

Remember, Congress has received 1023s in the past, and they have been made public. So asking for this 1023 to be turned over to the American people to read is not an unusual thing that goes on with 1023s.

Congress owes it to the American people and the brave and heroic whistleblowers to continue to fight for transparency on this matter and make this document public without unnecessary redactions.

I want everybody to remember that I have read the unredacted version except for a couple or three half-inch redactions, I would say.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER SECURITY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, the Biden administration has spent the better part of 3 years claiming that its border policies are humane and just. We know this isn't the case. Under Joe Biden, the Mexican cartels are acting with impunity because the President would rather cave to the desires of the far left than admit that a country with open borders has no borders at all. Because of this open border policy and the fact that they are not recognizing the southern border as a border, they have turned every town into a border town, every State into a border State, and this has made us vulnerable to drug smugglers, human traffickers, and violent criminals looking for their next victim.

In April, the Border Patrol reported more than 182,000 encounters with migrants trying to cross the southern border—182,000. When you combine that with the numbers from the first quarter of this year, you come up with more than 602,000 encounters. That doesn't include the tens of thousands of got-aways who disappeared into the country before they could be apprehended. When you add that to the 22,000 pounds of drugs that have been seized, almost 40,000 criminals that have been caught, and 49 suspected terrorists apprehended, you must conclude that the Biden administration hasn't just lost control of the border; they have relinquished it.

As I said, the border policy is to have no policy, to have an open border—interesting—and it is something that my colleagues across the aisle refuse to admit is taking place.

Our southern border is wide open. The people benefiting are the cartels that are in control of the border on the Mexico side: 49 suspected terrorists, 22,000 pounds of drugs, 40,000 criminal illegal aliens apprehended. As I said, that is just in the 602,000 who have been

apprehended so far this year. That is right, so far this year.

And in the got-aways—the tens of thousands of got-aways—how many more pounds of drugs, how many more criminals, how many more terrorists have come into this country?

While our border is open, the cartels are monetizing Joe Biden's refusal to secure the country. They have turned human trafficking into a \$13 billion-a-year business. It is amazing—\$13 billion on human trafficking alone.

For years, illegal immigrants have taken advantage of the fact that if they cross the border with a minor, they will more likely than not be released into the United States while their immigration cases are processed. But under Joe Biden, human traffickers have made this complacency a part of their expected business model.

They are now engaging in a practice that is horrendous. It is called child recycling. It is a disgusting process. In this child recycling process, the same child is exploited repeatedly by illegal aliens attempting to enter the United States. Once one criminal escapes into the country, they ship the child back across the border and into the hands of another abuser.

The Trump administration fought back against this practice and mandated that asylum seekers with accompanying minors take DNA tests to prove that they were indeed a family unit. And like many of the Trump-era border policies, this worked. We have the data to prove it. Just ask the Border Patrol.

In one pilot program, 30 percent of those rapid DNA tests showed that the adult trying to enter the country bore no relation to the child they brought with them—30 percent. The DNA testing program saved a lot of lives.

So I would ask my colleagues this question: Is it fair—is it fair—to ask the Biden administration, is it worth saving the lives of these children?

This Biden administration ended DNA testing of illegal immigrants last month, 2 weeks after title 42 ended. So is it fair to ask why they will not implement DNA testing? Why will they not agree to save the lives of as many as 30 percent of the children who are being presented at the southern border?

See, it wasn't a policy decision. You have just got to believe that. It had to be a political decision, and we just cannot allow this to stand.

Earlier this year, I introduced the End Child Trafficking Now Act. That would criminalize child recycling. It would reinstate the DNA testing program and create harsh penalties for migrants who try to skirt the law. This legislation would require adult migrants trying to enter the country with a minor to prove that they are indeed the child's relative or guardian. They will be able to do that by providing paperwork and sworn witness testimony or by taking the DNA test.

If their paperwork doesn't check out—and we know the cartels have

started to forge documents into fraudulent paperwork. We are aware of that. That is why, if their paperwork doesn't pan out, the DNA test is mandatory. If the DNA test proves that migrant is lying, HHS would step in and process the child as an unaccompanied minor, and the trafficker would face a maximum 10-year prison sentence for falsely posing as a family. This legislation would also require DHS to deport illegal aliens who refuse to take the DNA test. This is a commonsense bill that every Senator in this Chamber should get behind.

I call on my Democratic colleagues to either join me in moving this important legislation forward or explain to the American people why they would stonewall a program, a test—and it only takes 45 minutes. Why would they stonewall this when it would keep children out of these human trafficking rings?

This horrific practice will not stop unless we stop it. And if we don't catch it at the border, we need to catch it as these criminals move across the country.

Child recycling is a problem, but I think we all know that not every child forced across our border is sent back home. Labor and sex trafficking within the United States is real, and it is happening in our communities.

This horrible reality particularly affects girls and young women, which is why I introduced the SAVE Girls Act. This bipartisan legislation, which I introduced with Senator KLOBUCHAR, creates a \$50 million grant program to provide States, localities, and non-government organizations, our non-profits, with the resources they need to catch traffickers and to support the children and the women who survive this horrific practice.

This is not a Republican or a Democrat issue. This is a human rights issue. And I am so grateful to my colleagues for working with me to put the safety of these women and girls first.

I hope the rest of the Members of this Chamber will follow the lead and help us pass the SAVE Girls Act and the End Child Trafficking Now Act because, if we don't, things will get much, much worse for these children and these women who are being trafficked.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, Social Security is a sacred trust between the American people and the American government. For the worker who is

about to retire with no savings other than Social Security, the woman who relies on Social Security to pay for medications, they need to know that the government is not going to break this sacred trust.

That is why I have been leading a bipartisan group of over a dozen Senators to develop a solution. And we have what we call the Big Idea. But before describing the Big Idea, I have to tell you, right now, it does not matter what big ideas—or any idea—are being discussed. President Biden made it clear in his State of the Union speech that he was going to run for reelection attacking Republicans on the issue of Social Security.

Now, by the way, he has not introduced legislation on Social Security himself. He spoke about one in his previous campaign, but it was not serious. And the money he said he would use for his unserious plan he has already spent on other priorities, or at least proposed to spend. President Biden was not even willing to acknowledge the problem that Social Security faces.

But, in a bipartisan sense, let's be fair; he is not alone. Former President Trump refuses to acknowledge the issue. He never introduced or sought to work with Congress when he was President, and now he criticizes anyone who suggests that Social Security might be going insolvent. But, unfortunately for us all, Social Security is going insolvent.

It is not me who says this; it is the actuaries, those who are told to come before the American people and tell what is the current state of Social Security. They tell us that in 9 years, it is insolvent. At that point, beneficiaries will see a 24-percent cut in the amount they are receiving. There is no grandfathering in. You might be already receiving, but when that deadline hits—2033, 2032—boom, 24-percent cut for those who are currently receiving. Poverty among the elderly doubles.

And even though it is against the law to borrow money to pay the difference between what is coming in and what is going out, let's imagine that we did. If we do decide to break the law and borrow that money, it would end up causing a \$562 trillion debt to pay these benefits over the next 75 years. That would give us a debt-to-GDP ratio similar to that of Greece and Venezuela, and that is independent of the money that would be required for Medicare benefits and other such benefits.

So what does our Big Idea do? Our Big Idea avoids this problem by setting up an investment fund separate from Social Security—no Social Security money whatsoever—an investment fund in which we place money and allow it to grow over 75 years; and, in so doing, we address 75 percent of the issue.

We don't raise the retirement age to 70, as people suggest. We don't touch the way Social Security benefits are distributed. We make sure that no one

has a disruption in their benefits that they are promised to receive. And in our plan, we have work incentives and we work to address issues of WEP and GPO and poverty among the elderly.

It is an idea that could work and pass Congress, but there has been zero Presidential leadership. And we have had no engagement from this President, and there was no engagement from the previous President.

So a few weeks ago, we decided to take our issue to the people, and we called it Bill on the Hill. Kind of a nice rhyme, huh? I took a walk around the Capitol grounds and spoke to Americans from across the country who were visiting the Nation's capital. There was a couple from Louisiana, a family from Pennsylvania, a veteran who is also a pastor from Massachusetts, and several others who gave their unvarnished opinions on what they want Washington to do about Social Security.

The bottom line: Americans want to see Social Security saved. They—we—deserve a real solution, not grandstanding. One blue-collar worker I spoke to from rural Pennsylvania told me—I am going to try and imitate his voice:

Jobs that I have had haven't necessarily had retirement plans.

He said it was "very discouraging" to hear a 24-percent cut was coming if we do nothing.

There was a doctor from Opelousas. Now, this doctor has as much gray hair as I do, but, if you can imagine, he was once one of my former students. The doctor from Opelousas—Opelousas, LA, for those who don't know about that—he put it in stark terms when I told him that doing nothing means that poverty among his patients would double—among the elderly in general, but he has got a patient population a little bit older. He said the people he knows "would have to start choosing between their medicines and food."

Now, these are people who rely on Social Security, who put faith in that sacred trust that they would not have to choose between medicine and food. Yet that is the choice they are going to be forced to if we do nothing.

And then there was Dr. Paul Kim—a pastor, a veteran—who was up here for a convention from Massachusetts. And he told me what he wanted from a President:

He has to be honest and keep the promise [of Social Security].

Dr. Kim is right. The President needs to be honest with the American people about Social Security; but this President is not. He refuses to even acknowledge that the problem exists.

The fact is, as I have already mentioned, Social Security—according to the actuaries, the people we entrust to tell us the state of it—is going insolvent in 9 years. But President Biden is steadfast in his position that there is nothing wrong, there is no need for a serious plan. Oh, yes, he introduced a plan when he was on the campaign trail; has done nothing since. And the

money that he would use to pay for this unserious plan he has already proposed to spend on other things.

By the way, \$4.5 trillion he has proposed in new taxes and not a dime going to Social Security. And as I mentioned, it isn't just President Biden; it is former President Trump, who did nothing while he was President and, even now, criticizes people who wish to do something. It appears that the Biden-Trump plan is the same plan. It is a plan to do nothing and demagogue those who choose to responsibly address the issue.

When I told one of these folks, the woman from Opelousas, LA, that President Biden and Donald Trump have the same plan, she was going: Whoa, whoa, that is something. But when she heard it was a plan to do nothing, her reaction was:

I want to laugh, and I want to cry at the same time.

Americans are watching as Washington flounders, as the deadline until retirees get a 24 percent cut approaches. By the way, we have seen polling on this. When people understand that the program is going insolvent in 9 years, 75 percent—from the very liberal to the very conservative and every point in between—think that we should address the issue now. That is the American people speaking, but that is not our leading Presidential candidates.

We owe it to the American people to take this sacred trust seriously. We owe it to them to save Social Security before it is too late.

Now, I am open to discussing my big idea, anyone else's idea. You name it. But there has to be a serious conversation. And since it has to be signed into law, a participant must be the President of the United States. We need the political courage from those who aspire to be our Nation's leader to actually show leadership.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to make my full statement prior to the vote.

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

NOMINATION OF ELIZABETH ALLEN

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, I come to the floor today to urge my colleagues to vote for cloture for Elizabeth Allen, the President's nominee for Under Secretary of State for Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs.

When we think about Russia's illegal, unprovoked invasion of Ukraine or China's coercive economic practices, we have to realize we are in competition with more than just conventional militaries or economic prowess. We are in a battle over what kind of world we want to live in. And we want to live in a world where people are free to speak their minds, free to start a business, free to worship as they choose and marry the person they love. These are