

Now, there are some things that I don't think we should do. For example, there are some who call for reforming qualified immunity, a judicial doctrine that protects the discretionary acts of a government employee or government official and holds them financially responsible only if they violate an established standard. Well, the same legal doctrine that protects police officers protects school teachers as well, and I will bet that a number of our colleagues who are calling for wholesale reform of qualified immunity didn't even know that.

Well, as I said, it is important that we hear from a variety of voices, and that is why I appreciate Mayor Johnson in Dallas hosting a roundtable with a group of law enforcement leaders and faith leaders who are committed to delivering real change. I spent a few minutes talking about what we are doing here in Washington, but I spent most of my time listening. I think that is something we need to do more of—to listen. We are all pretty good at talking, but we need to do more listening.

Everyone agrees that there is a problem—a big one—that will not go away if we ignore it. As the mayor acknowledged, the fact that everyone agrees that the status quo is not sustainable represents progress in and of itself. That is the first step toward solving a problem—recognizing that you have one. But now it is time to turn that consensus into collective action.

We know that many of the changes that need to be made will happen at the local and State level. At the U.S. Congress, we have a Capitol Police, but we don't control what happens in the Minneapolis Police Department or the Dallas Police Department or San Antonio or any other locally run and controlled law enforcement agency. We know that they are not all the same. Most major law enforcement agencies, like the one in Dallas, have deescalation training. It has been mandatory for years.

So when people talk about doing that and mandating it here from Washington, the fact is that most of our major law enforcement agencies are already doing a lot of these things, like banning choke holds, for example. One of the participants in our roundtable was Frederick Frazier, a longtime law enforcement officer who actually trains officers in deescalation.

More recently, the Dallas Police Department banned choke holds, as I mentioned, and any use of force intended to restrict a person's airways. They have also embraced a policy requiring officers to intervene in a situation where use of force is unnecessary and inappropriate. For example, if a law enforcement officer sees another officer use excessive force or dealing with that use of force inappropriately, the Dallas Police Department requires the other officers who witnessed that to intervene—something we did not see happen in Minneapolis.

During our discussion, Chief Hall also discussed steps they are taking to re-

lease body camera or dash camera footage and overall increased transparency. Similar changes are being made in cities across Texas and across the country, and I think transparency is an important area where changes can and should occur. A one-size-fits-all Federal approach to policing would be, I think, a mistake.

But here in Washington, we do have a role to play. We have both the opportunity and the responsibility to ensure that America's police departments are helping public safety and are not considered to be a threat by the communities they serve. The bill being led by Senator SCOTT would take major steps in the right direction. While the final details are being ironed out, our discussions have included a range of proposals that would address everything from training to transparency, to minority hiring.

I am not interested in passing a bill for the sake of just checking a box and saying we have done something significant. That route is sure to lead to even more problems. I am interested in delivering real reforms, as I am confident all of my colleagues here in the Senate are, and I think our legislative efforts can produce a product that will be responsive to the crisis we are now experiencing—a crisis largely of trust.

Of course, for those changes to reach communities in Texas, they also need to be able to pass not only a Republican-controlled Senate but a Democratic-controlled House and be signed by President Trump, and I believe the legislation we will unveil tomorrow could deliver in each of those bodies. I think each of us has a responsibility to take action to repair and address the fear, the anger, and the lack of trust between law enforcement and our communities, and this bill does an important first step.

I am proud to have worked with Senator SCOTT and all of our colleagues in this effort, and we all will make our contribution before we are through. I am looking forward to sharing those details tomorrow during the press conference.

With that, I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:31 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. CAPITO).

TAXPAYER FIRST ACT OF 2019— Continued

H.R. 1957

Mr. GARDNER. Madam President, yesterday, we had a series of successful votes to move forward on the Great American Outdoors Act. I am excited with the votes we have taken last week and the votes last night and that we

will finally move to passage of the legislation, the Great American Outdoors Act, tomorrow. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

We had the opportunity over the last several weeks—last week, in particular—to talk about what it means for every State in the country, what it means for every county in the country, and the significant opportunity for conservation, which is the crown jewel of conservation programs and, of course, our national parks. It is not just national parks, of course. It is our forests, and it is our BLM grounds and the efforts we have with the Bureau of Indian Education.

I thought I would talk specifically about some Colorado projects today and what the Land and Water Conservation Fund has meant for Colorado.

This is a photo of Wilson Peak in Colorado. It rises over Telluride in southwest Colorado. Wilson Peak is one of the 54 mountains in Colorado that top 14,000 feet. Climbers and hikers eager to summit the 14,500-foot peak, located in the Lizard Head Wilderness, have been frustrated for years by key land access routes being blocked, which made it impossible to get to. In addition, Wilson Peak long remained the last “fourteener” in Colorado without public access.

Through 9 years, very complex land exchange negotiations, and work to assemble suitable exchange properties and funding, the Trust for Public Land purchased 25 patented mining claims, including the summit and key portions of the main summit trail from multiple private owners. In 2011, the Trust for Public Land formally transferred ownership of land to the U.S. Forest Service, ensuring in perpetuity the public access to Wilson Peak summit.

If you go to the next one, this is a photograph of the Big Thompson River. In 1976, rains began to pour near Estes Park, CO, and caused one of the biggest natural disasters in Colorado's history. A remarkable 12 inches of rain fell in about 4 hours. As a reminder, there are areas of Colorado that only get about 14 inches of moisture a year. A remarkable 12 inches of rain fell in about 4 hours, bringing the Big Thompson River to 19 feet above its normal level, and sending 31,000 cubic feet per second of water racing downstream, down the canyon, carrying with it everything and anything in its path. The flood claimed 145 lives, 418 homes, 52 businesses, and caused millions and millions of dollars of damage in 1976.

In the aftermath of the disaster, Larimer County recognized that simply rebuilding new homes in harm's way within the floodway didn't make sense. The county turned to the Land and Water Conservation Fund as an important part of the solution. With just over \$1 million from Land and Water Conservation Fund and some other matching resources, the county acquired a number of properties along the Big Thompson River, which provided