

States fund our elections. Let's dispel the notion that voting at home is somehow a partisan issue. One of the States with the highest number of mail-in ballots is the State of Utah. It is not exactly a bright-blue State. Another State that has a very high number of people voting from home is the State of Colorado. This is a State that tends to be a purple State. Then we have blue States, like Oregon and Washington. Then we have a State like Arizona that, again, has a high number of people voting by mail. On the other end are States that don't have as many people voting by mail, but we have a mixture of States too. New York is at like 5 percent right now. Then we have a number of States, like Alabama, that don't have a lot of people voting by mail.

We don't think—at least I don't think—that every single person is going to vote by mail in the election this November. The key is to give them options and to be able to work with our States so that, if we do provide funding—and I am so hopeful that we will be able to come to some kind of agreement here—they can use that money to expand their votes by mail, because we know their citizens are going to request it, and also to make sure voting on election day will be safe. There are ways to do that by encouraging more people, if they don't want to vote by mail, to vote early so fewer people will be there on the same day.

What do we see when we look at this? A recent poll shows that in some of the key States across the country, both Republican and Democratic voters—70 to 80 percent of them—want to be able to vote by mail. We have Governors in States like New Hampshire—Republican Governors—in Maryland, and in Ohio who want to vote by mail. That is the way they want to go. We have a secretary of state who is a Republican in the State of Washington who wants to vote by mail. Her entire State basically votes by mail right now, and they are good people who can talk about why this is working for them and how we can make it work but only if they have the funds. We are not going to be able to give them the funds in, say, October and then be able to make sure this has happened.

In conclusion, 17 States still have Presidential primaries, and numerous others have primaries for other Federal offices, and, of course, we have the general election on November 3, which is less than 6 months away. We cannot let more Americans experience what we have just seen happen in Wisconsin with the garbage bags, with the homemade masks, with the people getting off work at the hospitals and standing in line. Nobody should have to choose between one's health and one's right to vote.

I am committed to securing additional funding in the upcoming relief package, but we have fixes that we must make to the original funding that we made in the first bill, in the first

piece of legislation, and we need to get that money out to our election officials today.

For these reasons, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of a bill at the desk to modify the provisions on funding for election security grants. 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Wisconsin.

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, there are many things that the Senator from Minnesota spoke to that I think most of us would agree with.

This COVID crisis has created all kinds of issues that need to be thoroughly discussed and thoroughly debated. I think there are a number of us on this side of the aisle—I am just one standing up—who object to this unanimous consent request. The good news for the Senator from Minnesota is, in talking with those colleagues, they also agree there is a fair number of elements in this bill with which they could probably find agreement.

I rise to certainly extend my hand in cooperation with the Senator from Minnesota. Let's work on these things together, although this is not a bill that comes through my committee's jurisdiction. I can say, in my committee, we work across the aisle. Staff does an awful lot of work, and we come to a conclusion. If it is not ready for a particular markup, we go back and get the work done. We frequently pass a piece of legislation by voice vote and then bring it to the floor when it has all been ironed out. There is no disagreement, and there is no objection, and we pass those bills by unanimous consent.

I think the problem here is that this bill has never had any kind of committee markup or any committee work whatsoever. So I would just suggest that the Senator from Minnesota work with her committee and her committee chair. I see the committee chair is here in the Chamber. Work on this. Try to find those areas of agreement. Then maybe we could pass this and maybe potentially pass this by unanimous consent. This piece of legislation is not ready. It hasn't gone through that process. As a result, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I appreciate my colleague's words in that he is willing to work with me on this bill.

We know we need the immediate fixes to the first piece of legislation, but we also need to look forward to what we have in front of us. That is to make sure that we help our States to be able to conduct their elections in a safe way so that Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—anyone who

wants to vote, whatever party one is in—is able to safely vote.

Let's remember that, while people were lining those streets to vote in Wisconsin, the President of the United States was able to request a mail-in ballot from Palm Beach, FL, and vote in the comfort of 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. That is an image—a split screen—that I don't think anyone wants to see. I think what we want to see is fairness for all Americans. You do that by getting them the funding ahead of time, by making sure we have rules in place that work for everyone, by acknowledging this has never been nor should it be a partisan issue, and by telling all Americans that we have worked this out, that we are getting the funding to the States, that we are working with all of their States, and that we have put in some fair rules so that no American will be denied the right to vote.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, this is National Police Week. It is one of the weeks that I always look forward to.

For years now, it has been an opportunity to spend time with people who protect us—who protect all of us. We get a chance each day to say thank you to the Capitol Police, who work here at the Capitol. As the chairman of the Law Enforcement Caucus, I have lots of opportunities in our State to see officers in groups and one at a time, and I always try to be thankful to them when I see them. Yet this is a time every year when we get a chance to see people from all over the country come to Washington, and it is a chance for us to say thank you to them and thank you to their families.

This year in particular, Chief Jon Belmar—the just recently retiring chief at the St. Louis County Police Department and good friend who was always there for advice, always brought a big contingent of officers to Police Week. So I am thinking about him and of not seeing him at Police Week in Washington.

I am also thinking about the new chief of the St. Louis County Police Department, Chief Mary Barton. This is a county of over a million people, so it is a substantial job. It is a place to really affect how police work is done. I look forward to spending time with Chief Barton as she moves forward with what she can do to build on what has happened in the department over the years.

Like so much else this year, Police Week is different than it has been before. There are no sounds of hundreds of motorcycles going down the streets of Washington as we celebrate the week. There are no groups of law enforcement officers or police vehicles from all over the country coming here. I am grateful for them. They protect

our safety. This is a job wherein, every day when you leave home, you have no idea what events may come before you that day, and, frankly, your family has no idea what may happen that day.

I have told a number of officers, in thinking about their families, including the officers who serve here at the Capitol, that they generally have some sense as to whether they are in a moment that could lead to danger or not beyond the normal readiness to serve us but that their families, with their not being with them when they are at work, have to wonder over and over again during the day what threat may come to the person about whom they care so much as that person protects others.

Each year, one of the memorable events of National Police Week is the candlelight vigil that is held at the Law Enforcement Officers Memorial a few blocks from here. We gather there annually to hear the names of officers who have lost their lives and to bear witness to and be grateful for their service.

Sadly, in the past year, Missouri has lost three dedicated officers.

Last June, Lakeshire Chief of Police Wayne Neidenberg passed away after assisting at the scene of a rollover crash in O'Fallon, MO. Chief Neidenberg had stopped at the scene on his way home, called for assistance, and proceeded on after the situation was stabilized, but before he got out of his car at home, he had a heart attack. We lost Chief Neidenberg at that moment.

He spent his entire career in law enforcement. He served in both the St. Louis County Police Department and in the Lakeshire Police Department. He was an Army veteran. He is survived by Ardell, his wife; Cori, his daughter; and his three sons, Matthew, Darek, and Aaron.

On Sunday, June 23, North County Police Cooperative Officer Michael Langsdorf responded to a complaint of check fraud at a local business in Wellston, MO. The man who has been charged with his murder shot Officer Langsdorf after a struggle inside the store. He had served with the department for only 3 months, but before that, for 17 years, he had been part of the St. Louis City Metropolitan Police force.

At his memorial service, Officer Langsdorf's son, Kaleb, remembered his dad this way:

They say never to meet your heroes because you'll end up disappointed. Well, I had the chance to be raised by mine, and he never disappointed. He taught me that a life of rescuing, defending and serving is the only life worth living.

In addition to Kaleb, Officer Langsdorf is survived by Kim, his fiancée; by Olivia, his daughter; and by his future stepchildren, Devin and Kaitlyn.

Officer Christopher Walsh joined the Springfield Police Department in 2016. On the evening of Sunday, March 15 of

this year, Officer Walsh responded to an active shooter situation at a convenience store. The shooter had opened fire in the store, killing three people and injuring a fourth person. Officer Walsh rushed into harm's way to protect others. The shooter opened fire on Officer Walsh and killed him. His fellow officer, Josiah Overton, was injured in the same attack. Officer Walsh was fatally wounded and died the next day.

He was a U.S. Army Reservist. During his 14 years of service in the Reserves, he completed tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Sheri, his wife, and Morgan, their daughter, will live with his loss for the rest of their lives.

Let me share a passage from Chris's obituary. Chris, by the way, was the first Springfield officer of the town I live in to be killed on duty since the 1930s. It is a great city with the great, good fortune of its officers' managing to do their jobs without having a loss like this, but we had one this year.

The quote from his obituary reads:

Christopher Ryan Walsh, a man devoid of vanity and devoted to the service and to the welfare of others, would hope that out of these tragic circumstances something beautiful could take root in all of our hearts. Chris would hope that his memory would serve as an example to spur small kindnesses and acts of devotion and service to all of our community, friends and loved ones, to look past the things that separate us and to focus on the things that unite us.

So Police Week is exactly the time to think about the things that unite us, to think about these officers and their courage, to think about their acts of devotion and service as we remember them.

Congress wants to make sure that law enforcement officers have the support they need and never get into a situation without the resources needed to back them up. I am honored to serve as cochairman of the bipartisan Senate Law Enforcement Caucus, which advances legislation that supports the efforts of law enforcement nationwide. Senator COONS from Delaware is the other founder and cochair.

Together, we sponsored the National Law Enforcement Museum Commemorative Coin Act that became law last year. The proceeds of the sales from those coins minted under the law would go to education and outreach about the service and sacrifice of law enforcement officers throughout our country's history.

I am also a cosponsor of legislation that would provide resources to protect officers' mental and physical well-being, including the Law Enforcement Suicide Data Collection Act and the Lifesaving Gear for Police Act. I am glad to be a cosponsor of the Thin Blue Line Act and the Back the Blue Act, both of which are designed to better protect police officers and hold perpetrators who attack them accountable. Through these pieces of legislation and several others, the Congress has a chance to once again show its support of the men and women who serve in law enforcement.

Police Week is different this year. I think we are all particularly appreciative of how law enforcement is having to step up in the crisis of the virus, doing what needs to be done, and again often making way for first responders and others to do what they can to save life and to protect other people who somehow are on the edges of this virus. They deal with people who are isolated in their homes, and because they are isolated, their mental health issues have become bigger issues. This is not an easy time for any of those who serve.

Every year, we remember law enforcement, but this year I think we need to be particularly grateful for those who serve and protect us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BRAUN). The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 564.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Scott H. Rash, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

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

The bill 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 nomination of Scott H. Rash, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

Mitch McConnell, Chuck Grassley, Joni Ernst, John Barrasso, Deb Fischer, John Cornyn, Roger F. Wicker, Roy Blunt, John Thune, Rob Portman, Shelley Moore Capito, Steve Daines, Lindsey Graham, Pat Roberts, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Richard Burr, Mike Crapo.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 640.