

In 2018, the voters grew that majority on our pledge to continue working with President Trump, most especially on his outstanding judicial appointments. We are going to keep our word once again. We are going to vote on this nomination on this floor.

#### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 4618

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read bill by title for the second time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4618) making emergency supplemental appropriations for disaster relief for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2020, and for other purposes.

Mr. MCCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### REMEMBERING JUSTICE RUTH BADER GINSBURG

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, in the Jewish tradition, only a person of great righteousness dies at the end of the year, near Rosh Hashanah, because God determined that they were needed until the very end. On Friday evening, shortly after the sundown on the eve of the Jewish New Year, we learned that Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg—a woman of great righteousness, a woman of valor—passed away.

She was many things to many people: a brilliant mind, a quick wit, a lover of the opera, a friend, a colleague, a workout guru, a feminist icon. She might be the only Supreme Court Justice to become a meme. What began as a joke, “the Notorious RBG”—likening a legendary rapper to an octogenarian jurist—struck a chord of deep resonance in American society because Ruth Bader Ginsburg was, in fact, a rebellious force to be reckoned with.

In a male-dominated legal establishment that wasn’t waiting for someone

like Ruth to shake up the system, she elbowed her way through. Her brains, her strength, her fortitude changed the world for women long before the rest of the world caught up.

Over the course of two decades, as an academic and general counsel for the ACLU, Ruth worked to challenge the foundations of the legal system that had long treated women as a group that had to be “protected”—and thus excluded—from full participation in American life. Not only did she reverse those laws and convince the majority of the Supreme Court that the Constitution forbids discrimination on the basis of sex, she was a living, breathing example of how absurd an idea it ever was that women needed additional protections.

And when she got to the Court, she ruled in a manner that brought the same equality and justice to so many different people, from all walks of life.

The daughter of Russian immigrants who came to this country like my own grandparents, Ruth went to the same high school as I did in Brooklyn, NY—James Madison High School—two decades before I did. I followed her career and her ascent to the bench with that special pride you feel watching someone from your neighborhood make a great difference in the world. The fact that at the end of her long life and illustrious career, young women, and indeed young men across America, looked at Ruth Bader Ginsburg with the same sense of pride and hope and sometimes adoration, gives me great hope.

May she forever rest in peace.

#### SUPREME COURT NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, Justice Ginsburg’s death leaves a vacancy on the Supreme Court with only 44 days left before a national election that could result in a different President—a vacancy that could determine the future of the Supreme Court for generations and make rulings that touch every aspect of American life.

Reporters will no doubt cover the political machinations here in Washington, but for hundreds of millions of Americans, this vacancy on the Supreme Court puts everything—everything—on the line.

Americans’ right to healthcare hangs in the balance. President Trump is pursuing a lawsuit which would eliminate protections for more than 130 million Americans with preexisting conditions, send drug prices soaring for seniors on Medicare, and take health insurance away from tens of millions of people. He will nominate a Justice that would ensure that result in a Supreme Court case that will be argued only a few weeks after election day.

A woman’s fundamental, constitutional right to make her own medical decisions—to control her own body, her right to choose—hangs in the balance. The right of workers to organize and collectively bargain for fair wages at a

time of growing income inequality hangs in the balance. The future of our planet, environmental protections, and the possibility of bold legislation to address climate change hang in the balance. Voting rights and the right of every American citizen to have a voice in our democracy hang in the balance. The stakes of this election, the stakes of this vacancy concern no less than the future of fundamental rights of the American people.

I was with my daughter and her wife to celebrate the Jewish New Year, and they thought to themselves and mentioned at the table: Could their right to be married, could marriage equality, be undone?

Those are questions hundreds of millions of Americans are asking about things near and dear to them as this nomination hangs in the balance. That is what it is all about—all the rights enshrined in our Constitution that are supposed to be protected by the Supreme Court of the United States; all the rights that could be undone or unwound by a conservative majority on the Court; the right to join a union, marry whom you love, freely exercise your right to vote; the right of a parent with a child who has cancer not to watch, helpless, as their son or daughter suffers without proper healthcare.

If you care about these things and the kind of country we live in, this election and this vacancy mean everything. And by all rights, by every modicum of decency and honor, Leader MCCONNELL and the Republican Senate majority have no right to fill it—no right.

In the final few weeks, sensing her failing health, Justice Ginsburg told her family that it was her “most fervent wish that [she] not be replaced until a new president is installed.”

That was Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg’s dying wish—her most fervent wish—that she should not be replaced until a new President is installed.

The Senate Republican majority should have no problem adhering to Justice Ginsburg’s dying wish. Leader MCCONNELL held a Supreme Court vacancy open for nearly a year in order to “give the people a voice” in selecting a Supreme Court Justice.

I just heard the remarks of the Republican leader, and it is obvious why he is so defensive.

This is what Leader MCCONNELL said in 2016, mere hours after the death of Justice Scalia. His words:

The American people should have a voice in the selection of their next Supreme Court Justice. Therefore, this vacancy should not be filled until we have a new president.

No amount of sophistry can change what MCCONNELL said then. And it applies even more so now—more so—so much closer we are to an election.

In an op-ed on February 18, 2016, with Senator GRASSLEY, Leader MCCONNELL wrote: “Given that we are in the midst of a presidential election process, we believe that the American people should seize the opportunity to weigh