

It modernizes this system, which is several decades old. If we need anything, we need to modernize our weapons systems again to keep pace with our near-peer adversaries.

It also authorizes millions of dollars in funds to the national Global Hawk mission, which is headquartered in Grand Forks, another very important Air Force base in my State. It authorizes funds for the MQ-9 program. MQ-9s are flown by North Dakota Air National Guardsmen in Fargo's Happy Hooligans. It also advances the mission of the Cavalier Air Force Station in Cavalier, ND, one of the very few space radar stations, and it ensures that the needs of all our Guard operations are met.

The House bill, by the way, also does something that is very important to me. It is a bill I have introduced, along with my colleagues from New York, that honors the 74 sailors who lost their lives in the *Frank E. Evans* 50 years ago during the Vietnam war. These sailors' names have been left off the Vietnam Memorial Wall over a minor technicality, a technicality that probably shouldn't be in the rules to begin with, but certainly it has been waived in many other circumstances and needs to be waived in this NDAA. I would love to get that House language into the final bill.

None of these priorities are going to be met if House Democrats—and I focus on House Democrats—if they don't come to the table and act in good faith and negotiate in good faith. Senate Democrats have had a major part in this, and I welcome every bit of involvement they provide.

One of the joys of being on the Armed Services Committee for me has been being able to see a functioning committee that works well across party lines. Obviously, Senate Republicans are all on board. House Republicans are all on board. For some reason, the House leadership on the Democratic side is focused on other priorities, and the contrast could not be more clear.

While we have been working hard in the Senate on appropriations, as well as the Defense authorization, our chairman has used his voice—Chairman INHOFE—and used his incredible work ethic and his wisdom in working with Senator REED, the ranking Democrat, on getting these priorities to the forefront. I can't think of a better tandem than those two gentlemen.

Chairman INHOFE is truly one of the hardest working, most decent, and honorable people I have ever worked with. Chairman SMITH, the chairman in the House committee, could learn a few things from him.

Again, while we passed the bill with overwhelming bipartisan support, the House bill was a much more partisan exercise. We want to prevent a government shutdown. We want to prevent a continuing resolution. So along with the NDAA, of course, is the Defense appropriations bill, and we have to get both of them done. We want to give our

military a win-win situation, where they get the pay raises, where they get the modernization they need, where new programs can be launched, and where we can provide long-term certainty.

While we are trying to provide at least a win for our military, Democrats in the House are focused on trying to win the 2016 Presidential election, not even thinking so much about the next one. They are involved in a kangaroo court over there. I watched a half hour of it today, and I could hardly believe what I was seeing. Today's political theater in the House is unnecessary, and 3 years into it, it is an outward demonstration of the inward motivation of a party that is trying to undo the Presidency of Donald Trump.

Instead of prioritizing our constitutional responsibilities, they are engaged in political theater in a kangaroo court. I am pleading, once again, with my colleagues across the aisle and especially across the Capitol, in these last couple of days, while the negotiators are together trying to figure out a path forward, please come to the table, please act in good conscience. Please, please, please look for opportunities where we can compromise, and, for Pete's sake, let's at least pass the things we all agree on.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

NOMINATIONS

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, earlier today, we were asked to vote on the confirmation of Chad Wolf to serve as the Under Secretary for Strategy, Policy, and Plans at the Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Wolf has been serving in that role on an acting basis since February.

Because of the way the Trump administration functions, or fails to function, what we were really being asked to do today was to confirm Mr. Wolf to a position so the President can then promote him to Acting DHS Secretary. This comes on top of most appointed positions at the agency going unfilled or only filled with similarly temporary acting roles.

Before we all throw our hands up in the air and simply add this vote to the growing list of broken norms and incompetent actions on the part of the Trump White House, I would like us to consider what is at stake in this particular case. I beg us to take seriously the human toll that has been incurred because of this administration's willful chaos at the Department of Homeland Security.

The Department of Homeland Security is the Nation's third largest Federal agency, behind only the Pentagon and the VA. The agency oversees disaster relief, transportation safety, counterterrorism, and immigration and

border security. According to a report in the Washington Post, Mr. Wolf is the favored pick of senior Trump adviser Stephen Miller to take over as Acting Homeland Security Secretary. That should tell us about everything we need to know.

Stephen Miller has been the lead architect of the White House's immoral and anti-immigration policies over the last 3 years. The Senate should have taken this vote as a reason to examine how this administration has spent the last 3 years flouting our Nation's laws and our Nation's values through its intentional chaos at the Department of Homeland Security.

We should do our jobs and give an honest accounting of this administration's inhumane and, frankly, ineffective policies—policies, it should be said, that Mr. Wolf has been right in the middle of each step of the way. Instead, the Senate voted to confirm Mr. Wolf in this sham process to a position we weren't even sure he will serve in. This is shameful.

Now that the Senate has confirmed Mr. Wolf to the Under Secretary position and as we anticipate Mr. Trump moving him into the Acting Secretary role, I ask my colleagues to please consider his record. We know Mr. Wolf played a central role in authoring and implementing the family separation policy. We don't fully understand how much he did to implement President Trump's other harmful immigration policies because the Department of Homeland Security has stonewalled and refused to provide key documents to the Senate on his tenure before we took the vote this morning.

However, given his major role with Secretary Nielsen, it seems safe to assume that Mr. Wolf was involved in many of the administration's policy failures. Under these policies, thousands of children, as young as infants and toddlers, arriving at our Nation's southern border have been separated from their families. We have seen migrant families and children held in appalling, overcrowded, some say prisonlike—I would say prison facilities—immigration detention facilities like those in Clint, TX, that we saw in the media.

The Trump administration has also throttled major ports of entry where refugees present themselves for asylum as is actually dictated by current U.S. law. This has resulted in huge groups going instead to remote and dangerous stretches of the southern border. We have tragically seen that result in the deaths of several children in New Mexico near some of our remote ports of entry that lack even the most basic medical infrastructure.

We have seen President Trump play politics with the lives of thousands of refugees and asylum seekers, mothers, fathers, and children who are desperately seeking refuge and the prospect of a better life in this country.

We have seen the President even go so far as shutting down the government and stealing billions of dollars of

congressionally appropriated funds from the military to pay for his wasteful and candidly ineffective border wall.

Finally, President Trump's decision to terminate the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, or DACA, has thrown Dreamers across this country deep into fear and uncertainty. The stakes of that decision have been shown in oral arguments before the Supreme Court this very week.

Dreamers are among our best and brightest—our best and brightest students, teachers, and even veterans. They only know this Nation as their home in many cases, and today I am meeting with a Dreamer named Samuel, who lives in Las Cruces, NM.

Samuel came to the United States from Mexico with his family when he was 11 years old. He has called Las Cruces his hometown for the last 13 years. As a DACA recipient, Samuel was able to study accounting at New Mexico State University and help provide for his family.

Dreamers like Samuel want to give back to their communities and the only Nation they know as home. They are American in every way except on paper, and because of President Trump, Dreamers like Samuel face a deeply fearful future.

Whenever we debate immigration, frankly, it becomes a little personal for me, and that is because, like most—all of us in this Nation of immigrants—my family's story in America began with a search for a better life. My father came to the United States with his family from Germany as a young boy. They were fleeing the government of a racist, populist dictator who was first elected democratically and then used race and scapegoating to cement his grip on power. I always wonder how different my own life would be if America had turned my father away or separated him from his family.

This is not some abstract question for the mothers, fathers, and children who are desperately seeking refuge and the prospect of a better life in America today. I know that so many Americans watching this administration's immigration policies know in their hearts what America truly stands for as a nation built by many generations of immigrants like my father. That includes local officials, first responders, and volunteers in communities like Deming, Las Cruces, and Albuquerque, NM, who over the last year provided shelter, food, and help to asylum seekers who had nowhere else to turn. It includes the thousands of Americans who marched in the streets and demanded an end to family separation, and it includes millions of Americans who want our leaders in Washington to finally affirm the incredible value that immigrants provide for our country.

I want all of you to know that I stand with you. You are on the right and just side of history.

I will keep calling on us to hold this administration accountable to our

American values, and I will keep calling on Congress to uphold our end of the bargain and finally act to reform our broken immigration system. That should start by passing the Dream Act.

We also need to address the root causes of migration from Central America, including extreme poverty, criminal gangs, and violence. We must make smart investments in real border security and economic development in our border communities. We need to provide the necessary medical and humanitarian resources to our border region, particularly for the rugged, back-country terrain we have in my State.

I will never stop fighting for policies that respect the dignity of immigrants, recognize the real needs of our vibrant border communities, and live up to our true American values.

Unfortunately, I don't think we will ever have a productive path forward on any of these urgent matters with this President and his administration. That is true no matter who President Trump ultimately shuffles into the role of Acting Homeland Security Secretary, but it is especially true if the President chooses Chad Wolf.

When Senator ROSEN questioned Mr. Wolf in the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee about the role he played in family separation and other cruel immigration policies, Mr. Wolf said: "My job wasn't to determine if it was the right or wrong policy." In other words, folks, he was just following orders.

I think it is clear that the Trump administration has shown an appalling disregard for basic human dignity. Now the Senate has confirmed someone who will simply rubberstamp the continued failures of this administration.

I should also note that the current pending vote on the floor is for a judicial nominee, Steven Menashi, who has also played a role in the administration's shameful immigration policies. As a counsel in the Trump administration, Mr. Menashi has acknowledged that he advised Stephen Miller on immigration policy, and he has a long record of opposing the basic human and civil rights of people of color, women, LGBTQ Americans, and immigrants.

As the general counsel at the Department of Education under Betsy DeVos, he played a leading role in trying to deny debt relief to students defrauded by for-profit colleges.

I can't believe that we as the Senate can allow these types of appointments to keep going forward. We should not let this go on. This is not who we are as a country, and this is not the America that I know and love.

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

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

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, we just celebrated Veterans Day here in the Senate, back home, and across our great country in the States that all of us represent. Everybody was celebrating our troops, our military, and supporting their families.

You hear that word "support" a lot when it comes to Veterans Day and our military and their families, but I am going to talk a little bit about that rhetoric. That is great. Senators talk a lot. But that is very disconnected from what actually is going on in the Senate right now and what is happening in terms of the action of supporting our troops.

I came to the floor a couple of weeks ago to talk about this. I was pretty fired up. I am someone who is very collegial with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, but the one thing I have noticed is that there is talk on supporting troops and then there is action. The rhetoric, particularly with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, doesn't always match what is actually happening.

I would like to explain to my constituents at home, the American people, and anyone watching what is happening right now with regard to supporting our troops—the action, not rhetoric—the action. Two weeks ago, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle filibustered the Defense appropriations bill. That is the bill that funds our troops. We had a big budget deal. We all agreed to it.

It is hard to vote for it. I voted for it because it actually supports rebuilding our military pretty significantly after the Obama-era cuts. I voted for that.

We are starting to bring up these minibus appropriations. We had one a couple of weeks ago. We debated and voted on it. The plan was to bring up the Defense appropriations bill. What did my colleagues on the other side of the aisle do? They filibustered it. It was the ninth time since I have been in the Senate that my colleagues decided to filibuster the spending for our troops. There is no other bill in the body of the Senate that the Democrats filibuster more than the bill that funds our troops. They don't want you to know that. They don't go home and brag about it because they should be ashamed about it, but that is what they did.

Despite this budget deal and despite all of this great support for our troops, right now, my colleagues, for the ninth time since I have been a Senator, which is 5 years—nine times they filibustered the spending for the men and women who serve in the military. I ask the leaders to come out and explain that to the American people. Explain that to the press. Explain that to the people watching on TV. They don't. I think most of my colleagues don't want to do it, but they are told to do it because their leadership wants another priority. That is what is happening.

They talk about supporting our troops, but then the action is that we