

Out of desperation, a few Governors along our southern border are now giving some Democrat-run States and cities just a tiny, tiny taste of what border communities have been enduring, literally, for years.

According to the Washington Post, the total number of individuals whom Texas and Arizona have helped relocate to New York, Washington, and other places in recent months is roughly on the order of the number of illegal immigrants who arrive at our southern border in a single day—1 day.

All those cities combined have had months to accept, between them, approximately 1 day's share of our Nation's illegal immigration.

But the Democratic mayor of New York City is now declaring that his government's resources are "at a breaking point"—at a breaking point.

According to the Post, these border States have sent to New York City less than 1 day's worth of illegal crossers, spread out over more than a month, and the self-proclaimed sanctuary city apparently cannot take it.

The Governor of Florida helped a tiny number of illegal immigrants, about four dozen, secure transportation to the wealthy liberal destination of Martha's Vineyard, filled with millionaires' mansions, which appointed itself a so-called sanctuary destination back in 2017.

Apparently, this sanctuary destination tolerated, fed, and housed the newcomers for less than 48 hours before having the National Guard promptly put them on a ferry and remove them to a military base instead.

Democrats, liberal activists, and the media are, predictably, melting down. There are absurd accusations flying around that it is somehow evil or illegal for Republican officials to help illegal immigrants move within our country. That would be breaking news because, of course, the Biden administration has been flying and busing illegal immigrants around the country on a regular basis.

According to one report from early 2021, the Biden administration was already filling Greyhound buses with people turning up at our border and driving them to various destinations from the South to the Midwest to the Northeast. Ah, but it was never to Martha's Vineyard.

So these well-to-do blue enclaves are finally witnessing the smallest fraction of the challenges that open borders have enforced on working-class communities all across our country.

INFLATION

Mr. President, now on another matter, Washington Democrats' runaway inflation has caused a nationwide crisis. It has put working families and small businesses in a bind from coast to coast.

Since President Biden took office, inflation has shot up a staggering 13.2 percent. For the average American household, this translates to hundreds and hundreds of extra dollars every

month, working overtime just to barely—barely—tread water.

In my home State of Kentucky, for example, the Democrats' inflation has forced proud, hard-working families to ask for help putting food on the table; in some cases, for the first time in their lives.

The director of the Jessamine County Food Pantry in Nicholasville says:

Our numbers here are going up like crazy. . . . We have problems actually getting food now. We're actually not giving away as much as we were just a couple months ago because I can't find it, and I can't afford it sometimes when I can find it.

And, of course, these challenges aren't limited to the Commonwealth.

In Clifton, CO, the director of one local food bank reports that she had served 1,000 more families in the first half of this year than in the first half of last year. Here is her quote:

They cannot short their rent bill, but they can short their grocery bill. And so they come here so I can fill the gap.

In coastal Georgia, the director of a network of food banks says distribution at her facilities had increased 38 percent from July to August. Meeting the increased demand has meant stomach-aching steep spikes in meat and dairy prices.

In Concord, NH, the director of the Friendly Kitchen says no one is ever turned away, but more and more people keep showing up for dinner.

I'm nervous it's going to get worse. I think it's going to get worse before it gets better.

Washington Democrats' inflation is absolutely hammering States like Colorado, Georgia, and New Hampshire. And Senate Republicans—we tried to stop it. We warned against inflation. We tried to block their \$2 trillion inflationary bill. We offered amendments. But all three of those States have two Senators who both voted in lockstep on party lines to ram through trillions—trillions—of dollars. One hundred percent of the U.S. Senators from those States voted to bring this on.

This is what happens when Washington Democrats put their own priorities ahead of our people.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

KIGALI AMENDMENT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, later today, the Senate will take the first step toward ratifying an amendment to one of the most successful international environmental agreements in modern history, the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.

Members can expect to cast the first vote on cloture later this afternoon

after the weekly party lunches. Today's vote will require 60 votes in the affirmative to move forward. And since the Kigali Amendment is part of a treaty, it will require two-thirds of the Chamber to ultimately ratify this provision.

The Kigali Amendment will be one of the most significant bipartisan measures the Senate takes on all year, and that is saying something, because we have done a lot.

It would affirm our country's intention to phase down the use of hydrofluorocarbons—commonly known as HFCs—by 85 percent over the next 15 years. Experts say this step alone could prevent half a degree Celsius of warming by the end of the 21st century. Is that incredible? Half a degree. We struggle to get there. This one measure will do it. That may not seem like much, but within the larger context of global temperature, it is really very significant.

There are two paths our country can take, depending on what we do with the Kigali Amendment. If we ratify this treaty, not only will we protect our planet, but this is an economic issue and an issue to go after China, which is a rogue nation in this regard. It will provide us a golden opportunity for American businesses to dominate in emerging business.

Every year, millions of refrigerators and AC units are sold around the world; and in the United States, many families own more than one refrigerator. That is a lot of appliances that will need HFC alternatives, which U.S. businesses, particularly, are working to prepare for. By one measure, the combined impact of ratifying the Kigali Amendment and other steps we have taken to reduce HFCs would create 150,000 new jobs and generate nearly \$39 billion in investment by 2027 as new markets open up for trade. So this, in many ways, is a pro-jobs measure, one supported by the Chamber of Commerce, by major retailers like Walmart, by the Semiconductor Industry Association, and many other business groups.

If we fail to ratify the amendment, the rest of the world is going to move on without us. Without Kigali, we are going to play second fiddle to nations like China, whose businesses will surpass ours in developing viable HFC alternatives, taking jobs that, by all rights, belong here in America. And by 2033, parties to Kigali will be prohibited—prohibited—from any trade in HFCs with non-Kigali nations. We will lose out tens of billions of dollars of sales.

There is no reason to have that happen. Ratifying Kigali will not require any change in the current U.S. law. We already have domestic policies phasing out HFCs here at home, so we are putting into practice many of the reforms the Kigali Amendment calls for, and no consumer will have to change any appliance.

So for the sake of U.S. businesses, for the sake of U.S. innovators, for the

sake of making sure China has to comply and be part of the world community and not do what they think is just good for themselves—which seems to be President Xi's way of doing things—I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of advancing the Kigali Amendment later today. It is low-hanging fruit for creating tens of thousands of good-paying jobs right here at home.

DISCLOSE ACT

Mr. President, now on the DISCLOSE Act. Later today, President Biden will deliver remarks on one of the gravest dangers undermining our democracy—the power of dark money that has taken over our elections.

I expect the President's remarks will preview action here in the Senate, where we will have a vote this week to begin debate on the DISCLOSE Act—a bill I long promised to bring to the floor. My colleagues, led by the indefatigable and relentless and brilliant Senator WHITEHOUSE, have done a wonderful job championing this issue for years.

The DISCLOSE Act is very simple to grasp: it would require super PACs and other dark money groups to report anyone contributing \$10,000 or more during an election cycle. The same goes for any group spending any money in support of or in opposition to judicial nominees. In other words, it would require similar forms of transparency that traditional campaigns and candidates already face. We have to disclose when accepting political contributions.

And, frankly, why shouldn't this be law? What reason under Heaven is there for keeping massive political contributions hidden from the public? Even the Republican leader, who has dedicated much of his career, unfortunately, to killing many campaign finance reforms, claimed in the past to support increased disclosure; though, sadly, he is opposed to our bill today for no good reason. If you are for disclosure, you should be for our bill, and these flimsy arguments that it will deter people from giving are absurd—absurd.

If a multimillionaire wants to spend colossal sums on candidates or nominees who are deeply anti-choice or who will support anti-democracy candidates or who will harbor views deeply in conflict with the views of the general public, shouldn't the public have at least the right to know it?

The rights of voters and the health of our democracy far outweigh any interest that a multibillionaire could have in concealing political spending from public scrutiny.

So, the DISCLOSE Act will give every Senator a choice: a vote to bring transparency to our elections or stand with the forces of dark money.

Let me say that again. The DISCLOSE Act will give every Senator a choice: vote to bring transparency to our elections, remove the veil from this dark money that the public hates that is cascading into our elections or

stand on the side of dark money. Who wants to be on that side? We will see this week.

I want to take a moment to thank my colleague, Senator WHITEHOUSE, for his incredible work in championing this legislation. He is arguably the Senate's greatest champion in the fight against dark money, someone who has dedicated years to uncovering the pernicious links between dark money groups and radical judicial nominees.

Do you want to know one of the main reasons we have a "MAGA" Court that overturns *Roe v. Wade*, that stands in the way of smart gun control laws and gun safety laws, that stands in the way of environmental progress? It is because of dark money, in good part—dark money.

SHELDON WHITEHOUSE has exposed this link better than anyone I know. He has gotten the rest of us to pay attention in a deeper way to the gravity of this issue. He will come to the floor later today and throughout the week to continue highlighting this issue. And I know others will be joining to stand by his side.

I thank him for his work. I thank the President for speaking about it this afternoon. And I stand with Senator WHITEHOUSE in highlighting this issue ahead of the vote, and I urge my colleagues to support the DISCLOSE Act.

NOMINATION OF FLORENCE Y. PAN

Mr. President, in other matters, today, the Senate will vote to confirm our sixth circuit court judge in the month of September—Judge Florence Pan—to sit on the all-important DC Circuit Court of Appeals. If confirmed, Judge Pan will make history as the first Taiwanese American ever to serve on the DC Circuit Court of Appeals, joining in the proud company of so many other Biden nominees who have expanded the diversity and experience of the Federal bench.

As we all know, the DC Circuit Court is the second-most important Federal court in the country after the Supreme Court. Before this court comes disputes that involve Congress and much of the Federal Government, so many of its decisions involve constitutional or administrative law. It goes without saying that nominees to this court must be individuals of the highest caliber. They need to be experienced, balanced, and above all, committed to the rule of law.

That is exactly what we have in Judge Pan. She has had over a decade of experience as a judge in the District of Columbia and has seen practically every legal dispute under the Sun. She is already well-known to this Chamber, having been confirmed as a district judge with 68 votes. She should be similarly confirmed with bipartisan support.

PUERTO RICO

Mr. President, last, but certainly not least: Puerto Rico. As our fellow Americans in Puerto Rico continue to feel the wrath of Hurricane Fiona, we continue to monitor the situation here in

Congress. Over the weekend, President Biden issued an emergency disaster declaration for Puerto Rico with 75 percent of the costs of emergency medical care, disaster response, and food distribution to be covered by the Federal Government.

Yesterday, I got on the phone with the FEMA Administrator and urged FEMA to approve Puerto Rico's request to increase that figure to 100 percent and to stand ready to approve a major disaster declaration request to unlock not just response money but funding needed to recover and rebuild. On the call were my colleagues Representatives VELÁZQUEZ and ESPAILLAT, and I echoed the calls from my colleagues to ensure maximum flexibility for those applying for FEMA assistance and to get Federal funding out of the door ASAP. Puerto Rico desperately needs it.

Later this morning, I will join with the Hispanic Federation and a number of my colleagues to talk about additional steps we are calling on the Federal Government to take, including steps to strengthen Puerto Rico's electric grid. The electric grid is almost 50 years out-of-date. It is particularly susceptible to hurricanes. It hasn't even been repaired since the damage Hurricane Maria, 5 years ago, put upon it. Yet, we have given lots of Federal money for the reestablishment or the rebuilding of the grid, and very little has happened. So we need to focus on that issue as well as others.

Five years to the day after the arrival of Maria, Puerto Rico needs help to recover from Fiona. We need to make sure, this time, Puerto Rico has absolutely everything it needs as soon as possible for as long as they need it. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT VIOLENCE AND THREATS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST THE EMPLOYEES OF THE FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION ARE UNACCEPTABLE AND SHOULD BE CONDEMNED

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to condemn the violence and threats of violence against the men and women of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

I take these threats seriously. This July 1, I chaired the Judiciary Committee hearing on law enforcement officer safety and the threats our law enforcement officers are facing. I have repeatedly made clear that violence against law enforcement is never—never—acceptable no matter what ideology motivates it, but here is the reality.

In the past month, following the FBI's execution of a search warrant at Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort, the FBI has faced a flood of threats against its employees and its facilities, and these threats have been egged on by the former President and his allies.