Let's be clear: This was never a fair fight.

Amazon is perhaps the world's most powerful corporation. It would not be raking in profits without the hard work and dedication of its hundreds—hundreds of thousands of American workers. Yet Amazon unleashed all that corporate power to fight those same workers.

They harassed employees with anti-union propaganda. They sent misleading text messages, websites, and fliers. Workers reported they didn't even get enough time for bathroom breaks in the warehouse. That is how intense the company's pressure is. And yet, when they are able to use the bathroom during this union fight, even there workers are hit with anti-union propaganda fliers on the stall doors.

Amazon demanded the U.S. Postal Service install a mailbox onsite at the warehouse so they could monitor employees mailing their union election ballots. It is all part of a pattern for Amazon.

In 2019, Amazon fired a Staten Island warehouse worker who called for unionization.

Amazon monitors employees' online communications. Last fall we learned the company planned to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars for new software to monitor ''threats'' like unions. Amazon isn't alone. This union busting is standard operating procedure for most companies.

A growing number of Americans want to join unions. A recent poll found that about half of Americans would like to join a union if they could. Millennials are the most pro-worker, pro-union generation since World War II. The Center for Economic Policy and Research reported that 75 percent of new union members are under the age of 35.

I talked to one of those union workers at the end of last month. I spoke to Kate from Zanesville, OH, who joined UFCW—United Food and Commercial Workers—not too long ago. We talked about the work she and I and others did to save her future pension in the rescue plan, how her union had helped her learn about retirement security and helped her fight for her retirement security.

So if all those workers, especially young workers, want to join a union, if they want to have a voice on the job, they want to have more control over their work lives, why aren't more union drives successful?

Pretty important question to ask, pretty obvious answer—because corporations have so much power.

One union organizer told a reporter for the Huffington Post:

When people hear there's an election, they think everybody gets to vote, there's a secret ballot, and so on. What they don't understand—

What the public doesn't understand about union elections—

is that the company has access to the workers 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and has enormous influence over their lives.

If they care to use that influence, and so often they do, here is what he said:

They can threaten. They can give a raise. They can demote. They can grant favors.

Or they cannot grant favors.

Every worker knows that.

This is what workers organizing are up against. There is nothing close, nothing at all resembling a level playing field for American workers.

That is why we need the PRO Act, Protecting the Right to Organize Act.

It is a comprehensive overhaul of our labor laws to protect workers' right to stand together and to bargain for fair wages and better benefits and safer workplaces.

It would level the playing field and finally, finally give workers a fighting chance against corporate union-busting tactics like we saw from Amazon.

We know what has happened in this country. We know we have seen—we have seen worker productivity go up. We have seen corporate profits go up. We have seen executive compensation skyrocket upward. Yet worker wages are flat.

Passing the PRO Act would strengthen the punishment against companies that violate workers' rights to organize and that retaliate against union organizers.

It would close loopholes that allow employers to misclassify their employees as supervisors and independent contractors to avoid paying their fair share and to avoid giving workers the benefits they have earned and that they deserve.

A union card is a ticket to a middle-class life when you fight for economic justice by making it available for all workers. We just need corporations to get out of the way, to be neutral, to let workers organize and take control over their careers and their futures.

We also need to empower all workers, whether they have chosen to join a union or not.

That means paid family and medical leave for all workers. It means a living wage for all workers. It means retirement security for all workers. It means power over your life and your schedule. It means overtime pay when you earn it. It means healthcare for all workers. It is, all in the end, about the dignity of work.

Remember what Dr. King said; that ''no labor is really menial unless you are not getting adequate wages.''

When you love this country, you fight for the people who make it work. That is what union organizers do in the face of overwhelming corporate opposition, like the billionaires at Amazon, and it is what all of us must continue to do until all work pays off.

TRIBUTE TO MATT KEYES

Mr. President, I would like to honor a longtime member of my Ohio staff, Matt Keyes. Matt's last day in our office is tomorrow before he moves on to a new opportunity—still in Ohio, still serving the people of my State, still serving the State that he and I both love.

Matt has been with our office for 7 years, working with Ohio reporters to inform the public, traveling the State with me to hear from Ohioans.

We have been to diners and drive-throughs. We have done press conferences in front of small businesses and schools and bridges. Before the pandemic, we spent hours in crowded union halls.

Matt has earned the respect of so many Ohio reporters. He understands how important their work is to Ohio communities. He understands reporters and their contribution to democracy, something we wouldn't even have had to have bothered saying 5 years ago.

He knows every news source in Ohio. He has built relations with the principled, dedicated journalists who run them.

He has a deep understanding of our State. Matt knows Ohio as well as anyone. He went to college here. He stayed in Ohio. He dedicates his life to making our State a place where other young people will want to stay too.

Some of the most memorable events Matt and I have been to together have been rallies and meetings with workers and retirees around my State, fighting to save their pensions.

It is fitting that Matt ends his time in our office with a huge victory for Ohio workers—literally, tens and tens and tens of thousands of Ohio families benefiting from the work we all did together as activists, that Matt did, that my staff did, the rest of my staff that we did together in the American Rescue Plan to save the pensions that Ohioans earned over a lifetime of work.

Matt got to know these leaders and these activists over the years, people like Rita Lewis and Mike Walden and Dana Vargo.

He didn't just listen to their stories about what it would mean to their families to lose their retirement security; he lifted up their voices. That is what somebody like Matt—that is what Matt Keyes does. That is what good journalists do. That is what good communications people do. They listen to their stories about what this situation means to their families. Then they lift up their voices; they share those stories with the media and with the country. It is how we got Congress to listen. It is how we finally got that done. That is the lesson of Matt Keyes for young reporters, for young journalists, for young communications directors, for young people who want to make a living doing this.

I will miss Matt on the road in Ohio. I know he will continue to serve our State. I know he will continue to fight for the dignity of work in everything that he does.

Matt, we will miss you.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO OFFICERS JACOB CARLSON AND RANDI GARRETT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the service and bravery of Officer Jacob Carlson and Officer Randi Garrett of the Casper Police Department.

On May 6, 2018, Jake and Randi responded to a call of children driving a car around a dirt lot in Casper near Fairdale Avenue. When Officer Garrett arrived on scene, she found a 3-year-old driving the vehicle with an adult and another child in the vehicle. The adult was uncooperative in providing identification and attempted to flee after Officer Carlson arrived on the scene. While Jake attempted to stop the assailant from fleeing, he was shot multiple times with a concealed weapon. Despite being shot with heavy blood loss, Officer Carlson returned fire, and both officers found cover behind the car. Officer Carlson's firearm was hit by gunfire. His actions allowed Officer Garrett to find cover and eventually expose herself to fire a single shot, rendering the assailant no longer a threat. Jake and Randi's actions were selfless and ultimately saved the lives of two young children.

When officers in our community put on their uniforms, they know that at any time during their shift, they could walk into harm's way. Without hesitation, they still put on their uniform every day. This speaks louder than words can describe. It speaks to their bravery, professionalism, and commitment to the people of Wyoming.

In 2008, Congress passed the Law Enforcement Congressional Badge of Bravery Act, CBOB, establishing an honor for exceptional acts of bravery in the line of duty by Federal, State, local, and Tribal law enforcement officers.

On April 24, 2021, the Wyoming congressional delegation will present Officers Carlson and Garrett the Congressional Badge of Bravery for their heroic actions. It will be a high honor to participate in this ceremony.

I want to thank Officers Carlson and Garrett for their exceptional valor on this tragic day. The example and professionalism they have set will shape future generations of police officers throughout Wyoming and across our great country.

All of Wyoming and the law enforcement community are so thankful for Officer Carlson's recovery and Officer's Garrett's resolve.

REMEMBERING BRIGID McDONOUGH

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I rise in remembrance of my dear friend Brigid McDonough. Many years ago, she agreed to be the treasurer of my Senate campaign and stayed in that volunteer job for over a decade. That was a courageous thing to do in this political climate. But that was the kind of friend Brigid was: loyal and always there. She wanted to serve the people.

She loved her family. She loved her husband, Reid. I know how hard it was for Reid and Brigid at the end, and the last few years the two of them had together were so precious. Brigid loved her extended family of course. I will always remember being at the Lumberjack Days Parade in Stillwater, and Brigid would run up and give me a big hug—and her sister would run up and give me a big hug and then some other McDonough would. Her affection was contagious.

Since her admission to the Minnesota bar in 1984, her life and career were rooted in how she could best lift others up. She believed that government and the law can be used to help people achieve equity and social justice in a world where playing fields are not often level. She used her impressive legal acumen to achieve good things on behalf of many people in our State.

Brigid recognized the power of political and community organizing, of getting involved. She was inspired by the DFL tradition and the honest conviction to fight for what is just. If you asked me what politician she was most inspired by, I would have to say Senator Paul Wellstone. He was her hero. Campaigning for Paul is how I first met Brigid; She was a true believer, happily working at a law firm by day, and spending her free time out there holding up those green signs for Paul.

Providing affordable housing to underserved communities was a major goal for Brigid, and she approached her volunteer work with the same focus she had at the law firm. Whether she was representing immigrant and refugee families through her pro bono work, supporting her alma mater and community by serving on the Macalester College alumni board and the Hmong Partnership board, or chairing the St. Paul DFL—that alone is a career unto itself—Brigid always brought this earnest conviction to fight for what was good, often on behalf of people who couldn't always do it for themselves.

Brigid did so much through the valuable guidance she offered to dozens of local, State, and national political campaigns. She was especially dedicated to electing women and people of color to public office, and she was really good at it.

Brigid was kind and generous, loyal to friends and colleagues, and compassionate, smart, and really funny. She and Reid loved traveling and both were voracious readers. I always admired her adventurous spirit and valued hearing her opinions on everything from Minnesota politics to Bruce Springsteen. Friends considered her a font of wisdom and ideas, and she always shared recommendations on books, movies, and music, with warmth and affection.

There are certain people who have a way of seeing and bringing out the very best in others. Brigid was one of those people.

Let's remember Brigid's fierce love of life. That is what made the time we spent with her so special. Her friendship and her commitment to making a difference in the world are true gifts that will continue to benefit all of us who were lucky enough to know her.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA ROGERS

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize my constituent and extraordinary Federal employee, Ms. Barbara Rogers of Chevy Chase, MD, who is retiring from Federal service.

For nearly 20 years, Barbara has worked for the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's, CDC, Washington office, advising Agency leadership on critical policy issues, including environmental health and public health preparedness. A graduate of the George Washington University Law School, Barbara prosecuted environmental enforcement cases at the U.S. Attorney's Office and served for 8 years as counsel to committees of both the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives. She brought this invaluable experience to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, ATSDR, a Federal public health Agency that protects communities from the harmful health effects related to exposure to natural and manmade hazardous substances. When ATSDR joined CDC's Washington office in 2002, Barbara took on CDC's environmental portfolio in Washington, DC, and helped shape CDC's rapidly growing preparedness work in the era following the attacks of September 11.

Barbara has served as a CDC liaison to Congress, educating policymakers and staff to better understand the Agency on a variety of important matters, including in response to congressional oversight on CDC's laboratories and, more recently, on COVID–19. Barbara's widely sought sage advice and diplomatic skills, combined with a powerful intellect and attention to detail, have been a critical asset to CDC in the Agency's interactions with GAO and Congress.

With Barbara's retirement, her CDC colleagues will miss her warm friendship and wonderful sense of humor. CDC will lose a public servant with a moral and ethical grounding, who has been a fierce advocate for CDC and public health.