

Madam President, 3,400 people a day illegally crossing our border is still an epic high number. And while the media has looked away because now it is no longer 5,000 a day, 3,400 a day is still way too high. Our system is still overwhelmed, and we still have tens of thousands of people coming in of what this administration calls special-interest aliens. That is folks that, by their own definition, are considered a national security threat. But there are so many, we don't have the opportunity to be able to follow all of them.

That was those eight that were picked up that were ISIS-affiliated. They had been designated as special-interest aliens. Thankfully, we were later able to find them and pick them up, but there are thousands of them currently in the country. Hopefully, they mean us no harm, but currently we have no idea.

That is something that needs to change. National security should not be a partisan issue. I understand it is an election year. This should not be a partisan issue. This should be a how-do-we-fix-this issue; this should be a how-do-we-resolve-this issue. And if the numbers are going down after I was told that the numbers were sky-high because of climate change—that was really what I was told by DHS. In fact, the White House, in 2021, put out a report on climate change and migration, saying that we have dramatically increased numbers because of climate change, not because of lack of border enforcement.

My response to them now is: Well, if the numbers are going down at the border, apparently the climate is getting better worldwide because the numbers are coming down. It is not an issue of climate migration; it is an issue of enforcement at our southern border. If that occurs, the numbers go down. If it doesn't, the numbers skyrocket because we are the United States of America, and people want to be able to be in the greatest country in the world. And I don't blame them.

We, as Americans, though, also have the right to be able to know we live in security and the people that are coming into our country, we know who they are, we know where they are from, and we verified any kind of criminal background that may or may not be there. That is not an unfair request to be able to make.

One last thing. Currently, the House has passed what they call the SAVE Act, and there is an ongoing debate in the House right now how this will fit. The SAVE Act is a pretty simple thing. The SAVE Act just says if you are not legally present in the United States, you can't vote.

Now, it is already Federal law that no one who is a noncitizen can vote in Federal elections. That is already the law. That is the trust part though. There is no verify portion of this. One of the basic principles of trust is verify. Right now, we are all trust. It is against the law, but there is no verification.

The SAVE Act just says we are not going to just trust that people that are not legally present here don't vote; we are going to verify that. You can't register to vote until you can show that you are actually a citizen of the United States. That shouldn't be a radical concept. It should be straightforward.

I have been one of the folks that have asked the current Attorney General: Can you show us any prosecutions or even any attempts to be able to prosecute individuals that were not legally present in the United States that attempted to vote? Because we know some stories. There are some newspaper stories scattered around the country of a few of those stories. We just asked a simple question: Can you tell us any prosecutions?

In Oklahoma, we have about 40 people every election across our State—about 40 people vote twice. They will do absentee voting and then they will show up and vote again. Do you know what they get? They get a knock on the door from law enforcement a couple of months later saying you violated State law; you voted twice. We actually enforce our law that discourages people in the future from then coming and trying that again because they know they are being enforced.

We thought it is a reasonable question to ask the Attorney General: How are you enforcing Federal law in this area? It is not that we are asking for something new. It is how are we enforcing what is existing. So far, the Attorney General, after months of asking the question, has given us no answer.

I look forward to the day that this body can sit down with each other and say: Let's solve the national security issues because we all know they are there. We all see it. We all go through the same briefings. Let's solve those, and let's have an immigration system where we honor legal immigration and deter illegal immigration. That is what most countries do. But for some reason, our politics have gotten in the way of us solving this.

Let's find a way to be able to solve this in the days ahead. I have no delusions that it is going to get solved in the next 2 weeks, but we do need to sit down and resolve this in the days ahead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). The Senator from California.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. BUTLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

## 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MAXWELL SCHOOL OF CITIZENSHIP AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to congratulate Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs on its 100th anniversary.

One Hundred Years. A remarkable milestone. A remarkable legacy. A remarkable school.

The Maxwell School is the oldest school of its kind in America and was once again ranked the No. 1 school for public affairs in 2024 by U.S. News & World Report.

Success and excellence is the norm for the Maxwell School: It has held the No. 1 spot every year save one since these rankings began more than 30 years ago.

Founded in 1924, thanks to the investment and vision of Syracuse University alumnus and entrepreneur George H. Maxwell, the Maxwell School is dedicated to supporting impactful research and preparing students to become leaders who seek evidence-based solutions, encourage civil discourse, and commit to leaving the world better than they found it.

You can get a sense of what the Maxwell School stands for by pondering the words of the Athenian Oath, which is inscribed on its foyer wall. It encourages us to ever strive to "transmit this city not only not less, but greater, better and more beautiful than it was transmitted to us."

And the Maxwell School does live up to those ideals.

The school's more than 38,500 graduates are living and working across the globe, helping to inform public policy, including key legislation that has come before us here, helping to forge compromise amid divide, bringing aid to those in need and defending democracy.

Its alumni include foreign ambassadors, legislators, journalists, economists, and numerous familiar names such as former Congresswoman and HHS Secretary Donna Shalala, New York State Governor Kathy Hochul, Syracuse Mayor Ben Walsh, and former Detroit Mayor Dave Bing.

The school is home to 15 interdisciplinary research centers and institutes focused on pressing societal issues. One especially dear to me is named for the late Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan; the Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs serves as a critical hub for collaboration, research, and examination of complex global issues.

The Maxwell School offers a rich mix of undergraduate, graduate professional, and scholarly M.A. and Ph.D. programs across the social sciences.

Though it is based in Syracuse, it has a strong presence here in the Nation's Capital, offering programs and internship opportunities and world class instruction through a partnership with the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Thanks to a unique relationship with the Council of Europe and Syracuse

University's five study abroad centers, the Maxwell School also offers students and scholars increasing opportunities for global engagement.

The Maxwell School's work supports the foundations and institutions of democracy itself, here and across the globe. This is vital at this time in our world's history.

I congratulate Syracuse University, the Maxwell School, Chancellor Kent Syverud, Maxwell Dean David Van Slyke, and the school's faculty, students, staff, and alumni for everything they do to leave the world better than they found it.

#### NOMINATION OF JOHN BRADFORD WIEGMANN

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I am announcing my intent to object to any unanimous consent request to proceed to the nomination of John Bradford Wiegmann to be the General Counsel of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), subject to the Department of Justice fulfilling its commitment to me to provide a list of certain legal opinions.

Opinions of the Department's Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) carry enormous weight, guiding government agencies and providing legal bases for entire programs. They have precedential value, continuing in force from administration to administration. Yet Congress and the public have limited insight into these opinions. The potential risks of this secret law are most apparent in the world of intelligence, where the OLC wrote opinions green-lighting warrantless surveillance and torture without the oversight or awareness of the congressional intelligence communities.

In December 2023, I made a modest request of the Justice Department. Christopher Fonzzone, then ODNI General Counsel, had been nominated to be Assistant Attorney General in charge of OLC. I asked him for a list of OLC opinions directed to an element of the intelligence community and any other opinions related to surveillance authorities. The Department of Justice then committed to responding to my request "as expeditiously and thoroughly as possible." Nine months later, I have not received the list.

It is my intent to lift the hold on Mr. Wiegmann as soon as the Department abides by its commitment and provides me with the list I requested.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO NILS JOHNSON

• Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, along with my Idaho congressional delegation colleagues Senator Jim Risch and Representatives Mike Simpson and Russ Fulcher, we honor and thank Nils Johnson for his years of service to Idaho. We know that we are joined by all those who served in the Idaho con-

gressional delegation from 1991 until now, particularly Senator Larry Craig, who was Nils' boss during his tenure in the U.S. Senate. Those former Members of Congress include: Senators Dirk Kempthorne, the late Steve Symms, and the late James McClure; and former Representatives Raul Labrador, Bill Sali, the late Helen Chenoweth, C.L. "Butch" Otter, Walt Minnick, Richard Stallings, and Larry LaRocco.

Originally from New Hampshire, Nils has dedicated much of his professional career to working on behalf of Idahoans, and we are profoundly grateful. Although he left working for Congress more than 20 years ago, he continued to serve Idaho through other positions, including his current position as director of legislative and regulatory affairs at Holland & Hart for the past 17 years, where his focus has been on issues of particular importance to Idaho among Western States. This includes public land and natural resource management, Western water quality and quantity, nuclear waste, Federal and State mining, Federal energy, and Federal appropriations issues. Previously, he served as a senior consultant at MGN, Inc., and he was principal and partner at McClure, Gerard and Neuenschwander, Inc.

Throughout, he has utilized and built on his significant experience in both Houses of Congress and natural resources to advance needed improvements to Federal policy. Nils had a more than 15-year career as a hydrologist for the U.S. Forest Service before coming to the Hill. This knowledge base undoubtedly shaped his approach to his work in the U.S. House of Representatives, where he served as Republican staff director of the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Mining, Energy, Interior, and Insular Affairs and his later more than a decade of service as director of natural resources, environment and energy and senior legislative assistant to U.S. Senator for Idaho Larry E. Craig. Working on natural resources issues for Idaho requires tackling some of the most pressing challenges in our great State, where the productivity and beauty of our public and private lands also carry competing interests requiring his practical and thoughtful problem solving. He established himself as a mentor for younger, newer staffers throughout the delegation and provided insight and leadership as our State has navigated some difficult natural resources and energy issues.

Upon leaving the Senate in 2000, we have also greatly benefited from Nils' steadfast management of a regular breakfast on Capitol Hill for the past 20 or so years. These breakfasts, called the Idaho Industries Breakfasts, have been held regularly in Washington, DC, when Congress is in session. They bring together representatives of Idaho's businesses and producers with the Idaho congressional delegation and staff for valuable, informal personal gatherings. The breakfasts have been

instrumental in broadening friendships and advancing the many common interests in our vast but still deeply connected State. It is impossible to quantify the relationships that have been strengthened and the progress Nils has had a hand in shaping through his unwavering commitment to organizing these forums all these years.

As we thank Nils for the years of hard work he has devoted to Idaho and our country, we wish him well as he retires from DC life to spend more time between Maryland and South Carolina with his family, particularly his six grandchildren. We hope the years ahead afford him the fulfillment of more time spent enjoying the natural resources he worked to sustain through his decades of sound and pragmatic work. Nils, we congratulate you and wish you all the best.●

##### TRIBUTE TO JAMES FAUTH

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing James Fauth of Phillips County for his record-breaking chinook salmon he caught while boating on Fort Peck Lake.

Fauth, a retired power company lineman from Malta, took his 25-year-old pontoon boat out for a leisure day of fishing alongside his wife Nancy and friends Tony and Emily Simonsen. After several hours of patience and perseverance, Fauth noticed his spinning rod come to life off a downrigger and jumped into action. He figured it was a salmon because he had been tracking them deep on his sonar and the fish was putting up a fight. The rod's original 20-pound line had never been replaced, so Fauth was hopeful it wouldn't break. After approximately 5 minutes of back-and-forth battling with the fish on the other end, Fauth was overjoyed when his \$29 Wal-Mart rod and reel proved to get the job done as he landed the chinook in the boat.

The enormous salmon, weighing an astounding 32.62 pounds and measuring 38 inches long with a 28-inch girth, broke the previously held State record set by Greg Haug in 2020 with a 32.05 pound salmon, also taken from Fort Peck Lake. The area is no stranger to impressive catches, but Fauth's recent trophy stands out for obvious reasons. The story of Fauth's historic catch will live on in history, and residents of River's Bend Assisted Living in Malta will soon get a special up-close look at the record breaking salmon, as Fauth has chosen to donate it to the facility so residents can enjoy it. What makes this story all the more special is that the assisted living facility is owned by Tony and Emily Simonsen, who got to bear witness to the historic catch on the Fauth family pontoon.

It is my distinct honor to recognize James Fauth for his once-in-a-lifetime catch that earned him the title as Montana's new State record salmon angler. This historic catch is a celebration of the Treasure State's natural resources