

“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

could see his faith shine through in his speech when he won the vote. Of course, we share a deep love for our home State, Louisiana. Having a Speaker from Louisiana will help bring some good Louisiana values, perspective, priorities, and maybe even a little boiled crawfish to Washington, DC.

Congratulations, Speaker JOHNSON, and to his wife Kelly and their four wonderful children.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

NATIONAL COUNTRY MUSIC MONTH

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, well, it is Country Music Month, and in Nashville, you will hear people say "it all begins with a song."

And, indeed, when we think about the playlists on our phones, when we think about the songs that frame our life, that is very true. And we love the fact that we get to celebrate the creative community every single year during Country Music Month. And this week, the Senate should pass a resolution that Senator KAINE and I have filed. It is designating October as National Country Music Month.

Now, Bristol, TN, Bristol, VA, right there on the State line, that is the birthplace of country music. So you have got a little bit of Tennessee and a little bit of Virginia, and we share that richness and that history. And what our resolution does is to highlight our States'—Tennessee's and Virginia's—rich, shared history of fostering creativity, of dreaming those big dreams, and then setting those dreams and thoughts to words and music.

The music that these artists, songwriters, and musicians create has had a profound impact not only on country music as a genre but on the evolution of American music.

Tennessee artists have the unique power to unite us as Americans. With that in mind, I want to thank my colleagues in advance for celebrating our creative community with us and helping designate October as National Country Music Month. But our work is not done. These musicians need our help getting paid for their art, controlling the business side of their careers, and protecting their intellectual property.

I want to highlight a few bills this body must pass to maintain our position as a cultural and artistic leader and a creative hub. The United States is the only democratic nation in the world where artists are not compensated for the use of their songs on AM/FM radio. Now, as I said, we are the only democratic nation that does not compensate these artists. Now, Iran and North Korea are two of the only other countries with this distinction.

Senator PADILLA and I have introduced a bipartisan piece of legislation—the American Music Fairness Act—which would right this wrong and ensure performers are compensated when their songs are played on the radio.

Now, Senator PADILLA and I could probably have a great discussion about, Does California have more artists and singers and songwriters or does Tennessee? But I think Tennessee probably has more of those artists and songwriters.

Now, not being paid for the use of their music on radio has been a decades-long injustice that hurts Americans at home and abroad. As I said, the United States is the only democratic nation that does not pay for that radio play. So the majority of foreign nations—those who already pay their own artists for radio airplay—currently withhold royalties from American music creators simply because the United States does not reciprocate by paying their performers. This amounts to a massive financial hit for our American artists.

Now, when you talk with them, what you will learn from different royalty rights organizations is our entertainers here are missing out on about \$200 million each year in income to those musicians—\$200 million a year. That is money that would come from other countries to our American artists if we were to pass the American Music Fairness Act.

(Ms. BUTLER assumed the Chair.)

Senator PADILLA and I have worked hard on this. It is bipartisan. We think to not pay these artists is something that needs to be fixed, and that is why we should agree to get the American Music Fairness Act to the President's desk without delay.

Now, I also worked with the late Senator Dianne Feinstein—and, Madam President, we welcome you. We know you have big shoes to fill in Senator Feinstein's seat. Senator Feinstein and I often talked about the importance of keeping this American creative community here and keeping that community vibrant, and she and I worked together to introduce a piece of bill that is called the HITS Act. This is the Help Independent Tracks Succeed, HITS.

Now, this bill would allow independent music creators—including musicians, technicians, songwriters, and producers—to deduct 100 percent of recording production expenses in the year that those expenses are incurred. The Federal Tax Code already allows film, television, theater productions to do this, and there is no reason not to give our music creators this same benefit. Think about that. Somebody goes in; they book that studio time; they lay down those tracks; they lay down those vocals; you get a producer that produces it; the musicians play on it; the technicians come in and tweak this—and they cannot deduct all of that expense. This is not fair, especially when you consider that TV, film, theater—they can all deduct 100 percent.

So Senator Feinstein and I worked on this, got it ready to go. This is another one that needs to pass. These two pieces of legislation really have something very important in common. They

recognize that entertainment as a career is both a creative pursuit and it is a very fragile business model. It requires that those individuals be able to exercise their intellectual property rights to benefit from their creations.

And one of the top concerns I hear from entertainers and their teams is the extent to which AI will—and already has—damaged their businesses. So we have another issue that has come on. In addition to not being fully compensated, then these entertainers are looking at the impact that artificial intelligence is going to have on their business.

Now, Congress is already late to the AI issue. We all know that, and I am delighted that we are beginning to see bipartisan interest in moving forward some legislation on guidelines and guardrails for artificial intelligence.

Creators have already begun to see that their voices, their likenesses, and their styles of music are used without their consent. And the danger to their livelihoods is real because they are not being compensated for their music that is used to train AI models that are actually going to take away the ability for them to make money on what they have created.

So in addition to not being paid for radio play, in addition to not being able to deduct production expense, now—here it comes—AI is going to mimic them and use name, image, likeness, voice cloning and take away more of their ability.

So Senator COONS and I have released a discussion draft on a piece of legislation to help protect these artists. It is called the NO FAKES Act. The NO FAKES Act would hold individuals, companies, and platforms accountable for digital replicas created or used without the consent of the individual that is being cloned or depicted in that replica. So it allows an entertainer to protect themselves, the replication of their voice, of their mannerisms, of their musical style.

Well, Hank Williams, Jr., has been quoted as saying, "Country music singers have always been a real close family." He is pretty right about that. And just like any family, I love it when you see all of these entertainers who are, in essence, competitors competing for radio time and studio time and tours and dates on their tours. They are competing for it all, but they come together, and they let you know when they need something and when something needs to be done. And addressing this AI issue is something that needs to be done.

So I would encourage my colleagues to talk to entertainers in their States and talk with them about the American Music Fairness Act, the HITS Act, and the NO FAKES Act, and what it would do to give them that control over their art, their name, their image, their likeness.

You know, here in the United States, whether we want to argue about: Is Tennessee the biggest or does California have the most or is Virginia the