

for themselves. We should all be warned: The videos are as difficult to watch as they are easy to find, but the price of self-government is self-awareness.

The American people need to know the truth about what actually goes on in America's abortion clinics, what lies are being told, and what crimes are being committed in their name and with their own money. The truth about human life and dignity has the power to set us all free, but first, we have to tell it.

Thank you, Mr. President.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, last week, I spoke about Senate Republicans' virtual shutdown of the judicial nominations process since they took over the majority. Their refusal to respond to the urgent needs of our independent third branch is threatening to harm our justice system and rob the judiciary of outstanding public servants.

One glaring example of this harm is the unnecessary delay of Judge Luis Felipe Restrepo, who was nominated last year to fill an emergency vacancy on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Pennsylvania. Judge Restrepo was unanimously confirmed 2 years ago by the Senate to serve as a district court judge. During his tenure as both a Federal district court judge and as a Federal magistrate judge, he has presided over 56 trials that have gone to verdict or judgment. He is superbly qualified, and I have heard no objection to his nomination. Despite his outstanding credentials and experience, it took the Republican majority 7 months just to schedule a hearing in the Judiciary Committee for this qualified nominee.

Judge Restrepo has bipartisan support from both Pennsylvania Senators and was voted out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously by voice vote. Once confirmed, Judge Restrepo will be the first Hispanic judge from Pennsylvania to ever serve on this court and only the second Hispanic judge to serve on the Third Circuit. He has the strong endorsement of the nonpartisan Hispanic National Bar Association. At his confirmation hearing in June, Senator TOOMEY stated that "there is no question [Judge Restrepo] is a very well qualified candidate to serve on the Third Circuit." Senator TOOMEY described Judge Restrepo's life story as

"an American Dream" and recounted how Judge Restrepo came to the United States from Colombia and rose to the top of his profession by "virtue of his hard work, his intellect, his integrity." I could not agree more.

Given his remarkable credentials, wealth of experience, and strong bipartisan support, you would think the Senate would have confirmed Judge Restrepo months ago. Instead, he was nominated for a judicial emergency vacancy back in November 2014, and for 10 months since his nomination, he has been denied a vote on his confirmation. No Senate Democrat opposes a vote on his nomination. The only ones who are holding up his nomination are the Senate Republicans. I have heard Senator TOOMEY indicate his strong support, and that he would like to see Judge Restrepo receive a vote. I know Senator TOOMEY can be a fierce advocate for issues he cares passionately about, and I hope he will get a firm commitment from the majority leader to schedule a confirmation vote this week.

In addition to Judge Restrepo's nomination, there are 12 other noncontroversial judicial nominees pending on the Executive Calendar waiting for a vote. All of them were approved by voice vote by the Judiciary Committee. There is no reason for Republicans to block these nominees. More than 8 months into this new year, Republican leadership has allowed votes on just six judicial nominees. By this time in 2007, when I was chairman of the Judiciary Committee, we had confirmed 29 judges nominated by President Bush. That is nearly five times more nominees than what this Republican majority has accomplished so far this year. Because of the Republicans' virtual shutdown of the confirmation process, judicial vacancies have increased by more than 50 percent—from 43 to 67. This demonstrates an astounding neglect of the needs of our independent Third Branch.

Instead of confirming Judge Restrepo and the 12 other noncontroversial judicial nominees on the Executive Calendar, Republicans are talking about another doomed vote on harmful legislation to block women's health care choices. Republicans had already forced a failed "show vote" to defund critical health services for women, spending 2 days on that unnecessary political exercise. Although Senate Republicans campaigned last year on the promise that they would govern responsibly if they won the majority, they continue to prioritize divisive issues that play only to their political base and yield no results for the American people.

I am urging Republican leadership to reverse course. Confirm Judge Luis Felipe Restrepo without further delay, and then confirm the other 12 noncontroversial judicial nominees pending on our Executive Calendar.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the United States has a proud and unique history as a nation of immigrants. Ever since our founding, we have been a beacon of hope for those seeking opportunity. Generation after generation, our Nation has greatly benefited from the entrepreneurial spirit that these newcomers bring with them. That is as true today as it was 200 years ago.

Our Nation's history with immigration has not always been a story of acceptance. Newcomers have often faced resistance, isolation, discrimination and even racist opposition. Many of us here in this body know those painful stories from our own immigrant families—others here have felt the stinging words of bigotry themselves. My grandparents faced signs telling them to not bother applying for work because of their ancestry but those old stories are hard to imagine today.

That is why it is so shocking to hear the steady rise in racist, xenophobic rhetoric coming from the Republican field of Presidential candidates. These statements are offensive and have no place in our national dialogue. Those who use such rhetoric are fear mongering for political gain. Even in today's hyped up political theater, this kind of language is unacceptable. It is hurtful, harmful, and just plain wrong.

It is incumbent on all of us to speak out against this dehumanizing discourse. A topic as important as immigration is worthy of debate, but in an informed and thoughtful manner. This weekend, Steve Case, a co-founder of America Online, took a powerful stand in an opinion piece in the Washington Post titled "Business Leaders Must Speak Out Against Trump's Anti-Immigrant Rhetoric." Two years ago, as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I invited Mr. Case to testify before the committee when we were considering comprehensive immigration reform, and he has continued to be a leader on the issue. He is right to stand up, speak out, and call on all Americans to reject the ugly words we are hearing from too many political actors on one of the most pressing matters facing our country.

The growing partisan rhetoric that attempts to equate immigrants with criminals and suggests we deport them en masse is both irrational and dangerous. It is time that they stop. The characterization of immigrants as criminals here to harm us and our communities is not just beneath the dignity of anyone who seeks to lead this Nation as President, it simply is not supported by the evidence. Anyone who listened to the extensive testimony that the Senate Judiciary Committee collected 2 years ago will know that immigrants commit crimes at lower rates than those born in the United States. Many become job producers and the vast majority are hard-working members of our communities who support our economy and strengthen our neighborhoods. No less than Grover

Norquist testified that “Increased legal immigration will add millions of consumers, workers, renters, and others who will make our economy larger by working with Americans to produce more of the goods and services we demand.”

We must put an end to this destructive anti-immigrant rhetoric and find a way back to the constructive, bipartisan approach to reforming our immigration system. The Senate Judiciary Committee played a critical role in that effort and I am proud of the productive, respectful debates that marked our consideration of comprehensive immigration reform in 2013. Both Democrats and Republicans praised the process as fair and thorough. Bipartisanship was a priority, and of the 136 amendments we adopted in committee, all but 3 passed on a bipartisan basis. As a result of that remarkable effort, the Senate passed comprehensive immigration reform with overwhelming support. If House Republican leaders had simply brought that bill up for a vote, it would have passed and been the law of the land. We would have taken an enormous step forward as a country to fix our broken immigration system.

That bill is an example of all we can accomplish when we put aside hateful slogans and focus on our primary job of actually legislating. I hope that we will return to a bipartisan approach this Congress so that we can again pass legislation that strengthens our communities and our economy, improves our border security, and keeps families together.

There is still strong support for meaningful immigration reform in the Senate, and that is what we should work on here in Congress. There is no excuse for continued inaction and scapegoating. The time for immigration reform is now.

RECOGNIZING DR. YUICHI SHODA, DR. WALTER MISCHEL, AND DR. PHILIP PEAKE

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, basic research is a building block of American innovation. Without it, profound breakthroughs in science, medicine, technology and other fields would simply not happen.

In Washington State, we know investments in basic scientific research are a key ingredient to the future of our information economy—from aerospace and agriculture to technology and health care, and across all sectors of our economy.

It is in that spirit that, today, I recognize my constituent Dr. Yuichi Shoda of the University of Washington and his colleagues, Dr. Walter Mischel and Dr. Philip Peake, for their receipt of a Golden Goose Award for federally funded research.

The Golden Goose Award recognizes the immense benefits of federally funded research to human knowledge and our economy by shining a spotlight on

obscure studies that resulted in significant impacts to our society and major breakthroughs.

Dr. Shoda and his colleagues are being honored for their seminal longitudinal research project that has become known as “the marshmallow study.” This study, funded by the National Institutes of Health, began in the 1960s. The study presented children aged 4-to-5-years-old with a choice between a single marshmallow they could eat immediately or the promise of two marshmallows for which they would have to wait.

Dr. Shoda and his team discovered a significant correlation between how long children were able to wait for the treat and social and academic traits as they became adults. Their discoveries have led to significant advances in the way we understand the human behaviors and the neuroscience behind self-control and delayed gratification. Already, educators are using Dr. Shoda’s research to teach children positive habits at an early age. The implications of this research, from education to retirement and health, are vast.

As Dr. Shoda’s project demonstrates, federally funded scientific research builds the foundation upon which new ideas are developed. Dr. Shoda’s research also provides an example for why Congress must make robust and strategic investments in basic research across a variety of fields.

I congratulate Dr. Yuichi Shoda and his team for the marshmallow study and wish them a bright future as they continue unlocking new knowledge.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING PAULA EKONOMOS KOZLEN

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, it is with a heavy heart that I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of my dear friend, Paula Kozlen, a former marketing executive, avid tennis player, world traveler, community leader, beloved wife, sister, step-mother, aunt, and friend, who passed away on August 29, 2015, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Paula was truly one of a kind. Her energy and determination, her sense of humor and adventure, her incredibly kind heart and love of life will always be remembered by everyone lucky enough to have crossed her path during her amazing life.

Paula was born in Illinois on July 26, 1952. After graduating from Western Illinois University with a degree in education, she embarked on a long and successful career in marketing and sales for several major corporations around the country. Paula’s career provided her with the opportunity to travel, which became a lifelong passion. She loved visiting new places and developed deep and lasting friendships with people all over the world who were drawn to her extraordinarily com-

passionate and generous personality. Of all the places she traveled, she found her home in the Coachella Valley of Southern California.

Paula cared so deeply about helping others and improving her community, and she gave her time and energy without reservation. She dedicated herself to supporting music, theatre, and education in the Coachella Valley, served on boards for organizations that provide services to those in need, and dropped everything to help the people of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina hit in 2005. Paula was the type of person who wouldn’t hesitate when she saw people in need and knew that she could make a difference.

My entire family joins me in mourning her loss and sending our heartfelt condolences to Paula’s husband, Vern Kozlen; sisters Katherine Wolcott, and husband Keene, and Vicki Griffin, and husband Michael; step-son Mark Kozlen; and niece Katherine Griffin.

Those of us who were lucky enough to have known Paula will be forever grateful for the extraordinary time we had with her, the example she set, and the wonderful memories that we will forever cherish. We truly walked in her light. She will be deeply missed.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Williams, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 4:30 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 720) to improve intergovernmental planning for and communication during security incidents at domestic airports, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 6:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 720. An act to improve intergovernmental planning for and communication during security incidents at domestic airports, and for other purposes.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar: