

Well, one thing President Obama recognized back after the great recession of 2008, is it is not a time to raise taxes, and apparently the current Biden administration did not learn that lesson, nor did the majority leader.

This bill would simply make inflation worse, not better. Why the Democratic leader has prioritized partisan politics over sound, bipartisan policy is lost on me. Why he would elevate partisanship above national security is lost on me. And why he would show contempt for the challenges families are facing due to failed policies of the Biden administration is lost on me.

But now he is doubling down. His decision to pursue this partisan reconciliation bill won't just hurt families, it risks our ability to pass critical CHIPS funding on a timely basis.

To reiterate the words of the Republican leader: There will be no bipartisan USICA as long as Democrats are pursuing their reckless tax-and-spending agenda. Our Democratic colleagues cannot spend their mornings working on a purely partisan spending spree for the next 4 weeks and expect Republicans to work with them on a bipartisan bill in the afternoon.

We simply don't have time for these antics. Bipartisan conference negotiations require compromise and confidence that the person sitting across the table from you is negotiating in good faith.

Senator SCHUMER's tactics have jeopardized the good faith that has driven this process up until now.

From the beginning, what was originally known as Endless Frontiers to now the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act, or USICA—this has been a big bipartisan effort.

Two years ago, I introduced the CHIPS for America Act with Senator WARNER, the chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee on which I sit, and a Democrat. We worked in good faith to get it signed into law as part of the national defense reauthorization act. And we all worked together—68 of us—to make sure that the bill was funded through the bipartisan U.S. Innovation and Competition Act.

And more recently, I have been trying to help broker an agreement that can get this bill signed into law as part of the conference committee process. My desire to fund the CHIPS Act has not changed, but Senator SCHUMER's choices have taken an already difficult job and made it nearly impossible.

He is trying to turn what has been a bipartisan process into a partisan exercise. I hope the Democratic leader will reconsider and will abandon his partisan spending spree so that we can spend the next 3 weeks passing the CHIPS funding as part of the USICA with broad bipartisan support.

This is a matter of national security and economic competitiveness, and it should not become a victim of partisan games.

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.

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

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

HONORING OFFICER JEREMIAH JAMES STORY

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today with my fellow Senator from Arkansas, Mr. COTTON, to honor Jeremiah James Story, a Perry County Detention Center officer, who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty last month.

Born in Conway, AR, Jeremiah was a 2020 graduate of Bigelow High School. Even as a young person, he was a dedicated public servant who loved his community and his country. In addition to working as a detention officer, he also served in the Army National Guard and aspired to become a State trooper. He wore his uniforms with pride and was passionate about giving back to others in a variety of ways. There was no gesture too small or unimportant for him to offer.

Jeremiah was also a man of deep faith, who never let pass an opportunity to share it with others. He devoted his life to following his Lord and Savior and was a longtime member of Riverview Baptist Church, where he routinely encouraged people he met to attend services with him.

With his Christian belief as his hope and guide, he demonstrated kindness and compassion for others and relied on the power of prayer to support and uplift others facing difficult situations.

Jeremiah's friends and family knew he was special and strived to live by the example that he set.

During a military training exercise last year, fellow troops recalled how Jeremiah suffered from trench foot, and while he was ordered to stay off his feet, he couldn't resist the urge to serve others. So in spite of instructions and consequences to his own recovery, he jumped up and filled water bottles for his fellow troops. That was the kind of person he was—a giver.

Those who served alongside him recalled the tough situations they experienced together. While it was taxing to be away from family and living in challenging conditions, Jeremiah did it with a smile on his face.

He served his community with tremendous care and devotion. We are so grateful for his example and willingness to do the tough and dangerous job of ensuring public safety.

At the young age of 21, he was taken far too soon. While his life on Earth was short, he left a lasting legacy through the way he treated, cared for, and loved others.

Even the inmates he was responsible for guarding appreciated his care and empathy. Several of them attended a memorial service for him to show their gratitude and their respect.

He will be dearly missed by many, including his closest loved ones, but his memory will live on as a hero who made a positive impact on all those whose lives he touched.

His death is a tragic reminder of the risk law enforcement officers face each day that they put on their uniform and leave the comforts of their homes and their loved ones to serve and to protect.

Senator COTTON and I are honored to pay this tribute to him to bring attention to his short but meaningful life and remember the noble calling he was willing to risk his life to answer.

I pray for his family, friends, and colleagues, as they mourn the fallen guardian who served others to the very end. May he rest in peace, and may God bless him and keep him and all those that he leaves behind.

I yield to Senator COTTON.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, today, I join Senator BOOZMAN with a heavy heart to mourn the death of a young patriot and a selfless public servant.

Last month, Jeremiah Story, a member of the Arkansas National Guard and a correctional officer at the Perry County Sheriff's Office, died in the line of duty. Officer Story was only 21 years old. He worked at the Perry County Detention Center and hoped to one day become a State trooper.

He was known as an infectious source of joy among his friends and within his community, always uplifting those who needed cheering up and including those who felt left out. He was a devoted Christian who encouraged everyone to go to church and who shared the gospel with anyone who would listen. And he loved America, joining the Army National Guard as soon as he graduated from high school. Jeremiah Story was the type of selfless servant every young person should aspire to be.

Three weeks ago, Officer Story was in the process of booking a drug criminal at the Perry County Detention Center when the criminal pulled out a concealed pistol and shot Officer Story in the chest. He died soon thereafter at a Conway hospital, and the coward who shot him is now charged with capital murder, as he should be.

His murderer didn't get away with anything, didn't gain anything, didn't escape—nothing for this evil deed. He only snuffed out a bright, young, wonderful life.

He should know, and every criminal in our State should know, that justice will be rendered for this awful slaying.

In the aftermath of Officer Story's death, hundreds of Arkansans have come together to remember his life and mourn his loss. Among those who attended candlelight vigils for this special young man were the inmates at the Perry County Detention Center. The chaplain of the detention center said Officer Story was "loved by a lot of different people, not just outside but

inside.” He added that he had used Officer Story as an “example setter” for the inmates for the kind of citizen and man they could aspire to be if they turned their lives around.

Officer Story’s example lives on. Those who knew him, those who have just now heard of him, can draw inspiration for a life well lived. In 21 short years, Officer Story did more good and spread more joy than many others who have been blessed with many more years on this Earth.

He was a great Arkansan and a great American. May God bless and keep Officer Jeremiah Story, and may God console his family and friends in this time of grief.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

BORDER SECURITY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, for over a year, officials in the Biden administration have operated under the assumption that if they keep repeating their far-left propaganda, they will be able to trick the American people into believing that everything is OK. Don’t believe what you see. Don’t believe what you are reading. Don’t believe what you are hearing from friends and neighbors. Just believe us. Everything is fine. Prices aren’t high. Crime is not high. The border is not open. Everything is just fine.

The problem is, Tennesseans know better than to believe this. They have figured it out. They know the economy is not in a good place. They know high gas prices are not Putin’s fault. They know that spikes in crime and drug overdoses—this is not normal. But most importantly, they know that standing aside and letting the country fall apart is not what a normal Presidential administration does; it is far from it.

The White House has worked overtime trying to convince the American people that reports of the chaos along our southern border are exaggerated. This is one of the most dangerous falsehoods the Biden administration has tried to sell, and here is why. In May—May, this month of May—this year, Border Patrol encountered more than 177,000 unique individuals trying to cross the border.

Border Patrol doesn’t have the manpower or the resources to control this wave of illegal immigration. I know it. I think my Democratic colleagues know it. Certainly the ones who have taken the time to go to the border know it. And, no doubt, the Biden administration knows it.

As I said, in May of this year, 177,000 different individuals were encountered trying to cross that border. Now, Tennesseans are very worried about this, and they want to know why the President is not worried about this. For goodness’ sake, he has never taken the time to go to the border. He has had five decades to go down there and look at the border, and he has never taken the time to do it.

It really is pretty simple for “we the people,” the citizenry of this country—the issue of whether the Democrats wish this country well is no longer up for debate. They know that the left has abandoned them, the people. They know that. They are seeing it every single day, whether they are shopping for groceries, filling up the car. They see it. They see it by the crime in the streets, the gangs. They know it. They see it with the human trafficking and the suffering and the drugs that are killing precious American lives.

Now, unfortunately, President Biden lost the opportunity to persuade the American people otherwise on day 1 of his administration when he chose to turn the American Southwest into a free-for-all. Since then, things have only gotten more dangerous.

During the first 4 days of this month, law enforcement officials arrested 3 members of MS-13, an 18th Street gang member, and multiple convicted sex offenders as they tried to enter the country. On July 6, they seized more than 1,000 pounds of meth from one single smuggler—that is right, one smuggler. Do you think the drug dealers are emboldened? Think about that—1,000 pounds of meth. So far this year, they have seized almost 8,000 pounds of fentanyl, which is enough to kill a small country.

Here is the question I would pose to the President: How many people and how many pounds of drugs made it in while Border Patrol agents were busy with the smugglers and criminals they managed to catch? Where did the “got-aways” go? What did the “got-aways” have with them?

Well, that is a rhetorical question. We know exactly where they went, and we know what they have with them. Do you know what, Madam President. They are coming to our own cities, communities, towns, our own backyards.

My Democratic colleagues may be happy to ignore the problem, but on behalf of Tennesseans, I will not ignore the problem. The threat is too great.

If you ask any law enforcement officer—any—they will tell you that this issue of the southern border is a matter of life and death. Not just on the border but in each of our 95 counties in the State of Tennessee—in each of our towns and cities—this open border is a matter of life and death. In Tennessee, our sheriffs and police chiefs want the border secured.

I have got to tell you, to so many Tennesseans, it is laughable—laughable—that a White House spokesman would stand behind that podium and look at the people and say: “The border is secure.” Who do they think they are talking to? Do they think that people are not watching the footage? Whether they are watching it on TV or streaming it or looking at it on social media, they can see that this border is not secure. They are talking to friends and relatives who live in a border State, who live along that border, and they

are telling them some of the horrific stories that they are witnessing every single day in their communities.

We know for a fact that the cross-border drug trade is alive and well. Who is getting rich off this open southern border? Take a guess. It is the drug cartels—the drug cartels—with enormous profits growing into a global organization. That is right—global.

So far this year, people from 150 different countries have come across our southern border. Chinese nationals are not trying to come in here on a visa. They don’t wish us well. The Chinese Communist Party is hard at work. The Chinese Communist Party is paying the cartels \$50,000 a pop to get people into our country that they want to by bringing them across the southern border.

The Tennessean, which is our newspaper in Nashville, TN, recently reported a truly horrific story about a multimillion-dollar crime ring that is operating right out of Middle Tennessee. That is right. The drug cartels are not fearful because Joe Biden has the welcome mat out: Border open.

The kingpin was working directly with the Sinaloa drug cartel. That is the one that primarily has the Arizona border. That is the one that is bringing a majority of the drugs through Arizona. They like to focus on fentanyl.

The traffickers who are working underneath this hoodlum are as brutally violent as their friends down in Mexico. We know they are responsible for multiple horrific assaults, kidnappings, at least one murder, and the mutilation of a 22-year-old woman. They are also linked to a local gang who terrorizes the streets of Nashville. That is right, a drug kingpin working directly with the Sinaloa cartel. That is what they are doing in Tennessee.

The violence does not stop at the border. The violence in this country increases because of that open border and because of the unwillingness of this administration to do anything about it. This violence is bleeding into every town, every State, and it will not stop until we have leaders in the White House and an administration who are willing to put themselves in between these monsters and the American people.

The fact that we can’t talk about this without provoking hysteria in the ranks of the Democratic Party tells me we are heading in the wrong direction, but don’t take my word for it; just read a number of polls that are out there. I hope the President takes to heart that 33-percent job approval rating that the New York Times reported on today. That is about as significant a message as could be sent to this administration. Only 33 percent of the American people approve of what this administration is doing.

This administration has normalized things that even 5 years ago would have shocked the conscience of your average Democrat. We talk about spending in trillions of dollars now—a