

percent or more compared to just a few years ago.

Contributing to these challenges, police officers' jobs have also become increasingly dangerous. Last year, we saw surges in violence and aggression towards officers. Three hundred and forty-six police officers were shot in the line of duty, and 130 of them were targeted and shot in ambush-style attacks. In a recent CBS "60 Minutes" interview, FBI Director Christopher Wray said there had been a 59-percent increase in the murders of police officers, with 73—73—officers killed in 2021. That is a rate of about one officer killed every 5 days.

Without a doubt, Democrats' antipolice rhetoric has diminished morale and eroded public trust in law enforcement. Maybe that was the goal.

But dwindling application numbers to join the force also are contributing to rising crime all across this country. A report by the Council on Criminal Justice found that the national violent crime rate increased 44 percent from 2019 to 2021.

A recent Wall Street Journal editorial discussed efforts to address rising crime in one of our Nation's cities—Seattle. According to the editorial, Seattle city attorney Ann Davison's office found that 118 individuals were responsible for more than 2,400 crimes in Seattle over the past 5 years. Yet, her efforts to hold repeat offenders accountable are being stymied by some.

Because of a 2019 agreement signed by Davison's predecessor, certain classes of misdemeanors in that community go to the community court, and this court releases the accused after referring them to certain support services.

The editorial states:

Seattle criminals get four tries in the Community Court before they flunk out. Each can encompass multiple charges. Repeat offenders see the lack of consequences as an invitation to commit more crimes.

Davison is currently trying to renegotiate that deeply flawed 2019 agreement, but despite the rise in crime in Seattle, these negotiations are at an impasse.

Problems like these aren't confined to the Emerald City. In L.A., Minneapolis, Chicago, Washington, DC, and other cities, liberal prosecutors often fail to hold violent criminals accountable.

The impact on public safety is clear. CNN reports the following about the increase in carjackings: In New York City, the number of carjackings has quadrupled in the last 4 years. In Chicago, more than 1,800 carjackings were reported in 2021. Here in the Nation's Capitol, Metropolitan Police confirmed that carjackings have tripled since 2019.

The administration's efforts to address the rise in this violent crime are weak. I am supporting a resolution led by the senior Senator from Louisiana that actually gets at what we should be doing. It demands that the President

work with Congress on a comprehensive strategy that encourages the Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, as well as State and local law enforcement officers to counter the rise in violent crime by reinforcing strong criminal justice policies. The Senate should pass this.

Our law enforcement officers who wear the badge deserve our gratitude and our support. The sacrifices they make and the sacrifices their families make, keep us safe. We stand with our men and women in blue.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON LEAF NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Leaf nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 184 Ex.]

YEAS—54

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—2

Rosen Van Hollen

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of executive Calendar No. 687, Elizabeth Schoff Watson, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

Charles E. Schumer, John W. Hickenlooper, Jacky Rosen, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Alex Padilla, Benjamin L. Cardin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Ben Ray Lujan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Elizabeth Warren, Debbie Stabenow, Tammy Duckworth, Mazie Hirono.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Elizabeth Schoff Watson, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN), and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 185 Ex.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—47

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

NOT VOTING—3

Markey Rosen Van Hollen

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Elizabeth Schoff Watson, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

ABORTION

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, this is a dark, enraging moment for our Nation. I have made that clear already, and so have so many of our Democratic colleagues. But I am speaking on the floor today because we cannot back down for a minute. We cannot lose sight of the terrifying reality that Republicans want to end the right to abortion, and they are within weeks of accomplishing that goal.

Very soon, the Supreme Court is set to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and fulfill Republicans' decades-long goal of controlling women's bodies and rolling back everyone's fundamental right to decide whether or not to start a family.

Let me say that again because it is shocking, and it is true. In a matter of weeks, women across the country will lose a constitutional right they have had for half a century. The steady march forward to secure women's rights that generations before us fought for will be reversed, and my daughter and granddaughters will have fewer rights than I did.

Women will be forced to carry pregnancies to term when it is not right for them, and Republicans will be responsible. This is the future that they have been fighting for. This is the America that they want, and they are not done yet.

Republicans are hell-bent on rolling back the clock. Last week, they blocked our bill to protect *Roe* and the right to abortion, but they are not going to stop at overturning *Roe* and shredding patients' rights to make decisions about their own bodies. In States across the country, Republican lawmakers are banning abortion without exceptions. They are targeting people who help a woman get an abortion, doctors who are providing essential healthcare, friends and family members who are just supporting a loved one, and even the drivers just doing their job and helping patients get to medical appointments.

Republicans are working around-the-clock to make it harder for women and families to control their own futures. They are coming after the birth control and IUDs that tens of millions rely on to plan a family on their own terms. They are coming after Plan B. They are even putting patients' ability to get the IVF care they need to help start a family at risk.

My Republican colleagues right here in the Senate have made clear that they have their sights set on something really extreme: They want a na-

tionwide ban on abortion. Republicans aren't content with some States banning abortion and creating health crises that spill across State lines; they want to eliminate the right of every woman in America to get an abortion in Washington State and everywhere else. It is not hypothetical, and it is not some far-off worry. It is appalling, and it is completely backward.

Republicans want to force us all with them into their time machine, but we are not going to let them. Democrats are fighting Republicans' increasingly extreme policies at every step of the way.

In the coming weeks, we are going to remind each and every American of the rights that Republicans want to rip away. We won't allow Republicans to run and hide from the reality of their extreme agenda. We are going to be on the floor each week highlighting how Republicans are doing everything they can to hit rewind on our rights, highlighting every protection and freedom that Republicans are ripping away from people across the country, and we are going to show the country how Republican policies hurt everyone. We are going to expose the Republicans' radical and unpopular views on everything from abortion to family planning to sex ed. We are going to make clear who is hurt most by their extremism.

This fight did not end when the Republicans blocked the Women's Health Protection Act last week—far from it. People across the country are fed up with Republicans' attacks on their rights. They are fired up, and they are fighting back, and so am I, and so are my Democratic colleagues.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 4249

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, last week, President Biden tried to blame me for the current inflation crisis. In a speech where he couldn't even get my State right—I proudly represent Florida, in case he needs another reminder—he attacked me and tried to blame the record inflation he created on Republicans. I guess he has also forgotten that he is the President and that it is his policies that created this mess. And, by the way, Democrats are in control of the House and the Senate.

What is clear to the American people is that Joe Biden is to blame for the inflation that is hurting them more every day. Families I talk to in Florida are sick and tired of this President's failures. They are sick and tired of seeing an incoherent, confused man ramble on in the White House, with no plan but to blame everyone else but himself for the problems he created.

Last week, the Biden administration reported that the Consumer Price Index, our main measure of inflation, increased 8.3 percent year-over-year, and the latest Producer Price Index, released just a day later, showed wholesale inflation in April increased 11 per-

cent over the year. These price hikes hurt real families, and they are impacting every industry. We see it in the price of groceries, like milk, eggs, and meat. We see it in the price of gas at the pump and electricity for your home. We see it in the price of used cars and in the cost of transportation. Everything is going up, and some products, like baby formula, are nearly impossible to find.

It is causing families to make impossible choices. In March, a Census Bureau report found that over the last year, 24 percent of Americans reduced or went without basic items such as food and medicine as a way to afford their energy bills. In my home State, 26 percent of Floridians had to make this impossible choice.

Let's be clear. The financial pinch families are facing, the supply chain crisis families are facing, and the skyrocketing prices families are seeing are because of the radical spending agenda being pushed by President Biden and Democrats in Washington. Their reckless government spending has sent our economy into a downward spiral. Our debt has grown to over \$30 trillion, and Biden wants to push it up to \$45 trillion even as our GDP is contracting. Inflation has risen to the highest levels in over 40 years. It is wrecking our economy.

We need bold action to fix this mess and help families struggling to keep up.

I came to the floor to stop the insanity and introduce a budgetary point of order. My bill would stop any non-defense discretionary spending that would increase the deficit over the 10-year budget window when the average annual CPI inflation is 3 percent or higher. The Federal Reserve's target for inflation is 2 percent, so setting the bar for the point of order 50 percent above this target is totally reasonable.

My point of order would not even apply during time periods when inflation is at or slightly above the Federal Reserve's target. Of course, we need flexibility for emergencies, so my bill would allow this point of order to be waived if two-thirds of the Senate agree that deficit spending during times of elevated inflation is desperately needed. Further, my point of order would not apply to funding our armed services nor would it apply to any mandatory spending, such as Medicare or Social Security.

This is commonsense legislation. This bill would put in place the same scrutiny that families, especially poor families like mine when growing up, use in order to stay on budget. It is the same kind of careful examination that small business owners have to do to make sure they can pay their employees and make ends meet. The inflation we are seeing right now is unsustainable. It is time for action. I hope we will all come together to agree to this point of order.

As in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed