

Well, this is not what we were promised. This isn't what we were expecting. Maybe we should just go back home. They were lied to.

This is why we need to get busy with changing the asylum laws, the magnet that is pulling people here. Change this. It is why I applaud the efforts of the President for making certain that we are dealing with Mexico—having them secure their southern border, having them call out the National Guard to make certain these cartels are not able to operate in Mexico.

Our Border Patrol—as I said, I am just so grateful we have them, and without Americans knowing, they are blessing our lives every single day because they show up and do the job that is in front of them without proper resources because there has not been bipartisan agreement here.

Then, every day they go home, and they have encountered people who have measles, mumps, H1N1 flu, TB, scabies, lice. That is what they are exposed to every single day as they do their job. Healthcare is not their job. Securing the southern border is their job, and everybody who is against giving the Border Patrol what they need to secure that border needs to begin to think twice about that and have compassion for these men and women who are on the frontline.

The appalling conditions absolutely shock the conscience, but they didn't surprise me. This is what is happening because people think they can get by with coming here illegally. Last month, 144,000 migrants crossed the border—last month. In Tennessee, that is just under the size of Clarksville, TN. Think about a whole city coming in.

In the first 8 months of this fiscal year, 411,000 unaccompanied children and families made that same journey.

This past weekend, when I was out with the Border Patrol, 12 people in 3 groups were apprehended right in front of me. That was in the timespan of 30 minutes. There were four from Honduras, and eight were from Cuba. That is just a handful of the approximately 1,000 illegal aliens per day who are apprehended in the El Paso sector.

Ninety percent of those people come as family units, clogging a system designed to process adults traveling alone. The sheer number of people our agents are struggling to process and control is staggering.

Right now, the facilities at the El Paso border station house are taking in 1,247 illegal aliens. That facility is built to accommodate 123. At just one station in the El Paso sector, \$26,000 a day is spent on food, just food—food. Where are they getting this money? It has not been appropriated. They are taking it out of their operations budgets. This is why they need us to surge resources to the southern border—resources for more agents, resources for more technology, resources for a border wall to stop illegal entry into this country.

If it were just a question of numbers, the situation may seem more manageable. But as I mentioned, disease, drugs, and a frightening disregard for the law have transformed these border stations into refugee zones.

Right now, agents at camps are working overtime every single day, trying to keep up. Loopholes in regulations controlling the release of unaccompanied minors to purported custodians are endangering the 11,507 children who crossed the southern border in May of 2019.

I want to be certain everybody understands this: 11,507 is the number of children who crossed that southern border in the month of May.

To make things worse, we are seeing child predators and traffickers cross the border in increasing numbers. Girls as young as 10 years of age are being given pregnancy tests—10-year-olds—because traffickers or adults who are not family members are the ones who are bringing them in. This is an area where my colleagues across the aisle need to work with us and put a stop to this. We don't know if these children are going to smuggling rings, or sex rings and being sent to a pimp, or to labor gangs and being sent to a boss. We don't know because many of the people who are the so-called custodians who are accepting these children, who are their sponsors, guess what, they are in the country illegally.

On June 7, border agents seized enough fentanyl to kill nearly 2 million Americans. I was there in that port when they seized 5 kilos, but the drug lords and the cartels are undeterred. They are so bold in this; do you know what they are doing now? They are posting Facebook ads soliciting mules to run their deadly product across the border. We have to do better. This is something that should no longer be up for debate.

I sponsored the Accountability for Care of Unaccompanied Alien Children Act to codify information-sharing agreements between the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Health and Human Services. This would help protect minors from the ravages of exploitation and human trafficking, but that protection isn't possible if there are not going to be agents able and available to check on who is attempting to claim these children.

I know some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are not for these agencies sharing this information, but let me tell you something. If this is going to help keep children safe, if it is going to keep them out of these sex trafficking and human trafficking gangs, we need to know who is a criminal alien, who is in this country illegally, and these children do not need to be sent to them.

We know the White House in May sent an emergency request for \$4.5 billion in funds to increase shelter capacity at the processing centers, to feed and care for the detained migrants, to

hire agents and staff, and to bolster law enforcement's ability to shelter and protect unaccompanied minors. Our border agents need this money to protect our border and to protect our Nation's sovereignty.

Yesterday, before the Senate Judiciary Committee, acting DHS Secretary Kevin McAleenan expressed serious concerns for Border Patrol agents who are forced to play the part of a translator, caregiver, counselor, and nurse.

Let me ask a question. What do my colleagues think would happen if the Border Patrol decided they had had it? They had had it. They were tired of it, and they were not going to show up for work, to work overtime, to work hard hours, to do a job they are not trained to do. They are trained to protect the border; they are not trained to be a caregiver and a nurse. What would happen if they reached the breaking point, and they didn't show up—because, let me tell you something, this border has reached a breaking point.

It is time for us to realize, yes, there is a crisis. It is a humanitarian crisis; it is a national security crisis, and it is time that our Border Patrol be shown the respect—the respect they deserve by funding the needs that they have to protect each and every one of us and to help keep this Nation safe and secure.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

#### YEAR-ROUND SALE OF E15

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, yesterday I had the privilege of joining President Trump in Nebraska and Iowa for the official announcement of the year-round sale of E15. The announcement is the product of years of work across party lines to fight for the hard-working agriculture producers in Nebraska.

If you ask any family who lives in rural America, they will tell you how important fuel prices are in their lives. With longer-than-average daily commutes to work or to drop off their children at school, escalating gas prices make life more difficult for everyone.

A needless barrier has restricted consumers from filling up their vehicles with E15 fuel during some of the busiest months of the year—the summer driving season. Each year, from the beginning of June to mid-September, retailers were unable to offer fuels with higher blends of ethanol without a Federal Government-issued waiver. This means that renewable solutions to reach our Nation's vital fuel needs have been needlessly anchored to an older era. The ban on the year-round sale of E15 has robbed Americans of an opportunity to save money at the pump with the purchase of a cleaner fuel.

Nebraska stands proudly as the largest producer of biofuel west of the Missouri River. We are home to 25 ethanol plants, which produce a total of more than 2 billion gallons of renewable fuel each year. According to the Nebraska

Ethanol Board, our ethanol plants provide over 1,300 good-paying jobs to Nebraskans, and this creates a \$5 billion impact on our State. As I have said before, for Nebraska and much of the heartland, restricting the year-round sale of E15 was equivalent to benching our best player during the most important game of the season.

For years, I have been fighting to put an end to this unnecessary ban that has restricted our farmers, retailers, and consumers for far too long. In 2017, I introduced the Consumer and Fuel Retailer Choice Act, with the senior Senator from Iowa, to put an end to this decades-old regulation. The bill sought to extend the Reid vapor pressure waiver to ethanol blends above 10 percent.

At the same time, I began holding very productive discussions with President Trump on the importance of E15 to the people of Nebraska but also to the people of rural America. The President agreed that this commonsense solution was needed. Last year, I was very proud to join him at the White House as he directed the EPA to allow for the year-round sale of E15.

Yesterday we turned a new page as President Trump's directive officially became a reality for farmers and ethanol producers. It was great to accompany the President, Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue, and EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler to deliver this encouraging news.

We landed at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska and headed to the SIRE ethanol plant in Council Bluffs, IA. There, we heard President Trump give a speech highlighting the essential role of our farmers, ranchers, and the ethanol industry. We also heard from a few Nebraskans on how this is impacting them.

The first speaker was Kevin Ross. He is from Iowa. He is a sixth-generation farmer, and he is vice president of the National Corn Growers Association. He said:

I work in the greatest industry we have in this country, and that's agriculture. We are blessed by God to have the science that has let us achieve new heights in production. Whether that's yield of corn, the efficiency of this ethanol plant, or gains in my cattle, agriculture continues to do more with less. . . . The economic benefits and the clean air delivered through biofuels are wins for the seventh generation on my family farm and wins for all U.S. citizens.

Another guest speaker was Randy Gard. He is the chief operating officer of Bosselman Pump & Pantry and Bosselman Enterprises, located in my State of Nebraska at Grand Island. He said:

Today is a great day for the American farmer, the ethanol industry, fuel retailers, and the American consumer.

After consulting with their customers, this company started offering E15 fuel a few years ago. Mr. Gard continued:

We started to install the infrastructure, started to put all the marketing information behind it, and we came up with something

fairly simple but compelling. We said E15 is simply better fuel and it costs less. . . . It was easy for our employees at our stores to articulate, easy for our customers to understand, and it must have worked because in 2017, our sales of E15 increased over 300 percent. In 2018, they went up another 225 percent. And with the help of President Trump opening the door for year-round E15, our newest projections for this year show an increase of another 400 percent.

Hearing the confidence of Nebraskans is encouraging, and this is why I have been determined to make the year-round sale of E15 a reality for them.

The nets that have constricted innovation and market expansion in rural America for far too long have now been cut, and the news couldn't come at a better time for our farmers and for our rural communities.

Last March brought unimaginable setbacks due to the historic flooding that ravaged through Nebraska and large regions of the Midwest. On top of higher input costs, tighter margins, and decreased commodity prices, these factors have created anxiety for our farm families. The lift of the year-round ban on E15 gives ag producers some much needed certainty during these very difficult times.

America's consumers and retailers will also reap the benefits. They will no longer face confusion at the pump, as E15 will be labeled consistently, regardless of the season. With more competition in place, consumers can make the best fuel decision for their families and for their wallets. Retailers will no longer need to make those unnecessary, expensive adjustments to their infrastructure every year to accommodate for this regulation.

The year-round sale of E15 implementation comes on the heels of more great news. EPA Administrator Wheeler recently announced that he signed a final rule which will implement legislation that I was proud to champion, the Fair Agricultural Reporting Method Act, also known as the FARM Act.

This bipartisan legislation protects farmers, ranchers, and livestock markets from misguided, burdensome EPA reporting requirements. Due to regulations that were originally meant to address industrial pollution, chemical plant explosions, and the release of toxic materials into the environment, farmers faced uncertainty about reporting animal waste emissions on farms and ranches and other operations.

These reporting regulations were not intended to affect livestock or animal agriculture. Yet our agriculture industry worried about this unnecessary burden for years. I have heard time and again directly from Nebraska's farmers and ranchers on how these regulations were cause for concern.

The FARM Act implementation delivers a permanent fix to this issue by providing ag producers with exemptions to animal waste reporting requirements.

In closing, I want to thank the bipartisan group of my Senate colleagues

whose years of determined efforts paved the way for the fruition of these important measures, and I want to offer my sincere thanks to President Trump for following through on his commitment to rural America.

I look forward to seeing the positive results that these commonsense, bipartisan measures will bring to hard-working men and women in the good life and throughout America's heartland. I am proud to fight on behalf of Nebraska's farmers, ranchers, and ag producers, who continue to fuel and feed the world.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BLACKBURN). The Senator from Missouri.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I want to talk a little bit about the border—not the important need to secure the border, which I am for, but I want to talk about the humanitarian crisis we have seen occurring at the border. Frankly, the Senate and the House—the Congress—have been watching that occur for too long.

It has been several weeks now since the administration notified Congress that the money that was allocated for what would have been a traditional set of challenges at the border is about to be spent and that there is no money left for some of these issues we have to deal with at the border in a particular way.

We have seen the flood of people approaching the border to be not only incredibly different in numbers but incredibly different in context. Probably 20 years ago, 90 percent of the people who came across the border were coming directly from Mexico.

By the way, when that happened, the law was changed so that if they came across from Mexico, you could send them right back to Mexico. Hopefully, our neighbors in Mexico are working with us to still have some potential to do that with people who come across the border and come through Mexico—not necessarily Mexican in their nationality but come through Mexico to the border—to go back and wait for what needs to happen for their case to be heard in Mexico rather than here.

Most of the people coming today are coming from Central America—Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras. In the last year, I think the principal place that has people coming to our southern border—over 1 percent of the population of all three of those countries has come from those countries collectively.

Clearly it is a problem, but it is especially troubling to look at the numbers of children who are coming to the border unaccompanied. Just last month, about 130,000 people came to the border. You can multiply that by 12 pretty quickly and see 1 million people or more coming to our border to come in without the right kinds of documents. Another million, by the way, come into