

work to make sure that Rhode Island did a good job in the pandemic.

It was not easy. These were big new programs that we had created, and implementing them and getting the money to flow smoothly through the banks and undoing the clogs that emerged and the different errors that were experienced was a big project.

Mark made Rhode Island a model of good implementation of our pandemic response. Other SBA offices around the country looked to what he was doing and modeled on that.

It was just a pretty gallant and wonderful thing that he was willing to remain at the helm through that difficult period, to work through these big programs and make them succeed and to help small businesses across our State through a period of real financial uncertainty and peril. Mark and his team delivered much needed Federal funding to businesses in every community, often providing a lifeline that allowed small business owners to keep their doors open and to keep their people on the payroll.

That pandemic reinforced what we already knew about Mark. He knows Rhode Island's small businesses better than anybody, he is determined to be helpful, and he will stand up and rise to the occasion when the demand is there for his skills.

So I join JACK in congratulating our friend Mark on an incredible run. We thank you, sir, for your dedication to lifting up small businesses across Rhode Island and for your commitment to public service. We have loved working with you.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Rhode Island.

#### TRIBUTE TO J. WILLIAM MIDDENDORF

Mr. REED. Madam President, next week, the Naval War College in Newport, RI, will host the unveiling of the keel plate for the Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer DDG-138, which will be named for an extraordinary American and an extraordinary Rhode Islander: Ambassador J. William Middendorf.

I won't be able to honor Ambassador Middendorf in person. So I would like to take this opportunity, along with my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE, to say a few words of appreciation for his contributions and public service.

Ambassador Middendorf, who now resides in the town of Little Compton, RI, was born 99 years ago, on September 24, 1924, in Baltimore, MD. He remains a person of tremendous intellect, interests, and achievement. To this day, he continues to share his strong and always interesting opinions as a frequent contributor for the Providence Journal.

I don't always agree with him, but his column always makes for a lively read, and he has been preparing an upcoming book on the way called "On My Watch: Tyrants and Patriots."

I would like to highlight some of Ambassador Middendorf's extensive record

of achievement and patriotic accomplishments.

In the 1940s, while our Nation was at war, he served in the Navy as an engineering officer and navigator aboard the landing craft support ship USS LCS-53 and earned his bachelor of naval science from the College of the Holy Cross under the Navy's V-12 Program. After he was discharged from the Navy, he earned a bachelor of arts degree from Harvard University in 1947 and then an M.B.A. from the Stern School of Business at New York University in 1954.

Ambassador Middendorf became an investment banker and cofounded Middendorf, Colgate and Company, which became a prominent Wall Street firm, and he took on important roles in the national Republican Party.

In 1969, he left his investment firm and was appointed as U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands and continued in that position until 1973. He then served as Under Secretary of the Navy with an appointment from President Nixon.

On April 8, 1974, Ambassador Middendorf became the 62nd Secretary of the Navy, serving through the Ford administration. During his tenure as Secretary of the Navy, he championed and oversaw the development of four major Navy programs: the Ohio-class submarine program and the accompanying Trident missiles, the Aegis surface-launched missile system, the CH-53E heavy-lift helicopter for the Marine Corps, and the F/A-18 Hornet carrier-based attack aircraft.

Ambassador Middendorf is also credited with creating the famed Marine Corps Marathon. As Secretary of the Navy, he encouraged and approved the first Marine Reserve Marathon and provided replicas of the Iwo Jima statue to be used as trophies for the male and female marathon winners.

After his tenure as Secretary of the Navy, he returned to the private sector as president and chief executive officer of Financial General Bankshares, which he reorganized and renamed as First American Bank.

In 1980, Ambassador Middendorf led the CIA transition team for President Reagan's incoming administration. He was later named the U.S. Ambassador to the Organization of American States, a post he served in until 1984, when he accepted the appointment as U.S. Representative to the European Community, which is now known as the European Union. He served in that role until 1987.

On June 10, 2022, Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro announced that the future Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer DDG-138, now under construction at Bath Iron Works shipyard in Maine, will be named the USS *J. William Middendorf*. The name selection follows the tradition of naming destroyers after U.S. naval leaders and heroes.

I congratulate Ambassador Middendorf on his well-deserved honor and express my gratitude to the ship-

builders and sailors who are bringing this new Arleigh Burke destroyer into the service of our Nation.

With that, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I am delighted to have the chance to follow my senior Senator to add a few words about Bill Middendorf and celebrate the fact that the newest Arleigh Burke-class missile destroyer of the U.S. Navy will be named the USS *J. William Middendorf*.

Bill was Secretary of the Navy and U.S. Ambassador—a very distinguished career. If you go back to the time that he was Secretary of the Navy, the sequence was Paul Ignatius, who went on to become President of the Washington Post and an Assistant and Under Secretary of the Army; followed by John Chafee of Rhode Island, who went on to serve with great distinction in the U.S. Senate; followed by, if I recall correctly, John Warner, who became a very distinguished Senator representing Virginia; and then in that line came Ambassador Middendorf. So, clearly, the name selection follows an impressive tradition of service by some impressive Navy Secretaries.

Ambassador Middendorf was born in Baltimore, actually, and served in World War II as a naval engineer officer and navigator, and, after a successful business career, he was appointed U.S. Ambassador to the Netherlands in 1969 and then served as Under Secretary of the Navy.

In 1974, Ambassador Middendorf was appointed by President Nixon to serve as the 62nd Secretary of the Navy, and, in that capacity, he did something very important for Rhode Island, which was to champion the Navy's submarine program, including overseeing the creation of General Dynamics Electric Boat's Quonset Point location, a facility which Senator REED has done so much to make a powerful economic engine in Rhode Island and a powerful shipbuilding facility to make sure that America's power overseas is at its apex.

This Quonset Point facility is a very important legacy, and I am delighted to join my senior Senator in wishing Ambassador Middendorf—Secretary Middendorf—congratulations on the keel laying and, very soon, a happy 100th birthday.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, the majority leader has said he plans to schedule a vote on President Biden's \$106 billion supplemental funding request as soon as this week. He knows, as well as I do, that, as written, this proposal stands zero chance of becoming law. If Senator SCHUMER puts this funding request on the floor of the Senate, I believe the cloture vote—the requirement here that 60 Senators agree to cut off debate—will fail. In the

House, the legislation is so unpopular that it will never even make it to the floor for a vote.

The strong opposition to the President's proposal is completely warranted, not for what it includes so much as for what it does not include. The supplemental is supposed to be all about national security, but it fails to deliver anything on one of the most urgent national security priorities, and that is the crisis at the southern border. National security begins with homeland security, right here at home, and we have a major security vulnerability right here on our Nation's doorstep.

Since President Biden took office, we have logged more than 6.5 million illegal crossings at the southern border. On top of that, there have been roughly 1.7 million people who have gotten away. They call them "got-aways," the Border Patrol does. They are people who have been identified—at least by their physical presence—on a camera or a sensor, but when the Border Patrol shows up to try to find them, they are nowhere to be found.

The truth is, the Biden administration has zero idea of who these 1.7 million people are or what they are capable of or what their intentions are. They could be people just simply coming here to work. They could be terrorists. They could be carrying illegal drugs that took the lives last year alone of 108,000 Americans. They could be people with long rap sheets. They could be convicted murderers or child abusers. We simply have no idea, and that is the point. Uncontrolled illegal immigration is dangerous.

The migration crisis has precipitated another crisis. When thousands of people are pouring across the border each day, it provides a perfect diversion for drug cartels in allowing them to move fentanyl, for example, across the border. Fentanyl alone took the lives of 71,000 young people last year alone. Fentanyl poisoning is the No. 1 cause of death for those Americans between the ages of 18 and 45 years old. As I have said, we are losing somewhere around 110,000 Americans a year.

In all the time I have been working on this issue, I have never seen anything like the current situation at the border. Texas, as you know, has a 1,200-mile common border with Mexico, so this is ground zero for the Biden border crisis, but this is unlike anything we have ever seen before.

President Biden, during his time in office, has shattered every record on the books when it comes to illegal border crossings. In less than 3 years, he has set new records for the most crossings in a single day, in a single month, in a single year. I say "he" has because this would not happen if President Biden would simply use the laws that are already on the books to try to bring some control out of this chaos.

It is important to realize this didn't just materialize out of thin air. It was a direct result of the Biden administra-

tion's refusal to enforce the law. Instead, the Biden administration has sent a signal that our borders are open to anyone who can show up at our borders, and that message has gotten through loud and clear.

A recent story in the New York Times highlighted just how far the President's open borders message has traveled. In the past year, more than 24,000 Chinese citizens have been apprehended at the southern border. That is more than the previous 10 years combined. Many of these individuals claim asylum, but whether or not their claims are successful really doesn't impact on their ability to stay in the United States. As the New York Times noted, those who are not granted asylum end up staying anyway because China usually will not take them back.

It is no secret that word travels fast. When a group of migrants reaches the southern border and is allowed to remain in the United States, then people watching on television or people on the other end of a telephone call are told: I made it. You can too. So they keep coming. Chinese citizens now represent the fourth largest group making the trek to our southern border. That is astonishing, and it ought to be concerning.

The reason so many people from around the world are making this expensive and dangerous trip is that they are all but guaranteed by Biden administration policies to be able to stay. There is absolutely no deterrence, no consequence. The Border Patrol has told me countless times that the migrants used to run away from them, but now they run to them and turn themselves in, knowing that they will be able to stay. Migrants used to go to great lengths to avoid being arrested because, once it happened, it was most likely game over. Law enforcement would detain the migrants and determine whether they had a legitimate cause to remain in the United States, but if they didn't, they would be removed or repatriated to their home countries. If someone wanted to claim asylum, law enforcement would conduct a credible fear screening to determine whether they had a colorable case for asylum, but if they did not, they would be returned to their home country. That is what the Border Patrol calls consequences and what I would call a deterrent for people coming who know they don't have any arguable legal basis to be able to stay.

But, today, that entire story has been flipped on its head. Personnel and detention facilities are so underwater that the normal processes have gone out the window. When thousands of migrants are crossing the border every day, law enforcement simply doesn't have the ability to detain each and every person long enough to determine if their claims to stay in the United States are legitimate. Today, migrants want to be arrested or detained by Border Patrol because they know they are highly unlikely to be removed. In fact,

they are all but guaranteed a yearslong stay, probably, even openly, with a work authorization.

Today, migrants are quickly processed and released while they await a court date that is years away. Recently, we had a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee where some of the immigration judges who have the most experience in considering these cases testified that only about 15 percent of the people who ultimately appear in front of an immigration judge legally qualify for asylum. That means 85 percent of the people in that line do not. Yet what is causing this huge backlog is the 85 percent who prevent the 15 percent from getting their cases heard on a timely basis.

Since President Biden took office, the immigration court backlogs have more than doubled; now it is more than 2.9 million cases. As a result, the wait for a court date just keeps on growing.

You know, that is part of the plan of the smuggling organizations that get rich by smuggling individuals into the United States. The more people they can move into the United States, the more money they make, and the more they can stack up immigration court hearings, the more they can ensure that people are actually released rather than detained. Then the smugglers win, and we lose.

Earlier this year, the Associated Press reported that, in New York, court dates were being assigned in the year 2033—not 2023, the present year, but 2033, a decade away.

With each day that passes, it becomes clearer and clearer that money alone will not fix the problem. After all, the border crisis isn't the result of scarce resources but of an intentional refusal by the Biden administration to actually enforce the law. It is clear we need more than funding to solve this crisis. What we need are policy changes that will lead to real change—in other words, stop the exploitation of our asylum laws and of our catch-and-release policies. President Biden has proven he is not up to the job. He apparently doesn't care. He has had nearly 3 years to do something meaningful to stop this crisis, but he has simply refused to do so.

Congress has a responsibility to act, and this national security supplemental is the best place to force action. Whether or not Democrats will admit it, the border crisis is a major national security risk, and it has to be addressed. I know it is not easy, as border security and immigration are some of the thorniest issues we debate here in Congress, but we will not continue to fund broken policies that have contributed to the situation we find ourselves in today. We need and will insist on real, substantive changes.

This side of the aisle has been clear that a security supplemental must include funding and policy reforms to address the crisis at the southern border, and if that doesn't happen, we will not proceed to the rest of the supplemental. Yes, there is a bipartisan

group of our colleagues working on a border provision that includes both funding and policy changes. I am eager to see what they come up with, but unfortunately it looks like we are running out of time. That means that if Senator SCHUMER, the majority leader, puts a bill on the floor that fails to address the crisis at the border with real, substantive policy reforms, we will not proceed to that bill.

National security begins at home. Our security cannot come second to that of other countries around the world, our allies, even those like Ukraine and Israel.

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.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. 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.

#### KIDS ONLINE SAFETY ACT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, the Wall Street Journal had such an interesting report in last week, and I wanted to bring this to everyone's attention. As you know, I have talked so much about the importance of protecting our children from what is happening online.

The Journal had worked with the Canadian Centre for Child Protection, and they were reporting on the tests that they jointly had conducted on Instagram. What they were trying to do was to see what type of content that Instagram's algorithms were recommending to pedophiles who were interested in sexual content.

Now, think about this, because in the physical world, you have got laws against pedophiles and the content that they are making and creating and distributing. But in the virtual space, our children do not have that protection. That is the premise that the Canadian Centre for Child Protection was working from, and this is what the Wall Street Journal was reporting on.

The results were absolutely disgusting. When you go in and you look at what they saw, you realize that Instagram actually delivers short videos showing content of children and adults in sexual situations. See, it is serving it up for these pedophiles. It is delivering it. All they have to do—a click of the mouse, and it is right there on their screen.

Here is an example feed that the test produced. Bear in mind, their researchers are going in. They are looking at this, and this is some of the content that was found in the researchers' feed: an adult uncrosses her legs to reveal her underwear; sprinter at a track meet runs over a small boy who steps on the track; advertisements promoting trips to Disneyland; child in a bathing suit records herself posing in a mirror; adult-content creator gives a

"come hither" motion; girl dancing in a car while a song with sexual lyrics plays. That is a snippet of what one researcher had come up in their platform, in their feed.

The tests also found that Instagram was providing videos and pictures of missing and exploited children as well as videos confirmed to be child sexual abuse material. We call that CSAM. At the Senate Judiciary Committee, we have done some good work in working to prohibit CSAM and to protect our children. All of this legislation should come to the floor. It should be immediately passed.

Now, of what I have just read to you of what the researcher found, there is even more. The report showed that Instagram was well-aware that its algorithms could produce this stream of content. Bear in mind, this is illegal content. This is child sexual abuse content.

Former Meta employees—and, of course, we know Meta owns Facebook and Instagram. Former Meta employees told the Journal that Meta knew its algorithms could specifically aggregate content sexualizing children. And this ties in with so much of what Senator BLUMENTHAL and I have found as we led hearings looking into what was happening in these online platforms and how it was affecting our children. These platforms know what is happening. They are fully aware. They know that these algorithms will aggregate that content and then they will serve it up to you—fully aware of it.

But you know why they don't change it? They don't change it because they put profits over the protection of our children. They make a conscious choice to keep it the way it is.

Now, before releasing Reels, that app, Meta's safety staff warned the product would chain together videos of children and inappropriate content. The safety team actually provided recommendations that Meta should either increase those content detection capabilities or prevent the recommendation of any content containing—minors being a part of this content. They gave them choices and options and said: Here is a way that you can go about protecting children before you put Reels and that platform out there.

Now, those are two suggestions that were made to Meta by their own staff. This is how you can protect children: Increase your detection capabilities or prevent the recommendation.

Now, it is the algorithms that feed up these recommendations: If you like this, you are going to like this. You loved this. Just wait; you are going to love this.

Now, Meta said no to each of those. There again, why is it that they said no? Well, it is what we see repeatedly: They are putting profits ahead of protecting our children.

So think about this. How do these platforms—how does Meta get their net worth? Well, all of this is based on the number of eyeballs they capture, the

length of time that they can keep people on their site. So they ignore the suggestions on how to make that site safer for our children.

Meta employees actually said that preventing the system from pushing this content to users who are interested in it—well, what users do you think are interested in child sexual abuse content? It is pedophiles. It is criminals. So here you go. These employees said that preventing the system from pushing this content to users interested in it "requires significant changes to the recommendation algorithms that also drive engagement for normal users."

I cannot believe that they are so hardened, that they are so careless, that they would think that: If somebody wants this, serve it up. It may have a child who is sexually exploited or even a child who is missing in that video, but—you know what—serve it up. They think the dollar is worth it.

The Journal also reported on Meta documents. Now, this is not just hearsay. It is not anecdotal. These are actual corporate documents. Now, these documents showed that "the company's safety staffers are broadly barred from making changes to the platform that might reduce daily active users by any measurable amount."

Now, in other words, they have the tools; they have the technology. They could put in place things that would protect children, but the company will not let the employees take the action that would protect children because it might mean that a user is not on the site for as long a period of time. And as I said, they get their valuation from the number of eyeballs they capture and the amount of time they spend on the site.

This is absolutely unbelievable, but it is the way Meta is choosing to operate. And Meta is not alone. You have got others of these social media platforms that are right in there with them. They keep dishing up this harmful and destructive content.

Why do we have a mental health crisis for our children in this country? Could this possibly be a part of the problem? Why is it that one in three American teenage girls has contemplated suicide? Could this possibly be a part of the problem? Why is it that we are finding out that well over a third of all kids meet a drug dealer online? Why is it that we are learning that children that meet and are groomed by a sex trafficker are first meeting them online?

The lack of care and concern for our Nation's children: stunning. And this is Big Tech. They would rather make a buck than protect a child. Don't try to take away their ability to keep people locked in on that screen. The longer they can keep them, the happier they are.

Well, all of this is one of the reasons that, for the last several years, Senator BLUMENTHAL and I have worked on the Kids Online Safety Act, and we have