

support and empower our men and women in blue.

Last year, we made some progress. The Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program was reauthorized through a bipartisan bill I introduced with Senator KLOBUCHAR, the Senator from Minnesota. We have already seen some real-world impact these grants have made in communities across Texas. And this will promote even greater collaboration between law enforcement and the mental health providers that they serve alongside.

We also took a big step toward improving training for officers by passing the Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act, which was signed into law by President Biden last December. This new law will ensure that officers have the skills they need to navigate and defuse potentially dangerous situations, particularly involving those undergoing a mental health crisis. I am proud of the bipartisan progress we have made, and I hope we can build upon it more this year.

In honor of National Police Week, I introduced the Back the Blue Act to strengthen laws that protect our officers. This legislation sends a strong and powerful message to the more than 800,000 officers serving our country—a message that they are supported and that violence against them will never be tolerated.

The Back the Blue Act adds stiff mandatory penalties and makes it a Federal crime to kill—or attempt to kill—a law enforcement officer, a Federal judge, or a federally funded public safety officer. It also makes it a Federal crime to assault a law enforcement officer.

As I have said, these men and women put themselves in harm's way every day to keep our communities safe, and we must make it absolutely clear that violence against them will not be tolerated.

This legislation was endorsed by leading law enforcement organizations like the National Association of Police Organizations and the Fraternal Order of Police and is cosponsored by 39 Senators, so far.

I hope other colleagues will support this bill and show law enforcement across the country that we stand shoulder to shoulder with them.

There is another piece of legislation that I hope will pass soon called the Project Safe Neighborhoods Program. This is a reauthorization of an existing national nationwide partnership between Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers and prosecutors that aims to reduce violent crime, particularly gun crime.

It achieves that goal through data-driven, evidence-based, and trauma-informed practices that have proven to reduce crime rates. Since it was first launched two decades ago, Project Safe Neighborhoods has helped reduce violent crime in large cities and small towns all across this country.

A study in 2013 found that the program was associated with more than a

13-percent decrease in violent crimes in cities and a high rate of program participation.

Given the growing concerns and already serious concerns about crime in our country, there could not be a more important time to make this program better, stronger, and more effective.

This is among the range of bills the Senate should consider to pass and support law enforcement, including the Federal Law Enforcement Service Weapon Purchase Act that would allow retired officers to purchase their service weapons that would otherwise be destroyed.

This bipartisan legislation would prevent waste by allowing agencies to recover the value of these weapons. This bill has been endorsed by multiple organizations that represent law enforcement officers, and I hope we can advance it this year.

I am also a proud cosponsor of other bipartisan bills that were introduced by Senate colleagues. Senator PETERS from Michigan and I introduced the Strong Communities Act, with the goal of improving trust between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve.

I am also a cosponsor of the Recruit and Retain Act, led by Senator FISCHER of Nebraska and Senator COONS of Delaware. It aims to alleviate the personnel shortages that are being felt in police departments across the Nation and ensures that America's police forces are well staffed.

I hope the Senate Judiciary Committee, on which I serve, will advance some of these bills later this week and send a strong message that the U.S. Senate supports America's police officers.

Every day, I am grateful for the service and sacrifice of our law enforcement officers in Texas and across the country. And that includes the Capitol Police that keeps this building and Capitol Hill safe, protecting not only the people who work here but also people who visit here.

In honor of National Police Week, we honor the brave men and women who protect us. We pay tribute to those who made the ultimate sacrifice. And we commit to doing everything in our power to ensure that they have all the resources they need to keep our people safe.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER SECURITY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, we have really heard quite a bit over the past few weeks and especially this past weekend about this administration and

their decision to do away with title 42, and I would take this opportunity to remind my Democratic colleagues that President Biden himself admitted that our southern border will be, and I quote him, "chaotic for a while" post-title 42. So the expectation is that this will create chaos, and they know it, but they are doing it anyway.

In the days right before title 42 was terminated, we were already seeing unprecedented chaos along our southern border. Again, they knew it. Chaos was coming, but they were going to do it anyway because it serves their purposes.

Now, here is some of the chaos that has actually happened at that border. These are last week's numbers. They are not my numbers. They are not Republican numbers. They are Border Patrol's numbers. This is what this administration is doing to the communities that are along that southern border.

Border Patrol reported last week 68,000 apprehensions, and they seized hundreds of pounds of narcotics, including 56 pounds of fentanyl. Bear in mind, 1 little gram, one little touch is enough to kill. We are all hearing "One pill will kill." Yet think about 56 pounds of that coming in. What would that do to your community?

At the same time, on top of the 68,000 who were apprehended, there were 16,000 "got-aways" whom they could see on surveillance video, but they could not get to them. Those are the known "got-aways." So they cross the border, and they go running into the country.

There are also the unknown "got-aways." As the Presiding Officer knows, as Border Patrol is out, as they are going through their day, many times they find evidence of the people who have crossed where they couldn't see them on video. They weren't wanting to be apprehended. Those are the really bad, bad, bad guys who are bringing in more drugs, more terrorists, more gangs into this country.

In the past 72 hours alone, we have seen three agents assaulted. These are our Border Patrol agents. They are being assaulted. Bear in mind, the cartels—global organizations—the cartels are in charge of that border on the Mexico side. So three of our agents have been assaulted. There were almost 15,000 more apprehensions in 72 hours and more than 4,300 "got-aways" who evaded capture.

As I said, these are not my numbers. They are not Republican numbers. These are the numbers of the Border Patrol. They are the Biden administration's numbers. They know that they are creating chaos, that they are making life difficult, that they are making the job of Border Patrol harder every single day, but it serves their purpose, so they do it anyway.

They know exactly what is happening and what will happen if they don't regain control of that border:

more chaos. The chaos is going to escalate because the drug cartels were exploiting the end of title 42 well before last week.

I have on my poster this weekend review, with the apprehensions we have talked about: \$83,000 that was seized from the cartels, 224 pounds of marijuana, 179 pounds of meth, 56 pounds of fentanyl, 34 pounds of cocaine, 5 pounds of heroin.

You know, I had a sheriff tell me that they used to apprehend drugs in grams, and now it is all pounds. Why is it pounds? It is because the cartels are so emboldened.

Oh, here we go. We have some more: seven firearms, five sex offenders. These are people who were convicted of crimes in their countries, and they are trying to come in here. A lot of these countries are emptying their jails and trying to unload them on us.

Well, four gang members coming to a neighborhood near you. Why is it that crime is running rampant? Well, we know.

Now, this is all from last week: two felons, one subject with five warrants. That is what they are dealing with.

From October of last year to March of this year, agents apprehended more than 1 million illegal immigrants. Title 42 was still in place then. Last week, tens of thousands of people were camped on the Mexico side of the border, and nearly 80,000 more were gathered in Guatemala with plans to come into the United States. They are making their way here.

The cartels have a plan. The Biden administration and the Democrats have zero of a plan. So we need Congress to step in and make certain we get this border secured.

On his second day in office, President Biden terminated the successful Trump-era migrant protection protocols. That is known as “Remain in Mexico.” The policy required illegal immigrants seeking asylum at the southern border or without proper ID to return to Mexico to await their hearing. It worked. Guess what. It worked. Now, instead of keeping it in place, the Biden administration and the Democrats have decided to go back to the old, failed catch-and-release policy. Come on in. We will give you a court date. Court dates now are about 2030, but come on, we will let you in. They will be caught, and then they are released into the country.

Bringing back “Remain in Mexico” is essential to maintaining our Nation’s security and sovereignty, especially now that the Biden administration has completely undermined Border Patrol by stripping them of their title 42 authority. So this month, I introduced the Make the Migrant Protection Protocols Mandatory Act. The bill is simple. It mandates that individuals seeking asylum at the southern border or without proper ID must return to Mexico while they await their immigration proceedings. We should pass this as soon as possible. That is step one.

Step two is to strike at the heart of the cartels’ \$13 billion criminal enterprise.

Since President Biden took office, human trafficking has become even more pervasive at the southern border. The State Department estimates that the cartels move as many as 17,500 people across the border every year. One in three is a child. We also know that the cartels overwhelmingly target young girls and sell them into sex slavery. With the end of title 42, these criminal abusers will feel particularly emboldened to expand their business.

I want you to think about those numbers. Human trafficking has become a \$13 billion business. Go back to 2019; it was a \$500 million-a-year business. Ask yourself, what has changed in that time? It is an administration with very lax or no border policy. Their policy is open it up so that we, the taxpayers, finish the cartels’ job. And it is a humanitarian crisis because women and girls—90 percent of whom make this journey—are being sexually assaulted. So I would ask my colleagues, are you OK with that? Are you OK with the cartels making this money? Are you OK with them moving these individuals and selling these women and girls into sex slavery?

The SAVE Girls Act, which I introduced this year—Senator KLOBUCHAR has joined me on this—it establishes a \$50 million grant program to put critical resources into the hands of State and local officials and nonprofits so they can fight the smuggling and trafficking of girls across the border and into the communities.

This persistent abuse of young women will only worsen with title 42 gone. There is no reason why this body should not immediately pass this bill and help to protect these women and children who are making this journey.

As we speak, cartels are exploiting Congress’s inaction. The President is asleep at the wheel. His border czar is missing in action. His Cabinet officials are busy evading requests for information about what precisely they have been doing with taxpayer time and money over the last few years.

We won’t be able to fix this overnight, but we have to start somewhere. We need to make “Remain in Mexico” the law of the land and pass the SAVE Girls Act and give law enforcement the tools they need to secure the border before we lose complete and total control of it.

(Ms. HIRONO assumed the Chair.)

GLOBAL MINIMUM TAX

Madam President, over the past few weeks, I have had many conversations with Tennessee business owners about their concerns with the Pillar Two tax regime. These proposed rules started to take shape under the Trump administration and were intended to streamline the international tax system. Well, that has all run off the rails after the Biden administration started to get involved in these negotiations, and the progress that had been made suffered

the same fate as many policies that have helped America rebound from the recession that took place in 2009.

Once again, the Biden administration has rubberstamped a deal that will paint a target on the backs of American companies and allow other countries to subsidize their own economies with American tax dollars. Indeed, when you look at this, Pillar Two will force multinational companies making more than \$800 million in revenue to pay at least a 15-percent effective tax rate on income earned in every country where they operate, including their home base.

If a company isn’t paying at least 15 percent at home, other countries would be allowed to impose an additional tax on their domestic income using the undertaxed profits rule. It is referred to as UTPR.

I want you to think about this. What the Biden administration has signed up for is going to be other countries that say: Oh, you are not paying enough tax, American business; so you are going to have to pay tax over here and over here and over here.

It becomes a money grab on U.S. businesses.

Now, this undertaxed profits rule—doesn’t that just sound odd? Your profits are undertaxed—undertaxed.

This was designed so they can enforce what is called the global minimum tax. And I am sure that, in the coming months, we will hear more about this scheme and what it is actually going to do. But Tennesseans living and working in the real world have highlighted with me a couple of different problems that they see.

First, this plan undermines multiple congressionally approved bipartisan tax treaties that were negotiated to help American companies be more competitive. If we allow this deal to go forward, we will hurt businesses and severely limit our own ability to respond to a recession or bolster our supply chains. So what they are doing—what the Biden administration is doing—is saying: All right, all of you companies and all of these other countries out here, come on, this is your chance to tell U.S. companies how you think they ought to run their business, and they are going to have to pay you.

Does that sound like something that is a pro-America economics policy? Of course, not. Why would anybody at the Department of Commerce or anyone in this administration want to make life harder and more unfair for U.S. companies that are fighting supply chain issues, that are struggling every day to keep people employed and to raise their wages?

You know, it is kind of like betting against yourself. But oh, no, they do it. That is their plan.

The second problem is even more egregious. By design, these new rules will force the United States into a “one size fits all” tax regime we have repeatedly rejected, and it will make American companies the primary target of yet another punishing mandate.