

consciences. These nuns did not manufacture their lengthy legal battle for the fun of it. It was the secularizing left that went on offense.

Churches all across America did not go looking for one of this cycle's Democratic Presidential contenders to suggest places of workshop should lose their tax exempt status if they preach or practice traditional teaching. It was the secularizing left that went on offense.

If parts of the elite American left have become this out of touch with mainstream religious beliefs held by millions and millions of their fellow citizens, it will take more than victim blaming to dig out of it. They could start this week. They could start today.

They could commit to evaluating Judge Barrett on her credentials and her qualifications, and they could stop gawking at deeply religious Americans like they have encountered extra-terrestrial life or bought a ticket for a safari.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 4773, S. 4774, S. 4775

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I understand there are three bills at the desk due for a second reading, en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4773) to establish the Paycheck Protection Program Second Draw Loan, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 4774) to provide support for air carrier workers, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 4775) to provide continued emergency assistance, educational support, and health care response for individuals, families, and businesses affected by the 2020 coronavirus pandemic.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection being heard, the measures will be placed on the calendar, en bloc.

PROTECT ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 554, S. 4675.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion to proceed.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to S. 4675, a bill to amend the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The assistant Democratic leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 5602

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I come to the floor today to speak to one

of the most significant issues facing the security of our Nation. It is a question of domestic terrorism, specifically the threat of violent White supremacists.

In Tuesday's Presidential debate, moderator Chris Wallace asked President Trump to condemn White supremacists and rightwing militia. President Trump refused. Instead, he replied—and I quote—“Proud Boys, stand back and stand by.”

The Proud Boys, a far-right group that promotes and engages in violence, viewed President Trump's words as a call to action. The group's leader Joe Biggs said he took the President's words as a directive to “[F] . . . them up.”

I was appalled, but not surprised, by the President's words. He has a long history of inflammatory, racist remarks. Now, President Trump claims that violence is a “left-wing problem, not a right-wing problem”—his words.

Let me be clear. I join Vice President Biden in condemning all violence, but we know that White supremacists pose a great threat. An unclassified May 2017 FBI-DHS joint intelligence bulletin found that “white supremacist extremism poses [a] persistent threat of lethal violence.” This was a finding by the lead law enforcement agencies of the Trump administration. They went on to say that White supremacists were responsible for more homicides from 2000 to 2016 than any other domestic extremist movement. The director of the FBI, Christopher Wray, in response to a question I posed in the Senate Judiciary Committee last year, said that the majority of domestic terrorism arrests involved White supremacists.

Now, for years, I have urged the Trump administration to respond to the ongoing threat of violent White supremacists and other far-rightwing extremists. Instead, they have repeatedly downplayed this very lethal and real threat.

Attorney General Barr has never responded to the multiple letters I have sent, asking what the Department of Justice was doing to combat White supremacist violence.

Unfortunately, as we have learned from former Trump administration officials themselves, the Trump administration has downplayed the threat of violent White supremacists. POLITICO recently reported that a draft homeland threat assessment report from DHS was edited to weaken language on the threat posed by violent White supremacists. And a DHS whistleblower alleged that DHS officials, including Ken Cuccinelli, requested the modification of the report to make the threat of White supremacists “appear less severe” and add information on violent leftwing groups.

It is not enough to just stand here and condemn the President's remarks at the infamous debate. The American people sent us to Congress to act. There is something we can do now.

There is something that we can do that will show we are prepared to respond to this threat to law and order, to this threat of violent White supremacists.

I am the lead sponsor of the Domestic Terrorism Prevention Act, bipartisan legislation that would address the threat of violent White supremacists and other domestic terrorists.

Our bill would establish offices to combat domestic terrorism at the Department of Justice, the FBI, and the Department of Homeland Security. It would require these offices to regularly assess the domestic terrorism threat and focus their limited resources on the most significant threats. Critically, they would provide training resources to assist State, local, and Tribal law enforcement in addressing the domestic terrorism threat. The House companion to my bill was introduced by my colleague and friend Congressman BRAD SCHNEIDER of Illinois.

Just last week, the House of Representatives passed our bill on a unanimous voice vote. The Senate should pass it today.

In a few moments, staff will provide me with the language to ask for a unanimous consent. I am waiting so there is an opportunity for both sides to discuss the procedure moving forward. In the meantime, several of my colleagues have asked to come to the floor and address the issue. I would yield to them for comment or question, through the Chair, with the hopes that when the procedural language arrives, I might be able to make the unanimous consent request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I am here today on probably one of the most serious national security issues that we will confront. I say that as a member of the Armed Services Committee, having received a variety of classified briefings on threats to this country. Some of them regarding ongoing foreign interference in our election are truly chilling. But the threat to our national security from White supremacists, now operating so openly that the Director of the FBI has said they are one of the paramount threats and an ongoing security threat to our Nation, demands that there should be action now.

The bill that my colleague Senator DURBIN is offering passed unanimously by the House of Representatives within recent days. Let me repeat. It passed unanimously by the House of Representatives. It reflects the real and urgent danger of this threat.

The President has refused to denounce White supremacists. The President has told one of the most prominent of those groups to stand by. That failure—an abject failure on the part of the Commander in Chief—to respond to an ongoing security threat demands this action now. We must stand up for the integrity of our elections, the security of our Nation, and the fundamental freedoms that we prize as American people.