

tool helps keep all of us safe by encouraging victims to report criminals who pose a danger to our communities.

And last week, we heard about the impact services under VAWA have on victims—and how much more we must do. The National Network to End Domestic Violence, in their annual National Domestic Violence Counts Census, found that every day 9,000 service requests go unmet because of a lack of resources. This is not acceptable. Every day tens of thousands of victims turn to domestic and sexual violence services providers for support through emergency safe shelters, legal assistance, and child support groups, and we must do all we can to ensure these needs are met.

In my nearly 40 years in the Senate, few issues have meant more to me than passing an Inclusive Violence Against Women Act. The law is an example of how the Federal Government, in cooperation with state and local communities, can help solve problems. By providing new tools and resources to communities all around the country, we have helped bring the crimes of rape and domestic violence out of the shadows. I am proud of the work we did last year and I hope that a bipartisan Senate can come together this year to pass other, meaningful bills to support law enforcement and victims, like the Justice For All Act and the Runaway and Homelessness Youth Act.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF CAROLYN B. McHUGH TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE TENTH CIRCUIT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Carolyn B. McHugh, of Utah, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order the time until 5:30 p.m. will be equally divided and controlled in the usual form.

The Senator from Vermont.

(The remarks of Mr. LEAHY are printed in today's RECORD under "Morning Business.")

Mr. LEAHY. I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask that the time be charged on both sides.

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

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader.

Mr. McCONNELL. Are we in morning business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate is currently considering the McHugh nomination. We are not in morning business.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I am going to proceed on my leader time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right.

APPALACHIA DEPRESSION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, there is a depression in Appalachia—an absolute depression. Families are losing work because of government attacks on the coal industry and communities are hurting.

Tonight we are going to hear 30 hours of excuses from a group of people who think that it is just OK that we have a depression in Appalachia. Well, it is not OK. It is cruel. It is cruel to tell struggling coal families that they can't have a job because some billionaire in San Francisco disagrees with their line of work.

Let me relay a message from a Kentucky miner named Howard. What you are going to hear over the next 30 seconds is more important than anything these anticonservative liberals will say over the next 30 hours.

Here is what Howard had to say:

I say to you, Mister President of the United States . . . We're hurting. You say you're the president of the people? Well, we're people too. No one loves the mountains more than we do. We live here. We crawl between them. We get up every morning and we go to the top of a mountain in a strip job in the cold rain and snow to put bread on the table. Come and look at our little children, look at our people, Mr. President. You're not hurting for a job; you've got one. I don't.

That is Howard from eastern Kentucky.

I am not sure how anyone can hear something like that and think that attacking coal families is OK. It is not just coal families who are suffering.

I have two electric bills from a farmer named John in Shelbyville. Shelbyville is not in coal country. It is in another part of our State. But 90 percent of our electricity is from coal-fired generation. We have some of the lowest utility rates in America. At least we used to.

In July of 2008, the year before the President took office, John's electric bill was \$64.70. That was John's electric bill before the President took office. In July of 2013, he paid \$107.30. This same farm, a new President, and a 66-percent increase in utility bills in my State outside of coal country. That is a cost increase the people of Kentucky and the Nation simply cannot afford.

My colleagues say they will spend the entire night talking about how we need to wake up and take action. They are going to spend all night saying how

we need to wake up and take action. I wish to challenge them to think about acting in a way that puts the Americans I represent first and not spend 30 hours pretending as though they don't exist.

As I said, we have a depression in the coalfields of Kentucky created by this administration. Utility bills are soaring all over my State because of the actions of this administration. Tonight our colleagues are going to spend all night talking about just how great that really is. There is another side to the story. We need to care about and think about the people who are being hurt by the policies of this administration.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If neither side yields time, the time will be equally divided.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I am pleased to have the nomination of Judge Carolyn McHugh before the Senate today. Throughout her life Judge McHugh has demonstrated a commitment to the highest standards of academic excellence, professional distinction, and public service.

Judge McHugh graduated magna cum laude from the University of Utah, where she later earned her jurist doctorate, graduating Order of the Coif and serving as the editor on the Utah Law Review.

After excelling in law school, Judge McHugh clerked for the Honorable Bruce Jenkins of the District of Utah. She then spent more than 20 years in private practice, where she excelled, focusing on complex commercial litigation.

Throughout her career in private practice, Judge McHugh has demonstrated a strong commitment to pro bono work. She has been awarded several honors for her work to advance women in the legal profession. In 1996 the Utah State Bar recognized her with a Distinguished Committee Award from the Needs of Children Committee.

It was nearly 10 years ago when I first met Judge McHugh when I was working for then-Governor Jon Huntsman. During his first year as Governor, it was time for him to appoint someone to the Utah Court of Appeals. At that point the nominating commissions began their work, and shortly after their work concluded, the Governor's staff started interviewing various applicants, various people who had been considered by the nominating commission. It soon became apparent that there was a real standout in this very impressive group of candidates for this court of appeals position, and Judge McHugh's name rose to the top of the list.

During discussions I had with her and with my colleagues, as well as with Governor Huntsman, I found her to possess a keenly insightful legal mind, and I found her to be someone who really understands the role of judges—the necessarily limited role—and the