officials from the intelligence community, the FBI, and the Department of Homeland Security will brief us on foreign efforts to influence our politics and elections and how the administration is defending us. Every one of our colleagues should attend one of these sessions.

Sharing sensitive threat information with Congress is just one of the ways this administration has outperformed its predecessor. The intelligence community kept Congress much more closely informed about these threats in 2018 and now in 2020 than it did in the runup to 2016. I am sure these briefings will contain details that might seem ripe for cherry-picking and partisan leaks from both sides, but it is essential that Congress remain a place where the word ''classified'' actually means something. Leaking intelligence jeopardizes sources and methods.

If we learned anything from studying Russian interference in 2016, it is that our adversaries' ultimate objective is to leave America more divided and less confident in our institutions. Members of Congress must take special care not to do Putin's work for him.

Foreign adversaries have long sought to interfere in our politics and elections. That didn't start in 2016, and it will not end in 2020, but this administration has put us in a far, far better position than in 2016. There is, simply, no comparison. The intelligence community is better aware of the threat. Government agencies are more transparent with Congress, the State and local jurisdictions that actually run elections, the private sector, and the public.

In 2016, the Obama-Biden administration had to lean on congressional leadership to act as a bridge to the States because the States so distrusted their Department of Homeland Security. Over the last 4 years, this administration's DHS has develop its own deep relationship with State officials. In 2016, only 14 State or local jurisdictions had received high-tech Albert sensors to alert them to cyber intrusions. They are deployed in all 50 States today. There were 14 States that had them in 2016, and every State has them today. It was this administration that stood up the new Elections Infrastructure Information Sharing and Analysis Center, with participation from more than 2,600 local jurisdictions and counting.

This administration has imposed real, hard costs on election interference and Russia's other misdeeds: shuttering the Kremlin's consulates in San Francisco and Seattle; kicking out intelligence officers; sanctioning oligarchs; helping European partners defend their own elections against Russia; and sending weapons to Ukraine and Georgia, which the Obama-Biden administration did not supply.

This administration has also confronted China for what the State Department described as ''massive espionage and influence operations,'' including closing Beijing's consulate in Houston.

As the Democratic vice chairman on the Senate Intelligence Committee stated in 2016, ''We were caught flat-footed.'' Not anymore. Congress has provided more than $800 million for States and localities to shore up election security and has passed a number of targeted new laws. Since foreign political interference is so often aimed at private sector platforms, like social media sites, we have encouraged those businesses to step up vigilance as well.

Through all of this, we have also carefully avoided things that look like quick fixes but which would undermine our own institutions. In the United States of America, it is the States and localities, not the Federal Government, that run elections—period. Our lack of a one-size-fits-all national system isn't just constitutionally appropriate; it also acts as a further safeguard. We lack a single point of failure.

So, in closing, I urge all of our colleagues to attend these important briefings with an eye toward our real adversaries—not our fellow Americans but the foreign agents who love to see us at one another's throats.

Back during the impeachment trial, a leading House Democrat asserted that, if President Trump were to win reelection, the people's vote would be presumptively invalid.

Just a few days ago, it was reported that a leading Democratic strategist who was war-gaming this election decided to experiment with what would happen if Vice President Biden were to lose the election but were to, simply, fail to concede.

Once again, this kind of recklessness achieves our adversaries' missions for them. So I urge my colleagues to listen to the civil servants who are defending our democracy. Let's stay united, focus on the real dangers posed by foreign intelligence, and resist the urge to politicize these vital subjects.

HEALS ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on one final matter, last week, the Senate Democratic leader brought an end to the additional Federal benefit for unemployed workers. The Republicans tried multiple times to extend the money, including at the same dollar level that our colleague himself said he wanted, but the Democratic leader blocked it all.

This is the dynamic on the Democratic side that killed the subject of police reform back in June, and it has now jeopardized more coronavirus relief as well. The Democratic leaders insist publicly that they want an outcome, but they work alone, behind closed doors, to ensure a bipartisan agreement is, actually, not reached.

We are about a week into the Speaker's and the Democratic leader's discussions with the administration—a week into the Democratic leadership's cutting out all of their Members—all of them—cutting out all of their committees, and saying that only they can participate.

So how is it going?

Well, the Democratic leader is still refusing to let struggling Americans get another dime unless he gets a massive tax cut for the wealthy people in blue States that has nothing to do with the coronavirus. I am not kidding. This is his position. There is nothing for schools, nothing for kids, nothing for the PPP, nothing for the healthcare fight. Nobody gets a dime unless the Democratic leader gets a massive tax cut for the rich people in New York and California. That is what he is saying.

The Speaker of the House and the Democratic leader are continuing to say ''our way or the highway'' with the massive wish list for leftwing lobbyists they slapped together a few weeks ago and called a coronavirus bill—stimulus checks for illegal immigrants, diversity studies for the legal pot industry, and on and on.

When they put out this proposal, even the media and their fellow Democrats pronounced this thing dead on arrival.

Here was one report: ''Neither this bill nor anything resembling it will ever become law—it's a Democratic wish list filled up with all the party's favored policies.''

Remember how Speaker PELOSI's own Members felt about this absurd proposal: ''Privately, several House Democrats concede their latest bill feels like little more than an effort to appease the most liberal members of the caucus.''

Even Democrats knew Speaker PELOSI's bill was unserious.

But now, with the additional unemployment benefit disappearing, with families still struggling, they are going back to this unserious position and refusing to budge.

I can't imagine this is how Democratic colleagues really all want this to play out.

In March, we built the CARES Act by Republicans and Democrats working together at the committee level. This time, again, Republicans introduced a serious proposal written by our own chairmen and our own Members. But this time, the Democratic leader has cut Senate Democrats out entirely. He has forbidden their committees from even talking to Republicans. He is digging in on a House messaging bill, written with no input from his own Members, that even House Democrats themselves called absurd.

These are not the tactics that would build a bipartisan result. These are not the tactics that will get more cash in Americans' pockets, more help to the unemployed, more assistance for schools to reopen.

It is time for the Democratic leadership to get serious about making a law—making a law—for the American people.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.