

it obvious he cares only about this issue so long as he can exploit it for political gain, not about solving the problem that Americans want solved. If Donald Trump was genuine about wanting to fix the border, if he actually believed this was an emergency, he would have supported the Senate's bipartisan bill.

Still, Democrats have not walked away from this debate. We want to secure the border. We know it will take bipartisan action in Congress, and we call on our Republican colleagues to join us to advance border security legislation, bipartisan legislation that the people demand.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, finally, on nominations, today, the Senate will continue processing more of President Biden's outstanding nominees. This morning the Senate will vote on cloture on the nomination of Judge Sanket Bulsara to serve as a district judge in the Eastern District of New York. I was proud to push President Biden to nominate this amazing New Yorker and exceptionally qualified legal mind.

Judge Bulsara made history in 2017 as the first South Asian-American judge to serve in any court within the Second Circuit when he was appointed magistrate judge for the Eastern District. New York's South Asian population is one of the fastest growing in our State and in our country. So I am proud to support Judge Bulsara because he will make our courts a better reflection of the communities they serve.

And, once confirmed, Judge Bulsara will represent a milestone for the Senate. He will be the 195th—the 195th—judge confirmed by this body since President Biden took office, and we are going to keep going. Americans deserve jurists they can trust to be fair, to be qualified, and who will appreciate the human impact of their decisions. Judge Bulsara perfectly fits that noble idea.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, this week, thousands of law enforcement personnel from across America will descend to our Nation's Capital to pay solemn tribute to comrades killed in the line of duty.

The entire Nation joins them once again in honoring the service and sacrifice as we mark National Peace Officers Memorial Day and add the names of fallen heroes to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial here in Washington.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to the officers and families who are in town this week. Our Nation owes the thin blue line a great debt for their dedication to keeping our communities safe.

I am especially grateful to Kentucky's law enforcement and honored

to pay special tribute to one of the Commonwealth's finest who was killed in the line of duty just last year. Deputy Caleb Conley of Scott County Sheriff's Office was tragically shot and killed a year ago next week during a routine traffic stop in Georgetown, KY.

He leaves behind his wife and two children. And yesterday, I had the privilege of meeting with members of the Conley family and assured them that their sacrifice is not forgotten.

The loss of the heroes we honor this week leaves holes in tight-knit departments and devoted families. And their deaths are a reminder of the daily risk peace officers take to keep the rest of us safe.

Of course, in this building, we are never far from men and women who swear oaths to run toward danger. And this Police Week, I hope our colleagues join me in thanking the officers of the Capitol Police who guard this institution and honoring their comrades who have given their lives to defend it.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, on another matter, in cities across America, soft-on-crime policies are making the tough job of law enforcement even tougher.

Earlier this month, President Biden declared that "Americans are safer from violent crime today than a year ago." But even a quick look around our Nation's Capital shows that crime in many American cities is still unacceptably high.

As of this past week, Washington, DC, has already seen 63 homicides and much more than 1,700 car thefts in 2024. Among these crimes was the deadly shooting of a 3-year-old girl who was hit by a stray bullet in a passing car. The child who was described as "cheerful and chatty" was just one of the youngest in a long list of this crime wave's innocent victims.

Last year, Washington saw homicides rise 35 percent. The city's murder rate reached the highest level in a quarter century. And less than halfway through 2024, cities across the country are still grappling with familiar problems.

In Los Angeles, home break-ins are rising, and residents report that police are complaining that their hands are tied. In Chicago, police reports show that crime has increased 69 percent since 2021. In Philadelphia, the effort to fire a soft-on-crime district attorney has gone all the way to the State supreme court.

Surely President Biden isn't declaring victory over the lawlessness threatening American communities. Surely the fact that violent crime is hovering beneath breathtaking highs isn't a cause for celebration.

As the head of one Washington non-profit focused on preventing gun crimes put it, "I know some of the repercussions that can come from taking a victory lap too soon."

Then again, it is not surprising that from a White House to city halls across the country, Democrat leaders are

downplaying concerns about violent crime. If they looked this problem in the face, they would have to admit that their own policies are to blame.

It shouldn't have to be this way. The American people deserve safe streets, and law enforcement deserves elected leaders who back the blue.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. President, on another matter, for three consecutive months, major national polls have ranked immigration as the most important problem facing our country. And this year, for the first time, a majority of Americans say they support erecting physical barriers—physical barriers—along our southern border.

So perhaps it is not a coincidence that the Democratic leader has indicated his intention to once again turn the Senate's focus to the border crisis and to portions of the bipartisan legislation Senator LANKFORD helped produce earlier this year.

But in his own remarks on the subject yesterday, my colleague from New York seemed to acknowledge what we all know: The keys to securing our southern border are already in the hands that created this crisis.

As the Democratic leader proudly declared, "President Biden . . . is taking action to secure our border. Last week," he said, "the President began announcing a series of administrative actions."

Last week? After 3 years on the job, apparently, it is time to give the Commander in Chief kudos on his handling of a crisis that still lets nearly 5,000 people cross our border illegally in a day.

Of course, President Biden does have the authorities he needs to start rapidly undoing the damage of the historic crisis that unfolded on his watch. How do we know? Because he voluntarily took them off the table on day one. "Remain in Mexico"? Off the table. The border wall construction a majority of Americans support? Not a chance. Any sign at all that this administration would like to actually secure the border? Don't hold your breath.

The path out of the deepening border crisis is actually not a mystery; it just requires a President who is willing to stop digging.

S.J. RES. 57

Mr. President, now, on one final matter, I would like to briefly commend several of our colleagues for their work on resolutions the Senate will consider to roll back yet another slate of Biden administration overreach.

Today, we will vote on a resolution from Senator SCHMITT to finally put the brakes on the Treasury Department's extension of massive recovery funds for a pandemic emergency that has long since passed.

The Senate will vote on another resolution under the Congressional Review Act from Senator LUMMIS that would repeal a hasty, shortsighted power grab

by the SEC that hampers the deployment of new digital financial technologies.

And in the coming days, we will also vote on Senator CRUZ's resolution to ax a new Department of Energy rule on gas furnace efficiency standards that threaten to drive a huge share of existing residential furnace models out of the market and hike costs for seniors, small businesses, and low-income households.

As always, I am grateful to our colleagues for leading these efforts, and I urge the Senate to pass each resolution.

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. DURBIN. 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.

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this week marks the 70th anniversary of one of the most important Supreme Court decisions of all time. It is part of our march toward justice.

On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court announced its decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, unanimously—unanimously—declaring the racist legal doctrine of “separate but equal” unconstitutional.

Today, we celebrate this historic anniversary and how far we have come as a country since the dark days of Jim Crow. Thankfully, we have made substantial progress in addressing racial disparities in education. However, significantly, systemic disparities do still exist today. More work needs to be done to promote racial equity and end discrimination inside and outside the classroom.

When the Supreme Court announced its decision in 1954, the demographics of American school-aged children were significantly different than they are today. At that time, the school-aged population, according to The Century Foundation, was roughly 85 percent White, 12 percent Black, and less than 4 percent other races. Contrast that with today. America's school-aged population is much more diverse: 48 percent White, 27 percent Hispanic, 15 percent Black, 6 percent Asian, 1 percent American-Indian, and 4 percent multi-racial.

Yet, even with this increase—dramatic increase—in diversity, America's schools too often remain segregated by race. As of the 2018-2019 school year, one in six public school students attended schools where more than 90 percent of their peers had the same racial background. Illinois has 3 of the country's top 11 most segregated urban school districts. This lack of racial diversity in our schools is caused in part by unfair, exclusionary zoning policies

that keep low-income families out of schools in wealthier communities.

Education can play a significant role in helping to close the wealth gap between families, but unfortunately, due to modern-day segregation, many Black and Brown students often cannot access the same high-quality education as their White peers.

If you look at data from U.S. public schools going back to 1967, you will see that the segregation between Black and White students has increased by 64 percent since 1988 in the 100 largest school districts. While school segregation is not at pre-Brown v. Board of Education levels, it is still high and has been rising steadily since the late 1980s, and because where you go to school depends on your ZIP Code, students from poor neighborhoods in segregated cities are often trapped in underperforming schools.

Dismantling segregation has become more difficult now than it would have been 70 or 80 years ago, but we cannot ignore the challenge. Unless we focus on desegregating America and its neighborhoods, Brown's promise of integrated education will remain an unattainable goal.

The Brown decision was supposed to be the first step in a long march towards Americans' equality. It helped set the stage for challenges to other Jim Crow policies, such as barriers to fair housing, equal employment, voting rights, and public accommodations.

Unfortunately, today, the forces of intolerance are working to turn back the clock. Just last year, the Supreme Court struck down decades of precedent by ruling that affirmative action policies at two universities were unconstitutional. The attack on affirmative action threatens not just opportunities in education but also equal access to employment and contracts for minorities. The decision rewinds the clock and recreates barriers to entry for young minority students looking to pursue a degree in higher education and advance beyond college.

Quality education should be a right in our country, not a privilege. As a country, we still struggle to fulfill that promise. Public schools and many other elements of society remain separate and unequal, diminishing opportunities for millions.

Congress must focus on enacting policies and using resources to provide every student—Black, White, Brown—with the tools they need to learn and thrive in America. We must advocate for all students of every race and every place to have these resources to learn without limits.

As we celebrate 70 years since this historic decision, we honor the brave individuals who fought hard to bring it to reality. Those of us here today must honor their determination and sacrifice by continuing their mission for fairness.

On this 70th anniversary, I urge my colleagues to continue working toward equality within our education system

and society. It is long overdue for us to repair the broken systems that no longer serve our children, our grandchildren, and our country.

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

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

INFLATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, this morning's inflation report shows just how stubborn President Biden's inflation crisis is.

For the 37th month in a row, prices have risen by more than 3 percent, and there is still no end in sight. Overall, prices are up 19.9 percent since President Biden took office. Grocery prices are up 21.3 percent. Car repairs are up 30.2 percent. Rent is up 20.8 percent. And the list literally goes on and on.

As Americans turn on their air conditioners this summer, they can contemplate a grim report from the Wall Street Journal, which notes that electricity prices have gone up 13 times faster under President Biden than they did in the previous 7 years.

All told, it costs a typical family more than \$1,000 a month just to maintain the standard of living it had when President Biden first took office—more than \$1,000 a month just to tread water.

So it is shocking to hear President Biden say things like he did last week when he suggested that people “have the money” to pay higher prices. But that is the kind of disconnect we have come to expect from the President, who claimed inflation would be “temporary” and who has persistently downplayed and denied the painful economic reality Americans are experiencing thanks to Democrats' reckless spending.

That pain is real. As one working parent in Connecticut said:

Every time I look at my bank account, it's always going down.

Luis, a truckdriver in Pennsylvania said:

I can do my living, but compared to what I used to have, I need to work extra to get what I used to have before.

And a family farmer in Missouri described his input costs as “ridiculous.”

They are not alone; 48 percent of voters say their personal financial situation is getting worse. Half of voters say they are worse off since President Biden took office. And 80 percent of voters say high prices are one of their biggest financial challenges.

Meanwhile, the cost of dealing with inflation is adding to Americans' financial pain. Many Americans have had to turn to their credit cards to cope with higher prices. And with the Federal Reserve having to keep interest rates elevated to fight inflation, paying off that debt has gotten harder.