

health facility could not get scheduled for several days, sometimes several weeks, and half of the people didn't come back. If a person shows up that one time and says "I am here because I have a real problem and I need help" and the answer is "We are not going to help you today; we are not going to do an evaluation right now," more often than not or as often as not, they don't come back. So at Compass Health, as well as many of our other certified clinics in our State, we increased access. We established same day walk-ins to attempt to look at their problem and see if they needed help that day or could, in fact, come back a few days later for an extensive visit. At that facility and others, everybody is being seen when they come in. The suicide care path they established has reduced suicides by 70 percent since last year.

I will make two quick points as I conclude.

No. 1, the goal of this program is not for the Federal Government to take over the behavioral health costs of the country; the goal of this program is to look at mental health and keep track of 24 or 25 other healthcare markers and decide how much other healthcare is impacted in a positive and, in fact, a cost-saving way if you are dealing with mental health at the same time.

The second point I would make is that we need to see Congress step up in the next few days and extend the current program through the end of this spending year, and then let's have a debate about why 2 more years of putting all that information together gives States and communities the information they need to find out. As a result, I believe everybody will understand that it is not only the right thing to do, but fiscally it is the smart thing to do. By dealing with mental health like all other health, the overall healthcare cost of that big mental health community goes down dramatically if you are seeing your doctor, showing up for your appointments, and taking your medicine. Our other problems are much more easily managed when adding the cost of mental healthcare to all our other healthcare priorities. It isn't just the right thing to do, it is the smart thing to do.

Hopefully the Congress will deal with that and the Senate can take a leadership role in dealing with that. The House has already sent us a bill. We need to respond to that by doing the two things I just mentioned. Let's treat mental health like we treat all other health.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, first, let me thank my friend from Missouri for what he and Senator STABENOW are trying to do on mental health. I know some States were included and other States were not, so I support that aspect of what he was talking about.

2020 CENSUS

Madam President, later today, President Trump will give a news conference in the Rose Garden about his attempts to create an Executive order to add citizenship questions to the 2020 census. That is outrageous. It is outrageous substantively, and it is outrageous because this President has so little respect for the rule of law. He thinks he can just issue Executive orders and go around the Congress, go around established law, and try to bully the courts. I believe he will be thwarted by the courts, and this will be a real test of John Roberts and the Supreme Court, whether they stand for the rule of law or are always looking for an excuse to move the country rightward. We will see.

Today, the Trump administration has provided no legitimate legal rationale for adding this question to the census. Just yesterday, the New York Times reported that Justice Department lawyers "resigned from the lawsuit out of ethical concerns and a belief that the suit was unwinnable."

Well, we all know what is going on. The Trump administration doesn't have a legitimate legal rationale. The true motivation was even clear before the papers of that deceased designer of this question came to light. The true rationale is blatantly political and self-serving. President Trump wants to include the citizenship question to intimidate minorities—particularly Latinos—from answering the census so that it undercuts those communities and Republicans can redraw congressional districts to their advantage.

The Census Bureau itself determined weeks ago that including such a question would result in a significant undercount. That alone is enough for disqualification. That is not what the Constitution says—manipulate the census so you don't get an accurate count. The President knows this. Yet he continues to pursue a cynical idea—typical of the President—cynical and against minorities, with no respect for the rule of law, mores, and values that made this country great. Day by day, he destroys them. Day by day.

The President's action is nothing more than a naked political power grab, which is one of the few things he is good at as President. It shows once again just how little respect the President has for our democracy. It is also one prong in the Trump administration's multifaceted attack on communities of color. They are doing another one today in addition to this, which I will speak about in a minute.

Let's not forget that the census is a constitutional mandate. It has been conducted impartially by Democratic and Republican administrations alike since 1790. It should be beyond the reach of partisan politics. But this President has such disdain for constitutional law norms and the rule of law that he will try anything to set the rules to his advantage, even if it means circumventing Congress and circum-

venting the courts. This is what dictators do in banana republics. They try to change the rules to consolidate political power no matter what their constitutions and rule of law say. The President is moving us in that direction, and our Republican colleagues are supine. They say nothing. Many of them know what he is doing is wrong, and knees clatter because they are too afraid to tell the President he is wrong.

The American people should be outraged about this. Republican Senators should be outraged about this, but, like so many other instances in which the President subverts our Democratic norms, the silence from Republicans in Congress has been deafening and degrading to the very fabric of this wonderful democracy that the President day by day tries—usually unsuccessfully, thank God—to undo.

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

Madam President, on the ICE raids, last night the New York Times reported another thing President Trump was trying to do—ordering ICE to resume plans to carry out nasty deportation raids over the weekend. His plan will tear families apart and disrupt immigrant communities across America, including immigrants here legally and those in the process of legally applying for asylum. Cruelty. Cruelty seems to be the point of these raids. This is not an effort to root out dangerous individuals. This is an act of brutish force designed to spread fear in the immigrant community. Steve Miller whispers in the President's ear: Treat them cruelly. Make them afraid, and maybe they will not come.

They are going to come. The dangers in their home countries are much worse. What would any citizen do in America or any other place in the world if a gang came to you and said: I am going to rape your daughter unless you do what I want; I am going to kill your son; I am going to burn your House—you would flee.

These are not criminals. They are people trying to preserve their families, their children, their lives. Yet the President—egged on by some of the rightwing news media—tries to make Americans believe they are all criminals. Sure, if one of these folks is a bank robber or a burglar or hurts somebody, they should be out—one, two, three.

If they are simply trying to escape brutality, we still should have rule of law, but they should be treated with some decency, honor, and humanity. That has been the American tradition for some 200-odd years.

The President's policy is not only cruel—that is the worst of it—but it is brainless. When it comes to intelligently using our immigration resources, the administration should focus on the small minority that are actually criminals, not families and not 10-year-olds.

These raids will not make America safer. They will not solve our immigration challenges for the reasons I mentioned. They will, instead, terrorize innocent families and rip children away from their parents. I warn President Trump, the pictures of these raids aren't going to be pretty. Average Americans who may agree with him on many issues will be appalled.

President Trump, you are going to have to back off from this cruel policy because the American people are a lot better than you. They will see the pictures. What are they going to do with a father driving his child to school? Will they stop the car, pull the father out? They have done that. Will they let the 8-year-old sit in the car traumatized? They have done that.

President Trump, mark my words, there will be a huge backlash against this. The American people are not cruel like you in this regard.

I would plead with the President to call off these raids. We Democrats have proposed real solutions to the same migration problems that will stop the influx or greatly reduce the influx at the border. We would simply say: Let these would-be immigrants from Nicaragua and El Salvador and Honduras apply for asylum and beef up the number of immigration judges so they can get an adjudication quickly. If they are turned down, they can't come. Tough luck. If they get asylum, they should be welcomed here as America has always welcomed people, as that great Lady in the Harbor of the city I come from has done for centuries. That is the solution.

We should also help these countries go after the gangs that are making the people flee. Go after MS-13 down there. Go after the drug dealers. Go after the coyotes. It was working in the last few months of the Obama administration and even the first few months of the Trump administration, until the President rescinded the policy because he got mad at somebody, which is typical of how he operates. That is what we should do.

Until then, when these folks get to the border, I call on the President to work with us to put an end to the cruelty that the migrants are being shown when they come into U.S. custody. They are a small percentage of the people in this country. It is not a large number in terms of our total population.

Another round of reports this week describes the horrid conditions endured by migrant children at our border. Facilities built for no more than 100 people are now housing up to 700 children. Many have nothing to sleep on, no change of clothes, and sometimes not enough food. These are reports from the President's own executive agencies, not from someone outside. In Arizona, these kids are reportedly being abused. CBP agents use racist slurs, deprive them of sleeping mats and, in one case, according to the report, potentially assaulted a 15-year-old girl. It is barbaric. It is not American.

We need to put an end to this behavior now. We have just passed a supplemental appropriations bill to provide more resources to improve conditions and speed the asylum process, but it didn't go far enough. That is why, later today, I will join with my colleagues Senators MERKLEY and FEINSTEIN to introduce the Stop Cruelty to Migrant Children Act. This new legislation would establish mandatory standards for the appropriate and humane treatment of children. It would make it easier for children to be connected with sponsors and legal counsel, and it would, once and for all, end the inhumane practice of separating families, pulling children—even little children—away from their parents. Democrats have been fighting for these provisions for months. We were able to secure some of them in the last border supplemental, but unfortunately our Republican colleagues blocked many additional provisions from going into the bill. This new legislation marks a clear bright line of what is left to be done. Now the only question that looms is, Will Leader MCCONNELL finally stand up for the children and work with us to pass these new standards into law?

I want to thank Senators MERKLEY and FEINSTEIN for working on this very important bill. It is a necessary step to restoring America's moral credibility. A nation as powerful as ours has no need or right to treat the weak and suffering this way. We can deal with our immigration issues with dignity, common sense, and rule of law. The bill is how we get that done.

CHINA

Madam President, yesterday it was reported that President Trump told President Xi of China that the United States would tone down its criticism of Beijing's approach to Hong Kong in order to revive our trade negotiations.

If these reports are true, once again, President Trump has made another error when it comes to China, for two reasons. First, it is crucial always for the United States to stand up for democracy, human rights, and civil liberties everywhere—to be the "shining city upon a hill" that John Winthrop talked about 375 years ago. From Tiananmen Square to Tibet, from the brutal suppression of the Muslim minority Uighurs to the recent protests in Hong Kong, China's human rights record has been an abomination. They want to join the family of nations and be treated equally, but in some ways they are like a Third World dictatorship.

America used to champion religious rights, minority rights, and democratic values abroad. It helped us in immeasurable ways, not just morally but economically and politically. It gave us strength. It gave us the moral high ground that the Scriptures have always said was important in human dealings. Unfortunately, under this President, that doesn't happen.

Second, the idea that going easy on China's human rights record will ease

trade talks is exactly backward. I know China. They respond to strength, not flattery or capitulation. Every time the President gives in to President Xi, President Xi smells weakness and says: I can get more out of the Americans.

I generally am supportive of the President on a tough policy toward China on trade. China has ripped us off over and over again, but the way to win is to show strength. On some days, the President does, and a week later he backs off. There is no consistency. The Chinese smell that they can outfox the President. Backing off from fully telling Huawei they can't operate was a huge mistake. Huawei, with these exceptions, if they are given broadly, will gain economic strength. Huawei is a national security problem, but it is also a trade problem. When China steals our intellectual property, as Huawei has done, why do we then allow them to come into this country when they don't allow our best tech companies to go into theirs? It is ridiculous.

The President's instincts are right, but he is never consistent about them. The way to speed successful trade talks, where America secures real and enduring concessions, is to keep the full-court press on Beijing, on human rights, on foreign policy, and certainly on trade. President Trump must not be weak on China for the sake of America's role as a champion of democracy and for the sake of driving China to accept meaningful reforms to its predatory trade policies.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida).

The Senator from Illinois.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. DURBIN. I want to thank my colleague and friend, the Democratic leader, Senator SCHUMER, for raising the issues of immigration.

We are at a moment in the history of this country that I am sure will be reviewed and reflected upon for many generations to come. Decisions that are being made in the White House today in the area of immigration will be criticized, analyzed, and in many cases repudiated in years to come. It is time for us, at this moment, to have a sober reflection on what this administration has done in 2½ years with the issue of immigration and where we stand at this very moment.

This President came to the White House promising he was going to get tough on immigration—immigration. Probably at the heart of America, more than anything, has been the issue of immigration. We are a nation of immigrants. My mother was an immigrant to this country.

I believe the diversity of our Nation is one of our core strengths because we have attracted people from all over the world. This President doesn't understand it. If he does, he is not pushing policies that show any reflection on that reality and that historic background.