

over them, then the White House might have realized that now is not the time to spend more money on programs that the taxpayers do not want.

Now, every Tennessean who has good common sense—we have got hundreds of thousands of them—they know that nobody would commit to a self-destructive agenda just because they thought they could force somebody else to go pick up the tab and pay for it.

It doesn't make sense, but that is what this administration is doing, and I think this is one of those things that, in their playbook, they think sounds great. But with the American people, this is going to backfire.

And through all of this, the President has shown the people who he is and what priorities really matter to him. Instead of exercising some much needed self-control, he decided to beg for the Green New Deal, wasteful social spending, and an election takeover. His allies in Congress have even come back to Washington ready to make a deal with the devil to resurrect his "Build Back Broke" agenda.

In the interest of bipartisanship, I would like to offer some thoughts to my Democratic colleagues. Next time that you go home, go over to the grocery store and ask a busy mom who is holding a shopping list in one hand and digital coupons on her phone in the other just how they are managing through this inflation crisis.

Ask them: Do you think it is stuck at 8 percent inflation? Do you think it is closer to 15 percent inflation?

Then, follow their advice, because I can guarantee you that they will choose to give you an earful. They are about fed up.

There are thousands of moms and grandmoms who know what they are doing, and, more importantly, they know how they are going to spend every single penny that they have itemized in their budget for groceries, for gas, for the summer garden. They know how they are going to spend that money.

They wish Washington would be as careful with taxpayer money as they are being with their hard-earned dollars.

It really makes them shake their heads when they hear that the caretakers of the most powerful Nation in the world have no vision for the future and no plan for how to get us to a vision.

All that this administration and the White House and the Democrats—who, by the way, are in charge of all the government here in Washington, DC—all they have is an agenda. They have got a to-do list. They are wanting to check the boxes, and that agenda is heavy on spending and light on everything else that matters to the American people.

And, by the way, all that heavy spending is not Federal Government money, mind you. It is money that is coming out of the pockets of hard-working taxpayers—every penny of it.

We know border security isn't on the Biden administration's list of priorities. It is not on the to-do list. It is not on the thinking-about-it list.

In the alternate reality that this White House is operating in, the only immigration policy that matters is guaranteeing an open border—the sooner they can get it, the better. They are all about it. We all know how well that policy has worked out so far.

On behalf of a lot of Tennesseans back home, I would like to inject a little reality into this conversation also.

Since day one of this administration, Joe Biden has done everything in his power to sabotage the Border Patrol and local law enforcement officials. His open borders rhetoric invited massive caravans of migrants to overwhelm the border. And just when we thought things couldn't get worse, he turned his back on President Trump's successful "Remain in Mexico" program. As a result, last month, encounters along our southern border were up 33 percent. That is right—up 33 percent in 1 month.

CBP regularly seizes millions of dollars' worth of meth, fentanyl, and heroin that would have otherwise landed in "Small Town, USA." And, now, President Biden wants to abandon title 42, which is the last best defense we have against this wave of illegal immigration. We already know that if he goes through with this, he will lose control of the border to the cartels.

The Border Patrol estimates that 18,000 people a day will try to make it across the border. Now, currently, there are 6,000 people a day. Those are record numbers. Think of what is going to happen if 18,000 people a day are rushing our southern border.

Now, let me give you a little perspective on this. Tennessee has 345 towns and cities. So we checked to see how many of these towns and cities are 18,000 people or less. Well, 90 percent of the towns and cities in the State of Tennessee are 18,000 people—18,000 residents or fewer than that.

Now, think about that. It is like a Tennessee town—that number of people coming across the border every day.

I would think that, you know, that it is the same thing, Mr. President, in Michigan. I don't know the number of towns and cities you have, but I would imagine that the majority of those are there also, 18,000 or fewer residents.

Think about this impact. How many days can you do that? How many weeks? How many years before you completely disrupt what is going on in your towns, in your State?

I have to ask you: What is so compassionate about subjecting 18,000 people a day—18,000—to the risk of exploitation by a drug cartel? And what is so compassionate about standing by while 18,000 people a day risk death by exposure in the desert? Is sticking to your talking points worth the lives of National Guardsmen like Bishop Evans, who drowned last week while trying to rescue migrants crossing the Rio Grande River?

The decision to abandon title 42 is dangerous, and, frankly, anyone who supports it should be ashamed of themselves.

Last month, I joined several of my colleagues on a letter to Chairman DURBIN, asking him to allow the Judiciary Committee to get some answers about how the administration plans to deal with this. The committee must use its oversight authority to summon Secretary Mayorkas for a hearing so he can explain his plan to prevent chaos on the border.

If that plan exists, we don't know about it. But, certainly, tripling the number of people per day at the southern border is going to create a chaotic situation.

I want to make it clear that this use of our oversight authority is the bare minimum, and, as of now, Chairman DURBIN has not indicated that he is willing to meet this very minimum bar.

We must not allow the administration to hide behind their title 42 talking points. The American people won't stand for it because they know that until Joe Biden secures the border, until he puts back in place the "Remain in Mexico" policy, until he keeps title 42, every town will be a border town and every State will be a border State.

When I am in Tennessee and talking with Tennesseans, what we know is that they are like a lot of people all across this country. They don't trust their government to have their interests at heart. They don't take the actions of their government seriously because in the Democratic-controlled government—all branches here in DC—they don't seem to take their jobs seriously. They are certainly not looking out for the American people. They are not taking actions that are going to reduce the cost of a gallon of gas at the pump or the cost of food at the grocery store or the cost of paint, the cost of fertilizer, the cost of tools—the list goes on and on.

But what they do believe is that it is time for this administration to make inflation, to make border security, to make the sovereignty of this Nation a priority and to begin to build a vision for this Nation, not just a to-do list.

I yield the floor.

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.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the cloture motion with respect to the Gomez nomination.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, while returning with Senate colleagues from a delegation trip to Europe to further strengthen the trans-Atlantic alliance in the context of Vladimir Putin's war against the Ukrainian people, our plane was grounded by mechanical failure. As a result, I was unable to attend vote No. 135 on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 808, Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to be Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

I would have voted yea on the motion to invoke cloture had I been able to attend the vote.

While returning with Senate colleagues from a delegation trip to Europe to further strengthen the trans-Atlantic alliance in the context of Vladimir Putin's war against the Ukrainian people, our plane was grounded by mechanical failure. As a result, I was unable to attend today's vote on No. 136 on confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 808, Lael Brainard, of the District of Columbia, to Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

I would have voted yea on the confirmation had I been able to attend the vote.

REMEMBERING DR. JON WEFALD

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to memorialize and honor one of my great friends and mentor, our former Kansas State University President Dr. Jon Wefald who passed away on April 16 after a long and illustrious life serving higher education and the State of Kansas. His work at K-State brought the university to great heights, and his realized dreams will live on forever in K-State lore.

My wife and I first met Dr. Wefald at a student recruitment dinner in Great Bend we were cohosting, where his energy was contagious and palpable. He was a young university president with a vision and a purpose we all wanted to be part of. He made every student in the room know they were each important, and K-State would help them realize their dreams. We remained friends up until the time of his passing with regular communications and advice. I will miss him.

Dr. Wefald served as K-State's 12th president from 1986 to 2009 and is cred-

ited with growing the university into a top 10 land-grant university. During his 23 years of leadership, the university added 2.2 million square feet of new buildings. He also helped philanthropy increase from \$6 million a year to nearly \$100 million annually.

Under his leadership, K-State quickly became one of the Nation's distinguished research and doctoral universities. Enrollment increased from 16,000 students to more than 23,000 under his tenure, and with the growth in students came a monumental growth in research funding from \$18 million annually to nearly \$134 million. Both of these increases have led to astounding innovations from all parts of the university. Last, but not least of his achievements, Dr. Wefald was also in charge of hiring the iconic football coach Bill Snyder, which led to the greatest turnaround in NCAA sports history.

We all mourn the loss of this beloved K-State president who shaped countless students' and faculty members' lives. His leadership, passion, and dedication to K-State and the great State of Kansas will never be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family, friends, and K-State family. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the wonderful career and life of Mr. Jon Wefald. A true inspiration to the State of Kansas, fighting ever fighting for a wildcat victory.

TRIBUTE TO JERRY FARLEY

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize Jerry Farley, the president of Washburn University. Dr. Farley announced his plans to retire and transition to a president emeritus role, where he and his signature bow tie will remain a part of fundraising and international student recruitment.

Farley was born in Oklahoma, but moved to Topeka in 1997 after spending 25 years in various administrative roles in Oklahoma, including the role of vice president at Oklahoma University. On July 1, 1997, Farley became Washburn University's 16th president. During his leadership, Farley's vision to change Washburn from a commuter school to one that prioritized campus life has become a reality. With his wife Susan serving by his side through the years, they have helped influence and nurture student to work hard and leave the university as leaders.

During his tenure, Washburn University added several buildings to its campus, including the \$20 million Living Learning Center residential hall, as well as the addition of Washburn Tech, the Kansas Bureau of Investigation Laboratory, and a statue honoring one of the Ichobods' favorite sons, the late great Senator Bob Dole.

In addition to his hard work and dedication to help build the reputation of the University, Dr. Farley always did an outstanding job of representing the State of Kansas and Washburn Uni-

versity as a whole. His leadership does not go unnoticed. As we celebrate his legacy, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the wonderful career of Dr. Jerry Farley and wish him and Susan nothing but joy and happiness in his next chapter of life.

TRIBUTE TO CALEB SMITH

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize Caleb Smith of Newton, KS. Caleb is the recipient of the 2021-2022 Kansas principal of the year.

Caleb has shown outstanding leadership at Newton High School in order to earn this award. His passion for the students, working with the staff, and creative ideas to enhance technology at the school all contributed to this great success. Caleb found out about this honor Monday, April 11, following a school scavenger hunt where he walked all over the campus to find his students presenting the award to him. Superintendent Fred Van Ranken celebrated Caleb saying, "Mr. Smith has done an outstanding job of trying to create an amazing culture at Newton High School and within the Newton communities, and it shows. I am so happy for Caleb to be recognized at the state level for what he and his team are doing at USD 373."

This is an honor that Caleb should be immensely proud of. After reading through countless quotes from fellow teachers and Newton students, it is clear that Caleb has a true passion—and immense talent—for teaching our future leaders. This award is a testament to all of his hard work in providing outstanding education for all students that walk through his classroom. I am ecstatic to hear about the impact this great Kansan is having on our future generations. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Caleb Smith of Newton, KS.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO FARHAT QAZI

• Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a Michigander who is working every day to build bridges and bring people together at a very important time for our country and our world.

Farhat Qazi of West Bloomfield is an entrepreneur and a philanthropist. She is also a woman of deep faith who believes that religion can be a powerful force for peace and unity in the world.

In pursuit of this noble goal, Qazi created Children of Abraham Day, which was recognized in Michigan on December 4, 2020. The day is an opportunity for Jews, Muslims, and Christians to celebrate their shared origins as descendants of the Prophet Abraham; their reverence for the city of Jerusalem; and their common beliefs in love, charity, and moral behavior.

Far too often throughout history, religious differences have led to strife,