

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill, as amended, pass?

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 97, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 127 Leg.]

#### YEAS—97

Alexander	Gardner	Portman
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Reed
Barrasso	Graham	Risch
Bennet	Grassley	Roberts
Blackburn	Harris	Romney
Blumenthal	Hassan	Rosen
Blunt	Hawley	Rubio
Booker	Heinrich	Sanders
Boozman	Hirono	Sasse
Braun	Hoeven	Schatz
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Burr	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Cantwell	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Capito	Jones	Shaheen
Cardin	Kaine	Shelby
Carper	Kennedy	Sinema
Casey	King	Smith
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Coons	Leahy	Tester
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Tillis
Cotton	Markey	Toomey
Cramer	McConnell	Udall
Crapo	McSally	Van Hollen
Cruz	Menendez	Warner
Daines	Merkley	Warren
Duckworth	Moran	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murkowski	Wicker
Enzi	Murphy	Wyden
Ernst	Murray	Young
Feinstein	Perdue	
Fischer	Peters	

#### NAYS—1

Paul

#### NOT VOTING—2

Inhofe Rounds

The bill (S. 151), as amended, was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The Senator from Texas.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this is the weekend before Memorial Day, and we will be honoring the brave men and women who have served our Nation and who gave their lives to protect the very freedoms that we enjoy today.

Ronald Reagan said:

Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.

Our Nation is incredibly fortunate and grateful to have had no shortage of those who are ready to lead that fight. Throughout our history, brave men and women have answered the call to serve our country. Whether they answered the call nearly 250 years ago to fight for our independence or in recent years to combat the global threat of terrorism, all of them are our heroes.

I have always had tremendous admiration for our servicemembers—something instilled in me from an early age because of my dad's military service. He was a B-17 pilot in the Army Air Corps and flew with the Hell's Angels in the 303rd Bomb Group out of the 8th Air Force in World War II. On his 26th mission over Germany, after leaving the base in Molesworth, England, and flying over the English Channel to Germany, he was shot down and captured as a prisoner of war. By the grace of God, he survived the Nazi prison camp where he was interned for the last 4 months of the war.

My dad went on to serve in the Air Force for 31 years and retired as what we affectionately called a full-bird colonel. Both during and after his service, he was an unabashed patriot and demonstrated every day to us, his children and family, what it meant to selflessly serve your country.

While my dad made it home after the war, many of his friends and comrades did not. Like the great soldiers before them, and many after, they laid down their lives in service to our country and the values we embrace as a nation.

This Memorial Day, we remember the fallen and thank them for the ultimate sacrifice to preserve our way of life. We mourn their loss and celebrate the great gift they have bestowed upon us and the freedoms they protected.

Since last Memorial Day, we have lost some incredible servicemembers who call Texas home. In December, we said good-bye to Richard Overton, American's oldest World War II veteran. At the ripe old age of 112, he had a lot of wisdom to share, including a few unlikely tips for living a long life, like enjoying a little bit of whiskey in your morning coffee and smoking cigars.

In April, we mourned the loss of Richard Cole, the 103-year-old World War II veteran who was part of the Doolittle Raiders. He and his brothers in arms carried out a strike on factories and military installations in Tokyo, against enormous odds, providing a desperately needed morale boost after the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Just last week, we said farewell to another member of the Greatest Generation, 100-year-old Bill Hayes. Colonel Hayes was one of the last living Pearl Harbor veterans and spent nearly four decades serving in the U.S. Army.

While we honor those who served in the past, we also celebrate those serving now and the young men and women who one day will put on a uniform.

In just a few days, I will have the privilege of speaking to young Texans who will be attending one of our country's five prestigious military service academies. I hold the sendoff each year in Texas to meet the next generation of our military leaders and to thank them for their willingness to serve our country in uniform.

Today, in advance of this holiday weekend, I would like to say thank you to the men and women stationed across my State and the veterans who call Texas home.

On behalf of a grateful nation, thank you to all the brave men and women who lost their lives while fighting for our freedoms. We will never forget your service or your sacrifice.

#### DISASTER RELIEF

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, on another matter, we were all hoping that the Senate would soon be able to vote on a disaster aid bill that would send funds to States throughout the Southeast and Midwest that continue to battle with the impacts of severe weather.

When a hurricane, tornado, wildfire, or whatever the case may be, hits your State, securing funds to help with relief and recovery becomes priority No. 1. I know because after Texas was hit by Hurricane Harvey in 2017, I worked with the entire bipartisan Texas delegation to secure funding that would help both with the immediate aftermath and long-term recovery and rebuilding efforts.

We received tremendous support from our colleagues here in Congress, as well as President Trump, in making sure that Texas communities had the funding and resources they needed. Our State has made a great deal of progress since Hurricane Harvey hit, and most Texans have returned to some sense of normalcy, but the recovery process is not over.

In February of last year, Congress appropriated more than \$28 billion in community development block grants for disaster recovery, with roughly \$12 billion intended specifically for mitigation purposes. About \$4 billion of that was designated for Texas to fund projects that will improve resiliency and help us prepare for future storms. But as Texans who continue to recover from Hurricane Harvey have learned, getting a disaster relief bill passed in Congress and signed by the President doesn't mean the check is in the mail.

It has now been 15 months since that bill was signed, and Texans haven't seen a penny of it. Despite numerous attempts to get the funding untangled from the redtape at the Office of Management and Budget, we are still waiting.

That is simply not acceptable. It is not acceptable to me, it is not acceptable to Texans still in need, and it shouldn't be acceptable to the U.S. Congress.

I recently introduced a bill that would ensure that the Office of Management and Budget wouldn't stand between communities impacted by disaster and vital funding appropriated and approved by Congress. Once signed into law, it would establish a "shot clock" requiring the Office of Management and Budget to release funds appropriated by Congress within 90 days.

This change would apply not only to this particular block of funding but to any funds appropriated to the States which are being withheld by the Office of Management and Budget.

With hurricane season just about a week away, there could not be a more critical time to act.

It is important for us to come together in a bipartisan agreement that can pass the Senate and the House and get the President's signature. I hope that those who are negotiating this disaster relief bill, including this shot clock provision, will continue to negotiate in good faith so we can reach a compromise and reach a result soon.

Communities across our country need this money for disaster recovery and mitigation, and they are simply tired of waiting for Congress to act. I am hopeful that any agreement will include this shot clock provision so we can finally get the roughly \$4 billion in disaster mitigation funding untangled from Washington redtape and get it to the Texans who desperately need it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut

#### MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am very proud to be in this Chamber. I am always enormously grateful to be in this body, but especially so at the beginning of this Memorial Day weekend, when we celebrate the patriotism and dedication of our brave men and women in uniform—patriots who serve our country in so many different ways, as teachers and firefighters and police—and the values that bring us together always as Americans. What we share is a dedication to the rule of law, basic rights, which are the reason that our forbearers and this generation have fought in parts of the world whose names we can barely pronounce.

We celebrate those values and the rule of law in our Constitution on this day, as we do every day this weekend, as every weekend, because they guarantee the rights that enable us to march in parades when we wish, gather with our families, worship, and speak as we please.

They guarantee also the rights to privacy that are at the core of our Constitution—the right to be let alone from governmental interference; the rights that literally ignited the passion

and fight for freedom in this country; the right of people to control their destinies, their futures, their bodies.

Those rights are imperiled today as never before. We are in a dark and dangerous time in this country with the passage of laws in Alabama and Missouri, Kentucky and Ohio, and in other States around the country, where the rights of women are under assault.

But let me say to the men of America, those rights are as important to you, and that assault on rights is as critical to you as they are to the women of America. Women's healthcare is under attack. Women's reproductive rights are under assault, and that means that all rights and all healthcare are gravely threatened. All of our rights are under attack. That is the reason today I am introducing the Women's Health Protection Act with my great colleague and friend Senator BALDWIN of Wisconsin and, in the House of Representatives, CHU, FRANKEL, and FUDGE, who led this effort there. We have actually reintroduced it. It has been a longstanding effort of mine and theirs, and my own commitment to this cause dates from my law clerkship to Harry Blackmun on the U.S. Supreme Court, the year after he wrote the majority opinion in *Roe v. Wade*.

I am proud to be a man standing for women's healthcare because women's healthcare rights are human rights, and the men of America need to hear loud and clear that their stake in this fight is as big as anyone's, because this fight and this debate and this war on women's healthcare endanger and imperil all of our rights in America.

The Women's Health Protection Act protects a woman's constitutional right to access an abortion. It is a right that is absolutely central to her economic well-being, her mental and physical health, and her freedom—no matter where she lives, no matter what her ZIP code is, no matter what her income, race, or religion is. And it is true of men, as well, that regardless of where we live or who we think we are, those rights are critical to our lives too.

The Women's Health Protection Act is designed to protect the healthcare providers—some of the real heroes of women's healthcare, who are delivering the best care they can, the care their patients want and need—from absurd and medically unnecessary requirements. These so-called protections for women that States have enacted relating to the width of hallways in clinics or admitting privileges or waiting periods are a pretext. They are a disguise, a ruse to restrict women's rights to healthcare.

Under the Women's Health Protection Act, no State—none—can restrict women's healthcare by judging the width of hallways or doctors' privileges or any of those supposed protections, which are really pretexts. And those pushing unconstitutional restrictions will no longer be able to disguise their

morally repugnant efforts as protecting women's healthcare, when, really, they want to take it away.

The attack on women's rights that we saw last week in Alabama was only the most extreme and restrictive of a line of actions—demagogic and draconian actions—in our State legislatures around the country. But they have created fear, and they have created disparate effect, so that women are apprehensive and anxious. And they should be.

They are angry, and that is absolutely right. We all should be angry. We all have a responsibility to stand up and fight back, because these laws cannot stand in our country.

We will fight them in the courts. We will fight them in the statehouses, and we will fight them here in the Senate and in the House, as we are doing with the Women's Health Protection Act.

These radical and unconstitutional extreme measures, which simply tell a woman when she can become pregnant, involve the Government controlling her body, which is against the fundamental guarantee of our Constitution in the right to be let alone from unwarranted and illegal Government interference.

We have had enough of the dangerous and deadly attacks on women. We have had it with the meddling politicians who are getting between women and their own personal healthcare decisions, interfering with women's rights to consult their doctors, their families, their counselors, and their faith leaders. We have had it with contemptible assaults on women's freedom and futures.

When I worked for Justice Harry Blackmun, I remember we thought at the time: All done. All settled. No more issues with a woman's right to reproductive rights.

*Roe v. Wade* was the decisive opinion of the U.S. Supreme Court, the law of the land, then and thereafter.

Here we are, decades later, still fighting this needless and senseless battle for a woman's right to privacy and freedom, because there are groups and individuals in this country who want to defy the U.S. Constitution. *Roe v. Wade* was correctly decided. The U.S. Supreme Court has reaffirmed it in its progeny.

Nominees to the courts coming before the Judiciary Committee have refused to answer my question about whether it was correctly decided, but the fact of the matter is, it was, it will be, and it will remain. But the courage and strength of women still to assert their rights, of providers who give them the care they need, of clinic access escorts who every day put their well-being on the line, of the groups like the Center for Reproductive Rights and Planned Parenthood, which advocate tirelessly, and of the heroes who keep up the fight and the flame should inspire us in this Chamber to say: Enough is enough. Let's pass the Women's Health Protection Act so