

two months of its launch, Showoff Cosmetics was displayed on a billboard in New York City's Time Square in December 2021.

Andrea is also owner of Talented Touches by Andrea, where she does event planning/design, cake decorating, sweet treats, gift wrapping and baskets. With over 19 years of experience, Talented Touches by Andrea has provided services for numerous clients, including The Recording Academy (Grammys) and Bravo TV's *The Real Housewives of Atlanta*. Andrea has served as a volunteer at the 57th Presidential Inauguration of President Barack Obama, worked on the event teams at the 2012 National Democratic Convention and the 2016 Democratic Presidential Debate.

Andrea realized her passion for community service in 2012 after starting an annual holiday tradition of adopting families and/or nursing homes in her hometown of Grenada, along with the women in her family, The LoveLee Ladies. In 2014, she became the co-coordinator of a group of female volunteers on Capitol Hill who planned, prepared, and served monthly dinners at a local women's shelter in Washington, D.C. Andrea is a firm believer that "God blesses us so that we can bless others." Therefore, she uses her leadership skills and creative abilities to give back to the community. Andrea is a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Andrea S. Lee for her dedication and tenacity to serving her community and desire to be an example for all.

H.R. 2, THE SECURE THE BORDER
ACT OF 2023

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to reassert my opposition to H.R. 2—the Secure the Border Act of 2023.

I along with my colleagues have attempted to address many of the ills these bills purport by offering common sense amendments that Republicans have continued to refuse any meaningful consideration.

I would like to highlight some of my amendments that were offered in both the Judiciary Committee Markup and the Homeland Security Committee Markup for H.R. 2.

In addressing H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act of 2023, we need the American people to understand that this is an unfortunate patchwork of extreme anti-immigrant proposals that would only add to more chaos at the border.

It includes a variety of illogical measures that would shut down the U.S. asylum system and target families and children for the cruelest forms of treatment.

One measure would make overstaying a visa a crime—for the first time in our history.

I offered amendments to H.R. 2 along with many of my Democratic colleagues both during Homeland Security Committee markup and for consideration by the House Rules Committee for inclusion for consideration during this bill—but all Democratic amendments were rejected by the Republican majority.

As a senior member of the House Committees on Homeland Security and Judiciary, I have a well-established public record for work-

ing to address our nation's most pressing immigration issues through sound government policies.

Immigration is not a criminal matter but categorized as a civil claim because seeking to travel, requesting refugee status, or attempting to make a better life in another country should not result in criminal prosecution.

There are nations who do seek to punish U.S. citizens who are traveling abroad through criminal prosecution with tragic consequences.

I have worked on the issue of unlawfully detained U.S. citizens who are held in other countries for a host of reasons that come down to the politics of a country and not due to a defensible immigration policy.

The conduct of the previous Administration in the forced separation of families I offered what would have added a mens rea requirement such that to be criminally liable, a person must knowingly and willingly overstay their visa.

It is important to remember that an individual can make an honest mistake about when they need to depart the country, be physically incapable of departing the country, or unable to return because of circumstances beyond their control in their home country.

Yet this bill has no exceptions or flexibility when it comes to overstaying a nonimmigrant visa. It is also important to remember that if a person overstays their visa, they are already subject to removal. The addition of a criminal penalty is both cruel and unnecessary.

Our immigration system needs reforms, and we are absolutely interested in bold new ideas to fix it, but this is not one of them.

My first amendment for H.R. 2 was offered to require U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to provide Congress with a plan for implementing—within one year—the use of body-worn cameras by its agents and officers who are engaged in border security or immigration enforcement activities. Any implementation of a plan for body-worn cameras would require additional Congressional Action.

Both CBP and ICE have already begun deploying body-worn cameras to their frontline officers and agents to provide greater transparency into interactions with the public.

In the event there are allegations of excessive force or other misconduct by an officer or agent, footage from body-worn cameras can enhance the agencies' ability to investigate.

Several studies on the effectiveness of body-worn cameras have found that police officers wearing cameras generate significantly fewer complaints and "use of force" reports relative to officers without cameras.

And savings from reduced complaints against officers, and the reduced time required to resolve such complaints, can result in substantial cost savings.

It is troubling that the underlying bill seems to seek cost savings at the expense of ensuring orderly and fair processing of asylum seekers; it would make more sense to save money by investigating complaints more quickly and preventing misconduct in the first place.

My second amendment for H.R. 2 was offered to clarify that the official policy of the United States as implemented by the agencies of the Department of Homeland Security shall be to keep families together and not remove children from parents or responsible adults unless the safety or welfare of the child is at risk.

The official policy of the Trump Administration was to separate children from their par-

ents. No child—no matter where they are born—should be separated from their family, particularly after surviving the harrowing journey to the U.S. border.

My amendment was offered to stand firm in our principles that should bar CBP from separating children from their families unless there is evidence that the child is being trafficked. It further directs the DHS, in coordination with the State Department and HHS and the Attorney General to provide quarterly reports to Congress on the status of efforts to reunify migrant families and prevent future family separations.

Never again should we allow families to be ripped apart.

These are common-sense amendments that have been repeatedly disregarded by my colleagues across the aisle who have instead chosen to put forward legislative attacks on our most vulnerable populations.

It is time we stop the negativity and counterproductive efforts that are ripping apart our country, and to instead focus on coming together to work towards sensible and effective solutions that can work for the betterment and growth of our country.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on this wrong minded legislation.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the *Extensions of Remarks* section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 11, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 16

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Defense

To hold closed hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2024 for hypersonic threats, missile defense, and the protection of the U.S. homeland.

SVC-217

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the failures of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank.

SD-G50

- Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2024 for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. SR-253
- Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine House Republican supplemental IRS funding cuts, focusing on the impact on Federal law enforcement and the Federal deficit. SD-215
- Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine U.S. policy towards Russia. SD-419
- Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
To hold hearings to examine artificial intelligence in government. SD-562
- Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Privacy, Technology, and the Law
To hold an oversight hearing to examine A.I., focusing on rules for artificial intelligence. SD-226
- 10:15 a.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2024 for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. SD-406
- 2 p.m.
Committee on Appropriations
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2024, focusing on investing in U.S. security, competitiveness, and the path ahead for the U.S. China relationship. SD-106
- Committee on Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Ana A. Escrogima, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman, Lisa A. Johnson, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Lebanese Republic, Ervin Jose Massinga, of Washington, to be Ambassador to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, Bryan David Hunt, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Sierra Leone, and William W. Popp, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Uganda, all of the Department of State, and other pending nominations. SD-419
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Transportation and Infrastructure
To hold hearings to examine perspectives on new and existing US Army Corps of Engineers authorities to respond to water management issues including drought and water conservation. SD-406
- 3 p.m.
Committee on Finance
Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness
To hold hearings to examine economic cooperation for a stronger and more resilient Western Hemisphere. SD-215
- 3:30 p.m.
Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine the impacts of debt ceiling brinkmanship and default on America's small businesses. SR-428A
- MAY 17
- 9:30 a.m.
Committee on Armed Services
Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities
To hold hearings to examine the role of Special Operations Forces in supporting the National Defense Strategy, including activities that contribute to long-term strategic competition with China and Russia. SR-222
- 10 a.m.
Committee on the Budget
To hold hearings to examine how tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations drive the national debt. SD-608
- Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Subcommittee on Primary Health and Retirement Security
To hold hearings to examine a crisis in mental health and substance use disorder care, focusing on closing gaps in access by bringing care and prevention to communities. SD-430
- Committee on the Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations. SD-226
- 10:15 a.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
To hold hearings to examine Federal actions to improve project reviews for a cleaner and stronger economy. SD-406
- 10:30 a.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Business meeting to consider S. 285, to provide for the perpetuation, administration, and funding of Federal Executive Boards, S. 311, to correct the inequitable denial of enhanced retirement and annuity benefits to certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers, S. 1137, to establish the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Program, S. 931, to improve the visibility, accountability, and oversight of agency software asset management practices, S. 885, to establish a Civilian Cybersecurity Reserve in the Department of Homeland Security as a pilot project to address the cybersecurity needs of the United States with respect to national security, S. 1425, to require a report on Federal support to the cybersecurity of commercial satellite systems, S. 1464, to restrict the flow of illicit drugs into the United States, S. 1443, to require an inter-agency strategy for creating a unified posture on counter-unmanned aircraft systems (C-UAS) capabilities and protections at international borders of the United States, S. 473, to provide for drone security, an original bill entitled, "Expanding Whistleblower Protections for Contractors Act", an original bill entitled, "Disaster Assistance Simplification Act", an original bill entitled, "Congressional Budget Office Data Access Act", an original bill entitled, "Artificial Intelligence Leadership Training Act", an original bill entitled, "GAO Inspector General Parity Act", and an original bill entitled, "Rural Hospital Cybersecurity Enhancement Act". SR-562
- 2 p.m.
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
To hold hearings to examine health care denials and delays in medicare advantage. SD-562
- Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Federal Courts, Oversight, Agency Action, and Federal Rights
To hold hearings to examine Federal judicial ethics processes at the Judicial Conference of the United States. SD-226
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Subcommittee on Economic Policy
To hold hearings to examine strengthening accountability at the Federal Reserve, focusing on lessons and opportunities for reform. SD-538
- Committee on Finance
Subcommittee on Health Care
To hold hearings to examine improving health care access in rural communities, focusing on obstacles and opportunities. SD-215
- Joint Economic Committee
To hold hearings to examine how a U.S. default crisis harms American families and businesses. SH-216
- 3 p.m.
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry
Subcommittee on Rural Development and Energy
To hold hearings to examine rural broadband, focusing on connecting our communities to the digital economy. SR-328A
- Committee on Veterans' Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2024 and 2025 advance appropriations requests for the Department of Veterans Affairs. SR-418
- MAY 18
- 10:15 a.m.
Committee on Finance
To hold hearings to examine tax incentives in the Inflation Reduction Act, focusing on jobs and investment in energy communities. SD-215
- MAY 31
- 2:30 p.m.
Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Fisheries, Water, and Wildlife
To hold hearings to examine water affordability and small system assistance. SD-406