

with nowhere to go, Governor Murphy said the State didn't have any room for these migrants.

We have seen a similar shift—you might even call it a flip-flop—from leaders in Chicago, which has been a self-proclaimed sanctuary city for decades. The city's mayor, Brandon Johnson, was just sworn in last May and ran on the promise of embracing migrants who arrived in the city. Last spring, he said: Sanctuary means that everyone is welcome here—everyone—whether you come legally or illegally.

When you make that kind of declaration, it is tough to be mad when people take you up on it and show up. But that is exactly what he has done.

As migrants have arrived in Chicago via bus and plane, he has lashed out at Texas Governor Greg Abbott for providing migrants with the transportation to actually take him up on his offer.

At one point, he even accused the Texas Governor of attacking Chicago and other cities that received migrants. Pretty unhinged, if you ask me.

This would be like sending an invitation out to a party that says: Everybody is welcome, and then berating the person who actually shows up with a carload of people.

I think there is a lesson there: Don't say everybody is welcome unless you mean it.

President Biden's border crisis has grown to such a magnitude that even the sanctuary cities and States are turning off or flipping over the welcome sign. The crisis just keeps growing and growing, and the pressure on President Biden is mounting.

And, oh, by the way, he is going to be a candidate for reelection in November 2024. That may have something to do with his newfound attention and concern about the problem. He didn't care about the border crisis when it was just hurting Texas or the communities along the border. He didn't flinch when frontline law enforcement pleaded for more support. He didn't bat an eye when we broke the record for the most border crossings in a single day, month, and year. But now that Democratic voters—voters he is going to need to get reelected in places like New York and Chicago—are sounding the alarm over the border crisis, so it looks like President Biden is finally starting to pay attention.

When asked by a reporter last week if the border was secure, President Biden said: No, it is not.

It is welcome candor.

But given the magnitude of the crisis, it is sad that that statement was actually newsworthy because it marked a much needed change from the President to recognize we have a problem on our hand.

The fact is—and we all know the answer—that the status quo was unsustainable. We have reached a breaking point. And the only way to restore some sense or order is by addressing the current failed policies of

the Biden administration—particularly this abuse of parole, which is just simply releasing people, giving them a work permit, even to those who aren't claiming a credible fear of persecution or grounds for asylum.

Now, we all know several of our colleagues are trying to negotiate an agreement on legislation that would create meaningful policy changes to address the crisis. And I appreciate their efforts. I sincerely do. But so far, all we have seen are statements about what is being negotiated. None of us have seen the text of the actual negotiated product. And I, for one, am anxious to see that so we can have a real discussion and maybe a debate and, hopefully, make some significant progress on what has come to be known as the Biden border crisis.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 467, Jacquelyn D. Austin, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch, Mazie K. Hirono, Alex Padilla, Jeanne Shaheen, Jack Reed, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, Richard Blumenthal, Gary C. Peters, Raphael G. Warnock, Christopher A. Coons, Jeff Merkley, Christopher Murphy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Jacquelyn D. Austin, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 79, nays 17, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 18 Ex.]

YEAS—79

Baldwin	Butler	Coons
Bennet	Cantwell	Cornyn
Blumenthal	Capito	Cortez Masto
Booker	Cardin	Cotton
Boozman	Carper	Cramer
Brown	Casey	Cruz
Budd	Collins	Daines

Duckworth	Lujan	Rubio
Durbin	Lummis	Schatz
Ernst	Manchin	Schumer
Fetterman	Markey	Shaheen
Fischer	McConnell	Sinema
Gillibrand	Menendez	Smith
Graham	Merkley	Stabenow
Grassley	Moran	Tester
Hassan	Mullin	Tillis
Heinrich	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Hickenlooper	Murphy	Warner
Hirono	Murray	Warnock
Hyde-Smith	Ossoff	Warren
Johnson	Padilla	Welch
Kaine	Peters	Whitehouse
Kennedy	Reed	Wicker
King	Ricketts	Wyden
Klobuchar	Romney	Young
Lankford	Rosen	
Lee	Rounds	

NAYS—17

Blackburn	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Braun	Hoeven	Sullivan
Britt	Marshall	Thune
Cassidy	Paul	Tuberville
Crapo	Risch	Vance
Hagerty	Schmitt	

NOT VOTING—4

Barrasso	Sanders
Kelly	Scott (SC)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 79, the nays are 17.

The motion is agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 474, Crista C. Brisco, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch, Mazie K. Hirono, Alex Padilla, Jeanne Shaheen, Jack Reed, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, Richard Blumenthal, Gary C. Peters, Raphael G. Warnock, Christopher A. Coons, Jeff Merkley, Christopher Murphy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Crista C. Brisco, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 68, nays 29, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 19 Ex.]

YEAS—68

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Booker	Hirono	Rounds
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Butler	Kennedy	Schatz
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Capito	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Lankford	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Cassidy	Markey	Tester
Collins	McConnell	Tillis
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cornyn	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Mullin	Warnock
Cramer	Murkowski	Warren
Duckworth	Murphy	Welch
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	Young
Graham	Peters	

NAYS—29

Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Britt	Hawley	Schmitt
Budd	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Johnson	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Daines	Marshall	Vance
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—3

Barrasso	Kelly	Scott (SC)
----------	-------	------------

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). On this vote, the yeas are 68, the nays are 29.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Cristal C. Brisco, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, this past Saturday, January 20, marked 3 years since President Biden took his oath of office. Since then, President Biden has had nearly 1,100 days in the White House to enact the policies that he campaigned on.

I can tell you what has been clear to me. The lives of Americans are not better now than they were 3 years ago. Our country is not safer than it was 3 years ago, and the state of the Union is not stronger than it was 3 years ago.

Time and again, President Biden has let his tenure be defined by weakness, as opposed to strength. This lack of leadership has had negative implications across a variety of sectors of American life and left millions of people across the country and the world in situations that were unavoidable.

It just really doesn't have to be this way, President Biden.

Perhaps, none of the Biden administration failures is as glaringly obvious as the one at the southern border, which I have talked about numerous times from this desk, and the contin-

ued fallout we are seeing as a result of a President who is, basically, asleep at the switch on this issue or ignoring it or maybe encouraging it.

There have been 6.7 million illegal encounters at the southern border on his watch. It is hard to imagine the scope of what 6.7 million human encounters really mean. But think of it this way: Only 17 U.S. States have a population higher than 6.7 million. Mine, of course, is not one of those. This massive flow of humanity is the equivalent of adding another State to our country that is nearly four times the size of my home State of West Virginia.

But President Biden's border failure just doesn't stop there. Since fiscal year 2021, U.S. Customs and Border Protection has seized 536,000 pounds of meth, 250,000 pounds of cocaine, and 56,000 pounds of the deadly substance fentanyl. With hundreds of thousands of admitted "get-aways"—those people who aren't in these statistics—it is impossible to know the amount of narcotics that made it across the border into our homeland.

When it comes to the southern border, the only thing President Biden has improved, in my opinion, is the business of the cartels, which are receiving cover to continue their crimes every day, whether it is drug peddling or human smuggling, every day we do not respond to this crisis.

The list of consequences as a result of President Biden's inaction on the border is long and has led to everything from violent crimes committed by individuals not lawfully in this country, to our hospitals and health clinics being pushed to the brink, to our children being forced to vacate their schools and remote learn to make room for migrate shelters; and even calls from the leaders of blue States who sent a letter on Monday asking for Federal assistance to handle this crisis. Rather than properly defending our homeland, President Biden has incentivized a crisis that urgently needs a solution.

Unfortunately, for this administration, when it comes to failures, the border is just the beginning. Let's look at the economy or where the unrelenting pursuit of Bidenomics—which, by the way, I don't think the President uses that term anymore. President Biden and his supporters want the American public to believe that the same positive trends are signs that his policies are working. But if you spent any time in middle-class America over the past 3 years or in the grocery store, you would know our families are continuously being squeezed by high prices, and businesses are being taxed and regulated out of existence.

The quality of life for American families is designed by their ability to put food on the table, to earn an honest living, and to put a roof over their heads, not by these broad microeconomic indicators—arrow going up, arrow going down.

Unfortunately, there is no relief in sight for American families under Bidenomics. Cumulative overall prices since January of 2021 have risen 17 percent. Food prices have increased 20 percent, energy prices have increased 32 percent, and rent prices have increased 19 percent, all while average weekly earnings for all employees have decreased by 4.5 percent. The basic truth is that under the President, Americans are spending more and getting less.

Additionally, these policies defined by Bidenomics are failing our small businesses and manufacturers, as well. Small and medium manufacturing companies continue to have historically low levels of optimism about their future, and 23 percent of small business owners report that inflation was the single most important problem to their business operations. I would say the supply chain and the workforce—all are contributing.

Another area in which this administration continues to fail is our national security and the standing of our country on the world stage. The same President who vowed that "America is back" in one of his first addresses has instead come to own a foreign policy record that is marred by botched withdrawals, open displays of weakness, and regretful decision making.

Look no further than the United States' disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, which undoubtedly has damaged the trust between our allies, broadcasted weakness on the world stage, and displayed a lack of resolve that emboldened our adversaries.

When it comes to Iran and the Middle East, President Biden has made disastrous decisions, like the decision to delist the Houthis as an FTO, the same Iranian-backed terror group that has perpetrated more than 30 attacks on vessels transiting the Red Sea; or the administration's willingness to be strung along by Iran with fruitless nuclear negotiations.

Today, it is clear that these negotiations were a waste of time. They are attacking our bases. They are providing dollars for all of these terror attacks in that region. And Iran now is rapidly increasing their production of highly enriched uranium.

And how could we forget the decision to unfreeze \$6 billion in assets to Iran—and to do so on 9/11, of all days.

The foreign policy of President Biden has been defined by skyrocketing attacks on U.S. troops by foreign adversaries, a large-scale ground war in Europe, and the unprecedented buildup of China's military, amid concerns about the health of our own defense industrial base here at home.

While there is an undeniable lack of American leadership in our executive branch, we must remind ourselves that it is not too late ever to reverse course. While the congressional Republicans didn't create the issues that we have at hand, we accept the responsibility of trying to solve them. That is why Republicans stand for solutions that