

given employment authorization documents.

The exceptions swallow the rule by outlining broad exceptions that can't be objectively evaluated and are easily gamed. If they can't be gamed, they will be gamed.

The Biden administration has provided the cartels with a road map or a playbook. The administration is saying: Instruct migrants to use one of these excuses. Coach them to use one of these excuses, and they will be eligible for asylum, and they will be released into the interior of the United States.

Migrants can make the dangerous journey to the border, show up at a port of entry without an appointment, say the magic words, and still be paroled into the United States.

As the administration has made clear, it plans to "expeditiously process" migrants who arrive at the southwest border. With title 42 set to expire and 100,000 immigrants gathering across the border, this is President Biden's plan. It is called expedited catch-and-release.

The circumvention of lawful pathways rule is dangerous and unconstitutional. I am in the process of introducing a Congressional Review Act resolution to disapprove of it. This rule would rapidly increase the number of migrants being paroled in the United States while doing nothing—zero—to deter migrants with weak asylum claims.

Immigration groups on the left and the right, interestingly, oppose this rule. Some of our colleagues in the Democratic caucus have expressed that they are deeply disappointed with the administration and that it has chosen to move forward in publishing this proposed rule. That is from a Democratic Member of the Senate.

I urge Senator SCHUMER, the majority leader, who sets the schedule around here, to allow us to vote on my resolution as soon as possible.

The White House has claimed that this is the only option available to address a looming catastrophe, but that is false too. In the nineties, President Clinton signed a law establishing something called expedited removal. In short, it allows Border Patrol to detain and quickly remove people who cannot prove their legal requirement in order to stay. Expedited removals have been utilized by Republicans and Democrats over the years. It is a part of that powerful deterrent that we need to reestablish.

So those who have no legitimate claim to legal status will make that dangerous journey, having paid thousands of dollars to a coyote or cartel to get here. If a person is likely to be removed from the United States within a few days of crossing, fewer and fewer of them will even attempt to make the dangerous journey in the first place.

That is the power of expedited removal. It sends a clear message that America's immigration laws will be en-

forced, something that has not happened during President Biden's watch.

President Biden has the authority today to conduct expedited removals. He has had that authority since day one but refuses to fully utilize it.

I have heard the Press Secretary for the President say: Well, it is up to Congress to deal with this.

Well, Congress has already dealt with this, and President Clinton signed it into law.

It is because President Biden has unilaterally surrendered to the cartels that continue to make billions of dollars and whose poison kills tens of thousands of Americans each year because it continues to flow across the border. President Biden has the tools he needs today. So don't believe this: Well, it is their fault.

It is the blame game, which is an Olympic sport here in Washington, DC—trying to blame somebody else, denying personal responsibility.

But this one sits at the feet of the President of the United States. Rather than stand up new facilities or hire more personnel to make the expedited removal process function, the Biden administration has, instead, chosen to release people into the interior of the country at an unprecedented pace.

Where the expedited removal serves as a deterrent, President Biden's wide-scale catch-and-release is a magnet. People are being released to wait immigration court dates that are years down the road—if they show up, and many of them won't. Some migrants aren't scheduled to appear before an immigration judge until 2032—9 years from now. Believe me, when that happens, word travels fast, and more people are sure to follow suit. Why wouldn't they?

President Biden has effectively said: Keep coming. We are going to wave you on through the turnstile at the border, maybe never to be heard from again and never to appear in front of an immigration judge. How unfair is it to those who do have legitimate claims to have to wait in line for 9 or 10 years with the vast majority of people who we know will not qualify?

Well, this is what we have seen since President Biden took office and decided to undo everything the previous President had done. And the pace is going to do nothing but accelerate once title 42 goes away at midnight tonight.

This administration needs to get serious about expedited removals, about using the tools that are already available. It needs to make sure that those with invalid claims are quickly removed from the United States and, yes, people with valid claims need to be welcomed for following the lawful process.

That is what I mean when I say we need a legal, humane, and orderly immigration system. Legal immigration has been one of the greatest things our country has ever embraced. Virtually all of us, or at least our ancestors, came from somewhere else. And we

have always tended to attract people who are leaving dire circumstances—perhaps economic, perhaps otherwise—in their home country, who want to come to the United States to pursue their dreams.

I believe that is the secret sauce that has made our country what it is today—the powerhouse that it is today, economically and otherwise. But it is lawful immigration. It is orderly immigration. It is humane immigration. It is not the chaos and the criminality that we see at the border today.

Sometimes I ask myself: How bad does this have to get before the politicians in Washington, DC, wake up and decide to do something?

I hope we are at that point. I hope it doesn't have to get worse because it can get worse if we simply do nothing.

But the first step is for the President to use the tools available to him already signed into law. In order to do that, they need to increase detention space so frontline personnel will have the capacity to actually carry out these expedited removals.

The Biden administration also needs to stop waving or paroling people into the country to wait for an appointment with immigration and customs enforcement that is years in the future. Again, that is for the ones that show up.

These are just a few of the ways that the President can deal with this crisis today. Those options have been available since the day he took office. He just refuses to use them and tries to shift the blame to others.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

DEBT CEILING

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, the most consequential question now before Congress—the one that most impacts the most people we all represent—is whether the United States of America will do what it has always done: pay its bills in full and on time.

It was Alexander Hamilton who established the precedent that has become an enduring principle: America pays its bills.

But in order to preserve that principle, Congress must raise the debt limit. It is important to remind ourselves that raising the debt ceiling does not allow any additional spending, nor does it include new obligations for our taxpayers. It allows Congress to continue to pay for the spending that has already been approved by this and prior Congresses.

The debt ceiling is an anomaly in the United States. Other countries recognize the obvious. When a legislative body approves spending—whether it is for the defense of the nation, the healthcare of its citizens, the support for its farmers—it is then that the legislative body incurs the obligation. It is really no different than when a family takes out a mortgage or a car loan. When that bill becomes due each month, you pay the mortgage and you pay the car loan. Otherwise, things end

very badly for that family, as they will for our country if we allow the United States to default on its debt.

The debt limit debate in the past was accompanied by political grandstanding from both parties. The party out of power used it to criticize the economic record of the incumbent party. But grandstanding was always set aside, and the President and the majority party in Congress—Republican or Democratic—accepted the burden of raising the debt ceiling to make sure the country did not default.

This time, the House's default threat is different. It is far more dangerous and far more extreme, even than in 2011.

Let me explain.

A default looms as early as June 1, and congressional leaders met this week with President Biden.

The President and all of the leaders pledged that default was not an option—all except one leader. Speaker MCCARTHY continues to champion the House bill that will lead us to default unless the Congress and the President capitulate to House Republicans' very extreme budgetary demands. Their budget would cut veteran benefits, furlough thousands of Border Patrol agents even as title 42 expires, and it would repeal key parts of the Inflation Reduction Act and the thousands of jobs—many of which, by the way, are in Republican districts—that it has created.

The Speaker's demands that President Biden relinquish his primary legislative achievement, the IRA, really would be comparable to the Democrats demanding when Donald Trump was President that, as a condition of not defaulting, he repeal what he regarded as his signature legislative accomplishment: his tax cuts—which, by the way, were vehemently opposed by Democrats.

Speaker MCCARTHY's posture reflects the posture of his conference and the reality within his own caucus. He won't take default off the table because he can't. The most extreme Members of his caucus have extracted numerous concessions to lend their support, and it took 15 votes for him to get elected to the speakership. What we are seeing now is the result: They will default unless they get their way.

Former President Trump, who as President raised the debt ceiling multiple times, is still a leading voice for many of the Republicans in the caucus. Last night on CNN, at a townhall meeting, he encouraged default, adding fuel to the fire and even more peril for our country.

I think we all know, in all candor, that the default threat would be catastrophic, and we are being propelled over the brink.

All responsible people know that a default—No. 1, it would destroy America's reputation and jeopardize the value of the dollar as the world's reserve currency. No. 2, it would really delight our Russian and Chinese adver-

saries, who would promote our default for what it is—a sign of internal weakness, economic chaos, and disunity. A default in all likelihood would plunge our fragile economy into a recession, hurting Americans across the entire country regardless of what their political persuasion was. In a very cruel irony, according to Moody's, a default could increase our deficit by as much as \$850 billion, not reduce it as default advocates claim.

We can't allow default. We can't allow self-inflicted harm to befall Americans with the Speaker's very reckless gambit.

I thank Majority Leader SCHUMER, Minority Leader MCCONNELL, Minority Leader JEFFRIES, and President Biden for taking default off the table.

Speaker MCCARTHY, before it is too late, do the same.

I am willing, as I believe the vast majority of our colleagues are, to engage in a serious budget discussion to bring down America's debt, but what I am not willing to do—not now, not ever—is abandon America's historic commitment to paying its bills. I am not willing to inflict the damage to our economy and the pain on our people a catastrophic default would impose, nor is President Biden.

While leadership talks continue, all of us must be mindful of the real peril we face, and we must take the precautionary step of reviewing the 14th Amendment and its requirement. Section 4 of the 14th Amendment states:

The validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law . . . shall not be questioned.

The Constitution is saying what we all know: A debt incurred is a debt that must be paid.

Every obligation tied to our debt is a result of a law that this or a previous Congress has passed. To renege on the obligation that law required, whether to our veterans, our seniors, our farmers, or the military, is for Congress to tell the President to break that law and disobey the Constitution.

We cannot do this. We must not do this. We must, as America has always done, pay our bills in full and on time. I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The senior Senator from Maryland.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this week is Public Service Recognition Week—a week we have set aside each year since 1985 to recognize and honor public servants. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep, heartfelt gratitude to America's 20 million Federal, State, county, and local public servants. From astronauts to astrophysicists, caseworkers to court clerks, detectives to doctors, soldiers to superintendents, teachers to transit workers, America's public servants comprise one of our Nation's most critical and often maligned assets.

Men and women serve in harm's way to defend our Nation. Other public

servants support them. Public servants teach our children, deliver the mail, administer our elections, keep our streets and communities safe and clean, guide air traffic, protect our natural resources and food and drug supplies, respond to natural disasters and other emergencies, conduct pioneering basic research, provide healthcare, interpret and enforce our laws, ensure that seniors and veterans receive the benefits they have earned, and represent our Nation's interests in foreign posts. I could go on and on. The work that public servants perform affects each and every one of us on a daily basis, making our lives so much better.

The public sector workforce—particularly at the Federal level—tends to be older, better educated, and more experienced than the private sector workforce. So many public servants could earn higher salaries in private sector jobs, but their motivation is more than pecuniary gain; it is a sense of duty and a love of their community and country that compel them.

President Biden issued a proclamation this week that says:

At a time when public servants are facing threats and hostility simply for doing their jobs, their continued willingness to serve is even more meaningful and important. We have an obligation to support them and to recognize and value their commitment and sacrifice. Our Nation's future depends on ensuring our public servants have good jobs with competitive pay and benefits, along with the resources they need to accomplish their work. It also depends on the next generation of smart, dedicated people answering the call of public service and joining their ranks, helping deliver the promise of America to more of our citizens.

I couldn't agree with the President more.

Just 7 percent of America's Federal workers are under the age of 30. I join President Biden in urging young Americans to consider careers in public service. We need your talents, your energy, your ideas, and your idealism to ensure that America remains prosperous, secure, and a beacon of liberty for all humanity.

Each year, in conjunction with Public Service Recognition Week, the nonprofit Partnership for Public Service announces the finalists for the prestigious Samuel J. Heyman Service to America Medals. The awards are named after the partnership's founder and benefactor and highlight excellence in our Federal workforce.

I am proud that Maryland is home to 12 finalists.

They are, in the field of science, technology, and environment, Dr. Adam Phillippy, Dr. Sergey Koren, and Dr. Arang Rhie, Investigator, Associate Investigator, and Staff Scientist respectively at the National Institutes of Health, National Human Genome Research Institute, and the Telomere to Telomere Consortium, which Dr. Phillippy cofounded in 2018, having cracked the last 8 percent of humans' genetic code.

Their research into understanding the most difficult parts of our DNA has