

Hypocrisy grows among Democrats

With the 2018 midterm elections now far in hindsight, it is time to begin looking at the record of the freshman class of representatives and senators thus far.

When taking a step back, it is evident that two things have become even further emphasized by the new faces to Congress on the Democratic side, hypocrisy and extremism.

Just weeks ago, newly elected Congresswoman from Minnesota's 5th congressional district Rep. Ilhan Omar, came under fire for her allegedly anti-Semitic comments about the influence of the Israeli government and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC).

In her statement, Omar said, "I want to talk about the political influence in this country that says it is okay for people to push for allegiance to a foreign country."

Omar's use of the word "allegiance" in reference to Israel sparked criticism as the use of the word has ties to anti-Semitic conspiracy theories, and rightfully so. Although Omar has since somewhat apologized for her remarks, saying they were misinterpreted, this is not the first time that she has displayed animosity towards Israel.

Moreover, the most egregious display of hypocrisy comes from House Democrats including Speaker Nancy Pelosi. Rather than disavow Omar for her comments, many top-ranking Democrats in Congress opted to defend her instead.

In the light of Omar's comments, the house should have held a real vote to condemn her statements. Instead, the resolution brought to the floor by Pelosi and House Majority Whip Jim Clyburn says nothing of significance.

Pelosi went on to make excuses for Omar saying that she “did not understand the full weight of her words.”

The stark hypocrisy comes into play when analyzing the manner in which the Democrats handled this case of hateful speech compared to that of the GOP.

Back in January, House Republicans led by Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy voted to unanimously disavow white supremacist comments made by Rep. Steve King of Iowa. The GOP did not stop there, as they also stripped King of his committee assignments.

The ho-hum and insincere attitude of Democratic leadership in response to Omar is inexcusable. For someone who has a seat on the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Omar should have indefinitely been removed and stripped of her committee assignments. Nonetheless, she was not even directly decried as her district remains angered and recruits 2020 primary challengers to go against Omar.

As for extremism, there is not a single freshman representative who displays it in as pronounced a way as Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York. For starters, Ocasio-Cortez has been nothing but an endless fountain of idiotic and uneducated statements since entering Congress.

A self-described socialist, Ocasio-Cortez personifies ideological extremism. Just over a month ago on Feb.7, Ocasio-Cortez alongside introduced the Green New Deal resolution alongside Senator Ed Markey of Massachusetts.

The GDN mentions an unreal amount of outlandish, unrealistic and flat-out nonsensical proposals. The resolution entails a number of horrid socialist priorities such as universal healthcare, universal basic income and placing more restrictions on businesses and the business environment.

As if this proposal wasn't preposterous enough, Ocasio-Cortez

has not mentioned any clear way in which any of its priorities will be paid for. However, it is expected that if the GDN would go into effect, it would cost an overwhelming and unacceptable \$93 trillion.

As a further matter, Ocasio-Cortez's ineptitude was demonstrated in her clumsy debacle with Amazon. As of last year, Amazon planned last year to plant one of its new headquarters in New York City within Ocasio-Cortez' jurisdiction in Queens.

The freshman congresswoman's opposition to the deal resulted in Amazon pulling out of NYC, costing the city over 25,000 jobs in addition to an approximated \$4 billion in lost wages which would have gone to working-classing class individuals.

Ocasio-Cortez' sheer incompetence drew ire from members of her district who overwhelmingly supported the Amazon deal as well as Mayor Bill de Blasio and Governor Andrew Cuomo.

Ocasio-Cortez' comments on the New Zealand massacre caused a backlash amongst representatives. Representative Dan Crenshaw (R), a former Navy Seal, took Ocasio-Cortez' tweets and messages which attacked groups such as the NRA and bringing the event which is still being mourned upon, to politics. "If you find yourself using the tragedy in New Zealand to take backhanded swipes at conservatives in America – many of my colleagues already have – then you really have no shame and you are part of the problem. It should be easy for us to stand united and condemn terrorism," Crenshaw replied.

Crenshaw, a pronounced Republican has taken action on social media to combat opposing views.

March for Life 2019: Big success for a big cause

As I walked down 12th street with thousands of marching Americans, I thought of the 45 other annual March for Life events which have been taking place every year since 1974. The intent was to raise awareness for anti-abortion policy and advocate for additional reform to abortion laws. Our church group and hundreds of other groups were bundled up in the cold, chanting and marching to the capitol building.

The majority of those marching and the representatives, who spoke in Washington D.C. agree that these reforms should limit abortion to strictly cases where the mother's life is in danger. We began the meaningful day with prayer in Capitol One Arena. The sights after the prayers showed the true power of the Freedom of Assembly, thousands of peaceful protesters walking side by side.

It was no doubt that the march was a success as expressed by the "love life choose life" and other posters that were held by more than half a million people as they marched between 12th and 14th streets.

I believe this is what's needed to push for change in abortion laws. Since the march began, hundreds of thousands of Americans annually march against what they believe is immoral and wrong.

Additionally, the march was a peaceful one and went as planned according to Jeanne Mancini, March for Life's president. "We march to build a culture of life, to end abortion and in protest of the court's deeply flawed decision and its devastating effect on children and families across the country," said Mancini when describing the mission of the march. Unlike many marches, like the Antifa march back in August of 2018, the pro-life march had a more resonating feel as it was peaceful. On the other hand, marches like the Antifa

march feature physical attacks on the opposition and the police present who are just there to keep people safe.

Many teenagers and college students attend the rallies with their church groups and/or youth groups. The younger demographic has increasingly become more involved in events like the March for Life and March for our Lives; two different events but both wanting change.

The march did an impeccable job in embodying the stance of the pro-life generation, specifically a high proportion of the young, anti-abortion population. This was summed up in one sentence, which was the theme of this year's message to lawmakers: "Pro-Life is Pro-Science." People believe this march is a bunch of religious people marching for their Bible, however, this year they're making a scientific point.

This is due to the rise in the usage of new technologies in the medical industry. Every single time that new technology is used, in ultrasound, for example, it can be seen that each fetus, starting at conception is living and unique.

Along with the political and moral ideology behind the movement, those who were there were able to listen to the speeches of many pro-life public figures. Some of which are representatives in the federal government like Vice President Mike Pence, and others, like Ben Shapiro, are simply popular political commentators.

Prior to the actual march, Ben Shapiro performed his daily podcast, The Ben Shapiro Show, on stage in front of thousands to express in short the beliefs of the march to everyone and why abortion is wrong factually and scientifically.

In addition, abortion, in fact, is the leading cause of death in America taking over 330,000 lives in 2018 alone. Abortion has claimed the lives of nearly 55 million innocent children in America and less than 1% are in cases of rape (source: CDC.gov and the Guttmacht Institute). This means that during

the vast majority of cases when abortion is performed, it is unnecessary and when left to nature, the baby would have been born healthy.

After expressing their freedom of assembly to the people of America, people attending the march were able to hear the opinions of many uprising pro-life voices in America, including some Democrats like Dan Lipinski a representative from Illinois' 3rd district.

Donald Trump's border plan has hit a wall

The federal government shutdown on Dec. 22, after congressional and White House officials failed to find a compromise on a spending bill that hinged on President Trump's demands for \$5.7 billion for a border wall. The government has been shut down for longer than a month, making it the longest shutdown ever.

It is the third shutdown in two years of unified Republican rule in Washington, and it will stop work at nine federal departments and several other agencies. Around 800,000 government employees are affected and have missed a total of two paychecks.

A couple of weeks ago, Vice President Mike Pence met with Senator Chuck Schumer of New York, the Democratic leader, and senior House Republicans, searching for a solution to a logjam that President Trump has shown little interest in breaking, but it amounted to nothing. Any hopes of compromise is decreasing due everyone unwillingness to budge.

Both sides are trying to get the other side to blink and it's obviously not working. This week is all about pressure and forcing the other side to blink. Yes, that's been an unstated goal for both parties throughout the last month or so, but with real proposals on the table, real votes on the floor and real effects, the stakes will only become more acute.

All in all, the government shutdown has gone on for far too long and the proposal of the wall seems like a waste of resources and taxpayer money and just seems like an unnecessary investment. In general, building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border is a bad idea. It would stifle economic activity and drain money that's badly needed to create jobs, fund schools, and repair beaten-up roads. The future of border security lies in manpower and new technology, not medieval barricades.

The funding of the wall has also been a source of controversy, considering Trump's initial claim that he was going to make Mexico pay for the wall. Mexico vehemently denied this, and Trump supporters went as far as making a GoFundMe in an attempt to raise funds for the wall.

It also is showing the Presidents inability to comprehend trends and studies, as his administration overlooked the roughly 40 percent of the 11 million undocumented immigrants who live in the U.S. who became undocumented by overstaying their visas, not from border crossings. In fact, border crossing rates have gone down for twenty straight years, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection. Even ignoring the statistics, there are still issues with civil liberties and environmental concerns.

President Donald Trump has dragged the shutdown on for far too long and it is clear that it will only go on for longer unless someone budes. Democrats have made it staunchly clear that they are unwilling to budge on the issue of a border wall, while Trump has dug in his heels as well.

The future of the border wall as well as the government shutdown has a very cloudy future.

The Migrant Caravan: Why it's a problem for the US

With a vast majority of Annandale being of immigrant descent, all eyes are on the large migrant caravan approaching America's southern border.

This is a serious issue for the United States



A group of Central Americans climb a wall on the border between the US and Mexico as others try to bring it down. This was taken near the El Chaparral crossing in Tijuana, Mexico.

and one issue that the U.S. doesn't need. Thousands of migrants from Honduras and surrounding nations have gathered

and marched through Central American and through Mexican borders and security to get to the U.S. The migrants have been receiving travel help from civilians.

I believe we as a sovereign nation, need defensive borders. A country with no borders is no country, and I stand by that. We can't allow people from other nations to just cross into our borders because they feel like it.

We all feel sympathetic for these people, it's human nature; however, the United States should not and cannot have the responsibility to take in anyone who wants to enter, without a vetting process and reasons such as work skills that would benefit the country.

Marching through the border forcefully isn't the solution for these people. Mexico kindly offered asylum for the migrants but they declined, beggars can't be choosers.

Trump has responded by providing more border security on the Mexican-American border, which caused mixed emotions for some reason, with people questioning the cost of it.

Trump has stopped funding governments such as the Central American ones that are corrupt and produce a bad state for these migrants to run away. The migrant caravan members are now demanding delusional reparations. One of the groups is demanding that each of them receive \$50,000 or else they expect immediate entry to the U.S.

What's sickening is that the parents bring their children into a field of tear gas and begin to complain. Having a child next to you doesn't give you the right to break the law. The parents just end up endangering their children and themselves.

Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador and President Trump vowed to halt all foreign aid to the region if the caravan wasn't stopped. President López Obrador ordered \$30 billion to go to the development of Central America to act on the mass emigration.

I believe this is a proper response to the situation. The U.S. has laws and principles that we need to follow such as illegal entries through the border and the ability to deport people. Mexico offered hundreds of migrants refugee status, later on, the interior department reported thousands of refugee applicants.

They all have the right to apply for such status, however, they have no right to illegally cross borders to apply for it. I believe Trump and the officers did a good job in bottling up the caravan to control it. Dozens of arrests have been made at the border from the caravan.

These are people wanting to escape their defective situation; however like already mentioned, the sovereignty and principles of the U.S. doesn't allow us to take precedence over running the country and domestic issues.

The continuing acceptance of the flooding migrants will have the best economy in the world dwindle. This is because letting thousands of undocumented, unvetted people that have no skills or anyway to benefit the economy and the country will take jobs and resources. Having a vetting process for them will allow the U.S. to pick and choose people that will work, pay taxes, and benefit themselves and their American peers.

Democrats have been using the immigration issue here against Republicans in a way that makes it seem like they're against Latinos and Hispanics; they want to defend the border over letting them in. Everyone wants a strong, secure border, even Latinos in America want to live with secured borders.

Senator Lindsey Graham spoke on the issue, "Do you want to be the country of people that run ya up and down the halls and spit on ya? Or do you want to be a country of Republicans that'll actually deliver for working families, that'll put good judges on the court, that'll stand up against the enemies of this country. Nancy Pelosi will welcome the caravans here.

Donald Trump and the rest of us will stop them.”

This isn't out of a lack of sympathy, it's because we need to abide by the rule of law in this country. The mainstream view of people flooding into the country being okay is wrong.

Instead of worrying about migrants which have plenty of other options to stay, worry about homeless veterans, a valuable education, or how to benefit the environment.

Brexit: Two years later

The exit part in “Brexit” is taking far too long as the negotiations have reached the one year mark. I agree with the United Kingdom leaving the union, however I disagree with some of the reasons behind leaving. The European Union is one of the most powerful groups in the world and they are about to lose one of its biggest members with the United Kingdom.

The United Kingdom is not a country. It's more like a country of countries. It is made up of four nations including England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. The rest of Ireland is its own independent nation.

So what in the world is a Brexit? Brexit is the idea that the Brits will break away from the European Union. The European Union is a union consisting of 28 countries located primarily in Europe. This union was made to create peace in Europe and allow trade and transportation between countries to make everything less hectic and simpler. Most people in Britain seem to want to keep the trade structure with the rest of Europe, but they don't want free travel without immigration restrictions in the U.K.

The United Kingdom wants to leave the union for reasons such as reduced immigration, reduced terrorism, and the fear of losing jobs, similar to how the United States is feeling

towards other countries. The Brexit referendum that happened in the 2016 election has still not been carried out because it is unclear exactly how it could happen. A way that they could carry it out is through a Hard Brexit, which is where they could cut off trade relationships and immigration completely. There is also a Soft Brexit, which would keep the U.K.'s relationship as close as possible with the E.U., but they would no longer be with the union.

The Brexit impacts the rest of the world significantly, not just Europe. The U.K. is the fifth biggest national economy in the world. This will affect the rest of the world's market and can lead to bad news for any country's economy. The U.K. is also America's seventh biggest trading partner. For the U.S., we worry that the breakup of the union, which is a vital ally, will create even more instability.

Should students stand for the pledge?

Yes, it is a unifying factor for the country

The Pledge of Allegiance is said at every school across Virginia, according to state law. It's a symbol of patriotism and respect while summarizing the points of what the U.S. stands for, in theory.

Many do not understand the importance of the pledge and the meaning behind it, so they question why they should stand. As an American, I believe it shouldn't even be a debate whether

or not we stand.

We stand for the flag in order to honor those who fight, who have fought and who have died to protect our freedom and safety. We stand for the pledge to focus on what unites us as Americans not divides us. We stand for the flag not to pledge allegiance to a president, but to honor the reality that we have an elected president and not a lifetime king.

When I look at America and the pledge, I also look at other countries such as Iran and North Korea. Oppressive countries like those that don't allow anyone to publicly disrespect national symbols.

People that take these freedoms for granted are foolishly disrespecting what binds us together as Americans. Sitting during the pledge and kneeling for the anthem is not the correct time to protest racial injustice. The flag, pledge, and anthem stand for more than that, and some people fail to realize that.

Some of these people are like blind sheep following each other. There are reasons why some students don't stand, but those are only a few intelligent students that think with reasoning. Most students are lazy and when asked why they don't stand they reply with "I don't know, I just don't feel like it."

Several Supreme Court decisions have codified that no one has to recite the pledge, let alone stand when it is recited. That is your right as a citizen. I agree with it being voluntary because a forced recital would be like something done in a Nazi society.

The act of sitting during a national unifying pledge to the country that grants you individual freedoms is not only stupid but it is also self-defeating and misdirected.

Then again, in most places, sitting and not standing is more

of a statement about yourself than about America. You don't come off as too smart, instead you come off as ignorant and ungrateful to the rights you are given.

No, students have freedom of speech

The United States of America is a free and democratic nation. There are no laws requiring students to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance. Therefore, students should not feel compelled to do something they do not want to do. Under the rules of a democracy, it is wrong to force someone to speak or do what they don't want to do.

It's important to note that students who don't participate in the pledge aren't doing so just because they are lazy or because they don't care about the country. There are a multitude of reasons.

Many students see an issue with blindly professing an allegiance to a country. You should not have to pledge allegiance to a country that is doing things you do not agree with. For that reason, many students have chosen to not stand for the pledge because they disagree with the policies of the current president, Donald Trump.

Another reason students choose not to stand for the pledge is the phrase "One nation, under God." One important element of freedom in the U.S. is freedom of religion. The U.S. may have a majority of people who are monotheistic, but that doesn't mean that everyone believes we are united under one god. In fact, the phrase "under God" was added to the Pledge of Allegiance in 1954 by President Eisenhower. At the time, the Cold War was gaining steam, and Eisenhower was fighting communism across the globe. Back then, atheism was associated with communism, so he added "under God" to further separate

the U.S. from the ideas of communism. But, this phrase just simply isn't as relevant nowadays, and is the reason many students choose not to stand for the pledge.

Many students also find issue with the phrase "with liberty and justice for all." Many feel America discriminates against race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, nationality, so on and so forth. The idea of pledging allegiance to a country that doesn't support them is ridiculous to them.

Whatever the reason, students should not feel obligated to stand for the pledge. Even if a teacher claims it's mandatory, the reality is, students can choose whether or not they want to stand for the pledge.

Timeline of the Pledge of Allegiance

1887

George T. Balch, former Lieutenant Colonel in the US Army, writes the handbook *Methods of Teaching Patriotism in the Public Schools*. His campaign includes the placing of US flags in all public schools.

1892

Francis Bellamy writes the first Pledge of Allegiance with the words "I Pledge allegiance to my Flag and the Republic for which it stands; one Nation indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for All."

1898

The custom of rising for the flag begins during the Spanish-American war as patriotism increases.

1923

The National Flag Code is adopted at the National Flag Conference and it includes the Pledge of Allegiance.

1940

The Supreme Court rules 8-1 in the case of *Minersville School District v. Gobitis* that students can be expelled for refusing to recite the pledge.

1943

The Supreme Court reverses their ruling in *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette* deciding that students cannot be forced to recite the pledge.

1954

President Eisenhower signs a law adding the words 'under God' during the Cold War saying "we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America's heritage and future."

1992

Seventh Circuit Court rules that students may opt out of reciting the Pledge in the case of *Sherman v. Community Consolidated School District 21*.

Trump email hypocrisy

Emails! Emails! Emails! This was a constant refrain during the 2016 election cycle. Republicans made sure voters knew about Hillary Clinton's private email scandal and Donald Trump even made it one of his main focuses in his campaign, labeling his opponent "Crooked Hillary". This makes the actions of Ivanka

Trump, the president's daughter as well as a part of Trump's Cabinet as Special Advisor, all the more hypocritical.

All federal employees must abide by certain ethics, standards, and rules. This includes following guidelines that are set in place to protect classified information from getting into the wrong hands. Ivanka Trump was found to have breached this as White House officials learned that for most of 2017, she sent hundreds of emails that discussed private White House business using a private email.

The spokesman for Ivanka Trump's Lawyer, Peter Mirijanian, said in a statement that Trump only used her private email sporadically and before she was briefed on the rules. He also said that no classified information was sent.

However, this does not excuse what she did. You would think that since her father's main attack against Hilary Clinton was for using a personal email account as secretary of state she, of all people, would know how wrong it is.

She and her lawyers are claiming that she didn't know that it was a violation of federal guidelines but I refuse to believe that she is that ignorant. Clearly, everyone joining the Trump administration should have been on high alert about personal email use.

Ivanka Trump's actions are inexcusable and she should know better.

The 2018 midterms bring about

mixed results

Election night was exciting. The night started with people thinking Republicans were going to defy all expectations of political gravity. By the time the night was over, it looked sort of like what most people predicted.

The most important thing was historic voter turnouts. About 113 million people voted, around 48% of eligible voters. That is up from 83 million votes in 2014. The voter turnout is actually more comparable to the presidential elections in 2016 with 138.8 million voters. Overall, we believe that the historic midterms will leave a positive effect on the United States.

Whether it's the new balance of power with the House, the widening Senate gap, or the impressive number of women and races in Congress, the midterms proved interesting to say the least.

It was predicted that Democrats would win 45 seats, turned out they won 34. It was also predicted that Republicans would pick up 2-4 seats in the Senate, which they did. This has led to a lot of puzzlement, how could the Republicans lose the House, but pick up seats in the Senate?

The math was uniquely bad for Democrats this time around in the Senate. Republicans did over perform, and yes President Trump had something to do with that. President Trump visited a bunch of battleground states in hotly contested Senate races, and every place he visited, that candidate won.

President Trump has a unique gift for getting the base revved up, particularly in close Senate elections that do matter.

So he does have coattails when it comes to getting the base out, he does have reverse coattails however, when it comes to House races. Virtually every purple seat that was contested, every seat in the suburban district that Republicans held, went to Democrats last night. That is deeply troubling for Republicans. However, a Democratic house is overall good for the country, as it will limit some of the executive power in

the country.

More locally, Senator Tim Kaine won big over Republican candidate Corey Stewart. Personally, we have never agreed with Tim Kaine in the past, and I doubt I will in the future. However, he is the representative Virginians selected. As expected, Northern Virginia went completely Democratic, with Gerry Connolly and Jennifer Wexton winning in Districts 10 and 11.

The good news for Republicans is that the 'beloved' campaigns of candidates Beto O'Rourke of Texas and Andrew Gilliam of Florida came to an end. Beto O'Rourke had spent more money than God has, \$70 million, and still lost his race.

All that said Beto O'Rourke and other candidates still lost their campaigns after spending tons of money.

On top of that, Andrew Gilliam goes down in Florida, who was another person according to polls, was going to win. Ron DeSantis instead, comes from behind and snatches victory from what should have been a defeat. DeSantis and Scott will come up and prove why they're great representatives for the state.

As days passed, it looked like the midterm results were not all in and recounts have taken place. Florida and Arizona are both states in which the GOP have achieved big victories on the night of the elections.

However in the following days, thousands of mysterious votes began to appear in mostly Democratic leaning areas and the Democrats demanded a recount.

This seems just a bit fishy and it brings up the question to what is actually going on.

Senator Marco Rubio of Florida tweeted out, "Now democrat lawyers are descending on #Florida. They have been very clear they aren't here to make sure every vote is counted; They are here to change the results of the election and #Broward is where they plan to do it."

The Democrats basically confirmed this in a press conference where they said they aren't just here to recount, they're here to win.

I don't believe anyone has a problem with the recounts taking

place, the problem lies with them focusing just on two counties. Bay County got hit by a category 4 hurricane four weeks prior to the elections and they still had a 52% voter turnout and got all the ballots in on time.

Broward County wasn't hit by a catastrophic hurricane or anything of the sorts, so people don't see a reason to why counting is still taking place 48 hours later.

Another problem is the amount of votes that have happened. They don't know how many votes they have gotten and neither do we. How many ballots are left to count? They won't make a mention of it and tell nobody. Results still came up with a Rick Scott victory however, and it appears the Democratic candidate is now leading in Arizona.

There was no "blue wave," if there was, the Senate would be under democratic control, which it isn't. In governor elections, Republicans won big as well in Maryland, New Hampshire, Vermont, and Massachusetts, all blue states that were supposed to win those races.

The Republicans defied most expectations and actually grew their majority in the Upper House, which has not been a common occurrence in the past 100 years. The loses in the House were a lot less historical than what people predicted as well.

Washington clashes over Kavanaugh

When people mention President Trump's most recent Supreme Court nominee, Brett Kavanaugh, there is a lot to discuss. Kavanaugh's perspectives on issues, his past, his sexual assault allegations and so on.

Judge Kavanaugh's perspectives on controversial issues convey

his support for the conservative legal movement. It's funny that this scandal just so happens to pop up just as President Trump's heavily conservative appointee is being voted on. The Democrats are using Dr. Christine Ford as an excuse to postpone the vote past the midterms.

When asked about details, Dr. Ford replied indecisively, saying she doesn't remember much details of that day, which is weird considering it's such a life changing, traumatizing experience. Swearing under oath, witnesses Dr. Ford provided came out saying that they don't recall any of this.

Regarding a case in the fall 2017 where an undocumented 17 year old in immigration detention sought an immediate abortion, Judge Kavanaugh disagreed with the majority opinion, saying they wrongfully created "a new right for unlawful immigrant minors in U.S. government detention to obtain immediate abortion on demand."

Senate leader Mitch McConnell announced that he is invoking closure so the democrats cannot filibuster the Kavanaugh nominee, meaning the vote will take place on Oct 6. "I'm filing closure on Judge Brett Kavanaugh nomination this evening so the process can move forward," said Senator McConnell. And the process should move forward because shocker, nothing has been found.

Despite all this, democrats like Senator Dianne Feinstein, seeing the results and calling their beloved investigation wrong. They mention people not being interviewed during the investigation, and that is because they could provide no corroborating evidence. Both sides are trying to convince undecided senators.

Starting in late July and continuing over six weeks till the midterms, there is no excuse that this scandal is where it's at. This has been the seventh background investigation which is the last edition to what is the most comprehensive review

of a Supreme Court nominee in history. This includes extensive hearings, multiple committee interviews, over 1200 words, and half a million pages of documents. The Senators had a 51-49 vote to advance Kavanaugh's nomination to the final floor vote on Oct 5. Key players in the vote were Senators Susan Collins, Jeff Flake, and Joe Manchin who all voted to advance Kavanaugh. At the time of publication, the final floor vote has not happened yet.

Republicans are urging each other to confirm Kavanaugh, especially due to the fact that President Trump ordered the FBI's investigation into the sexual assault allegations against Kavanaugh.

The FBI investigation found that there were many inconsistencies with the witnesses' stories, and may be inconclusive. No evidence was found to conclude a sexual assault by Brett Kavanaugh.

People view this case as a man getting accused of sexually assaulting a girl after 36 years and democrats trying to run him down. And now we have the media trying to latch on to every rumor trying to diminish Kavanaugh's chances of getting appointed. You accuse a guy of gang rape, and you rummage through his yearbook and agenda and your big argument now is that he "lied in his yearbook." That all seems like they're using every excuse and every rumor to get Kavanaugh.

Republican Senator Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, was infuriated with Kavanaugh's testimony, saying, "Boy y'all want power, God I hope you never get it, I hope the American people can see through this sham... To my Republican colleagues, if you vote no, you are legitimizing the most despicable thing I've ever seen in my time in politics."

One woman, Dr. Christine Blasey Ford claims that she is "100 percent" sure that Brett Kavanaugh assaulted her when they were in high school.

On Sept 27. Dr. Ford testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee for around four hours. Dr. Ford gave a very

emotional testimony, as she depicted the allegation, and conveyed how it affected her life afterwards. Dr. Ford, who was 15 at the time, continued, stating that Kavanaugh, 17, pushed her into a bedroom, pinned her to the bed, and attempted to remove her clothing. Shortly after, Rachel Mitchell, a veteran prosecutor, highlighted apparent memory gaps in Dr. Ford's testimony. Additionally, considering the fact that the alleged assault happened 36 years ago, Dr. Ford's memory could have been selective or skewed.

From issues like abortion and gun rights to business regulations, Kavanaugh has been known to stress textual limitations, favor the government over those alleging right violations, and supports corporations over regulators. The cases that Judge Kavanaugh has been apart of gives us a glimpse of how he would act as a Supreme Court Justice, that is if he gets approved.

Julie Swetnick accused Judge Kavanaugh of sexual misconduct while at parties when he was in high school; however, there is insufficient evidence to support her claims. There's a trend here with no evidence and yet people are still believing the accuser.

Judge Kavanaugh denies all allegations of sexual assault, saying he has "never sexually assaulted anyone."

On Sept 28. Judge Brett Kavanaugh gave his testimony, challenging all the sexual misconduct allegations against him. The Senate, which has 51 Republicans and 49 Democrats, is having trouble deciding the fate of Judge Kavanaugh.

Many senators believe that both the testimony of Dr. Ford and Judge Kavanaugh were both emotional and contradictory.

The White House and the Senate majority leader's team, rightfully so, is extremely confident that the Senate will vote to appoint Judge Kavanaugh. 

Trump should have more praise for peace in North and South Korea

The Nobel Peace Prize is awarded yearly for “the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses.” It’s an international prestigious prize, with over 100 individuals being awarded the prize since its creation in 1901.

If you look back a year or two, the idea of President Trump negotiating peace with North Korea and having a chance at winning the Nobel Peace Prize would have critics laughing.

In late April, due to Trump’s consistent persistence in the area and sanctions and cooperation with China, North Korea began talks with South Korea and suspended its missile testing and closed a nuclear test site. Later in April, the Korean war officially ended, North Korea released American prisoners and it opened up to international corporations such as McDonalds. In the second week of June, Donald Trump will meet with Kim Jong Un in Singapore after Un’s meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

Leaders such as Moon Jae-in, Guam governor Eddie Calvo along with six other governors, and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe acknowledge Trump’s efforts and believe he should win the prize. Trump created the environment for talks to happen and Moon needed Trump to engage the North Korean leader in their talks. China’s Xi Jinping and Japan’s Shinzo Abe, invited Trump to each of their countries for a celebratory dinner.

“President Trump should win the Nobel Peace Prize. What we need is only peace,” said Moon in a meeting with senior

secretaries.

"[Trump] deserves big credit for bringing about the inter-Korean talks. It could be a resulting work of the U.S.-led sanctions and pressure." Supporters in a Michigan rally began chanting "Nobel, Nobel" with the president responding "That's very nice, thank you, I just want to get the job done." The past year has been one of threats and insults being thrown over social media, having civilians holding their breaths in constant fear of an attack. However, Trump pursued his aggressive foreign policy, and it somewhat worked. If the near future continues to appear bright for the Korean Peninsula, then Trump should be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

U.S. presidents have won the award in the past, most recently in 2009 with President Obama winning it based upon his campaign promises.

Denuclearization for North Korea is an international goal, and the Trump administration is hard at work trying to accomplish that.

The definition of denuclearization in Trump's eyes may differ from Un's definition of denuclearization. The process should come to a halt though and will have the regime focus on its suffering economy and people.

A change of heart from Kim Jong Un and a peace treaty signing may seem a little suspicious, and has some people questioning what will happen in the near future. I can say, optimism is what the world needs, so let's appreciate the increasing relations with North Korea while hoping for the best, and planning for the worst.

The peace should be viewed as a step in the right direction, it's not close to denuclearization, however it's a start.

Student Dreamer will be a guest at the State of the Union

Senior Nicolle Uria's world first came crashing down when her parents told her she was undocumented. Arriving to the U.S. from Bolivia when she was one years old, she is currently under the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA) with those in the program known as Dreamers.

Two years later, Uria will be representing one of 800,000 reported Dreamers at the President's State of the Union as U.S. Congressman Gerry Connolly's [guest](#) on Jan. 31.

"I am super honored and surprised to be invited because I never thought I would ever be in this position to be attending the State of the Union," Uria said. "I hope to represent the thousands of Dreamers that live afraid in this country. I want them to know that there are people who are hearing them out."

Uria hopes that being at the State of the Union will allow Dreamers to feel hope in light of the recent possibility of DACA's rescindment.

"Nicolle is a bright, talented student who until last September lived the American dream. She was looking forward to going to college and to run her own media company one day, until President Trump put that future in jeopardy with his callous decision to end DACA," said Connolly in a [statement](#) on his website.

Uria's world came crashing down for the second time when President Donald Trump announced the the [rescindment](#) of DACA in Sept. 2017. Her DACA status allows for Uria to get her learner's permit to drive and working permit, but following Trump's announcement, she will be unable to reapply for her

status which will expire in Sept. 2018.

“When I first heard that Trump had ended DACA, I immediately broke down into tears,” Uria said. “I felt that my entire future was in jeopardy and that I was completely alone.”

Uria, like many other Dreamers, was not told by her parents that she was undocumented until she was in high school. After months of pestering her parents about getting her learner’s permit, they finally told Uria of her status when she was 15 years-old.

“One day, they pulled out a folder labeled DACA on it, and explained my status to me,” Uria said. “I was completely blindsided, but I now understood why my parents worked so hard.”

Afterwards, Uria immersed herself in her school work, by taking multiple IB classes, playing varsity volleyball, and taking on school leadership roles.

Through programs like the DREAM Project, which is a non-profit organization for students with various immigration statuses, Uria has felt better equipped with the tools and resources needed to attend college next fall.

Disclosing her DACA status only [last year](#), Uria hopes that being outspoken about her status and attending the State of the Union, will allow Americans to see that Dreamers are just striving for a better future for themselves.

“I want Americans and all leaders to look at Dreamers as their children,” Uria said. “Would you hurt your own child? Stop them from succeeding and helping their communities? DACA is allowing me to get a better future, so why is that right being taken away from me?”

Trump enforces the T in T.P.S.

Sophomore Jennifer Sanchez had an immediate and fearful reaction to the Trump Administration's decision to end temporary protected status (T.P.S.) for roughly 200,000 Salvadorans.

Sanchez's mother has had a stable job for more than ten years in the U.S. Now, in the wake of the end of T.P.S., Sanchez strongly disagrees with Trump's decision and advocates that Trump should open his mind to the lives he has impacted.

This comes 17 years after a devastating earthquake that killed more than 1,100 people and left 1.3 million displaced. Many homes, neighborhood and towns were destroyed.

According to the Washington Post, T.P.S. is a humanitarian program established by Congress in the Immigration Act of 1990. Its purpose is to grant protection for those whose countries have been drastically impacted by war or natural disasters.

T.P.S. can be extended if the situation of a country is ongoing and is too dangerous to return.

This was granted to Salvadoran immigrants, who have been in the United States since February 2001. T.P.S. protects Salvadoran immigrants from deportation and allows them to have work permits.

In these 17 years, Salvadorans with T.P.S. have been active in America's economy by paying taxes and creating homes and families in the U.S. Some of those that have done so include the families members of students.

Not only are they contributing to the U.S. economy, but also the economy in El Salvador. In 2016, \$4.6 billion was sent to El Salvador from U.S. family members. This makes up 17 percent of El Salvador's economy.

According to CNN, by the end of 2016, there were 263,282 Salvadoran registered to T.P.S.

In almost two decades, many have children born in America and will decide whether to leave them in the U.S. or take them to El Salvador.

According to The Washington Post, of the Salvadorans with T.P.S., there are 190,000 U.S.-born children.

Junior Nathaly Martinez is not personally affected by T.P.S., but has family members and friends that are impacted by President Donald Trump's decision.

"I feel like this was a bad decision because the people that have been granted T.P.S. have been here for so long that they basically have their lives settled already," Martinez said.

"Not just that, but many run businesses and have children that are U.S. citizens. They will be affected because their families will be separated. They'll have to leave with their parents back to El Salvador. There aren't big opportunities there as you'll find here," Martinez said.

Last year, Nicaraguans lost their protections and in December, the Trump administration announced the end of T.P.S for more than 45,000 Haitians who have resided in the U.S. after the 2010 earthquake.

"I hope that even though Trump's administration ended T.P.S., they'll put options out there for those who really deserve staying here, by giving them a more secure way of staying or helping them get residence," Martinez said.

According to US Citizenship and Immigration Services, about 435,000 people from 10 countries have T.P.S.

"Hispanics have started businesses and it's not fair that

they'll have to throw it all away all because of Trump's dumb ideas," Sanchez said.

Since 2001, the George W. Bush and Obama administrations renewed T.P.S. several times. The reasoning for the renewal was that El Salvador was unstable and unsafe with rising gang violence and poverty.

"[Trump] says he has a problem with illegal immigrants, but he obviously is against all Hispanics. Also, I don't think that enough people are aware of this situation and should tell others about it," Sanchez said.

Days earlier, Trump rejected a bipartisan deal on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) programs. His one condition to protecting immigrants is by building a wall. However, Democrats disapprove Trump's desire to increase border security.

Democrats are unwilling to compromise unless the spending bill will protect nearly 800,000 young undocumented immigrants who were protected by DACA.

This request came after Trump announced to discontinue DACA and gave recipients until March to leave when the protection ends.

Alongside the end of T.P.S, Trump is looking to end the Diversity Lottery program, also known as green card lottery, that annually offers 50,000 visas to the countries where few people immigrate from. Trump has called this program the "Democrat Lottery System."

"Just because he made it official that he's going to cancel it, there's a chance that if enough people get involved, he could change his mind and save over three hundred thousand people from leaving their home," Sanchez said.

The Trump Administration has given Salvadorans with T.P.S. until September 2019, to situate themselves elsewhere outside of the United States.

Those who decided to remain in the U.S. illegally will not only live with the fear of deportation but lose their jobs.