

sports is in any way “less than” because it is not. These women, who inspire our country with their poise, tenacity, skill, and excellence every time they take the field, deserve to be fairly compensated.

Right now, the Senate could take a meaningful step to support the women’s international team by passing legislation that aims to end gender-based wage discrimination. The House passed a paycheck fairness bill months ago, which languished here in the Senate in Leader MCCONNELL’s legislative graveyard. Bill after bill comes from the House, has the support of large percentages of Americans, gets Republican support in the House, and Leader MCCONNELL just lets them lie there—another tombstone in the graveyard.

As the women of Team USA take the field today, I call on Leader MCCONNELL to bring up the House legislation already passed that would aid in their fight for equal pay.

I will be rooting for Team USA women to kick off their campaign with a win against Thailand.

HUAWEI

Madam President, on another matter, Huawei, according to public reports, the Acting Director of the Office of Management and Budget, Russell Vought, is pushing a 2-year delay—a 2-year delay—in the implementation of key portions of a law intended to protect U.S. agencies and government contractors from Chinese telecom technology, chiefly Huawei.

This is deeply concerning for two reasons. First, from a national security standpoint, the FBI, CIA, and other members of the intelligence community have testified that the technology from Chinese telecom companies, such as Huawei and ZTE, present a national security risk, potentially allowing China to build backdoors into our networks, enabling their cyber theft and cyber espionage for which they are, unfortunately, well known. That is why Congress banned U.S. Government agencies and contractors from using this technology—because they are our highest valued targets. We have been encouraging our European allies to do the same.

Why on Earth, then, is the Acting Director of OMB, Russell Vought, asking for a 2-year delay in these rules? We passed the law more than a year ago. President Trump has signed it, and our agencies and contractors have had time to make sure their technology doesn’t come from Huawei.

There is simply no reason, in my mind, for such a lengthy delay. It would only extend a window of opportunity for what is already a dire threat to our national security.

The second reason this news concerns me so is that it is about the Trump administration’s broader approach to China. Across many issues in the Trump administration, it sometimes feels as though the right hand doesn’t know what the left hand is doing. A few weeks ago, the administration

issued an Executive order largely banning U.S. companies from selling equipment to Huawei, an action I praised. But then the Commerce Department abruptly delayed that decision by 3 months. Now we have this additional request from OMB to soft-pedal a different set of restrictions on Huawei.

China needs to understand that the United States is serious when it comes to our trade relationship. We must have a consistent policy implemented with rigor. This idea of reciprocity, of barring China’s companies from doing business here until they let our biggest companies do business there, is an important part of our overall effort to increase pressure on China to agree to meaningful economic reforms.

I am very troubled by the OMB’s request, and I plan on strenuously opposing the approval of the delay here in Congress.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order of the quorum call be rescinded.

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

NET NEUTRALITY

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise today in defense of net neutrality. In April the House of Representatives took an important step in passing the Save the Internet Act, legislation that would overturn the Trump administration’s Federal Communication Commission’s wrongheaded decision and restore net neutrality protections. Another way of saying it is that net neutrality is nondiscrimination online. That is what it is. It is the principle of nondiscrimination online so that large companies just can’t discriminate against smaller voices, smaller companies, and startups.

In the Senate, we have already successfully passed the same proposal last year. In April of 2018, my Congressional Review Act resolution passed in the Senate on a bipartisan vote of 52 to 47. In April 2018, on a bipartisan basis, we debated net neutrality and the Senate decided to join the majority of Americans and support a free and open internet.

In that vote we sent a message to President Trump about what that means: an internet, free of corporate control and open to all who want to communicate, engage, and innovate. We made it clear that Congress will not fall for President Trump’s special interest agenda and his broadband baron allies who just want to block, slow down, or discriminate against content online just to charge Americans more on their cable bills.

Unfortunately, the rules for the Congressional Review Act that allow just 30 Senators to force the majority to schedule a vote is not an option in this

Congress. So, instead, on this, the 1-year anniversary of President Trump’s net neutrality repeal going into effect, we will call for an immediate vote on the Save the Internet Act. Unfortunately, our Republican colleagues are failing to listen to the voices of their constituents and plan to block the vote from happening.

Let’s be clear. Net neutrality is just another way in which the Republican Party refuses to side with the ordinary people in our country—regular families, small businesses, and startup software companies. How do they get access to the internet in a way in which they cannot feel that corporate pressure restricting their ability to use this incredible invention to further the democratization of access to opportunity or, at the same time, to innovate in a way which continues to change not only our own country but our own world?

We can’t let big companies discriminate against individual consumers. We can’t let big companies stifle speech. Once you pay your monthly internet service bill, you can go anywhere you want on the internet without your provider slowing down or blocking your path to a website of your choosing.

This is a fight. It is a fight for innovation, for entrepreneurialism, for the American economy, and a fight for free speech—the cornerstone of our democracy—and a fight for the most powerful platform for commerce and communications in the history of the planet. The Save the Internet Act does exactly what the American people want. It restores the rules that ensure that families aren’t subject to higher prices, slower internet speeds, and even blocked websites because the big broadband providers want to pump up their profits.

Under Senator MCCONNELL’s leadership, the Republicans are trying to bury this bill in a legislative graveyard. Instead of acting on legislation, which, again, passed the Senate a year ago—it just passed in the House in April of this year—Leader MCCONNELL has been doing little but confirming unqualified, extreme-right nominees for the Trump administration.

Just listen to the bills the Senate Republicans refuse to act on: the Violence Against Women Act, no votes out here on the Senate floor; voting on democracy reform, no votes out here on the Senate floor; gun background checks, passed in the House but no vote here in the Senate; paycheck fairness; the Paris climate agreement—no, no, no.

But the Senate majority leader and his Republican colleagues can keep populating the legislative graveyard at their political peril because this is the agenda that the American people want to see the Senate debating, and they want to see these laws put on the books to protect families in our country. That is because the issues they are blocking are enormously popular, most with strong bipartisan support.

Take net neutrality. Now, 86 percent of Americans do not approve of the