

NEWS FROM A RURAL WV DEMOCRATIC VIEWPOINT

Republicans Weaken Our Military Leadership When We Most Need It

Hamas, the Islamist terrorist organization, attacked Israel on October 7. Rampaging across the border, Hamas militants committed unspeakable atrocities, raping women and parading them naked, beheading babies, and randomly, brutally, killing or taking hostage everyone they came upon.

President Biden called it “an act of sheer evil.” Biden promised US military assistance and said he would ask Congress to take urgent action.

Good luck asking Congress to take urgent action.

Thanks to MAGA Republicans only the Senate half of Congress is functioning at all. Right wing Republicans threw out their speaker for working with Democrats. Now the House can do nothing until it elects a speaker and Republicans can't even find a moderate willing to run.

Meanwhile, in the Senate –

For months, Republican Senator Tommy Tuberville of Alabama has blocked all military confirmations, more than 300 of the United States' most senior military officers. Aircraft carriers USS Gerald R Ford and USS Dwight D Eisenhower are heading to the waters off Israel with their associated warships and fighter jets. But the US has no Chief of Naval Operations, thanks to Tuberville.

Tuberville, who never served in the military, is holding up all military confirmations because of a Pentagon policy that covers travel costs for female soldiers seeking an abortion who must travel across state lines to get one. Tuberville says the war in Israel will have no effect on his hold, claiming it doesn't affect military readiness.

That's simply ignorant. Of course, his hold is seriously undermining military readiness and our national security, as Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin said last week.

Tuberville says he supports Israel. Does Tuberville know or care that in Israel women have access to abortion pills at local health clinics?

America currently has no ambassador to Israel or Egypt, Kuwait or Oman. Republican Senator Ted Cruz of Texas has been holding up Middle East diplomat confirmations. Cruz claims, without evidence, that Biden's nominees lie to Congress about countering Iran and deepening the US-Israel relationship.

In a Republican sideshow, Republican J.D. Vance of Ohio has a hold on all Department of Justice nominees because of Trump being indicted. Republican Senator Hawley of Missouri has a hold on all Department of Energy nominees because he wants an action plan for combating radioactive waste in St. Louis.

Rather than use the great powers of their offices as senators to govern, these Republican senators find it easier just to pander to their base and stop our government from functioning at all.

This would be just more Republican performance politics and petty political theater. Except now the stakes are immeasurably higher. War in Ukraine, war in the Middle East, while our military is undermanned and our diplomatic posts are empty.

Republicans clearly no longer support a strong military or our national defense. Send them home and elect Congress people who do.

~ Deirdre Purdy, Chairperson, Calhoun County Democratic Executive Committee