

The men and women of the Federal Bureau of Investigation literally put their lives on the line every day to keep all of us safe. They put themselves in harm's way to stop armed criminals, drug traffickers, terrorist organizations, and others who threaten our communities. They serve on the frontlines of the opioid epidemic and investigate and hold accountable those who traffic illegal opioids and who illegally prescribe pharmaceutical opioids. They investigate crimes against children and human trafficking—some of the most heinous crimes imaginable. They work day in and day out to combat international and domestic terrorism, and they carry out judicially issued search warrants every day. That is part of their job and an important role that they play in our justice system.

Unfortunately, ever since the August 8 Mar-a-Lago search, their dedication has been repaid with a flood of baseless attacks and violent threats. Attacking the FBI for his own political advantage is nothing new for the former President, but the attacks haven't stopped with him. His allies and followers have spewed anti-FBI vitriol online and across the airwaves. In recent weeks, there have been calls from Republican Members of Congress to "destroy" and "defund" the FBI. There have been calls from Republican congressional candidates to "gut" the FBI "like a fish" and "shoot FBI, IRS, ATF, and all other feds on sight." So it is no surprise that such outrageous and irresponsible rhetoric coincides with a stunning increase in violent threats against the FBI.

Last month, the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security issued a joint intelligence bulletin detailing an increase in violent threats and acts of violence against Federal law enforcement officials following the August 8 Mar-a-Lago search. These include threats to place a "dirty bomb" outside of the FBI headquarters and online calls for civil war and armed rebellion.

On August 11, a man wearing body armor—armed with an AR-15 assault rifle and a nail gun—attempted to breach the FBI's Cincinnati field office. On August 16, another man was indicted for threatening to murder everyone at the FBI, from Director Wray to the custodial staff. On August 25, a man jumped the fence at FBI's Chicago field office but, thankfully, was detained and taken to a local hospital for evaluation before he could hurt anyone.

In response to the joint intelligence bulletin and these incidents, I asked the FBI and the Department of Homeland Security to have a private briefing with Members of the Senate's Judiciary and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committees last week. That briefing only added to my concern.

I cannot share the specifics from this closed-door briefing, but I will say this: It should go without saying that the

men and women of the FBI risk their lives every day on our behalf, but the increase in threats to their personal safety since the August 8 Mar-a-Lago search warrant is shocking. Beyond the direct threats and violence, there are also rising concerns about the public spread of personal information about the FBI's employees and families—a practice known as doxing. I fear the situation may get worse.

Last Thursday, former President Trump kept up his threatening rhetoric against these law enforcement officers. He said that if he were indicted for his actions, "I think you'd have problems in this country the likes of which, perhaps, we've never seen before. I don't think the people of the United States would stand for it." That is exactly the kind of language President Trump used after he lost the 2020 election to incite the January 6 attack here at the Capitol.

As I have said many times, political violence and threats of violence in the furtherance of any cause—any cause—is unacceptable. It is time for the Senate to stand up and support the men and women of the Federal Bureau of Investigation who have been threatened and attacked for simply doing their jobs and working to protect America. Let's condemn these baseless attacks on the men and women of the FBI and the despicable political game they represent.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 775, submitted earlier today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 775) 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.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 775) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this resolution which just passed without objection from any Member of the Senate will be a reminder to the men and women who serve in law enforcement, particularly in the Federal Bureau of Investigation, that we stand behind them and that those who would exploit political events at the expense of the

safety of these men and women are beyond the pale of constitutional conduct. We want to stand behind those who are standing for us—to protect us and our families.

I thank the Senate for agreeing to this resolution. It is timely; it is important; and it is clear.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I listened to the Republican minority leader, Senator McCONNELL, speak on the floor this morning. I have to tell you, on the issue of immigration, there are several things which he said which are not accurate and that I would like to clarify for the RECORD.

First, this morning, Senator McCONNELL said:

Orderly, legal immigration is part of what makes America strong. Anarchy and open borders make us weak.

I don't know of any rational person who would disagree with that comment.

But I think, for the record, we should make clear that, 8 years ago, when we considered comprehensive immigration reform—a bipartisan bill—on the floor of the U.S. Senate, the Senator from Kentucky voted against it. There were 14 Republican Senators who voted for this measure. It passed the Senate. It was the product of a bipartisan Commission—a self-appointed committee, really—the so-called Gang of 8. I want to recount the names of those who were on that committee who produced a comprehensive immigration reform bill. I was on the committee with CHUCK SCHUMER, Senator BOB MENENDEZ, and the Senator from the Presiding Officer's home State of Colorado, Senator MICHAEL BENNET. On the Republican side, it was led by Senator John McCain, Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, Senator MARCO RUBIO, and then-Senator from Arizona Jeff Flake.

We worked for months. We put in all of the effort that was expected of us to address an issue which had not been addressed by Congress for 25 years, which was to try to upgrade our immigration system—to do what Senator McCONNELL says needs to be done: orderly, legal immigration. That was what the bill sought to achieve. There were 14 Republicans who joined us in voting for it. Senator McCONNELL did not, and we have not had another measure since then.

The bill we passed in the Senate was sent over to the Republican-controlled House of Representatives. They refused to even consider it in committee or on the floor or to bring it to a vote. We missed an opportunity, and it was an opportunity on many different levels. It would have finally addressed the issue of legal immigration in America, which is a critically important measure.

Throughout our history, without exception, year in and year out, legal immigrants have come to this country.

There have been some terrible laws passed by Congress in relation to those having been allowed in this country. The reality is we have acknowledged from the beginning of America as we know it that immigrants have been a part of our present and are a part of our future, and now we face the same reality again without the benefit of having an update in the laws, which the Republican leader voted against.

I recall specifically the work of Senator BENNET from Colorado. He did a remarkable thing, something that people didn't think was really possible. He managed to bring together all of the interest groups on the issue of legal immigration for those working in agriculture. He managed to find an agreement among all of these groups as to the humane and sensible treatment of these individuals. If that would have passed, it would have changed the circumstances we have today—circumstances wherein we do not have nearly enough legal immigrants to work in the agricultural sector of America. It is estimated that one out of two—50 percent—of all of the ag workers today are undocumented. We still eat the food that they pick and harvest, and we still take advantage of their hard work in the meat processing plants. Yet the reality is that we know, in our heart of hearts, that they are not being treated in a sensible, reasonable, humane way.

Senator BENNET, time and again, has shown leadership on this issue as he did with the Gang of 8. Once again, we find ourselves, because the bill failed in the previous Congress, without a guiding law on standards of immigration.

There were other things said by Senator McCONNELL this morning which I want to make reference to as well, particularly as to the busing of those currently in the United States, as new, legally recognized immigrants, to various cities around the United States.

Governors from the States of Texas, Arizona, and Florida have been busing those who have been crossing the border and who are legally recognized to stay here until further hearing to communities like New York, Washington, Chicago, and even to Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts. The thing that we have got to keep in mind is that these Governors do not call local officials first. They don't even contact the Governors of these States where they are sending these people. So they arrive, helter-skelter, in unpredictable numbers and conditions, and the local officials are expected to take care of them.

Listen to what Senator McCONNELL had to say in describing what I have just told you.

He said:

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.

What he is trying to say to us is this is an act of political spite. It is a politi-

cal stunt by these Governors. And what are they using to make their point? Innocent people—here legally in the United States—who are being shipped off, many times, with deception and promises that will never be kept in terms of opportunities for them in these various places.

Senator McCONNELL went on to say:

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

Immigrants—about four dozen—were given secure transportation, according to Senator McCONNELL, “to the wealthy, liberal destination of Martha's Vineyard, filled with millionaires' mansions”—so-called sanctuary destinations.

Do you see the point that is being made here? These people are being bused without any warning as to where they are going to end up—where their final destinations may be—simply to make the political point that the Democrats have to be reminded of the Republicans' position on immigration. We are doing this at the expense of many innocent people, and we are doing this in a dangerous fashion.

I will tell you that I visited the Salvation Army center in Chicago, IL, about 10 days ago, and I met with these families and individuals. Little children are involved in this calculation.

Why is it that whenever the Republicans want to make a point on immigration, it always ends up being the children who are the pawns, whether they are kids in cages or forcefully removing children from their parents or in this case, busing them off with their parents to communities they have never heard of? Why does it always involve families with small children? You would think there would be more sensitivity on the Republican side to that reality.

Then Senator McCONNELL made a statement which I want to correct. He said the Biden administration has been flying and busing illegal immigrants around the country on a regular basis. This is not true. We checked again this morning with the Biden administration. They are not exercising that right.

What we have going on are the transfers of those who are not in legal status back and forth between various facilities and the transfers of unaccompanied children, with escorts, to places like Chicago and other cities where, for decades, they have been cared for until their legal status is resolved. But this statement that the Biden administration is guilty of busing people back and forth is not true at all. I think the record should be clarified, and I hope the Senator from Kentucky will do so when he receives the first opportunity.

The Biden administration has said: We have the authority to do it, but we have not exercised it and will not unless we confer with Congress and also notify local officials as to whether anyone will be moved.

Now, there are circumstances and have been in the past that I know of personally on the border of Texas and Mexico where people had come and been released. They found they had credible fear. They asserted it. They have legal status, and they want to go to a specific location where they have friends and family. In those cases, there is help given to them to reach those destinations. But it is not the current situation where the Governors of Florida, Texas, and Arizona are deceiving these people onto these buses and sending them to places they have never heard of and not letting those who are in their destinations even know what it coming.

What is the right thing to do? The right thing to do is what we did 8 years ago: a bipartisan approach to fixing the immigration system. Instead of exploiting it for political purposes, let's fix it.

We have done that. We passed legislation on a bipartisan basis even in this evenly divided Senate. The CHIPS bill—this important semiconductor chip production bill—was a bipartisan bill. The infrastructure bill—the biggest highway program in the history of the United States since Dwight Eisenhower—was a bipartisan bill. The gun safety bill—a controversial issue, just as controversial as immigration—we passed that on a bipartisan basis. We can do it, but we have to stop exploiting these people who are here with children. We have to do it by stopping exploiting this issue and work together on a bipartisan basis, with give on both sides. That is how we can reach a bipartisan solution.

I am ready to do that. In the Senate Judiciary Committee, we would start as soon as we have Republicans of good will willing to sit down with Democrats and work together. But continuing to exploit these people and the children and these families is just plain wrong. It is not consistent with American values. It doesn't reflect well on our Nation.

I hope that the people who are inspired to do this—the Governors in Florida, Texas, and Arizona—will think twice about these kids and their families before they try it again.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote scheduled for 2:30 p.m. occur at 2:15 p.m.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). The Republican whip.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, last Friday, President Biden said the following during his speech:

And we have a process in place to manage migrants at the border. We're working to make sure it's safe and orderly and humane.

“[S]afe and orderly and humane.”