

only bill I would bring to the floor was one that could win bipartisan support. Not a single Democrat in the House or Senate voted for H.R. 2.

Today, I am proud that, after 4 months of hard negotiations, we indeed have a bipartisan agreement that is a product of compromise, hard work, and persistence. I am hopeful that enough Senators understand that this bill is too important—too important—to let politics get in the way, because, if we fail the Ukrainian people, then Vladimir Putin will likely succeed in his invasion of Ukraine. Putin will be emboldened, and Western democracy will face the greatest threat it has seen in decades.

If we don't help Israel defend itself against Hamas, the dangers of another October 7 will persist, and the war in the Middle East could grow much worse.

If we don't deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza, countless of innocent Palestinian civilians will be denied life-saving assistance that cannot wait.

And if we don't secure our border right now, the crisis our Republican colleagues talk about so much is only—only—going to get worse.

Everyone agrees the border is a mess. For years—years—our Republican colleagues have demanded we fix the border. All along, they said it should be done through legislation. Only recently did they change that, when it looked like we might actually produce legislation.

Well, we are producing legislation in a bipartisan way, and, now, unfortunately, many on the hard right are running, are turning their back on this package. Everyone is asking the same question: Are MAGA Republicans serious about fixing the border or is this merely political?

If Senate Democrats wrote this national security supplemental entirely on our own, of course, it would look different. But we live in an era of divided government, and that means that both sides have to compromise if we want to pass a bill.

This bipartisan agreement is not perfect, but given all the dangers facing America, it is the comprehensive package our country needs right now. It will provide tens of billions in military assistance for Ukraine so they have more access to Javelins, ammunitions, Stingers, howitzers, and more. It gives Israel the security assistance it needs to resist those who wish to wipe a Jewish State off the map. It delivers life-saving humanitarian assistance—food, water, medicine, clothing—not just for innocent civilians in Gaza but for growing humanitarian needs around the world. And it holds the line against the Chinese Communist Party in the Indo-Pacific.

It has other items we are very proud of too: hundreds of millions for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program to protect synagogues, churches, mosques, HBCUs, and other nonprofit organizations victimized by discrimi-

nation and hate. This is something I have worked very hard to secure for years.

It also includes the FEND Off Fentanyl Act, something we worked very hard on to pass in the Defense authorization bill. We are glad it has been included here.

And, of course, thanks to months and months and months of hard work by Senators MURPHY, SINEMA, LANKFORD, MURRAY, and COLLINS, and our staffs, and many, many others who provided their input, this supplemental package is a real opportunity for Congress to finally address America's borders and make progress toward a more efficient and well-resourced system. It will cut years of delay in the asylum process, while ensuring fair outcomes. It will invest in more frontline personnel and provide more funding for the border.

Make no mistake about it. Fixing our immigration system will not finish with this bill. Democrats will keep fighting to reach our ultimate goal of comprehensive immigration reform.

I believe so strongly in comprehensive reform. As you will recall, I led the Gang of 8 in 2013 to pass it, and we will keep fighting for it once our work on this supplemental is done.

In the coming days, I urge Senators on both sides to think carefully about what is at stake in this legislation. This moment, this bill, the actions here in the next few days are an inflection point in history, where the security of our Nation and of the world hangs in the balance. I know a majority of Senators want to get this done, and I know it will take bipartisan cooperation to move quickly. It is not going to be easy, but Senators owe it to the American people to tune out the political noise coming from the outside and do the right thing for our country—our beloved country.

This moment demands the Senate to show leadership. It harkens back to the decades and moments when Senators did rise to the occasion. It demands the Senate's decisive action. In the coming days, I hope the Senate can, once again, rise to the occasion and lead America forward.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

REMOVING EXTRANEIOUS LOOP-HOLES INSURING EVERY VETERAN EMERGENCY ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 30, H.R. 815.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 30, H.R. 815, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 30, H.R. 815, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Benjamin L. Cardin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Mark R. Warner, Michael F. Bennet, Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Tim Kaine, Kyrsten Sinema, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Richard Blumenthal, Christopher Murphy, Brian Schatz.

Mr. SCHUMER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam 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.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, 4 years ago, as a candidate for the Democratic nomination, President Biden promised his base functionally open borders:

I would in fact make sure that . . . we immediately surge to the border all those people who are seeking asylum.

That was President Biden when he took office 3 years ago. As people surged to the border, they insisted that the President had told them to come, and by his actions, we know they were exactly right.

The Biden administration invited a crisis at our southwest border. In the tradition of Washington Democrats dating back decades, they chose an issue over its solution, and then they made it worse. The President of the United States threw out essential border security tools like "Remain in Mexico," froze new funds for common-sense measures like border wall construction, and abandoned the brave men and women of the CPB and ICE to clean up his mess.

President Biden's border crisis has upended life in communities across America. Flows of deadly fentanyl have snuffed out precious lives in States like Kentucky. Catch-and-release has confronted even the bluest so-called sanctuary cities with the harsh realities of unchecked illegal immigration.

For 3 years, the President and his administration have tried to convince the American people not to believe their own eyes. They tried in vain to pretend that we weren't facing a crisis, but the country knows better. This is a humanitarian and security crisis of historic proportions.

Senate Republicans have insisted—not just for months but for years—that this urgent crisis demanded action. Three months ago, we asked our colleague Senator LANKFORD to lead that action. In just the time since Washington Democrats finally decided to join him at the negotiating table, the President's border crisis made history all over again. December saw the highest daily and monthly tallies of illegal border crossings ever on record. The crisis has literally never been worse. This is the reality as the Senate begins careful consideration of the border security agreement announced last night.

The gaping hole in our Nation's sovereign borders on President Biden's watch is not going to heal itself, and the crater of American credibility after 3 years of the President's foreign policy will not repair itself either.

Today, our adversaries are emboldened. As terrorists and authoritarian thugs challenge the strongest military in the world, our Commander in Chief is hesitant—hesitant—and self-deterred. It is long past time for the President to demonstrate more resolve and start imposing decisive costs on those who dare to attack America, and it is now time for Congress to take action on supplemental national security legislation that finally meets those challenges head-on.

I have spoken at length for months about the urgent need to invest in American hard power, stand with our allies, and start showing our adversaries that the world's foremost superpower intends to start acting like one again.

My colleagues know where I stand. They know as well as I do that America's adversaries in Moscow, Beijing, and Tehran are working together to undermine us, and they know that the time has finally come for the Senate to respond with strength.

The national security legislation we are preparing to take up will invest heavily in the capabilities and capacity America and our allies need to regain the upper hand over this emerging axis of authoritarians. Make no mistake, the gauntlet has been thrown, and America needs to pick it up.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Kurt Campbell, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The senior Senator from Illinois.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I am heartened and encouraged that there is finally a bipartisan agreement to provide Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, and Taiwan critical funding to meet their urgent national security and humanitarian needs. It should have happened months ago, but Republicans demanded that any discussion of this assistance be tied to changes in border policy here in the United States, using national security as a bargaining chip and gambling, sadly, with people's lives. The future and fate of Europe, the Middle East, and the Indo-Pacific hung in the balance.

Last week, the European Union reached an agreement to provide an additional \$54 billion to stand by Ukraine and shore up its war-ravaged economy, bringing the total European Union support to well over \$100 billion and comparable to what the United States has done.

Meanwhile, Vladimir Putin continues to think he has more resolve than we do, reveling in his belief that Western democracy is unable to sustain its rejection of Russian tyranny. But more than just Putin, other destabilizing forces around the world are watching what we do, from Iran to North Korea. We must prove to them our commitment to democratic ideals.

Our response to Putin's aggression has consequences—not just in Ukraine or even in Russia but global and historic consequences. In fact, NATO's Secretary General Stoltenberg recently issued a very plain warning to all of us in the West. He said:

If Putin wins . . . there is a real risk that his aggression will not end there.

Putin will continue to wage his war beyond Ukraine. Further, if other despots sense Western weakness, they will be emboldened to attempt their own aggression.

Stoltenberg went on to say:

Our support is not charity. It is an investment in our security.

It is time for Speaker Johnson and Republicans to realize that bipartisanship is the only—the only—way to ensure that Ukraine, Israel, Taiwan, and innocent civilians in Gaza will receive critical, lifesaving assistance.

Let's not flinch when it comes to standing up to such obvious threats to democracy and the rule of law. The world is watching. That is why we must pass this national security package.

But this agreement also addresses our immigration policy. And let me be clear. We do need to fix our disastrous immigration laws and secure the border. That has been a fact for more than three decades. That is why I have worked for years to pass bipartisan leg-

islation that would fix our immigration system.

Leader SCHUMER came to the floor earlier and recalled the time when the so-called Gang of 8—four Democrats and four Republicans—worked for months to put together a measure which passed with a bipartisan rollcall on the floor of the Senate. I was honored to be part of that effort.

This bill that we have before us includes important measures, such as a one-time increase in green cards and protections for the children of H-1B visa holders who age out of legal status when they turn 21.

I am deeply, deeply disappointed that this bill does not include a path to citizenship for Dreamers, recipients of temporary protected status, farmworkers, or other essential people who have spent years contributing to our society. These individuals fill a critical role in America.

A study showed that undocumented immigrants—undocumented immigrants—pay nearly \$80 billion in Federal and \$40 billion in State and local taxes every single year. Many of these immigrants were brought to the United States as children. They don't know any other home. Yet, without congressional action, they spend each day in fear of being deported.

Madam President, 12 years ago, in response to a bipartisan request from myself and the late Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana, President Obama established the DACA Program, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. It really was a reflection of the DREAM Act, which I had introduced over 20 years ago.

DACA has protected more than 800,000 young people from deportation, all of whom arrived in our country as children. These young people are known today as Dreamers. They grew up alongside our kids, and many have gone on to serve our Nation as service-members, doctors, first responders. They believe in the American dream.

I have come to the floor of the Senate 138 times—this is it—to tell their stories. I don't think there is any more compelling argument to be made for the Dreamers and DACA than to let people know exactly who they are, what they have done, and what they dream of.

This is a story of a young woman who came to America at the age of 4, Alyssandra Abrenica. She first arrived in Orange County, CA, from the Philippines, and she vividly remembers sharing a single, tiny room with all six of her family members.

While attending college, Alyssandra discovered a passion for healthcare, and she applied to the only medical school which was accepting Dreamers at the time, Loyola University Stritch School of Medicine in Chicago. In 2020, she was accepted to the school and received one of the first of the American Medical Association's DREAM MD Equity Scholarships, which is given to DACA recipients or first-generation immigrants to study medicine.