

President Biden's name was removed from the Democratic Party's ticket. I have already spoken about how the effort to sideline Democrats' de facto nominee robbed primary voters of their role in the electoral process.

Now, as the dust settles, more and more Americans are realizing this wasn't just a process foul, it was also a massive promotion for someone with a failing record in her current job.

Remember, just 2 months into their term, the President asked the Vice President—gave her the task of getting to the bottom of the surging illegal immigration at the United States-Mexico border. He called her “the most qualified person” to lead on this issue.

So why don't we take a look at how she did. In the past 3½ years, the crisis at our southern border has made history. Border Patrol agents have recorded over 9.9 million illegal encounters. We know that nearly 2 million more have literally gotten away, and the administration's catch-and-release policies have let in over 3 million without any credible means of enforcing immigration law.

What rapidly became a humanitarian crisis on Vice President HARRIS's watch is also a national security vulnerability of alarming proportions. Since October 2021, CBP have encountered 539 individuals on the Terror Watchlist along the southern border.

The failure is vast. The facts are shocking. The numbers are staggering. But for too many American families, there is only one number that matters: the one empty chair at the dinner table.

For some families, that chair is empty because an illegal immigrant killed their loved one. For many more, it is empty because Chinese manufacturers and Mexican cartels have exploited the chaos at the border and made fentanyl the leading cause of death for American adults.

And yet—yet—in the face of pain and suffering, the administration's point person on the border has approached this crisis with profound unseriousness. It took the Vice President months to get around to visiting the border. When asked why she hadn't made time to see the effects of the administration's open border policies firsthand, she quipped that she had not been to Europe either.

Sometimes, instead of deflection, she has employed outright denial. For example, she said:

We have a secure border.

Another example:

[E]verything . . . is going rather smoothly.

Of course, years earlier, under an administration that took border security seriously, then-Senator HARRIS found plenty of time to elaborate on her aversion to that commonsense policy.

In 2017, when a Federal judge blocked the previous administration's effort to deny Federal funding to sanctuary cities, she reacted as follows:

It's fantastic, I'm jumping up and down. Put five exclamation points after what I just said.

Democrats are poised to nominate someone with a long record of being dead wrong on securing American borders. So perhaps it is not surprising that their immediate allies are working overtime to absolve the Vice President of responsibility for the undeniable crisis that has unfolded on her watch.

Last week, we read headlines like: “No, Kamala Harris Is Not The ‘Border Czar.’”

And claims that “the Vice President's role was more limited.”

After the short hiatus of asking tough questions about President Biden's fitness for office, the legacy media are back in the business of papering over Democratic vulnerabilities, even in this case if it means blatantly gaslighting the public.

But at the end of the day, the American people know what neglect looks like. Families missing loved ones know what this sort of catastrophic failure feels like, and in November, I expect they will have plenty to say about it.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, now on another matter, the Senate is about to leave Washington for the August State work period.

When we come back, Senate Democrats will face a daunting list of judges that the Biden-Harris administration will want them to confirm.

There is Adeel Mangi and his record of bumping elbows with terrorist apologists and advocates for cop killers.

There is Kevin Ritz and Karla Campbell, both the nepotistic beneficiaries of corrupt bargains between the Biden-Harris administration and the judges they would replace.

There is Julia Lipez, another nepotism hire, who has distinguished herself in her leniency toward a parent who killed their baby with fentanyl.

There is Embry Kidd, who went soft on sex abusers and then misled the Judiciary Committee about it.

There is Ryan Park, the self-described “tip of the spear” of progressive activism, who fought hard to let colleges discriminate illegally against Asian applicants.

There is Sparkle Sooknanan, whose nomination Congressman VELÁZQUEZ called “an insult to the people of Puerto Rico.”

And then there is Mustafa Kasubhai who has advocated incorporating—listen to this—Marxist theory into property law.

So as our Democratic colleagues head out of town, I would suggest that they consider whether the radical goals of the Biden-Harris judicial project are really worth it.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

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 Meredith A. Vacca, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York.

Mr. McCONNELL. 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.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. 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.

CLOTURE MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 710, Meredith A. Vacca, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Peter Welch, John W. Hickenlooper, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Laphonza R. Butler, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher Murphy, Chris Van Hollen, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher A. Coons, Brian Schatz, Sheldon Whitehouse.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Meredith A. Vacca, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 43, as follows:

(Rollcall Vote No. 224 Ex.)

YEAS—51

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

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—6

Fetterman	Menendez	Vance
Lee	Romney	Warner

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). On this vote, the yeas are 51, nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Oregon.

TAX RELIEF FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES AND WORKERS ACT OF 2024

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President and colleagues, if I started the workday with the opportunity to help 16 million kids from low-income families, make America more competitive with China, build affordable housing for hundreds of thousands of Americans, and pay for it all by cracking down on fraud, I would call that a hell of a good day at the office.

Tomorrow, we are going to find out if Senate Republicans agree. The vote on the tax bill tomorrow has been more than 6 months in the making. In fact, I have been working on this in a completely bipartisan way for 2 full years. The only reason this didn't get done a long time ago is delay on the part of the Senate Republicans.

So no more delay. It is time to vote. Everybody is going to see where each Senator stands.

Over the next 45 minutes or so, I am going to have a number of my colleagues talk about why this bill is so important. So I am going to start with just a few key points. For starters, the bill was designed with balance in mind. For every dollar in tax cuts for business, the Joint Committee on Taxation, the official scorekeeper of these matters, has told us that an equal amount goes to children and families as goes to business.

Our focus on families is on those that are walking an economic tightrope. And 16 million kids are going to benefit from the bill, half a million lifted out

of poverty—a huge accomplishment. And it is especially important for the families with modest incomes; families with two, three, or four kids.

Under the current rules, they get discriminated against because those big families get only a single child tax credit regardless of how many kids they have. Think about that. Federal law tells these struggling families that if you have got a large family, well, try to figure out how to get by splitting a single child tax credit, and figure out how three or four kids can split a pair of shoes. Three or four kids can't do that. They can't split a single meal. This economic discrimination against large families in America ought to end.

There has been a lot of talk about who is really looking out for the families. My view is, that is going to become clear when the Senate votes tomorrow. We will see who is actually on the side of the families that need a boost, families who are facing the kind of economic discrimination that I just outlined.

I know that my colleagues on this side want to make sure that families can get the assistance they need, and we want to end the discrimination against large families.

There is so much in this bill that ought to bring the two sides together. That is certainly what happened in the House, with 357 votes. For example, the bill builds 200,000 new affordable housing units. The lack of affordable housing is a nationwide crisis. It is not just blue States and cities; it is everywhere.

On housing, you can call me a supply-sider. We have to build and build and build 200,000 new units. And in a minute or two we will hear from my colleague in Washington State, who has singlehandedly led the effort to meet housing needs in America.

The bill invests in research and development so we can outcompete China. Changes Republicans made to the Tax Code back in 2017 slashed the value of the tax incentives for research and development. It is worth only 20 percent of what it used to be.

Republicans have said in 2018, in 2019, in 2020, in 2021, in 2022, in 2023, and in 2024 that they would fix the research and development tax credit mess that they singlehandedly created. Tomorrow is going to be their chance.

According to the Treasury Department, 4 million small businesses would benefit from this bill. Picture that, Mr. President: 4 million small businesses, startups, ones that depend so much on research and development to compete with China. Many of them are in fields that compete directly with China and other countries.

They want to know why in the world would Congress put this off until 2025. A lot of them say: RON, we are not going to be around in 2025 if you all don't act.

The bill also provides help to families and businesses hit by mega storms and mega wildfires. This is so important to the people in my State. I have told

them at townhall meetings—I have had almost 1,100 of them, Mr. President—that we are going to get this done because, in Oregon and virtually everywhere in our country, so many of our communities have been devastated.

As I touched on, 357 votes in the House doesn't happen by osmosis. By and large, on a normal day, you can't get 357 House Members to agree to order a piece of apple pie, but that is the kind of support this tax bill had. Left-leaning groups like it; right-leaning groups like it; family organizations like it; faith-based organizations like it; pro-life groups, pro-choice groups—across the political spectrum.

And in the next day or so we are going to see if the Republicans, who talk so much about these issues—help for small business, help for families, building housing, preventing fraud—my colleagues on the other side of the aisle talk about it constantly. Now we are going to find out if anybody wants to actually follow through on the rhetoric. I know we do.

We believe, with the Senate voting now, we have got a chance—as I touched on at the beginning—to have a real day at the office, a day when you help the kids, when you help the families and the small businesses and the people who have been devastated by disasters. Get all that done tomorrow, Mr. President, and that is one hell of a day at the office.

I yield my time now to my colleague from Washington State, our leader on housing issues and many others.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor to join my colleague, the chair of the Finance Committee, and thank him for his incredible leadership on the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act. I can't think of a more critical effort than the leadership role he has played to negotiate legislation that passed the House 357 to 70.

Now, when in this institution do you see such a big and tremendous vote across many different aspects of financial and tax policy that affect Americans? And yet the House has passed it 357 to 70, and somehow our colleagues here don't understand there is that much support behind that legislation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD, on behalf of 140,000 members of the National Association of Home Builders, their very strong support for the Tax Relief for the American Families and Workers Act.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
HOME BUILDERS,
Washington, DC, July 30, 2024.

Hon. CHUCK SCHUMER,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR LEADER SCHUMER: On behalf of the more than 140,000 members of the National