

far behind Russia in our icebreaker fleet, and the Arctic is quickly becoming a critical national security domain. A fleet of new Polar Security Cutters will allow us to maintain a heavy presence in polar regions and keep our adversaries at bay.

America needs a capable and growing Coast Guard, and the Coast Guard needs the support of this legislation. I look forward to working with my colleagues to provide the Coast Guard with the resources it needs to continue its exemplary service to our Nation.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

JUNETEENTH

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the 156th anniversary of Juneteenth. On Saturday, we mark 156 years since June 19, 1865, when MG Gordon Granger announced in Galveston, TX, that the Civil War was over and that enslaved people were now free.

In his announcement, General Granger said:

The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property.

In commemoration of this momentous day, June 19 became known as Juneteenth. In the years following the Civil War and in the early 20th century, Juneteenth has been celebrated as a holiday of independence.

While Juneteenth has been celebrated in States across the country, it carries a special significance in Texas, where Juneteenth celebrations began. In 1872, four men in Houston, my hometown, purchased the land for Emancipation Park, the oldest park in Texas, as the site for Juneteenth celebrations. In 1980, the State of Texas became the first State to make Juneteenth a State holiday. Today, 47 States recognize Juneteenth.

I am proud to cosponsor the Senate resolution designating June 19, 2021, as Juneteenth Independence Day to honor the historical significance this day has in the United States.

Juneteenth is an important day. It is a somber reminder of the original sin of slavery that our Nation inherited from colonial powers. Still, it is also a celebration of the fact that our country strives each and every day to make good on its promise to protect the inalienable right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all men and all women, who are created equal. Our country was founded on that revolutionary idea, that revolutionary belief that all men are created equal, and

that means no matter where we come from or what we started with, any one of us can live freely and achieve great things.

The story of America and the story of Juneteenth is a story of freedom, and while we have had many troubled chapters along the way, I, for one, agree with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., that the arc of history is long and that it bends towards justice, and we have made significant progress on that arc.

On Saturday, as we commemorate the long-overdue announcement of emancipation made in Texas 156 years ago, let us together remember the God-given freedoms we all cherish as Americans.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CRUZ. Madam President, on Sunday, June 20, Joe Biden will have been President for exactly 5 months. In these 5 months, we have seen crisis after crisis after crisis. We have experienced a gas crisis, where we had gas lines and skyrocketing energy prices. We are on the verge of an inflation crisis, where everywhere we look, prices are rising on food, on housing, and on lumber. We have already had a war in the Middle East, and we have a border crisis that has been raging so intensely that we are on pace to see 2 million illegal immigrants come through our unsecured border this year.

Just last month, 180,034 illegal immigrants crossed the border. To put that in perspective, that number is a 674-percent increase over the number of illegal immigrants that crossed the border last May—a 674-percent increase—and that number is a 21-year high. The reason for this is simple: The crisis that has unfolded is the direct result of political decisions made by Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS.

No. 1, the first week in office, President Biden immediately halted construction of the border wall.

No. 2, that same week, President Biden reinstated the failed catch and release policy.

No. 3, most inexplicably, the Biden administration ended the “Remain in Mexico” international agreement, a historic agreement negotiated by President Trump with the Government of Mexico whereby the Government of Mexico agreed that those who crossed illegally into Mexico would remain in Mexico while their asylum proceedings were pending in the United States.

That agreement was a tremendous success. It produced last year the lowest rate of illegal immigration in 45 years. Let me repeat that. Just 6 months ago, our country had achieved the lowest rate of illegal immigration in 45 years. Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS come into office, they rip to pieces the international agreement that produced that success, and today we have the highest rate of illegal immigration in 20 years.

Meanwhile, as the crisis rages, Joe Biden is nowhere to be found, and

KAMALA HARRIS is nowhere to be found. In 5 months in office, Joe Biden couldn't be bothered to go down to the border and see the humanitarian disaster his policies have created. KAMALA HARRIS, who was designated “in charge of the border,” seems determined to go anywhere she can but the border.

In the 84 days since she has been tasked with handling the border crisis, do you know how many press conferences she has given? Not even one—not a single press conference in 84 days.

She can't be honest about what is causing the crisis so she hides from questions. The one time she sought questions was with NBC's Lester Holt, where he asked her about going to the border. She responded with that now characteristic and, quite honestly, creepy laugh, where she said: “We've been to the border.” I am not sure who the royal “we” was, but that “we” doesn't include Joe Biden, who hasn't been to the border as President. That “we” doesn't include KAMALA HARRIS, who hasn't been to the border as Vice President.

And Lester Holt—to NBC's credit, Lester Holt actually asked a followup question, and it was a very simple question: “You haven't been to the border?” To which she responded, oddly: “Well, I haven't been to Europe either.”

(Mr. VAN HOLLEN assumed the Chair.)

Mr. President, we are not facing a humanitarian crisis, a border crisis, a public crisis, a national security crisis in Europe. We are facing it at our southern border. We are facing it in my home State of Texas. And the Vice President, it seems, cannot be bothered to go and see firsthand the failures that President Biden's policies are causing.

I also want to touch on one issue that greatly affects border communities, and that is our land ports of entry.

While Joe Biden has repeatedly encouraged this crisis of illegal immigration, he is at the same time preventing lawful border crossing.

Border communities are suffering immensely right now because important land ports of entry in El Paso, in Del Rio, in Eagle Pass, in Laredo, in Rio Grande City, in McAllen, in Pharr, in Brownsville remain closed to everyone except those deemed “essential” traffic.

Basically, Mexicans who have a visa to enter the United States legally cannot do so through these land ports of entry unless they are going to school, working, or somehow considered essential. Nonessential travel from the United States—into the United States from Mexico for shopping, for visiting family and friends, for casual visits are not allowed by the Biden administration.

Instead, the Biden administration has decided to keep our land ports of entries closed for nonessential travel until at least June 21, ostensibly because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This

decision makes no sense, when Americans have access now to effective vaccines and the Biden administration is just fine with allowing hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens to stream across the border and be released in our communities.

Despite testing positive at a COVID positivity rate of 10 percent, the Biden administration has no problem with that, and they perpetuate the policies that continue that disaster. And yet, at the same time, they shut down trade and legal tourism through our land ports of entry.

For a long time, I have summed up my immigration views very simply in four words: "legal, good; illegal, bad." I think the overwhelming majority of Americans agree with that proposition. And yet, as we look at the first 5 months of the Biden-Harris administration, it seems for President Biden and Vice President Harris, their immigration policy is legal, bad; illegal, good. That makes no sense. It is exactly backward.

We should open up our land ports of entry to legal tourism, which would greatly benefit the border communities, especially in my home State of Texas.

And we need to end this heartless, inhumane policy that is resulting in tens of thousands of children being trafficked in by human traffickers, which is resulting in thousands of children being physically abused and sexually abused, being thrown into the Biden cages, packed in larger and larger numbers.

Ignoring this problem won't go away. Behaving like an ostrich, Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS cannot plunge their heads into the sand and hope the disaster at the border will magically disappear. They don't want to go to the border because they know the TV cameras will follow them to the border, and their only hope is people don't notice the lives that are being destroyed, the crime that is coming in, the vandalism that is coming in, the public health threat that we are seeing.

This is not compassionate. It is not humane. This chaos is wrong, and it is time to end.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

2022 OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, 8 short months from now, the greatest athletes in the world will gather together and compete in the 24th Olympic Winter Games.

Usually, Americans await this awe-inspiring event with enthusiasm and excitement. This year, though, we await it with apprehension and, frankly, disgust. That is because next year's games will be held in the People's Republic of China—a Communist nation that enslaves workers, puts women and children in concentration camps, sterilizes women, and unleashed a global

pandemic that killed millions and upended the global economy.

The 2022 Games will be located in Beijing—a 5-hour train ride away from the Wuhan lab where the coronavirus pandemic likely originated and a day away from Xinjiang Province, where the Communist Party is committing genocide against ethnic and religious minorities and has herded more than 1 million innocent souls into concentration camps.

The Chinese Communist Party may believe that extravagant pageantry will distract us from the reality of what they have done, but no amount of rushed urban cleaning can wipe away the moral stain that permeates the capital city of China. No golden torch can redeem the moral bankruptcy of communism. No fireworks display can make us forget that Beijing is the epicenter of evil in the world. It is no exaggeration to state that the Chinese Communist Party is the purist, most powerful, and most pervasive force for evil in the world.

Locating the Games in Beijing will enrich and embolden the Chinese Communist Party and strengthen their hold on their captive people. That is why the International Olympic Committee should immediately—immediately—rebid the 2022 Games and award it to a free democratic nation. I will note that this is entirely feasible.

If the Tokyo Summer Games can be postponed a year due to an event that was no fault of Japan's Government, we can certainly rebid the Winter Games on short notice if China is perpetrating crimes against humanity.

I would observe that the Winter Games are far smaller and easier to move than the Summer Games. The Winter Games include fewer than half the number of sports, nearly 4,700 fewer medals, only one-quarter the number of events, and less than half the competing country.

There are many, many Western democracies that could easily, easily accommodate a relocation of the Games on short notice. Some of our European partners, like France, Switzerland, Sweden, and Italy have more than enough winter sporting venues and hotel capacity and transportation capacity to host these Games with 8 months' notice. Many of them have hosted modern Games before. Many of them host national and international winter sporting competitions.

If the IOC fails to rebid the games, however, the United States should fully embrace an economic and diplomatic boycott. No U.S. official, company, or spectator should participate in and legitimize China's despotic and totalitarian actions. American companies should not profit off of genocide and oppression or help line the pockets of the Communist Party officials perpetrating these crimes against humanity, these grotesque atrocities.

If—and it is a big if—we can keep our athletes safe, they should compete in the spirit of the great Jesse Owens.

They should stare tyranny in its eye and defeat China in every field of competition. But the only Americans—and I mean the only Americans—who should step foot on Chinese soil are the athletes, their coaches, their essential support staff, and the necessary personnel to ensure their safety.

If the games remain in China, it will pose unique challenges to the safety, security, and privacy of those limited number of Americans who do attend, though. The U.S. Government must be fully prepared for the dangers to which these athletes and supporting personnel would be exposed.

First, the Chinese Government operates the most extensive, sophisticated, and invasive police state anywhere on Earth. Members of the American delegation should expect the Chinese authorities to bug their hotel rooms, their vehicles, and to hack all of their electronic devices.

Second, China has an ignominious history of arbitrarily detaining American citizens and other Western visitors to gain political and economic concessions, placing exit bans on foreign nationals. Members of the American delegation could be detained during their visit.

Former Assistant Secretary of State David Stilwell apparently shares these concerns, stating that "spectators have good reason to beware Xi Jinping's Beijing Winter Olympics."

And I would add especially those, like, say, the Houston Rockets' general manager, Daryl Morey, who have spoken out against the Chinese Communist Party's abuses in Hong Kong, Tibet, Xinjiang, and many other places.

Third, the Chinese Communist Party's infringement of privacy knows no limits, and our Nation's representatives should prepare our athletes and their staff accordingly.

China even considers DNA collection as a vital intelligence-gathering objective, wants to use DNA data to catapult Chinese biotech companies to global market dominance, and has reportedly conducted research on biologically enhancing its soldiers.

During the Olympics, of course, the DNA of thousands of world-class athletes could prove an irresistible target to Communists in Beijing, whose evil sometimes seems to verge on science fiction. So whether through the ruse of COVID testing or testing for performance-enhancing drugs, China will have the opportunity to steal the very DNA of our elite athletes—young men and women, in many cases young boys and girls, who deserve our protection.

For all of these reasons, and many more, President Biden should forcefully call on the International Olympic Committee to rebid the 2022 Winter Games.

We must be ready if they fail to do so. That is why I have sent the President a letter urging him to prepare for the various challenges that our athletes will confront if they compete in