

of 2015, instead of following U.S. objectives of confronting oligarchs, Vice President Biden's staff advised him to avoid commenting on the odious oligarch and instead say "I am not going to get into naming names or accusing individuals."

Well, if you are running an anticorruption agenda in Ukraine and you pull your punches when it comes to Burisma while your son is on the board, that goes to judgment—and here it looks like very bad judgment and weak leadership.

Based on witness testimony, Burisma's owner allegedly paid a \$7 million bribe to officials serving under Ukraine's prosecutor general to shut the case against him. When he allegedly placed the bribe in December 2014, Hunter Biden was on the board and—can you believe this—he had been hired to be on the board to assist with what they call "corporate governance and responsibility." Obviously, he wasn't doing his corporate job—due diligence.

The facts show that the Obama administration was well aware of the problems that Hunter Biden being on the Burisma board caused. The facts show that the Obama administration turned a blind eye to it. Everyone knew about the problems it caused, but nobody wanted to do anything about it. So much for leadership.

At its core, the investigation is a good government oversight investigation. These are exactly the kinds of shady, backroom deals that the American people should know about. So now the facts are out there. The American people can judge this information for themselves. They don't need the people on the other side of the aisle of this institution telling them what went on when they were using disinformation from Russia and spreading that disinformation around and trying to say it was attributed to something that we got.

As for the next step, Senator JOHN-SON and I will continue to review the records that we possess and further records that we hope we are able to acquire.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ENZI). 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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 PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

NOMINATION OF AMY CONEY BARRETT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, after Senate Republicans established the

principle that the Senate shouldn't consider Supreme Court nominations in Presidential election years, on Saturday, President Trump nominated Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court with less than 40 days left in the Presidential election.

The Senate has never—never—confirmed a nominee to the Supreme Court this close to a Presidential election. In fact, the election is already underway, but President Trump gets to play by different rules under this Republican majority.

By nominating Judge Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court, President Trump has once again put Americans' healthcare in the crosshairs. President Trump has promised to nominate Supreme Court Justices who will "terminate"—his words—our healthcare law. In Judge Barrett, President Trump has found the deciding vote.

Judge Barrett strongly criticized the ruling to uphold the Affordable Care Act, claiming that if Justices read the law the way she does, they would "have had to invalidate" the entire healthcare law. Let me repeat that: Judge Barrett strongly criticized Justice Roberts' decision to uphold the Affordable Care Act, saying that "he pushed [the law] beyond its plausible meaning to save the statute." If Justice Roberts had read the law the way Judge Barrett does, the Supreme Court would have had to invalidate the entire Affordable Care Act.

The Republican lawsuit against the Affordable Care Act, as everyone knows, will be heard 1 week after the election. Senate Republicans are rushing to jam Judge Barrett's confirmation through in time for her to hear arguments in that very case. Not one for subtlety, President Trump tweeted on Saturday that our healthcare law would be replaced "if terminated by the Supreme Court."

So the American people should make no mistake, a vote by any Senator for Judge Amy Coney Barrett is a vote to strike down the Affordable Care Act and eliminate protections for millions of Americans with preexisting conditions.

Judge Barrett's record also suggests that if she is confirmed, the reproductive freedom of millions of women would be in grave danger. Should Judge Amy Coney Barrett be confirmed, a far-right majority on the Court could turn back the clock on women's rights and a woman's right to choose, workers' rights, voting rights, civil rights, environmental protections, LGBTQ rights, and many more. The future for DACA recipients hangs in the balance as well.

So this nomination concerns no less than the fundamental rights of the American people. After holding a Supreme Court vacancy open for 8 months before a Presidential election, President Trump and Leader McConnell are doing what no Senate has done before—shamelessly rushing to fill Justice

Ginsburg's seat less than 40 days before the Presidential election.

Justice Ginsburg's dying wish was that she not be replaced until a new President is installed. Republicans are poised not only to ignore her wishes, but to replace her with someone who could tear down everything she had built.

This reprehensible power grab is a cynical attack on the legitimacy of the Court, and I would strongly, strongly oppose this nomination.

The Senate Republican majority has decided, however, that they will stop at nothing, break all the rules—even their own rules—to rush this nomination through before the election. But apparently the Senate majority isn't going to stop at naked hypocrisy. It is also going to engage in manufactured hysterics.

For the past few weeks, long before President Trump even nominated Judge Barrett, Senate Republicans have been telling everyone who will listen that Democrats "better not make Catholicism an issue in this nomination." That is their quote.

Last week, a Member of this Chamber wrote me an entire letter preemptively warning about anti-Catholic attacks against a nominee who hadn't been named yet. Another Member of this Chamber said that "in CHUCK SCHUMER's America—only atheists can be Supreme Court Justices."

Of course, not a single Democrat will make these attacks or make personal religious beliefs an issue, but that doesn't matter to my Republican friends. Oh, no. They will try to slander Democrats with this imaginary issue anyway because they are desperate for a distraction. Republicans invented this concern because they are so eager to make this nomination about anything other than their disgraceful double standard—anything besides their attempts to take away healthcare and curtail the fundamental rights of the American people.

Honestly, it is embarrassing how transparent Republicans are being about this manufactured line of attack. They couldn't even wait for a Catholic nominee to be chosen. They already scripted the attacks.

The Senator from Tennessee is making wild allegations; the Senator from Missouri is writing ridiculous letters; and my friend from Florida is cutting videos decrying the kind of attacks on a person's faith that haven't occurred since the political right was implying that our last practicing Christian President, President Obama, was a secret Muslim.

I don't remember my Republican colleagues making a fuss when peaceful protesters were tear-gassed so President Trump could hold the Bible upside down in front of a church for a photo op.

I understand why certain Republicans are resorting to this disgusting tactic: They have no other argument. They can't argue that this nomination