

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few months of the Obama administration and even the first few months of the Trump administration, until the President rescinded the policy because he got mad at somebody, which is typical of how he operates.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.

Think of how this administration started. Within hours after this President was elected, he announced the Muslim travel ban; that he would single out countries with Muslim-majority populations and say that their people were not welcome in the United States. The reaction was immediate across the United States. In the city of Chicago, I can remember the supporters of those coming from other countries heading out to O'Hare and attorneys volunteering to give them counsel. There was an outpouring of support for these people, realizing that fundamentally innocent people were traveling to this country. Yet the President, with his travel ban, made it clear from the very start of his administration his view on these immigrants.

What followed from there was a decision by this administration to eliminate temporary protective status. Three hundred thousand immigrants in this country came here because of natural disasters and political upheaval and got protection in the United States. The President wanted to turn them away. Was there any measurement as to which ones might be dangerous? No. All would be turned away.

Then, of course, there was the President's decision to eliminate the DACA Program. The DACA Program was created by President Obama. These people were brought to the United States as children because of decisions by their parents. They grew up in this country, and every day in classrooms they pledged allegiance to that flag, believing it was their flag too. At some point in their lives, they learned they were undocumented. They didn't have legal status in America. President Obama felt—and I, as a sponsor of the Dream Act, agreed with and encouraged the creation by Executive order of the DACA Program. So 790,000 of these young people came forward, paid a filing fee, went through a criminal background check, and after they were approved, they were given 2 years to stay in the United States, renewable, where they couldn't be deported, and they could work legally in this country. That program, as I said, attracted 790,000 successful applicants, many of them outstanding students and amazing young people. I told their stories on the floor of the Senate. President Trump decided to abolish that program and to end the protection for these young people—790,000 of them.

That wasn't the end of it. The President continued with policies such as zero tolerance. Do you remember that one? Last year, the Attorney General of the United States stood up and quoted from the Bible as to how it was the right thing to do to separate 2,880 infants, toddlers, and children from their parents at our borders. Zero tolerance; treat the parents like criminals and separate the kids.

What was worse was that no effort was made to track those children as to where they were placed and what happened to their parents. It wasn't until

a Federal judge in Southern California came forward and forced this administration to finally match up the children with their parents that the effort was undertaken, and still more than 100 of them were never matched—lost in the bureaucratic sea of the Trump administration. That wasn't the end of it by far.

What we have seen at the border in the last several months has been shocking and unprecedented in American history. This "get tough" President, who says he is going to cut off foreign aid to countries in Central America and get tough at the border with his almighty wall, has ended up attracting larger numbers of people who are presenting themselves for asylum status at the border of the United States than we have ever seen—dramatic increases we haven't seen for decades with regard to the number of people at the border. The President's immigration policy has backfired.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator's time has expired.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for an additional 2 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. The net result of this has been the announcement by the administration that, come Sunday, we will see mass arrests and deportations in this country. Reports from the New York Times are that thousands will be rounded up, arrested, and deported. When possible, they say, family members will be arrested together and will be held in family detention centers.

Have these people committed crimes since they have been in the United States? There is no evidence of it. It is simply the fact that they are undocumented at this moment, and many of them may have lived here for years. These arrests and mass deportations are going to create fear in communities across the United States, including in the city of Chicago, which I am honored to represent. For what? It will not make America safer for us if we deport these people. Sadly, it is going to mean that their families will be torn apart and that there will be more children and families in detention.

We were told there was a humanitarian crisis and that we needed to apply ourselves and make certain that we had billions of dollars to deal with it, and we did. Now the administration has turned around and announced a new wave of splitting up families and deporting them from the United States. This is not what America is all about. There is a way for us to deal with immigration in a sensible, thoughtful, rational way. Cruelty has no place in the history of this country, and it has no place when it comes to the treatment of those who are in the United States today.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON ROBERT L. KING NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will

the Senate advise and consent to the King nomination?

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 200 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Alexander	Gardner	Perdue
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hawley	Roberts
Boozman	Hoeven	Romney
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Burr	Inhofe	Rubio
Capito	Isakson	Sasse
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Jones	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Shelby
Cotton	Lankford	Sinema
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Manchin	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McSally	Toomey
Enzi	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NAYS—37

Baldwin	Hirono	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Leahy	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Udall
Coons	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warner
Duckworth	Murray	Whitehouse
Durbin	Peters	Wyden
Feinstein	Reed	
Hassan	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—7

Bennet	Harris	Warren
Booker	Heinrich	
Gillibrand	Sanders	

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the next nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John P. Pallasch, of Kentucky, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Pallasch nomination?

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.