

training. It also includes language that does more for the coordination and data collection amongst Tribal, local, State, and Federal law enforcement. So that is significant. The Executive order that was issued by the Trump administration late last year was very important in this effort.

I personally acknowledge the good work that Tara Sweeney has done, the Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs. She has pulled together the agency coordination to respond to these cases. She has shown extraordinary heart—real heart—in responding to the calls from Tribes and advocates to address the crisis of missing and murdered Native women. So there has been so much at play that has come together.

What we need now is for the House to act on these legislative measures that we have moved through the Senate so that the President can sign them into law.

I think we recognize that as we are dealing with these matters that are directly related to the day-to-day response to COVID, as we have seen our economies slowed, as we have moved indoors to telework, the work that is required for us to help protect the most vulnerable among us continues. We know that work continues.

As we have worked aggressively across the country and in Alaskan communities to flatten the curve out there as it relates to the coronavirus, we know, unfortunately, that we have seen an uptick in domestic violence. Unfortunately, and truly sadly for so many, the order to shelter in place—“safer at home” is the terminology used in some communities, and safer at home doesn’t necessarily mean safe at home for far too many. Shelter in place is not a safe shelter. We are seeing increased calls to police departments during this time, but, interestingly enough, we are not seeing an increase in those who are seeking help or shelter in our women’s shelters.

It was just a couple of weeks ago that I had a phone call with representatives from the various women’s shelters around my State, with probably a dozen or so women on the line, and I asked specifically: How are we doing in the shelters? What are we seeing? Their numbers are down, and if you look at it from just a numbers perspective, you would say “Good.” But we know that domestic violence doesn’t disappear or go away at times like the ones we are facing now; it just goes underground. I think what we are seeing is that concern and fear. As difficult as the situation may be at home, it might be more frightening to go to a shelter where one may be exposed to this invisible threat of the virus.

I wish I could say that, as a consequence of what we are seeing, our shelters are better off, but I fear that those who would seek shelter are not better off. So to make sure we are prepared to address these needs is yet another challenge for us in this body: to come together to address these issues

that we know are with us—not only the levels of domestic violence but the impact that we know is present when it comes to mental and behavioral health, when people are fragile and yet are afraid to seek help because of the exposure to something else. We have work to do in this area, and that is something I intend to focus on in the days and weeks ahead.

I was encouraged to hear my friend, the Senator from Texas, Mr. CORNYN, speaking to just these issues yesterday on the floor. We have much to do. These are challenging times on many different levels.

As we recognize this day of awareness for those who have gone missing—for those women and girls who have been murdered—know that this is more than just raising awareness. It is up to us. We owe it to them, their families, and their loved ones to act as well.

With that, I yield the floor.

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

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

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#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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##### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

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##### IOWA SAFE SCHOOLS ANNUAL GOVERNOR’S CONFERENCE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, Iowa Safe Schools is holding its 15th annual Iowa Governor’s Conference on May 11, this time as a virtual conference, given the circumstances. I understand this has been an annual tradition starting in 2006. It is an effort to help end bullying in our schools and to create leadership opportunities for LGBTQ youth students from not just Iowa but from States across the Midwest. I wish all the participants a successful conference. I hope you have a good time.

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##### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

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##### RECOGNIZING NORTH DAKOTA’S DELEGATES TO THE SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM

• Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, one of the outstanding programs offered in the U.S. Senate recognizes the best of America’s high school juniors and sen-

iors. Since 1963, the U.S. Senate Youth Program has selected two students from each State who rank high academically, excel in leadership and volunteerism, and have a passion for public service. They also receive a \$10,000 college scholarship.

These young delegates have come to Washington, DC, every spring for a week of education and tours highlighting all three branches of government. Unfortunately, like so many other programs and events, this year’s trip to Washington was cancelled as our Nation faces the coronavirus threat. This is only the second time in the program’s nearly 60 years that the delegates have not gathered in Washington for this memorable week.

As one of the eight Senators serving on the Senate Youth Program’s Advisory Committee, I want to congratulate all who were selected to be delegates this year and assure them we share their disappointment they could not be with us this month. I also want to recognize North Dakota’s two delegates, Megha Bharadwaj and Rachel Goven.

Megha is a junior at St. Mary’s Central High School in Bismarck. Her leadership positions include being the State treasurer for the North Dakota Future Business Leaders of America and a board member and publicity director for AchieveWE. Megha has received top honors participating in school, district, and State competitions in Voices of Democracy, debate, speech, and Science Olympiad. In addition, she reports for her school newspaper, sings in the jazz choir, and speaks at community events. She plans to attend law school and enter the world of politics.

Rachel is a senior at Turtle Lake Mercer High School, where she is the vice president of her senior class and involved in Student Council and National Honor Society. She attended North Dakota Girls State and is a North Dakota rural electric cooperative youth leader. Rachel enjoys band and choir, yearbook, cheerleading, and basketball. In her church, she is a youth band member and camp counselor and is a willing volunteer for other community events.

I congratulate both Megha and Rachel for receiving this honor and welcome them to an alumni group of Senate Youth Program delegates who are 5,500 individuals strong. Many of them have gone on to distinguish themselves in every area of public service, including two of my colleagues, Senator SUSAN COLLINS of Maine and Senator CORY GARDNER of Colorado. I fully expect that I will meet up with Megha and Rachel in the future as they continue to excel in academic and professional arenas throughout their lives.●

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##### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:20 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to section