

very simply says there is a duty to report. If there is an illegal offer of assistance, if anyone knows of an illegal acceptance of assistance from a foreign leader or foreign national or foreign government, there is a duty to tell the FBI or some other law enforcement official.

The plain fact is our elections are under attack, and 2016 was only a dress rehearsal.

Just this week, talk about hysteria, Facebook banned dozens of fake Russian and Iranian accounts attempting to spread misinformation and disinformation to Americans—the purpose: to disrupt the 2020 election.

It isn't necessarily an ad for one candidate or another. It may be an ad that seeks to suppress the vote. The point is, that attack will continue, and opposition to it is based on hysteria about the potential political implications.

What saddens and angers me is that our Commander in Chief—not just some of our colleagues—refuses to believe that our elections were attacked and will be again. He is actively working to undermine our democracy.

The President's attempts to invite a foreign leader, the Ukrainian President, to interfere in our democratic elections was a betrayal of his oath of office and an abuse of power. It is an impeachable offense. But it will occur again by others, as well as him, if we do not pass measures like the Duty to Report Act.

It started with a whistleblower complaint, but now we have call notes between the President and Ukraine President Zelensky, the corroborating statements of multiple witnesses in the government, and President Trump's own statements—his own words—on live television, admitting that he did this. The transcript of his call chillingly shows how he literally pressured and extorted the Ukrainian President, using the threat of a cut or elimination of military aid vital to Ukrainian lives and Ukrainian defense against an ongoing Russian attack, not to mention the visit to the White House, also used as leverage with these 10 powerful words: "I would like you to do us a favor though." The favor was digging dirt on a political opponent through a full investigation to favor himself over that opponent.

The invitation to interfere in our elections goes to the core of our democratic institutions. It is literally condoning and, in fact, inviting and encouraging an attack on our democratic institution, and the President has said, when he was asked, that if he were offered foreign assistance, he would take it. His son, during the last campaign, was offered Russian assistance, and his response was: "I love it."

That is not the appropriate response for the offer of an illegal act of assistance. It should be to go to the FBI or another law enforcement agency.

Every Republican should be asked to answer the question—in fact, forced to answer this question: Is it acceptable

to solicit or accept the assistance of a foreign power to win an election?

We cannot allow this kind of practice to become the new normal. It is already illegal to accept or solicit such an assistance from a foreign government or leader, and what we want to do is make it illegal to fail to report it.

Finally, as for my colleagues' objection that it would inhibit somehow an active and honest campaign, someone who has reason to know that there is an illegal offer of assistance and someone who knows that that assistance is being solicited by his or her campaign or a member of their family, certainly, should feel a duty to report as a matter of simple patriotism and moral obligation, not to mention legal responsibility.

With the 2020 Presidential election looming, we must stop this kind of foreign interference. We must take active and effective measures against it. We must ensure that the American people—not Russia or China or Iran, and they are all gunning for our democratic institution—decide who the leaders of this country will be and what direction our democracy will take.

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

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

VOTE ON WALKER NOMINATION

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to commence with the prearranged vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Walker nomination?

Mr. PAUL. Mr. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. ISAKSON), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 333 Ex.]

YEAS—50

| | | |
|-----------|-----------|------------|
| Alexander | Ernst | Portman |
| Barrasso | Fischer | Risch |
| Blackburn | Gardner | Roberts |
| Blunt | Graham | Romney |
| Boozman | Grassley | Rounds |
| Braun | Hawley | Rubio |
| Burr | Hoehn | Sasse |
| Capito | Inhofe | Scott (FL) |
| Cassidy | Johnson | Scott (SC) |
| Collins | Kennedy | Shelby |
| Cornyn | Lankford | Sullivan |
| Cotton | Lee | Thune |
| Cramer | McConnell | Tillis |
| Crapo | McSally | Toomey |
| Cruz | Murkowski | Wicker |
| Daines | Paul | Young |
| Enzi | Perdue | |

NAYS—41

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Baldwin | Heinrich | Reed |
| Bennet | Hirono | Rosen |
| Blumenthal | Jones | Schatz |
| Brown | Kaine | Schumer |
| Cantwell | King | Shaheen |
| Cardin | Klobuchar | Sinema |
| Carper | Leahy | Smith |
| Casey | Manchin | Stabenow |
| Cortez Masto | Markey | Tester |
| Duckworth | Menendez | Udall |
| Durbin | Merkley | Van Hollen |
| Feinstein | Murphy | Warner |
| Gillibrand | Murray | Wyden |
| Hassan | Peters | |

NOT VOTING—9

| | | |
|--------|------------|------------|
| Booker | Hyde-Smith | Sanders |
| Coons | Isakson | Warren |
| Harris | Moran | Whitehouse |

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The Senator from Tennessee.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and 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.

The Senator for Maryland.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST— H.R. 2486

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I am on the Senate floor now, where in a moment I will be asking for unanimous consent for the Senate to take up and vote on a House-passed bill that would provide full mandatory funding for historically Black colleges and universities and other minority-serving institutions.

The reason I am here is that the authority for this mandatory spending expired 24 days ago, and we have it within our power right now to remedy that situation. We can take up a vote on what is called the FUTURE Act. We have a bipartisan Senate bill that is