

the many fields for where I am very proud to see Washington State researchers leading the way. Whether it is quantum computing in Bothell, clean energy in Tri-Cities at PNNL, or aerospace work in Kent and across western Washington, this bill will propel the innovation that is happening in my State.

And through Congressionally Directed Spending, this bill will help fund new scientific equipment at Gonzaga's Bollier Center for Integrated Science and Engineering, Evergreen State College in Olympia, and Western Washington University's Advanced Technology Laboratory—not to mention funding for WSU to upgrade its electron microscope and develop a new nuclear hot cell facility; and for UW's Tidal-Powered Ocean Observation project in its new lab in Tacoma.

I couldn't leave the floor today without talking about the critical investments in this bill that we made for our veterans and our servicemembers. As chair of the MILCON-VA subcommittee and the proud daughter of a World War II veteran, I worked hard to make sure our funding bill lived up to our Nation's commitment to every man and woman who serves in uniform.

This bill fully funds our veterans' medical care and delivers record investments to tackle veteran homelessness, strengthen mental health services, and support women veterans' healthcare needs.

I also worked hard to secure funding for new barracks and a parachute rigging facility at Joint Base Lewis-McChord; build storage tanks and fuel supply at Point Manchester; update electrical infrastructure at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard; and advance other projects across Washington State bases like equipment, maintenance, and training facilities.

I also made sure our Senate bill re-allocated \$19 million to build 88 new homes at Smokey Point for our servicemembers and their families who are stationed at Naval Station Everett. I am proud to have gotten this through our final bill to help address a major need for more military houses in Snohomish County.

When it comes to support for our veterans and our VA facilities, I pushed to make sure this bill contains funding to help the American Lake VA Medical Center upgrade its facilities so they can provide quality care and for funding for the Tahoma National Cemetery and its work to ensure we honor the veterans we have lost.

Mr. President, I just covered a lot of ground, so I will wrap things up. The bottom line is: While these first six funding bills are not the bills I would have written on my own, they do protect absolutely critical programs and make needed investments in Washington State and every State in America. Again, let's be clear: We are not done yet. I am working to make sure we see similar results for people in Washington State and across the coun-

try in the remaining six bills that we are working on right now, this minute.

I am going to keep bringing the concerns I bring with me to every negotiating room for my constituents and work to get solutions to help them with every bill that I pass.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. FETTERMAN). The Senator from Texas.

ISRAEL

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I was shocked to hear the comments of the Senate majority leader this morning excoriating our closest ally, the only democracy in the Middle East. You know, we don't appreciate it when other countries tell us how we ought to govern our country. I am sure that feeling is reciprocated by our Israeli allies.

Here is what the former Ambassador of Israel said on social media:

Regardless of my opinion of Netanyahu and his fitness to serve, Senator SCHUMER's call for new Israeli elections is deeply disrespectful of our democracy and sovereignty. Israel is an ally, not a vassal state. Along with the U.S., we're one of the few countries [that have never] known a non-democratic government, and the only democracy never to have known a moment of peace. We [certainly] deserve that respect.

I think Ambassador Oren is exactly right. The majority leader's speech this morning was deeply disrespectful of our ally, which is, indeed, as I said, a sovereign nation and a democracy.

I traveled to Israel and Saudi Arabia and Jordan in January with five other members of the Senate Intelligence Committee. We met in Jordan and then in Saudi Arabia with Mohammed bin Salman and then with Prime Minister Netanyahu and the Defense Minister Gallant in Israel.

Of course, war involves collateral damages to innocent people. But the people responsible for initiating that war in Israel was Hamas, a proxy of the Iranian regime—one of many. And for somehow to say now, 5 months after that horrible attack on October 7, that Israel ought to stay its hand and allow Hamas potentially to reconstitute in Gaza is not only deeply disrespectful, it undermines the ability of the Israelis to do what they must do, which is destroy that threat.

I know 3 months after the attack on October 7, when I was in Israel, when I heard some of my colleagues say we need to have a cease-fire—well, I know if Hamas had not started the shooting, that Israel would not have started and we would not find ourselves with all of these casualties on both sides.

But we know that Iran is the head of the octopus and the tentacles reach far and wide. We all learned more about world geography and how the world works in recent years since America—we thought we were safe on our own continent, and we had an ocean to protect us on each side. But 9/11 was a reminder that not even Americans are safe from the hand of terrorists.

And Iran is the No. 1 state sponsor of terror—no doubt about it. They spon-

sor the Houthis in Yemen. They help Shia militias in Iraq and Syria. They help Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon on the northern border. Israel is under attack by people who want to wipe that country and those people off the face of the Earth. Of course, they have a right to defend themselves. Of course, they need to eliminate the terrorist threat that killed so many innocent civilians on October 7.

And so for the majority leader to come here and say, ostensibly as a supporter of Israel, that we don't like the current government; that the Israeli people need new elections and to select new leaders; and oh, by the way, you need to quit being so tough on the terrorists known as Hamas—it is shocking to me.

We need to stand with Israel. They need to be able to finish the job, not because they want to, but because they must in order to continue to exist.

OFFICE OF REFUGEE RELOCATION

Mr. President, also today, I was shocked to hear the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Secretary Becerra, say that when it comes to the 400,000 unaccompanied children that have come to America, come to our shores and been placed with sponsors by the Office of Refugee Relocation under Health and Human Services—he said: We don't have any responsibility to those children after they are placed with sponsors.

Just to remind everybody, under current law, if an unaccompanied child shows up at the border—smuggled to the border by criminal organizations that get rich smuggling migrants to the border—they are then turned over by the Border Patrol to Health and Human Services Office of Refugee Relocation. They then identify a sponsor for that child in the interior of the United States. Sometimes it is a family member; sometimes it is not.

There has been precious little vetting of the households in which those children are ultimately placed. And the New York Times, in 2023, wrote several investigative articles documenting the fact that the Biden administration had simply lost those children. In 85,000 cases where the reporters contacted the sponsors of these children, there was never an answer.

Secretary Becerra said this morning: I don't have the authority to do anything after we turn them over to the sponsor.

I said: OK. You can't tell us where these children are? You can't tell us are they going to school? Are they being trafficked for sex? Are they being forced into child labor in violation of the laws that are designed to protect children as has been documented by the New York Times and one of the Senate's own investigating committees?

He said: It is not my job.

Frankly, my conclusion is he simply doesn't care about the welfare of these 400,000 children living in communities all across America. We don't know

whether they have been forced into gangs or whether they dropped out of school. Secretary Becerra and President Biden don't know, and they don't care.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S BUDGET

Mr. President, on another matter, more than 5 months into the current fiscal year, the Senate has finally made some progress on government funding. Just so anybody listening understands where we are, we are actually doing the work that we were supposed to do last year before the end of the fiscal year, which is September 30. So we are actually dealing with spending bills from 2023 in 2024 because we didn't do the work then. So now, here we are stacked up, lurching from potential shutdown to shutdown with various fiscal cliffs. We avoided one of those cliffs last week when we passed 6 of the 12 annual appropriations bills for fiscal year 2024.

These bills, as well as the six unfinished bills, should have been signed into law before the end of September last year. Instead, the monumental task of funding the government has lingered in purgatory in the Senate as the majority leader has chosen to spend this Chamber's limited time voting on nominations. As a result, we had to pass one stopgap spending bill after another to prevent the government from shutting down. And now the next funding deadline is just over 1 week away.

Unless Congress passes six more funding bills by midnight next Friday, portions of the government will shut down and countless public servants will be left without a paycheck and the American people unnecessarily inconvenienced. Well, that includes American troops that will be left without a paycheck. It includes the Border Patrol. It includes Customs and Border Patrol officers and other law enforcement, many of whom will have to work without pay if that occurs.

I am deeply disappointed we find ourselves with this state of affairs nearly halfway through the current fiscal year. This is Washington dysfunction at its worst. This is the basic job of governing.

I do hope we will be able to make some serious progress in the next 2 weeks to fund the government and wrap up our work on fiscal year 2024 appropriations that we should have done last year so now we could work on next year's before the end of the fiscal year in September.

Earlier this week, President Biden submitted his budget request for fiscal year 2025, which begins in October. It is no secret that this massive document is on the train to nowhere, but that doesn't mean it is totally worthless. After all, a person's budget includes valuable information.

Dating back to his time as a Member of the Senate, President Biden has often repeated a favorite expression of his father's. His dad would tell him: Don't tell me what you value; show me

your budget, and I will tell you what you value.

Someone could tell you they care about supporting those who are less fortunate or saving for the future, but one will look at the budget and tell that you really have other priorities. The same is true for the Federal Government. It is easy for leaders to say they value a strong military, just like it is easy to say we stand with Israel while undercutting our ally.

I have worked here long enough to know you can't just listen to what people say; you have to watch what they do.

President Biden's budget provides an unvarnished view of what he values, and in countless ways—in countless ways—it contradicts what he has said to the American people. It is a mountain of reckless, burdensome tax hikes and far-left priorities with a \$7.3 trillion pricetag—trillion.

Just like President Biden, this budget request is completely detached from the needs of our country. There is no better example than the President's border budget.

Since he took office, our country has grappled with a completely unprecedented crisis at the border, part of which I spoke about a moment ago.

In 3 years, Customs and Border Protection has encountered more than 7.2 million migrants at the border. That is higher than the total for the entire 12 years of the Trump and Obama administrations.

When this many individuals cross the border every day, the entire system becomes overwhelmed. We don't have enough Border Patrol to respond to the overwhelming number of people coming across the border every day. We don't have the facilities to detain them for the amount of time needed to process their asylum claims. We certainly don't have enough resources to return individuals with no legitimate reason to remain in the United States back to their home country.

We need more personnel, facilities, and resources to address this crisis, as well as changes in policy, but the overarching issue that needs to be fixed is the recordbreaking pace of migration. Everybody knows that if a pipe breaks in your home, your top priority wouldn't be to buy more buckets; it would be to turn off the water. That is what we need to do here. We need to address the wave of humanity that keeps coming and coming and will keep coming and coming. Unfortunately, President Biden's budget wouldn't make any meaningful changes to that.

The only way to stop this unprecedented flow of migration is by discouraging people from coming in the first place. That is called deterrence. The Border Patrol calls it consequences.

When there are no consequences with coming here through illegal channels, then people are going to keep coming. President Biden needs to make it clear that anyone who does not have a legal basis to remain in the United States

will be detained and deported. Those are the operative words here, "detain and deport," or "repatriate," if you prefer.

The Biden administration needs to detain every person who crosses the border without legal authority and return every single person who doesn't have a legal basis to remain in the United States. The President's budget, which shows what he values, doesn't provide the resources to do that.

One example is a request for detention beds. That is part of the "detain" element that I mentioned. The administration has asked for 34,000 beds for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. That may sound like a lot, but with the volume of people coming across the border, those beds fill up quickly.

For example, during the first 4 months of the fiscal year, we averaged about 240,000—nearly a quarter of a million—migrants each month. That is about 8,000 crossings each day. If we are generous and assume that Immigration and Customs Enforcement actually acquires all 34,000 beds and that they are empty on day one, those beds would be filled in less than 5 days.

Migrants who are placed in expedited removal and who are seeking asylum are supposed to complete a credible fear screening—a process that typically took about 13 days last year. If the administration wanted to do things by the book—that means follow the law—we would need the capacity to hold every single person who crossed the border for 2 weeks just to figure out whether they are making a credible claim for asylum and then a longer period in which to evaluate those claims.

To reemphasize the point, that is just to figure out if an asylum claim is plausible on its face before an immigration judge determines whether it is supported by any evidence. At current levels, that means we would need more than 100,000 beds just to figure out whether migrants were making facially plausible claims, without even determining whether those claims are supported by real evidence.

As I said, the winning formula is detain-and-deport, not catch-and-release, which is the Biden border policy. The President's budget doesn't provide nearly enough resources for things like removal flights either.

Given the unprecedented pace of illegal border crossings during the Biden administration and the rate at which new migrants are arriving, certainly they see the welcome mat waiting for them—not a red light, not a blinking yellow light, but a green light. "Come on in"—that is the message that is being sent.

ICE needs a dramatic funding increase for air charter flights, for example, and it needs enough resources to return migrants to their home countries, but the administration has once again failed to give the Agency the resources it needs to carry out its mission.