

State on Earth. In Europe, Putin continues his onslaught against the Ukrainian people with the goal of not just subjugating Ukraine but reasserting Russia as a world power along the lines of the old Soviet Union. In the South Pacific, China's aggression continues to magnify, increasing military activities off the coast of Taiwan, ramming into Philippine Coast Guard ships, and having near misses with an American B-52 bomber over international airspace. That is what the Chinese Government is doing, and this is all in just the past few weeks.

And in Gaza we must ensure that humanitarian aid gets to civilians who need it urgently. This is one of the things that I pushed strongly for President Biden to include in his supplemental request.

All of these challenges share one thing in common: They directly impact—directly impact—America's national security, America's democratic values, and the international world order that has allowed democracy to take root. The way forward is exceptionally clear: We must pass the President's supplemental request, which has funding for Israel, Ukraine, and the South Pacific, while also providing critical humanitarian aid for Gaza.

America does not have the luxury of burying our head in the sand or leaving our friends to fend for themselves. If we want the world to remain a safe place for freedom, for democratic principles, and for America's prosperity, we must defend against those who are working hard to undermine us. So we need to pass this supplemental as soon as we can.

We need to work with our colleagues in the House to ensure all these forms of aid make it to the President's desk. We must not succumb to the false allures of isolationism that the hard right now professes, because the only thing that will achieve is to make America less safe.

#### CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Madam President, about what happened at Cornell, I am sickened and frightened by the news that has come out of Cornell University where, over the weekend, messages appeared on a noncampus online forum calling for violence—violence—against the school's Jewish community. The posts made specific references to a building on campus housing the Center for Jewish Living and called for violence toward Jewish students.

Cornell has decried this appalling act and has alerted the FBI. The incident targeting Cornell's Jewish community is utterly revolting, but, unfortunately, it was not an isolated occurrence. Across the country, on campuses and in public spaces, the ancient poison of anti-Semitism has found new life. The ADL reports that the incidents of anti-Semitism are up over 300 percent since Hamas's attack in Israel on October 7.

In cities ranging from L.A. to Indianapolis to New York—and, in fact, all

around the world—Jews are receiving death threats, vandalism, and public assaults for no other reason than because of who they are. In one instance reported by the ADL, a woman was punched in the face in Grand Central Terminal in New York. When she asked her assailant why he did that, he said: "You are Jewish."

Anti-Semitism is absolutely on the rise here in America, and we have an obligation—a strong obligation—to condemn this behavior whenever we see it, wherever we see it, and no matter who spreads it. Every single American—no matter his or her background, no matter their beliefs, no matter how they feel about the awful violence in the Middle East and its history—ought to condemn with full-throated clarity anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, and all forms of racial and religious prejudice. We must condemn all forms of hate.

Nobody denies that people of good will can have disagreements about the conflict in the Middle East, but the redline is crossed when these disagreements lead to violence or threats of violence like what is happening, unfortunately, in too many communities around the country.

And no matter what our beliefs are, all of us must remain vigilant—absolutely vigilant—against critiques that quickly turn into threats of violence and outright anti-Semitism. Here in America, we must condemn anti-Semitism, always. We must condemn all forms of Islamophobia, always. We must fight all discrimination and preserve the values that make us American to begin with: that all people have dignity and a right to live securely always.

#### UNITED AUTO WORKERS

Madam President, finally, on the UAW, last Wednesday night, the United Auto Workers reached agreement with Ford Motor Company for better wages, better benefits, and stronger workplace protections. Last Saturday, the UAW reached a tentative deal with Stellantis, mirroring the agreement with Ford. And, today, it has been reported that the UAW has finally reached an agreement with GM, the last of the three automakers that the UAW was negotiating with.

Madam President, it is simple: When unions win, workers win, the middle class wins, America wins. These announcements are very good news not just for autoworkers but for all Americans who want better paying jobs and better working conditions.

Automakers have made staggering profits in recent years after workers made enormous sacrifices in the aftermath of the great recession. So now workers deserve those profits, and these agreements rebalance things in a fairer way, which had been unbalanced after 2008.

I am glad these tentative agreements have now been reached.

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.

Mr. CORNYN. 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

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, last Thursday, I traveled back to my home State of Texas but this time to the U.S.-Mexico border, along with Senator CRUZ—my colleague from Texas—as well as three of our non-Texas Senate colleagues. Senators BARRASSO, LEE, and RICKETTS joined us for a series of tours and meetings in the Rio Grande Valley, which is unlike any other place in America.

This has been one of many times that Senator CRUZ and I have welcomed our colleagues to the border because every time I hear people in Washington, DC, talk about the border, it is most likely something they have gleaned from movies or a novel that they have read somewhere. It is not based on reality.

And the truth is, the reality at the border has changed substantially from years ago when illegal immigration was primarily people coming to the United States to work and send money home. It has changed entirely to a global human smuggling enterprise that enriches the criminal organization to organize it, charging tens of thousands of dollars a head to people they smuggle into the United States. And if you come from special interest countries, like Iran, Syria, for example, you may have to pay tens of thousands of dollars, but you can still make your way in because of the broken border policies of the Biden administration, which I will talk about here in a moment.

It really is a shame that such a beautiful, vibrant region of our country that has benefited tremendously from the opportunities that come from living along an international border has been damaged and hurt in such an unfortunate way by the flood of humanity and drugs coming across.

Legitimate trade and travel have shaped the unique culture of our border and serve as a boon not just to local economies but to the entire American economy. But like so many other areas along the U.S.-Mexico border, this region has become overwhelmed by the weight of the current border crisis.

Last month alone, Border Patrol's Rio Grande Valley Sector—just one of many sectors of the Border Patrol—logged more than 45,000 border crossings. In the last year, nearly 340,000 migrants have crossed the Rio Grande Valley Sector, and, overwhelmingly, the Biden administration has simply just released them into the interior of the United States, which has, in turn, proved to be a magnet for more people to come.

If, in fact, the Biden administration wanted to deter illegal immigration, they would stop people from coming to

the border and entering the country illegally, and it would send people back who somehow made it over. That would act as a deterrent.

But right now, notwithstanding the messages of people like Mayor Adams, from New York City, when he recently went to Mexico City, he said: Don't come. Don't come—well, the people who make the dangerous journey from their home to the border and into the interior of the United States, they frequently have access to this thing called television and to this instrument we call a telephone. So they can see people making their way across the border successfully, and they can talk to relatives who have made the trip on the telephone who say: I made it. You can too. Thus, we have seen this huge flood of migrants across the border swell into a virtual tsunami.

It used to be that the overwhelming number of migrants came from Mexico and the Northern Triangle countries. And that is when I hear Vice President HARRIS and others talk—Secretary Blinken—about root causes, like they want to go in and nation-build in order to discourage people from those countries to come to the United States, which tells me they really don't understand the nature of the current phenomenon because it is not just people coming from Mexico and Central America; President Biden's border policies have made it so that people from virtually anywhere in the world can come to the southern border, say the magic words, and be released into the United States.

In fact, we learned on our most recent trip that many migrants don't even claim asylum before they are released because there simply isn't enough capacity to hold them once they cross the border and then return them where they came from. And there aren't anywhere near enough removal flights to deport migrants without valid legal claims to stay here.

So it is no surprise that people are traveling from all over the world, literally, to take advantage of this open border policy. Agents in the Rio Grande Valley Sector told us that they have apprehended, recently, migrants from China, from Russia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, and other countries around the globe. America's southern border is the world's worst kept secret.

When we arrived on Thursday night, we witnessed the sheer volume and diversity of migrants arriving at the border. Some of my colleagues spoke with a family from Moldova. You will have to look that up on your map. But it is not Mexico. It is not Central America. But they just crossed over the border moments earlier. You might ask yourself what would a man and his wife and their 2- or 3-year-old daughter—how did they make it from Eastern Europe to Texas's Rio Grande Valley. And the answer is simple: with human smugglers.

Cartels and other criminal organizations have hit the jackpot with the

Biden border crisis. Indeed, you could say that President Biden has outsourced U.S. immigration policy to these criminal organizations because they are running the show, not President Biden.

In 2021 alone, they made an estimated \$13 billion from human smuggling operations. That is just the human smuggling alone. Since then, the number of border crossings, of course, has skyrocketed. They get paid by the head, so that is good business for the cartels. And I imagine their profits have skyrocketed even further. Cartel smuggling operations aren't limited to Mexico and Central America. For the right price, these criminal organizations will help anyone from anywhere reach the United States and make their way into the interior.

As those who have made the journey can attest, it is an extremely dangerous one, particularly for vulnerable women and children. Human smugglers don't view these migrants as fellow human beings; they view them as a commodity. Migrants are abused, neglected, extorted for more money. Women are often raped or sold for sex. Some migrants have been simply abandoned and left for dead if they become injured or unable to continue their travel.

At one checkpoint, which is about 100 miles into the interior of Falfurrias, TX—it is called Brooks County—they have spent hundreds of thousands of dollars in this little, relatively poor, Texas county burying the bones of dead migrants who have died from exposure in their county because what happens is, once people come across the border, the smugglers—sometimes called coyotes—they put them in stash houses. Actually, we saw one stash house. And then when the time is right, they are loaded in the vans and then transported up the highway. That is the reason for the checkpoint about 100 miles inland. But what the coyotes do is they tell the migrants: Get out of the vehicle before we reach the checkpoint; walk around the checkpoint; and we will meet you on the north side.

Well, for migrants who have come hundreds of miles, or further, already suffering from exposure to make it in the hot Texas summers, where it frequently exceeds 100 degrees, it should be no surprise that some of them—many of them, unfortunately—do not make it. So that is another consequence of the Biden border crisis and open border policies.

And even after they cross the border, many migrants still owe massive debts to the cartels who will not hesitate to use them for forced labor or sex trafficking. In fact, if you go to parts of Houston, TX, you will see women who basically are sex slaves because they are working off their debt to the people who smuggled to get them into the interior of the United States in the first place.

As I mentioned, we also visited a stash house where we saw the migrants

awaiting the next step of their journey, and I hate to imagine what the cartels have in store for these individuals. But we know these migrants are not the only victims of the border crisis. While agents are busy processing and transporting migrants, it creates an open highway for cartels and criminal organizations smuggling drugs into the United States. They, of course, have spotters. They use drones for technology to see where the Border Patrol is and where they are not. And they use that knowledge to smuggle fentanyl, heroin—and God knows what else—across the border and into our communities.

Here is a shocking statistic, at least it was to me. I don't know whether the President of the United States even knows this. But the No. 1 killer of Americans between the ages of 18 and 45 is a synthetic opioid called fentanyl—leading cause of death for Americans 18 to 45.

We know where it comes from. The precursors come from China. They make their way to Mexico where the cartels mix them up, run them through industrial-capacity pill presses, and make them look like relatively innocuous pharmaceuticals. And then when a young man or a young woman, let's say, in high school, like Sienna—whose father gave me this rubber wristband at the Carrollton-Farmers Branch Independent School District last April—they take this, thinking, Well, it is a relatively innocuous pharmaceutical like Percocet or Xanax, but then they don't wake up the next day, of course, leaving grieving families wondering what in the world happened and how could this happen to them and their child.

Drug overdoses alone have taken the lives of about 110,000 Americans a year, currently. And as I said, fentanyl is responsible for about two-thirds of it. Of course, we aren't just worried about substances coming across the border but dangerous people too: criminals, people on the Terrorist Watchlist, people coming from special interest countries like the ones I mentioned.

It used to be that the number of people on the Terrorist Watchlist who were apprehended along the southern border by the Border Patrol was in the single digits. In the past year, at least 169 were apprehended. And that doesn't account for the "got-aways." The "got-aways" are the 1½ million people who have been seen on cameras or detected on sensors but who have evaded capture by the Border Patrol. And you can bet that they are up to no good because they simply—if they actually wanted to make their way into the interior of the United States and didn't have a criminal record or were transporting drugs or on a Terrorist Watchlist, they can just—like almost everybody else under the Biden administration—come to the border, say the magic words, and the Biden administration would release them into the interior of the United States. But we have had 1½ million

“got-aways” evade law enforcement since President Biden took office, including 169 people on the Terrorist Watchlist.

It seems like a long time ago to many people, particularly if you are relatively young, but it was September 11, 2001, where 19 people killed 3,000 Americans by flying airplanes into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and taking down a plane over Pennsylvania.

So 19 terrorists killed 3,000 Americans back in 2001. We know that at least 169 people on the Terrorist Watchlist have been apprehended so far. We don't know how many actually have made their way into the United States, but it is a safe bet it is people from countries all around the world where the prevailing ideology is to kill Americans in the United States.

So the truth is really, depressingly, stranger than even fiction here because the potential for us to wake up someday and have a terrorist attack in our country as a result of uncontrolled migration across the southern border is very real, and it is growing by the day.

Yes, there is a humanitarian and security crisis at the border, and it is impacting all of our country. That is the reason you have Senators from Nebraska and Utah and Wyoming coming to the border, because, as several of them said, every State is now a border State. Recently, one of our colleagues from Montana was there, and he said: You know, the fentanyl that comes across the border has made its way into the communities in my State, in Montana, in the northern border of our country.

So every State has become a border State as a result of the Biden open border policy.

We know migrants are being exploited and abused. American families are being terrorized by the opioid epidemic. Cities in Texas and across the country are struggling to keep up with the mass humanitarian needs of migrants. Yes, we heard from Mayor Adams from New York; we heard from Mayor Bowser here in Washington, DC; the mayor of Chicago; the Governors of Massachusetts and Illinois. This is a national crisis.

The situation is extremely complex, but the solution doesn't have to be. We need deterrence through consequences. That is what the Border Patrol tells me and tells anybody who will listen. If there are no consequences to entering the country illegally, people are going to just keep coming. I think we all understand why. But if we are going to deliver consequences, which means to deter more people from coming, that means ending catch-and-release, which is the policy of the Biden administration. We need to actually remove people who have no legal reason to remain in the United States. That means expedited removal. We need to send a message to people who have no legal reasons to remain in the United States that if they come, they will not be able

to stay. It is really not any more complicated than that. Congress doesn't need to do a rewrite of our immigration laws in order to give President Biden the authority to do these things. He already has that authority under existing law, but he won't use it.

Deterrence is a key component of a safe and secure border. Until the administration starts deterring would-be migrants with frivolous asylum claims from even approaching our border, we will remain in a constant state of crisis. And I predict it will get worse. We have just seen a record number of people coming across the border. That number is going to continue to grow as more and more people know that if they show up at the border and say the magic words, President Biden will say: Come on in.

The only way to truly understand what is happening at the border is to see it firsthand and to speak with the individuals who live and work in our border communities. I have had the pleasure, as I said earlier, of taking dozens of Senators, both Republicans and Democrats, down to the border to hear from these men and women firsthand. I appreciate all of our colleagues who made the trip and continue to advocate for smart border policies, especially, most recently, Senators BARRASSO, LEE, and RICKETTS.

I want to thank the many men and women in the Rio Grande Valley who took the time out of their schedule to speak with us. Their input is absolutely invaluable to the work of the Senate. I am extremely grateful to each of them.

I want to especially thank the law enforcement officers who are on the frontlines of this crisis. Every day, Federal, State, and local law enforcement put their lives on the line to safeguard our border and stop potentially dangerous individuals and drugs from reaching our communities, but they need our help, and they are not getting it today. They deserve more than our gratitude; they deserve our commitment to fix this crisis in any way we can.

President Biden has not only proven himself incapable but also unwilling to address this border crisis, so Congress needs to step in and fill the void. In the coming weeks, the Senate will advance legislation to address some of our greatest national security threats, including action to address the border crisis.

As my colleagues and I saw last week, this crisis cannot be fixed with more no-strings-attached funding. We will not fund current border policies under the Biden administration. As long as a flood of humanity is coming across the border at this pace, it doesn't matter how many Border Patrol agents or immigration judges we have; it won't be enough.

The only way to address this crisis is by deterring more illegal immigration, and the simplest way of doing that is by delivering consequences for entering

the country illegally. It is a tried-and-true strategy that has worked countless times before.

In the coming weeks, I hope Congress will step in where President Biden has refused and establish deterrence once again.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE MIKE JOHNSON

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, only in the United States of America can the son of a Shreveport firefighter, the first college graduate in his family—only in our country can a person like this win a seat in Congress and just a few years later be elected the 56th Speaker of the House.

Speaker MIKE JOHNSON made history for our country and my home State by becoming the first Speaker of the House of Representatives ever from Louisiana. If you are from Louisiana—more particularly from Shreveport, Bossier, or Northwest Louisiana—or, by the way, if you graduated from Captain Shreve, you know MIKE JOHNSON. He is the pride of them all. He is a straight shooter, a family man, a diligent man.

Jim McCrery was the Congressman who held that same seat at a time in the past. When I was first elected, he gave me this advice: Keep your word, show up, and do your homework.

I am sure he gave that same advice to MIKE JOHNSON or, if not, MIKE just was naturally that way, because it describes him to a tee. It is the reason why he is able to unify House Republicans, winning every Republican vote for Speaker for the first time since 2011.

He has the ability to bridge divides that a lot of very capable people were not able to do. MIKE brought together people who disagreed and kept them talking until they found a way forward. That is what leaders do. He is strong in his convictions, but he is not someone looking to steamroll others. He is a unifier and has a talent for working with folks to find common ground.

We have all seen the push and pull between those who wish to govern and, frankly, those who are not very interested in governing. MIKE wishes to govern. He wants to govern with conservative principles to get things done for the country and, hopefully, for my State as well. He has the temperament, intelligence, and integrity to do that as Speaker.

I look forward to working with him to address issues like investing in American energy, securing our southern border, addressing the insurance crisis in Louisiana and nationwide, and finally doing something about the long-term debt being driven, among other things, by a Social Security Program going insolvent. With a conservative Speaker working to secure conservative wins, the country will do well.

We both share a strong sense of duty, a deep faith, and a love for God. You