

and say: I paid this cartel. I said these words. I am in the country. And everybody else keeps coming from there.

We should fix this gap if we know there is a problem. Why? Not because it is just being exploited in sheer numbers; it is because we don't know who these folks are. Many of them are folks who are coming to work and coming to connect with family. I get that. They should come through a legal route, and we should encourage them to be able to do that. But some of these folks are not coming for our good.

In the past year, 150 people were picked up who are on our Terror Watchlist, coming across our southern border. That is more than the last 5 years combined just in the past year. And those are the people we picked up. This past year, over 1 million people crossed our border who literally the Border Patrol could see in the desert but couldn't get to. We have no idea for those million. They weren't turning themselves in like some other folks are; they are in camo and running from Border Patrol.

Right now, Border Patrol can't get to them because they are processing so many other folks, they don't have the manpower to do it. So the conversation is, well, let's just add more manpower. The problem still remains. We may have more manpower, but we still have millions of people crossing and mayors all over the country saying: Make it stop. We want a legal process to go through.

There is a way to be able to do this, and we should.

In the past 2 years, 70,000 people—in just the last 2 years—have been released into the country who are considered by DHS special interest aliens. These are folks from Syria, from Iran, from Iraq, from other areas of known terrorism. They weren't on our Terror Watchlist, and we don't have any criminal records for them, but where they are from and their specific areas cause national concerns. What happened to those folks? Those 70,000 who were released into our country are awaiting a hearing 10 years from now. That is what happened to them because the system is being gamed.

If there is any lesson we should have learned from 9/11, where 19 people who were not legally present in the country killed thousands of Americans, it should be that we have to be able to manage legal immigration, to encourage legal immigration and discourage illegal immigration.

It is an issue that I have talked about over and over again in this body, but it is an issue that continues to rise in the hearts and the minds of the American people because more people are feeling it nationwide and in more States, and they are just asking a simple question, and they usually catch me and say a simple statement: I am not anti-immigrant; I just want it to be legal. That shouldn't seem like a radical idea to a body that makes law, that we would want things to be legal

in America, but for whatever reason, it has become more and more challenging to just follow the law and to make clear law.

One other thing. The administration, a year ago just last week, put in a new Venezuela policy. We are at the 1-year anniversary. They put in this new Venezuela policy where they were going to limit access to only a certain number. They did see a decline a year ago for a couple of months. But if you go back to October of last year, we had 22,000 people who were crossing from Venezuela a month. If you look at September of this year, we had 66,000 people from Venezuela crossing a month.

The Venezuela policy didn't work, so do you know what the administration did in October? They started actually returning people back to Venezuela if they crossed and said: You are not eligible for asylum. Within days, the number of Venezuelans trying to cross the border plummeted. Just enforcing the law changes dramatically the policy and the reality on the ground.

Right now, Border Patrol and CBP are processing people they know are a threat to the United States. They know. When I visit with Border Patrol, they will often say to me: I picked up a person between ports of entry who was running, 25 years old, with two other 20-somethings, all dressed in camo, in the night, trying to be able to get across. We encountered them. Within 24 hours, they were released.

They are nervous because they have no idea where they are going or what they are going to do. As law enforcement, they did their best to interdict, but the current policy just releases them into the country anyway. That is not right.

This body should find a way to be able to solve the border crisis and not just ignore it. We should be able to come together and figure this out. Our country is at risk. This is a national security issue, not to mention drugs and everything else that the Border Patrol can't go interdict because they are processing so many migrants at this time.

It is not that migrants are going everywhere. And I have heard it a lot: Well, there are migrants all over the world. That is true. But the folks who are coming here are coming here because it is the greatest country in the world, and I don't blame them for coming here. But let's encourage them to do it legally, not through a process that we all know is being gamed and is illegal. Let's empower those families to be able to move here. If they fit who we are as Americans and add value and they pass their background checks, let's invite them to be a part of us as Americans. Let's not have the person screening the people coming into the country be the cartels in Mexico because that is who is currently controlling our immigration policy, are the Mexican cartels, not us. That should not be so, and I would hope this body would work in the very short period of time in the days ahead to resolve that.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. 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. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 372.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Monica M. Bertagnolli, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. 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.

The senior assistant 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. 372, Monica M. Bertagnolli, of Massachusetts, to be Director of National Institutes of Health.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Debbie Stabenow, Tammy Duckworth, Mark Kelly, Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher A. Coons, Tim Kaine, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Catherine Cortez Masto.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. 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. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 28.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kenly Kiya

Kato, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. 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.

The senior assistant 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. 28, Kenly Kiya Kato, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Ben Ray Lujan, Raphael G. Warnock, Tammy Duckworth, Jack Reed, John W. Hickenlooper, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Tina Smith, Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. 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. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 36.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Julia E. Kobick, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. 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.

The senior assistant 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. 36, Julia E. Kobick, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Ben Ray Lujan, Raphael G. Warnock, Tammy Duckworth, Jack Reed, John W. Hickenlooper, Catherine

Cortez Masto, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Tina Smith, Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. 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. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 38.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ramon Ernesto Reyes, Jr., of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. 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.

The senior assistant 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. 38, Ramon Ernesto Reyes, Jr., of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Margaret Wood Hassan, Ben Ray Lujan, Raphael G. Warnock, Tammy Duckworth, Jack Reed, John W. Hickenlooper, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Baldwin, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Tina Smith, Debbie Stabenow, Sheldon Whitehouse.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, November 2, be waived.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations: all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of

the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN1055 AIR FORCE nomination of William D. Magee, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 27, 2023.

PN1078 AIR FORCE nominations (21) beginning REAGAN HOWARD BEATON, and ending PILAR G. WENNRICH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1081 AIR FORCE nominations (35) beginning JOSEPH BENJAMIN AHLERS, and ending LAURA ASHLEY WAGNER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1082 AIR FORCE nominations (12) beginning JEREMIAH L. BLACKBURN, and ending THOMAS A. WEBB, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

IN THE ARMY

PN238-3 ARMY nomination of ZARA M. SCRIBNER, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 26, 2023.

PN1087 ARMY nominations (6) beginning DONALD T. CRISWELL, and ending PETER A. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1088 ARMY nominations (15) beginning JOSEPH M. BAUMANN, and ending JACOB H. YOUMANS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1089 ARMY nominations (17) beginning DAVID A. BRUNAIS, and ending JEREMIAH J. OLIGARIO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1090 ARMY nomination of Erick Leon, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1091 ARMY nomination of Brian C. Satterlee, II, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1092 ARMY nomination of Michael D. Norton, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1093 ARMY nominations (7) beginning MICHAEL A. BRYANT, and ending STEVEN L. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

PN1094 ARMY nomination of Joshua W. Brown, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 19, 2023.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1057 MARINE CORPS nomination of Christopher F. Melling, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 27, 2023.

IN THE NAVY

PN1058 NAVY nomination of T M. Alford, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of September 27, 2023.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

PN1059 SPACE FORCE nomination of Dustin L. White, which was received by the