

brother and sister to join her parents. Her parents worked 11 hours a day as trimmers for a landscaping company in downtown Los Angeles.

After Ana received immigration relief, she felt confident enough to begin applying for jobs, and now she is finishing her final year at UC Merced so she can begin her career as a bilingual first grade teacher.

Tell me, Republicans, how does it make sense to deport people such as Ana and split her up from her parents when all they want to do is contribute to the country they love? How does it make sense just because you are too incompetent to hold a vote on your immigration plan? If you want to kick people out of the country, put it to a vote. Let's go. If you want to deport 11 million people, then put it to a vote. Don't hide behind the Homeland Security bill and hold the President's work hostage. You never did it to the other Presidents. Don't do it to this President. How does it make sense to deport these moms, these dads, and these young kids?

I mentioned before that I am the daughter of an immigrant mother. I tried to think of what my life would have been like without my mother. She gave me my conscience. She gave me my values. She gave me all the love and support I needed to pursue my dreams. I am the daughter of an immigrant mother who never graduated from high school. I am a Senator in the U.S. Senate. But they would have deported my mother. I would not be here today if it were not for my mom. So tell me how it makes sense to deport moms and dads and rip apart the lives of children.

Our national security is at stake, our family values are at stake, and our economy is at stake here. So get over the fact that you don't like the President. We get it. You couldn't beat him. It is too bad for you. You are in charge here in the Senate. Do your job. Bring an immigration bill to the floor. Let's let this Homeland Security bill go. It is a bipartisan bill. It is funding for the most important issue we are dealing with today. Let's get to it. Don't hold it hostage because of your hatred of this President—and I use that word because that is what I think. That is what I think.

In California alone, the President's Executive actions could boost California's economy by as much as \$27.5 billion. The President's action will aid our economy. It will raise the Nation's gross domestic product by up to \$90 billion over the next 10 years by expanding the labor force and allowing immigrant workers the flexibility to seek new jobs.

Why is that the case? Why does every independent study show us this is the case? The reason is simple. When workers come out of the shadows, their wages rise, they open bank accounts, buy homes, start businesses, and spend money in their communities.

So I say this to my Republican friends. There is a Presidential race

coming up. Forget the last one. Get over it. Let's work together.

Listen, I served with five Presidents. I am a strong Democrat. Everyone will tell you that. But I have respect for the office of the Presidency. If I didn't agree with Ronald Reagan, I came down here and said it. We had respect back and forth. If we lost, we lost, and we moved on. That went both ways.

I know how it feels not to like the policies of a President. I get it. But don't overdo it and make it so personal. Get on with it. Grow up. Do your job. Have respect for the Office of the President. Don't suddenly say Executive orders are bad when the President you don't like does it, but you don't say one word when a Republican President does the same thing. It doesn't pass the smell test.

Three things could not be more important in this battle. We need to fund our Department of Homeland Security—especially when we are facing serious threats to our security. We need to uphold our family values and not split up loving families, and we need to protect and grow our economy.

We can do this in the simplest way. First, I say to House Speaker BOEHNER—because under the Constitution all funding bills start in the House: Send us a clean bill. Send us the bill that everybody supported before you took it hostage on this immigration issue. Send it over clean. Let's fund everything in that bill to protect our shopping malls, to give grants to our first responders, and to give grants to our local fire departments. Send it over. We will pass it, and immediately following that, we will bring up an immigration bill.

We have it all ready for you. It passed with 68 votes. There is not much work to do. If you do that, the President's Executive order will not be necessary because we will have taken the steps ourselves to fix our broken immigration system.

Let's stop the lawsuits. We have one judge who said there was overreach, but the next judge may say there is no overreach. Let's keep this out of the courts. Let's do our job. Let's stop the self-inflicted crisis. Let's stop the shadow that is hanging over the Nation. Let's do the right thing here.

We can protect the American people from threats to our national security. We can protect and grow our economy, and we can treat hard-working immigrants and their families with the dignity and respect they deserve. It all lies in the hands of Speaker BOEHNER and Leader McCONNELL.

When you took over the Senate, you said: no more threats of shutdowns. Eight weeks later—not even 8 weeks—we are facing a shutdown of one of the most important departments. This is a disgrace, and it is self-inflicted. All you have to do is talk to Speaker BOEHNER. Send over a clean bill so we can vote on it. Then we will take up immigration, and you can show us all your great ideas on immigration.

Let's hear it. Do you want to deport the DREAMers? Come on with it, and we will have a vote. You want to deport the parents? Come on with it, and we will have a vote. You want to kick 11 million people out of this country? Come on with it, and we will have a vote and debate on it. But don't hold the Department of Homeland Security hostage because of this issue.

If there is one thing the American people hate more than anything else, it is attaching unrelated matters to spending bills. I don't care if they are conservative Republicans or liberal Democrats or Independent voters. They think it is the dumbest idea. They really do. They don't understand it.

Pass your funding bills. Then battle your ideological issues separately and apart from that. Don't hold these departments hostage to your decision that President Obama did the wrong thing. If you don't like what he did, put forward your own bill. You have not even done that.

I have been here a long time. I will tell you something. I have never seen anything like this. It is a self-inflicted wound. Who gets hurt? Not the Republicans—they will keep getting their pay. They are fine. The people who will be hurt are those whom we trust and count on and the families that thought they could stay together. They are on the verge of that. That is what this party—the Grand Old Party, the GOP—have brought to us, but they can get out of it in 5 minutes.

Speaker BOEHNER can pass a funding bill that will pass in a heartbeat. Send it over here, and we will pass it, turn to immigration, and then we can have it out on that subject. I think it is worthy of a debate. But don't hold an important funding bill hostage to that debate. It is ridiculous, unnecessary, destructive, and cruel.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FLAKE). Without objection, it is so ordered.

HARRIET TUBMAN AND THE HARRIET TUBMAN UNDERGROUND RAILROAD NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise to celebrate the life of Harriet Tubman and the establishment of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park. Harriet Tubman was an American hero who championed freedom and was most famously known as a leader of the Underground Railroad whose roots were on the Eastern Shore of Maryland.

Harriet Tubman was an iconic figure in our Nation's history for whom liberty and freedom were not just ideas

but were God-given rights she fought tirelessly and at great personal peril to spread to others in bondage. The woman who is known to us as Harriet Tubman was born in approximately 1822 in Dorchester County, MD, and given the name Araminta “Minty” Ross. Born into slavery, she spent nearly 30 years of her life toiling for various families on Maryland’s Eastern Shore.

Even as a young, enslaved girl, she demonstrated impressive mental and physical strength. One of her jobs was to set and check muskrat traps in the swamps of the Blackwater River during blazing hot summers and freezing cold winters. Even though Harriet was slight in physical stature, she frequently worked with the men in the forest cutting timber and carrying logs.

It was in this work setting, where both free and enslaved people worked together harvesting timber, that she first heard stories about what life was like for free Blacks in Northern States.

As a teenaged slave, one of her first acts of defiance was sticking up for an enslaved boy who was being harassed by a shopkeeper. In helping the boy out of this situation, she took a serious blow to the head when the shopkeeper threw a lead weight that struck her in the head. Tubman recalled later in life that the mark of the weight on her skull never fully healed and after this incident she would see visions that later inspired her to escape slavery.

As an adult she took the first name Harriet, and when she was 24 years old she married John Tubman. In her late twenties, Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery in 1849. She fled in the dead of night, navigating the maze of tidal streams and wetlands that to this day comprise the Eastern Shore’s landscape. She did so alone, demonstrating courage, strength, and fortitude that became her hallmark.

Not satisfied with attaining her own freedom, she returned repeatedly for more than 10 years to places of her enslavement in Dorchester and Caroline Counties where, under the most adverse conditions, she led away many family members and other slaves to freedom in the Northeastern United States and Canada.

She helped develop a complex network of safe houses and recruited abolitionist sympathizers residing along secret routes connecting the Southern slave States and Northern free States.

No one knows exactly how many people she led to freedom or the number of trips between the North and the South she led, but the legend of her work was an inspiration to the multitude of slaves seeking freedom and to abolitionists fighting to end slavery. Tubman became known as the Moses of her people by African Americans and White abolitionists alike.

Tubman once proudly told Frederick Douglass that in all her journeys she “never lost a single passenger.” She was so effective that in 1856 there was

a \$40,000 reward offered for her capture in the South. She is the most famous and the most important conductor of the network of resistance known as the Underground Railroad.

But Tubman was more than a conductor on the Underground Railroad. She was a scout and a spy for the Union Army, she was active in the women’s suffrage movement after the Civil War, and ultimately she served aging African Americans by running a home for the aged in Auburn, NY.

In 1903 she bequeathed the Tubman home to the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Auburn, where it stands to this day. Just this month I was able to attend the midwinter meeting of the Board of Bishops/International Ministers and Lay Association of the AME Zion Church, where we honored Sojourner Truth, Frederick Douglass, and Harriet Tubman.

The AME Zion Church, or the “Freedom Church,” as many refer to it, was an important part of Harriet Tubman’s life and was involved in the forefront of both the abolition and civil rights movements. She was a dedicated member of the church and actively supported the construction of the Thompson AME Church in Auburn, NY, where she lay in state after her death. Harriet Tubman died in Auburn in 1913, and she is buried in the Fort Hill Cemetery.

Fortunately, many of the structures and landmarks in New York remain intact, in relatively good condition. For the past 7 years, I have championed legislation to establish the creation of the Harriet Tubman Historical Parks in Maryland and New York. The creation of these parks has been years in the making and long overdue, and I am very grateful for the support my colleagues gave this bill in the last Congress.

Recently I was able to celebrate this park’s formal designation during a ceremonial event at the Harriet Tubman Museum and Educational Center in Cambridge, MD, just a few miles from where she grew up. I was able to meet some of Harriet Tubman’s descendants, which was incredibly meaningful to me.

I am so pleased Harriet Tubman’s legacy will live on in these parks. My cosponsors and I all share a deep appreciation for how establishing this park is preserving the legacy of this remarkable historic figure in American history and will also show how important this park will be to communities where they are located.

Every February our Nation’s children learn lessons about the many contributions African Americans have made to our democracy and to the growth and prosperity of our Nation. Preserving places significant to Harriet Tubman’s life story for future generations creates a learning opportunity that our kids and grandkids can’t get in the classroom or learn from a textbook.

The park will educate the public about the historical significance of the Underground Railroad and Harriet

Tubman’s early life and also is expected to increase tourism, create jobs, and strengthen local economies.

The final passage of this bill to create the park was the result of an unyielding bipartisan effort, including Representative ANDY HARRIS, Senator MIKULSKI, and me, along with our partners from New York, Senators SCHUMER, GILLIBRAND, and former Secretary Clinton when she represented New York in this body, along with Congressmen Dan Maffei and RICHARD HANNA.

This was a bipartisan effort and involved Members from both New York and Maryland. The effort on this legislative work was started by my predecessor, Senator Sarbanes, when he passed legislation commissioning the national service to conduct a special resource study on Harriet Tubman.

The establishment of the national historical park commemorating the life of Harriet Tubman and protecting the serene and almost untouched landscape is an ideal way to celebrate and honor the outstanding life and incredible work of Harriet Tubman, while establishing an important destination for tourists to come visit, learn, and experience Maryland’s Eastern Shore.

The vision for the Tubman National Historical Parks is to preserve the places significant to the life of Harriet Tubman and tell her story through interpretive activities, while continuing to discover aspects of her life and the experiences of passage along the Underground Railroad through archaeological research and discovery.

The buildings and structures in Maryland have mainly disappeared. Slaves were forced to live in primitive buildings even though many slaves were skilled tradesmen who constructed the substantial homes of their owners.

Not surprising, few of the structures associated with the early years of Tubman’s life remain standing today. The landscape of the Eastern Shore of Maryland, however, is still evocative of the time when Harriet Tubman lived there. Farm fields and loblolly pine forests dot the lowland landscape, which is also notable for its extensive network of tidal rivers and wetlands that Tubman and the people she guided to freedom used under cover of night. In particular, a number of places significant to Tubman’s life—including the homestead of Ben Ross, her father; Stewart’s Canal, where he worked; the Brodess Farm, where she worked as a slave; and others—are within the master plan boundaries of the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge. Similarly, Poplar Neck, the plantation from which she escaped, is still largely intact in Caroline County. The properties in Talbot County, immediately across the Choptank River from the plantation, are currently protected by various conservation easements. Were she alive today, Tubman would recognize much of the landscape that she knew intimately as she secretly led freedom

seekers of all ages to the North. This park helps connect people today to America's history.

Only recently has the Park Service begun establishing units dedicated to the lives of African Americans. Places such as Booker T. Washington National Monument on the campus of Tuskegee University in Alabama, the George Washington Carver National Monument in Missouri, the National Historic Trail commemorating the march for voting rights from Selma to Montgomery, and most recently the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial on the Mall are all important monuments and places of historical significance that help tell the story of the African-American experience.

As the National Park Service continues its important work to commemorate and preserve African-American history by providing greater public access and information about the places and people who have shaped the African-American experience, there are very few units dedicated to the lives of African-American women. This historic park is the first national park in honor of a woman—obviously the first historical park for an African-American woman.

As we celebrate Black history this month and women's history next month, I cannot think of a more fitting hero than Harriet Tubman to be the first African-American woman to be memorialized with national historical parks. These parks tell both her personal story and her lifelong fight for justice and freedom, from her fight against the cruel institution of slavery and the establishment of the Underground Railroad that she led, to her work in the women's suffrage movement.

I encourage my colleagues to seek inspiration from the heroes of their own States and work to preserve the physical remnants of their legacy so that future generations of Americans might better know who helped form this great Nation.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate resumes the motion to proceed to H.R. 240 at 2:15 p.m. today, Senators be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

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

WORKING TOGETHER FOR AMERICA

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, at a press conference the day after the elections in November, President Obama said: "I am eager to work with the new Congress to make the next 2 years as productive as possible."

Well, Republicans couldn't have been happier to hear that. After years of dysfunction in the Democrat-led Senate, Republicans were eager to get Washington working again for Americans and working with the President to get things done for the American people. We are still eager to work with the President, but, unfortunately, despite his words, the President hasn't shown much of an inclination to work with Congress.

Between January 7 and February 10 of this year, President Obama issued a total of 13 veto threats. That is more than two veto threats per week during that period. He has announced his intention to veto everything from a bipartisan jobs bill to national security legislation to bills to protect the unborn. And, of course, he has threatened to veto the Keystone XL Pipeline bill—a threat he is likely to make good on this week.

One would think that if President Obama were at all serious about wanting to work with Congress, Keystone would be the first bill he would sign. The American people support Keystone by a wide margin. Unions support Keystone because they are eager for the jobs that it would create. Substantial numbers of Democrats support Keystone.

Here is what one Democrat had to say about the pipeline: "We have everything to gain by building this pipeline, especially since it would help create thousands of jobs right here at home and limit our dependence on foreign oil." That is from a Democrat here in the Senate.

Approving Keystone is a no-brainer. It would support 42,000 jobs during construction, would contribute billions to our economy, and would bring in substantial revenue to State and local governments which would mean more money for local priorities such as schools and teachers, roads and bridges. It would do all of this without spending a dime—not a single dime of taxpayer money.

The President's refusal to approve this legislation is a signal of just how unserious he is about wanting to work with Congress to get things done. Unfortunately, after a promising start Democrats in the Senate are starting to imitate President Obama's obstruction. Yesterday Democrats again voted to filibuster the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill for the fourth time this month. What is their reason? They are desperate to protect the President's Executive action on immigration.

Before President Obama decided to implement his Executive amnesty, he said 22 times he did not have the au-

thority to take this action. In fact, in March of 2011 he told an audience:

With respect to the notion that I can just suspend deportation through executive order, that is just not the case, because there are laws on the books that Congress has passed. . . . we've got three branches of government. Congress passes the law. The executive branch's job is to enforce and implement those laws.

That is from the President of the United States in March of 2011. At least eight Democrats have expressed similar concerns. This is from a Democrat here in the Senate: "I have to be honest, how this is coming about makes me uncomfortable."

An independent Senator from Maine stated: "I also frankly am concerned about the constitutional separation of powers."

This is an example of the reservations that have been expressed by Democrats right here in the Senate about the President's Executive amnesty.

Last week a Federal judge agreed with the legal concerns the President had raised and ordered the administration to halt amnesty proceedings. Despite this, Democrats continue to try to protect funding for the President's unconstitutional action by preventing consideration of the Homeland Security appropriations bill.

If Democrats object to parts of the bill, they need to vote to get on the bill so they can offer proposals to amend it. That is the way this place works. Republicans have made it very clear that we are ready and willing to vote on Democratic amendments. The leader on our side has said that when we get on the bill we will alternate amendments. It will be a free-flowing process, just as we committed to when we took the majority in the Senate.

The Democrats object to the bill's lack of funding for the President's amnesty. Then they should offer amendments to restore the funding. That is simply how it works in the Senate. All we have to do is get on the bill. That just takes six Democrats to get us onto that legislation to give us an opportunity to actually debate this.

When the Republicans took over the Senate in January, we made it our goal to get Washington working again. That is exactly what we have done. Our Democrat-controlled Senate was run on a strictly partisan line basis. The minority party was shut out of the debate and the amendment process, and the Senate spent much of its time on narrow, partisan legislation.

Under Republican control the Senate floor has become once again an open forum for debate and amendments by Members of both parties. Republicans have allowed almost three times as many amendments in January alone as Democrats allowed in the entire calendar year of 2014.

The Keystone XL Pipeline bill was passed with bipartisan support with amendments from Members of both parties. Republicans are eager to continue this bipartisan process going forward. That is why the obstruction of