

Then-Chief Carla Provost testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee and talked about what it would take to fix the situation. She said:

We cannot address this crisis by shifting more resources. It's like holding a bucket under a faucet. It doesn't matter how many buckets [you have if you don't turn the water off].

The President's request for emergency funding is a bucket, a relatively small one. But it does nothing to stop the flow. The only way to do that is by deterrence, and the only way to achieve deterrence is by delivering consequences for entering the country illegally. We need to send a message to the people who have no legitimate reason to remain in the United States that if they come, they will not be able to stay.

President Biden does not seem to understand that. And in his emergency funding request, he asks Congress to provide for noncustodial housing for migrants and expedited removal proceedings.

This is the process that allows law enforcement to quickly remove migrants who have no legitimate reason to remain in the United States. I am talking about expedited removal now, the idea that we would release migrants who are on the verge of being deported is patently absurd and just shows the chaos and confusion and the lack of any logical coherence in the Biden border policy.

Anyone who believes that these individuals would come back for their removal hearing is living in an alternate reality. This would constitute yet another massive pull factor attracting people to make that journey to the border. President Biden also called on Congress to expand the so-called lawful pathways his administration created. But to be clear, there is nothing lawful about these pathways.

The administration, once again, has usurped Congress's authority in paroling entire classes of migrants into the United States. "Parole" is a technical term. It basically means to release them, even if they are not claiming asylum, which the Biden administration continues to do on a massive scale—simply release people into the United States.

This is, unsurprisingly, a violation of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and any effort to expand these so-called pathways is a nonstarter in Congress. We will not legitimize these unauthorized programs and provide an even bigger incentive for migrants to make the dangerous journey to the border.

We need to discourage people who have no legitimate claim to come to the United States this way, not bolster an incentive package. In my view, there are two broad goals that need to be met in order to address this crisis in a meaningful way: First, we need to end catch-and-release. So far, the administration has sent a message to people around the world that if you

enter the United States illegally, there is a good chance you will be able to stay, which, in turn, only encourages more people to come—just show up at the border, say the magic words, and then disappear into the great American heartland. We need to revise this message and make it clear that only those with a legitimate claim can remain in the United States. Ending catch-and-release is the most effective way to do that.

No. 2, the administration must remove people who have been determined to have no legal right to enter or remain in the United States. The Biden administration has proven it does not take this responsibility seriously.

In 2021, arrests and deportation by ICE, known as Immigration and Customs Enforcement, reached an alltime low. So not only are more people coming into the country than we have ever seen before, but fewer people are going out who have no legitimate basis to stay here.

In 2021, the Agency carried out fewer than 60,000 deportations that year, the lowest number on record by a long shot. The following year, the number of deportations increased slightly but not nearly enough to make an impact and certainly not enough to discourage people from continuing to come illegally to enter the United States.

Apprehensions are at record highs; deportations are at historic lows; and it is clear that this is all part of somebody's plan. Despite having every tool at its disposal, the administration is trying to move a mountain with a teaspoon. It is doing just enough to make some people think they are doing something meaningful without having any real impact.

While I am glad President Biden seems to have awakened to the fact that the status quo at the border is unsustainable, his emergency funding request shows he is still absolutely disinterested in solving this crisis. He has proven, once again, that he doesn't care about deterring illegal immigration; he doesn't care about delivering consequences to individuals who break our laws; and he doesn't care about solving this crisis. He merely wants to "manage" the flow, not stop it.

This is not a serious proposal. Some of the proposed spending is actually harmful, and the positive aspects are just window dressing. The President needs to get serious about the border, and what he sent us is not serious. One thing is certain, the Senate will not rubberstamp his paltry border request. You can be certain of that.

This emergency funding bill will absolutely include more funding to address the border crisis, but this is about more than funding; it is about the appropriate policies. We need real changes that produce real consequences, real ways to turn off the flow of illegal immigration and continuing to enrich the criminal organizations that smuggle people and drugs across our border.

Later this week, I am eager to talk with some of the true experts on the border crisis about the current challenges they are facing. Senator CRUZ and I are leading another visit to the Rio Grande Valley, and I am glad that Senator RICKETTS, Senator LEE, and Senator BARRASSO will join us. We are going to spend some time talking to the Border Patrol agents who actually work on the ground as well as the Customs officers who deal with the consequences of the administration's failed policies day in and day out.

We will tour the border to see how virtually anyone—from vulnerable migrant children to dangerous drug cartel members, to people on the Terrorist Watchlist—are able to enter the United States. And we will hear from State officials, local law enforcement, and landowners about the broader impact of the border crisis in communities across our State.

It is going to be 2 busy and informative days, and, as always, I am grateful to the men and women who take the time to meet with us who are doing the hard job. It would be nice if they knew that this administration had their back, but they are demoralized, despite the fact that they continue to do their job, day in and day out, because they realize that the Biden border policies are designed to fail.

Their insight, however, is invaluable to my work here in the Senate, and there couldn't be a more important time to hear from the frontline experts who know about this crisis and how to solve it better than anyone else.

I especially commend my colleagues from Wyoming, Utah, and Nebraska for taking the time to make this important trip and their willingness to hear from Senator CRUZ and my constituents on the frontlines of this issue.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Senator from Washington.

NOMINATION OF MICHAEL G. WHITAKER

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the nomination of Michael Whitaker to be the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration. Last week, the Commerce Committee unanimously advanced Mr. Whitaker to the Senate floor, and this resounding bipartisan approval is in addition to the broad support that Mr. Whitaker has received from the private sector. He has the support of the aviation workforce, pilots, flight attendants, machinists, air traffic controllers, and safety specialists at the FAA.

Aviation safety advocates like the 737 MAX crash families have called Mr. Whitaker a "strong leader" for the FAA with the "ability [to] restore public trust and confidence in its oversight and safety standards."

The conclusion is clear, Mr. Whitaker is the right person to lead the FAA. And America's chief aviation regulator has a critical mission: protect the safety of the flying public.

Each day, 44,000 FAA employees oversee the safety of 25,000 daily commercial flights, 2.5 million travelers, and over 5,500 airports.

These Agencies set the safety standards for aerospace manufacturing, and safety starts at the top with the Administrator. America's safety system is under stress, given the changes to FAA and the innovation that we are seeing in new technology. We have challenges in the post-pandemic rebound of air travel and making sure that we have a workforce.

And the FAA's workforce, I know that Mr. Whitaker, in his confirmation hearing, committed to making this a No. 1 priority: build a strong safety culture, attract new talent, and keep pace with technology transformation.

Mr. Whitaker must build an organization that meets the challenges of incorporating new users and technologies like drones and advanced air mobility, electric propulsion, commercial space, and just the continued growth of the busy aviation aerospace around the globe.

Among the most pressing problems is addressing air traffic controller hiring and training, and Mr. Whitaker has stated this will also be a top priority.

Finally, the FAA must be among the global leaders in aviation safety. Mr. Whitaker must work internationally at the International Civil Aviation Organization, ICAO, and through bilateral partnerships to lift the baseline for aviation safety regulation throughout the world.

This work of rebuilding leadership starts here at the FAA, and he is committed to implementing the critical safety reforms that were part of the Aircraft Certification, Safety, and Accountability Act. These are strong challenges, but no doubt this Administrator can meet those challenges and live up to these commitments.

I am confident that Mr. Whitaker's abilities will make sure that this legislation is fully implemented.

In addition, yesterday, the President of the United States and the Secretary of Commerce announced a series of tech hubs in response to the legislation that we passed, the CHIPS and Science Act. I know the Presiding Officer, I think, is pretty happy about that because I think one of those tech hubs was in his State. And certainly there was one in Washington that is really about the next generation of advanced materials in aviation.

The designation made possible by CHIPS and Science is to think about lab-to-market testbeds on thermoplastic composite fabrication equipment and help the United States stay in a leadership position in the next generation of aerospace workforce.

The United States leads in ideas, but we don't always lead in the implementation of the innovation, particularly at a time where now everyone, in an internet age, is reading about our innovations and trying to implement the same things.

The tech hub idea can leverage a lot of ideas across the United States and help translate the science faster into real application and real competitiveness for our Nation and grow jobs and help grow actually rising incomes in various parts of our country as well.

The tech hub, in this instance, in the aerospace ecosystem where we have millions of people employed nationally and we have leading institutions that are doing aviation research—we need to show that innovation can move beyond just where we are today on composites but on next-generation research that then gets translated to the workforce and the skilling of the workforce.

This means creating more patents, translating discoveries, and keeping U.S. manufacturing competitive. I know that many of my colleagues here in the Senate were very pleased to hear this announcement by the President and the Secretary of Commerce.

With over 30 years of diverse experience in these issues, like aviation, Mr. Whitaker will be able to help, I think, in this next-generation aviation technology: thermoplastics.

This is also important for our space companies that want to get into a more rapid production of thermoplastic piece part production, and I think this kind of R&D alliance will help for the future.

So I thank our colleagues for the time today. I hope they will support Mr. Whitaker. I hope that we will move quickly on this nomination, and I hope that it will give us a chance to have an FAA Administrator who will also help us move quickly to resolve the FAA authorization issues and get that authorization before both bodies before the end of the year.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

NOMINATION OF JESSICA LOOMAN

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Jessica Looman to be Administrator for the Wage and Hour Division at the Department of Labor. And I want my Senate colleagues to know a little bit about Jessica, whom I have had the opportunity to know well and to work with since 2011.

Jessica is from St. Paul, MN. She has worked as an attorney and advocate, as a labor leader heading the Minnesota building trades, as a public sector leader, and as a lifelong champion for workers. And in all her roles, Jessica has earned the reputation for being thoughtful and innovative and fair. She is respected for her skill leading large, complex organizations and getting results and working productively with diverse groups of people to find good solutions and common ground.

Before I was Minnesota's Senator and Lieutenant Governor, I served as chief of staff for the Governor of Minnesota, Mark Dayton. And when we needed a leader who was trusted both by business and by labor to be a leader at Min-

nesota's Department of Labor and Industry, we selected Jessica, who served both as assistant commissioner and also as deputy commissioner. And Jessica impressed me and everyone with her leadership, her competence, and her commitment to fairly and diligently enforcing the law.

She led Minnesota's efforts to ensure safe, fair, and healthy workplaces and labor standards. And she led our effort to expand apprenticeships. Jessica was respected by business and labor alike for her commitment to establishing reasonable, effective workplace rules and regulations.

A couple of years later, when we needed a strong leader to take on Minnesota's Department of Commerce, Jessica was our first pick. In that role, she again showed her skill as an executive leader, leading successful statewide initiatives and growing Minnesota's clean energy jobs. So I have no doubt that Jessica will be a fair and pragmatic Administrator for the Wage and Hour Division, which is responsible for enforcing some of our Nation's most important laws governing minimum wage and overtime pay and child labor standards.

As Administrator, Jessica will have direct impact protecting the interest of hard-working Americans, like the waitress whose boss is stealing her tips, or the building trades' carpenter or laborer who has the right to earn the prevailing wage on Federal projects so that they can support their families, or the worker who isn't being paid for the overtime hours that they have worked. Ms. Looman's values are rooted in fairness and the promise that all work has dignity and should be respected.

One of the things that I have learned in my time in public service is that, if you understand both sides of an argument and you really listen, you can usually find a solution that works. Jessica exemplifies this approach. In all of the years that I have worked closely with her, she always approaches issues with that keen desire to understand what both sides need and what they want and then to find a solution that both sides can agree is fair.

And let us be honest, sometimes regulations can seem subjective and hard to understand. And Jessica gets this, and so she is always looking for a path that is reasonable, that protects people's rights, and that follows the law but that is reasonable. I think that this is why she is respected both by employers and by labor, first in Minnesota and now at the U.S. Department of Labor, and it is why she will make a strong, respected, and trusted Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division.

I urge my colleagues to support her confirmation. Her reputation as a respected, effective leader has been built over years of hard work, fighting for working people, and she has a track record of successfully building coalitions and consensus, even when there are real and difficult challenges to bridge.