

American people need to understand what just happened here.

As a result of this objection, I get to tell my Omaha firefighters that their safety and the health and safety of our healthcare providers in Nebraska and across this country are at risk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. In response, I certainly am not arguing that there is not a need for respirators, but let me be very clear that this provides immunity for respirator manufacturers from this point onward.

Again, I need to reiterate. This has nothing to do with recognizing the need for respirators. What I am arguing is there should be a timeframe for this because this protection is supposed to be during a public health crisis, and I am saying that the way the House is approaching this is, they would like to provide this protection for respirator manufacturers for a period of 4 years. We can certainly evaluate it at that point.

So, clearly, my objection does not mean the death knell for this amendment. It means that we should work it out so we can provide an appropriate timeframe.

So I, once again, reiterate my objection to the current form of this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of a bill that is at the desk. I further ask that the bill be considered read three times 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?

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Reserving the right to object, the legislation that is offered by my colleague is too narrow in scope. It does not cover all respirators currently recommended by the CDC for healthcare professionals who are treating patients with COVID-19. My colleagues know that. This is inadequate.

The legislation that the senior Senator from Arizona and I have offered covers all CDC-recommended respirators. Moreover, our bill is not limited to this specific public health emergency but rather responsibly addresses future public health respirator needs. We are looking at what is going to happen in the future, and right here, right now, the Senate does have this opportunity to address these current emergencies and, yes, future emergencies by making sure that we can provide life-saving equipment to the American people. So, accordingly, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, so, once again, I repeat that this has nothing to do with stopping these respirators for this particular crisis to be included as necessary equipment under the current statute. I do think we ought to be able to come together to come up with a reasonable approach that can be supported in a bipartisan way.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. I would suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

USA FREEDOM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2020—Motion to Proceed

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order to proceed to Calendar No. 440, H.R. 6172.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 440, H.R. 6172.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 440, H.R. 6172, a bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to prohibit the production of certain business records, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I send a cloture motion to the desk for the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 440, H.R. 6172, a bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to prohibit the production of certain business records, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Thom Tillis, Marco Rubio, Pat Roberts, Tom Cotton, Roger F. Wicker, Deb Fischer, John Thune, Shelley Moore Capito, Lamar Alexander, Richard Burr, Tim Scott, Mitt Romney, Roy Blunt, Bill Cassidy, James E. Risch, Ben Sasse.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. 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.

REMEMBERING CHARLES FREEMAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, On April 29, 1983, Justice Charles Freeman made history as the first African-American jurist to swear in Chicago's first, elected African-American mayor, Harold Washington. Justice Freeman went on to become the first, and so far the only, African-American justice to serve on the Illinois Supreme Court. During his more than four decades, Justice Freeman helped shape Illinois's history through his achievements, his jurisprudence, and his mentoring of a generation of new lawyers he guided to the bench. On March 2, he passed away, and I rise today to honor his memory.

Charles Freeman was born in Richmond, VA, in 1933. He was descended from slaves freed by Quakers before the Civil War. As a child, he brought newspapers to legendary civil rights attorney Oliver W. Hill's office. His father was a hard-working man who loved to read and always stressed that he wanted Charles and his brother to become lawyers. The Freemans lived walking distance from Virginia Union University in Richmond, and that is where Charles and his brother went to college. Charles Freeman graduated from college in 1954 and served in the U.S. Army from 1956 to 1958, stationed in South Korea. After his service, he married Marylee Voelker and moved to Chicago. While in Chicago, he attended John Marshall Law School at night, and he worked for the Cook County Department of Public Aid.

After law school, Justice Freeman started working as a precinct worker for former Representative Ralph H. Metcalfe, cofounder of the Congressional Black Caucus. Justice Freeman befriended Harold Washington while helping Metcalfe, and they formed a law practice partnership. In 1965, Governor Otto Kerner appointed Freeman arbitrator for the Illinois Industrial Commission administering workers' compensation cases. In 1973, Governor Dan Walker appointed him a commissioner for the Illinois Commerce Commission.

In 1976, Justice Freeman was elected to serve as a judge on the Cook County Circuit Court. In 1986, he was elected to the Illinois Appellate Court, and 4 years later, he became the first African American elected to the Illinois Supreme Court. His peers chose him to serve as chief justice in 1997 until 2000. As chief justice, Freeman reorganized the rotation of appellate judges in the First Judicial District. Before, appellate judges sat on the same panels for

their entire careers. He helped improve the Family Violence Prevention Program. Justice Freeman also improved the educational program for judges statewide and pushed for the creation of a special committee to study the death penalty and reforms.

While Justice Freeman was a great jurist, his legacy is also reflected in his efforts to promote a diverse judiciary. He appointed 11 of the 16 African Americans who have served on the First District Appellate Court since 1990. It was important to him that people saw in the courtroom judges and lawyers that reflected society. He mentored so many in the field.

During his career, Justice Freeman received many awards for his service, including the Freedom Award from the John Marshall Law School, the Seymour Simon Justice Award from the Jewish Judges Association, the Earl Burrus Dickerson Award from the Chicago Bar Association, and the Ira B. Platt Award and the Presidential Award from the Cook County Bar Association.

Charles Freeman is survived by his son Kevin and daughter-in-law Cami, by two grandchildren, and by his brother James. I want to extend my sympathies to his family and loved ones. The loss of Justice Freeman is a loss for our State and for the whole country.

RECOGNIZING NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 125th anniversary of the founding of Northern Illinois University, or NIU, a renowned institution with a long record as a public research university and the proud home of Huskies.

Like many great State universities across this country, Northern Illinois University began as an expansion of the normal school program, otherwise commonly known as a teachers college. Near the end of the 19th century, as our Nation's population continued to experience rapid growth, the State of Illinois recognized the need to prioritize teacher training in Northern Illinois to increase access to education in the burgeoning community. NIU was founded in DeKalb, IL, in 1895 to help more students receive a high-quality education, and it still serves those same goals today.

NIU is a university of diversity. From its very first day, NIU has charted a course of inclusion and accessibility that focused on the students and their education. NIU has proven its commitment in this area by expanding opportunities and pathways to college for students from underserved communities and to those that are the first in their family to attend college. Over the years, NIU has been at the forefront of recognizing the unique challenges of these communities and has worked tirelessly to identify ways to address them as part of its strong commitment to students.

NIU is a university of opportunity. Today, nearly three quarters of NIU students fall into one or more of the following categories: about 45 percent of the students are Pell grant-eligible, 50 percent are students of color, and 50 percent are first-generation college students. I would like to commend NIU for its work to make higher education more accessible for families from all communities and walks of life.

NIU is a university of excellence. NIU has a nationally recognized faculty that includes prominent experts and leading scholars from a variety of disciplines, including science, East Asian studies, and visual and performance arts. After receiving a first-class education at NIU, over 200,000 alumni have gone on to make a difference in the Midwest and across the world, teaching people about the value of NIU as they do.

The State of Illinois has been enriched by NIU, and I look forward to the school's many contributions in the years ahead. It is my distinct honor to congratulate President Lisa Freeman and the entire NIU community on its 125th anniversary.

SUNSHINE WEEK

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise to submit to the Senate a statement in support of Sunshine Week, an annual event that spotlights the key need of a government-transparency. Without openness and access to how all levels of government spend tax dollars or make key decisions, accountability and oversight will lack.

Where transparency is lacking, waste, fraud, and duplication tend to proliferate. The Government Accountability Office-GAO-regularly cites "lack of transparency" as a chronic problem across many agencies and programs. This can have serious consequences. This causes increased taxpayer spending and improper payments. This hinders competition. In turn, a lack of transparency can affect everything from public health to our national defense.

Given the profound and far-reaching impacts of Federal programs and policies, the people need to know how their tax dollars are being spent.

Without access to reliable, accurate information, how can we be sure good decisions are being made when it comes to spending the tax dollars of hard-working families? Sure that the policies we craft in this Chamber are working as intended? Sure that our limited resources go where they are needed most? Sure that the programs we create aren't causing harm?

Well that is why, as the chairman of the Budget Committee, I have focused the last several years on enhancing transparency and improving both the quality and quantity of data available for all decisionmakers. I am extremely gratified that my colleagues from both sides of the aisle, along with key organizations and experts, so often join these efforts.

One step in the right direction is the Senate Budget Committee has started to publish regular scorekeeping reports. These are available for the public on the committee's website and track the budgetary impact of legislation approved by Congress against current spending levels. This helps provide other committees, Members of Congress, and taxpayers with ongoing updates about the fiscal implications of recently agreed upon legislation.

In addition, there are obviously many unknowns when it comes to agencies implementing the laws and programs already on the books. To address this concern, I led a bipartisan group of 15 Senators last July, along with Senator LANKFORD, to urge the White House Office of Management and Budget to make a complete list of all Federal programs publicly available in a central, governmentwide website. This would help to identify and eliminate program waste and duplication. Because, believe it or not, there is no comprehensive list of each and every program the Federal Government funds. It still isn't available.

The fact that legislators and taxpayers don't even know how many programs we have or what they do is troubling, particularly as we continue to create and fund new ones.

In the past, GAO has identified massive amounts of duplication across the Federal Government, including more than 12 programs on financial literacy, 160 Federal housing assistance programs or activities, 94 green building initiatives, 253 crime prevention programs, 14 diesel emission reduction programs, 45 early learning and child care programs, and 163 STEM programs.

Most recently, GAO's 2019 annual report on duplication found six different government programs engaged in quantum computing research. Clearly, all of these programs could be improved by some basic coordination or consolidation.

This simple inventory has been on the to-do list for almost a decade. There have been previous attempts, but those have fallen short. We will continue working with GAO and OMB until the list is actually published.

Most importantly, last fall, I joined with Senator WHITEHOUSE to introduce bipartisan budget process reform legislation—the first bipartisan budget reforms approved by the Senate Budget Committee since 1990.

The Bipartisan Congressional Budget Reform Act would increase transparency in the congressional budget process in a number of ways—by having Congress develop a fiscal plan that is easy to understand and offers the public a chance to view if Congress is living within its means, encouraging other committees to review the programs in their jurisdiction that are in most need of review, directing both GAO and the Congressional Budget Office to review program portfolios—portfolios are groups of programs with