Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has made clear once again that he will not allow bills—in this case, those involving gun reform—to be brought to the floor, debated and voted on without a signal of support from President Donald Trump.

If this unprecedented position (not allowing bills to be debated without a guarantee they inevitably will become laws) was the stated policy of former Senate Majority Leaders, imagine all the important legislation that never would have been enacted: Social Security, Medicare, Civil Rights, etc.
What is especially troublesome about this is that McConnell is unilaterally removing the Constitutional authority and obligation of the U.S. Senate to legislate, especially since there is a Constitutional provision for passing legislation over the veto of the executive. In essence McConnell’s maneuver is tantamount to making the Senate a rubber stamp for the president and hence part of the Executive Branch—something our founding fathers vigorously sought to avoid. All Americans, regardless of party affiliation and political ideology, should find McConnell’s stance reprehensible.

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