ohio businesses; this is about American workers; and this is about the dignity of work. All three of these nominees are qualified.

For nearly 4 years, the Export-Import Bank has been forced to stop most of the work supporting American jobs. A small group of opponents, supported by special interests in this town, tried to kill this bank altogether. Ex-Im has been paralyzed because of leadership in