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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, may our lawmakers delight today in Your guidance, finding joy in their fellowship with You. Lord, strengthen them by this fellowship, enabling them to be like productive trees planted by streams of water.

Lord, give our Senators the wisdom to live for Your glory, using them to provide deliverance for captives and freedom for the oppressed.

In you, O God, we find refuge. Continue to guide us, strong deliverer, for we are pilgrims in this life.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for 60 seconds as in morning business.

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

### EAGLES ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, we are all very much concerned about several mass instances of violence around the country. The Secret Service has a program of alerting people to some of those things and training people.

Understanding the common factors of the past acts of mass violence can help

us prevent future tragedies. The Secret Service, through its National Threat Assessment Center, compiles and studies data on these risk factors.

Yesterday, the Secret Service released its report entitled "Mass Attacks in Public Spaces," which confirms that there are often warning signs before targeted violence.

Following up on the expertise of the Secret Service, I introduced a bill that goes by the acronym EAGLES Act to expand the National Threat Assessment Center to conduct additional research and training to prevent targeted violence.

Congress should pass this law to help stop violence before it happens.

I yield the floor.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, later today, all Senators will have the opportunity to receive a classified briefing on an issue of huge national importance: the security and integrity of our elections.

It is fitting that today's session be one bipartisan, all-Member briefing because, while it is a cliché to say that certain priorities ought to be above partisan squabbling, I know that every one of us shares a genuine concern in maintaining the process through which American democracy plays out.

Those of my colleagues who have read the January 2017 intelligence assessment and the Mueller report will understand that it is precisely our unity and our faith in our democratic system that Vladimir Putin seeks to undermine.

Along with Americans' First Amendment rights to express themselves and speak out, there are few things more

fundamental to the maintenance of our Republic than the electoral process itself.

Thomas Paine wrote, "The right of voting for representatives is the primary right by which other rights are protected."

So preserving and protecting the elections that our State and local authorities conduct is a crucial task. From the Federal Government's perspective, States are firmly in the lead, but sometimes that means lending a hand to local authorities. Obviously, during the Civil Rights era, for example, some Federal guidelines were necessary to preserve integrity.

But many other times, doing the right thing means defending against interference, be it political interference in the constitutionally protected role of the States to conduct elections by politicians and bureaucrats here in Washington or, certainly, interference from America's adversaries abroad.

In 2016, Vladimir Putin sought to interfere in our elections. I have read the intelligence reports. I have read the Mueller report. I have talked with our Intelligence Committee, which has investigated this in depth and has a report coming out soon.

It is important to put Putin's efforts to interfere in our democracy in context because he didn't just decide in 2016 to take such a bold step. He kind of worked up to it, undermining an array of U.S. interests slowly but surely over 8 years of the previous administration's misguided approach to Russia.

Under President Obama, the U.S.-Russia relationship seemed to be defined by two constants: Putin's growing assertiveness in foreign meddling and the administration's failure to confront it.

Putin's 2008 invasion of the sovereign country of Georgia was met by the so-called reset in 2009, which swept the aggression under the rug. The United States may have reset our policy to

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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