

As Senator COLLINS and I pointed out in introducing Secretary Donovan before our committee just a couple of weeks ago, he is known for using rigorous data analysis to demand better results from government programs and to save taxpayer money. She also pointed out he will be a leader of integrity and intelligence in a critical job.

I mentioned the word “integrity” before, and I will say it again: Integrity, if you have it, nothing else matters; if you don’t have it, nothing else matters.

He has integrity. He is a bright guy, a very smart guy, hard-working, a wonderful family, and a great track record—not just in government but in the private sector, nonprofits, local, State, and Federal governments.

He has demonstrated what he can do leading a big agency such as Housing and Urban Development and how he can lead in a cross-agency way when we were suffering under Superstorm Sandy, which came right through our part of the country.

I think he is well qualified for the position for which he is nominated. I am pleased the President nominated him, and I am pleased Sylvia Mathews Burwell is still around over at HHS.

Sean has done a wonderful job at HUD, and he will do a great job at OMB. I am pleased to support his nomination, and I hope all my colleagues will as well.

I ask unanimous consent that the vote on confirmation of the Donovan nomination occur at 2:05 p.m. and that Senator MURRAY be in control of the final 2 minutes prior to the votes.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

UNACCOMPANIED BORDER CHILDREN

Mr. VITTER. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the growing crisis of unaccompanied alien children streaming across our southern border. It has been called a mounting crisis, including the security crisis it is. There are some 52,000 who have come across in the last several months, according to recent reports—up from just a few thousand 1 year ago—and the threat is that will grow significantly. It is continuing to grow.

This has been called a humanitarian crisis, and it is. These are, in most cases, vulnerable children who were taken through by human smugglers, by drug cartels, by other folks who do not—absolutely do not—have their best interests in mind. These children are often mistreated in all sorts of despicable ways through that journey.

How do we address this crisis? It seems to me we need to get our core response right, and the only way to stop this increasing flow is to make clear this activity will not be successful.

The only way to do that is to detain these illegal aliens in our country and keep them under our supervision until we quickly deport them to their countries of origin.

That is the only response, the only message, the only visual that will stop this mounting flow from continuing to grow. That is the most humanitarian response that will stop more and more of these Central and South American children from being put in this illegal trade and being victimized along the way.

Now, unfortunately, so far, that is not the response President Obama has made.

After speaking for weeks about the 2008 change in immigration law as a factor in this scenario, when President Obama presented a request to Congress on this issue, he did not request any change in that law. He talked about it. He pointed to that law for weeks saying this was the root cause of the problem. Yet in his request to Congress he is not proposing we change that law.

Instead, all he is proposing is more money—a lot more money—\$3.7 billion. Now, some more response and some more resources are undoubtedly necessary, but the lion’s share of that, again, doesn’t go to enforcement, doesn’t go to deportation, doesn’t go to sending these illegals back to their home country quickly, humanely, and efficiently. It goes to feeding them and housing them in this country for an extended, indefinite period of time.

That is not what we need again.

What we need, instead, is whatever changes to the law are necessary to allow us to detain these folks in a proper, humane way and quickly move them back to their home countries. We need the will and the resources to get that done in a quick, efficient way. That is what I will be proposing with many others in both the House and the Senate.

For this to work we also need the will and the cooperation of the administration, and I am concerned that there isn’t that real focus, real determination, and real will. It is great to have the right law written down on a piece of paper, the right words on a page, but it is equally as important—perhaps more important—to have the right administration, the right spirit, the right execution, the right follow-through on those words on a page.

Unfortunately, we haven’t had that in the Obama administration either.

The Los Angeles Times, not exactly a right-leaning publication, has noted that deportations of illegals has plummeted from the high in 2008, plummeted every year since then, to an absolute low in 2013 of about 1,669—from a high of 8,100, down each and every year to 1,600.

This first drop probably had a lot to do with the change in the law to which President Obama has alluded. We need to fix that. But these other drops have to do with the spirit, the focus, and the determination—or lack thereof—of the present administration.

Similarly, about 600 minors—all illegals—were ordered deported each year from nonborder States a decade ago—a decade ago 600 and last year

only 95. Again, this is the same plummeting trend, the same absolutely plummeting trend. That is what we need to fundamentally reverse.

To reverse that I have joined with other Members, as I suggested, to get the right solution in Congress, both changes in the law we need to make and the resources we need to hold these illegal aliens and quickly turn around the flow and send them back to their home countries. That is why I have joined already with Senator FLAKE in his amendment, which he was trying to propose on the Senate floor this week, to repeal the troublesome part of the 2008 law.

That is why I am going further and drafting additional legislation to give this administration the mandate, the ability, the directive it clearly needs to change that practice and to change that policy—not to allow these illegals to be released into the country simply on the honor system that they might show up for a court date—we know that well over 90 percent never show up—and not simply send more money to HHS to properly care for these illegal aliens with no end in sight.

Of course, they need to be properly treated and cared for when they are in this country and beyond, but we should not just write a blank check to keep them here forever but change the law and have the procedure in place to detain them—not to release them—and to quickly, effectively, bring them back to their home country.

That is what happens in a much more routine way for illegal aliens from border countries such as Mexico and Canada. That is what happens effectively in those situations. We need to mirror that. We need to copy that and make sure that happens effectively when the illegal alien is from a border State.

I wrote a letter to DHS Secretary Johnson back in January of this year regarding this very issue, before it became the current crisis, regarding reports detailing actual DHS assistance in the completion of smuggling illegal alien minors.

In that case, a smuggled child in many cases was transferred to illegal alien parents actually by DHS—by HHS’s Office of Refugee Resettlement. So actually, in those cases, the Federal Government was not completing the object of the criminal conspiracy—was not stopping the smuggling, not punishing the smugglers, but completing the operation. Again, it is another classic case of sending the wrong message—a message that will increase the flow and increase the problem, not decrease it.

Ultimately, that goes back to the humanitarian issue too, because encouraging human smuggling enriches drug cartels, allows them to continue using violence as a means to an end, and wages war on Mexican and American citizens alike as well as the folks involved from Central and South American countries.

We need to change that basic message. We need to turn around those

basic incentives. The only way to do that is to have a law and the execution of the law that is reversing that flow, that is apprehending these folks, that is treating them humanely, that is not releasing them out into American society, and that is quickly and effectively returning them to their home countries.

That is the only message, that is the only visual, that will stop this mounting wave and will address the horrible humanitarian problems that flow directly from it.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I come to the floor for the last minute of this debate to support Sean Donovan's nomination to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

I have worked very closely with Secretary Donovan over the last 5 years, and I know he has the skills and experience to work with Congress on creating jobs and tackling our long-term budget challenges fairly and responsibly.

In his role as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Secretary Donovan has proven time and again that he is focused first and foremost on strengthening our middle class by expanding opportunities for families and communities.

From his work on stabilizing the housing market following the financial crisis, to reinforcing the agency's role in providing access to affordable housing and building strong, sustainable neighborhoods, to ensuring communities hit hard by natural disasters have the resources they need to get back on their feet, Secretary Donovan has been a highly effective and responsive leader and a great partner to us in Congress, Democrats and Republicans alike.

Secretary Donovan's nomination passed through the Budget Committee with bipartisan support. I am confident he will bring these strengths and many more to the OMB. His leadership will be critical, because while we have made progress on our budget challenges, there is a lot of work yet to be done.

I look forward to working with Secretary Donovan to strengthen our fiscal outlook over the long term and ensure we can make critical investments in jobs and opportunities to support our families, workers, and the economy. I know Secretary Donovan will be a great partner in addressing these challenges, and I urge my colleagues to support his nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Shaun L.S. Donovan, of New York, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget?

Ms. COLLINS. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 75, nays 22, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 221 Ex.]

YEAS—75

Alexander	Flake	Merkley
Ayotte	Franken	Mikulski
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Begich	Graham	Murphy
Bennet	Hagan	Murray
Blumenthal	Harkin	Nelson
Booker	Hatch	Portman
Brown	Heinrich	Pryor
Burr	Heitkamp	Reed
Cantwell	Hirono	Reid
Cardin	Hoeven	Sanders
Carper	Isakson	Schumer
Casey	Johanns	Shaheen
Chambliss	Johnson (SD)	Shelby
Coats	Kaine	Stabenow
Coburn	King	Tester
Cochran	Klobuchar	Udall (CO)
Collins	Landrieu	Udall (NM)
Coons	Leahy	Vitter
Corker	Levin	Walsh
Crapo	Manchin	Warner
Donnelly	Markey	Warren
Durbin	McCain	Whitehouse
Enzi	McCaskill	Wicker
Feinstein	Menendez	Wyden

NAYS—22

Barrasso	Inhofe	Roberts
Blunt	Johnson (WI)	Rubio
Boozman	Kirk	Scott
Cornyn	Lee	Sessions
Cruz	McConnell	Thune
Fischer	Moran	Toomey
Grassley	Paul	
Heller	Risch	

NOT VOTING—3

Boxer	Rockefeller	Schatz
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The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SILLIMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate prior to a vote on the Silliman nomination.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I ask that we yield back all time.

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

All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Douglas Alan Silliman, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Kuwait?

The nomination was confirmed.

VOTE ON SMITH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate prior to the vote on the Smith nomination.

Mr. HARKIN. Madam President, I ask that we yield back all remaining time.

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

All time is yielded back.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of

Dana Shell Smith, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Qatar?

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE PROGRAM AUTHORIZATION ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, the Senator from Minnesota was going to be recognized first. She is not in the Chamber, so I will go first and then we will get back in order.

I ask unanimous consent to be recognized for 15 minutes.

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

FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, now that the results are in, I think it is time to talk again—as we did 5 years ago—about what is happening on what I consider to be the greatest failed foreign policy we have experienced.

When we look around the world and we see what happened and what is going on now—and this may be a narrow opinion—it is a result of the apology tour President Obama took immediately after becoming President of the United States.

I remember standing at this podium at that time and saying you don't go to the Muslim world and say: I will not make a speech until we have the Muslim Brotherhood coming with their required numbers. That was not good. This is a deviation from what we always stood for and that was certainly a slap in the face of our best friends in the Middle East, Israel.

Two weeks ago, three Israeli teenagers were found dead in shallow graves in a West Bank village, and it was such a tragedy, and, of course, reciprocity has taken place since then. Hamas has launched over 365 rockets indiscriminately into the Israeli civilian population. I have to say that when I look at some of the things we have worked on together with Israel—for example, the iron dome has performed very well during that period of time. Also, I will say that Prime Minister Netanyahu responded with some 700 or so airstrikes primarily using F-16s and doing it very well. This started 5 years ago, and we have had unrest in that area ever since then.

The Israeli Defense Minister said this week: "We are preparing for a battle