

we use the phrase “never again,” we know that we are taking meaningful action to make that a reality.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for an additional 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Hearing none, it is so ordered.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF FREDDIE GRAY

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, the death of Freddie Gray was a national tragedy deserving of a national conversation. A year after the death of Freddie Gray, the glare of television cameras covering the ensuing unrest has faded in Baltimore but the hurt and the continuing effort to heal remain.

In the 12 months since Freddie Gray’s death, Americans have had long overdue conversations about racially biased policing, poverty in cities across America, the lack of access to quality education, and the scarcity of safe and affordable housing. These conversations have been translated into meaningful actions by Baltimore City residents, community leaders, and lawmakers at every level. Faith groups, community organizations, the business community, and many other groups who love and understand the limitless potential of our city have stood up and articulated their vision on how to build a stronger Baltimore.

The death of Freddie Gray was yet another painful reminder of the problems we have in our criminal justice system. I am a strong supporter of the independence of our judicial branch of government and the grand jury system, but I think all of us understand the frustration when there were no criminal indictments brought in the Trayvon Martin case, the Michael Brown case, the Eric Garner case, and far too many examples across America.

I have been working for years to address problems in our criminal justice system. In the days following the death of Freddie Gray and the ensuing unrest, I called on the Justice Department to open Federal criminal and civil rights investigations into Freddie Gray’s death. On April 21, 2015, I was joined by Representative JOHN CONYERS in reintroducing legislation, the End Racial Profiling Act, which I originally introduced before the tragic death of Trayvon Martin.

As Baltimore emerged from the unrest, I met with community leaders to discuss legislative responses to help heal Baltimore’s physical wounds and how to address many of the core problems that underpinned the unrest.

I met with a pharmacy owner whose store had been looted. I visited a senior center that was damaged. I spoke with residents in east and west Baltimore. I visited Freddie Gray’s elementary school to hear from teachers and community leaders about what tools they required for the Federal Government to better meet the needs of students.

In the weeks following the unrest, I went back and forth from Baltimore City to the Senate and the White House, relaying the needs of Baltimoreans to my colleagues and to top Obama administration officials. I was joined by the Maryland congressional delegation, my colleague and friend Senator MIKULSKI—one of the great leaders on this issue—and members of our city delegation—Congressman CUMMINGS, Congressman RUPPERSBERGER, and Congressman SARBANES.

Congress and the Federal Government responded and continues to respond. I welcomed the announcement that the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division will open a Federal “pattern or practice” investigation of the Baltimore Police Department. This was just one way to help restore the eroded trust between communities and police. To further this effort, I introduced the BALTIMORE Act. The BALTIMORE Act is comprised of four titles.

Title I deals with law enforcement reform. The BALTIMORE Act places bans on racial profiling by State and local law enforcement, mandatory data collection and reporting, and available grants.

It requires local law enforcement officials receiving funds from the Byrne/JAG and COPS Hiring Programs to submit officer training information to the Department of Justice, including how their officers are trained in the use of force, countering racial and ethnic bias, deescalating conflicts, and constructive engagement with the public.

It requires the Department of Justice to report on a plan to assist State and local law enforcement agencies to improve training in the use of force, identifying racial and ethnic bias, and conflict resolution through the course of officers’ careers.

The Department of Justice shall develop Field Training Program policies and examine ways to partner with national law enforcement organizations to promote consistent standards for high quality training and assessment. The Department shall also provide a report that contains best practices, model policies, and training toolkits. The Department of Justice will derive action plans for helping law enforcement agencies upgrade their IT systems to submit arrest and officer-involved shooting data.

Lastly, Title I establishes a pilot program to assist local law enforcement in purchasing or leasing body-worn cameras, which requires privacy study.

We have a comprehensive section that deals with law enforcement.

Title II deals with voting rights and civil rights restoration. The BALTIMORE Act restores the right to vote for all citizens after a prison sentence is served, returning citizens the right to vote. It also restores eligibility to sit on Federal juries after a prison sentence has been served.

Title III deals with sentencing law reform, which many colleagues in this

Chamber have been championing. It reclassifies specific low-level, nonviolent drug possession felonies as misdemeanors, eliminating the distinction between crack and powder cocaine for sentencing, and requires fair weight for food products.

Title IV deals with reentry and employment law reform. It is critically important that people have an opportunity once they come out of incarceration. I don’t think there is a Member of this Chamber who hasn’t had a second chance. This allows nonprofits to apply for Second Chance Act grants.

It authorizes \$200 million annually for the Labor Department’s Reentry Employment Opportunities Program. It is a sense of the Congress that the administration should “ban the box” for hiring of Federal contractors.

Baltimore’s congressional delegation has been fighting to ensure Federal resources are made available to help the city residents prosper. In the days following the unrest, the Small Business Administration established disaster loan outreach centers in Baltimore to help local owners who have been impacted by the unrest.

The Justice Department has also provided assistance in the form of the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grants to help defray the cost of policing during the unrest and to help local law enforcement better safeguard communities from violent crime.

The Department of Education’s Project SERV, or School Emergency Response to Violence, has given resources to Baltimore City Public Schools to help students recover from trauma associated with the unrest.

The Environmental Protection Agency pledged funding to help convert vacant lots into gardens that foster a sense of community and increase public and environmental health.

Other Obama administration initiatives such as My Brother’s Keeper continue to give communities the tools they need to foster long-term positive change. These are only a small portion of the Federal Government’s ongoing commitment to the people of Baltimore City.

I am proud of the Federal Government stepping up to help Baltimore so that Baltimore can reach its full potential. Baltimore is my home. Following the death of Freddie Gray was one of the most difficult days in the city’s history. One year later, Baltimore is transforming with the help of ordinary citizens, the business community, and a slew of nonprofits making a measurable impact. I have always been honored to represent the people of Baltimore. As long as I still have that honor, I will continue to make sure the Federal Government is an active partner in empowering Baltimore City to reach its full potential.

In the year since the death of Freddie Gray, we have made progress in building a more just America by investing in Baltimore. Let us continue to build upon that progress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized.

REMEMBERING HARRY WU

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, on Tuesday, the world lost a courageous activist for international workers' rights, Harry Wu. Harry Wu spent 19 years in one of China's "laogai" prison labor camps. That word is pretty much unknown in English—L-A-O-G-A-I. It is a word that the Chinese made famous, at least in their part of the world, as the terribly brutal labor camps where they sent political prisoners.

Mr. Wu was imprisoned in 1960 at age 23 because he spoke out against Communist China's ally in 1960, the Soviet Union, after its invasion of Hungary. Over those 19 years, from 1960 to 1979, Mr. Wu was brutalized. He was sent to work on farms, mines, and prison camps. He was beaten and forced into concrete cases. As he has written and told us, he survived on food he foraged in rats' nests.

After his release, following Mao's death, Harry Wu dedicated the rest of his life to exposing the horrors that his homeland leaders inflicted on their own citizens. He risked his life to return to China under cover and gathered secret footage of the abuses in China's laogai, China's prison camps. He wouldn't let the world ignore Chinese atrocities. He wouldn't let us forget that opening our doors to China—demanded by U.S. corporations with few strings attached—came at a steep price. Through the footage he collected, he helped show the world that products like cheap wrenches and artificial flowers sold in the United States were made with forced labor. Think about what this was about. U.S. companies would shut down their production in Mansfield, my hometown, or maybe in Baton Rouge or Cleveland, and move their production to China and sell those products back to the United States. The U.S. companies that moved to China never addressed the moral issue of what that move did to our communities. They never addressed the moral issue of, in some cases, using Chinese forced labor to make their products. These companies could also sell their products a little bit cheaper in the United States, and as a result, these companies could reap much bigger profits. The moral question of U.S. trade relations with China has rarely been touched in this body. It is just inconvenient for us to think about. Well, Mr. Wu never let it be inconvenient.

As we approach the 15th anniversary of China's entry into the World Trade Organization this year and review China's nonmarket economy status, we should not forget the lessons of Harry Wu. Over the past decade, we have seen that prosperity in China does not lead to more political freedom.

I knew Harry Wu. He testified before the Congressional-Executive Commission on China when I was chairman. He had testified several times.

As recently as 2012, Mr. Wu warned Congress:

The Laogai—

The forced labor camp—system [is] deeply rooted into [China's] economic structure. . . . China's working class is different from that of the modern democratic countries. It includes not only "workers" in the ordinary sense, but also "workers" of the prison enterprises.

These would be slaves. He warned that "prisoners in Laogai, more like state slaves than enterprise workers, provide the state with an endless source of cheap or payless labor force."

This system is an egregious human rights abuse against hundreds of thousands of Chinese people. It hurts American workers who are then forced to compete.

This system they have set up is one of the reasons that people are really upset about what is happening in this country. Companies in my State of Ohio shut down production in Lima, Zanesville, and Chillicothe, then moved overseas to China in order to get a tax break, hired Chinese workers—some of them were slave laborers for some of the component manufacturing; some of them were just low-paid labor—to make these products in a totalitarian system and sell them back in the United States. American companies never talk about the moral dimension of that.

I wrote a book a dozen or so years ago called the "Myths of Free Trade." I interviewed Harry Wu about this book. He told me: "Capitalism must never be equated with democracy." Because our country believes in capitalism and democracy, we think they always go together. Well, they don't. According to Harry Wu:

Capitalism must never be equated with democracy. . . . Don't believe it about China. My homeland is mired in thousands of years of rule by one bully at a time, whether you call him emperor or chairman. Don't be fooled by electronics or air conditioning.

Before his death, I think Mr. Wu would have said: Yes, the United States has been fooled. Maybe we choose to be fooled; maybe we choose to not know how the products that we hold in our hands are made—by an oppressive government using forced labor workers.

We have been on a continuous march toward more trade with China and demanded far little in return. We have turned a blind eye to China's labor practices for too long. When you hear Presidential candidates and others complaining about China, it is always about putting American workers out of work, which it should be, but the other part of that moral question is about how we are using slave laborers in China to undercut American workers. How could an American worker or company possibly compete with slave labor in China? Obviously we can't, but we leave that moral question because U.S.

corporations don't want to acknowledge and want to turn a blind eye toward slave labor. It reminds me of something from a few years ago when an American drug company was making a blood thinner—much of the production of that blood thinner came from China—with contaminated ingredients, and a number of people in Toledo, OH, died. The drug company didn't know where these products came from. They knew they came from China, but they didn't know where their supply ingredients came from. Think about that. They should be liable for that—at least you would think they should—but they just didn't think about the moral question there.

A year and a half ago I gave a speech to the Council on Foreign Relations, warning that before we sign any bilateral investment treaty with China, we need to demand that China comply with existing international obligations in domestic law. We have given China chance after chance, pushing for increased engagement, even though we know that China will play by its own rules. In the past year and a half, nothing has changed. We need to make clear the international obligations we expect China to meet on cyber security, human rights, forced labor, slaves making products that American children use, international trade, workers' rights, and other issues. We need to demand that China meet these standards now.

Increased engagement by the United States may have led to more agreements on paper, and that is fine, but in reality the only thing it has achieved is our ongoing tolerance of Chinese transgressions. It may be tolerance, it may be ignoring, it may be shrugging our shoulders, it may be burying our heads in the sand, but I don't think we want to think much about slave labor in China. I don't think when we buy these products at Walmart—specializing in Chinese products—that we want to think much about where these products were made. We often know they were made in China, but we don't really want to think about how those workers produced these products.

Harry Wu's passing is a reminder that this needs to end. His legacy includes the Laogai Museum here in Washington. I encourage my colleagues to visit the museum and pay their respects to Harry Wu. The best way they can pay their respects to Harry Wu is by changing our policies. The thousands upon thousands of other nameless prisoners who suffered in these Chinese prison camps should be honored equally. We can't forget this tragic legacy, and we can't forget the human rights abuses that continue to this day as they continue to make these same products in these same working conditions with these same slave laborers. It is shameful. It should not continue.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.