

According to the Royal United Services Institute, or RUSI, Ukraine needs approximately 500 Javelin missiles every single day. Well, Lockheed Martin only produces around 2,100 missiles a year. When the report was published in June, RUSI also estimated that Russia had used between 1,100 and 2,100 missiles during their invasion of Ukraine. That means “in three months of combat, Russia has burned through four times the US annual missile production” for those cruise missiles. These examples are important benchmarks.

You can do the math, and you can pretty quickly come up with future scenarios where demand starts to strain supply.

Another important factor is the People's Republic of China, which both the Biden administration and the Trump administration identified as America's pacing threat. China has spent the last two decades dramatically building up its military. According to the DOD's 2019 Missile Defense Review, “a key component of China's military modernization is its conventional ballistic missile arsenal designed to prevent [the] U.S. military access to support regional allies and partners.”

Since then, China's arsenal has only continued to rapidly grow—again, another important reference point that our Nation will have to navigate.

This should not be interpreted as fearmongering. I want to be clear that I have every confidence in our military's ability to defend this Nation and to defend our allies.

Army Assistant Secretary for Acquisitions, Logistics, and Technology Doug Bush recently told reporters, for example, that he was “not uncomfortable” with our stockpile levels. However, as Assistant Secretary Bush noted, the Army is “doggedly working with industry . . . to boost the production of certain weapon systems to keep Kyiv armed and the US well stocked.”

In August, the Wall Street Journal reported that “in the [United States], it takes 13 to 18 months from the time orders are placed for munitions to be manufactured, [and that is] according to an industry official. Replenishing stockpiles of more sophisticated weaponry such as missiles and drones can take much longer.”

The United States, our allies, and our partners need those munitions. The challenge is that years of underinvestment has reduced our production capacities and speed at which we can respond to that increased demand.

Clearly, there are significant benefits to expanding that capacity. Again, we have to be able to meet the changing threat environment and the rise of our near-peer competitors, like China. Congress, I believe, needs to take a few actions to address this challenge.

First, invest more in our munitions production capacity. Second, pass a clean national defense authorization act without delay.

I secured an amendment in this year's Senate NDAA to require the

Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to produce an annual report on our industrial base and the potential constraints for our munitions production. This type of reporting should help to further identify gaps in our production capacity so that we can further refine future investments. Overall, these actions would be an important step in the right direction.

We know that our adversaries will continue—continue—to threaten our global security. We know, as shown by Russia's horrific invasion of Ukraine—that our allies and partners will continue—they will continue—to need munitions. And we know the United States needs to be prepared for any scenario that threatens our national security.

The best response to those stark and immediate realities is to expand our ability to produce the things that we need to defend ourselves. If we do that, the greater our capacity is to project strength, react to any scenario, and better support allies and partners.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The Senator from Alabama.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, sometimes setting records is a good thing. Forty years being a college football coach in this country, you try to set records. But the records this current administration has been breaking aren't exactly worth celebrating.

For example, we are seeing record crime and record price increases. President Biden even threw a big party last week at the White House to celebrate record-high prices, the same day there were record market losses in the market.

But even those stats pale in comparison to the record-shattering crisis at our southern border, another thing that they declared victory on without attempting to solve the problem. We could solve it, but Democrats don't want to solve this problem.

I guess they would rather listen to James Taylor on the White House lawn, but the people of Alabama haven't forgotten what is going on at the southern border because we are seeing the same influx in our State.

Let's look back into the 2 years of recordbreaking that we have seen since the Biden border crisis began and the solutions that Democrats refuse to use to fix the problem.

When President Biden took office, he rolled back as many policies as possible that secured our southern border. This immediate reversal in security measures was something he had promised on the campaign trail, so we expected it. Migrants from around the world were prepared to take advantage of the new administration's soft-on-security approach at our border. Since then, the border crisis has set record after record.

In this fiscal year alone, we have surpassed 2 million apprehensions of illegal immigrants at our southern border for the first time ever in the history of our country. Last year, that number was over 1.7 million—showing the crisis at our border is accelerating, not slowing, under this administration.

This is after almost 2 years of the Vice President's work to address what they call the “root causes” of migration. It has been a disaster. Some will try to twist those numbers to use as proof that enforcement is working, but that is obviously a red herring.

The staggering—staggering—encounters and arrests only highlight that even more shocking number of illegal immigrants we never see—those who get away, what we call the got-aways. Those are whom we release into the United States and they never come back. The truth is, we will probably never, ever get a true number of those who have entered our country illegally. We are a country of immigrants—we like immigration—but come here legally.

But we do know that this surge was stretched, and the resources have been thin ever since the border has been open. We cannot follow up with the illegal immigrants we do encounter to properly screen them and begin immigration proceedings. You can't have proceedings on people whom you do not recognize and know where they have gone.

Almost one-third of illegal immigrants processed in the time immediately after Biden took office—one-third—have never returned for their check-in with officials, as called for by law; meaning, we have no idea where these people are, and they have no intention of coming back and checking in.

Meanwhile, Secretary Mayorkas has repeatedly told Congress—repeatedly—that the border is secure. While bureaucrats in DC may be sticking to that ridiculous spin, our own agents at the border know the truth.

The head of the Border Patrol has admitted advising his agents to release illegal immigrants into the country—who would typically be apprehended—because they do not have the resources to handle the influx of the people coming into the country. We just turn them loose. In fact, the Border Patrol Chief said he has never seen anything like this current situation in his 31 years of working for the Agency.

This position we are putting our law enforcement officials in is unacceptable, but this administration does nothing—does nothing—to stop anything that is happening. Instead, they just tell us the border is secure when our President has not even visited the border in his 19 months in office.

However, we know people aren't the only thing flooding across the borders and into our communities. Unthinkable amounts of deadly fentanyl and other drugs are being smuggled into this country every single day. Drug

cartels are more emboldened than ever to send as many deadly drugs as possible to the border because they know they can take advantage of the crisis that has been unfolding here for 2 years. Just in the past week, officers have seized \$211,000 worth of cocaine and \$2.3 million worth of meth coming across the Texas border—and 187 pounds of fentanyl pills hidden in a vehicle in one single bust in Arizona. To put that in perspective, that is enough fentanyl to kill more than 42 million people, nearly 10 times the population of my State of Alabama.

And that is what our Border Patrol agents have stopped. Imagine what has gone undetected through this new open-border policy. More than 71,000 Americans died so far this year of fentanyl overdoses—71,000. That is 195 people a day in this country who are dying because we refuse to stop the fentanyl from coming into our country.

And, along with that, the drug cartels are becoming more and more rich and more and more compelled to do exactly what they want to do. It is yet another problem Democrats refuse to discuss or address out of fear of backlash from the radical, open-bordered ideologues running this administration and its immigration policy. Somebody has got to control this. One day we will find out.

But Democrats are quick to call out the problem when it ends up on their front porch. Mayors in New York, Chicago, and right here in DC have cried foul and even declared an emergency when the border crisis was delivered here to this city and others. They have no problem ignoring, excusing, and misrepresenting the facts of the crisis when it is hitting small towns far away in Texas, Arizona, and their southern neighbors, but when those illegal immigrants streaming across the border become problems of theirs, they suddenly see an emergency. But whom do they blame? Obviously, it is the Republicans, not the leader of their party.

President Biden has created this mess. They blame local and State leaders who are drowning in a humanitarian crisis that the Democrats are making every day and refusing to stop. Even as news reports how his own DHS planned to ship illegal immigrants to sanctuary cities across the country, President Biden condemns Republican leaders for doing the same. It is hypocrisy at its highest degree.

What is worse is their refusal to fix the problem, even though they are well aware of the steps that could be taken to secure the border. First and foremost, finish the wall that they have stopped building. Although the wall itself will not solve everything, it could certainly help address the number of people who get away—a number averaging 1,000 per week in some locations.

Secondly, fully reinstate the wildly successful migrant protection protocols which require individuals awaiting asylum proceedings to wait in Mexico—

not come over into the United States and wait; wait in Mexico, and let's go through your process. If people know they will not be allowed into the United States, they will not make the journey to our border knowing that they will have to wait. As of last week, we had accepted into this country people from 180 different countries. That is a long travel if you know that you may not get in.

And, lastly, Democrats could do a much better job of supporting law enforcement to address human smuggling and trafficking efforts at the border. As long as the border is wide open, cartels will take advantage of the situation. They are making billions of dollars a year by moving people and drugs into the United States, and it is getting worse every day.

Americans are dying. Cities are being overrun. Criminals are getting rich. Those are the consequences of President Biden's border crisis. Those are the problems that our Democratic colleagues have to fix.

While President Biden and Democrats celebrate the White House with celebrities, Americans are suffering because of these failures—most notably, their inability and unwillingness to keep our country safe.

So here is to the Democrats' record-breaking year: record inflation, record crime, record drugs, record-shattering illegal immigration. We can only hope they run out of things to celebrate in the very near future.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, we have a 50–50 Senate, with 50 Republicans and 50 Democrats. Vice President HARRIS provides the Democrats with our majority. The House of Representatives has a very slim Democratic majority: currently, 221 to 212, with 2 vacancies.

When the 117th Congress began, I think most Americans were doubtful that we would be able to pass legislation to help them, their families, their communities, and our Nation. I am happy to report that, despite the odds, the 117th Congress has been a historically productive Congress. This is not a statement I make lightly, nor did I predict this many legislative accomplishments when we began the 117th Congress in January of 2021.

I knew America's doubts, but I also shared their fervent hope that Congress would somehow find a way to beat the odds. And we have, sending numerous major bills to President Biden to be signed into law. Some of our accomplishments have been genuinely bipartisan, especially the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the so-called CHIPS and Science bill. That is gratifying because I believe that Congress, especially the Senate, is at its best when it works in a bipartisan fashion.

Some of our accomplishments have been solely Democratic victories; notably, the American Rescue Plan and the Inflation Reduction Act. I regret that we were unable to convince our Republican colleagues to join us on those bills because they advanced public policies and enjoyed broad bipartisan support among the American people. Democrats will always reach across the aisle to pass legislation that enhances our national and economic security, but we are prepared to work alone, if necessary.

Our most recent accomplishment is the Inflation Reduction Act. The Senate passed this legislation just before the August recess on a party-line vote. That legislation will make it easier for American families to afford health insurance and help seniors with prescription drug costs. Extending the Affordable Care Act enhanced health insurance premium subsidies through 2025—just this one provision of this bill—and will save medium-income Marylander families about \$2,200 annually.

For tens of thousands of Marylanders on Medicare who use insulin, the Inflation Reduction Act caps their insulin costs at \$35 per month. We tried to extend that cap to Americans with private insurance. Our Republican colleagues blocked this effort, but Democrats will continue working to make that a reality.

For the more than 1 million Marylanders and all other Americans covered by Medicare, the Secretary of Health and Human Services finally will have the authority to negotiate lower drug prices for the Medicare Program. This will help ensure that Medicare patients get the best deal possible on high-priced drugs, saving taxpayers approximately \$100 billion.

The healthcare provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act are significant, but they are only part of the bill. The legislation makes a historic investment to shift our economy from fossil fuels to clean energy. This will help us cut our carbon emissions 40 percent by 2030. The Inflation Reduction Act will lower electricity costs and emissions and will create up to 9 million good-paying jobs here in America in the growing clean energy sector.

I authored a provision in the legislation to provide production tax credits to our existing fleet of nuclear powerplants. They produce 20 percent of the Nation's electricity and over 50 percent of its carbon-free electricity.

A new analysis estimates that this legislation will lower the average household electricity bill by approximately \$170 to \$220 annually over the next decade. Maryland homeowners will be eligible for tax credits for residential solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass fuel improvements now through 2034. They also will be eligible for a larger tax credit for energy efficiency home improvements through 2032, as well as tax credits for the purchase of new and used clean energy vehicles, including electric vehicles.