

national security interest to support these allies. So I want to see us take up this national security supplemental, but national security begins at home. And we can't pass a bill to advance American interests abroad while ignoring the national security crisis at our own border. We owe the American people better than that.

And the Democrat leader needs to understand the Republicans are serious. We have said all along that this national security supplemental must address the national security crisis at our border, and we will continue to hold that principle.

And while we recognize that in a negotiation, neither side will get everything it wants, the final border security component in this supplemental must have real teeth. Cosmetic measures are not acceptable. We can't afford anything less than real solutions to our Nation's border crisis.

Ten thousand-plus individuals were encountered at our southern border on Sunday, another 10,000 on Monday. It went up to 11,000. And as I said yesterday, now 12,000 in a single day. Things are getting worse, not better. We have an obligation to do everything we can to get this crisis under control—this administration, as I said, something they have had no interest in doing.

So I will vote against moving the supplemental while it lacks serious border security policy changes, and I hope that today's failed vote will clearly demonstrate to our Democratic colleagues that there will be no national security supplemental without the kind of border security measures that we need to keep our Nation secure.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 25

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 25 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, Americans have a constitutional right to own a firearm. Every day people across Wyoming responsibly use their Second Amendment rights to keep and to bear arms. Today is about defending those rights against those on the other side of the aisle who wish to take them away from us.

Democrats are demanding that the American people give up their liberty. The Democrat legislation takes away a right, and it does not provide Americans security. Democrats want Washington to ban rifles and pistols because of the way they look. To do this, they describe semiautomatic rifles as assault rifles. They aren't. Any farmer, rancher, or outdoorsman in Wyoming can tell you. These rifles work the same way as popular shotguns and other rifles used for hunting and for personal protection. Instead of facing these facts, Democrats stick to demonizing rifles and disrespecting gun owners.

Democrat's ban on assault weapons is an assault on lawful gun owners. There is a contradiction at the center of the gun control debate. Democrats want to enact new laws on law-abiding citizens. At the same time, they ignore the lawbreakers. Almost every single page of the bill that is in front of us today adds new restrictions and new burdens on people who follow the law. It tells what you can buy, what you can't buy. It bans more than 205 rifles, shotguns, and pistols by name.

Republicans reject these unjustified and unconstitutional restrictions. Democrat's bumper-sticker solution to ban guns is not about safety; it is about restricting lawful gun ownership. It is about trying to label responsible gun owners as criminals. Democrats are the party of defunding the police and disarming the American people.

None of this makes our streets safer. None of this slows the crimewave in America. None of this solves the mental health crisis in our country. The focus should be on mental health, on school safety, and stricter enforcement of current laws. We want Americans to be safe in their communities, their homes, and their schools.

The legislation that the majority leader is proposing that is before us today goes way beyond that. I oppose any policies that jeopardize the Second Amendment rights of the people of Wyoming and people across this country. The Second Amendment is freedom's essential safeguard. Without it, there can be no liberty, and there can be no security.

So, Mr. President, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. I know that the Senator from Alabama wants to speak. Could I ask the Senator from Alabama how long he wants to speak for?

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Ten minutes.

Mr. SCHUMER. Well, we want to all speak seriatim, and I thought I was going to speak before this.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I yield.

Mr. SCHUMER. Would the Senator yield also to Senator DURBIN after me; is that all right?

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I yield.

Mr. SCHUMER. Thank you.

Mr. President, I just heard, unfortunately, our Senator from Wyoming object. Here are the facts: The scourge of

gun violence in America is a national crisis. The American people are sick and tired of enduring one mass shooting after another. They are sick and tired of vigils and moments of silence for family, friends, classmates, coworkers.

Today, Democrats move to pass the assault weapons ban to help rid our streets of these deadly weapons. I want to thank my colleagues who support this measure, particularly Senator DURBIN, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, as well as Senators MURPHY and BLUMENTHAL and WARNOCK, who organized today's efforts with me.

We already have a decade's worth of proof that a ban on military-style assault works and saves lives, plain and simple. After I led the passage of the assault weapons ban—I carried the bill in the House as a Congressman, alongside our late colleague Senator Feinstein, who carried it in the Senate. What happened? America saw a significant decrease in mass shootings and in gun deaths—a decrease.

Unsurprisingly, when that ban lapsed, there was a sudden and dramatic spike in mass shootings and deaths from those shootings. We must change that. We still feel the unquenchable suffering of the families of Sandy Hook, where 11 years ago next week 26 innocent lives were cut short by an automatic weapon. I still see the pictures of those little children, and I still remember—because I speak to them fairly recently—the parents who have a hole in their hearts forever because some madman with an assault weapon was able to kill 26 of them, one after the other.

We still feel the agony of places like Buffalo, where a year-and-a-half ago a gunman murdered 10 people in cold blood at a Tops grocery store. I was at that grocery store a few days later. I still feel their pain. We feel the pain of Uvalde, Las Vegas, El Paso. The list sadly goes on and on and on.

And we also take action today because of tragedies like the Long Island Rail Road massacre that happened 30 years ago tomorrow in my own backyard, the innocent people who lost their lives at the Maryland train station. It was the 533 train filled with commuters heading home from work—so many injured, six killed. My heart still sinks. And I will never forget hearing that news, the river of blood in the aisles of the commuter railroad train, just horrible.

By passing the assault weapons ban today, we can help save lives, get these weapons off our streets, and prevent future tragedies. So today Republicans face a choice, as they do every day. We want to say to our Republican friends: Stand with families fearing for their lives or stand with the gun lobby and block this assault weapons ban.

Just look at what happened the last time both sides worked together on commonsense gun safety measures. We did something many believed to be impossible. Under the leadership of Senator MURPHY, Senator DURBIN, Senator

BLUMENTHAL, and so many others, we passed the first major gun safety bill in three decades. While this bill was a long-overdue step in the right direction, we have to do a lot more.

Today, we have an opportunity to come together and pass another life-saving measure.

I yield to the Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN, the chair of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I thank Senator SCHUMER for his remarks.

Imagine, if you will a family event that you look forward to each year. That was the Fourth of July parade in Highland Park, IL.

Highland Park, a leafy suburb of Chicago, is a wonderful community, truly a community. And every year on the Fourth of July, families ask their sons and daughters to put on that patriotic T-shirt, carry the little flag, stand out and enjoy this commemoration of the birth of the United States of America.

Well, a little over a year ago, that Fourth of July parade became a terrible day for so many families.

Last year, in Highland Park, IL, a shooter on a rooftop, with an assault rifle, was able to fire 83 rounds in 60 seconds—83 rounds in 60 seconds—killing 7 and wounding dozens before law enforcement could even identify where he was. One of those was a little 8-year-old boy, a twin, who will be unfortunately disabled for the rest of his life because of the injuries that he sustained.

This mass shooting in my home State of Illinois was one of hundreds across America last year. Since 2020, the United States has suffered from over 600 mass shootings every year, almost 2 a day.

I ask those who are listening to my remarks to reflect on one fact: There is no other country on Earth not engaged in active war where this type of killing occurs on a daily basis.

In Highland Park and in communities across America, shooters have used military-style assault weapons to cause irreversible harm in just a matter of minutes.

I listened to my friend from Wyoming object to the effort to bring this legislation to the floor and cite the fact that we were being disrespectful to gun owners. He made reference to ranchers and farmers in his State and how it is important for them to have firearms. I don't quarrel with that, but I do have to ask, in all seriousness: 83 rounds in 60 seconds? That is what a farmer needs? That is what a rancher needs? I think not. This is a military weapon designed to kill people. That is it. It is designed to kill massive numbers of people. I don't think that is part of farming or ranching in modern America.

Already this year, there have been 627 mass shootings, including the October 25 attack in Lewiston, ME, where a gunman opened fire and killed 18 people. Literally, the entire State of Maine was on alert, wondering if this shooter would have another victim.

Americans are rightfully afraid when they see their friends and neighbors killed in schools, in places of worship, in bowling alleys, at work, at the mall, at grocery stores. People are asking: What is safe? Mothers and fathers are asking: Is it safe to send our children to school?

Is it safe to send their children to school?

What can we do to stop this madness? It is madness. Firearms are now the leading cause of death of children in the United States. Firearms—the leading cause of death of children in the United States of America.

Mass shootings with assault weapons are a uniquely American phenomenon. Continuing to allow firearms meant for war to be used on the streets is disgraceful.

Last year, Congress took critical steps on gun safety reform with the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, but we must do more. When a shooter is armed with an assault weapon, the number of deaths in a mass shooting is, on average, twice as high. If we can prevent that many deaths when these tragedies strike by passing an assault weapons ban, what are we waiting for?

Finally, I would like to take a moment to talk about my former colleague and true trailblazer, the late Senator Dianne Feinstein, whose voice and leadership in this fight is an inspiration to us all.

Senator Feinstein experienced the devastation of gun violence firsthand the day that George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk were gunned down in the San Francisco City Hall. That was carved into her memory and inspired her response.

In 1994, an assault weapons ban was passed and considered a major step forward. Senator Feinstein's work in the Senate and then Congressman CHUCK SCHUMER's work in the House made it a reality. Congress failed to reauthorize this critical legislation—a big mistake.

Today, we can honor Senator Feinstein's legacy with the lives we will save by bringing forward this bill. After Highland Park, I said that I hope, for our children's sake, we don't run away from the problem. That community and so many others are counting on us to stand up and face this issue head on. I urge my colleagues to unite and do what is right for the safety of the American people. Let's pass the assault weapons ban.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Senator from Alabama.

MILITARY PROMOTIONS

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the military's new illegal abortion policy.

Last November, I got word from the Pentagon that it was planning on replacing a 40-year law that was passed in this building, about abortion in our military, that has worked perfectly for 40 years—no complaints. But our Presi-

dent, in his wisdom, decided to change that abortion policy with a memo.

So, because of that, I warned the Pentagon: Don't do this. Send this new policy through the Senate, and let's vote on it. Let's represent our colleagues. Let's represent the people back home who sent us up here. They elect us to do that, to make decisions for them, to represent them.

I said in writing that, if they imposed this new policy, I would put a hold on senior nominations in the military. That is the only power that we have in the minority to get the attention of the majority here in the Senate.

I hated to do it. These people needed promotions, but somebody needs to wake up in the White House and the Pentagon that they cannot dictate policy here in the U.S. Senate.

Send it over. Let's vote on it.

So I put a hold, 11 months ago, on admirals and generals and civil nominees. A few months went by—a few months being 11—and we have had that hold ever since they put this policy in place.

But somebody had to stand up to what was going on. So I did it. I stood up, knowing that I am 100 percent military. My dad was in the military. I was a military brat. I believe in our military. It is the No. 1 institution in this country because, if we don't have peace and security for the American citizens, we are in trouble.

Secretary Austin knew that I would hold these nominations. He knew it, but he decided to go ahead and do it anyway. It was his choice. The current leadership in the Pentagon seems to think that taxpayer-funded abortion is more important than military nominations.

Now, let's get this straight. This was in a policy that we had for 40 years that was about rape, incest, and harm to the mom. It had worked for 40 years, but they decided to change that because they thought they could without the consent of the Senate.

Since then, there has been absolutely no negotiation from my Democratic colleagues or the Biden administration. I have had a brief phone call a couple of times with the Secretary of Defense, but no negotiations at all. You would think, if they were really concerned about our military in a trying time in which we have all of the world which they have created, that they would have called me: Let's talk about this. Let's work it out. We need promotions.

Zero. Zero communications. I have been willing to negotiate the entire time.

So, instead, the Democrats have spent 11 months attacking me for trying to get them to do the right thing and to stand up for our military. No, they didn't want any of that. They wanted it their way or the highway.

Unfortunately, last month, even some of my Republican colleagues attacked me—and attacked me personally—here on this floor. I could see how this thing was going. They call themselves, you know, military—people