

its core principles, and recognizes it is not there to legislate—not to legislate on the left side, not to legislate on the right side. They are there to defend the Constitution.

Well, reforming the Court won't be easily done. But President Biden did convene a Commission to explore the option, and that Commission has produced a lengthy, lengthy report. This is part of it: The Presidential Commission on the Supreme Court of the United States, December of last year.

I encourage all my colleagues to read this and consider the ideas in it. In this 300-page report, the Commission does review the history of how the Court has been in different phases, and its size has changed all the time because that is not established in the Constitution. It has been as few as 5, and it has been more than 10. There was not nine locked in like it is now.

And, certainly, one of the ideas they review is adjustment to the size of the Court. Many people have said that is something to look at to balance what has happened with the Court, with the stolen Supreme Court seat and a decision by several Justices to be a legislature rather than a court.

Well, that is one idea. Another is implementing term limits or a mandatory retirement age because, when the Constitution was first written, people weren't living the long lives they have today, and they didn't stay in the Court forever.

In 1787, the Founders wrote that Justices would hold their seats during good behavior. Now, I am not sure that every Justice across these grounds has been engaged in good behavior when they are choosing to legislate rather than to rule on the defense of the Constitution, but there is no easy way to remove them from the Court for misbehavior.

But one possibility is for the Court members to rotate out with term limits of some kind. That is one possibility.

In much of our history, Justices only served an average of 15 years on the Court. The average is now 26 and getting longer. And, did you know, America is the only constitutional democracy that gives lifetime presence on the Court, that doesn't have either a term limit or a mandatory retirement age?

This report, this Commission, has other ideas in it: rotating membership on the Court with judges selected from the circuit court. You know, the original Supreme Court, they served as circuit court writers. They went out and made decisions across this country. They didn't just sit in a room in the capital. So there is some precedent for that idea.

And others point out that there is the power to restrict the Court's jurisdiction. There are pros and cons for these various ideas, and our commitment needs to be to examine them. The American public is open to examining them.

Earlier this week, the FOX News poll reported that 66 percent of the folks in their poll support an 18-year term for Justices, and 71 percent support a mandatory retirement age. So the American people are open to trying to fix the challenge with the Court. We have to be open to fixing it, and we need to look at every option and idea very carefully to ensure that the highest Court in our land fulfills the vision for it in our Constitution. And the vision in our Constitution was not that it would be an unelected super-legislature.

Colleagues, this is a perilous moment for our Republic. It is a moment when the will of the people is being overrun by an extreme agenda of a Court legislating from the Bench, imposing their narrow and precedent-destroying will on all Americans. We have to restore the ability of this Senate to operate as a legislature that can be a counterbalance to what the Court does, and we must thoughtfully consider every proposal for reforming the Court directly.

We can and we must act before it is too late. We can't stand by and watch the continuous disintegration of our Republic.

Our oath to the Constitution demands that we protect these institutions and repair them when they go off track. And when we do, the next July 4, we can all join together and celebrate the restoration of our paralyzed and partisan Senate into an actual legislative body. We can celebrate the restoration of Americans' rights that are being continuously stripped away across the grounds by the Supreme Court. We can have a renewed belief and confidence in the integrity of all of our institutions and our democratic form of governance. That would be a moment justifying a massive celebration next July 4.

UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 406, S. 3895.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3895) to extend and authorize annual appropriations for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom through fiscal year 2024.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 3895

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

(a) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 207(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6435(a)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2022" and inserting "2023 and 2024".*

(b) *EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION.—Section 209 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6436) is amended by striking "September 30, 2022" and inserting "September 30, 2024".*

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 3895), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MORNING BUSINESS

PEACE CORPS REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise to highlight the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's vote to favorably report the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act to the full Senate for its consideration. This legislation, the first reauthorization since 1999, is critically important to strengthening American leadership in the world.

Last year, the Peace Corps celebrated its 60th anniversary of when President John F. Kennedy established this important program, run by its first Director, Sargent Shriver. The Peace Corps' mission then, as it is today, is to "promote world peace and friendship" by encouraging economic growth and well-being to underserved populations abroad, as well as giving Americans a better understanding of the wider world and vice-versa.

The Peace Corps is emerging from one of the most challenging crises it has ever faced. On March 15, 2020, as the gravity and uncertainty of the COVID pandemic gripped the world, every mission was suspended for the first time in the Peace Corps' history. In addition to executing the enormously complex operation of evacuating more than 7,000 Peace Corps volunteers from all around the globe, the Peace Corps was faced with the challenge of how to operate and serve during a period of global social isolation.

As the world continues to recover from the pandemic, the Peace Corps is busy executing plans for reentering countries and resuming its mission of service around the world. While the

Peace Corps' return is a testament to the resilience and adaptability of this vitally important branch of U.S. foreign affairs, COVID's continued presence around the world requires the Peace Corps to undertake a wide array of new public safety measures to keep volunteers, staff, and host communities healthy and safe.

And so this reauthorization comes at a most critical time for the Peace Corps. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to enact long overdue reforms and to make sure the agency can effectively promote international peace, development, and people-to-people engagement. And it represents significant reforms and strong bipartisan congressional support for the Agency at an inflection point in its history.

This legislation will strengthen the Peace Corps, giving it the baseline budget it needs to build the program that Americans deserve. It sets a \$375 per month minimum for the Peace Corps volunteers' readjustment allowance. It suspends student loan interest during volunteer service. It extends healthcare coverage for returned Peace Corps volunteers. And it provides greater whistleblower protections so the Peace Corps will be transparent and accountable, honoring the standards and aspirations of its original vision, as outlined in 1961.

The Peace Corps is on track to redeploy volunteers to 30 countries by the end of this fiscal year. And it has set an aggressive goal of returning volunteers to almost all of the prepandemic countries by the end of fiscal year 2023. The programs and policy reforms authorized in this legislation are crucial to ensuring the safe and successful return of volunteers to the field.

I am especially proud of the bipartisan work that has gone into this bill and appreciate the collaboration of the ranking member of Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator RISCH, for joining me on this important legislation. And I am pleased that we are joined by our colleagues, Senators CARDIN, YOUNG, SHAHEEN, PORTMAN, FEINSTEIN, and CORNYN, who should be commended for their support of the Peace Corps and to ensuring the Peace Corps can continue to support and enhance America's leading role in the world.

I also want to salute the tremendous input from the Peace Corps community. Their commitment to improving security, conditions, and opportunities for future Peace Corps volunteers is vital to the introduction of this bill and improves our national security as well.

So I urge my colleagues to support this bill and its swift passage. Passage of this bill will help bring about a revitalized, retooled Peace Corps. Making this bill law will help ensure the return of volunteers executing the important work of the Peace Corps, representing the United States of America overseas.

10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE AURORA, COLORADO, SHOOTING

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, on July 20, 2012, Colorado suffered a horrific mass shooting at a movie theater in Aurora. A gunman took 12 innocent lives from us, each of them full of aspirations for a future that was tragically and senselessly cut short. They leave behind family, friends, and a community in Aurora that still carries the pain of their loss a decade later.

Colorado will never forget and forever honor the 12 victims of the Aurora shooting. Today, I ask to read their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Jonathan Blunk was 26 years old. He was a father of two who moved to Colorado in 2009 after three tours in the Persian Gulf and North Arabian Sea for the U.S. Navy. He was a certified firefighter and EMT. Jon lost his life protecting his friend Jansen Young from the gunman's line of fire. Jon shielded her from gunfire by pushing her to the ground while shots were fired. He was supposed to fly that Saturday to Nevada to see his wife Chantel Blunk and his 4-year-old daughter and 2-year-old son. Instead, his wife had to put up the dress her daughter had picked out to wear to the airport. She told her daughter that they would not see their dad anymore, but that he would still love them and look over them.

Alexander Jonathan Boik was 18 years old. His friends and family called him A.J. He had just graduated from Gateway High School. He enjoyed baseball, music, and making pottery. A.J. was supposed to start art classes at the Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design that fall. He was described "as being the life of the party," who could bring a smile to anybody's face." He was a young man with a warm and loving heart.

Jesse Childress was 29 years old. He was an Air Force cyber systems operator based at Buckley Air Force Base. He loved to play flag football, softball, and bowl. He was a devoted fan of the Denver Broncos and held season tickets. His superior officer described him as an invaluable part of the 310th family who touched everyone with whom he worked.

Gordon Cowden was 51 years old. He was originally from Texas and lived in Aurora with his family. He was "a quick witted world traveler with a keen sense of humor, he will be remembered for his devotion to his children and for always trying to do the right thing, no matter the obstacle." Gordon took his two teenage children to the theater the night of the shooting. Both of them, thankfully, made it out unharmed.

Jessica Ghawi was 24 years old. She was an aspiring journalist, most recently interning with Mile High Sports Radio in Denver, and went by the nickname "Redfield." She was hard-working, ambitious, and had a generous spirit and kind heart. When several homes were destroyed by Colorado wildfires, Jessica collected hockey

equipment to donate to the kids affected because she wanted to help. That was who she was.

John Thomas Larimer was 27 years old. He was a cryptologic technician with the Navy based also at Buckley Air Force Base, a job that requires "exceptionally good character and skills." Originally from Chicago, John was the youngest of five siblings and had joined the service just over a year before the shooting. Like his father and grandfather, John chose to serve in the U.S. Navy. John's superior officer called him "an outstanding shipmate, a valued member of the Navy and an extremely dedicated sailor." Colleagues praised his calming demeanor and exceptional work ethic.

Matthew McQuinn was 27 years old. Matt died while protecting his girlfriend Samantha Yowler by jumping in front of her during the shooting. Matt and Samantha moved to Colorado from Ohio last fall and worked at Target. He and Samantha were in love and planning their future life together. Matt's bravery saved Samantha's life.

Micayla "Cayla" Medek was 23 years old. Cayla was a graduate of William C. Hinkley High School in Aurora and a resident of Westminster. She worked at Subway and was a huge Green Bay Packers fan. Cayla would plan weekend activities around watching the games with her brother and father. She is remembered as a loving and gentle young woman.

Veronica Moser-Sullivan was 6 years old. She had just learned to swim and attended Holly Ridge Elementary School in Denver. She was a good student who loved to play dress-up and read.

Alex Sullivan was 27 years old. He was at the movie celebrating his 27th birthday and first wedding anniversary. He loved comic books, the New York Mets, and movies. Alex was such a big movie fan that he took jobs at theaters just to see the movies. Alex stood 6 feet, 4 inches, and weighed about 280 pounds. He played football and wrestled before graduating high school in 2003 and later went to culinary school. Alex was known as a gentle giant and was loved by many.

Alexander C. Teves was 24 years old. Alex received an M.A. in counseling psychology from the University of Denver and was planning on becoming a psychiatrist. He also competed in the Tough Mudder, an intense endurance challenge, and helped students with special needs. Alex was at the theater on the night of the shooting with his girlfriend Amanda Lindgren. When the gunman opened fire, Alex immediately lunged to block Amanda from the gunfire, held her down, and covered her head.

Rebecca Wingo was 32 years old. Originally from Texas, Rebecca joined the Air Force after high school, where she became fluent in Mandarin Chinese and served as a translator. She was a single mother of two girls and worked as a customer relations representative