

and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, I appreciate the opportunity to work with my colleague from Maryland, and I look forward to working with him again in the future. It would be great if we could work together to try to figure out how to provide temporary protected status for Venezuelans and also to fix the program so it continues to work not just for Venezuelans but for people all over the world.

The Democrats know their proposal cannot become law. It lacks support in the Senate, which is why I proposed an amendment that has support and that can actually become law immediately.

My amendment grants TPS to Venezuelans for 18 months. It requires congressional approval for TPS extensions of no more than 18 months at a time. My amendment limits the ability of illegal aliens who have no connection to the TPS designation to benefit from TPS. It ensures that human rights violators who are identified under the Magnitsky Act are not eligible for TPS status. It includes provisions to distinguish that TPS status does not count as an admission for purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Under my amendment, TPS recipients cannot return to the TPS country during the period of designation. Finally, the amendment requires that current TPS designations come up for congressional review 2 years after the enactment of this amendment.

My amendment is the only way to help the Venezuelan people. It is the only proposal that can become law. There is no path forward for the Democrats' plan, and, unfortunately, they know it.

It is clear, now more than ever, that, unfortunately, the Democrats don't want to get anything done on this issue. That is why they are standing in our way. All Republican Senators have signed off on this. Unfortunately, the Democrats have decided to use the Venezuelan community as a political prop instead of working with us to find a solution.

We cannot lose sight of the fact that Nicolas Maduro is killing his citizens. It is a genocide. Who will we be if we turn our backs on a genocide right here in our hemisphere? We cannot. We must help Venezuelan families.

It is also time to reform TPS in this country. Temporary protected status was never meant to be endless. It was meant to help families in need. So let's get the program to work.

I look forward to working with my colleague from Maryland and with all of my colleagues to help the families in

Venezuela and to finally create a long-term solution to TPS. I will not rest until we do.

My colleague Senator RAND PAUL asked that I object to the Senate Democrats' proposal. On behalf of Senator PAUL, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CARPER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—H.R. 3055

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to offer the following amendments: No. 961, No. 1019, and No. 1067. I further ask unanimous consent that no second-degree amendments be in order to these amendments prior to the votes and that at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, October 28, the Senate vote in relation to these amendments in the order listed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAMER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TURKEY AND SYRIA

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I want to take the next 15 or 20 minutes today to talk about the ongoing situation in Syria and the region surrounding that country.

It is a part of the world that some folks might not be all that familiar with, so let's take a look at the area that I will be discussing today: Syria, the Mediterranean, with Greece up here.

Just north of Syria, we have Turkey. To the southeast of Syria, we have Iraq. Further to the east of Iraq, we have Iran. To the south-southwest of Syria, we have Lebanon, Israel, and Jordan. South of Jordan is Saudi Arabia. Over here we have Egypt, the Red Sea, and Georgia—not the State, the country. That gives us just a little bit of the lay of the land. The focus of my remarks today will be on Syria.

Three years and 4 months ago this week, I stood here on the Senate floor

in front of a map of Syria and spoke of the progress that was about to be made in that country in the battle to degrade and destroy ISIS.

We are going to look at another map. It is pretty much the same area, blown up—Syria, Iraq, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Israel. The area here in what I call a peach color is where ISIS was running the show or had undue influence.

At this particular point in time, ISIS had been making undeniable progress in building what they called their caliphate, their country, their capital. Again, this is the area they covered at the height of their influence.

ISIS at that time had recruited more manpower than any terrorist group in the world and was also the richest terrorist group in the world. They would literally go into an area of the town or country and loot the banks, empty the vaults, take the cash, take the money, and run.

Through their dominant social media presence, ISIS was attracting some 2,000 foreign fighters per month. That included 10 Americans per month, which would mean over 100 Americans per year on an annual basis. ISIS controlled most of northern Syria, including Raqqa, which it claimed as its capital, and the strategic city of Manbij, which is close by.

ISIS was able to project an image of strength to the world, reeling in potential recruits by touting their victories in the region. You know how everybody wants to be the winner in football, and you see a lot of people wearing Boston Patriots clothing. We will probably see a lot more Nats fans in the months to come and Houston Astros fans as well. But ISIS was projecting an image of strength to the world, and they were reeling in potential recruits by touting their victories in the region and their growing territory.

Three years and four months ago, when I stood here on the Senate floor, progress was actually being made in reversing ISIS's growth. U.S. and Kurdish forces had recaptured Manbij, sending ISIS recruitment tumbling, from about 2,000 fighters a month down to 200. I will say that again. They were recruiting 2,000 a month, and they were down to about 200.

We had found where they kept a lot of their money, not all of it, but we destroyed about one-third of it. ISIS had previously held the strategically important Sunni Triangle in nearby Iraq. But when I spoke on the floor, right here, 3 years ago, in 2016, Iraqi forces recaptured the cities of Tikrit, Fallujah, and Ramadi, and we were poised to make additional gains in the months that followed in the battle against ISIS.

Just over a year later, in 2017, Raqqa was recaptured from ISIS control. Around that time, and in the months that followed, ISIS's sphere of influence undoubtedly diminished by about two-thirds.

I referred to that map already, but we will look at it again. This is where