

the attention paid on the issue of immigration and our borders, it is hard to imagine how a Congress can be critical of the fact that the situation has deteriorated and not take action for 35 years. That is shameful.

Our failure to act on immigration hurts everyone, from hospitals in my State of Illinois struggling to find doctors and nurses, to asylum seekers fleeing violence and oppression.

There is one group of people in particular who have been left behind—Dreamers, these young people who are American in every way except for the paperwork. We all know Dreamers who have made a difference in our States.

They are young people who were brought to the United States by their parents, grew up here, thought they had a future here, but find they are undocumented. Many of them were brought here as babies, and they grew up alongside our own kids and pledged allegiance to the same American flag in their classrooms every morning.

A few weeks ago, I had a chance to welcome some of these Dreamers to Washington. As always, I was amazed by these young people, and above all, I was amazed by their passion to give back to the only home they have ever known—the United States of America.

One of these—and I want to show you a photo—is Eddie Rivera. He is a freshman at Dominican University in my home State of Illinois. He is studying to become a nurse.

Over the years, I have come to the floor of the Senate to tell the stories of people just like Eddie to show what is at stake when we consider the Dream Act. Eddie's story is the 131st Dreamer story I have told on the Senate floor.

You see, Eddie's family is originally from Honduras, and back there, his mother was an attorney. Now, while you think that is a stable profession, in Honduras, it was actually a liability. She received death threats because of her work, and it was out of fear for her young son's life that she sought refuge in America.

Eddie's family moved a lot when he was growing up. They struggled to get by, but they came to rely on one another for support. When his grandmother was diagnosed with dementia, Eddie and his mom became her full-time caregivers. He would sit by his grandmother's side day by day, feeding her, praying for her, holding her hand.

Sadly, his grandmother passed away in December 2019. But it was this personal life experience caring for his grandmother that inspired Eddie to pursue a career in medicine and nursing. So when the COVID pandemic hit in 2020, he answered the call for duty. He was hired to assist the nursing staff in a COVID unit of a hospital in North Carolina. In this role, he tried to provide the same loving care to his patients that he once provided to his grandmother.

In the future, it is Eddie's hope that he can obtain his nursing degree and work at a retirement home, one where

people can "spend the rest of their lives living with dignity in a loving community who will respect them and appreciate them for all of the contributions they have made to society."

So ask yourself a very basic question, which every Senator should ask: Would America be better if Eddie Rivera were deported to Honduras, a country he barely remembers, or would our Nation be better to have Eddie here among our ranks—the ranks of healthcare professionals who make such a difference in their lives?

What about the more than 200,000 DACA recipients who also work on the frontlines of the pandemic—doctors, nurse, paramedics? Would we truly be better without them? Of course not. We need Dreamers like Eddie, and we need to act on their behalf this month.

In October, the Fifth Circuit returned a case to the lower court to determine whether DACA, which has protected 800,000 Dreamers since 2012, will remain the law of the land. So unless Congress acts in the next few days to protect DACA recipients, this program could end even as soon as next year.

What does that mean for those 800,000 currently protected by DACA? Two things: They are subject to deportation at any moment, and they no longer have the legal right to work in the hospitals and clinics and businesses across America. If that happens, an average of 1,000 DACA recipients would lose their jobs each week in healthcare, education, and other sectors of our economy where we expect serious shortages.

Look, I am under no illusions about what it takes to pass an immigration package in a matter of 2 weeks or a few days. I know many of our Republican colleagues have their own priorities, and I am willing to sit down and make sensible compromises to bring order to our border. But we need to move, we need to act, because, as I mentioned, this could be the last chance in a long time.

The incoming Republican House majority has already declared that they will not allow a vote on any immigration measure during the next Congress. It will be the same dynamic we saw in 2013 when we passed an immigration bill here in the Senate, only to see it die in the House. Let's not repeat the same mistake.

To my Republican colleagues, I say this: If you care about improving border security or helping address worker shortages, this is our last chance to do it. Let's give every Dreamer in this country the peace of mind they deserve heading into the holiday season, and let's prove to the American people that we are capable of making tough decisions when the situation demands it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority whip.

ESG REGULATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, when it comes to the actions of a party or a Presidential administration, legisla-

tion sometimes grabs the lion's share of the attention. But it is equally important to pay attention to what a Presidential administration does with its regulatory power, and the Biden administration has been characterized by a lot of deeply troubling regulations.

The so-called Inflation Reduction Act may be Democrats' most prominent Green New Deal effort, but the Biden administration's radical environmental agenda doesn't stop there. The President has also been using regulations to push through Democrats' Green New Deal fantasies, and these ill-considered, overreaching regulations could have serious consequences.

Later today, I will be sending a letter to the President about the attempts to use financial and securities regulators, like the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Reserve, to push through environmental, social, and governance—or what are referred to as ESG—regulations that seek to choke off investment to essential industries like oil and natural gas and American farms and ranches. Notable among these is the Securities and Exchange Commission's proposed climate disclosure rule, which would require publicly traded companies to disclose information not only about their own emissions but also about the greenhouse gas emissions of their suppliers and even their customers. It would also require companies to determine the effects of climate-related risks on each line item of their consolidated financial statements.

Well, to start off with, this rule is obviously unworkable. Companies have zero control over the emissions of their suppliers and customers and little to no ability to accurately gauge those emissions. But the most serious aspect of this proposed rule is the fact that it represents a clear effort to coerce companies to sever ties with certain industries—notably, of course, the conventional energy industry, but also with other industries like agriculture.

It is hardly the only regulatory action of its kind proposed by the Biden administration. The Department of Labor just finalized a rule that would in practice require pension fiduciaries to consider climate change and ESG factors when making investment decisions, irrespective of their pecuniary relevance.

The Federal Reserve, which I believe has zero business inserting itself into debates over climate policy, recently established a pilot program to analyze climate-related financial risks for the Nation's largest banks, something that clearly—clearly—exceeds the Fed's statutory authority.

Similarly, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Fed have issued draft principles for large banks on "climate-related financial risk management."

And the list goes on.

Private companies, of course, have the right to consider whatever factors

they want when determining what companies they do business with and where they will invest, but the Federal Government should not be making those decisions for them.

The President and his cronies and the far-left environmental movement may like the idea of choking off investment to the fossil fuel industry and other industries to hasten the arrival of their fantasy Green New Deal future, but reducing and limiting investment in conventional energy and other essential industries is likely to create a nightmare for American families and American businesses.

I am, and have long been, a strong supporter of alternative energy, but the fact of the matter is, we are still a long way from being able to rely exclusively on alternative energy. The technology that would enable us to rely solely on green energy simply doesn't exist yet, and pretending that we can rely exclusively on alternative energy isn't going to change the reality, which is that we still need oil and natural gas and will continue to need them for the foreseeable future.

Choking off investment to the conventional energy industry isn't going to bring about the Green New Deal future, but it is going to reduce essential energy supplies, and that, in turn, is going to increase energy prices. It is going to increase energy prices for American families, and it is going to increase energy prices for American businesses.

If Democrats succeed in reducing investment in oil and natural gas, we could be looking at a very serious reduction in our supply of conventional energy and correspondingly serious price hikes.

There is reason to be concerned that Democrats aren't just interested in choking off investment in oil and natural gas but in agriculture, as well, because of natural livestock emissions and farming inputs like fertilizer. The National Credit Union Administration published a since-rescinded strategic plan that seemed to recommend that credit unions reduce their membership and loan offerings to farming communities. And South Dakota banks and credit unions have repeatedly—repeatedly—expressed their concerns to my office that the President's far-reaching ESG agenda could ultimately damage their ability to extend capital to their farm and ranch customers.

Should investment in agriculture also drop off, we could be looking not only at higher energy prices but at higher food prices as well and possibly actual food supply issues. Between higher energy prices and higher food prices, the kind of financial hardship that Americans have been experiencing during our current inflation crisis could become a fixture for the long term.

Democrats like to think of themselves as the party of the little guy, but the truth is, they have become the party of extreme special interests, and

the little guy often ends up getting sacrificed as a result. Since President Biden and Democrats took office 2 years ago, ordinary Americans have faced almost nonstop financial challenges thanks to the inflation crisis that Democrats helped to create with their massive American Rescue Plan spending bill. If the President's ESG agenda continues unchecked, that diminished prosperity could last indefinitely.

In the letter that I am sending to the President later today, I am urging his administration to consider the real-world effects of rules and regulations on ordinary families and American businesses, and to refrain from regulatory actions that would drive up prices even further. I hope that the President will listen, but if past is prologue, then I am worried that we are looking at 2 more years of extreme Democratic policies and 2 more years of economic suffering for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

TWITTER AND THE 2020 ELECTION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Last Friday, Elon Musk released documents and very good information relating to Twitter's interference in the 2020 Presidential election by censoring the New York Post Hunter Biden reporting. Just yesterday, Musk reportedly fired Twitter's general counsel, Jim Baker, for his involvement in the censorship scandal. Baker, you might remember, was general counsel at the FBI and was involved in the Crossfire Hurricane investigation.

You can't make up these stories.

Musk also released information that showed that the Biden campaign was involved in the censorship efforts. The information shows that Twitter employees knew—actually knew—that they had no legitimate basis to censor the Hunter Biden reporting but proceeded to do it anyway. Twitter also removed links and blocked the reporting from being shared by direct messaging on its platform. Folks that fought the good fight against Twitter's extraordinary censorship were also locked out of their accounts.

These documents that Musk made public made very clear that Twitter was effectively an arm of the Democratic Party and the Biden campaign. Twitter essentially gave the Biden campaign a massive in-kind campaign contribution.

What Twitter and other big tech companies did in 2020 with respect to censorship was as much an outrage then as it is today. Simply put, what they did is expected of communist China, not the United States of America.

Reports also indicate that the FBI warned Twitter during weekly meetings before the 2020 election that hack-and-leak operations involving Hunter Biden material were likely to occur in October of 2020. Well, the FBI had the

Hunter Biden laptop since December of 2019, almost a year before the election.

Information on it has been verified by liberal news outlets. It took a long time for those liberal news outlets to admit that this wasn't Russian disinformation.

So, then, I ask this question: Did the FBI do the same or did they fail to do their due diligence?

I find the FBI's action in advance of the 2020 election to be more than suspicious. It is too bad that just now, 2 years later, we get this information from a person that bought Twitter and wants the public to know what actually went on.

Now, some of you remember that Senator JOHNSON and I released our first report on the Biden family connections to communist China on September 23, 6 weeks before the 2020 election. And you know, if you remember, at that time it was swept up into the Hunter Biden censorship fiasco not long after. So, too, was our second report, which we released on November 18, 2020.

But we were more than just censored. Before we even made the first report public, the liberal media and even some of our Democratic colleagues tried to smear us with false claims that our work was connected to you know what—Russian disinformation. My Senate colleagues went into full Joe Biden protection mode.

So here we have four elements to this fact pattern that ought to shake up every Member of the U.S. Senate and shake them up to their very core. No. 1, the FBI got their hands on Twitter via these weekly briefings—the weekly briefings that I have already expressed existed—and planted seeds regarding future hacked material relating to Hunter Biden. No. 2, the FBI improperly labeled information it possessed on Hunter Biden as you know what—disinformation. No. 3, the FBI provided an unnecessary August 2020 briefing to me and Senator JOHNSON that was used by some Democrats and by the liberal media to try to undermine our investigation that started well before the 2020 election. No. 4, the liberal media repeatedly and falsely labeled my and Senator JOHNSON's investigation as you know what—Russia disinformation.

Now, all of that happened in the runup to the 2020 Presidential election.

In the long run, these false allegations and bad faith efforts against me and Senator JOHNSON didn't work, as everybody knows now but didn't know at the time.

For example, in this Congress, Senator JOHNSON and I gave floor speeches on these dates in 2022: March 28, March 29, and April 5. Through those speeches, we introduced bank records connecting Hunter and James Biden to the Chinese communist regime. We sent hundreds of pages of bank records to U.S. Attorney Weiss on October 26 of this year, showing those very same connections—the same connections that Johnson and