

Cantwell	Hirono	Sanders
Cardin	Kaine	Schatz
Carper	Kelly	Schumer
Casey	King	Shaheen
Collins	Klobuchar	Smith
Coons	Lujan	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Markey	Tester
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Fetterman	Murray	Warnock
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Warren
Graham	Padilla	Welch
Hassan	Peters	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden
Hickenlooper	Rosen	

NAYS—44

Barrasso	Fischer	Risch
Blackburn	Grassley	Romney
Boozman	Hoeven	Rounds
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Britt	Johnson	Schmitt
Budd	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Capito	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lee	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lummis	Thune
Cotton	Marshall	Tillis
Cramer	McConnell	Tuberville
Crapo	Moran	Vance
Cruz	Murkowski	Wicker
Daines	Paul	Young
Ernst	Ricketts	

NOT VOTING—6

Hagerty	Manchin	Mullin
Hawley	Menendez	Sinema

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant 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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 552, Melissa Griffin Dalton, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Duckworth, Tammy Baldwin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Brian Schatz, Cory A. Booker, Mark R. Warner, Patty Murray, Gary C. Peters, Elizabeth Warren, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeanne Shaheen, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Angus S. King, Jr., Debbie Stabenow, John W. Hickenlooper.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Melissa Griffin Dalton, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the Senator

from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 38, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 180 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Hoeven	Schatz
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Butler	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kelly	Sinema
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Lujan	Tester
Collins	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Moran	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warnock
Cramer	Murphy	Warren
Duckworth	Murray	Welch
Durbin	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Padilla	Wyden
Gillibrand	Peters	Young
Hassan	Reed	

NAYS—38

Barrasso	Ernst	Risch
Blackburn	Fischer	Romney
Boozman	Graham	Rubio
Braun	Grassley	Schmitt
Britt	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Budd	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Capito	Lankford	Sullivan
Cassidy	Lee	Thune
Cornyn	Lummis	Tillis
Cotton	Marshall	Tuberville
Crapo	McConnell	Vance
Cruz	Paul	Wicker
Daines	Ricketts	

NOT VOTING—6

Hagerty	Manchin	Merkley
Hawley	Menendez	Mullin

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). On this vote, the yeas are 56, the nays are 38.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Melissa Griffin Dalton, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the confirmation on the Dalton nomination occur at 11 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, May 23; further, that the cloture motion with respect to the motion to proceed to S. 4361 ripen at 2 p.m. tomorrow.

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

BORDER ACT OF 2024

Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, for years, too many Democrats have been in denial about the national security risks at our southern border. And I have been critical of fellow Democrats who have failed to acknowledge these risks, who have failed to recognize that knowing and controlling who enters our territory is fundamental to our sovereignty and our national security.

But now the situation has changed. There are more than enough Democratic Senators ready and willing to pass a strong bipartisan border security bill—a border security bill coauthored by a conservative Republican Senator, Senator LANKFORD of Oklahoma, who has done extraordinary work in crafting this legislation; a bill that would surge enforcement resources to the southern border; that would tighten asylum standards; that would expedite the removal of those who abuse asylum to enter our country unlawfully; that would hire urgently needed Border Patrol officers and take the fight to the drug cartels flooding our communities with fentanyl.

This is a bipartisan bill to help defend the Nation against terrorists who would exploit weakness at our southern border to enter our country and kill Americans. And now it is Republican Senators who have already once blocked and this week are threatening again to block bipartisan border security legislation.

Why, the American people ask, would Republicans in Congress block border security legislation amidst a national security crisis?

The answer is simple. Asked recently on FOX News why Senate Republicans were blocking the Border Act, Senator LANKFORD, the Republican coauthor of the bill, put it very simply:

President Trump said: Don't fix anything during the Presidential election.

President Trump said: Don't fix anything during the Presidential election.

The former President would rather wield the border as an election issue than see Congress secure it, and Republicans in Congress appear to be falling in line even though it leaves the country at grave risk. I urge my Republican colleagues to reconsider their position.

Just as I have criticized Democrats who for years buried their heads in the sand about the threat at the southern border, just as I have criticized the Biden administration for its failures at the southern border, this is a time for Republican Senators to stand up to President Trump and say: No, we will not obey your command to leave the country at risk. Instead, we will do what is right for the Nation.

The threat of terrorism associated with unlawful entry at the southern border is real; it is pressing. If the Senate fails to pass border security legislation, refuses to tighten asylum standards, refuses to hire more Border Patrol officers, refuses to expedite the removal of those who abuse our asylum system to enter the country unlawfully, our Nation faces a grave national security risk.

The first vote we will take later this week on the Border Act will not even be a vote on the passage of the bill. It will be a vote on whether the Senate agrees to debate and consider amendments to the legislation. Senate Republicans think this bill is imperfect. If they want to offer amendments, they will have that opportunity.

I urge my Republican colleagues: Ignore the former President.

President Trump said: Don't fix anything during the Presidential election.

He is not your boss. He is not your constituent. We have an obligation to national security. The country is at risk. Let us debate the Border Act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 696

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, it is great to hear my Democratic colleague come out against what is happening at the border. It is a disaster, and it is a national security threat.

Three weeks ago, two illegal immigrants attempted to break into the Marine base at Quantico in Virginia. Both individuals are Jordanian nationals who were apprehended by Customs and Border Protection at the southern border and released into the United States. One of them was allegedly on the Terrorist Watchlist.

Now, how did we get here? How did we get to the point where two people who entered the country illegally and were not screened or vetted tried to drive a truck onto a military base?

Let me say that again: These people are not being screened or vetted. We have no idea who these people are.

But here is what we do know about the people who have invaded our country: 25,000 Chinese nationals have entered our country since October 1, 2023; 184,000 Haitians have entered under Joe Biden's mass parole program; along with 101,000 Venezuelans, 91,000 Cubans, and 75,000 Nicaraguans. And this doesn't count the 76,000 Afghans who came here after Joe Biden's disastrous withdrawal from Afghanistan.

As I have repeatedly said, I have no problem with legal immigration, nor do my Republican colleagues. America is the land of freedom and opportunity. If people want to come here legally, we will welcome them; but we cannot—we cannot—have terrorists crossing our borders unverified. Ask the FBI.

Beyond the safety concerns, we simply cannot afford to support the 11 million illegal immigrants who have illegally crossed our borders in the past 3½ years. I don't know if Joe Biden missed the memo, but, folks, we are dead broke—dead broke—yet we are shelling out hundreds of billions of dollars to support these 11 million illegal immigrants, and this does not count the millions of what we call “got-aways.” Obviously, if they can come across and not be apprehended, why in the world would they go somewhere and run from the Border Patrol? It is because they are criminals.

A recent report from the House Committee on Homeland Security estimated the southern border surge is costing the American taxpayers about \$450 billion a year. You got that right. It is costing the American taxpayers \$450 billion a year. After 10 years, we are looking at a \$5 trillion bill. In

terms of actual benefits, it is estimated that illegals receive \$42 billion in welfare annually, \$68 billion in education, and \$7 billion in healthcare. We are spending hundreds of billions of dollars to support all of these people. The American taxpayers simply cannot afford it.

So why are Joe Biden and the globalist Democrats allowing this to happen? Why is this going on?

It is simply because Democrats care more about keeping power than they do about safety and protecting the American taxpayer and the American citizen. A New York Congressman confirmed this. She said that she welcomes illegal immigration because it helps with redistributing.

The President and his progressive left Democratic Party know that the more people they can get into this country, the longer they will stay in power—by increasing the population in the blue districts. It is a simple fact.

But enough is enough. Too many American lives have been lost due to the blatant disregard of U.S. law by the Biden administration. It is time elected officials fulfilled their obligation and the oath of office, starting with protecting the country from all enemies, foreign and domestic. This bill, the Border Act of 2024 that SCHUMER is forcing us to vote on, is basically an absolute joke.

By the way, President Trump has never told me—and I talk to him weekly. He has never said one word about the border. I don't know where my colleague from Georgia got this information, but it is false. If he had told anybody, he would have told me.

This bill, the Border Act of 2024, doesn't even have the word “security” in the title. That is because this bill will only make the crisis at the southern border worse. It is a border invasion bill; it is not a border bill. It is a border giveaway paid for by the American taxpayers in the trillions of dollars.

It also weakens the power of the President by suggesting the President close the border only when Customs and Border Protection has apprehended 4,000 illegal immigrants a day. Yes, you heard that—a day. So we are going to pass a bill that is going to allow 4,000 people to come here a day. That is insane. The last time I checked, the Commander in Chief already has full authority to secure the border. There is nothing new about that. That is supposed to be a basic requirement of his job: to protect the American citizens; to protect our borders; to protect our country.

The bill also includes zero funding for the border wall—zero, and it codifies dangerous catch-and-release policies.

So how did we get here? How is a border bill crafted that does nothing to secure the border?

Republican leadership put together this bill. They pushed things without telling the rest of the caucus and said: At the end of the day, this is the bill

that we have come up with—and we rejected it. Most of us didn't even know what was in the bill even at almost the time of the vote. The bill is just another public relations stunt from globalist Democrats pretending to care about the border during an election year.

We need to get serious about the national security disaster created by open borders—serious. If we don't believe that, we need to ask our allies over in Europe who have pretty much had their countries destroyed by immigration.

The American people don't want another messaging exercise. They want to feel safe in their neighborhoods. They pay our bills. They deserve it. We are here for them.

Over the last 3 years, Americans have watched in disbelief as Joe Biden has intentionally erased our borders and invited millions of illegal immigrants to invade our country. My bill, the Border Safety and Security Act, would shut down our borders until the Department of Homeland Security regains operational control because, as we speak, the border is being overrun. That means the border would be completely closed until DHS is able to track exactly who is coming into the country by either detaining them or setting up a program similar to “Remain in Mexico.” It is that simple.

If Democrats are serious about securing the border, they will support the Border Safety and Security Act.

Madam President, as in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 696 and that the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; further, that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). Is there objection?

The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, the background that leads up to this moment is worth a minute or 2 to be explained.

It was October. We faced some ominous challenges around the world. Our allies and friends were in conflict, and the United States wanted to stand by them.

President Biden made a request for a defense supplemental and said: We need to move on this quickly. For example, our friends in Ukraine, who are fighting off the barbaric tactics of Vladimir Putin, need our continued help. We shouldn't waste any time.

At the time, several Members of the Senate on the other side of the aisle said: No, you cannot even consider helping Ukraine fight this war against Putin unless you do something about our border. There has got to be a change in our border policy.

So there eventually emerged a group that took on the task of writing a bipartisan bill.