

keep working in a bipartisan way to ensure this vital aid gets to our friends abroad as quickly as possible.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT

Mr. President, now on Senate business, last night, I moved to place the House-passed FISA reauthorization bill on the legislative calendar. The Senate must pass FISA reauthorization by the April 19 deadline, just a few days away. We don't have much time to act.

To keep the process on FISA moving today, I will file cloture on the motion to proceed to the House-passed bill. Democrats and Republicans are going to have to work together to meet the April 19 deadline. If we don't cooperate, FISA will expire. So we must be ready to cooperate.

MAYORKAS IMPEACHMENT

Mr. President, on another matter, this afternoon, we expect the House will deliver the Articles of Impeachment of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. I urge all my colleagues to be in their seats when the articles are presented later today.

Once we receive the articles, the Senate will convene on Wednesday as a Court of Impeachment, and Senators will be sworn in as jurors. Senate President Pro Tempore PATTY MURRAY will preside.

As I have said repeatedly, we want to address this issue as expeditiously as possible. Impeachment should never be used to settle a policy disagreement.

Let me say that again. Impeachment should never be used to settle a policy disagreement.

Talk about awful precedence? This would set an awful precedent for Congress. Every time there is a policy disagreement in the House, they send it over here and tie the Senate in knots to do an impeachment trial? That is absurd. That is an abuse of the process. That is more chaos.

Nevertheless, when the House is ready to send us the articles, the Senate will act.

CHIPS AND SCIENCE ACT

Mr. President, now on chips, yesterday, the Biden administration announced a preliminary deal with Samsung to provide over \$6 billion in funding from Chips and Science to build a new semiconductor manufacturing and research center in Texas. The administration's deal with Samsung supports over \$40 billion of investment that is expected to create over 17,000 new construction jobs and over 4,000 new manufacturing jobs—all made possible by Chips and Science.

Thanks to the investments made in Chips and Science, I am proud to say that the United States is well on its way to our goal of producing 20 percent of the world's leading-edge chips by the end of the decade.

The Chips and Science investment is bringing manufacturing back to America, is shoring up our supply chains to prevent the kinds of chip shortages that raised prices during the pandemic, and is creating good-paying jobs to grow the middle class.

Now, we still have a lot of work to do, but these announcements are proof that the Democratic agenda is delivering real results for the American people and for our economy.

CREDIT CARD FEES

Mr. President, on credit card fees, last month, the Biden administration announced a new \$8 cap on credit card late fees that would help millions of Americans save up to \$10 billion a year.

The Biden administration's push to cut down excess late fees is great news for the people who have been taken advantage of by the big credit card companies for years and years.

But, now, if you can believe it, Republicans are pushing a bill to overturn the Biden administration's rule and let big credit card companies get richer at the expense of hard-working Americans. The Republican bill argues that even allowing big credit card companies to charge Americans absurdly high late fees will "promote financial discipline and responsibility." Whose side are they on? It is hard to believe Republicans are actually trying to increase credit card fees.

Let me say that again so all Americans can hear this. Republicans want to let big credit card companies increase credit card fees in the name of "fiscal discipline and responsibility." Give me a break.

By introducing a bill to block the Biden administration's rule, Republicans are doing the bidding of the big credit card companies and leaving the American people out to dry.

Let me be clear: Democrats will not allow the Republicans' bill to become law.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

MAYORKAS IMPEACHMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, this afternoon, the Senate will be called, for just the 19th time in our history, to rule on the impeachment of a senior official of our government. It is a responsibility to be taken seriously. As I said the last time the Senate convened as a Court of Impeachment, it is a power that Congress must not exercise frivolously.

Today, the Senate will hear House managers charge Secretary Mayorkas with serious dereliction of duty—with a systematic refusal to enforce our Nation's immigration laws and with lying to Congress about the extent of the border crisis that unfolded on the Biden administration's watch.

The facts of the crisis are well-known. Since January of 2021, CBP has

recorded more than 7.5 illegal crossings at our southern border, while observers estimate over 1.5 million known "got-aways." And last December saw the highest daily and monthly numbers ever recorded.

In the 2 months since the House impeached Secretary Mayorkas, the border crisis has only continued, with excruciating consequences for innocent Americans.

On February 22, an illegal alien was arrested in Virginia for sexually assaulting a minor. The very next day, another illegal alien from Venezuela was arrested for the murder of Laken Riley, a young college student in Georgia. And the same month, yet another was charged with first- and second-degree murder for the shooting of a 2-year-old in Maryland.

For the Americans living right near the border, things are not improving. In February, one man working in Arizona recounted watching cartel guides lead over 170 people from around the world through one such opening in a matter of hours.

The House managers will make the case for Secretary Mayorkas's role in neglecting and exacerbating that crisis. As befits such a solemn and rare responsibility as convening a Court of Impeachment, I intend to give these charges my full and undivided attention.

Of course, that would require that Senators actually get the opportunity to hold a trial. This is exactly what history and precedent dictate. Never before has the Senate agreed to a motion to table Articles of Impeachment—not for an officer of either party, not once.

Instead, every single time that we have been called upon to render judgment, we have done so. We have convened a trial in accordance with rule XI of the Impeachment Rules agreed to in 1935. We have appointed a trial committee to dig into the facts and make a recommendation.

It would be beneath the Senate's dignity to shrug off our clear responsibility and fail to give the charges we will hear today the thorough consideration they deserve. I will strenuously oppose any effort to table the Articles of Impeachment and avoid looking the Biden administration's border crisis squarely in the face.

NATIONAL SECURITY SUPPLEMENTAL

Mr. President, now on an entirely different matter, 2 months ago, the Senate passed a national security supplemental that reflected the clear links between the challenges we face. That was by design. America's adversaries, from Beijing to Pyongyang and Moscow to Tehran, are actually all working together. They are reinforcing one another's efforts to sap our resolve, shatter our influence, and remake the rules of the road on their own terms. Anyone pretending that we can address these challenges individually, at our

leisure, is only kidding themselves. As I have said before, this isn't a matter of philosophical differences. The truth is plainly evident.

If you want to see the world the way our adversaries do, trace the trade of Chinese cash for sanctioned Iranian energy. Watch the trainloads of North Korean artillery arrive at the frontlines of Putin's onslaught in Ukraine. Follow the flows of Shahed drones to the Russian military. They are the same ones that Iran launched at Israel this past weekend. Or pay attention to the words and actions of America's friends. Listen to the way our Indo-Pacific allies describe the stakes of Ukraine's defense for the prospects of deterrence in their own region. Watch the way they invest their resources both in modernizing their capabilities and in helping Ukraine beat back aggression halfway around the world.

Now, America can choose, as it has nearly done before over the course of our history, to stick our head in the sand, to refuse to invest seriously in our own defense and in the alliances and partnerships that underpin it, to deny that a century of prosperity was purchased by American leadership and vigilance, but to do that now would be to ignore the basic fact that expanding America's defense industrial base and equipping our friends to resist and deter aggression are not competing policies but complementary ones.

Helping Ukraine has accelerated important programs to arm our allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific. It has called the attention of Pentagon officials, defense industry leaders, and Members of Congress to glaring gaps in our own capability and production capacity.

The Senate-passed supplemental would further expand the capacity of the arsenal of democracy. Of course, this isn't a one-off responsibility. The supplemental will not magically fix decades of underinvestment, and the administration and Congress will need to commit to taking our military requirements for missile defenses, long-range fires, and other critical military capabilities much more seriously.

But to continue to neglect the task in front of Congress right now would only compound the problem. Hesitation and indecision have prevented Ukraine from taking the fight aggressively to Putin's invaders. And if our friends are digging new defensive fortifications today, it is because they are starving—starving—for the munitions that would have helped them hold the ones they had already built on their frontlines.

Addressing the linked threats to America's national security interests isn't about cooking up "bogus justifications"; it is about dealing with the world as it actually is. Our House colleagues will soon record whether they are prepared to do exactly that.

INFLATION

Mr. President, now on one final matter, last week, cumulative inflation

since President Biden took office hit 19.4 percent. Since January of 2021, gas prices are up 47.8 percent. Car repair costs have increased 6.7 percent. In barely 2 years, car insurance premiums have increased—listen to this—45.8 percent.

Americans know that stable prices and basic safety shouldn't be much to expect from their new leaders. As one woman recently told reporters, "What can you do? You need insurance. You can't have a vehicle or a house without them. So you have to . . . figure out where you can cut other things to make sure you can drive around."

Of course, the soaring cost of insuring a car has a lot to do with the dangers of driving one in blue cities across America where soft-on-crime policies let violent offenders run free. Today, drivers are more likely than ever to become victims of crime, as 2023 saw rates of car theft tick up by 29 percent in 34 cities across the country—more than double since 2019. And 2023 was also the second year in a row that car thefts surpassed 1 million in the United States.

Here in Washington, local residents and Members of Congress alike have fallen victim to an unchecked surge of carjackings. And the city's response? Hand out free tracking devices.

Millions of Americans are waiting eagerly for this fever of incoherent policy to break. They are recalling woke prosecutors, and I suspect they plan to fire many more of their local, State, and national leaders this fall. Bidenomics isn't working, and neither is soft-on-crime radicalism.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

IRAN

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this weekend, Iran and its proxies in Syria, Yemen, and Iraq fired a barrage of missiles and drones against Israel. The direct attack was a marked escalation on Iran's part. And it is time for the United States, our allies, and nations that support peace and freedom to make it clear to Iran that we are not going stand idly by while Iran threatens Israel and foments terror in the Middle East.

This weekend's attack was a notable escalation on Iran's part because weapons were fired from Iran and not just by Iran's proxies. Iran has been threatening Israel and undermining peace in the Middle East for decades—Hezbollah, the Houthis, Shia militias in Iraq and Syria, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and, of course, Hamas.

Hamas gets approximately 90 percent of its military budget from Iran, and there is reason to wonder whether

Hamas would even have had the capability to carry out its October 7 attack without the support it receives from Iran. There is certainly reason to wonder what the Middle East would look like today if Iran hadn't spent decades funding and arming terrorist organizations.

Enough is enough. There have been a lot of redlines drawn for Israel lately. It is past time to draw some for Iran. Unfortunately, the U.S. posture toward Iran under President Biden has too often been one of appeasement. It was President Biden's attempt to reinstate the Obama administration's flawed Iran nuclear deal. Then there was the Biden administration's attempt to unfreeze \$6 billion in Iranian assets as part of a deal to free American prisoners. Thankfully, the administration ultimately refroze those funds in the wake of Hamas's October 7 attack against Israel. But unfreezing them in the first place was a serious mistake.

Just last month, for the second time since the October 7 attack on Israel by Iran-backed Hamas, President Biden renewed a sanctions waiver giving Iran access to \$10 billion from energy sales. And now, this week, President Biden was quick to take options off the table for what U.S. assistance to Israel might look like in the wake of Iran's bold attack. This only suggests to Iran that there are limits to the United States-Israel partnership at the very time we must be making good on our ironclad relationship with Israel, not telling our ally it has to go it alone.

It is alarming when President Biden seems more intent on preventing Israel from responding to Iran's attack than on making it clear to Iran that there can be no more of these attacks and that Iran needs to cease all of its terrorist operations. Unless President Biden wants to continue to see Israel in danger, American troops threatened, and commerce through the Red Sea disrupted, he has to find a much stronger posture when it comes to Iran.

The United States should be making it clear to Iran that the United States will not allow another Iranian attack like the one that occurred this weekend and that we will not tolerate any more aggression from Iran. And it shouldn't be just the United States drawing this redline. As I said, it is time for the United States, our allies, and nations that support peace and freedom to resoundingly reject Iran's malign agenda.

The United States has an important role to coordinate action to back up the G7 statement and to press members of the U.N. Security Council to take a position on Iran's flagrant attack. The United States must also press forward to broker a deal for the normalization of Israel and Saudi relations, the prospect of which normalization many believe motivated the October 7 terrorist attack by Iran-backed Hamas. And, of course, the United States must continue to push for the return of all the hostages in Gaza and help Israel in its