

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, on H.R. 5578 we take an important step forward for victims of crime by establishing key protections for survivors of sexual assault in our criminal justice system.

I was proud to work with Senator SHAHEEN on this legislation when it passed in the Senate earlier this year. Her Sexual Assault Survivors' Rights Act addresses the unique challenges faced by sexual assault survivors. This bipartisan bill received overwhelming support in the Senate. The House has acted on a companion bill, H.R. 5578, that is nearly identical to what Senator SHAHEEN championed in the Senate. Today we pass the House measure and ensure that it will become law.

In many jurisdictions across the country, survivors of sexual assault face a labyrinth of complex policies that deter them from pursuing justice. We have seen that even when survivors make the decision to come forward, sometimes evidence is not properly preserved or tested. This is not acceptable. Survivors of sexual assault should never feel abandoned by our criminal justice system.

Senator SHAHEEN's Sexual Assault Survivors' Rights Act treats survivors with the dignity and respect that they deserve. It guarantees basic rights to survivors and serves as a model for reform across our Nation. It strengthens notice requirements to ensure that survivors understand their rights, and know the status of their cases.

Senator SHAHEEN was an original co-sponsor of the Leahy-Crapo Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act, which was signed into law in 2013 and significantly increased resources for survivors of sexual assault. We are building on that progress today by passing the Sexual Assault Survivors' Rights Act, but our work is not done. I urge the House to pass my bipartisan Justice for All Reauthorization Act, which increases protections for victims of crime and provides resources to ensure key evidence is tested. The Senate passed this bill in June by voice vote, and I hope the House will act soon so that it can become law.

Today, I stand with survivors of sexual assault and with Senator SHAHEEN, whose work to protect the rights of victims is of great importance.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for such time as I may consume, and I would say it would be in the neighborhood of about 10 or 12, maybe 15 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I very much appreciate the leadership on

the other side of the aisle in letting this survivors' bill of rights pass. I do have some comments on the procedures that have held this bill and other bills up for too long a time. I usually don't feel the need to address the Democratic leader's remarks on the floor, but he has decided to put partisan politics above rape survivors for the last week at least, so I cannot stand on the sidelines and let those remarks go unrebuted.

The Democratic leader recently said right here on the floor of the Senate that "Congress is floundering because of Republican inaction." This could not be further from the truth. If you want to know what is really going on, it is that the Democratic leader is using political gamesmanship to hold up non-controversial as well as bipartisan legislation, mostly by Republican Members who are up for reelection this year.

Why isn't the so-called objective media reporting on this? One need look no further than earlier today when Senator JOHNSON offered a non-controversial bill to fight ALS, a tragic disease, and the Democratic leader blocked it. Look no further than what happened last week to Senator TOOMEY's bill, a noncontroversial bill to prevent animals from cruelty and torture. The Democratic leader blocked it. Look no further than what happened earlier this week to Senator THUNE's bill, the noncontroversial MOBILE NOW Act. The Democratic leader blocked it. Look no further than what happened earlier this summer to another noncontroversial bill backed by Senator JOHNSON that would improve whistleblower protections. The Democratic leader blocked it. Look no further than what happened a few months ago to Senator AYOTTE's bill, a non-controversial bill to make anthrax vaccines available to first responders. The Democratic leader blocked it. That same day, just a week after five police officers were killed in Dallas, I tried to pass my noncontroversial bill to assist families of fallen police officers. The Democratic leader blocked that bill as well.

Each time Republicans tried to pass noncontroversial, bipartisan legislation, the Democratic leader blocked it. He is the common denominator. I wish I could say that I am surprised by the obstruction that is being pushed by the Democratic leader. But how can I be? This is how the Senate operated under his control. Under his tenure, even Members of his own party weren't allowed to offer amendments to his legislation unless he allowed it. In fact, there was at least one Member on the other side who went a full 6-year term without ever being allowed to offer a single amendment on the Senate floor for a vote.

The Democratic leader's actions in recent weeks—blocking these other bipartisan and, let me emphasize, non-controversial bills—is pure, unfiltered partisanship. It is election-year poli-

tics at its very worst. It is the same failed strategy American voters rejected in 2014 when they gave Republicans control of the Senate. Perhaps the Las Vegas Tribune had it right a few months ago when they wrote that for the Democratic leader, "[it's] politics first, last and always."

Today I had an opportunity to champion for Amanda Nguyen and all survivors of sexual assault across the country. I am delighted the Democratic leader relented on this very important piece of legislation and let this bill pass. I urge the Democratic leader to allow these other bipartisan initiatives to pass as well.

#### RESTRICTIONS ON UNCLASSIFIED DOCUMENTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today I want to again discuss the unnecessary restrictions on unclassified documents from the FBI's investigation of Secretary Clinton.

By way of background, on September 12, I came to the floor and gave a speech about the FBI improperly restricting unclassified documents as if they were actually classified. Since that speech, the FBI Director has continued to talk about transparency, as transparency should be talked about because the public's business ought to be public, and when there is transparency, there is accountability in government.

Behind the scenes, the FBI won't provide documents to the Senate Judiciary Committee unless we agree to very strict controls and strict secrecy. The FBI doesn't want the committee or the committee staff talking about what is in these documents to anyone, not even privately with witnesses and their attorneys.

Today, I personally spoke with Director Comey about the terms his staff is insisting on as a condition for providing the Clinton investigation documents. I want to be clear with the people of Iowa and the American public about what I told him and what my position is as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, which is responsible for oversight of the FBI.

The committee did not agree to any conditions before the first document delivery last month. In fact, nobody at the FBI, Senate security, or Senate leadership consulted with me as chairman of that committee before accepting the documents addressed to the Judiciary Committee. Still, we honored those limits in good faith anyway while we tried to get the unclassified material separated from the classified material. We honored the limits even though we were not obligated by any legal restriction or agreement.

The controls of these documents are overkill for this kind of unclassified material. The access controls make it unnecessarily difficult to use documents and to follow up on the information in those documents.

The most objectionable restriction is that we cannot talk about the content