

degree and only 23 percent of those who earn a master's degree manage to find a way to stay and work in the United States.

The U.S. semiconductor industry alone could face a shortage of 70- to 90,000 workers over the next few years, and there is a projected shortfall of 300,000 engineers and 90,000 skilled technicians by 2030. It would be naive to believe that these positions can be solely filled by our American students.

As the Wall Street Journal opinion section recently read, the foreigner working in tech "isn't taking an American job; they are helping keep that job in the U.S."

Foreign-born scientists have been integral to our preeminence as a scientific and military power. Most famously, nuclear physicists from Europe were the intellectual forces that propelled the Manhattan Project; and, today, more than half of the Silicon Valley startups are led by foreign-born entrepreneurs. This is why we have worked to pass the Startup Act in each Congress since I arrived in the Senate.

This bill would ensure that those with advanced STEM degrees would be able to stay in this country while they are engaged in STEM-related professions.

This would fill the immediate and increasing need for STEM-educated professionals, while we work to improve STEM education for America's youth.

There is no "one size fits all" approach to solving the challenges in the classroom. Regaining ground after schools were closed during the pandemic will take hard work and ingenuity. But the success of our Nation depends—again, the success of our children depends, but because that is the case, the success of our Nation, our country, depends on young minds grappling and mastering the basics of math and reading and writing and science.

We must make certain we are taking an "all of the above," long-term approach to national security, and that means making strides in the classroom and investing in our students. Our schools are there to take care of our children and their future, but failure to do so means that we are damaging our Nation's future.

For the sake of our country, its national defense, its economy, and for the sake of all American families, we need to make certain that we reverse course in making certain that our students are learning and are achieving at a rate that allows us to be successful.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I ask unanimous consent the following Senators be allowed to speak prior to the scheduled rollcall vote: myself for up to 20 minutes, Senator CARPER for up to 5 minutes, Senator BOOZMAN for up to 30 seconds, Leader SCHUMER for as much time as he may consume.

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

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, back in May, I was in Shelby County to visit with 100 members of the Tennessee National Guard. They were heading off on yet another deployment to the southern border.

These are some of the bravest and most capable people that you will ever meet. Tennesseans depend on them to keep us safe during natural disasters, to rescue lost hikers in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, and to defend the country from our adversaries overseas. Yet there they were on their way to what many would call a war zone in their own country to do the job that Joe Biden refuses to do.

They shouldn't have had to go, but they went because they knew that no matter who was to blame for all this chaos, our Border Patrol agents and local law enforcement needed help controlling it.

When I think back on my conversations with those servicemembers, I can't help but notice the stark contrast between their focus on service and sacrifice and the Biden administration's lack of regard for the welfare of this country.

Over the past several years, the relationship between the American people and their government has changed, but not for the better. At the beginning of Biden's term, they were just baffled by what they were seeing. All they could do was shake their heads in disbelief. But as the months wore on, that disbelief gave way to genuine fear that this President was digging a hole that they wouldn't be able to claw their way out of no matter how hard they worked.

As it turns out, those fears were well-founded, and now, 3 years into this administration, that fear has given way to outrage because this President has made it abundantly clear that when it comes to pursuing his radical agenda, he simply doesn't care whom it hurts.

The President may be happy to ignore the mess he has made, but Tennesseans don't have that luxury. If they ignore the problems they see, they suffer real consequences. If local law enforcement officers just ignored the drugs flooding into their communities, even more people would die from fentanyl overdoses and drug-related crime.

Every year, I meet with local leaders in each of our State's 95 counties, and the conversation turns to the border crisis every single time. It is an unmitigated disaster, and they just don't understand why the President refuses to do something about it.

If you talk to law enforcement in East Tennessee, they will tell you that they are recording record levels of drug seizures. What they once would apprehend in ounces they now measure in pounds.

Chief Jason Owens at the Border Patrol gave a "week in review" from June 22 to 29. Here is some of what they apprehended. They know they had 28,339

apprehensions. They also had an additional 6,100 "get-aways." They apprehended 116 pounds of marijuana, 50 pounds of fentanyl, and 2,056 pounds of cocaine. Where does much of the drugs that are coming across with those "got-aways" end up? It ends up in our communities.

A judge in Rhea County told me that 80 percent of the crime he sees is drug-related. If they could get a handle on the drugs, they could take care of much of the court cases and the prison population, but they can't get a handle on it because the local dealers are not the root of the problem. For every drug smuggler the Border Patrol manages to catch and every pound of drugs they apprehend, you have that handful of "got-aways" who escape into the country with drugs and contraband.

In Overton County, they said they haven't busted a local meth lab in 5 years. Here is why. The drug dealers have outsourced their entire supply to the cartels because it is easier and cheaper to smuggle it in than it is to make it themselves. The police can trace that supply chain down I-75 to Atlanta and then right across the border into Mexico.

Now when they respond to an overdose death, local officials have to implement fentanyl protocols because they know it is the likely culprit. The cartels add this to the drugs to make them that much more addictive. Everything is laced with fentanyl. It is also very lethal in small amounts. In Marion County, they are spending an astronomical amount of money on autopsies because of this. As of May, they have spent \$80,000, and almost all of those deaths are fentanyl-related.

These local officials are desperate for help. They know this is this administration's fault because the situation escalated when the Biden administration moved into the White House.

Here is what the President did: He terminated "Remain in Mexico." He terminated title 42. He terminated DNA testing at the border. And his rhetoric made it clear that he would rather pander to the left than admit that Trump-era border policies were working. Then he left local law enforcement to fend for themselves.

They need our support. When title 42 ended, I introduced the Make the Migrant Protection Protocols Mandatory Act. That would reinstate the successful "Remain in Mexico" policy. I also introduced the End Child Trafficking Now Act, which would reinstate DNA testing at the border and thwart the child trafficking rings that President Biden has allowed to flourish. If we passed these two bills, we could give Border Patrol and local law enforcement a fighting chance against the cartels.

But the problem goes much deeper than just preventing illegal entry into the country. When Joe Biden took office, he threw the rule of law out the window. Since then, we have watched Biden and his supporters ignore the

Constitution, attack our most important institutions, ignore the law, enable corruption, and slander their fellow countrymen as violent racists.

Tennesseans take issue with that and with the judges and the bureaucrats whom President Biden has nominated to write this partisan rhetoric into law. Over the past several years, this body has considered nominees to some of the most critical positions in government who were little more than political activists, and that is putting it mildly.

We have questioned judicial nominees who are unfamiliar with the Constitution, potential Agency heads with almost no experience in the industries they seek to regulate, and Cabinet nominees who have demonstrated their commitment to burning down institutions and norms that conflict with their radical views. But the one thing they all have in common is they have agreed to rubberstamp the Biden agenda.

The local leaders I see in my county tours see the chaos this is causing. They see two tiers of justice at work, and they are very concerned about it, especially when they see administration officials egging on leftist fanatics seeking to undermine the rule of law at any cost.

For example, Federal law makes it clear that it is illegal to protest outside of a judge's home with the intent of influencing a ruling. It is common sense. But after the Supreme Court's Dobbs opinion leaked, far-left protesters immediately began demonstrating outside of the Justices' homes. The Biden DOJ has yet to arrest a single protester, which means that the Biden DOJ has in effect endorsed the intimidation of Supreme Court Justices who refuse to rubberstamp the Biden agenda.

Earlier this year, I introduced the Protecting Our Supreme Court Justices Act, which significantly increases the maximum jail time for any individual who violates this law. I am sure that under a future administration, it will serve as an effective deterrent to this disgusting behavior.

But imagine being a law enforcement officer in Tennessee and seeing this complete breakdown of law and order in our Nation's Capital at the highest levels of government. How much faith do you think they have in this administration to help them control the flow of drugs and violent criminals into their communities? How seriously do you think they take the Democrats' promises to fight for safe streets when this body continues to confirm judicial nominees who promise to undermine the rule of law? Unlike the Biden administration, they can't change the rules whenever they feel like it, they can't use the bureaucracy to stack the deck in their favor, and they can't put their friends in charge to cover for them if they get caught breaking the law.

Our local law enforcement officials deserve better. Tennesseans deserve

better. The American people deserve better. But right now, they have to do the best they can fighting a losing battle on two fronts—against criminals trying to exploit them and against a President who knows exactly what is happening but just doesn't care enough to do something about it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 34.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Myong J. Joun, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 34, Myong J. Joun, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tina Smith, Christopher Murphy, Mazie Hirono, Tammy Baldwin, Margaret Wood Hassan, John W. Hickenlooper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Catherine Cortez Masto, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Alex Padilla, Michael F. Bennet.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 114.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Kalpana Kotagal, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2027.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 114, Kalpana Kotagal, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2027.

Charles E. Schumer, Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Alex Padilla, Michael F. Bennet, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeff Merkley, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Debbie Stabenow, Jack Reed, Richard Blumenthal, Chris Van Hollen, Tammy Duckworth, Peter Welch.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 141.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of David M. Uhlmann, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.