

gains for Iran. It would grant amnesty for both the terrorists and their sponsors. We have a responsibility to reject these demands not just on behalf of our ally Israel but because amnesty for terrorists would embolden the Iran-backed threats to U.S. interests in the region.

As I have said before, effective deterrence requires both capabilities and credibility. It requires that a global superpower actually act like one. In practical terms, deterring Iran and its web of terrorists means meeting attacks on U.S. personnel in Iraq and Syria with swift, lethal, and overwhelming military force. It means working with allies to deploy crippling economic sanctions and inhibit Iran's support for terror. It means finally taking the advice I offered President Biden when he took office: Set aside the failed nuclear deal; work with Republicans; and build an Iran policy that can endure long after he leaves office.

BORDER SECURITY

Now, Mr. President, on another matter, at a hearing last week, the Secretary of Homeland Security told our colleagues that "ensuring the safety of the American people is a national imperative and a government obligation." Secretary Mayorkas is absolutely right about that, but for someone who understands so clearly the duty of his office, the Biden administration's border czar is utterly failing to execute it.

After 3 straight years of record-shattering overall border apprehensions, the alarming details of the national security crisis unfolding at the southern border on this administration's watch are coming into clearer focus.

Last fiscal year didn't just set a new alltime record for border apprehensions of individuals on the Terror Watchlist; it saw arrivals from countries beyond Latin America triple. CBP personnel are now facing a human wave at the border that, according to Mexican officials, hails from 120 different countries and speaks 60 different languages.

For 3 years, policy choice by policy choice, the Biden administration has welcomed this historic flood of illegal migration and set the brave men and women of Customs and Border Protection up for failure. And it is abundantly clear that the solution to the administration's border crisis is by replacing bad policies with sensible ones. Even Secretary Mayorkas admitted last week that "policy changes are needed." But, in reality, the supplemental request he is selling on behalf of the President is much less focused on fixing policy than on throwing money at the problem. Instead of shutting off the broken asylum incentives that are driving record arrivals, the administration wants to pay for faster asylum claim processing, a shower of grant funding for overwhelmed liberal cities that once proudly declared themselves "sanctuary cities," and, as Secretary Mayorkas put it, accelerate "work authorization for eligible non-citizens."

Well, the Biden administration's border crisis has created a fork in the road. In the face of record illegal migration, Democrats are focused more on getting more people into our country faster no matter the cost. Meanwhile, Senate Republicans are focused on securing the border and putting the American people back at the forefront of our border policy. I am grateful to a group of our colleagues, led by Senators LANKFORD, GRAHAM, THUNE, and COTTON, who are working hard on proposals to do exactly that.

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. MURPHY. Mr. 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.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I wish this were not true—and it is true in the United States and nowhere else—but, on average, 70 women across this country are killed each month by an intimate partner, a husband or a boyfriend mostly, and most all of those murders are at the hands of a perpetrator with a firearm.

In the United States, women are 21 times more likely to be killed by a gun than women living in any other high-income nation. I get it that the numbers that we throw around when talking about the gun violence epidemic sometimes can get a little numbing and overwhelming, but that is a really damning, unconscionable statistic.

If you live in America as a woman—the most affluent, most powerful country in the world—you are not twice as likely to die as women in other countries at the hands of a firearm, you are not 5 times more likely, you are not 10 times more likely, you are 21 times more likely, living in the United States of America, to die from a gunshot wound as a woman than women living in any other high-income country.

I am not talking about comparing the United States to some war-ravaged, developing nation in the middle of civil conflict. I am talking about comparing the United States to other peer nations. That is unacceptable.

We made progress last year. We made progress last year because Republicans and Democrats came together and said you shouldn't be able to have a gun anywhere in this country if you have a judicial history, if you have a conviction related to domestic violence. So we changed the law. We limited something called the boyfriend loophole so that whether you are a spouse or an intimate partner or a dating partner, you now can't get your hands on a weapon—you can't buy one, can't have a weapon—if you have been convicted of a domestic violence charge. That was good news.

The reason that we did that, despite the fact that the gun lobby opposed it, is because the American public has just made up their mind on this question.

In general, on most questions about keeping dangerous weapons away from dangerous people, 89 percent of Americans have already decided that they just would rather we err on the side of caution.

Specifically, on this question of prohibiting abusers—domestic abusers—from owning guns, 83 percent of Americans support that. It is really hard to get 83 percent of Americans to support anything in this country. This is maybe the most popular public policy intervention in America today, stopping domestic abusers from getting firearms.

The gun lobby and the gun industry, which want to sell weapons to everybody, regardless of their criminal status, cannot win that fight here in the U.S. Senate. They lost that fight last year because the American public has made up its mind. You are likely not getting reelected to Congress from a swing State or a swing district if you are voting against measures to take guns away from domestic abusers.

But here is the problem with the state of American politics today: There are now two legislative lawmaking bodies. One of them is the U.S. Congress. The other is across the street at the Supreme Court. So over and over again, when an industry or a rightwing interest group can't move the laws of Congress in their favor because the American public is so wildly against their priority, they just shift the venue of the fight across the street to the Supreme Court. That is what is happening right now, as we speak, on this question of keeping guns away from domestic abusers.

Today, the Supreme Court is hearing the case of United States v. Rahimi. Let me tell you a little bit about Zackey Rahimi. He was a drug dealer with a history of armed violence toward intimate partners and a history of firing guns in public places.

In the winter of 2019, Rahimi had an argument with his girlfriend in a parking lot. She tried to walk away from the argument, knowing about his penchant for violence. But he grabbed her wrist. He knocked her to the ground. He then dragged her back to the car, picking her up and throwing her into the vehicle, causing her to hit her head on the side of the vehicle. Upon realizing that a person witnessed the assault, Rahimi retrieved a gun and fired a shot into the air, during which time his girlfriend escaped.

It won't surprise you that his girlfriend went and got a restraining order against him. He was vicious and violent, firing guns in public into the air as a means to threaten her. She went and got a restraining order. That restraining order required Rahimi to be noticed to the criminal background check system so that he couldn't own or buy guns. Eighty-three percent of

Americans think that is a great idea: Somebody with that kind of dangerous history, with an active restraining order against them, should not be able to buy a gun or possess guns. That was the law in Texas at the time. It worked for this woman who was being badly abused, and her life was unquestionably under threat.

Rahimi thinks that he should have the guns. He thinks that notwithstanding his long criminal history, the restraining order, that the Constitution requires him, a domestic abuser, to have weapons. So he has brought a case that has reached the Supreme Court asking to invalidate all laws that keep weapons away from domestic abusers who are the subject of restraining orders.

If this case is decided in his favor, it is not just an outrage, it is not just dangerous; it is a frontal assault on democracy because what it would say is that the Supreme Court—not the U.S. Congress, not the elected branch of government—is going to micromanage the decisions as to who can have a gun and who can't have a gun. They will decide who is dangerous and who is not dangerous. That should make you really nervous if the outcome of this case is to decide that Zackey Rahimi is a responsible individual, capable of owning and possessing more weapons.

Later in that year, Rahimi threatened another woman with a gun, which resulted, that time, in a charge of aggravated assault. Rahimi then participated in five separate shootings—five separate shootings—all of which were in public places. Rahimi was arrested and convicted of possessing a firearm. He was ultimately sentenced for these crimes for a long time in jail.

Restraining orders are designed to look at someone, assess their penchant for violence, and then take guns away from them to protect a spouse or a woman or a girlfriend. Rahimi was violent. He was wildly violent after the restraining order. This is exactly whom the law in Texas is designed to protect us from. Yet we are perhaps weeks away from the Supreme Court invalidating that law, invalidating Connecticut's law, invalidating Georgia's laws so that domestic abusers, with histories of vicious assault, can get their hands back on weapons.

But this should come as no surprise to Americans because we have won this fight, this fight to start moving the laws of this country toward common sense. We want people to have a right to own firearms. I believe in the Second Amendment. I believe the Second Amendment protects the right of private gun ownership. I do. But I think that there is a class of individuals—a pretty small class of individuals—who have demonstrated so clearly that they are so dangerous and so irresponsible with firearms that they should not have them. It is a small class of individuals. Zackey Rahimi is clearly in that class. And the idea that we are weeks away from somebody like him

being able to get guns again should shake this country to its foundation.

Maybe the Supreme Court listens to America; maybe they don't. But this country needs to understand the gravity of the decision that is being made and the wholesale shift that will occur in legislating on the question of gun safety.

If Rahimi wins this case, we are no longer in charge. The Supreme Court will now, on a case-by-case basis, decide who can have a gun and who can't. Frankly, that is bad for progressives and supporters of gun violence prevention. That is bad for conservatives as well because once the Supreme Court gets in the business of that kind of micromanaging, we are all out of jobs. We will just show up to work, punch our clock but have really nothing to do because they ultimately will pull the strings. They will substitute themselves as the new governing policy-making body in this country.

With the stakes so high for women's safety in this country, with 70 women dying every month at the hands of an intimate partner, we cannot let that happen.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican whip.

AMERICAN LEADERSHIP

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, we have had no shortage of reminders in the last couple of years that we continue to live in a dangerous world.

Vladimir Putin's war of aggression in Ukraine, increased Chinese belligerence, and Hamas's October 7 attack, enabled by Iran, are all powerful reminders of the fact that there will always be malign actors in this world who must be confronted. These events are also a powerful reminder of something else, and that is the need for American leadership on the global stage.

Nature abhors a vacuum, and if the United States and other free countries don't lead, other countries will fill the void—countries like Iran, Russia, and China.

I don't need to tell anyone that all three of these countries have been flexing their power in recent years and seeking to expand their footprint. Iran, as Hamas's recent attack so pointedly reminded us, is supporting terrorist organizations throughout the Middle East: Hamas, Hezbollah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, the Houthis in Yemen, Shia militias that are attacking U.S. troops in Iraq and Syria. And the list goes on. Nor is Iran confining its sphere of activities to the Middle Eastern countries.

Iran has provided Russia with weapons to use in its war on Ukraine, and it is helping Russia to build its own drone-manufacturing facility to dramatically increase Russia's drone supply.

Russia, of course, is currently providing the world with a clear illustration of its imperial aspirations in its war of aggression in Ukraine. And

Putin has made it clear that his ambitions don't end there. He is also occupying territory in Georgia and seemingly working on asserting Russian influence in Moldova and the Balkans.

And as for China, whether it is increasingly aggressive threats against Taiwan, efforts to expand its military and economic hold over the Indo-Pacific, menacing U.S. military aircraft, or sending a spy balloon across the United States in an attempt to gather information on sensitive military sites, China has made it very clear that it is set on expanding its power—and woe to anyone who gets in its way.

And it is backing up its determination with an aggressive military buildup that has seen the Chinese military outpace the U.S. military in modern capabilities like hypersonic missiles.

So it is abundantly clear that bad actors are flexing their power. And, as I said, our response to that must be a renewed commitment to American leadership internationally.

Now, American leadership doesn't mean attempting to fix every country's problems or to get militarily involved in every conflict around the globe. We neither can nor should attempt to become the world's policeman. But that doesn't mean that we should retreat from the global stage or confine our focus to one or two areas.

There is a lot that we can do while not attempting to play global policeman or to solve every conflict. In the first place, we can and should project the kind of strength that makes bad actors unwilling to tangle with us—or with our allies. That means first, and foremost, having a strong military prepared to meet and defeat any threat, backed up by resilient supply chains. But it also means things like a strong economy and developing our energy resources so that we don't have to depend on hostile countries or hostile areas of the world for oil.

Military and economic strength is a powerful deterrent. But it is not enough. We also have to engage on the global stage. We need to build and maintain relationships with allies, support free nations, and stand against hostile actions by hostile countries.

The stronger the bonds of free nations and the more united our response to belligerent countries, the less scope these countries will have for their aggression.

The world stage is going to be dominated by someone. And when free countries abdicate a leadership role, malign actors are likely to end up controlling the playing field.

Some might suggest that the United States should only engage globally when events directly and immediately affect us. But, unfortunately, that thinking often involves underestimating just how much we are affected by world events, even those that are not a direct and immediate attack on U.S. interests.

Some, for example, would question our continued support for Ukraine.