

The COVID-19 pandemic didn't go away while the Nation rightfully turned its eyes to issues of racial justice.

Yesterday, the United States eclipsed 2 million cases of coronavirus. Another 1.5 million Americans filed for unemployment this week. Federal Reserve officials—sober, nonpolitical—are predicting that, best case, we will end the year around 10 percent unemployment—a staggering figure. One out of every 10.

The disease is spiking in a number of States around the country. Arizona officials have warned that its hospitals could be filled by next month. Texas has gone 3 straight days with record numbers of hospitalizations. North Carolina, New Mexico, California, Oregon, and several other States are experiencing a resurgence or peak levels of COVID-19.

As the President continues to fixate on the stock market and Senate Republicans are prematurely ready to declare victory, we need to wrest the focus back to these crucial issues. So today I am requesting that Dr. Fauci and Dr. Birx and other members of the administration's Coronavirus Task Force conduct a briefing for Democratic Senators on the recent spikes and do it next week. We need to understand why these spikes are happening and how to adapt our national response.

The President—always interested in himself, not in the good of the country—was too quick to sideline the Coronavirus Task Force, too eager to pretend that everything was back to normal and better than ever. The country needs Dr. Fauci on billboards, but the President wants to put him on a milk carton.

The Vice President yesterday was photographed with campaign staffers in a tight space, no social distancing, without anyone wearing a mask. The very least the administration could do is lead by example and often cannot even manage that much.

At the same time, we cannot forget that the issues of racial justice and COVID-19 are intricately related. The COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately kills Black Americans. Communities of color have less access to quality healthcare, greater food insecurity, greater percentages of poverty, and a disproportionate number of our front-line essential workers—41.2 percent—are African American and Latino. The majority of African Americans are renters and dedicate more than 50 percent of their income to rent.

The truth is, an emergency bill on COVID-19 is a racial justice issue too. Hazard pay for essential workers is a racial justice issue too. Healthcare is a racial justice issue too. Rent assistance and forbearance from eviction is a racial justice issue too. These are all items that must be discussed in another COVID relief bill, and it is past time to get to work.

African Americans, Latinos, and other minorities are taking the eco-

nomie hit from the coronavirus on the chin, but Senate Republicans, led by Leader MCCONNELL, are reportedly unwilling to consider another emergency relief bill until late July. How many more workers will lose their jobs between now and late July? How many renters will be kicked out of their homes between now and late July? How many State and local government workers will lose their jobs, as State and local governments meet their budget deadlines on July 1 and don't have the dollars to deal with them? How many of them will lose their jobs? Waiting until late July is callous, it is cold, and it is wrong for our economy.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the Republican majority seems to have a whole lot of time to push rightwing judges. That is what they want to do next week. And both of the judges that they nominate—to show the hypocrisy of those who talk about wanting to help and compare it to their actions, both of those judges have an antipathy to our healthcare law. In the middle of a public healthcare crisis, the Republican majority thinks they can get away with stuff like this, but they can't. Americans are catching on. One of the nominees, Cory Wilson, has an alarming record on voting rights in the middle of a national reckoning on racial injustice, and you are all going to vote for him? This guy has opposed voting rights, and you are going to vote for him. They oppose healthcare. You are going to vote for them. And then they are going to give nice speeches on how they want equality. The two have to add up together.

ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. The Republican majority also seems to have time to chase all of President Trump's wild conspiracy theories about how he was wronged by law enforcement—the poor, beleaguered President Trump. My goodness. That is what is happening in Judiciary today. Republican Majority Leader MCCONNELL can devote time to that, but they can't commit to time on the floor about how Black Americans are being wronged by law enforcement.

In order to bring a small appearance of fairness to this ridiculous Judiciary Committee vote today, Democrats will be requesting subpoenas for Trump campaign associates like Michael Cohen, Rick Gates, George Papadopoulos, and Michael Flynn, among others. These men have at one time or another pled guilty to offenses related to Putin's interference in the election. Let's hear what they have to say, or should this be just a one-sided kangaroo court to please President Trump?

If the Republican conspiracy caucus wants to waste the Senate's time dredging up old conspiracy theories about the previous election, let's at

least get the straight story. Let's at least hear witnesses who might have something different to say. This is not a dictatorship. This is not how courts or hearings are supposed to work, I would say to the Republican chairman, and it is beneath his dignity and the dignity of the body to conduct such sham, kangaroo court hearings.

I yield the floor.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BARRASSO). Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

TAXPAYER FIRST ACT OF 2019— Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1957, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1957) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize and improve the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell (for Gardner) amendment No. 1617, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell amendment No. 1626 (to amendment No. 1617), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 1627 (to amendment No. 1626), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 1628 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 1617), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 1629 (to amendment No. 1628), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with instructions, McConnell amendment No. 1630, to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 1631 (to (the instructions) amendment No. 1630), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 1632 (to amendment No. 1631), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

(The remarks of Mr. THUNE pertaining to the introduction of S. 3938 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. THUNE. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

PROTESTS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, it has been 17 days since Minneapolis police murdered George Floyd; 90 days since police in Louisville, KY, killed Breonna Taylor, who would have turned 27 just days ago; and 109 days since Ahmaud Arbery was killed by

armed White residents in South Georgia.

These are just some of the most recent examples of the senseless, repeated killings of Black people in our communities, including by police, that have led to the massive outpouring of anger and grief we have seen on display in streets across the country. We know that these protests are not only about unjust tragedies. They are also about Tony McDade, Sandra Bland, Mike Brown, Atatiana Jefferson, Walter Scott, Philando Castile, Aiyana Stanley-Jones, and Tamir Rice, as well as Manny Ellis, Charleena Lyles, and Che Taylor, from my home State of Washington. There are countless Black people and people of color whose vast majority of names we don't know whose lives have been unfairly taken.

Even more important, these protests are driven by people, including many young people, who are justifiably sick and tired of the systemic racism behind those killings that is deeply woven throughout the fabric of our democracy and our history and rightly believe we are not moving forward nearly fast enough.

I know this is true in my home State of Washington, where according to data compiled by the Mapping Police Violence database, between 2013 and 2019, Black people were more than three times more likely to be killed by police. It is beyond clear that the disproportionate impact of police violence on Black communities—as well as other communities of color—is not some accident, and it speaks to a rot that is deep in the design of our Nation. I come to the floor today because our Nation has to change, because the people are demanding it, and I believe each of us, especially those of us privileged enough to serve in the U.S. Senate, is responsible for being a part of the solution.

It has been more than 2 weeks since George Floyd's murder, and we are still seeing protests across the country in towns big and small, in urban and rural areas. More importantly, they don't seem to be stopping. More and more people are getting engaged and learning and listening and signaling. We have a real opportunity to make change in our country. I believe strongly this is a problem we can start to solve today, and we have policies to do it.

One major step we can take is by passing the legislation offered this week by Senators HARRIS and BOOKER. I thank them for their moral leadership on so many challenges but especially this week with the introduction of the Justice in Policing Act. Their legislation would, among other things, reform qualified immunity that is an antiquated judicial doctrine that has kept so many officers from being held accountable for violating Americans' constitutional rights. It would ban the use of choke holds and carotid holds and make Federal funds available only for State and local departments com-

mitted to codifying an end to these shameful tactics in law. It would reform the use-of-force standards to make officers clear a higher bar before using deadly force and require deadly force to be used only as a last resort.

It would ban the use of no-knock warrants in Federal drug cases and provide strong incentives to State and local governments to do the same. It would strengthen transparency of policing through data, like creating a national police misconduct registry to prevent misconduct from being swept under the rug and requiring the Federal Government to finally begin national tracking of incidences of use of force.

It would limit the transfer of military-grade equipment to State and local law enforcement, as well as steps to restore and build on many of the policing reform efforts initiated during the Obama administration. None of these policies should be controversial for any of us here in the Senate, Democrat or Republican. We have all seen the same egregious violence and the same abuses of power from police in the communities we represent—communities whose safety should be our priority. It is undeniable that change is not only necessary but long overdue, and there is absolutely no reason this body shouldn't be able to take up these straightforward vital steps and pass them immediately.

Now, I don't think Senators HARRIS or BOOKER or any of us cosponsoring the bill think this is a panacea or a solution to all of the longstanding problems the last few weeks have laid bare, but this is action that we can start taking now to begin ensuring justice and accountability in our laws and in our law enforcement and, hopefully, help put us on a path to begin to heal our Nation's deep wounds.

While we need to pass legislation to address police brutality, we can't stop there. The Justice in Policing Act is the first of many steps we need to take in Congress to help reset our Nation's moral compass. It isn't lost on me—the massive uprising of peaceful protests against police brutality we have seen in recent days—that it is happening while many of our States are still working overtime to address the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and to keep people safe as we reopen communities.

Over the last couple of weeks, I have been in contact with Black leaders and activists on the ground back home, and I have heard over and over again about the connection between the racism at the heart of the policing of Black communities and the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on them and their families, and, more importantly, how traumatizing multilayered challenges like these can be for Black people in our lives who deal with these injustices day in and day out.

For instance, one Black civil rights leader in southwest Washington told me how their community has had a

hard time getting vulnerable members of the Black community tested. She is fighting for more resources and support, and she is organizing car rallies to enable people to make their voices heard against police brutality while still maintaining social distancing. Another Black leader in Seattle shared with me how absolutely critical it is that Black and other underserved communities have access to COVID-19 testing and healthcare during this ongoing pandemic, that these were both important, and that it isn't an either/or proposition.

That people are rushing to the streets to make their voices heard in the middle of a global health emergency underscores how serious this moment in our country is and highlights the depths of the injustices baked into our systems at every level. This means that during this unprecedented public health emergency, we must prioritize equity in our response, including ensuring that we are collecting the necessary demographic data to target our efforts toward those most in need and using this data to aggressively address disparities; making sure critical supplies like testing kits and PPEs are getting to our hardest hit communities, which is not happening consistently and is contributing to Black and Brown communities suffering disproportionately from the health and economic impacts of this virus; not to mention planning now for equitable distribution of a safe and effective vaccine.

More broadly, the protests are a passionate call for meaningful change in our systems and institutions to combat the status quo of racism and anti-Blackness that stains our democracy. In order to make the right policy and resource decisions to help us change America for the better and move toward a more just and peaceful future, it is critical that we all try to stand in the shoes of those demanding change and hear what they are saying from the perspective of their life experience, not solely of our own, because like I have heard recently in my conversations with Black Washingtonians, it is not that these are new ideas or proposals, but that as a Nation we haven't paid nearly enough attention to the profound grievances Black people have been raising for a long time.

What I hear is people crying out for this country to live up to its values, saying it is time for all of us, especially elected officials, to listen and act by reinvesting in supporting our communities, rather than allowing law enforcement to be an unaccountable, militarized nonanswer to perfectly understandable calls for better healthcare, better schools, and real safety.

It means not only addressing the racism and police violence in our national COVID-19 response but also in how we address maternal mortality, which disproportionately impacts Black women and families; and access to healthcare

more broadly for Black communities; and how we work to solve the climate crisis, which is a long-time demand of Black and Brown communities that have suffered some of the worst impacts of growing pollution; in how we work to close the gender pay gap that has Black and Latina women hardest; and in how we ensure equity of resources and opportunity and quality in our schools and our colleges and our universities; and much, much more.

Now, none of this will happen overnight, but it is important that we start the work now to dismantle systemic racism if we ever want to make justice and equality realities instead of distant ideas.

There is also another big piece. I would be remiss if I didn't mention it. I want to talk about something that I and so many people across this country—especially White people, who don't live every day feeling the impacts personally—are grappling with right now, which is the part of this work that isn't about our systems or our institutions. It is about looking inward.

Far too often the fear of finding out that you have been wrong or completely misunderstood closes us off from honest self-reflection and growth.

We can't let it. Let's be clear: Change in our own hearts and our own minds and in our communities is as fundamental and essential to truly overcoming racism in our country as reforming policies and systems.

Instead of letting fear of getting it wrong lead to inaction or complacency, I urge you to let it motivate you to listen and to learn because we all have more to do. I am personally committed to doing more. We all need to play a role in this work, especially our Nation's leaders, which is why it is so frustrating that next week, instead of addressing the profoundly urgent issues we are hearing about from literally all corners of this country, the Senate will be working toward confirming a personal friend of the majority leader's to a lifetime judicial nomination—and very little else. I refuse to accept this, and we all should.

I also haven't mentioned the President of the United States yet. Before I do, I want to make one thing really clear: He is not the cause of all this injustice; he is the symptom. And we, all of us, are the only cure. Instead of rising to try to unify the country, the President has shown more interest in fanning the flames of divisiveness and making dangerous, unconstitutional threats to intimidate into silence and suppress these vital protests.

To see this President at the helm of our country in this moment is tragic and frightening. But try as he might, the President cannot simply dismiss the legitimate anger on display in Seattle or Tacoma or Spokane or across the country at the pervasive and crushing impact of racism on Black people and other people of color.

For generations, we have seen in our newspapers and on our televisions and

from our cell phones the dire and unfair and too often fatal impacts of systemic racism on Black lives. Our focus must be on the painstaking work to actually address the deep, systemic racism in our country, which continues to create these moments of understandable despair.

I am going to keep listening to the people who are at the forefront of these movements, including leaning on the work that has already been done to help reimagine our Nation's approach to public safety, working to redirect taxpayer dollars towards community resources that invest in the health, safety, and security of Black people and others who have been historically overlooked, and acting, not just talking, to keep our momentum and efforts on this front progressing forward.

I am so glad I have been able to connect with leaders in Washington State on these issues. As an elected leader, I know I have to keep stepping up and amp up these necessary voices. Even though our country is at a crossroads—perhaps the most perilous one we have faced in recent memory—we have an opportunity for real progress right now. I feel it in the demands for change coming from the streets and on social media. I feel it in the energy, the resilience, and the courage of civil rights leaders on the ground in Washington State. And I feel it in the Justice in Policing Act.

In closing, I hope every single Senator in this Chamber will join Senators HARRIS, BOOKER, and myself in cosponsoring this critical legislation and getting it signed and on the books as quickly as possible. I challenge each of my colleagues and all of us to commit ourselves to a fairer, more compassionate vision for our future.

Some will say that nothing will change or can change, that we are stuck to live out this historical loop of racial intolerance in perpetuity. But, as Seattle-based writer Ijeoma Oluo reminds us, "you don't have to pretend to be free of racism to be an anti-racist . . . [a]nti-racism is the commitment to fight racism wherever you find it, including in yourself. And it's the only way forward."

As a country, let's commit to fight racism in our laws and systems. As individuals, let's commit to fight racism in ourselves and in our communities. This is the work before all of us.

As a voice for my State and as someone committed to forming a more perfect union for everyone, I intend to work for justice every day until it arrives.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida).

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, yesterday, our Senate Education Committee held a hearing on going back to school safely—a subject on the minds of tens of millions of American families—since today two-thirds of married parents both work outside the home, and they have children. The children are ready to go back to school, and the parents are even more ready for them to go back to school.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD following my remarks this morning my opening statement from that hearing.

The commissioner of education from Tennessee—and I know that the Presiding Officer, while he is a proud Senator from Florida, also knows a little bit about Tennessee, having lived there—was one of our witnesses there. She said: We want children to do things. We want them to be safe, but we want them to thrive.

That is the sense I got from all of the witnesses yesterday, which includes the Denver school superintendent; a national representative of education, Dr. Benjamin; and it included the commissioner of education for the State of Nebraska, who is also the head of the Chief State School Officers.

Anyone who looks at the children in America today knows they need to go back to school. They have been out for 5 to 6 months now. This is a time when we are especially concerned in our country, and our attention is focused on racial injustice, on problems that minority families and minority children have. The single best thing we could do to help minority children and minority families is to help them go back to school safely in August and September.

Any teacher can tell you and most parents can tell you that emotional, intellectual, and physical damage to children has been caused by being out of school since March, and that will continue to be the case until they reopen in August. Articles have talked about 50 percent learning deficits. We have that every summer when children are away from school. Teachers in the fall know they have to catch back up.

It has also shown us the limits, as well as the benefits, of remote learning. My daughter has three young sons, two of them in school. She said they have had it about up to here with remote learning, even though they are in a very good public school system. There are limits as to what you can learn remotely. Teachers aren't trained to teach remotely. In many parts of our country, broadband isn't sufficient to allow students to learn remotely. Teachers haven't made lesson plans to teach remotely, so they have to change the whole way they go about teaching.

So much of the children being home affects homeschooling. Homeschooling is a good thing for parents who are able to do that, but homeschooling is hard. It takes a lot of time. If you are in a family, as two-thirds of married families are, where you are both working

outside the home, how are you going to do the homeschooling appropriately so that your child doesn't get far behind?

For the benefit of the children, for the benefit of the parents, and especially for the benefit of low-income children—many of whom get one or two meals a day at school—we need to go back to school as a country. When we do—when 100,000 public schools and 36,000 private schools, 55 million children go back to school and 20 million students go back to the college—that will be the surest step toward regaining the rhythm of American life that we can have. That would show we are actually going back toward normal.

It will be another year before we get to normal. I think we all understand that. We are going at warp speed to find a new vaccine. We are building manufacturing plants for vaccines before we even know that they work. We have never done that before. In fact, there has probably never been a time in our history where we had more scientific brainpower in this world devoted toward a specific target than we do right now at trying to increase the number of fast, rapid, accurate diagnostic tests, the number of treatments to reduce the effects of COVID-19, and a vaccine for COVID-19. We probably have never had so many scientists in the world working on a single project like that. We will probably have good results, but it will take a while.

All of the plans that are being made—and we heard about them yesterday—will take a whole year. In the next semester, we will have more tests, we will have more treatments, we will have more contact tracers, and there should be, hopefully, the beginning of vaccines, but our plan should be for a year.

How do you make sure the schools are safe? The formula is pretty simple, although it is not as simple in its application. The things that we know work are, No. 1, staying apart some distance; No. 2, washing your hands; and No. 3, wearing a mask.

In colleges, that will be easy because colleges have more space. In fact, they are big wasters of space. They usually don't teach in the morning or in the evening or on Saturday or in the summer, and colleges can spread out and create smaller classes. There are more lectures. You can do lectures more easily.

You can have a culture of mask-wearing—as President Mitch Daniels of Purdue University testified the week before—at colleges. I think colleges will have an easier time than schools.

In addition to that, we know that, unfortunately, COVID-19 affects older people. In Tennessee, for example, 5 percent of the cases of COVID-19 are in nursing homes, and nearly 40 percent of the deaths are in nursing homes. The same is true in other States. COVID-19 affects younger people a lot less. Dr. Fauci has warned us not to be cavalier about that, but the truth is, younger people seem not to be as affected by COVID-19.

We have a population that is not as affected. We have a population that is in a smaller, controlled setting. You can shut a school if someone gets infected and keep other schools open. We do that with the flu. We have children, who are more subject to being told what to do. So we have a setting where we should be able to create communities—there are 100,000 public schools, as I said—little communities that are among the safest in our country. On the other hand, little children may have a difficult time wearing masks. They aren't the best at hygiene. Children go home every day; they may come back and forth bringing germs with them.

We have those basics that I talked about—plus, testing. What we know about testing is that we have the capacity to do about 10 million tests a month this month, according to Admiral Giroir, the Assistant Secretary of Health. He says we will have a 40 to 50 million test capacity by the time we go back to school in August, September. That is four to five times as many as we have today.

What is going on now is that in Florida and in Tennessee—every State is making its plan for the tests that it needs and sending it to the admiral. They are working on it together. If the State has needs the State can't deal with, the Federal Government helps with that. In our second month of that kind of relationship, that seems to be working pretty well.

I know that in Tennessee, which is 11th among all the States in terms of testing per capita, the Governor's motto is, if in doubt, get a test. You can go to the local public health department and get one in 5 minutes. It takes 2, 3 days to get the result, but there are no delays. Anybody who wants it can get it. That has created an environment where everybody feels more comfortable. If they are worried about COVID-19, if they don't want to go home and see their older relatives or their spouse, if they wonder if they are sick, they can go get a test.

So tests should be available for the schools.

We will have to be careful and recognize that the way schools open will vary by community. There are many counties in Nebraska, the commissioner of Nebraska said yesterday, where there is not a single case of COVID-19. So on his dial of green to red in terms of school opening, they would be very green and wouldn't have to do much in response to the COVID-19 in terms of changing the way they operate. On the other hand, in Omaha, NE, it might be different. In Nashville, it might be different. In New York City or Phoenix, it might be different.

The Denver school superintendent talked about perhaps having children come for 2 or 3 days a week on alternate days in order to have smaller classes and about having extra time for disabled children or children from homes where they have less support,

more vulnerable children needing more help in our schools.

My hope would be that we can find ways for children to come back to as normal a school day as possible. It will take some flexibility. Some of those that will need to be flexible are the States, the Federal Government, and the unions with their rules and regulations. Colleges have a lot of flexibility in rearranging class schedules, class sizes, and class times. Schools have a lot less because they have State rules and union rules that restrict what they can do. They need some flexibility so they can reschedule.

Then there is the question of money. Just as we say we want children to be safe, we want them to learn, there are two arguments on behalf of more money from the Federal Government. One would be Federal spending to help them learn. Generally, that is the responsibility of State and local governments. They spend about 90 percent of that.

In our first COVID-19 bill, the Federal Government was generous with schools, recognizing that we shut down the economy, and then that shut down the schools, and that caused a lot of expensive problems. The Federal Government supplied \$23 billion, and Tennessee got about \$260 million for just K-12 schools. There was another slug of money for colleges, and then there was \$150 billion for States. As the Presiding Officer knows, a big part of the State budget—30 to 40 percent—goes to education. So my thinking is that a part of that \$150 billion—\$23 billion we have already allocated for K-12 and the \$25 billion that we allocated to testing, which could include contact tracers, some of which could be a part of schools—should help pay for keeping schools safe enough to reopen.

If there is more money, we need to be open to that, I think, here in the Federal Government, but not before we see whether it is really needed.

The Tennessee commissioner—and I put a lot of stock in her thinking. Because Tennessee is a conservative State, it doesn't spend a lot of money, has no debt, a big rainy day fund, low taxes—a lot like Florida. She estimates that it will cost about \$1.5 million per school district, with the average school district being about \$3,500, in her words, to provide the things the school districts need to reopen safely. Those are things like more sanitizing equipment, barriers that separate children in the lunchroom or maybe even in class, extra money for busing because when you create a lot of new classes, a lot of new schedules, you may have to change the bus schedules, and that will cost more than most things. So it is about \$1.5 million.

I will be very interested to see how much of the money we have already appropriated or how much of the money that we have appropriated that is very inflexible and might be made more flexible for Governors to use just for opening schools safely and whether we need to add any more.

I think it is in our interest to make sure that principals and school boards know that they will have sufficient funds to open 100,000 public schools safely, because school administrators, with all respect, sometimes are a little bit conservative and reluctant to take risks. If there is the excuse that “We don’t have enough money to open safely,” they may just say “Let’s keep up with remote learning.” I think we are about up to here with remote learning in most places in the country. It is especially not good for the youngest children and for children who are from disadvantaged families or low-income families. I think it is important to get the country going. It is good for the children and it is good for the parents to make sure that schools have sufficient funds to reopen safely.

It was a very good hearing yesterday. I thank the witnesses for their participation. It was all remote, even for all of the Senators.

We will have another hearing next week on telehealth. We have had to cram 10 years of experience into 3 months to learn about telehealth, telework, and telelearning. While this has been a very painful way to learn a lesson, we should take advantage of these lessons because, as we will find out in our hearing next week on telehealth, we have gone from almost none of it to seeing that 40 or 50 percent of the physician-patient visits are done remotely. If that were to turn out to be, over the long term, 15 or 20 percent, that would produce a massive opportunity for change in the way we deliver medical services in the country.

The one other thing I would mention is that I heard about liability yesterday. Colleges and the schools I have talked to want to be included in whatever the Federal Government does to make sure that teachers and administrators and schools and universities are appropriately protected from lawsuits as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic.

As long as they meet a standard of care that is reasonable, they should not have to worry about being liable if a child who is 8 years old forgets to wear a mask, coughs on another child, and that child goes home and makes Grandma sick and Grandma sues the school.

Teachers are always worried about liability. The teachers’ unions often use liability insurance as one of the major incentives to join the unions. Many States, like my State, provide tort liability for teachers.

I think we need to make sure that here in the Senate, as we consider any additional legislation that has to do with COVID-19, we include colleges and we include schools. We received a letter from all of the colleges from the American Council on Education specifically asking us to do that. Otherwise, we might discourage schools and colleges from opening. If we discourage schools from opening, that leaves children sometimes home alone, sometimes home without being educated,

some of them being left with remote learning that doesn’t help and developing a learning gap that will leave them at a disadvantage for the rest of their lives.

As we look at all of the issues we have to deal with, I hope we include appropriate steps to put limits on liability, at least as a result of the COVID-19 experience.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[June 10, 2020]

COVID-19: GOING BACK TO SCHOOL SAFELY

A May 28 story in the Memphis Commercial Appeal about schools planning for the 2020-2021 school year included a bittersweet image—a young girl reaching her hand out to touch a teacher, who is standing in line to welcome students to the first day of school in 2019. As the Commercial Appeal reporter writes: “The first day of school in August 2019 would flunk 2020’s course on social distancing.”

Today’s hearing is about how we reopen schools safely this fall—that means teachers welcoming students back without hugs or high fives.

The opening of schools in 2020 is not going to look like 2019.

But today’s witnesses will talk about their work to help 56 million students from kindergarten to 12th grade go back to the 100,000 public schools and 34,000 private schools in the fall as safely as possible.

In doing so, they will help our country take its surest step toward normalcy.

Witnesses:

Dr. Penny Schwinn, Commissioner of Education, Tennessee Department of Education, Nashville, TN

Dr. Matthew Blomstedt, Commissioner of Education, Nebraska Department of Education, Lincoln, NE

Ms. Susana Cordova, Superintendent, Denver Public Schools, Denver, CO

John B. King, Jr., President and CEO, The Education Trust, Washington, DC

The question for governors, school districts, teachers and parents is not whether schools should reopen—but how.

Any teacher can explain the risk of emotional, intellectual and social damage if a child misses a school year.

Schools need to assess how this year’s disruption has affected our children and get student learning back on track.

At our hearing last week on the reopening of colleges, we heard about a variety of strategies that colleges are using to help keep classrooms and campuses safe, including keeping class sizes small so students can stay 6 feet apart, creating campus-wide policies for wearing masks, and rigorous hygiene improvements.

As with colleges, k-12 schools’ plans will vary for each community and will also depend on the prevalence of the virus in the fall.

The goals for schools working to reopen are fundamentally the same as the colleges we heard from last week: social distancing, aggressive hygiene practices, face masks where appropriate, and then a system of testing and contact tracing.

In order to accomplish those goals, it’s clear that school boards, superintendents and principals need to be focused on:

Creating an environment where students and teachers can socially distance

Making modifications to the school year calendar and daily schedule

Preparing to integrate more distance learning

Restructuring classrooms and extra-curricular activities

Providing meal services in a safe way

Making sure the school has gloves, masks, and other protective equipment

Protecting students and adults in the school buildings who are at a higher risk.

To accomplish this, schools will also need to create a strategy for testing and tracing students who may have been exposed. You want your school’s testing needs to be in your state plan.

The availability of widespread testing will allow schools to identify teachers and students who have the virus or have been exposed to it and trace their contacts.

Widespread testing not only helps contain the disease; it builds confidence that the school is safe. Fortunately, U.S. Assistant Secretary for Health Admiral Brett Giroir says there will be 40-50 million tests available per month by September. That is 4-5 times today’s number—and today’s number is twice as many as any other country.

Dr. Francis Collins, who led the Human Genome Project, now leads a competitive “shark tank” enterprise at the National Institutes of Health to discover new ways to conduct tens of millions of additional accurate tests with quick results.

Schools’ COVID-19 plans should last for at least a year: The government is pursuing vaccines at warp speed, but no one expects one by August.

In the second half of the school year, schools should be able to provide more tests, more treatments, better contact tracing and we should have vaccines. It will likely be the Fall of 2021 before school life approaches normal.

There are several reasons schools have an advantage in providing a safe environment for students and faculty:

The first reason is that younger people have been less hurt by COVID-19, although Dr. Anthony Fauci has warned against “cavalierly” assuming that young people are not at risk. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says it is “investigating reports of multisystem inflammatory syndrome in children (MIS-C) associated with coronavirus disease.”

Second, schools are generally small communities that are closely supervised and monitored. Third, outbreaks can be traced—if a child becomes sick, that child’s classmates can be tested. Fourth, individual schools can close to control the spread of the virus—while other schools remain open. Schools are not unfamiliar with outbreaks of flu and other illnesses that have resulted in the temporary closure of individual schools to prevent further spread.

But school environments pose challenges as well:

First, there’s not much extra space in a k-12 school to enable distancing—whereas there’s a lot of extra space on most college campuses.

Second, school administrators face more rigid rules as a result of state and local regulations and contracts with teachers’ unions, so making changes to the academic calendar, class times and class sizes are more difficult.

Third, creating a mask-wearing culture is harder with young children. Seeing facial expressions is also important for young children—they learn to socialize and self-regulate, so obscuring faces with masks prohibits some learning for early elementary school-aged children.

Fourth, rigorous hygiene isn’t always easy with children.

Fifth, children go home at night, potentially exposing older adults.

Sixth, even systematic testing of children is a lot of tests.

Today 91.3 percent of families with children have at least one parent employed, and

among married families with children, 64.2 percent had both parents employed, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

And many children live in environments where the school is the safest place they'll be all day.

It's also the place where almost 30 million students receive a school lunch—more than 70 percent of those students qualify for free or reduced-priced meals.

Administrators have a responsibility to make our schools among the safest small communities this fall.

In doing so, they will help our country take its surest steps toward normalcy.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. FISCHER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DAINES. I would suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ENDLESS FRONTIER ACT

Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, on a recent Saturday afternoon, the world watched as SpaceX's Falcon 9 lifted off from American soil, streaked through the sky, and sent the Crew Dragon capsule beyond the Earth's atmosphere.

By Sunday, its crew was successfully docked at the International Space Station. The following morning, Indianapolis-based Eli Lilly & Company announced the start of human testing of a potential treatment for COVID-19.

Falcon 9, the first rocket to send men to space from America in a decade was traveling at 10 times the speed of sound, and Lilly's COVID-19 therapy is moving nearly as fast. It often takes a dozen years to develop a drug. This one could be available in just months.

Neither happened spontaneously, though. They are the result of years of savvy, technological, and scientific investments, of partnerships between private industry and government. Such investments, such partnerships open new horizons in space exploration and disease fighting, and they show us the endless frontier into which American imagination and ingenuity can carry us.

We Americans have always been drawn to the frontier—yes, the natural frontier of wildernesses and unfamiliar territories from which States such as mine spring, but also the frontier that bounds what we as humans were once imagined to be capable of accomplishing after our forbearers settled across this great continent.

Americans see the heavens and don't simply wonder what they hold. We see

loved ones grow sick, and we don't just resign ourselves to the prognosis. We create cures. Americans would always rather build a rocket ship than a rest home. We are driven by a deep need to lift one another, to discover breakthroughs that will lead to the betterment of all of mankind.

And among the most powerful allies we have in accomplishing this are science and research and the innovations that they fuel.

In the 20th century, Vannevar Bush beautifully captured the essence of the American culture of discovery and innovation. He first coined the memorable term "endless frontier." Bush, you see, was a visionary, an unsung hero of World War II. He was the man who saw the importance of science and discovery in defeating the Axis Powers.

As President Franklin D. Roosevelt's unofficial science adviser, he initiated the Manhattan Project and ensured that it received top priority from the highest levels of government.

Later, in his 1945 report to the President, entitled "Science: The Endless Frontier," Bush called for an expansion of public support for science and paved the way for the creation of the National Science Foundation. He believed that America's security and prosperity depended upon premarket investment in science and technology. Basic research, in his words, was the "pace-maker of technological progress." "New products and new processes do not appear full-grown," he said. "They are founded on new principles and new conceptions, which in turn are painstakingly developed by research in the purest realms of science."

Bush was right. The years that followed proved it. The National Science Foundation was created, a space age was ushered in, a space race was won, and an evil empire was defeated—all in an era of historic prosperity that was only possible because of America's economic and technological supremacy, itself built on government-funded premarket research.

Bush originally articulated the importance of science to the Nation's fortunes in a time of peril. While the challenges we face today are of a different nature, we are again in such a time. A mysterious virus with no known cure has spread across the globe, killed thousands of Americans, and crippled our economy. A new power competition is now underway, and America's predominant challenger is an unscrupulous authoritarian regime whose values are the inverse of our own.

For proof, witness Beijing's leveraging of COVID-19 to further its goal of global dominance and authority of this new century. To meet these new challenges, we must once again—once again—show the entire world the resiliency and dynamism of the American people, the American economy, the American spirit, and the American project itself.

And to do this, we must not simply advance again toward the endless frontier but accelerate into it.

The Endless Frontier Act, authored by Senator SCHUMER and me, will provide the rocket fuel for America's innovators and visionaries. Let us resolve here today to pass it so that this generation of American doers and dreamers and their children can propel us forward and win the 21st century.

Here is how and why we should act.

The Endless Frontier Act would bolster U.S. leadership in science and tech innovation and boldly increase premarket investment in emerging tech.

It will provide \$100 billion in strategic investment in the National Science Foundation to bolster science and technology research and development.

It will deliver \$10 billion to establish regional tech hubs across the country to launch innovative companies, revive American manufacturing, and create new jobs to jump start our local communities. And in the coming years, it will strengthen American power, increase American prosperity, and carry on America's never-ending quest to continuously improve the world through innovation.

Let us pass this act. If we do, another endless frontier will be before us, and with it, a stronger, freer, more prosperous nation, and a world in which free men and women author this new century.

Dating back to the Cold War, after China had developed military might, its leaders focused on science and technology as a means to reorder the global balance of power.

Since then, Beijing has aimed to overtake America, not with weapons, but with innovation. Offensively, China is investing in 5G, quantum computing, artificial intelligence, advanced energy systems—all of which have the potential to fundamentally change this century's economic and security environment for good or for ill.

Defensively, China is shoring up domestic industries while exploiting our economic downturn and cynically using the pandemic to play the part of concerned global citizen to further its position in the world. And that is not a conspiracy theory. It is public knowledge.

A new report from the Chinese Academy of Sciences bluntly observes: "It is possible to turn the crisis [of COVID-19] into an opportunity—to increase the trust and the dependence of all countries around the world in 'Made in China.'"

Tellingly, for China, the search to find treatments for COVID-19 is not simply a race to stop the virus but a race for bragging rights and global superiority.

The CCP is dedicating millions of dollars to research into drug development. Five out of the 10 top vaccine candidates are coming from China.

As they have in other fields of research, China has recently ramped up spending on pharmaceutical research, no doubt with an eye on surpassing America in yet another field. The first COVID-19 vaccine could be the key.

If all of these trends continue, China's overall investments in research and development will surpass our own within 10 years—just as their economy becomes larger than our own.

Until now, we have primarily focused on defensive countermeasures to thwart the aggression of the CCP: blocking Huawei, tightening export controls, and improving foreign investment rules. These are important and must remain in place.

But if America is to lead the world in the 21st century, it is neither realistic nor practical to build an economic iron curtain around China.

We are not in a 20th century cold war, but we can learn and apply lessons from that Cold War. Just as we did in the 20th century, we must not simply contain a competitor but instead outinnovate and outgrow them.

Something else is in the balance here too. China longs to become the world's leader but lacks the attachment to human rights and dignity required of those that seek to fill that role. What becomes of liberty in a world led by such a power?

However imperfectly, every American generation, from the founding forward, has labored to preserve and pass down the blessings of freedom here and wherever its friends may be found, and this current generation must carry this on and provide the world with a choice—a choice between a great power that defends freedom or one that tramples upon it.

But we will be powerless to offer this alternative if we don't keep pace with China, and we will not have a shot at this unless we invest in ourselves. Implementing the Endless Frontier Act will provide that investment. It will prevent us from being outflanked, and it will pave the way for a second "American century."

One of the primary reasons why the 20th century was America's rather than Russia's was because we produced more prosperity. You see, wealth is a crucial weapon in global competition. Bold investment in premarket research, like that proposed in our Endless Frontier Act, will generate more of it and make us a wealthier nation. The connection is undeniable and historic.

When human beings began to apply science and technology to industry and in pursuit of new goods and services, of greater efficiency and output, human wealth grew by historic bounds. Cognitive scientist Steven Pinker charted this progress, and it is staggered. Human wealth barely advanced in the millennium after the year 1 A.D., and had only doubled a half millennium later.

Then the industrial revolution arrived. Between 1820 and 1900, the world's income tripled. Fifty years later, it had tripled again, and again in 25 years, and again 30 years after that. This represents a 100-fold expansion of the world's gross domestic product since the industrial revolution, thanks to advancements in science and technology.

And the technologies that ushered in this era were the result of curiosity, experimentation, failure, and ultimately, discovery. This is the formula for innovation, and it is something Americans are particularly familiar with.

We are a creative people with a penchant for plunging ahead when we have an idea and searching for a solution when we see a problem.

You know, it takes courage to be creative, and in America, we encourage and honor that courage. We celebrate those who try and fail and courageously get up and dust off their trousers and try again. We venerate our inventors—Bell, Edison, George Washington Carver, Jonas Salk, the Wright brothers, Tesla, Einstein, Page and Brin, Jobs, Musk.

We know and remember their names, and we benefit daily from their contributions. Their life's work is a monument to human potential and American greatness. Their work would not have been possible without a hallmark of American culture: breathing space—yes, breathing space. It is space for the creative process—the very process required to connect things that already exist, that no one ever thought of connecting, and to take new discoveries and turn them into new products and services.

When we join research with American creativity, we do more than produce faster cars and TVs with clearer pictures, and we do more than generate material wealth. You see, our innovators are part of something far more profound. It is an endless pursuit of human knowledge and progress and a quest that fulfills our deepest human needs as a people. That is what they are a part of. In the words of my friend Water Russell Mead, it is our "built-in human belief that through change we encounter the transcendent and the divine." Passing the Endless Frontier Act will keep this quest going, and the quest will make our lives richer in so many ways.

That image of a Falcon 9 taking off and the orange streak of its engines cutting the blue sky sparked a memory dear to so many Americans. Over 10.3 million people worldwide watched that launch. For many, it was no doubt a reminder of an era—that era when rockets regularly setting out for space from that very same station was an awe-inspiring symbol of American optimism and accomplishments.

There were images, too, from Indianapolis. There, Lilly's scientists rushed cases containing the company's potential COVID-19 treatment to the airport and sent them on their way to patients for trials. For those who saw these images, they inspired hope and amazement—hope that we can soon stop this virus and amazement that our innovators have moved so quickly to find remedies.

These are both inspiring moments for all Americans, ones that transcend so many of the differences that threaten

to divide us. They show us and they show the world what America is still capable of. They reveal the endless frontiers still before us.

Let us come together now. Let us accelerate boldly into the endless frontier. When life resumes as normal, this generation of Americans must not be content with merely recovering our losses. Instead, we must push ourselves to lead.

Now is the time to pass the Endless Frontier Act, to strengthen U.S. leadership in science and tech innovation, and to dramatically increase public investment in emerging technologies. Let us choose to lead for ourselves and for our children.

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. COTTON. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CANCEL CULTURE

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, "cancel culture"—we hear that in the news a lot these days—the idea that we all need safe spaces from mean words, trigger warnings on op-eds, or TV shows that might constitute a microaggression.

This is the language of the campus social justice seminar, but increasingly it is the language of our workplace and our culture.

We saw an instance of it just last week at the New York Times. I published an op-ed there that said simply, while we respect peaceful protesters, we can have zero tolerance for looting and rioting, and if the police are overwhelmed or outnumbered, the National Guard and, if necessary, Federal troops have to restore order.

It has gotten support from a large majority of Americans, if you believe the polls. The New York Times published it. The editorial page editor defended it publicly. The publisher defended the decision publicly. But a woke-child mob at the New York Times rose up and demanded heads on pikes. They demanded that the op-ed be taken down. They demanded that the grownups—maybe I should say the supposed grownups—who run the New York Times apologize, and that is exactly what happened. In what could only be called a struggle session from the Cultural Revolution, in the greatest traditions of Mao, the publisher of the New York Times fired the editorial page editor, and he reassigned the deputy editorial page editor. He apologized—prostrated himself—in front of the woke-child mob, and he said: "We will do much better."

The new editorial page editor has told everyone at the Times: If you see anything that gives you the slightest pause, please contact me immediately. If you have any trigger warnings, don't worry; I will find a safe space for you.

The New York Times has made itself a laughing stock, but this is no laughing matter because the cancel culture threatens the very principles of free inquiry and open debate upon which our society is based.

You see other manifestations of the cancel culture all across the country today. In many cases, they have adopted the spirit of a Jacobin mob in the French Revolution. In a reign of terror, they are trying to completely erase our culture and our history. Unfortunately, many Democrats are vying to be the Robespierre for this Jacobin mob.

Look at what is happening in Seattle. Revolutionaries, anarchists have taken over city government buildings. They have taken over neighborhoods. They have declared themselves an autonomous zone. They put up a sign that says "You are leaving the United States" when you enter this autonomous zone.

The Democratic Party today, I suppose, is still the party of secession.

It is not just in Seattle. Look at what is happening to statues and monuments all around our country. In several cities, statues of Christopher Columbus have been pulled down, or they have been defaced or destroyed—statues that in most cases were put up by Italian American immigrants who were proud of their part in the great American story. This was not done in accordance with law. It was not done after thoughtful debate in city councils or State legislatures. It was done by mobs. Just last week, the Lincoln Memorial—a temple to the great emancipator—was defaced. The World War II Memorial—a memorial to those who fought and liberated the world from fascism—was defaced. Now, across the Atlantic, the ideological kin of this Jacobin mob defaced statues of Churchill. Wait until they hear about what the other guy did on the other side.

But, you know, history is not the long suit of these woke children. They didn't take history classes, apparently, in high school and college. They were too busy taking social justice seminars. You can see that, too, in Philadelphia, where the statue of Matthias Baldwin was defaced. Matthias Baldwin was a committed and devoted abolitionist who funded education for freed African Americans. He gave them jobs, and they defaced his statue.

Even more amazing, in Boston, the Shaw Memorial was defaced. The Shaw Memorial honors the 54th Massachusetts Regiment—the first African-American regiment formed after the Emancipation Proclamation, whose bravery and valor in battle on behalf of the Union cause was memorialized in the movie "Glory." Yet it was defaced by these mobs.

It is not just our history; it is pop culture and entertainment too. You may have seen the news that "Live P.D." and "Cops" television shows were canceled. "Paw Patrol" was on the cutting board too. You may know that Chase is the police cop in "Paw

Patrol." There are calls to euthanize the police dog on social media. I wish I could say I am joking, but I am not.

Legos has announced they are not going to advertise any of their police Lego sets for the next year. They are not going to take them out of distribution. They are not going to recall them from stores. No, no—woke capitalism only goes so far. They are still capitalists. They are just not going to advertise police sets anymore.

HBO announced they are not going to run "Gone with the Wind" anymore—"Gone With the Wind," for which African-American actress Hattie McDaniel won the first Academy Award, the first Oscar ever given to an African-American woman. HBO says: "No, we are going to cancel it."

If you think it is just limited to statues or TV shows or toys, you would be wrong. This woke mob could very soon be coming for any one of you.

At UCLA, a college professor has been suspended and is under police investigation because he declined to postpone final exams so students could apparently go out and participate in protests.

Another professor is being investigated for reading aloud from Martin Luther King, Jr.'s letter from a Birmingham jail because it uses offensive language—Martin Luther King, Jr.'s letter from a Birmingham jail.

A professional soccer player, Alexander Katai, was fired for his wife's tweet—not his own, his wife's tweet.

Multiple different business executives and editors at newspapers and magazines have been fired.

If you think this is only for people who are not powerful and not rich, you would be wrong. Ivanka Trump was scheduled to give a commencement speech last weekend at a Wichita technical school. The speech was canceled because she was being too controversial. It was a speech about workforce training and women's opportunities in our economy, and Ivanka Trump was canceled.

Where does this cancel culture take us? What is the logical conclusion? What is the end of the cancel culture? I will tell you what it is—it is right here in this city, Washington, the District of Columbia. That is where it will end if we don't put an end to the madness now. Just up the Mall is the Washington Monument. Are we going to tear down the Washington Monument? Are we going to rename it the "Obelisk of Wokeness?"

Up the hill is the Washington National Cathedral, where so many times we have gathered as a nation over the years to mourn our great leaders, to pray for God's protection and deliverance in moments of national strife and struggle. Are we going to rename the Washington National Cathedral the "Temple of Reason," as the Jacobins did to Notre Dame during the French Revolution?

What are we going to call this city? We can't call it Washington. We can't

call it Columbia. We have to come up with new names all around because—I will say this—the cancel culture, whether in its malice or its Jacobin forms, ultimately is animated by a single ideal: that America at its core is fundamentally irredeemable and wicked.

I reject that claim fully and wholeheartedly. America is a great and noble nation. It is the noblest Nation in the history of mankind that has struggled throughout our history, imperfectly but ceaselessly, to live up to our founding creed that all men are created equal—the single greatest defense against tyranny, against racism, against oppression. That is the stake of this debate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE VICTIMS OF THE HEINOUS ATTACK AT THE PULSE NIGHTCLUB ON JUNE 12, 2016

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, Floridians will never forget the horrific events of June 12, 2016. Four years ago, our State, Nation, the city of Orlando, and Hispanic and gay communities were attacked, and 49 innocent and beautiful lives were lost. It was an evil act. It was an act of terrorism designed to divide us as a nation and strike fear in our hearts and minds, but we didn't let it because Floridians are resilient. We came together, and we supported each other.

The weeks following the attack will always stay with me—days spent in hospitals with families, at funerals, at wakes with loved ones, and countless events throughout the community. As a father and grandfather, it was one of the hardest things I ever had to do. It was heartbreaking. Yet, in this horribly dark time, the selfless courage of so many—from community members, to law enforcement, to healthcare workers—provided a sense of hope. This incredible strength, love, and bravery uplifted the community and helped us repair and rebuild.

On the fourth anniversary of this unthinkable tragedy, the State of Florida comes together to honor the lives lost too soon, and we vow to always stand up and fight against evil and hatred in this world.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 614, submitted earlier today.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 614) honoring the memory of the victims of the heinous attack at the Pulse nightclub on June 12, 2016.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to,