

What that Texas businessman said in the Senate Judiciary Committee gave me a good belief and strong faith that the business community wants to do the right thing but just wants guidance. It would be amazing if the CDC and OSHA stepped forward and provided clear, enforceable standards so that businesses and others across the United States knew exactly what to do in terms of social distancing and masks and the like. We need that, but first we need the language from Senator MCCONNELL. This so-called redline has been promised now for months. Let's see the details. Let's move forward from there.

The notion of immunity for businesses by any standard that will not protect employees and customers is unacceptable. It would not make America safe; it would make the situation even worse.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. LOEFFLER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

S. 4049

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, we have three groups of speakers having to do with the vote that will take place at 11:45 a.m., and during that time I will take the first 15 minutes, and then other Members will have amendments. The first two amendments will be the Schatz amendment and then my amendment.

I did have the intention of having more time and was going to kind of rejoice a little bit because, right now, I understand we are about to get the information on suggestions that the Secretary of Defense has after working over a realignment of some of our resources, particularly in Europe. This is kind of interesting because this is something that 18 years ago this year I tried to do unsuccessfully when Jim Jones was the Supreme Allied Commander, and we were not able to get it done. After 18 years, we are going to try it again. I will be speaking about that issue at 4 p.m. today, and it is a significant one.

Today we are considering amendments to our national defense authorization bill. We are still working on a managers' package, but as I previously noted, we have already agreed to more than 140 bipartisan amendments.

Let me be more specific than that. This is the first time we have done this. We have had amendments to a lesser degree in the past. This is the first time that the entire bill has been put together by Members of the U.S. Senate.

To demonstrate that, the total number of amendments to date, on July 21—including our request prior to com-

ing to the floor—are 818 amendments, of which 440 are Republican and 428 are Democratic. Then there was the adoption of the substitute amendment. We all remember what happened then. We had 79 amendments. Those amendments were 34 Democrat and 34 Republican, and 11 were joint. Then the amendments we adopted with the managers' package included 34 amendments, 15 from Republicans and 18 from Democrats, as amendments on the second managers' package numbering 28 and the third package of 34. What I am saying is that we have had many amendments, and this is the first time there has been a bill that was entirely written by the Members. That is why we are at a point now where we can introduce our amendments.

It was important to both Senator REED and me to try to vote on at least a few individual amendments. This is something we haven't been able to do in the last several years. We made this arrangement 2 weeks ago when we set up some six amendments to be voted on. We will start in just a few minutes voting on the first two, which will be Senator SCHATZ's and mine. I am glad we are doing this within the hour.

The first two amendments will be in relation to Senator SCHATZ regarding the 1033 Program. I am strongly opposed to the Schatz amendment to end the 1033 Program. I hear people talking about this, and I guess they don't realize what we have done in the State of Oklahoma. Our sheriffs and law enforcement officers were quite upset when they heard that it might be in jeopardy. The 1033 Program is an effective use of the taxpayers' money, taking equipment that is not being used by the military and allowing it to go into the law enforcement sector. All kinds of precautions have already been taken, but we are talking about adding a few more precautions.

The 1033 Program is an effective use of taxpayers' money. In fact, since the program's creation in 1990, more than \$7 billion worth of vehicles, desks, boots, computers, and more have been responsibly recycled into law enforcement. This is military equipment that the military no longer needs and that these agencies would be purchasing anyway. The equipment is always demilitarized so that it is appropriate for public safety use.

For years, local law enforcement has been asked to do more with less. Now they face the liberal cause to defund the police. We need to continue this transparent, responsive program.

There are a lot of us who have a hard time believing that this is going on today—that people are trying to play down law enforcement, trying to say that it is acceptable to break the law. This has never happened before in America, but that is what we are seeing right now. That makes this program one that is even more valuable.

Senator SCHATZ's amendment would place such stringent limitations on the 1033 Program that it would make the

program virtually impossible to use. It adds only burdensome certification and reporting requirements.

Now, I don't say this critically of Senator SCHATZ, but he doesn't like the program, and he wants to kill the program. We are not going to allow this to happen.

As an example, let's say that a sheriff's office in my State of Oklahoma or any other State decides that they want to receive sleeping bags that the Department of Defense no longer needs. Under the Schatz amendment, that sheriff's office would need to, No. 1, put the request for sleeping bags out for public comment 30 days prior; second, they would have to receive approval from local and State authorities; and third, they would have to file reports on how the sleeping bags would be used and the kind of training officers will have to receive in order for them to have these sleeping bags.

Sheriff's offices are too busy working to keep our communities safe to file numerous reports on sleeping bags that they receive from DOD. To put it bluntly, I think this amendment would kill the 1033 Program. Again, this is allowing trained law enforcement officers to use surplus equipment that is not going to be used and has no value to the military. This is why both the National Sheriffs' Association and the National Fraternal Order of Police strongly oppose Senator SCHATZ's amendment.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the recommendations from the National Sheriffs' Association and the National Fraternal Order of Police.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION,  
Alexandria, VA, July 14, 2020.

Hon. JAMES INHOFE,  
Chairman, U.S. Senate Committee on Armed  
Services, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write today to lend the voice of 3,068 sheriffs in support of your amendment #2411 to the National Defense Authorization Act and in opposition to Senator Schatz' amendment #2252. The National Sheriffs' Association has studied this issue thoroughly and determine that your amendment to prohibit the transfer of bayonets, grenades (other than flashbang and stun), weaponized tracked combat vehicles and armed drones is a more thoughtful approach. Senator Schatz, on the other hand, would stop the 1033 completely thru bureaucratic recordkeeping and reporting requirements that make it all but impossible to legally comply. It seems to us that, since taxpayers have bought this equipment once, to simply throw the equipment away or let it rust in warehouses is an incredibly wasteful approach to taxpayers' dollars. The sheriffs implore you to let us continue to use this equipment to save lives in high water rescues, deep snow rescues, and hostage situations, which we do many times a year.

Best regards,

JONATHAN THOMPSON,  
Executive Director and CEO.