

And Prime Minister Netanyahu has ignored it all, the humanitarian crisis has grown steadily worse, and the war is far from being won. Netanyahu's strategy in Gaza is reminiscent of that famous quote of an unnamed U.S. major in Vietnam who said:

It became necessary to destroy the village in order to save it.

That is what is happening to Gaza. It won't work here, as it didn't work there.

Nobody—nobody—disputes Israel's right to go after the perpetrators of the October 7 massacre. But that atrocity and that security failure did not provide license for Israel to go to war against an entire population killing tens of thousands of defenseless people, targeting aid workers, preventing lifesaving aid from getting to the victims—all while the hostages remain trapped underground not knowing if they will survive another day.

This is not the Israel the American people have supported and defended—with my support—with \$300 billion since its founding 75 years ago—far more aid than we have provided to any other country.

As Jose Andres said:

Israel is better than the way this war is being waged. . . . You cannot save the hostages by bombing every building in Gaza. You cannot win this war by starving an entire population.

The words of Chef Andres.

I recognize that the Prime Minister makes his own decisions, and it is for the Israeli people to hold him accountable. But he is not—and in my view, has never been—a credible partner for the United States. Combating ruthless terrorists like Hamas is a challenge we face, Israel faces, the world faces. But this war is not making any of us safer from terrorism. It is creating the next generation of terrorists.

With an invasion of Rafah looming, the Biden administration has warned Mr. Netanyahu that unless there is a credible plan to relocate the Palestinians who are trapped there, such an invasion would cause unacceptable civilian losses. That, however, does not appear to have dissuaded Prime Minister Netanyahu.

World opinion has shifted sharply against Israel and the United States. The administration, while calling for a cease-fire and more humanitarian aid, is simultaneously sending more bombs and ammunition to Israel. It is an inconsistency that is not sustainable.

It is long past time for the U.S. to adopt a consistent policy, to stop financing a war strategy that was deeply flawed from the very beginning—a strategy of unending death and destruction without any plan for what comes next.

Instead of prolonging this catastrophe, let's use our influence and our resources to advance a consistent policy for the Middle East—a policy that has to be grounded in the recognition that the people of Israel will never be secure without upholding the inherent

rights and dignity of the Palestinian people as well.

After 6 months of war, the situation, regrettably, in Gaza is worse than ever. Hamas is not defeated, nor do the experts that I have spoken to believe it can be. Gaza is all but destroyed. Two million Palestinians lack the basic necessities of life and have nothing to return to.

We need to change course. The hostages need to come home. The killing needs to stop. The war must end.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

DOMESTIC SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, it has been more than 5 months since the President submitted a domestic supplemental appropriations request to Congress. And, among other things, it called for funding recovery efforts in communities across the country struck by disasters, including Lahaina Maui.

Every one of these affected communities in Florida, in California, in Vermont, in Mississippi, in Alabama, in Arkansas, in Alaska, in South Dakota, in Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, and Tennessee need help. Each one of them is in the middle of a long and difficult process of rebuilding and getting back on its feet.

Recovering from a disaster—whether natural or manmade—it is hard, it is time-intensive, and it is incredibly expensive; surveying the damage in the immediate hours and days following the event; undertaking the complex and often dangerous process of debris removal; rebuilding homes and roads and schools and other essential infrastructure that were destroyed; providing financial assistance to people, families, and small business owners who lost their jobs and livelihoods overnight. It takes months and years and tremendous effort from thousands of people to return these communities to anything close to normal.

Today, another community is, unfortunately, confronting the colossal task of rebuilding—this time in Baltimore in the wake of the tragic collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. Our hearts go out to the families of the six men who were lost that day. They were fathers; they were husbands; they were brothers; immigrants who worked day and night to provide for their families. And their losses break our collective hearts.

As Baltimore recovers, we stand ready to support all of the communities and businesses that relied on that bridge and the Port of Baltimore every day to get around and move goods through. And as the Chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, I am committed to doing everything I can to help pass the necessary funding to rebuild.

As we do that, we also have a responsibility to support every other community that has been devastated by a disaster because we are all in this together. No State or county—big or

small, red or blue, wealthy or not—can shoulder the burden alone.

When a disaster is so big, so catastrophic for any one State or locality to handle, it falls on the Federal Government to step up and help. It is central to the promise of the Federal Government. We can argue about the size and the scope of the Federal Government all we like—which programs to fund, what levels to fund them at—but even the most libertarian among us can agree that helping our fellow Americans when they are in crisis, when they have lost everything, when they are desperate for support—helping them is patriotic and essential to our roles in the Congress. It is why funding disaster recovery has historically been bipartisan—because people on both sides of the aisle have recognized, rightly, that disasters do not discriminate between red and blue and purple areas. Accidents don't pick and choose their victims. Every community that has had the misfortune of being struck by a disaster needs and deserves help.

Maui is just one example of what these communities are facing. Eight months on from the devastating fires, the needs remain enormous. Thousands of people are still living out of hotels and vacation rentals, unable to rebuild their lives. Roads and water systems have yet to be repaired. Small businesses and their employees continue to struggle without tourism.

For Lahaina to recover, thousands of homes will need to be rebuilt. Critical infrastructure will need to be restored. Businesses will need to get up and running again. So Congress needs to step up and help. That includes providing funding for the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery—or CDBG-DR—Program, as the supplemental request calls for. CDBG-DR funding has long been a lifeline for families and small businesses recovering after disasters. Maui and many other communities nationwide are waiting on this aid.

It has been nearly 6 months since the President called on Congress to help communities recover from disasters. We have waited a long time, and we can't wait much longer. The disasters keep piling up and, with them, the urgent needs of the survivors. People need help.

We need to pass this supplemental and make sure all the survivors are getting the relief they need. This is not each against all; we are truly all in this together. Every community that has been hurt by a natural disaster deserves help, and Congress must provide it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MAYORKAS IMPEACHMENT

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today because we really are at a very historic time for this Chamber. Soon, the House of Representatives is expected to send over Articles of Impeachment against a Cabinet officer for only the second time in our Nation's history. This is not routine business; instead, this is a very serious moment.

On February 13, the House agreed to Articles of Impeachment against Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas for "willful and systemic refusal to comply with the law" and "breach of public trust."

This Chamber will soon have a constitutional duty to uphold. I firmly believe that the U.S. Senate must conduct a full impeachment inquiry trial for Secretary Mayorkas. Our Constitution gives the Senate the responsibility and the duty to try all impeachments, and it requires a vote of two-thirds of the Senate present before the Federal officer is convicted. That is a pretty high standard for a constitutional process.

For every impeachment in our history, the Senate has held some form of a trial unless the Federal officer has resigned prior to the trial. This time, it should be no different.

Under President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas, there have been more than 9.2 million illegal crossings along our country's southern border or, to put it another way, the average monthly encounters have increased 400 percent almost under the Biden-Mayorkas DHS.

The record illegal crossings this past February of 189,922 marked the seventh consecutive month of the highest number of encounters that these months have ever seen. On top of this, there have been 36 straight months with higher encounters at the southern border than any month under the Trump administration. I mean, these numbers are just shocking.

Still, and I have spoken on this before, it is just amazing to me that the President and Secretary Mayorkas haven't tried to change this at all.

Unfortunately, these statistics have become a regular occurrence under the leadership of Secretary Mayorkas, and he bears the responsibility for the worst border crisis of our Nation's history.

Let me be clear. As I said earlier, this crisis did not happen by accident. We have seen the Biden-Mayorkas DHS fail to uphold the law and secure our borders starting on day one of this administration. This broad and willful effort by the Biden administration to open our borders began by ending successful Trump-era policies that brought all those numbers down, like contracts to build the border wall, the "Remain in Mexico" policy—also known as Migrant Protection Protocols or MPP—and safe third country agreements.

Again, the numbers don't lie, and they certainly do not provide the administration with any cover, unlike

the cover the administration gives daily by turning their back to the cartels that are making billions of dollars from human smuggling and drug trafficking operations as long as this crisis continues.

Furthermore, we have seen Secretary Mayorkas abuse the parole process, expanding the program more than any other prior administration, which has led to more than 3 million immigrants coming into our country who would otherwise have been inadmissible. Parole is supposed to be granted on a one-by-one, case-by-case basis, but under Secretary Mayorkas's leadership, DHS has created categorical parole programs to give entry to migrants from many South American and Caribbean countries with minimal vetting.

As the crisis has developed throughout President Biden's 3 years in office, nearly half of the migrants encountered on our southern border are coming from countries outside of Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador. The immigration crisis on our southern border is now more multifaceted than ever. Why is that? Because it has been allowed to keep fomenting. The open border policies from the Biden-Mayorkas DHS have allowed all of this to happen. We truly have no idea who is entering our country illegally.

We have apprehended 336 individuals on the Terror Watchlist who have illegally crossed our southern border during this administration, but these are just the individuals we know of. To put this into perspective, only 14 terror suspects were apprehended between the ports of entry during the Trump administration—14 over 4 years; 336 in this administration.

Not knowing who is in our country is a national security crisis, and at a time of heightened national security, this is a chance we should not be willing to take.

We have also seen the Biden-Mayorkas DHS abuse the asylum process, expanding eligibility to admit a record number of asylum seekers, which has led to creating a decade-long delay and backlog in our immigration courts. This ensures that anyone who enters our country and passes the very low screening standard will be here for years without any fear of deportation.

This policy allowed the alleged killer of Laken Riley—a nursing student in Georgia who was brutally and senselessly murdered—to enter and remain in this country. Even though he was apprehended by our law enforcement on at least one occasion, he still was here. This will ever serve as a reminder that Secretary Mayorkas's catch-and-release policies have allowed the catastrophe at our southern border to impact every single community.

When our already-overwhelmed Border Patrol agents are faced with thousands of encounters per day of migrants claiming asylum, we know that some border crossers are able to slip through. These are the people who don't want to be caught, and they are

the individuals we need to worry about the most. But don't just take my word for it. In a recent interview, Border Patrol Chief Jason Owens referred to the situation at the southern border as a "national security threat" and that the 140,000 known "got-aways" are what is keeping—he says "keeping me up at night." This is something that all of us should be concerned about and the ripple effect that this causes in communities far away from our southern border.

Additionally, the drugs flowing across our border are responsible for fueling the addiction epidemic that has devastated communities across this country, particularly in my home State of West Virginia. In West Virginia alone, it is estimated that during the year 2023, 1,327 residents died at the hands of illegal drugs. That is the highest per capita of any other State.

At the national level, the numbers are just startling. According to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, agents seized an alltime high of 27,293 pounds of fentanyl coming across the southern border in fiscal year 2023. That amount of fentanyl is enough to kill nearly 6 million people. However, what is even more troubling is that CBP reported that Federal officials are estimating they were only able to seize between 5 and 10 percent of all the fentanyl that has been smuggled through the southern border. With a Border Patrol that has been stretched unfathomably thin with very little support from this administration, there is no telling the amount of drugs that are getting through undetected.

Regarding the matter that will soon be before the Senate, the impeachment articles against Secretary Mayorkas make serious allegations and detail the crisis we have all seen unfolding for more than 3 years. It is unconscionable for Senator SCHUMER to dismiss these charges without allowing the Senate to hear the evidence. Doing so would deny this body from upholding our constitutional duty to hear a case and decide whether or not Secretary Mayorkas should be convicted or acquitted.

The decision to take up these Articles of Impeachment lies with Senator SCHUMER and the Senate Democrats. They must do the right thing and conduct a full trial.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I appreciate what I heard from the Senator from West Virginia, Senator CAPITO, and I am pleased to follow her and precede a number of my colleagues as we address the issue of the crisis at our southern border.

I want to highlight something I heard her say and reiterate myself, this is a national security threat. There are many reasons to care about what is going on at our borders, and certainly you can take a look at the issue of sovereignty and the nature of our country.