

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

ABORTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this morning, the Supreme Court struck down a Louisiana law that would have restricted abortion providers so severely that Louisiana would have been left with only a single clinic. These types of laws have popped up in State after State as a backdoor means of banning abortions—if not in law then in practice—an insidious campaign to undermine the rights of women to make their own medical decisions.

Today's ruling is a thunderbolt of justice for millions of American women who were at risk of having their constitutional rights invalidated by a reactionary State legislature, as there are many throughout the country.

After surprising but very welcome rulings on DACA and LGBTQ rights 2 weeks ago, the Supreme Court has once again made the right decision. The Supreme Court is entering Buffalo Springfield, territory: "There's something happening here."

Truthfully, today's ruling should not have been a surprise. The Louisiana law violated the Court's precedent. In 2016, the Court struck down a Texas law that was virtually identical to the one in Louisiana. The newest addition to the Supreme Court, however, despite promising the Senate that he would respect precedent, dissented from the majority's ruling today. Justice Kavanaugh told Senators he believed *Roe v. Wade* to be settled law, but in the very first ruling on a related issue, he decided that the Court's precedent was wrong, and *Roe v. Wade* could be greatly undermined.

Thankfully, Kavanaugh's view was not in the majority. Today, America can breathe a sigh of relief that the Supreme Court kept the floodgates firmly shut against this particular attempt to nullify the landmark decision of *Roe v. Wade*.

RUSSIA

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on Russia, on Friday, the New York Times and other media outlets reported that a Russian intelligence unit was offering Taliban-linked fighters bounties—bounties to kill American and coal-

ition troops in Afghanistan. It should go without saying that it is our solemn obligation to support and protect our troops. If Russian intelligence is conducting a shadow campaign to sponsor the murder of American troops, there must be swift, strong, and unmistakable consequences for Putin and his cronies—something we should do in this NDAA bill.

The New York Times reported that the Trump administration was aware of these activities as early as March of this year. Yet, the Trump administration has authorized no—no retaliatory actions. Russia gives bounties to kill Americans; the administration does nothing.

Donald Trump, you are not being a very strong President here, as usual.

At the very least, you would expect the President and his team would want to get to the bottom of this. The President claimed, however, that "nobody briefed or told [him] me about this report."

President Trump, you lose either way. If you weren't briefed on this important report, how can you run an administration where something this important is not brought to your level? And if you were told about the report and did nothing, that is even worse. Shame on you. Shame on you.

A few hours ago, the White House Press Secretary said the President still has not received a briefing from the intelligence community about these reports. The White House Chief of Staff, meanwhile, is reportedly briefing Republican Members of the House before the President of the United States gets a briefing.

Is that amazing? He is the Commander in Chief. He is the one who is supposed to be protecting our soldiers, and they are still twiddling their thumbs instead of giving him a briefing, which, who knows, given his lack of respect for the truth, he may have received it already and just denied it.

It raises many, many questions. First, is it true the President was not told this information? If so, why not? Was there a concern about sharing this information with the President? And the President doesn't seem as outraged as you would think he would be if, in fact, the intelligence community had this vital and important information and had not briefed him.

Something—something doesn't smell right here, especially when we have a President and an administration who has a great deal of trouble telling the truth. We need answers, and we need them fast. I am calling for the Directors of National Intelligence and the CIA to immediately brief all 100 Senators on reports that Russia placed bounties on U.S. troops in Afghanistan. Among many other things, we need to know whether President Trump was told this information and, if so, when.

Because there has been an alarming pattern in this administration, dating back to its first days of appeasement toward authoritarian leaders, espe-

cially of Vladimir Putin, President Trump stood next to Putin on the international stage and accepted his word over the word of our own intelligence agencies. President Trump has delayed or ignored congressionally mandated sanctions on Putin. The President has pondered withdrawing from NATO—the organization whose very purpose is to defend the free world from Vladimir Putin. Only a few months ago, the President mused about inviting Russia back into the G7.

If we had learned anything in the past 3 years, it is that President Trump is inclined to ignore or forgive Vladimir Putin's abuses on the international stage—even in the face of an attack on our democracy. If we learned anything in the last 3 years, it is that dictators—whether Xi or Putin or the head of North Korea—played President Trump for a fool and got the advantage of him every time.

This means we all need to speak up right now and make sure that Congress and the executive branch are doing what is necessary to get to the bottom of these reports. The first step is a briefing for all 100 U.S. Senators.

Despite what some administration officials are claiming, no such briefing has been scheduled, and I am not aware of any Senator who has been invited to a White House briefing of any sort.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, on COVID-19, unfortunately, COVID-19 continues to surge in several States. Florida, Texas, and Arizona are reporting new highs in case numbers. Last Friday, there were 45,000 new cases nationwide—the most in a single day.

As the public health crisis continues, our country is facing one of the greatest economic challenges since the Great Depression. Over one-fifth of the workforce has requested unemployment assistance. State and local Tribal governments are on life support and have laid off over 1.6 million workers. Our perennially underfunded schools are fighting an uphill battle to prepare for the fall.

As Americans struggle to make rent payments and face potential evictions, as our healthcare and childcare systems face unprecedented burdens, Senate Republicans have been missing in action. Senate Republicans equal MIA.

Over a month ago, Leader McCONNELL said that Senate the Republicans "have yet to feel the urgency of acting immediately." It seems like he really meant it. It has been nearly 3 months since we passed the CARES Act on a bipartisan basis, 96 to 0, and over 45 days since the House passed the Heroes Act—legislation that would deliver sorely needed resources to States, essential workers, American families, and our healthcare system, but Leader McCONNELL continues to say that Republicans "need to assess the conditions in the country" and insists that