

sake of making sure China has to comply and be part of the world community and not do what they think is just good for themselves—which seems to be President Xi's way of doing things—I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of advancing the Kigali Amendment later today. It is low-hanging fruit for creating tens of thousands of good-paying jobs right here at home.

## DISCLOSE ACT

Mr. President, now on the DISCLOSE Act. Later today, President Biden will deliver remarks on one of the gravest dangers undermining our democracy—the power of dark money that has taken over our elections.

I expect the President's remarks will preview action here in the Senate, where we will have a vote this week to begin debate on the DISCLOSE Act—a bill I long promised to bring to the floor. My colleagues, led by the indefatigable and relentless and brilliant Senator WHITEHOUSE, have done a wonderful job championing this issue for years.

The DISCLOSE Act is very simple to grasp: it would require super PACs and other dark money groups to report anyone contributing \$10,000 or more during an election cycle. The same goes for any group spending any money in support of or in opposition to judicial nominees. In other words, it would require similar forms of transparency that traditional campaigns and candidates already face. We have to disclose when accepting political contributions.

And, frankly, why shouldn't this be law? What reason under Heaven is there for keeping massive political contributions hidden from the public? Even the Republican leader, who has dedicated much of his career, unfortunately, to killing many campaign finance reforms, claimed in the past to support increased disclosure; though, sadly, he is opposed to our bill today for no good reason. If you are for disclosure, you should be for our bill, and these flimsy arguments that it will deter people from giving are absurd—absurd.

If a multimillionaire wants to spend colossal sums on candidates or nominees who are deeply anti-choice or who will support anti-democracy candidates or who will harbor views deeply in conflict with the views of the general public, shouldn't the public have at least the right to know it?

The rights of voters and the health of our democracy far outweigh any interest that a multibillionaire could have in concealing political spending from public scrutiny.

So, the DISCLOSE Act will give every Senator a choice: a vote to bring transparency to our elections or stand with the forces of dark money.

Let me say that again. The DISCLOSE Act will give every Senator a choice: vote to bring transparency to our elections, remove the veil from this dark money that the public hates that is cascading into our elections or

stand on the side of dark money. Who wants to be on that side? We will see this week.

I want to take a moment to thank my colleague, Senator WHITEHOUSE, for his incredible work in championing this legislation. He is arguably the Senate's greatest champion in the fight against dark money, someone who has dedicated years to uncovering the pernicious links between dark money groups and radical judicial nominees.

Do you want to know one of the main reasons we have a "MAGA" Court that overturns *Roe v. Wade*, that stands in the way of smart gun control laws and gun safety laws, that stands in the way of environmental progress? It is because of dark money, in good part—dark money.

SHELDON WHITEHOUSE has exposed this link better than anyone I know. He has gotten the rest of us to pay attention in a deeper way to the gravity of this issue. He will come to the floor later today and throughout the week to continue highlighting this issue. And I know others will be joining to stand by his side.

I thank him for his work. I thank the President for speaking about it this afternoon. And I stand with Senator WHITEHOUSE in highlighting this issue ahead of the vote, and I urge my colleagues to support the DISCLOSE Act.

## NOMINATION OF FLORENCE Y. PAN

Mr. President, in other matters, today, the Senate will vote to confirm our sixth circuit court judge in the month of September—Judge Florence Pan—to sit on the all-important DC Circuit Court of Appeals. If confirmed, Judge Pan will make history as the first Taiwanese American ever to serve on the DC Circuit Court of Appeals, joining in the proud company of so many other Biden nominees who have expanded the diversity and experience of the Federal bench.

As we all know, the DC Circuit Court is the second-most important Federal court in the country after the Supreme Court. Before this court comes disputes that involve Congress and much of the Federal Government, so many of its decisions involve constitutional or administrative law. It goes without saying that nominees to this court must be individuals of the highest caliber. They need to be experienced, balanced, and above all, committed to the rule of law.

That is exactly what we have in Judge Pan. She has had over a decade of experience as a judge in the District of Columbia and has seen practically every legal dispute under the Sun. She is already well-known to this Chamber, having been confirmed as a district judge with 68 votes. She should be similarly confirmed with bipartisan support.

## PUERTO RICO

Mr. President, last, but certainly not least: Puerto Rico. As our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico continue to feel the wrath of Hurricane Fiona, we continue to monitor the situation here in

Congress. Over the weekend, President Biden issued an emergency disaster declaration for Puerto Rico with 75 percent of the costs of emergency medical care, disaster response, and food distribution to be covered by the Federal Government.

Yesterday, I got on the phone with the FEMA Administrator and urged FEMA to approve Puerto Rico's request to increase that figure to 100 percent and to stand ready to approve a major disaster declaration request to unlock not just response money but funding needed to recover and rebuild. On the call were my colleagues Representatives VELÁZQUEZ and ESPAILLAT, and I echoed the calls from my colleagues to ensure maximum flexibility for those applying for FEMA assistance and to get Federal funding out of the door ASAP. Puerto Rico desperately needs it.

Later this morning, I will join with the Hispanic Federation and a number of my colleagues to talk about additional steps we are calling on the Federal Government to take, including steps to strengthen Puerto Rico's electric grid. The electric grid is almost 50 years out-of-date. It is particularly susceptible to hurricanes. It hasn't even been repaired since the damage Hurricane Maria, 5 years ago, put upon it. Yet, we have given lots of Federal money for the reestablishment or the rebuilding of the grid, and very little has happened. So we need to focus on that issue as well as others.

Five years to the day after the arrival of Maria, Puerto Rico needs help to recover from Fiona. We need to make sure, this time, Puerto Rico has absolutely everything it needs as soon as possible for as long as they need it. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

**EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT VIOLENCE AND THREATS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST THE EMPLOYEES OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION ARE UNACCEPTABLE AND SHOULD BE CONDEMNED**

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to condemn the violence and threats of violence against the men and women of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

I take these threats seriously. This July 1, I chaired the Judiciary Committee hearing on law enforcement officer safety and the threats our law enforcement officers are facing. I have repeatedly made clear that violence against law enforcement is never—never—acceptable no matter what ideology motivates it, but here is the reality.

In the past month, following the FBI's execution of a search warrant at Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort, the FBI has faced a flood of threats against its employees and its facilities, and these threats have been egged on by the former President and his allies.

The men and women of the Federal Bureau of Investigation literally put their lives on the line every day to keep all of us safe. They put themselves in harm's way to stop armed criminals, drug traffickers, terrorist organizations, and others who threaten our communities. They serve on the frontlines of the opioid epidemic and investigate and hold accountable those who traffic illegal opioids and who illegally prescribe pharmaceutical opioids. They investigate crimes against children and human trafficking—some of the most heinous crimes imaginable. They work day in and day out to combat international and domestic terrorism, and they carry out judicially issued search warrants every day. That is part of their job and an important role that they play in our justice system.

Unfortunately, ever since the August 8 Mar-a-Lago search, their dedication has been repaid with a flood of baseless attacks and violent threats. Attacking the FBI for his own political advantage is nothing new for the former President, but the attacks haven't stopped with him. His allies and followers have spewed anti-FBI vitriol online and across the airwaves. In recent weeks, there have been calls from Republican Members of Congress to "destroy" and "defund" the FBI. There have been calls from Republican congressional candidates to "gut" the FBI "like a fish" and "shoot FBI, IRS, ATF, and all other feds on sight." So it is no surprise that such outrageous and irresponsible rhetoric coincides with a stunning increase in violent threats against the FBI.

Last month, the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security issued a joint intelligence bulletin detailing an increase in violent threats and acts of violence against Federal law enforcement officials following the August 8 Mar-a-Lago search. These include threats to place a "dirty bomb" outside of the FBI headquarters and online calls for civil war and armed rebellion.

On August 11, a man wearing body armor—armed with an AR-15 assault rifle and a nail gun—attempted to breach the FBI's Cincinnati field office. On August 16, another man was indicted for threatening to murder everyone at the FBI, from Director Wray to the custodial staff. On August 25, a man jumped the fence at FBI's Chicago field office but, thankfully, was detained and taken to a local hospital for evaluation before he could hurt anyone.

In response to the joint intelligence bulletin and these incidents, I asked the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security to have a private briefing with Members of the Senate's Judiciary and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committees last week. That briefing only added to my concern.

I cannot share the specifics from this closed-door briefing, but I will say this: It should go without saying that the

men and women of the FBI risk their lives every day on our behalf, but the increase in threats to their personal safety since the August 8 Mar-a-Lago search warrant is shocking. Beyond the direct threats and violence, there are also rising concerns about the public spread of personal information about the FBI's employees and families—a practice known as doxing. I fear the situation may get worse.

Last Thursday, former President Trump kept up his threatening rhetoric against these law enforcement officers. He said that if he were indicted for his actions, "I think you'd have problems in this country the likes of which, perhaps, we've never seen before. I don't think the people of the United States would stand for it." That is exactly the kind of language President Trump used after he lost the 2020 election to incite the January 6 attack here at the Capitol.

As I have said many times, political violence and threats of violence in the furtherance of any cause—any cause—is unacceptable. It is time for the Senate to stand up and support the men and women of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who have been threatened and attacked for simply doing their jobs and working to protect America. Let's condemn these baseless attacks on the men and women of the FBI and the despicable political game they represent.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 775, submitted earlier today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 775) expressing the sense of the Senate that violence and threats of violence against the employees of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are unacceptable and should be condemned.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 775) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this resolution which just passed without objection from any Member of the Senate will be a reminder to the men and women who serve in law enforcement, particularly in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that we stand behind them and that those who would exploit political events at the expense of the

safety of these men and women are beyond the pale of constitutional conduct. We want to stand behind those who are standing for us—to protect us and our families.

I thank the Senate for agreeing to this resolution. It is timely; it is important; and it is clear.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

##### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I listened to the Republican minority leader, Senator MCCONNELL, speak on the floor this morning. I have to tell you, on the issue of immigration, there are several things which he said which are not accurate and that I would like to clarify for the RECORD.

First, this morning, Senator MCCONNELL said:

Orderly, legal immigration is part of what makes America strong. Anarchy and open borders make us weak.

I don't know of any rational person who would disagree with that comment.

But I think, for the record, we should make clear that, 8 years ago, when we considered comprehensive immigration reform—a bipartisan bill—on the floor of the U.S. Senate, the Senator from Kentucky voted against it. There were 14 Republican Senators who voted for this measure. It passed the Senate. It was the product of a bipartisan Commission—a self-appointed committee, really—the so-called Gang of 8. I want to recount the names of those who were on that committee who produced a comprehensive immigration reform bill. I was on the committee with CHUCK SCHUMER, Senator BOB MENENDEZ, and the Senator from the Presiding Officer's home State of Colorado, Senator MICHAEL BENNET. On the Republican side, it was led by Senator John McCain, Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, Senator MARCO RUBIO, and then Senator from Arizona Jeff Flake.

We worked for months. We put in all of the effort that was expected of us to address an issue which had not been addressed by Congress for 25 years, which was to try to upgrade our immigration system—to do what Senator MCCONNELL says needs to be done: orderly, legal immigration. That was what the bill sought to achieve. There were 14 Republicans who joined us in voting for it. Senator MCCONNELL did not, and we have not had another measure since then.

The bill we passed in the Senate was sent over to the Republican-controlled House of Representatives. They refused to even consider it in committee or on the floor or to bring it to a vote. We missed an opportunity, and it was an opportunity on many different levels. It would have finally addressed the issue of legal immigration in America, which is a critically important measure.

Throughout our history, without exception, year in and year out, legal immigrants have come to this country.