

20 years as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America with Biden open borders for terrorists. It is sadly clear that there will be more 9/11 attacks across America imminent in our country as warned by the FBI.

Our sympathy to the families of the three Georgia reservists murdered by Iranian puppet Houthi.

**ELIZABETH JEAN CARROLL:
AMERICAN PATRIOT**

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the courage, fortitude, and the sheer patriotism of E. Jean Carroll.

Mr. Speaker, you may have heard something about her involvement in a recent court case which followed another court case in which Ms. Carroll received a very favorable judgment by a jury of her fellow citizens who heard and weighed all the evidence, free of political ads.

Here we shall not name the defendant because we are talking about an American hero, an immovable force, and an inspiration for all Americans.

We should be heartened that Ms. Carroll, at terrible personal cost, did not shrink from taking on the most powerful person in the world—it is not Taylor Swift but the other guy—to bring him to justice and hold him accountable for his terrible deeds. Ms. Carroll did not waiver even as the minions of her abuser attacked her in the most vile and despicable ways.

E. Jean Carroll exudes a steady grace and determination. The juries saw her, and they saw her truth. As she summed it up, her case is a huge defeat for every bully who has tried to keep a woman down.

I hope all Americans will find a glimmer of hope that we may be the country we must be to survive and that no one, no matter how powerful, is above the law.

**HONORING THE LIFE OF MR. RAY
YOUNG**

(Ms. LETLOW asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LETLOW. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life of a truly remarkable gentleman, Mr. Ray Young.

Mr. Ray was born in Hico, Louisiana, in 1929 and grew up no stranger to hard work or getting his hands dirty on his family's farm.

Building a successful agriculture business from the ground up and establishing deep roots in the ag community, he is well-regarded as the Nation's longest tenured crop consultant, a passionate and widely respected officer in both local and national organizations, and a tireless advocate for agriculture in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Ray grew to be loved by all who encountered him and quickly became an irreplaceable figure across the State of Louisiana.

Mr. Ray held a rare and unique quality, always seeing the good in everyone he met—even seeing the promise in a challenging piece of land. He was a friend to many and an enemy to none, never judging anyone by their limitations.

Beyond his extensive agriculture background and accomplishments, Mr. Ray's unwavering faith in the Lord served as an inspiration and showcased the very best of our Louisiana community.

He was a man of good faith and goodwill with a true servant's heart who sought to love others the way Christ loves us. I have no doubt he has heard the words from above: Well done, good and faithful servant.

□ 1215

AMERICA'S BORDER SECURITY

(Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, it has been nearly 100 days since my colleagues elected me to lead this Chamber, and I cannot express how grateful I am for their trust. This is the honor of my life and it means everything to us.

Despite the challenges that we face day in and day out and the tough fights that lawmaking inevitably brings, I still believe that we can, again, be a shining city on a hill. I believe that we can champion, again, what I call the seven core principles of American conservatism, but really they are the seven core principles of America.

They are our foundations. I believe that it boils down to individual freedom and limited government and the rule of law, peace through strength, fiscal responsibility, free markets, human dignity.

These are the things that made us the most successful, most extraordinary Nation in the history of the world. We are also the most benevolent, but it can't be maintained if we sacrifice those foundations.

Today, however, I need to address the burning issue, the unprecedented challenge that we find ourselves in, demands that we all address, the issue of the day, and it is no surprise to anyone in this Chamber that that issue is America's border security.

As I said here on the night that I took my oath, we have a catastrophe at our southern border. It is because the border has been deliberately opened wide that we see the terrific horrors that are taking place across our country right now.

Here is a short list. From Texas to New York, waves of illegal immigrants are now overwhelming our communities. Just since the time I was elect-

ed Speaker, less than 100 days ago, more than 700,000 illegals have been welcomed into our country illegally by the Biden administration.

American schoolchildren have been forced into virtual schools. Why? So migrants can sleep in their school buildings. Korean war veterans of the U.S. have been booted from nursing homes that were sold to house migrants. Our streets are being flooded with fentanyl. Hundreds of thousands of children and adults are being poisoned and losing their lives. Vulnerable children and women are being exploited and trafficked by cartels, and that is happening even within our borders.

The fallout goes on and on and on, and I am here this morning to beg my colleagues to help us force the administration to take action. We have to stop this now and put Americans and America's border security first.

In January, I took the largest ever congressional delegation down to the southern border. We had 64 Members, 64 House Republicans, representing more than half the States in this country. Why? Because now, every State is a border State.

During our trip, we met with senior Border Patrol officials and officers and local sheriffs and ranchers and landowners and community leaders who are dealing with this crisis right there at the line, and we heard about how they are struggling to deal with the overwhelming surge of illegals who are flooding into our Nation.

While the Senate and the White House were negotiating a so-called border security deal, one Border Patrol official, a 33-year veteran of Border Patrol, a high-ranking official in the agency, compared the situation this way. He said: What we are being asked to do right now is administer an open fire hydrant. He said: Please convey to our friends in Washington, we don't need more buckets. We need to turn off the flow. His metaphor explains the situation perfectly.

Since President Biden and Alejandro Mayorkas assumed office, there have been more than 7 million encounters with illegal aliens just at our southern border alone.

Mr. Speaker, 35 of our 50 States, including my home State of Louisiana, don't have a population that large, yet that is how many people have been apprehended in just the past 3 years.

Among those who have been apprehended on the southern border between ports of entry, more than 300 individuals were on our terrorist watch list. The frightening question is, if so many terrorists were caught attempting to cross our borders, how many have entered undetected? We suspect it is a much higher number.

We know that there are at least 1.8 million got-aways that we know have escaped CBP. Who knows what dangerous plans those got-aways are making and what foreign adversaries they may be speaking with?

Understand, the situation at our border presents a clear and present danger to our national security, and it demands that it be addressed.

Even officials within the executive branch are saying so. FBI Director Christopher Wray told the Homeland Security Committee in November that these got-aways are a great concern for the agency, and that all 56 of our joint terrorism task forces are trying to identify who these people are.

While we don't know how many terrorists are inside our border, it is an unknowable number, we do know that fentanyl is pouring into our communities like an open sewer.

Right now, the leading cause of death for Americans aged 18 to 46 is fentanyl poisoning. Fentanyl seizures have increased 2½ times since President Biden took office. That is just the seizures. The rest of it flows right in.

Even as some of it is seized, we know much more is making its way into our schools, in our neighborhoods, and virtually every community in America.

Just a quick snapshot of my State in New Orleans, in my home State, 95 percent of the drug overdoses in New Orleans are caused by fentanyl.

We see that this poison is ripping families apart.

Victoria McCulley from Baton Rouge was only 29 years old when she lost her life to fentanyl. She was buried by her parents, leaving behind her brother, her sister, and young son.

Alex Stinson is another victim. Like Victoria, he was from Baton Rouge. Sadly, also like Victoria, he died from fentanyl poisoning before his 30th birthday, leaving behind a heartbroken mom and dad and sister.

Near Slidell, Louisiana, just last week, a precious 2-year-old child was found dead in her home with fentanyl in her system.

Moms and dads, brothers and grandmothers, all of us are losing loved ones to a drug that is being smuggled across the border in droves. It is a parent's worst nightmare—burying a child. Sadly, because of our open border, more and more parents are having to experience that unspeakable tragedy.

That leads the American people to ask a very important question, and it is one that we have been asking on this side of the aisle for a long, long time: Where in the world is Secretary Mayorkas on all of this?

He is the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security. It is his responsibility to prevent these harmful drugs from flowing into our country and to secure that border, and he has done nothing of the sort.

As we have heard from Border Patrol agents, he is doing exactly the opposite. He is handicapping law enforcement. He is limiting their ability to catch narcotics like fentanyl. He is making it virtually impossible, as they say in their own words. They told us down at the border in Eagle Pass, it is impossible to do the job they were trained to do.

Perhaps the Secretary is busy identifying more people on the list that he can release on parole. Because, just since fiscal year 2022, Secretary Mayorkas has released into the country more than 1.5 million aliens. He just sent them out into the country on what they call parole.

Remember, the Immigration and Nationality Act states very clearly that parole should only be used on a case-by-case basis and a temporary basis, but millions of illegals right now are being granted parole and spending many years in the United States before they are even expected to appear before a judge. Some of them are given a piece of paper that says we will see you in a decade. It is absurd.

This mass parole is neither temporary nor selective. It is a clear violation of Federal law. It is dangerous. It is subversive. It is intentional.

To make matters worse, we have learned that the Biden administration is now just simply releasing 85 percent of the illegals who come across that border right into the country. They are coming to a neighborhood near you.

For reference, by the way, if you are watching the metrics, in 2013, the Obama administration detained 82 percent of illegal aliens. How do we go from detaining 82 percent to releasing 85 percent? It only happens if this is by design. It only happens if it is an orchestrated, intentional effort by the administration to do exactly that, and that is what the evidence shows.

John Adams famously said, "Facts are stubborn things." These are the facts and you can't look away.

This is only part of why Chairman GREEN and the House Homeland Security Committee marked up Articles of Impeachment last night. They wrapped that up at about 1:15 this morning, and they did very important work for our country. We will be moving forward swiftly on those articles. It is long overdue, but Secretary Mayorkas is only part of the problem.

Earlier this month, I released a memo documenting 64 specific actions that the Biden administration has taken to undermine our border security and to promote the mass release of illegals and dangerous persons into our country. Here is just a couple of the many alarming actions. This is all public. Everybody can go see this.

The day he took office, the very first day that he walked into the Oval Office, President Biden revoked Executive Order 9844. Do you know what that did? It ended construction of the border wall that Congress had already paid for. Everybody has seen the images on TV. The material is out there rotting in the sun and the elements. Why? Because Joe Biden decided unilaterally he didn't want a wall.

In February 2021, the administration stopped applying title 42 expulsions to children and by doing that, incentivized families to send unaccompanied children through Mexico under the watch of cartels and traffickers.

Since then, the administration admits it has lost track of more than 80,000 unaccompanied children somewhere in the U.S.

When we were down at Eagle Pass at the Del Rio sector, we went through one of these processing centers and what we saw down there was heart-breaking and infuriating. You see these small children, they are unaccompanied minors. Some of them can't even speak the language, obviously. They have interpreters there, but they don't even know who they are. These are young children. They don't know what their full names are, where they hail from, who their parents are. They sit them there and they ask them some preliminary questions, and if the children don't know it, do you know what they do? Literally, they take a sticker and they put it on the chest of the little child that says Jane Doe or John Doe.

What happens to them after that? Border Patrol says they don't know. Their job is just to process them. They are released, presumably, into the hands of NGOs, nongovernmental organizations, who are being funded, by the way, by American taxpayers who do something with the children and then they just disappear.

We know 80,000 of them are missing. We don't know where they are. Have they been put into trafficking rings? We can only guess.

We know that some of these kids are being trafficked for free labor and being forced to do things that are too appalling for us to articulate on this floor.

Everybody here knows that is happening, and we are not demanding the President stop it. He can. He has the power to do it.

I will continue.

In October 2021, the Biden administration revoked the Migrant Protection Protocols that have been instituted under President Trump. That is the policy that we all know colloquially as remain in Mexico, right?

The remain in Mexico policy kept asylum seekers in a safe haven third country while they were seeking asylum in the United States. You know why that works so magically well? Because it sent a message around the world that you shouldn't pay your lifesavings to a cartel to traffic you through Mexico and drop you over the U.S. border because you are not going to be dropped over the U.S. border. Save your time and treasure and trouble. Don't take that dangerous journey because the word goes out on social media to countries all around the world they are not going to let you in.

Is that the most commonsense rule you have ever thought of? The President doesn't agree. President Biden doesn't agree because he stopped it. He issued an executive order to stop that commonsense rule.

A senior Border Patrol officer told us on that trip to Eagle Pass that if President Biden, by the stroke of a pen,

would issue an executive order today to just simply reinstate remain in Mexico, they think that that would stop the flow by 70 percent, 7-0.

He does not seem to care. I told President Biden this myself on multiple occasions, most recently, a couple weeks ago on the phone. I read him the law that says he has all this authority, but he refuses to act.

□ 1230

That is even despite court orders, by the way, that instructed the administration to reinstate remain in Mexico while the litigation was going on.

Do you know what they did? They ignored it. The administration refused it.

I can keep going. In September 2022, the Biden administration reversed a 2019 DHS public charge rule. What was that about? They began granting entry to aliens who we all know will be a burden to taxpayers to receive immigration benefits.

This matters because it is one of many instances in which the Biden administration is actively incentivizing illegals to come to the United States. We have laid out the welcome mat and told everybody around the world: Come on, come on. You know what? The U.S. taxpayers will take care of you.

Do you know how much it is costing the American people at home, all of our constituents? Billions and billions and billions of dollars. To do what? To provide for people who are intentionally breaking our laws. Billions and billions of dollars to house them, educate them, clothe them, and take care of them.

Why should we bear that burden when they break our laws? That is what our constituents are asking, and more people in this Chamber need to be asking it, as well. We are asking it on the House Republican side. We need our Democratic colleagues to join us.

Instead of threatening illegal aliens with deportation, we are rolling out the welcome mat, including for aliens who will drain resources. Here is the other tragedy: Those resources, the precious taxpayer dollars, are intended for and paid by American citizens. However, when you drain those resources and you spend them on illegals from other countries, you cannot take care of your own. It is a travesty.

You can also see this with how DHS has abused the CBP One app. We have got an app; and we have made it even easier now. In January 2023, they expanded the use of the app so aliens could just make appointments and then be released immediately right into America's interior.

Sure enough, guess what? Ninety-five percent of all illegals who simply scheduled appointments through the app were released right into the United States on what they call parole. That is right, all they have got to do is just download the app because they all have smartphones, many of them coming over the border. Download the app, make an appointment, and the Presi-

dent of the United States will release you into a network of NGOs who will put you on a plane to the destination of your choice, without any identification, by the way, while Americans are waiting in line to get through TSA.

It is all on the dime of the American taxpayer. Ask yourself, is that right? Is that just? Is that good for America or anybody else involved? It is not.

The open border combined with the incentives to come have produced a catastrophic year for our Border Patrol agents. In September 2023, U.S. Border Patrol recorded more than 270,000 illegal alien encounters at the southern border in one single month. That was the largest ever up to that point. However, guess what? That record was broken just a couple months later because this past December 2023, CBP recorded more than 302,000 encounters, almost double the population of my hometown of Shreveport, Louisiana. In just one month, 302,000 people just walked right into the country, and we saw it down there with our own two eyes.

Most recently, as President Biden has failed to exercise his constitutional obligation to police the border and protect Americans, now he has undermined Texas' ability to protect its citizens, its residents. Texas has a constitutional authority to take care of its people. The first job of the government is to protect its citizens.

When the Texas Governor has acted to do that, the Biden administration and the President himself have intervened. They have taken him to court. They are cutting the razor wire. They are taking away the measures that the State of Texas has taken out of desperation to protect its own people.

I could go on and on and on about all this: the numbers, the actions, the 64 actions that we have documented that President Biden has specifically taken to open that border up. It is crystal clear, his policy choices and Secretary Mayorkas' refusal to comply with the law are driving this border catastrophe.

The Biden administration has replaced detain and deport with catch and release. Instead of order, they have chosen for us disorder and chaos. Rather than securing the homeland, they have ceded the homeland to cartels and traffickers.

By the way, at the Del Rio sector alone in Eagle Pass, Texas, they told us it is estimated that the cartels, I think, are making \$3.5 million a day trafficking human beings into the country. Do the math. They are making over a billion dollars a year bringing undocumented children, trafficked children, victims right into the country, and they are just bringing them in.

They are doing this intentionally. They have chosen disorder and chaos. They have ceded the homeland to the traffickers and the cartels. The Department of Homeland Security has effectively become a taxi driver to just help traffickers complete the last few miles of their human smuggling operation,

and they are making billions of dollars in the process. It is all absolute madness, and it is dismantling the safety of our communities.

The House Judiciary Committee, where I served before I became Speaker, recently released a report showing that right now there are more than 617,000 aliens on ICE's nondetain docket who also have criminal convictions or pending criminal charges. That is right. You heard it right. That means that more than half a million known criminals, illegal aliens are in the U.S. in our communities, free to reoffend and victimize American people.

Another sad secondary effect of this is that the President's actions are also creating a permanent underclass in our society, an underclass of noncitizens who receive many of the benefits of citizenship. He is inviting chaos and disorder within our land that is tearing at the very fabric of our society.

The President can put a stop to this. President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas have designed this catastrophe. Now, rather than accept any accountability or responsibility for what they have clearly done, President Biden wants to somehow try to shift the blame to Congress for his administration's catastrophe by design. It is absolutely laughable. No one is falling for this.

My counter is this: If President Biden wants us to believe he is serious about protecting our national security, he needs to demonstrate good faith and take immediate action to secure the border, but he won't do it. He needs to immediately stop the mass release of illegals into our country, but he won't do it. If he wants our House Republican Conference to view him as a good-faith negotiator, he can start with the stroke of a pen. However, he has got to do it quickly.

Last week, I received a letter from former top FBI intelligence officials, including the former Assistant Director, Directorate of Intelligence.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the text of this letter be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DESJARLAIS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

JANUARY 17, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House, Washington, D.C.

Hon. CHARLES SCHUMER,
Majority Leader, Washington, D.C.

Hon. MIKE TURNER,
Chair, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Washington, D.C.

Hon. MARK WARNER,
Chair, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Washington, D.C.

Hon. MARK GREEN,
Chair, Committee on Homeland Security, Washington, D.C.

Hon. GARY PETERS,
Chair, Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, Washington, D.C.

Subject: The United States is Facing a New and Imminent Danger

DEAR MR. SPEAKER, SENATE MAJORITY LEADER, AND CHAIRMEN: As former senior executives of the Federal Bureau of Investigation with deep experience combatting dangers to the nation, we write to express our concern about a current specific threat that may be one of the most pernicious ever to menace the United States.

The danger arises from the nature of the threat itself. Wars and espionage and bombings and riots are sadly familiar delivery systems of instability, intimidation, and insecurity. The country has faced these and more throughout its history and has held together, though not without struggle.

The threat we call out today is new and unfamiliar. In its modern history the U.S. has never suffered an invasion of the homeland and, yet, one is unfolding now. Military aged men from across the globe, many from countries or regions not friendly to the United States, are landing in waves on our soil by the thousands—not by splashing ashore from a ship or parachuting from a plane but rather by foot across a border that has been accurately advertised around the world as largely unprotected with ready access granted.

It would be difficult to overstate the danger represented by the presence inside our borders of what is comparatively a multi-division army of young single adult males from hostile nations and regions whose background, intent, or allegiance is completely unknown. They include individuals encountered by border officials and that possibly refused into the country, along with a shockingly high estimate of “gotaways”—meaning those who have entered and evaded apprehension.

In light of such a daunting, unprecedented penetration by uninvited foreign actors, it is reasonable to assert that the country possesses dramatically diminished national security at this time. The nation's military and laws and other natural protective barriers that have provided traditional security in the past have been thoroughly circumvented over the past three years.

In 2021, the demographics of those crossing the porous southern boundary started to shift. Young men from around the world traveling alone and holding questionable motivations dramatically increased in number to become the most common profile of those breaching the nation's borders. A startling number have been found on the terrorist watchlist or are from countries designated as State Sponsors of Terror distinctly unfriendly to the United States.

This is particularly alarming in light of the Hamas terror attack on Israel last October 7. Those of us who have fought terrorism know that, historically, successful terror attacks invite mimicry. We know, as well, that terror leaders intentionally cultivate throngs of young men possessing a certain easily-manipulated personality type to carry out atrocities.

It is stark to say so, but having a large number of young males now within our borders who could begin attacking gatherings of unarmed citizens, in imitation of 10/7 and at the behest of a foreign terror group, must be considered a distinct possibility. We would be remiss not to call out this potentially grave threat in the most direct terms. The warning lights are blinking.

And yet, this very real concern does not seem to be getting the focus it logically deserves. The Director of the FBI has correctly assessed an elevated threat level since 10/7. But relatively little discussion has followed highlighting unsecured borders as a significant cause of this increasingly dangerous environment. It is a troubling concern that needs illumination, not avoidance.

Any violation of the nation's immigration laws increases risks, but the surge in numbers of single, military aged males descending upon American cities and towns is alarming and perilous. Additionally, they are not just from terror linked regions, but from China and Russia as well—hostile adversaries of the U.S. with aspirations to devastate national infrastructure.

For these reasons, elements of this recent surge are likely no accident or coincidence. These men are potential operators in what appears to be an accelerated and strategic penetration, a soft invasion, designed to gain internal access to a country that cannot be invaded militarily in order to inflict catastrophic damage if and when enemies deem it necessary.

This new reality, this “never seen before” threat deserves greater attention. The borders need to be secured against these young men and those already here illegally must be identified and removed without delay. This will take the coordinated, cooperative efforts of the FBI, Department of Homeland Security and the rest of the Intelligence Community to achieve.

We encourage these actions and much greater Congressional attention to this threat. The country has been invaded, an invasion that will continue as long as the nation's enemies perceive it will be tolerated. Until it is stopped, the United States is extraordinarily less safe and secure. Knowing all of this, it would be a shameful travesty if some terrible attack, a preventable attack, were to occur against innocent Americans or the infrastructure that keeps the nation safe and functioning.

The government will have failed grievously in its duty to protect.

Sincerely,

MR. KEVIN R. BROCK,
Assistant Director, Directorate of Intelligence; Federal Bureau of Investigation (Ret.); Principal Deputy Director; National Counterterrorism Center (Former).

MR. CHRIS SWECKER,
Assistant Director, Criminal Investigative Division; Federal Bureau of Investigation (Ret.).

TIMOTHY J. HEALY,
Director, Terrorist Screening Center; Federal Bureau of Investigation (Ret.).

RUBEN GARCIA, Jr.,
Executive Assistant Director, Criminal; Cyber, Response, and Services Branch; Federal Bureau of Investigation (Ret.).

MR. MARK MORGAN,
Assistant Director, Training Division; Federal Bureau of Investigation (Ret.); Acting Commissioner, Customs and Border Protection (Former); Chief, U.S. Border Patrol (former).

MR. DAVID SZADY,
Assistant Director, Counterintelligence Division; Federal Bureau of Investigation (Ret.).

MR. JODY WEIS,
Special Agent in Charge, Philadelphia; Federal Bureau of Investigation (Ret.); Superintendent, Chicago Police Department (former).

MR. DAVID MITCHELL,
Special Agent in Charge, Milwaukee; Federal Bureau of Investigation (Ret.); Commissioner of Safety, Tennessee; Director of Homeland Security, Tennessee (former).

MR. WILLIAM GAVIN,
Assistant Director, Inspection Division; Federal Bureau of Investigation (Ret.).

MR. TIMOTHY McNALLY,
Assistant Director, Los Angeles Division; Federal Bureau of Investigation (Ret.).

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. In the letter, the signers said that America is facing a new and unfamiliar threat. As my colleagues know, you never want to hear our intelligence leaders speak about an unfamiliar threat, but these former FBI officials told us that we are suffering a soft invasion along our southern border. They are stating what is obvious to all of us.

They noted that we are experiencing a surge—listen to this—of military-aged, single men who are pouring into our country over the southern border from adversarial nations, by the way, and from terrorist regimes.

When we were at Eagle Pass in the Del Rio sector on January 3, with 64 House Republicans, they told us that between 60 to 70 percent of the people coming across the border right there at that epicenter are single, adult males. They are military aged. These are not huddled masses of families seeking refuge and asylum. These are people coming into our country to do only God knows what, and we are allowing it. The Biden administration is allowing it.

We have noted that they are coming from adversarial nations, from terrorist regions. We have no idea what they are planning. In fiscal year 2023, Border Patrol encountered illegals from 170 different countries, including hundreds from Iran, Syria, thousands from Russia, tens of thousands who

have come in from China. Tell me that is not dangerous.

In this letter, law enforcement and intelligence leaders are warning us that we may very well suffer a preventable terrorist attack here on the homeland if we don't immediately secure that border and remove these dangerous terrorists from inside our borders.

House Republicans, of course, have acted. Last year, we passed the Secure the Border Act. This legislation would address the catastrophe, fix the asylum and parole processes that are so broken, and support our Border Patrol agents. The Senate could take that bill up today. CHUCK SCHUMER and the Democrats in the Senate have been sitting on it in their majority for 9 months. They could do it right now. They could vote on that and send it to the President's desk, but they won't.

Why? Because they are apparently okay with this, as well.

While there may be some who think that it is not a good time to act, I disagree. Good policy, like a strong border, securing our Nation, and defending our sovereignty is always good politics. It is the right thing to do. It is the moral thing to do. It is the constitutional thing to do. It is the common-sense thing to do. I cannot, for the life of me, understand why the President won't agree with that.

I have asked him myself, repeatedly: Mr. President, do something about it. He hems and haws and pretends that he doesn't understand what his authority is. He knows what it is.

To be sure, we are not going to agree to a fix that doesn't actually solve the problem. We would be derelict in our duty if we did that. We know what the problems are, and we know how to fix them. Just like the Border Patrol official told us on that trip to the Rio Grande, House Republicans are not here to supply more buckets. We are here to stop the flow.

Stopping the flow is not rocket science. It takes political courage. It takes transformational policy changes, and we know what policy changes will accomplish that. This is not conjecture. It is not Republican talking points. This is what the experts at the border, at the epicenter, tell us is necessary and needed, and it is insane that we will not supply it.

We are also taking action this very week, right now. We are doing this every day. I thank Representatives CISCOMANI, MCCLINTOCK, and MOORE for their hard work on four very important bills that the House is considering even this week. These bills will hold foreign persons, like criminal aliens, accountable for their crimes and keep them out of our communities.

One of those bills is the Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act, named for Border Patrol Agent Raul Gonzalez, who died in the line of duty while pursuing a group of illegal aliens. It would provide stiffer penalties for aliens who attempt to evade arrest by the Border Patrol.

We will also consider a bill to ensure that aliens who are convicted of drunk driving are both deportable and inadmissible. Believe it or not, they are not currently.

The third bill would provide stiffer penalties for illegal aliens who engage in Social Security identity theft.

The fourth bill would ensure that aliens who have ties to Hamas and the Palestine Liberation Organization will not be granted entry into the United States.

These bills are obviously common-sense measures to protect the American people. They should gain the support of Republicans and Democrats, but my guess is not many Democrats will support it.

The Republicans in the House will continue to press for secure borders to ensure America's immigration system serves the national interest and does not benefit aliens who are a danger to our own people.

Last Friday, President Biden came out in support of the Senate's deal, which we haven't seen yet. There is no text yet, but from what we have heard, this so-called deal does not include these transformational policy changes that are needed to actually stop the border catastrophe.

Among the reported details of the bill—again, I am working off reports because I haven't seen the text, but apparently, reportedly a new authority would be created in the law so the President can “shut down the border once daily crossings exceed 5,000 a day.”

You heard that right. It is illegal to cross our border, but apparently we are concocting some sort of deal to allow the President to shut down the border after 5,000 people break the law.

Why is it 5,000?

If you add that up, that would be a million more illegals coming into our country every year before we take remedial measures. It is madness.

We should be asking: What kind of enforcement authority kicks in at 5,000 illegal crossings a day? The number should be zero. Zero. I don't care what congressional district you go into in America, poll people at random on the street, and ask them: Hey, should we allow 5,000 people to break our law each day to get a million into the country or should we stop it at zero and enforce our law?

I don't know another word to describe it. It is madness. Anything higher is simply surrender. Anything higher than zero is surrendering our border, surrendering our sovereignty and our security. It is important to point out—and I want to make this very clear—in the President's statement on Friday, he falsely claimed that he needs Congress to pass a new law to allow him to close the southern border. It was a false claim. He knows that is not true.

The President has been around Washington for a long time, and the President repeated his claim yesterday on the White House lawn. He said: I have

done all I can do. Just give me the power I have asked for.

Moments after his comments, the President's own spokeswoman contradicted him and said: There are things that are within his power to secure the border.

Well, hello, of course there are. The law is very clear. Anybody can google this. Any American citizen can just pull this up and read it for themselves. Let's set the record straight. What he said is demonstrably false. I have explained it to him specifically. I read the President of the United States the law, the black-letter law, on the phone about 2½ weeks ago. I said: Mr. President, it says very clearly you have all the tools and the executive authority necessary to reverse the catastrophe that you have created. He has those tools right now, and he has since day one.

The Immigration and Nationality Act, for example, coupled with recent Supreme Court precedent, give the President ample authority to suspend the entry of all aliens or any class of aliens or impose any restrictions he may deem appropriate.

That is the broadest authority that Congress probably has ever given a President, and it has been there for a long, long time. In fact, the very provision that I just read you was used by the Obama administration more than 19 times. It has been used, I think, 69 times by Presidents since 1980, but not by President Biden. He pretends it is not there.

Any attempt by this President to pretend that he is a bystander bereft of any ability to secure the border is patently absurd, and we are going to continue to remind the American people of that. If we take a step back, and we consider the current catastrophe at the border, we can all see that our country is at a critical decision point.

□ 1245

We are at a moment where we have to decide right now as a Congress, as a people. We have to decide as the American people if we have borders or not.

We have to decide if we believe in the rule of law or not. We have to decide if we are a sovereign Nation or we are not.

House Republicans do believe that America has borders and that we are a sovereign Nation. We believe we must set limits on the number of immigrants who enter, obviously, and the American people have a say on immigration policy.

Understanding who enters and enforcing our immigration laws are critical components to maintain a sovereign country. If you do not have sovereignty, you do not have a country.

I also believe that border security is part of our solemn obligation to safeguard the well-being of our citizens and uphold the principles that define who we are as a Nation.

In no sense is border security somehow an act of hostility to neighboring

countries. It is exactly the opposite; because a weak border weakens America, a strong border is good for America, a stronger America is good for everybody around the world, and everybody in this Chamber should acknowledge that.

Just as we lock our doors at night to protect our homes, we secure our borders to protect our homeland. My friends, that is our sacred obligation.

We in the House Republican Conference desperately want to protect our homeland because we want to ensure that all of our children and grandchildren can continue to enjoy the blessings of liberty that we have enjoyed and that we have loved and experienced, and we can continue this grand experiment in self-governance we began in 1776.

Here is the question. I will leave you with this: Does President Biden want that? Does President Biden believe in the rule of law? Does President Biden believe that we are a sovereign Nation? Does he believe that Americans and not those from other countries should be put first?

Every American citizen should be asking these questions of the President and helping us demand his answers. We won't stop. We are going to continue.

OPPOSING THE WYDEN-SMITH TAX BILL

(Mr. CLYDE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong opposition to the Wyden-Smith tax bill that is set to come to the floor tonight.

From welfare expansion to inflationary deficits, this tax bill is a Trojan horse for bad policies disguised as tax relief.

The most egregious problem is that this tax bill fails to close a loophole that allows illegal aliens with U.S. born children—that would be anchor babies—to claim the Child Tax Credit.

After 3 years of Joe Biden's intentional illegal invasion, which is now being used by the uniparty as an excuse to pass a horrendous border bill that encourages more illegal immigration, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle are set to expand the Child Tax Credit while subsequently allowing illegal aliens to cash in on those benefits.

There is no denying that these cash welfare payments reward and incentivize more illegal immigration. This tax bill advances policies that only worsen the chaos and fuel the border crisis.

It is a magnet for more illegal immigration, and I encourage all Members to vote against it. Americans simply deserve better.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

CONSEQUENCES FOR SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD ACT

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 980, I call up the bill (H.R. 6678) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that aliens who have been convicted of or who have committed Social Security fraud are inadmissible and deportable, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the House Resolution 980, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Judiciary printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee print 118-23 is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 6678

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Consequences for Social Security Fraud Act".

SEC. 2. INADMISSIBILITY AND DEPORTABILITY RELATED TO SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD OR IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT FRAUD.

(a) INADMISSIBILITY.—Section 212(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(J) SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD OR IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT FRAUD.—Any alien who has been convicted of, who admits having committed, or who admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of an offense under section 208 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 408) (relating to social security account numbers or social security cards), an offense under section 1028 of title 18, United States Code (relating to fraud and related activity in connection with identification documents, authentication features, and information), or a conspiracy to commit such an offense, is inadmissible.”.

(b) DEPORTABILITY.—Section 237(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1227(a)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(G) SOCIAL SECURITY FRAUD OR IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT FRAUD.—Any alien who has been convicted of, who admits having committed, or who admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of an offense under section 208 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 408) (relating to social security account numbers or social security cards), an offense under section 1028 of title 18, United States Code (relating to fraud and related activity in connection with identification documents, authentication features, and information), or a conspiracy to commit such an offense, is deportable.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees.

After 1 hour of debate, it shall be in order to consider the further amendment printed in part B of House Report 118-362, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be

considered read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question.

The gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) will each control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6678.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oregon?

There was no objection.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 6678 makes aliens inadmissible to and removed from the United States for committing Social Security fraud and identification document fraud.

The numbers are staggering. In 2017, before the Democrats opened our borders and produced the largest illegal mass migration in recorded history, there were 1.2 million cases in which illegal aliens used Social Security numbers that either belonged to someone else or were simply fabricated.

A 2020 GAO report on employment-related identity fraud identified more than 2.9 million Social Security numbers with risk characteristics associated with Social Security number misuse.

Last year, an investigative report published by RealClearInvestigations said this: “Reports dating back over a decade show that hundreds of thousands of Americans are unknowingly ‘sharing’ their Social Security numbers with illegal immigrants.

“Such victims may face tax bills for income they didn’t earn or depleted benefits. Worse, some may experience the burden of bad credit histories and criminal records inaccurately attributed to themselves after being issued Social Security numbers that illegal aliens had previously invented and used.

“The overall impact on American citizens is largely unknown because Federal, State, and local governments as well as financial institutions have generally failed to notify them even when fraud is suspected.”

The Trump administration documented the extent of fraud during which time it notified 1.6 million employers of employees whose Social Security numbers didn’t match government records.

The Biden administration then took over and has since brought 5 million illegal aliens into the United States.

They stopped the practice of notifying employers of fraudulent use of Social Security numbers. No doubt it was just too embarrassing.