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Senate

(Legislative day of Wednesday, April 10, 2024)

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

God of our destinies, guide our Senators this day by Your higher wisdom. Watch over them and use their work for Your glory. Lord, replace fear with faith, pessimism with hope, and error with truth. May these lawmakers become Your instruments for enabling justice to thrive. Give them the serenity to accept what they can't change, the courage to change what they can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

Lord, we also ask You to comfort the many who mourn the loss of loved ones because of the horrors of war.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 15, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. DUCKWORTH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the pending business.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Ramona Villagomez Manglona, of the Northern Mariana Islands, to be Judge for the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands for a term of ten years. (Reappointment)

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, in response to Iran's massive attack against Israel over the weekend, we saw two things:

First, we saw a sovereign nation that takes its security seriously mount a successful defense. Israel's defense, with the help of regional and coalition partners and the vigilant support of brave U.S. servicemembers in the region, intercepted and neutralized the bulk of the 300 drones and missiles launched by Iran.

Unfortunately, the second thing we saw was the Commander in Chief sticking to the same playbook—second-guessing the will of the Israeli people and trying to tie the hands of an ally under attack.

President Biden insisted ahead of Iran's attack that America's commit-

ment to Israel was "ironclad." But after 3 years of appeasement and weakness and 6 months of quibbling over Israeli's right to self-defense, I am not really sure whom he expects to believe that assertion. Just saying so, saying our commitment is ironclad, doesn't make it so. Words don't paper over the glaring rifts between the Biden administration and the national unity government in Jerusalem. The public criticism of Israel by senior administration officials undoubtedly influences the decisions of Israel's adversaries.

If the President's commitment to a vital ally were "ironclad," his response to this weekend's attack would not be to lecture her leaders against responding in self-defense.

Would an American Commander in Chief fail to respond if an adversary launched 300 missiles at American soil? The fact that our collective defenses worked in this case doesn't obviate the threat. It doesn't make the need to compel Iran to change its behavior any less urgent.

Make absolutely no mistake, Iran is not deterred; it is actually emboldened.

The regime that attacked Israel this weekend is the same one that green-lit the violent hijacking of a commercial shipping vessel earlier the same day. It is the same Iran that trains, equips, sustains, and expends terrorist proxies from Lebanon to Gaza to Iraq and Syria to Yemen.

It is the same regime that continues to grow an arsenal of long-range ballistic missiles and advance closer and closer to a nuclear weapons capability.

And, of course, it is the same murderous regime that continues to equip Russia's brutal violence in Ukraine. It is no mere coincidence that the mixed barrage of UAVs, cruise missiles, and ballistic missiles designed to complicate Israel's air defenses is the same mix Russia uses to launch devastating and frequent long-range attacks against Iranian cities.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Our adversaries are working together to make America and our friends less safe and less secure.

It is time for the Commander in Chief to lead allies and partners in an international effort to impose meaningful costs on Iran, threatening the things its leaders hold dear, and changing this regime's violent behavior.

We can't afford weakness. We can't afford to be deterred by Iran. The easiest way to hasten escalation and a wider war is to show you are unwilling or unable to meet aggression with strength. There is only one way to stop a bully.

So it is time for the Commander in Chief to stand by our allies and stand up to our adversaries. He can actually begin that today.

But it is also time for Congress to deliver the urgent investments that our industrial base, our forces, and our partners will need to meet and outcompete the growing and linked threats that we face.

The Senate passed an urgent national security supplemental 2 months ago—2 months ago. It would help meet the urgent needs of Ukraine's resistance, equip Indo-Pacific allies to deter PRC aggression, replenish Israel's stocks of critical capabilities, and expand our own capacity to refill and deploy the arsenal of democracy.

Anyone taking the challenges we face seriously knows that these unmet needs are absolutely urgent. So I will once again urge our House colleagues to take up this legislation without delay.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT

Madam President, on a related matter, in December, the Director of the FBI told our colleagues on the Judiciary Committee that when he surveys threats to the homeland, he saw "blinking lights everywhere."

Iran's efforts to kill Americans, compromise our communications and data, and collect intelligence on U.S. soil are already well-known. At this point, so are the hundreds of known or suspected terrorists encountered along our borders in just the current fiscal year.

At the end of the week, an essential authority America's law enforcement and intelligence professionals rely on to monitor and mitigate serious threats is actually set to expire. The crucial window into the activities of those who wish America harm is set to go dark.

Of course, a few days ago, the House passed legislation that reauthorizes section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act before it lapses. This historic authority should not be controversial, and it should not be conflated with well-known FBI abuses of FISA's title I.

Section 702 provides the authority to collect the communications of foreign nationals located overseas when they are reasonably likely to yield intelligence value. In practice, this means suspected foreign terrorists or foreign intelligence operatives—again, all of them located overseas.

Section 702 both gives us this critical information and places guardrails on how this collection is conducted. Importantly, it does not authorize the surveillance of Americans for which a warrant is already required.

Have there been problems in the FISA process from malfeasance and incompetence? Yes, there have. That is why the bill includes the most significant accountability reforms to the FBI in generations.

The bill includes the most significant reforms to FISA—both section 702 and title I—in a generation. The bill the Senate will receive this week already places firm parameters on the FBI's ability to query the database of lawfully collected foreign intelligence for communications that might involve U.S. persons, either as a target or an asset of a foreign terrorist or intelligence operative.

It creates further new reporting requirements to increase accountability for abuse and misconduct in the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court system, including direct reporting to Congress on adverse personnel actions and noncompliance.

And it imposes new, serious criminal consequences for unlawful disclosures of court proceedings.

I say all of this as context for any demands that the Senate place further limits on the use of FISA critical authorities.

Let me be clear: The data collected under section 702 is collected lawfully. It is entirely reasonable under the Constitution. Any incidental collection of communications by or about U.S. persons is also reasonable.

Every court that has looked at that question has said so, and they are right. Misguided efforts to require a criminal law warrant to sort and organize those data on U.S. persons would end—end—the ability of the FBI to keep Americans safe. Frankly, they would forget the lessons of 9/11.

So I will oppose any such efforts and urge my colleagues to do the same. We have until Friday to avoid a dangerous lapse in a critical tool for identifying and stopping espionage and terrorism against the United States. If any of our colleagues believes that now is an appropriate moment to make this mission even more difficult, I would be very interested to hear that rationale.

America is facing the most dangerous combination of national security challenges since the end of the Cold War. I will not be a party to any effort to make it harder to meet these challenges, and the Senate will not allow vital security authorities to go dark.

I suggest the absence of a quorum. The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

NATIONAL SECURITY SUPPLEMENTAL

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, Saturday evening, Iran launched over 300 missile and drone strikes against Israel, the first direct attack against Israel from Iranian soil in history. For five harrowing hours, the sounds of explosions and sirens reverberated throughout the night in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and across the country. Tens of thousands of Israeli citizens barricaded themselves and braced for the worst. On that long night, all of us were on tenterhooks as the missiles from Iran came down.

I strongly condemn the attacks by the Iranian Government and urge them to refrain from escalating hostilities. What Iran did was dangerous, unjustifiable, and threatens to plunge the Middle East into a widespread war. So I strongly urge the Iranian regime to cease their reckless behavior from both its forces and those of its proxies.

Now, when the attack came, thank God, Israel was ready. Israel was ready because of the United States' ironclad commitment to its security.

The night of the attack, I was in touch with senior administration officials who told me that, with help from the United States, England, France, and some Arab nations, the overwhelming majority of all Iranian missiles and drone strikes were successfully intercepted.

The damage to Israel, thank God, was minimal. Only one serious casualty was reported. We pray for her recovery.

Today, above all, I breathe a sigh of relief for Israel—relief that injuries were minimal, relief that the damage was not worse. But, of course, it was no accident that Israel endured Iran's attack largely unscathed. On the contrary, Israel endured because America's support for Israel's security is ironclad. The success of Israeli missile defense, developed in cooperation with the United States and with U.S. funding, is a testament to the United States' longstanding security cooperation with Israel. It is why so few of Iran's missiles and drones ultimately hit their targets. So I commend the Israel Defense Forces, I commend President Biden and our military leadership and our brave Armed Forces, and I commend our partners who worked together with Israel to avert calamity.

Iran's reprehensible attack against Israel has made a few things very clear:

First, Israel is surrounded by adversaries who seek its destruction. We saw that on October 7. We saw it again this weekend. We dare not waver in our commitment to help Israel defend itself from these threats.

Second, the fact that so many nations came to Israel's aid, including some Arab nations, shows Iran is becoming more and more isolated. Iran's attack should be swiftly and universally condemned. Their attack risked

provoking a wider conflict in the Middle East, and we cannot have that. So I am pleased that many nations banded together and held the line against the Iranian regime.

Third, Israel's attack underscores the best way to help Israel is for the House to swiftly pass the Senate's bipartisan national security supplemental. The House must rush to Israel's aid as quickly as humanly possible, and the only way to do that is passing the Senate supplemental ASAP. In fact, there is no reason for the House not to move on the Senate's supplemental as soon as today.

Yesterday, I got on the phone with the President, with Speaker JOHNSON, Leader MCCONNELL, and Leader JEFFRIES and made it clear that the uncertainty and delay over the supplemental has to end. We all had consensus that we need to aid both Israel and Ukraine.

If House Republicans put the Senate supplemental on the floor, I believe it would pass today, reach the President's desk tonight, and Israel would get the aid it needs by tomorrow.

Let me say that again. If House Republicans put the Senate supplemental on the floor, I believe it would pass today, reach the President's desk tonight, and Israel would get the aid it needs by tomorrow.

If the House could finish the job by the end of the day, why wait?

Now, the Senate supplemental not only gives Israel the tools it needs to repel future attacks, but it also provides Ukraine the aid it needs against Putin. I spoke with the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine yesterday, who told me the situation in Ukraine is beyond desperate. With few air defenses, there is little stopping Russian drones from targeting Ukrainian powerplants and leaving more and more residents without electricity. And the danger here is that these power outages will become a long-term problem. She told me the equipment that was destroyed is so large—the kinds of transformers and other machineries—that it takes a long time to rebuild them and replace them.

The U.S. Ambassador reiterated President Zelenskyy's point that Ukraine will lose this war unless it gets the defense materials, the ammunition, and the anti-aircraft resources it needs immediately. Those powerplants are taken out because Ukraine is running out of the ability to defend itself from these vicious attacks.

At this treacherous moment for global security, it would be a grave mistake to think the conflict in the Middle East is unconnected to the conflict in Europe. That is why the best way to help Israel and to help Ukraine is to pass the Senate supplemental this week. I have called on Speaker JOHNSON to do that.

Enough with the delay. Enough with the uncertainty. Enough with promises to take action. I urge the House to get going today on the Senate supplemental. It is vital for the future of

Israel, for the future of Ukraine, and for the future of the West and democracy.

SENATE AGENDA

Madam President, now, on the Senate agenda, the Senate has a very busy few days in store this week. Before April 19, the Senate must finish approving legislation to extend FISA's 702 authorities. The House is expected to send us an extension sometime this evening, after they address a few minor procedural delays.

Once the House sends us the FISA reauthorization, I plan, as early as tonight, to take the first procedural step for the Senate to begin consideration. With less than a week to go before FISA authorities expire, time is a luxury the Senate doesn't have. Republicans need to work with us in a bipartisan way to ensure this program with important implications for our national security does not lapse.

Now, as the Senate works on FISA authorities, we will also have to deal with the House vote to impeach Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. For now, we still expect the Articles of Impeachment to arrive in the Senate sometime tomorrow afternoon. Should that happen, the Senate will swear in Members as jurors the day after the articles are presented.

As I have said repeatedly, impeachment should never be used to settle a policy disagreement. That would set a horrible precedent for the Congress.

Nevertheless, the Senate's plan has not changed since last week. We are ready to go whenever the House sends us the articles. We want to address this issue as expeditiously as possible.

TAX DAY

Madam President, now on Tax Day, today is Tax Day, and thanks to reforms Democrats passed in the Inflation Reduction Act, tax filing season has become smoother than ever for more and more taxpayers. For the first time, an unprecedented number of Americans, including thousands of New Yorkers, were able to file for free directly with the IRS using the Direct File pilot program. Next year, we want to expand the program even more.

But, sadly, Republican obstruction on the tax bill meant that this year, millions of families and small businesses continued to face higher tax bills. If Republicans drop their obstruction and work with us, we could expand the child tax credit for 16 million families, enable the construction of 200,000 affordable homes, deliver tax relief to disaster-stricken communities like East Palestine, while also restoring incentives for innovation and capital investment.

The House overwhelmingly passed the tax bill with bipartisan support at the end of January. It should be no different in the Senate. This Tax Day, I urge my Republican colleagues to join Senate Democrats in supporting this bill so we can deliver this relief to American taxpayers.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IRAN

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, some years ago, I had the privilege of visiting our American servicemembers stationed in the U.S. Navy Fifth Fleet in Bahrain—an impressive group keeping a close eye on Iran.

Despite a relatively pro-Western population, Iran's hard-line leadership regularly has threatened the United States' interests and its allies.

Iran has long funneled money and weapons to some of the region's worst proxies— Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Houthis—some of whom have attacked U.S. personnel in Iraq and Syria. That is why I supported the Iran nuclear agreement under President Obama—not because it would stop Iran's belligerence in the region but because it would prevent it from doing so armed with a nuclear bomb.

Well, this weekend, we saw the Iranian threat in a massive attempted attack on Israel—one that Israel, with the help of the United States and other allies, was thankfully largely able to thwart. I hope cooler heads will prevail and keep this conflict from escalating in an already unstable region of the world.

But make no mistake, because former President Trump petulantly withdrew the United States from the Iran nuclear agreement—an agreement that was working to contain that dangerous program—Iran is inching ever closer to a nuclear weapon. Iran has also cozied up to Vladimir Putin—surprise—who is desperate for weapons from any rogue regime to fuel his disastrous war in Ukraine.

So it seems to me it is long overdue for House Republicans this week to stop doing Russia's bidding by blocking the Senate-passed national security supplemental.

MAYORKAS IMPEACHMENT

Madam President, I would like to speak on an unrelated topic now—about the partisan charade House Republicans have made of the impeachment process.

The two impeachment articles filed against Secretary Mayorkas are nothing more than an attempt to politicize this solemn constitutional tool to distract from the very real fact that the House Republicans are struggling to govern.

The Senate only has the power to convict, remove, and disqualify officers whose conduct meets the constitutional standard for impeachment. Listen to the standard very closely as spelled out in the Constitution: "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors." Neither article that

we have been in receipt of from the House of Representatives contains any evidence that Secretary Mayorkas has been guilty of any of those specific elements in the Constitution or that he has failed in the exercise of his duties. Instead, the Articles of Impeachment sent to us by the House of Representatives lay out policy disputes through regurgitation of Republican talking points on immigration.

It is simply not a constitutional crime worthy of impeachment for the current President and Secretary of Homeland Security to implement immigration policies that are entirely within the limits of the law and the discretion of the executive branch.

The articles sent to us by the House Republicans claim that the Secretary has willfully and systematically refused to comply with the law because he failed to detain every individual who crossed the border. Remember that standard—he failed to detain every individual who crossed the border. The simple fact of the matter is, all Presidents, Republican and Democrat, would be found guilty under those elements.

Existing law does not require the DHS Secretary to detain every person who crosses the border. Congress left it to the discretion of each administration to decide how best to use their limited resources to implement immigration policy.

The articles also attack the Secretary's use of discretion to decide who to arrest and remove from the United States even though the Supreme Court has routinely upheld these discretionary decisions.

I think it is outrageous to allege that Secretary Mayorkas's decisions to reverse Trump policy "breached the public trust." A decision to change a previous administration's positions is fundamentally a policy decision, not a matter of trust.

If congressional Republicans are genuinely interested in improving the situation at the border, I have a suggestion. Why don't we put together a bipartisan group of Senators? Why don't we let the Republicans choose their participant in that? Why don't they consider someone like JAMES LANKFORD, the Senator from Oklahoma—conservative, highly respected? Why don't they have JAMES LANKFORD meet with at least one other Senator, a Democrat—maybe CHRIS MURPHY of Connecticut—and then perhaps KYRSTEN SINEMA, an Independent? Why don't the three of them put together a proposal to make changes—significant policy changes—on the border to give the President more authority to stop the crisis we face? Why don't we call that for consideration on the floor of the Senate, and why don't the Republicans back that?

That is exactly what happened. We have been through this exercise. JAMES LANKFORD—and I respect him very much—did what he was asked to do: represent the Republican side of the

aisle and move forward with a proposal that is bipartisan. We have to be bipartisan in the Senate. We need 60 votes for anything serious. We have a 51-to-49 Democratic majority. Bipartisanship was built into this package of compromises, but what happened? Why didn't that become the law of the land? Why didn't that become the change in the border policy that we are all looking for? The reason is one man. His name is Donald Trump, and he came out publicly and said: I am instructing my followers to kill this bipartisan effort from Senator LANKFORD on the Republican side. And then former President Trump said: You are going to hear from people that they want to blame me. Go ahead and blame me for stopping this effort of border reform.

Well, I am blaming him.

Now we have this exercise against Mayorkas instead of a constructive bipartisan exercise that Senator LANKFORD, a respected conservative Republican, Senator MURPHY, a Democrat, and Senator SINEMA, an Independent, put together and brought to the floor of the Senate. That is how you change the policy, not with some sham process of consideration for impeachment that is not warranted.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of Republicans recently blocked a bipartisan border bill that I just described. Despite repeatedly referring to the border as a crisis, congressional Republicans' opposition was based purely on Donald Trump's insistence that Congress not pass immigration legislation. He wants to use it as a campaign issue in November. He doesn't want a solution—a bipartisan solution—that perhaps Joe Biden would get some credit for, so he stopped the whole process and stopped the bipartisanship.

This partisan hackery is not lost on me or the American people. Instead of doing their job and working to find legislative solutions to complex and challenging problems, too many Republicans have decided that the impeachment of a Cabinet official for actually doing his job is a better exercise of time.

The Framers anticipated that partisan politics would result in meritless impeachment efforts like this one and designed the Constitution to withstand the baseless efforts. During the constitutional convention, the Framers explicitly—explicitly—rejected a proposal to include "maladministration"—they used that word—as an impeachable offense, despite its use in many State constitutions at the time.

Second, the division of impeachment power between the House of Representatives and the Senate was meant as a safeguard against the danger of impeachment inevitably becoming politicalized.

In Federalist 66, Alexander Hamilton wrote that the division of impeachment powers between the House and the Senate "guards against the danger of persecution, from the prevalence of a factious spirit in either of those

branches." To translate that into 21st century terms, what he is saying is: We want to stop them from using impeachment for politics. In order for the Senate to uphold the Constitution and fulfill its impeachment obligations, it must dispose of these baseless impeachment articles that we receive from the House.

The Constitution provides that "[t]he Senate shall have the sole Power to try all Impeachments" and places very limited requirements on how we are to exercise that authority. Chief Justice Rehnquist noted during the impeachment trial of then-President Clinton that "the Senate is not simply a jury; it is a court in this case [of impeachment]."

Both the House and Senate have a history of quickly disposing of impeachment investigations and impeachment articles that do not meet the standard of high crime or misdemeanor. This one doesn't.

In the 72nd Congress, two impeachment resolutions were offered against President Herbert Hoover. After the reading of the resolution was completed, the House successfully moved, by an overwhelming vote, to table the impeachment articles. Since 1986, the Senate has considered motions to dismiss brought by either the impeached officer or a Senator in six impeachments and has twice dismissed impeachment articles in the past. So to say this has never been done is just not true. We should follow that example.

I urge my colleagues to uphold the Constitution and the intentions of the Framers and quickly dispose of these unjustifiable Articles of Impeachment.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MAYORKAS IMPEACHMENT

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, tomorrow the House of Representatives is expected to do something that is not normal but which is actually a rather extraordinary act, and that is to transmit Articles of Impeachment against the Secretary of Homeland Security, Alejandro Mayorkas. Over the last 3 years, Secretary Mayorkas has presided over an unprecedented security crisis at our southern border; the numbers vary but roughly 7.4 million migrant encounters, more than 1.8 million "got-aways"—people simply evading law enforcement and melting into the great American heartland—untold amounts of fentanyl and other deadly drugs pouring into our country that killed 108,000 people last year alone.

Then there are the children: 400,000 children placed with sponsors in the interior of the United States that have

since been abandoned, literally, by the Biden administration. They say it is not their problem. They don't need to know whether they are going to school, whether they are getting the healthcare they need, or whether they are being trafficked for sex or involuntary servitude.

Secretary Mayorkas, as the agent of the Biden administration responsible for this, has willfully and systemically refused to enforce our immigration laws. He has taken a bad situation and actually accomplished an amazing feat: He has actually made it worse, not better.

Not only that, he has violated the public trust by repeatedly lying under oath to Congress and the American people.

If these aren't impeachable offenses, I don't know what would qualify.

Secretary Mayorkas must be held responsible for his actions, and I am glad our colleagues in the House took the first step toward public accountability. The ball will soon land in the Senate's court, and it is alarming that we are hearing from the Senate majority leader and our Democratic colleagues that they are preparing not to hold a trial—which is what the Constitution and Senate rules require—but rather to sweep it under the rug without ever even holding a trial. That would mark the first time in American history that has happened and establish a dangerous new precedent.

It is not too late, though, for our Democratic colleagues to abandon this misguided plan. But if they move forward, they should know that Republicans will use every tool available to us to try to force a full trial. Republican Senators are preparing points of order to prevent Democrats from violating the Constitution and Senate rules. But, of course, we are realists. We understand that if all 51 Democrats stand together, they could run rough shod over the Constitution and those same Senate rules.

I plan to raise a point of order on the increased number of encounters with illegal immigrants that happened to be on the Terror Watchlist. These sorts of encounters used to be extremely uncommon. During the Trump administration, Border Patrol didn't encounter more than six suspected terrorists in a given year. When President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas took over, that changed dramatically.

Last year alone, Border Patrol encountered 172 suspected terrorists, more than 98 percent of them from across the southern border. We don't even know, out of the 1.8 million, how many more people who are on the Terrorist Watchlist simply evaded law enforcement. So there could be—probably are—many, many more.

Making matters worse, at least some of these individuals have actually been released by the Biden administration into the interior of the United States. Last week, for example, NBC news reported that an Afghan migrant on the

Terror Watchlist who was arrested by Border Patrol is now roaming freely in the United States. He was first apprehended last March for illegally crossing the border. Agents suspected that something was up, but they lacked enough information to reach a conclusion about whether he actually was or was not on that list. But rather than detain him while they attempted to verify his identity, Customs and Border Protection released him. Making matters worse, they didn't even notify Immigration and Customs Enforcement about his potential terrorist ties.

Border Patrol, of course, works at the border; Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the one that enforces immigration law in the interior of the country, including repatriating or returning people who have made their way illegally or who otherwise are a threat to public safety.

Well, ICE—Immigration and Customs Enforcement—simply waived him into the interior of the United States under the Biden administration's misguided policy called Alternatives to Detention Program. In other words, rather than detain dangerous people at the border, the Biden administration program is simply to release them. This same program actually allows these same individuals to apply for asylum, to receive a work authorization, and to fly within the interior of the United States. In other words, it does not restrict their activities one bit.

It wasn't until February of this year, nearly 1 year after he was first arrested, that ICE was alerted about this individual's potential terrorist ties. ICE agents released the man in San Antonio in late February, and he appeared before an immigration judge in Texas last month. But for some inexplicable reason, ICE withheld from the judge information about the individual's potential terrorist ties. So without that information, the judge released the man on bond to wait his date in court in a year. Today, this man who is believed to be linked to an Afghan terror group is roaming freely in the United States. He could be anywhere.

But this is just one example among hundreds or more, perhaps even thousands or more, of the many dangers Secretary Mayorkas has created and facilitated for the American people.

So when the House votes on Articles of Impeachment, the Senate has a duty not only to be sworn as jurors—as we have done two times fairly recently—but also to call witnesses and hear arguments to understand how the Secretary's actions have impacted our country.

And I would hope that Secretary Mayorkas, if he thinks he has nothing to hide, nothing to be ashamed of, that he would welcome the opportunity to defend and explain his actions. If he and our Democratic colleagues believe he has done nothing wrong, they have nothing to be afraid of. But, of course, we all know and the country knows better.

ISRAEL

Madam President, on another matter, as we all know over the weekend Iran dramatically escalated its twilight war against Israel and the West. Tehran fired more than 300 drones and ballistic missiles at the Jewish State. These were launched from Iranian soil, as well as by proxy groups in Iraq, Syria, and Yemen.

For years, Iranian proxies have launched attacks on Israel, and a number of terrorist groups—including Hamas, Hezbollah, and Houthis—are the means by which Iran has prosecuted this war against Israel and the West.

This weekend's attacks were a stunning escalation because this is the first time that these attacks have been directly from Iranian soil against Israel.

But despite the impressive firepower, the impact of the barrage proved to be minimal. An Israeli military base sustained minor damage, and several people were injured, but so far no fatalities have been reported—amazing given the firepower directed at Israel.

Iran's failure to devastate Israel was not just a stroke of good luck; it was the direct result of Israel's strong defense, supported by the United States and others, and its close cooperation and work with its allies. The vast majority of threats were intercepted outside of Israeli airspace, demonstrating the effectiveness of Israel's air defense systems.

And a number of Israel's partners and allies—including the United States, the United Kingdom, France, and several Gulf countries—aided Israel's defense against the direct fire coming from Iran.

On Saturday, President Biden quickly condemned Iran's attack, and he spoke with Prime Minister Netanyahu to reaffirm America's ironclad commitment to the security of Israel. So far so good.

But despite that encouraging and entirely appropriate statement, media reports indicate that President Biden's support may not be as resolute as those words indicate. Axios reported that President Biden told Prime Minister Netanyahu that the United States will not—will not—support Israel's counterstrikes against Iran. In other words, any attempt to impose consequences on Iran for raining down 300 drones and ballistic missiles on Israel will go unanswered.

That is hardly an example of ironclad support. By attaching conditions to America's commitment, President Biden has undermined deterrence. He has shown that his administration is more concerned about placating the Supreme Leader than in protecting Israel. And when it comes to Iran, there is simply no benefit to applying anything less than maximum pressure because it is the only thing that the Supreme Leader understands.

Iran, after all, is a No. 1 state sponsor of terrorism and one of our country's most brazen and dangerous adversaries,

working deliberately and continuously toward acquiring nuclear weapon capability.

Tehran is testing the limits to see how far it can push, and President Biden has consistently failed to push back on the Iranian regime. Given the President's tepid response, Congress needs to take action soon to provide Israel with the military aid it needs to defend its sovereignty.

After all, more than 6 months have passed since Hamas terrorists attacked Israeli civilians, and the United States has failed to act on their request for assistance. It was last November, less than a month after the October 7 attack, that the House actually passed a \$14 billion aid bill for Israel. That was last November. But, regrettably, the majority leader refused to even put that bill on the Senate floor. We could have provided aid to Israel 5 months ago, but the majority leader wouldn't allow Senators to proceed to debate, amend, or even vote on that legislation.

It is true that the Senate did pass a security supplemental in February that includes support for Israel, as well as Ukraine and partners in the Indo-Pacific, but, so far, that bill has not gone anywhere in the House. I hope that will change soon.

Given Iran's escalation this weekend, we need to find a path forward to deliver that necessary aid to Israel and our other allies who have been invaded by authoritarian governments. Tensions in the Middle East continue to escalate and a regional war between Iran and Israel is no longer unthinkable. We need to take action as soon as possible to provide Israel with the material support it needs to defend its democracy and not place handcuffs on their ability to establish deterrence against the Iranian regime.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The Senator from Oregon.

TAX RELIEF FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND WORKERS ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, it is Tax Day in America, and millions of parents and thousands of small, innovative business owners are now wondering why Senate Republicans are sitting on bipartisan legislation that would help them get ahead.

Here is what Americans at home and small business owners trying to make payroll need to know. The bill on offer in the Senate is the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act. I proposed it with Chairman JASON SMITH of the House Ways and Means Committee in January. It is a combination of ideas from both sides of the aisle. It expands the child tax credit, focusing on kids from low-income families. It ends the long-running discrimination against low-income families with more than one kid, few of whom can claim the credit for each of their kids. You can't have three or four kids dividing up one pair of sneakers, but that is kind of the way it works today.

Our proposal beefs up the incentive for research and development and investments in new things like new equipment and software. Just today, the Senate Finance Committee released new data that we have received from the Treasury Department on the calamity facing small businesses if the Senate doesn't pass this bipartisan bill. According to the Treasury Department, 3.8 million small businesses claimed bonus appreciation of the research and development deduction in 2021. They will be left hurt if the Senate doesn't pass the bill.

The situation is especially dire for the small businesses that are hyperfocused on innovation through research and development. Every Member of this body talks about making sure those businesses can compete with China, and a lot of the small businesses that are going to get hurt, if this doesn't pass, are startups that have the potential to grow into economic powerhouses. Many of them operate in fields where our economy competes directly with China and other countries around the world.

This isn't just a handful of businesses scattered here and there. The Treasury Department identified 10,000 of the small businesses from all over the country. Their operating costs are dominated by research and development, but the biggest tax incentive for research and development is now one-fifth as valuable to them as it used to be. That is because of changes that were made by Republicans during the Trump administration. Right now, a lot of these research and development small businesses are telling every Senator who will listen that they may not survive if the Senate fails to act.

In addition to small businesses, the bill will boost low-income housing, adding more than 200,000 new units across the country. And, incredibly, it is paid for by shutting down a pandemic-era tax program that is just riddled with fraud.

Congress has some difficult tax debates. There is a big one coming up in 2025. This bill, according to 357 Members of the other body—this bill—is the easy stuff. The list of groups supporting this bill is so broad that it almost takes your breath away: progressive economic groups, conservative economic groups, parents' coalitions, pro-life organizations, anti-poverty groups, small business advocates, manufacturers. I can just go on and on into the night describing all of the members of this coalition that spans the political spectrum who just want to stand up for kids and small businesses and people who want a roof over their heads. They want to see this bill become law, and they want to see it become law now.

In January, the bill sailed through the Ways and Means Committee with no strong opposition, and it sailed through the House, as I said, with 357 votes in favor. These days you can't get 357 Members of the House of Rep-

resentatives to vote for apple pie and sunshine. The bill came over to the Senate, and it has now been sitting for 10 weeks.

I am here to state that I have talked to a number of Senate Republicans who like this bill very much. Some Senate Republicans objected to a provision in the bill that deals with what is called a lookback. That provision deals with the flexibility for families to claim the child tax credit using their income from the previous few months. Senate Republicans claim it would disincentivize work.

The people we hire to do analysis of these matters, the Joint Committee on Taxation, disagrees. Conservative experts from the Tax Foundation, Americans for Tax Reform, and the American Enterprise Institute disagree. They all said the bill wouldn't have an impact on work.

Regardless, I told my Republican colleague on the Finance Committee, Senator CRAPO, I would be willing to drop the lookback policy. We said: We will take an alternative approach that ensures that we get the same cut in child poverty, and nobody would say it affected work. I also offered to add additional policies that Senate Republicans had talked about and advocated for before. That offer that I made, based on my conversations with colleagues on the other side of the aisle, was unacceptable. The changes that our colleague from Idaho, Senator CRAPO, asked for would have destroyed any chance of passing the bill and left way too many kids living in poverty. The offer I received from the other side of the aisle would not have gotten a single Democratic vote here in the Senate. So put that in context.

What I offered was the No. 1 thing that I heard Senate Republicans talking about. We figured out a way to get it done without it hurting kids. And what we were offered in return was something that would have killed the bill.

I will say to the Senate here today, on Tax Day, my offer of compromise, as I proposed it to Senate Republicans—my offer—still stands.

Now, I am going to close by saying that some Senate Republicans prefer to wait. The idea is they can write their own bill in 2025 if they win the Senate in November.

I am here to say that kids and small businesses and those desperate for a roof over their heads cannot afford to wait.

This bill would help 16 million kids from low-income families. They can't afford to wait. Fixing the discrimination against families with two, three, four kids is something that cannot wait. Those families need help buying food and diapers and new shoes. Today, those kids are stuck splitting a single tax credit. As I said, you can't split a single pair of sneakers. Those kids should not have to wait.

This bill would lift half a million kids from poverty. It would be unconscionable to leave those kids in poverty

for political gain. They should not have to wait.

The bill would boost the incentive for research and development and throw a lifeline to small business owners who are worried about keeping their doors open right now. Those small business owners should not have to wait.

And, colleagues, it is just, to me, mind-boggling that the Senate would forego this opportunity to tackle fraud in the employee retention credit, which is the pandemic-era program the bill would shut down.

I sat with the chairman of the Senate Finance Committee and heard the IRS Commissioner telling us that as much as 95 percent of these claims coming in were fraudulent or illegitimate. The IRS Commissioner agreed, when I asked him about this, that that was the number, during a meeting earlier this year.

This is the only bill on offer to shut down this firehose of fraud. It is unthinkable that the Senate would allow all this fraud to continue.

I have been doing a lot of town meetings at home. The reaction is always the same: People are just kind of slack-jawed at the idea that the Congress is actually on the verge of passing a bipartisan bill that would help a whole lot of families and businesses that every day walk an economic tightrope. At the same time, they just scratch their heads when I tell them that Senate Republicans have been holding it up.

It is time to get this done. If the Senate doesn't pass the bill, the soonest it will revisit these issues, in all likelihood, is late 2025. So, I would say that we have a bill that is going to help millions of Americans now. The alternative is to wait around for 18 months or longer. At that point, the Senate is going to have to deal with trillions of dollars in tax policies up in the air. It is not as simple as setting these issues aside for just a few months and then making some modest changes on the margins.

Today and now is the Senate's opportunity. Sixteen million kids and thousands of small businesses should not have to wait. It is time to get this bipartisan bill passed in the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Manglona nomination.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Utah.

MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I rise today to speak in support of my motion to table the Ramona Manglona nomination.

My issue with the nominee at hand is not with the nominee at hand. In fact, she is quite well-qualified. She passed out of the Judiciary Committee, on

which I serve, with my support, by a vote in committee of 21 to 0. But the Senate should not be processing nominees right now. The Senate should be laser-focused, instead, on preparing for the trial for Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, whom the House impeached in February.

Instead of confirming yet another nominee, we should be considering and organizing a resolution to set up that trial, which we are constitutionally compelled to conduct. Unfortunately, that is not what we are doing. Instead, Senator SCHUMER is preparing to enact a nuclear option by tabling the Articles of Impeachment for the first time in American history. Senate Democrats want to avoid even examining the evidence presented against Mayorkas. We should not be going about business as usual while Senator SCHUMER prepares to nuke the Senate.

If this motion to table is successful, then with respect to Manglona, we could move to legislative business to consider an organizing resolution for the impeachment trial. I ask my colleagues for support.

VOTE ON MOTION TO TABLE

To that end, Madam President, I move to table the nomination of Ramona Villagomez Manglona, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), and the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT), and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "yea" and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted "yea."

The result was announced—yeas 39, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 125 Ex.]

YEAS—39

Barrasso	Fischer	Moran
Blackburn	Grassley	Mullin
Boozman	Hagerty	Paul
Britt	Hawley	Ricketts
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Romney
Capito	Johnson	Rounds
Cassidy	Kennedy	Rubio
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Crapo	Lee	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Lummis	
Daines	Marshall	
Ernst	McConnell	

Sullivan	Tillis	Vance
Thune	Tuberville	Wicker

NAYS—50

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Butler	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Lujan	Stabenow
Carper	Manchin	Tester
Casey	Markey	Van Hollen
Collins	Menendez	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warnock
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Welch
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Osoff	Wyden
Hassan	Padilla	

NOT VOTING—11

Braun	Graham	Shaheen
Cotton	Hoeven	Sinema
Cramer	Risch	Young
Fetterman	Schmitt	

The motion was rejected.
(Mr. WHITEHOUSE assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. HEINRICH assumed the Chair.)

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 478, Ramona Villagomez Manglona, of the Northern Mariana Islands, to be Judge for the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands for a term of ten years. (Reappointment)

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie K. Hirono, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Ramona Villagomez Manglona, of the Northern Mariana Islands, to be Judge for the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER),

the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 84, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 126 Ex.]

YEAS—84

Baldwin	Grassley	Padilla
Barrasso	Hagerty	Peters
Bennet	Hassan	Reed
Blackburn	Hawley	Ricketts
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Romney
Booker	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Boozman	Hirono	Rounds
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Brown	Johnson	Sanders
Budd	Kaine	Schatz
Butler	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Capito	King	Scott (SC)
Cardin	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Lankford	Stabenow
Casey	Lee	Tester
Cassidy	Lujan	Thune
Collins	Lummis	Tillis
Coons	Markey	Tuberville
Cornyn	McConnell	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Vance
Crapo	Merkley	Warnock
Cruz	Moran	Warren
Daines	Mullin	Welch
Duckworth	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murphy	Wicker
Fischer	Murray	Wyden
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Young

NAYS—3

Braun	Marshall	Sullivan
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NOT VOTING—13

Cotton	Hoeben	Shaheen
Cramer	Manchin	Sinema
Ernst	Paul	Warner
Fetterman	Risch	
Graham	Schmitt	

(Ms. HASSAN assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). On this vote, the yeas are 84, the nays are 3.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Ohio.

TRIBUTE TO ANN MILLER

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I rise today to honor Ann Miller, a champion of labor, as she retires this month. Today happens to be—probably not entirely coincidentally—her birthday.

Ann has spent her entire career fighting for the dignity of work. She started off in this body working for Senator Edward Kennedy, a champion of workers and a friend and a mentor of mine.

I know Senator MURRAY, who is in front of me here, served on his committee for many, many years, and, as he did, she later chaired it.

It is clear Ann cares too. From the beginning of her career, Ann saw how important it is for representatives to understand labor and to stand up for workers.

After her time in the Senate, Ann moved to the Department of Labor, where she could continue her work. During a very intense time there at DOL, while family and medical leave was being implemented and increased minimum wage was secured, Ann was instrumental in that.

After 4 years, Ann moved to the AFL-CIO and then the Alliance for Re-

tired Americans. In every role and every job, the focus of her work was always fighting for workers.

She returned to the AFL-CIO in 2003, where she would spend the next 10 years. She pushed people running for office around the country to put workers at the center. She knew that was morally right. She also knew it was good politics to put workers at the center of what we do and how we campaign and how we carry out our jobs, from having a pro-labor platform to smaller suggestions like hosting events at union hotels. I know that the Presiding Officer from Minnesota does things like that. After election day, Ann held candidates to their promises. She kept them accountable to the interests of workers. Her colleagues called her the soul of the labor program.

It is clear Ann still understood the importance of having pro-labor and pro-worker representatives. She saw it when she started out in the Senate. She carried it through her whole career. It led Ann to the AFL-CIO and then ultimately to the IBEW, the electrical workers, where she has been an integral part of the legislative and political department for the past 10 years. She worked with an experienced staff of grassroots organizers and analysts and advocates. They have fought for the interests of IBEW's 820,000 members and retirees across different industries and fields. Ann had always been impressed by the IBEW members she met through her career and their willingness to stand up and be heard. It is fitting that the final chapter of her work life was spent fighting for them.

We have heard from those who worked alongside Ann. A highlight of her career was becoming a member of IBEW Local 121. With her union card, Ann joined the hundreds of thousands of workers across our country whom she has spent her career fighting for.

Today, as we see renewed energy and momentum in the labor movement, it is in part because of Ann and her work. Those who know Ann recognize her fearlessness and her tenacity. It is because of Ann, for instance—and I know that Senator SMITH and Senator MURRAY joined us in this—that we were able, with the CHIPS Act, to get a project labor agreement that means at least 7,000 union workers building that gargantuan plant, union workers across the board—electricians and carpenters and bricklayers and laborers and operating engineers and even roofers and carpenters and many others. When things get tough, Ann fights even harder for workers. She has instilled that same strength and determination in her staff.

She has emphasized the importance of building genuine relationships, whether it is with representatives or candidates or colleagues.

She cares for the people she worked alongside, never really looking for praise or accolades, just wanting to help.

She has been a mentor to many women in labor, particularly the build-

ing trades. The IBEW attracts more people of color and more women. Ann has been at the forefront, and she has been able to mentor so many of those women. She has fought to make it easier for women in the labor movement to rise through the ranks, easier than it was for her do that.

We wish Ann well in this next chapter, filled with more time with her family, with Andy, and all. We thank her for an impressive career spent standing up for the dignity of work.

We recommit in this body to our own fight to ensure hard work pays off for everyone. You love this country; you fight for the people who make it work. She understands that.

TRIBUTE TO BILL SAMUEL

Madam President, I rise today, also, to honor Bill Samuel and congratulate him on a long career fighting for workers.

Bill dedicated his whole life to the labor movement. Early in his career, Bill served as a legislative representative for the National Treasury Employees Union and then for the American Federation of Government Employees. In both roles, Bill fought for Federal workers across different Agencies and Departments.

Bill went to Oberlin College in my State, not far from where I work, and the values that school holds up and shines a light upon have also affected Bill's work.

He went to work for the UMW and was instrumental in the fight for miners. Bill upheld the UMW's long legacy of fighting for better working conditions and better benefits, especially better healthcare.

He and I have talked about the pin I wear on my lapel. It was given to me at a worker's Memorial Day rally, some 20 years ago. It is a picture of a canary in a birdcage. The mine workers took the canary into the mines.

In those days, 120 years ago, the mine workers had no union strong enough to protect them and no government that cared enough to protect them. And Bill sees politics and sees the labor movement through the eyes of what that is all about.

Bill made a huge difference in their fight, working with Senator Rockefeller and former UMWA President Trumka. Miners risk their health to power our country. Many of them didn't have access to the healthcare they needed. It is something we know all too well in southeast Ohio and have fought to change.

Bill led the successful campaign to pass Federal legislation guaranteeing lifetime healthcare to more than 200,000 retired miners and their families. He fought to secure what miners had earned and deserved.

His advocacy made a difference for so many miners and so many families. Whether it was in the labor movement or in government, that fight for workers was always his North Star.

He worked at the Department of Labor, where he could carry out and

implement a lot of the things he fought for. And then he worked for Vice President Gore.

For nearly a quarter century, Bill has been a leader at the AFL–CIO, where he served as director of government affairs. He has been a constant at the AFL–CIO through multiple federation presidents and periods of transition. AFL presidents, AFL affiliates, and congressional offices have all come to rely upon his insight and upon his wisdom. He leads the AFL–CIO’s legislative committee. He advocates for the federation’s 10 million union members.

Bill makes that balancing act look easy. He builds consensus across the affiliates. He coordinates with every union. He engages with workers and members and representatives. He is at the center of every operation, every initiative, every campaign. We rely on him. We get good information. And we rely on his wise counsel.

He is the first person my team calls on issue after issue. They know what I know: Bill understands the issues. He understands how to build consensus. He understands how to get things done. He understands how to mobilize the entire union movement. And he is always fighting for others.

I have had the privilege of working alongside Bill on issues that matter so much to my State. We worked to pass the Butch Lewis Act, named after an Ohioan. With it, we saved the pensions of 100,000 Ohio union members whose earned retirement benefits were at risk because of Wall Street greed.

Most people in Washington ignored the challenges facing union retirees. They didn’t take the problem seriously or treat this as the emergency that it was. In Washington, most people don’t understand collective bargaining. They don’t understand the collective bargaining process. They don’t understand that workers sit down at the table. Worker representatives sit down at the table, negotiate, and are willing to give up benefits today—pay and even some healthcare benefits today, perhaps—to have a pension in the future.

That is why Butch Lewis was so important. That is why Bill never gave up. And along with Ohio leaders like Mike Walden and Rita Lewis, he mobilized workers. He helped put this on the agenda and keep it there, and we got it done.

Whenever politicians proposed anti-labor, anti-worker legislation, Bill stood up. Bill stood up for workers. His entire career he fought for the people who make our country work.

And, today, at a time when there is unprecedented momentum behind unions, there is stronger support among this generation of young people for unions than there has been in my entire lifetime. That is partly because of the work that Bill did in organizing and in showing people how important it is and the unwavering dedication to workers.

Thousands of workers across our Nation don’t know Bill personally, but

they benefit from his efforts and his advocacy on their behalf.

We congratulate Bill on his career of service and wish him a happy and healthy retirement. He will be able to spend more time with Tracy and with his children, Jack and Lucy.

I look forward to working with Bill’s successor, Jody Calemine, to continue fighting for workers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3168

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, we have all watched what has happened with the Iran strike this weekend. And my colleagues across the aisle like to say that they support Israel. But in this moment of peril for the world’s only Jewish state, I fear that what they are doing is deciding to play politics. And, in the months after the October 7 attack, they insisted on tying aid for Israel to supplemental packages that do not have the votes to pass through both Chambers.

Now, Republicans have been very clear: Any supplemental bill that fails to address the security crisis at our southern border is a nonstarter.

We already have a solution to President Biden’s border crisis. It is H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act. But for almost a year—and bear in mind, that border security bill landed over here in May of last year. So it has been almost a year. And our colleagues—the Democrats—who are in charge, have refused to bring that up for a vote.

Now, Democrats voted to table different measures that came along. My colleague from Kansas is going to have one in a few minutes, and they are going to vote to table that also. And they are going to object. And they are doing this at a time when legislation we bring forward would provide billions in aid for Israel as it fights to destroy Hamas and bring some innocent hostages—including Americans—home.

Now, the reason the bill—and this is their reason. They say the bill would pay for itself—my colleagues’s bill that he is going to bring forward—because it would use the funding for Biden’s army of 87,000 IRS agents. They say they don’t like that. And Democrats would rather hound small businesses on Main Street, which we know most of those would be targeted toward, than deliver aid that is necessary for our closest ally in the Middle East.

Now, think about what they are saying when they say this. They would rather keep those IRS agents than to give this aid. They would rather tie aid to Ukraine. They would rather tie it to Taiwan. They don’t want it to stand alone.

So for months, they have delayed, and, now, after these months of delay, Iran, for the first time ever, directly attacked Israel from Iranian territory. It launched 170 drones, 30 cruise missiles, and 120 ballistic missiles toward the Jewish State. This was the largest aerial attack ever carried out in the Middle East.

So if Democrats are objecting to everything that would, in any way, tie up aid to Israel, then let’s look at it another way, because this issue is too important for any more delays. That is why I am calling for unanimous consent for S. 3168, the Israel Supplemental Appropriations Act.

This bill is nearly identical to legislation that passed the House and would provide \$17.6 billion in aid to our cherished ally, including \$4 billion to replenish the Iron Dome, \$1.3 billion to help Israel counter mortar attacks, and \$3.3 billion to support U.S. military operations in the region.

But my bill does not make any cuts at all to Joe Biden’s army of IRS agents. It doesn’t make any cuts to the budget. It doesn’t have any offsets. My legislation very simply says: They need this aid. Let’s send this aid. Let’s make certain Israel has what they need to protect themselves.

The world’s only Jewish State is in a fight for its survival. Time and time again, Iran and its proxies have vowed they would annihilate Israel. We have heard them say: “Death to Iran. Death to Israel. Death to the U.S.”

Iran funds these proxies. So let’s give Israel what they need to defend themselves. Let’s do it unencumbered, no offsets. Let’s all stand together.

And I would ask my Democratic colleagues: How much longer do you think Israel can wait?

Let’s push this forward, and let’s allow Israel to have the funding they need to protect themselves without ties to anything else.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I want to thank my senior Senator from the State of Tennessee for leading the charge on this important issue.

Time and time again, my colleagues across the aisle have blocked passage for a fully funded, standalone aid package for Israel. We have heard them claim they won’t support our bill because cutting the IRS would allow millionaires to get away with tax evasion.

So Senator BLACKBURN and I are rising once again to make things easy for our colleagues who want a bloated IRS. But I have to tell you, not once in my lifetime have I heard any Kansan come to me and express interest in inflating the IRS, of all Agencies.

But we will press on, calling this bluff and putting forth the exact same bill without the IRS pay-for. For several months, I have said: If you don’t like my pay-for, show me another. But at the end of the day, what matters is getting the aid to Israel.

Since this body won’t allow us to make cuts to the IRS—on tax day, no less—to pay for the aid, unfortunately, it just won’t be paid for. We will do away with the cuts if it means Democrats will stop holding aid to Israel. Let’s make this deal right now. The people of Israel need us to make the deal.

But, once again, we will see the Democrats block this bill. That is because it is not about the cuts to the

IRS. It is time to stop politicking. Senate Democrats' opposition here against this live unanimous consent proves to the American people and Israel that this was never about the IRS cuts being used as a pay-for. It was never about tax cheats or millionaires. It is about using our ally, Israel, as a pawn in their underlying mission to send another blank check to Ukraine, and it is about a handful of pro-Iranian and pro-Palestinian votes in swing States. It is that simple.

Again, I call on my Democratic colleagues to do the right thing. Drop the political posturing and let's secure a gigantic bipartisan victory for Israel in their time of need.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I ask for the immediate consideration of S. 3168, the Israel Supplemental Appropriations Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. MURRAY. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Is it my understanding the Senator is asking unanimous consent to proceed to consideration of the bill?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is the Chair's understanding.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, let me just say, reserving the right to object, Iran's attacks over the weekend underscore the precarious moment that we find ourselves in and the urgent need for Congress to act decisively to confront the many challenges we and our allies face.

Of course, the surest and fastest way to do that is to pass the carefully negotiated comprehensive national security supplemental that the Senate actually cleared in an overwhelming bipartisan vote over 2 months ago. There is urgency for aiding all of our allies facing grave threats. We cannot afford half steps or half measures like this one, because for months now, Ukraine has been desperately waiting for more aid and counting how many bullets they have left, how many missiles, and how many Iranian-made drones they can still intercept, and how much longer they can hold out if we don't keep our word.

At a time like this, we simply cannot settle for a bill that helps one ally and ignores all the rest. Ukraine hasn't just been calling for aid for months. Many House Republicans, including the Speaker, have been saying for months: We will not abandon them. This bill would leave Ukraine in the dust. It would ignore the threat that the Chinese Government poses in the Indo-Pacific, and it would fail to take action to address the dire humanitarian crisis we are seeing around the world, which will lead to more instability.

Not on my watch.

Let me make this simple. If we want a safer world with strong American leadership, then we cannot send the message that America only keeps some of its promises to some of its allies

some of the time. Otherwise, how are our partners supposed to trust us? Why would our adversaries take us seriously?

How do my colleagues offering this bill plan to answer all of the allies who come knocking after something like this asking: Are we a priority like Israel or a bargaining chip like Ukraine?

That is not a rhetorical question. How do you plan to answer them?

We cannot tell the world that we forget some of our allies in their time of need; that partnering with us might mean getting left behind. And that means we cannot ignore the reality that Israel is not the only ally of ours in the middle of a brutal conflict facing grave threats. The people of Ukraine are fighting and dying for their homeland as we speak. They are literally running out of bullets fighting off Putin's bloody invasion. Are we going to pretend, with the whole world watching, that we do not hear their cries for help?

That is not an acceptable outcome, especially when, right now, we already have a comprehensive bipartisan bill to support all of our allies and address the many threats we face across the globe. The Speaker has said many times he wants us to get aid to Ukraine. Well, all he has to do is prove he is serious and put that bill up for a vote. That is it. Further delaying, including by going back to the drawing board and sending something back to the Senate will waste more time that we simply do not have.

So the Speaker needs to put the bipartisan national security supplemental up for a vote because, unlike the bill before us right now, the bipartisan Senate bill stands by all of our allies. It leaves no one behind. It includes support for Israel and Ukraine; and, importantly, it includes badly needed humanitarian aid and absolutely essential investments to support our allies in the Indo-Pacific and deter aggression by the Chinese Government.

We have to do better than half steps. We just have to. We cannot settle for a bill like the one that is proposed here tonight that would shamefully tell the world we don't stand by all of our allies—a bill that would leave every partner we have asking whether we are going to treat them like a true ally or like an afterthought. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I appreciate that my colleague talked about half steps because the inconsistency of this administration to our allies is an issue. Our allies don't know if they are our allies. They don't see us as being there for them; and our enemies do not fear us.

Iran, for the first time ever, has attacked Israel. I gave you those numbers just a few minutes ago—170 drones, 30 cruise missiles, 120 ballistic missiles. After Hamas attacked Israel

on October 7, they told us they don't intend to stop. They are continuing over and over.

Israel has been very specific in telling us what they need: \$4 billion to replenish the Iron Dome, \$1.2 billion to help Israel counter mortar threats, \$3.3 billion to support military operations in the region. They are very specific about that.

When you look at the axis of evil—Russia, China, Iran, North Korea—of course, the threats are growing every day. Why are they growing? Because the Biden administration is practicing appeasement—appeasement.

There is agreement in supporting Israel. I continue to say it is time for us to support Israel, our greatest ally in the region, the only Jewish State. Let's make certain that they have what they need to defend themselves.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 6126

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President:

As Israel is under attack from Iran, we stand with Israel and its people, and the United States will do everything we can to support Israel's defense against Iran.

Now, I have said similar things to that, but that is actually a quote from the Democratic Senate majority leader CHUCK SCHUMER:

As Israel is under attack from Iran, we stand with Israel and its people and the United States will do everything we can to support Israel's defense against Iran.

The majority leader said basically the same thing several months ago on the Nation's Mall when he said he wouldn't sleep until we help the people of Israel.

It has been almost 200 days since Iran-backed Hamas terrorists invaded Israel and brutally killed innocent civilians—women, senior citizens, and children—since that horrific day on October 7. I called for aid to our ally Israel, with no strings attached, on this floor four times.

Sadly, Democrats have blocked our efforts every single time. Every time we come to the floor to have this debate, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have stood on this floor and lectured us on why the bipartisan House-passed, stand-alone Israel legislation that maintains the spending levels requested by President Biden is somehow unreasonable.

Well, what is unreasonable to me and to most Americans across this country is this body's reluctance to help our ally Israel in their time of need following not just one but now two unprecedented attacks on Israel's sovereign soil. Unreasonable is the Biden administration coming out today admitting that they are yet again holding Israel funds hostage. And why? That is a question I get back home: Why? I will tell you why.

Because they are, again, using this crisis as a lever to secure more money for Ukraine. And they object to protect their members who are pro-Iran, who are pro-Hamas, from a tough vote, as they call it.

Over the weekend, everybody has now seen that Israel was attacked—this time by the head of the snake, Iran; not its proxies, but the head of the snake, Iran. Iran, the nation that harbors terrorists who scream and shout out: Death to America. Iran, who time and time again has shown us they hate Americans, they hate Israel. Iran, a terrorist, authoritarian, evil regime that cannot be trusted launched more than 120 ballistic missiles, 30 cruise missiles, and 170 one-way suicide drones at Israel on Saturday night.

Thankfully, through the strength and resolve of the Israeli people and with military help from the United States, British forces, Jordan, and many others who successfully neutralized these attacks, Israel was hardly scathed, let alone defeated.

I want to just take a moment and pause, though, and also say thanks to all those American soldiers who put their lives on the line to protect one of our long-term, most valued allies in the Middle East—the people of Israel. And, of course, not just our soldiers but the soldiers of our many other allies there. These unprecedented attacks on Israel and ever-increasing aggression by Iran cannot be ignored by weak pacifist U.S. policies with no redlines any longer.

Instead, we must stand with our decades-long friend with whom we share a strategic alliance based upon shared democratic values, security interests, and cultural and religious values.

We must help Israel in its time of need. A friend in need is a friend indeed.

Today, we are here once again offering an olive branch to pass the bipartisan House-passed Israel aid bill that could be signed by the President tonight. The House has passed it. We could pass it and the President could sign it tonight and get that aid to Israel.

It is time to show where America stands. Is it with Iran and Hamas, or is it with Israel? It has to be one or the other; you can't choose both. As for me and my family and my colleagues, we choose Israel. Time and time again, I see Members, even the Democratic majority leader this weekend, say they stand with Israel. My message today to my colleagues is that actions speak louder than words. We are tired of hearing the pro-Israeli lip service while simultaneously blocking every effort to help Israel in its time of need. History will not forget this. Let's do the right thing.

As in legislative session, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the

immediate consideration of Calendar No. 241, H.R. 6126; I further ask the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. MURRAY. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that all time on the Maglona nomination be deemed expired, and that at 11:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 16, the Senate vote on confirmation, and that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

PROHIBITING THE USE OF FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT, ADMINISTER, OR ENFORCE CERTAIN RULES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business. The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 350, S. 4072, a bill to prohibit the use of funds to implement, administer, or enforce certain rules of the Environmental Protection Agency.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 7888

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7888) to reform the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978.

Mr. SCHUMER. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the

bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bill will be read for a second time on the next legislative day.

MORNING BUSINESS

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 382. An act to take certain land in the State of Washington into trust for the benefit of the Puyallup Tribe of the Puyallup Reservation, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 524. An act to amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to create an exemption for certain shoreline borrow sites.

H.R. 2560. An act to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Grant Program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6011. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to notify applicants of the completion status of right-of-way applications under section 501 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act.

At 7:13 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 7888. An act to reform the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

(Legislative Day April 10, 2024)

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 7888. An act to reform the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978.

MOTION TO ADJOURN

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to adjourn until 9:04 p.m. today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to adjourn until 9:04 p.m.

The motion was agreed to.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 9:03 p.m., adjourned until Monday, April 15, 2024, at 9:04 p.m.