

Unaccompanied children continue to arrive at our border by the tens of thousands. In the first 5 months of this year, more than 65,000 migrant children crossed our southern border—nearly double the amount we saw in fiscal year 2020. As bad as things are, things can, and I predict will, get worse.

The administration is weighing whether this is an appropriate time to lift title 42, which is a public health order designed to protect from the spread of the COVID-19 virus, but they have yet to tell us what transition plans they may have, if any, in transitioning from the current exclusion of many adult migrants to welcoming those who are currently excluded or processing them through our immigration courts.

Depending on what the administration decides, the humanitarian crisis at the border will likely swell even larger this summer. Despite the clear need for action from Congress, most of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have put on blinders. Instead of a bipartisan effort to eliminate or, I should say, alleviate or mitigate the humanitarian and security crisis at our border, we have one side pushing for action and the other side largely staying silent.

The Judiciary Committee of the Senate should be leading the charge to address this crisis in a fair and humane way. Back in April, Senator GRASSLEY, the ranking Republican, and I sent a letter to Chairman DURBIN and Subcommittee Chairman PADILLA requesting a hearing of either the full committee or the Immigration Subcommittee on this current crisis at the border.

Two months and hundreds of thousands of migrants later, they have simply refused to even hold a hearing.

Last month, the Subcommittee on Border Security and Immigration held its first hearing, but the topic wasn't on the border crisis. Instead, the topic was increased numbers of visas for undocumented immigrant workers. That is a topic we can and should discuss but certainly not with the looming crisis on the border.

Tomorrow morning, the Senate Judiciary Committee will continue to ignore this backlog of migrants and this blinking red light that should warn all of us that this crisis will get nothing but worse.

What is the topic of tomorrow's hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee? We are set to hold a hearing on the unserious, House-passed immigration bill. This legislation stands zero chance of being passed by the Senate—zero. It combines some of the most radical proposals from the far left in one massive bill that fails to address the needs of our country. Rather than discuss the humanitarian crisis at the border, our Democratic colleagues have chosen to hold a hearing on a dead-on-arrival bill, and they know it. It is a remarkable show of priorities.

Tomorrow, I expect we will hear a lot about discussing the Deferred Action

on Childhood Arrival recipients—one of the categories of undocumented immigrants that would receive a path to citizenship under this legislation.

I should say that Texas is home to about 100,000 DACA recipients who are vital parts of our communities. They have grown up with our kids, attended the same churches, shopped in the same grocery stores, and defended our freedoms in the U.S. military. They are also a huge driver of our economy. Ninety-six percent of DACA recipients are either working or in school, and, on the whole, these young people contribute more than \$400 million a year in State and local taxes in Texas alone.

Despite all the ways these young men and women strengthen our country and our communities, they have been living in a constant state of uncertainty about their future. That is because when President Obama announced this program 9 years ago, he did so through a shortsighted Executive memorandum rather than engage Congress. That is right. Rather than rolling up his sleeves and working with Congress to pass long-lasting immigration policy, he chose a path of least resistance that didn't involve any input from Congress but merely created this with a stroke of a pen. To say the least, this made things easier for President Obama in the short run, but it caused a lot of fear—has caused a lot of fear and uncertainty for these young people in the long run, and that continues today. They were set unfairly on a yearslong, tumultuous journey, waiting nervously to see how the courts would weigh in on the various court challenges that we knew were going to occur. President Obama knew it as well. So these young DACA recipients have been left wondering whether they might be deported to a country they have no memory of and being forced to leave behind the families, the jobs, and the opportunities they have worked so hard to build here in the United States.

Many of these young people are in their twenties and thirties now with careers, families, and plans of their own. The possibility of being forced to leave the United States is no less terrifying for them than it would be for anyone who was born here. After years of being yanked around from court ruling to court ruling, these young men and women deserve certainty. They deserve to know whether they can apply to college, grow their families, live their lives, and do all the things other young Americans can do without this dark cloud hanging over their plans. After all, they haven't done anything wrong. They were brought here as children, as minors. And in America, we do not hold children responsible for the mistakes of adults—in other words, their parents.

That is why I believe we should take action that gives these DACA recipients the certainty they deserve, and the only way to do that is through more legislation, not further Executive actions. And I strongly support that

legislative effort. However, massive partisan bills, like the legislation the House passed this year, is not the answer. I support DACA recipients because they were brought here at a young age through no fault of their own, but the American Dream and Promise Act has completely abandoned this justification in favor of rewarding recent illegal entries with green cards, even adults who violated our immigration laws.

If the goal is to provide legal certainty for our DACA recipients as opposed to making a grand political statement, we need to be realistic about how we get there. We need to learn from our mistakes of the past, where we have tried to build big, comprehensive immigration reform bills only to see them collapse of their own weight, which means we need to begin working on smaller packages that can gain broad support and hopefully build trust in the process. I am not suggesting we quit there, but that is the place we need to start if we have learned from the lessons of the last 20 years.

The American people overwhelmingly support allowing DACA recipients to remain in the United States, and I believe it is true of a majority of Members of the Senate. We have to set aside policies we cannot agree on so we can make progress on the ones we do agree on, and we need to keep our efforts focused on DACA recipients. If this is a priority for folks on both sides of the aisle, I hope we will finally be able to get a bill to the President's desk to help these young people.

More broadly, though, there is no denying our immigration system is sorely in need of reform. It is outdated; it is inefficient; and it simply does not meet the needs of our country today. But there is very little room for those types of conversations until we solve the current crisis at the border. Once that is under control and our bipartisan Border Solutions Act, which is the only bicameral, bipartisan bill that has been introduced—once we solve that problem, I hope we will have a bipartisan debate about the changes that should be made to our immigration system, and the DACA recipients are at the top of that list.

As I said, these young men and women deserve certainty, and Congress cannot pass legislation to provide that certainty if our Democratic colleagues and the White House insist on attaching controversial policies or ignoring the current crisis at the border, as the Biden administration is appearing to do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, Ronald Reagan said:

We maintain peace through our strength; weakness only invites aggression.

The United States of America remains a beacon of strength and freedom. Generations of Americans purchased this strength through blood, treasure, and self-sacrifice. We do not want to be the first generation of Americans to abandon that tradition, but we will unless we give our men and women in uniform the tools they need to do the job.

The President's proposed budget does not deliver for our military. In fact, it tells our military to do less every day than what they have in the past. President Biden's budget proposal cuts money from the Department of Defense when accounting for inflation. I have said before that this budget is disappointing, dangerous, and a disservice to our men and women in uniform.

The President's advisers surely know the threat our country faces. Here is what the Office of National Intelligence said in its annual threat assessment: The Chinese Communist Party will continue to undercut the United States, drive wedges between Washington and its allies and partners, and foster international norms that favor the authoritarian Chinese system.

That is from the President's own Director of Intelligence. But talk is cheap, and cheap talk is what we are getting because this budget does not rise to meet that threat.

Question: Does the President not believe the dire warnings of his own advisers?

At the same time, President Biden and congressional Democrats' policies are giving us a weak economy when it should be roaring. The last two job reports fell way short of expectations. In April, economists expected 1 million jobs, but we only got one-fourth of that—25 percent.

Democrats' out-of-control spending is driving inflation to levels we haven't seen in over a decade. President Biden's own budget assumes policies will only lead to a weak 2-percent GDP growth—2 percent—when it should be double that amount.

Democrats aren't stopping at a weak military and a weak economy. They have put forth thinly veiled attempts to strip our country of what makes it so great. They want to undo our very system of federalism and local control by eliminating States' right-to-work laws through the PRO Act. They want a Washington takeover of every State's election laws through S. 1 or, as I like to call it, the corrupt politicians act. But worst of all, it is teaching our kids to hate our country. The Biden administration has embraced the divisive curriculum of critical race theory to rewrite history and paint the United States as a villain.

Question: How can we expect the Biden administration to defend America's ideals abroad if the President won't even defend them at home? This isn't Building Back Better.

Teddy Roosevelt, another successful Republican President, always said: "Speak softly and carry a big stick."

President Biden is certainly speaking softly all right, but he is whittling away our big stick down to a twig.

We are already seeing the results. Weakness invites aggression. President Biden and his aides seem to believe that a return to the appeasement policies of the Obama administration and a rejection of President Trump's policy of strength are the best way to ensure peace. That is going to be tough for them and for the American people. We are already seeing how these policies do not work.

Take Palestine, for example. Just 2 months ago, the President decided to send hundreds of millions of dollars in aid to the Palestinians. And I ask, For what reason? Why are we sending millions of dollars to Palestine at this time when we are having a tough point in our country with this pandemic?

They just took American dollars and turned around and rained terror on our No. 1 ally in the Middle East, with thousands of rockets aimed at Israeli civilians. It triggered the worst fighting between Israel and Hamas since 2014. The President's policy and millions of taxpayer dollars were wasted. They did nothing but arm Hamas. The President's policy did not work.

President Biden made no secret that he wanted to bring back the failed Iran nuclear deal that was the pride of President Obama's second term. Well, Iran responded by supplying Hamas with those rockets to kill Israeli civilians. Iran is also sending warships to help their socialist ally, Venezuela. Again, the President's policies did not work.

One of President Biden's first acts in office was to cancel the Keystone Pipeline with our northern border neighbor in Canada. Yet the President is allowing Russia to build the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline to Germany, further isolating Ukraine from its Western friends. Russia has responded by amassing troops along the Ukraine border. Once again, the President's policies did not work.

The week after President Biden announced his skinny budget proposal with no increase to the Department of Defense, China sent a record number of fighter jets into the Taiwanese airspace. That is a clear pattern that the President's policies aren't working, and they are emboldening our enemies.

The fallout from the Biden administration's weaknesses isn't just limited to far-off countries across the sea, we are seeing the very real cost at our southern border. The Biden administration refuses to take this crisis seriously. The number of illegal immigrants crossing the border this fiscal year is already the most since 2006, and there are 4 months left to go.

In May of this year alone, Customs and Border Protection apprehended more than 180,000 illegal immigrants along the southern border. And it is not just folks coming from Central America. According to the CBP, there have been at least 59,000 illegal immi-

grants apprehended who were not from Mexico, Guatemala, El Salvador, or Honduras.

They are from as many as 90-plus countries, as far away as Bangladesh, Ghana, and Nepal.

And the problem is that it is not just people seeking a better life. Customs and Border Protection reports that they have arrested 95 convicted sex offenders attempting to enter the United States since the beginning of the fiscal year, and those are just the ones that are being caught.

Biden, 2 months ago, said: "What's wrong with 2 million illegal immigrants?"

So what the Biden administration is doing is they are not stemming the tide. President Biden threw his hands up and put Vice President HARRIS in charge.

Has she visited the border since she has been put in charge? No.

She thinks her words, "Don't come," are enough to stop the flood of illegal immigrants. Well, they are not. Her words are too late and too little.

I remember how then-Candidates Biden and HARRIS pushed back against President Trump for wanting to secure the border, for wanting to enforce our immigration laws as written, and folks across the globe were listening. They heard the rhetoric. They packed their bags, and they made the dangerous journey.

They took then-Candidates Biden and HARRIS at their word. It is why so many illegal immigrants wear T-shirts saying: "Biden, let us in."

Why would they listen to her saying "Don't come" now?

But here is what really got me. When asked why she hasn't gone to the border to see the crisis for herself, Vice President HARRIS laughed and said: "I haven't been to Europe" either. I couldn't believe what I was hearing. We need leadership, not a tourist.

Well, Madam Vice President, I have been to the border, and I have seen how dangerous it is for these people coming here. I have actually listened to our Border Patrol agents, who talk about how the cartels really run things and how they have total control of the U.S. southern border. I have seen how many drugs are pouring across the border because our law enforcement is too busy processing illegal immigrants instead of catching the bad guys.

But I sat beside a teenager leaving McAllen, TX, on the flight to Houston. She had her new 3- or 4-month-old baby. She was being sent on a plane by the Biden administration to Houston and then on the way to Denver, not knowing what she was to expect when she got there.

It is not easy to see. It certainly wasn't for me. But that is the price of being in a position of power, to be able to do something about the problems facing the people and our country. The Vice President needs to see the human cost of the policies she and the President are supporting.

Ladies and gentlemen, peace is only possible when the United States is strong. That means a strong military, a strong economy, a strong educational system, and a strong border.

Unless we reverse our course soon, it will be too late to stop the violence and aggression President Biden's weakness has invited across the globe and here at home.

I yield the floor.

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. BRAUN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. President, I rise today to offer a resolution expressing support for the Pledge of Allegiance as a historic and significant expression of patriotism.

By the way, I did the same thing last year.

In 2002, 19 years ago, Senator Tom Daschle raised a similar resolution with unanimous support from the Senate, and it passed on the floor uneventfully, without amendment.

In a few days, this body can choose to do the same, to reaffirm our support for the Pledge of Allegiance.

I rise today, too, to honor a Hoosier who understood the innate value of the Pledge of Allegiance to civic education.

In 1969, Red Skelton, the American comedian and entertainer who was well-known for his program on CBS, "The Red Skelton Hour," wrote a speech on the importance of the Pledge. Reflecting on his time in Vincennes, a neighboring community to where I live, he spoke about the value instilled by one of his high school teachers in the words of the Pledge of Allegiance.

After the performance of the speech, CBS received several hundred thousand requests for copies. The speech would go on to be sold as a single by Columbia Records and performed at the White House for President Nixon.

I think it would be an honor to Mr. Skelton's memory and to the importance of the Pledge of Allegiance if it were recited today on the Senate floor in the words of Red Skelton.

When I was a small boy in Vincennes, [Indiana,] I heard, I think, one of the most outstanding speeches I ever heard in my life. I think it compares with the Sermon on the Mount, Lincoln's Gettysburg Address, and Socrates' Speech to the Students.

We had just finished reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, and he [Mr. Lasswell, the Principal of Vincennes High School] called us all together, and he says, "Uh, boys and girls, I have been listening to you recite the Pledge of Allegiance all semester, and it seems that it has become monotonous to you. Or, could it be, you do not understand the meaning of each word? If I may, I would like to recite the pledge, and give you a definition of each word:

I—Me, an individual; a committee of one.
Pledge—Dedicate all of my worldly good to give without self-pity.

Allegiance—my love and my devotion.
To the Flag—Our standard. "Old Glory"; a symbol of courage. And wherever she waves, there is respect, because your loyalty has given her a dignity that shouts "Freedom is everybody's job."

Of the United—That means we have all come together.

States—Individual communities that have united into 48 great states; 48 individual communities with pride and dignity and purpose; all divided by imaginary boundaries, yet united to a common cause, and that's love of country—

Of America.

And to the Republic—a Republic: a sovereign state in which power is invested into the representatives chosen by the people to govern; [us] and the government is the people; and it's from the people to the leaders, not from the leaders to the people.

For which it Stands
One Nation—Meaning "so blessed by God."
Indivisible—Incapable of being divided.

With Liberty—Which is freedom; the right of power for one to live his own life without fears, threats, or any sort of retaliation.

And Justice—The principle and qualities of dealing fairly with others.

For All—For All. That means, boys and girls, it's as much your country as it is mine.

Afterwards, Mr. Lasswell asked his students to recite the Pledge of Allegiance together, with newfound appreciation for the words.

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic, for which it stands; one nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Mr. Red Skelton concluded his speech by saying:

Since I was a small boy, two states have been added to our country, and two words have been added to the Pledge of Allegiance: [If you listened closely] "Under God." Wouldn't it be a pity if someone said, "That is a prayer"—and that be eliminated from our schools . . . ?

Just as those students that day, Mr. Skelton included, recommitted to the meaning of the words of the Pledge of Allegiance, I call upon the U.S. Senate to recommit to the meaning of these words.

There are times today that the words of the pledge are tossed around without too much care. Other times, they are altered to remove what today is deemed offensive or antiquated. But

Americans should not misuse or abuse our Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance is meant to remind Americans of our guiding principles and inspire adherence to those ideas which make our country great: equality under the law, recognized rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This is why today I am requesting that in a few days we pass this resolution with unanimous consent, and I am hopeful that occurs.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

VOTE ON BROWN JACKSON NOMINATION

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote begin immediately on the nominee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Brown Jackson nomination?

Mrs. SHAHEEN. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE) would have voted "nay".

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 231 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	Kelly	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Sinema
Casey	Lujan	Smith
Collins	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Warnock
Feinstein	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Whitehouse
Graham	Ossoff	Wyden
Hassan	Padilla	

NAYS—44

Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Johnson	Shelby
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Lummis	Toomey
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—3

Blunt	Rubio	Sasse
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). Under the previous order, the