

American couples who are pleading to give these international children a forever family here in our great country.

It seems that OCI's priorities are out of step with their statutory mandate. Also, they are out of step with the values of this country and basic morality. We need to change the policy of the State Department in this regard, I say to my colleagues.

I call on my colleagues on the Foreign Relations Committee to hold an oversight hearing to review the State Department's role in intercountry adoption, to examine the allegations of bias against intercountry adoption, and to hear from accrediting agencies and other stakeholders about their experiences in working with the Department of State and its accrediting entity. I think such a hearing would be revealing, and I think the results would be troubling to Members of the Congress.

I also call on the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations to investigate allegations raised against the U.S. accrediting entity in the State Department's Office of Children's Issues.

It is time, actually, to transition the U.S. central authority from the Department of State to a more receptive, more compassionate, and more understanding home, such as the Department of Health and Human Services. This would allow experienced child welfare professionals to oversee intercountry adoptions.

We have a great Secretary of State. I have known Mike Pompeo for years. I think he has got all he can preside over, and I don't for a minute think that the Secretary of State understands what this small entity in his State Department is doing. I think he must have no idea that this is going on, but I think the solution is to move this function from the State Department.

I would call on the Secretary of State to put a hold on planned changes down in this little agency populated by unelected bureaucrats who are hostile to adoption. I think we should put a hold on planned changes in the accreditation compliance system until there has been a full review of OCI's bias against adoption. The competence of their staff needs to be investigated, and we need to look, we need to give an open assessment, shining the light of day on the impact that this small group of bureaucrats is having on something that I think most Americans support.

The American people believe in adoption. They believe in giving orphans anywhere in the world an opportunity to have a forever family. They believe in giving couples here in the United States the opportunity to provide a home for these children who are less fortunate than most of us have been, most of us within the sound of my voice have been. I think the American people believe in a change in this inexplicably anti-American and anti-family policy.

Today, I am on the floor of the U.S. Senate to shine a light on this tragedy,

on this outrage. I ask my colleagues to remember the teaching of the Psalmist: "Give justice to the weak and the fatherless; maintain the right of the afflicted and the destitute."

I think Americans believe in the sentiments of the Psalmist in that regard. I think we are ready to heed the plight of the fatherless. Let's not neglect our duty in correcting the situation we find ourselves in and, once again, becoming the country that provides welcoming, loving outreach to children to be part of a forever American family.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

UIGHUR INTERVENTION AND GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN UNIFIED RESPONSE ACT OF 2019

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

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

Mr. McCONNELL. What is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business. The bill clerk read the following:

House message to accompany S. 178, a bill to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China.

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill, with McConnell Amendment No. 2499, in the nature of a substitute.

AMENDMENT NO. 2499 WITHDRAWN

Mr. McCONNELL. I withdraw the motion to concur in the House amendment with amendment No. 2499.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right.

The amendment is withdrawn.

MOTION TO CONCUR WITH AMENDMENT NO. 2652

Mr. McCONNELL. I move to concur in the House amendment with amendment No. 2652.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. McCONNELL] moves to concur in the House amendment to the bill, S. 178, with an amendment numbered 2652.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask that the reading be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows: (Purpose: In the nature of a substitute) (The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk for the motion to concur with amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

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 motion to concur in the House amendment to S. 178, a bill to condemn gross human rights violations of ethnic Turkic Muslims in Xinjiang, and calling for an end to arbitrary detention, torture, and harassment of these communities inside and outside China, with a further amendment No. 2652.

Mitch McConnell, John Barrasso, Shelley Moore Capito, Marco Rubio, Lamar Alexander, Mike Crapo, Roy Blunt, James M. Inhofe, Kevin Cramer, Richard C. Shelby, Martha McSally, Pat Roberts, Tim Scott, James Lankford, Dan Sullivan, Todd Young, John Cornyn.

Mr. McCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory call be waived.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. I move to proceed to executive session.

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

The Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Brett H. Ludwig, of Wisconsin, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Wisconsin.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

TEXAS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, each year, during the month of August, I look forward to traveling across my State—my very big State—to spend time with my constituents. It is the best way to learn firsthand how the laws and programs we enact here are working and to receive the feedback on legislation being considered by the Congress in the future and what I can do to better help the folks back home.

A typical State work period involves dozens of face-to-face events from every corner of my State, covering all ages, professions, and walks of life. Last August, I spent time talking with my constituents about everything from the Debbie Smith Act and GI benefits for student veterans to Project Safe Neighborhoods grants and the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Trade Agreement.

As we all know, 2020 has been anything but typical, and this August was no exception. These big, in-person events have been replaced with virtual ones, with face-to-face meetings, which now involve wearing masks, social distancing, and a heavy dose of hand sanitizer. Instead of the broad range of policies we might normally discuss, almost every one of them centered on the impact of COVID-19. No big surprise there.

I have heard from mayors, teachers, food bank employees, healthcare workers, restaurant owners, energy workers,