

have them turned on, the escalation of violence, for whatever reason, happens much less frequently. The police officer knows that camera is on, and the person they are dealing with knows that camera is on, and it seems to make a difference.

Reporting when there are deaths or serious injuries due to the use of force—and those are investigated, I believe, in every department in America, but there is no reason they shouldn't also be reported to see if there is a pattern that involves either an individual or a pattern that involves a department that needs to be looked at.

Sharing records, as I said before, is critically important so that one bad officer doesn't get passed from one department to another.

There are things in the realm of training where this legislation helps officers get training on tactics to deescalate a situation when it gets out of control. Officers want this kind of training. Officers want the kind of training that makes it easier for them to understand that if they are in a situation where mental health is the problem or opioid addiction is the problem or drug addiction is the problem, are they dealing with a real criminal here or are they dealing with somebody who has gotten themselves in a situation in which they need to figure out how to get them in a different and better place.

While we need to move quickly to take up this legislation, I think there are some areas where the administration can act and is acting, based on announcements that were made this week and things that weren't announced this week.

I talked to Attorney General Barr a couple of weeks ago as these incidents began to become more clear in the sense of problems that could be within entire police departments and encouraged him to restore more of the pattern and practice reviews that were part of what the Justice Department used for about a decade. They were in place until November of 2018. I think they need to be back in place.

We know from past usage that they don't have to be used on any situation or every situation, but they can be used. We have seen them used in my State in Ferguson, MO, in surrounding St. Louis County, which had a much bigger department and asked for a voluntary review, and the city of St. Louis, which has a big police department but not as big as St. Louis County in 2014 and 2017. Whether that review was voluntary or even if it involved a consent decree, I think that the case can be made that things happened in those three departments that might not have happened otherwise.

The Attorney General and I both agreed that if you don't have a tool in the toolbox, you can't use it. It is important to see what you need to do to put every tool in the toolbox, even if it is a tool that you have previously taken out and said: Well, maybe we

don't need that any longer. If you don't need it, you don't have to use it. But you are certainly not going to be able to use it if you don't have it.

President Trump took some additional steps that I was supportive of and talked about earlier this week when the Presiding Officer and I were at our leadership stakeout: officers with better tools to deal with mental health, homelessness, addiction issues.

Missouri is one of the eight Excellence in Mental Health States. This is legislation—bipartisan legislation—that I have worked on for several years with Senator STABENOW from Michigan. It allows law enforcement to connect people with the help they need and wind up having them someplace more appropriate than either jail or court.

In fact, the Department of Health and Human Services, in monitoring this program, says that it has led to a 60-percent decrease in jail time. Part of that is, a lot of people don't wind up going to jail because it makes it more possible for people in many of the departments in my State and in others to have a constant contact with that mental health professional. Maybe it is on the iPad that they are carrying with them, where they can get that 24/7 connection with a healthcare professional. It certainly benefits from the training that many Missouri officers have had now in crisis intervention.

In Kansas City, in St. Louis County, in St. Louis city, in Springfield, I have ridden with officers and talked to officers and watched how this happens, and that builds confidence. Senator SCOTT's bill builds the same kind of confidence.

I have heard some of our friends on the other side say: Well, I am for 80 percent of what is in that bill. No, they don't even say that. They say: I am for 80 percent of the bill. Now, what is the difference? Being for 80 percent of the bill means that there are things in it you don't want, but they also say more frequently: No, that bill has 80 percent of what I want in it already.

Well, let me remind our friends how you make a law. Under the Constitution, the House passes a bill, and maybe you like that better. The Senate passes a bill, and maybe the Senate has 80 percent of what you would like to see in the final bill in Senate bill, and then you go to conference. It was taught in every civic school book that every Member of the Senate studied, and we don't do it much anymore.

You can't get to conference unless there is a Senate product. No matter how much you love the House bill if you are a Member of the Senate, you don't get to weigh in on the House bill unless you have a Senate bill that allows you to go to that conference.

This would be the perfect time when Members of the Senate say—and you and I should be listening carefully over the next few days when they say “80 percent of what I want is in that bill or 85 percent of what I want is in that

bill,” particularly, if they—usually, they are not saying “There is nothing in the bill I don't want; it just doesn't have everything I do want.” Well, if 80 percent of what you want is in the bill and the House passes another bill that you like better, maybe you come out of that conference with 90 percent of what you want. If a solution that gets you 90 percent of what you want or 80 percent of what you want is the alternative to zero percent of what you want, if you want to be a legislator, you have to figure out that that is a better path for you to take than the zero-percent path.

It would be tragic next week if the result of the House deliberation and, this month, if the result of the Senate deliberation is that there is no further discussion because everybody has decided that if it wasn't everything they wanted, they didn't want to have the process that we used to call—and the Constitution calls and civic books call—the legislative process.

These are not the first struggles we have faced together as a nation. We have come a long way. We still have a long way to go.

Remember, the Constitution doesn't even promise a perfect Union. It promises a more perfect Union. You get to a more perfect Union one step at a time, not all at once. My guess is, we will always be on the journey toward a more perfect Union.

Senator SCOTT has given us an opportunity to take some of the important steps on that journey and make the Union more perfect than it is right now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The Senator from Alaska.

AMERICAN ENERGY INNOVATION ACT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, on Tuesday, just a few days ago, I convened a hearing of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and we were focused on the impacts of COVID-19 and how this pandemic has impacted our Nation's energy industry. We had a lot of discussions about the impact of COVID on the Nation, on our economy, and I think it is probably fair to say that every facet of our society has been impacted, but it is certainly clear to me as a Senator for the State of Alaska and as chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee that the energy sector has suffered perhaps uniquely and I think acutely.