

health services in our country and the disparities that exist in our country in providing such services. I thank Senator CARDIN.

FIRST YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF MAUI WILDFIRES

Mr. President, next week marks 1 year since fires tore through Lahaina and Upcountry on the island of Maui. As we mark 1 year, we can never forget the tragedy that unfolded on that day.

August 8 is a day the people of Maui and Hawaii will never forget. In a matter of hours, an entire town—once the seat of the Kingdom of Hawaii—burned to the ground.

The loss of the town loved by so many was devastating, but even more tragic was the human toll. The fires claimed 102 lives—kupuna who had lived in Lahaina for decades, keiki born and raised in Lahaina, and many more beloved members of this community. Today and every day, we mourn their losses as we keep their *ohanas* and all who loved them in our thoughts.

The past year has been harrowing for those families and for all those impacted by this tragedy, many of whom lost their hopes and nearly all their possessions in an instant, and, in some cases, saw their places of work burn to the ground—losing their jobs on top of everything else. In the years since, they have had to navigate the challenges of rebuilding their lives—finding housing, getting their keiki back to school, and trying to regain a sense of normalcy amidst confusion and trauma.

The continuing trauma these survivors face is real. They have experienced financial, mental, and physical hardship. Many have had to move multiple times and now face under- or unemployment. The uncertainty and instability have left many feeling like they are fighting just to survive.

But, in these dark times, what has also come to the fore is the unity of this community, a unity that has provided a glimmer of light illuminating the path forward—neighbors coming together to provide essential resources in the early days after the fire, strangers who have opened their doors to survivors in need of a place to live, and relief workers who have come from across the country to lend their expertise to Maui's recovery.

The Federal family of Agencies that has been on Maui since just hours after the fires occurred has been and continues to be a key part of Maui's recovery. From FEMA's work in helping with cleanup and housing to the Army Corps' rebuilding of King Kamehameha III Elementary School in a matter of weeks, and so much more by so many, the Federal Government and the Biden-Harris administration have been there for the people of Maui.

Of course, we can never forget the President—President Biden—coming to Maui and saying that this recovery was not going to be top-down, that we would listen to the people of Lahaina and Maui.

Over the past year, the Federal Government has delivered more than \$1 billion for Maui's recovery, including more than nearly \$450 million in direct payments to survivors. This support has been critical in providing some sense of stability to our communities.

But the reality is Lahaina's recovery will take time, resources, and continuity of effort. As is often the case with disasters of this magnitude, much more Federal support will be needed in the months and years ahead to ensure Maui's long-term recovery.

For example, there is work to be done to get people into long-term, sustainable housing—suitable housing—especially given the affordable housing crisis that existed on Maui before this tragedy.

We need CDBG-DR funding to help rebuild Lahaina's critical infrastructure for things like water and electricity, to lay the groundwork for Lahaina's eventual rebuilding.

And we need to resupply the Disaster Relief Fund to make sure other communities facing disasters can get the rapid support they need—support that has been essential to Maui's recovery.

This means that, before this year comes to an end, we must commit to a supplemental funding bill that will provide the resources that Maui needs and that other communities throughout our country impacted by disasters will need. So I come to the floor to remind my Senate colleagues of the importance of getting this funding done.

To the people of Maui, we are Maui strong. Guided by the voices and values of the people of Lahaina, we will rebuild by coming together in solidarity.

Mahalo nui loa.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, last week, President Biden gave what many consider to be his farewell address. Americans are eager to say “farewell” and, in many ways, “good riddance” to Joe Biden and the policies that he has wrought, along with Democrats, upon our country. It has been a record of ruin.

When Americans look at the state of our Nation today, they don't like what they see. Three out of four Americans will tell you that the country is heading in the wrong direction. Prices are 20 percent higher than they were when Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS came into office. People are forced to cut back, forced to decide whether they can fill their gas tanks or their grocery carts. According to CNN, nearly 40 percent of all Americans say they worry that they can't pay their bills.

So how did we get here?

Well, Democrats passed trillions of dollars in reckless, radical, and runaway spending. It was so unpopular as a proposal—and Congress heard from the American people as to how unpopular it was—it was so unpopular that, at a point, it was tied—the vote—and then

they had to bring in someone to break the tie. Who was that person who cast that tie-breaking vote that brought us 40-year-high inflation and the highest prices in 40 years for which so many people suffer today? That person was Vice President KAMALA HARRIS. That is right, Vice President HARRIS, who is now the nominee of the Democratic Party, running for President. She is the one who came into this Chamber to cast the vote to break the tie that fueled the highest prices that we continue to experience today.

We also have a very long national nightmare occurring at our southern border. That is yet another result of the dangerously liberal agenda of Vice President HARRIS. We had a secure border 4 years ago. Then Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS came into the White House. Biden and HARRIS canceled the border wall. Biden and HARRIS canceled “Remain in Mexico.” They replaced detain-and-deport with catch-and-release. President Joe Biden and Vice President KAMALA HARRIS presided over an invasion of our southern border by 10 million illegal immigrants.

Since the time that Vice President HARRIS was appointed as border czar, millions and millions of illegal immigrants have come into the country, millions and millions of more known “got-aways” hiding from authorities have gotten into this country. There is a total, we are looking at, of 10 million illegal immigrants now in our communities.

Many communities across this country are overrun and overwhelmed. Yet Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS don't seem to care. They don't seem to care about the drugs and the death and the destruction that are harming American families from coast to coast.

Vice President HARRIS has a view of border security that, to me, is particularly twisted and tortured. Here is her view, and she stated it: Basically, if you are an illegal immigrant, you are not a criminal, according to KAMALA HARRIS. But if you are an agent of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, ICE, in her words, you are comparable to the Ku Klux Klan. That is from the Vice President of the United States.

She also believes this: If you are an illegal immigrant, you are entitled to free healthcare. If you are an American citizen, she proposes that you would actually lose your ability to choose your healthcare and that private healthcare in this country would be eliminated. No private healthcare for American citizens who would then be forced to pay for healthcare for illegal immigrants—that is the view of the Vice President of the United States and now the candidate for President for the Democratic Party. It is ignorant; it is insulting; and it is out of touch.

If her views are America's policy, millions and millions more illegal immigrants will continue to flood across our southern border. It is a magnet drawing people in.

It wasn't that way 4 years ago under the Trump administration. Back then,

paychecks rose, prices were in check, and poverty fell at record rates. America was energy independent. Gas prices were affordable. Our border was safe and was secure.

None of that is true today, not under this administration or these policies of the Biden-Harris administration. Democrats and this administration at this time in our country will always be known as the party of high prices and open borders.

Most Americans believe that our country is on the wrong track. And I believe most Americans are right; we are on the right track. There is good news, and that is that America can get back on track. We can get back on track with commonsense policies—policies that work, policies the American people are asking for.

Senate Republicans have solutions to the most pressing problems that are facing the American public today. First, we are going to address the No. 1 issue facing Americans. Americans will tell you what the No. 1 issue is they are concerned about, and that is the economy, the cost of things.

We are going to make life more affordable for all families, and that starts with making us energy dominant again and lowering the cost of energy. The Republicans will put a stop to Democrats' punishing political regulations that are just coming at us like a tidal wave since the day this administration began.

We will end America's dependence on Communist China; we will strengthen American manufacturing; and we will put American workers and businesses first.

Republicans also have solutions that will make our communities safer. Republicans will secure the border. We will finish the wall. Republicans will restore a program that worked called Remain in Mexico. This will stop the flood of illegal immigrants and the flow of deadly drugs.

Republicans support our police officers, and we stand against the deadly "defund the police movement," the very movement that KAMALA HARRIS and Democrats proudly support.

KAMALA HARRIS actually came into this Chamber to break the tie for radical nominees by this administration, the number of whom support defunding the police. That is the stand and that is the policy of the Biden-Harris administration.

Abroad, Republicans will restore America's commitment to peace through strength. Here in the Senate, Republicans will protect our institutions and protect the rule of law. We firmly reject Democrats' plans to pack the court and rig the elections.

These are solutions that unite Americans. Joe Biden is leaving behind a catastrophic record of ruin. We cannot afford 4 more years of these policies.

Yet what we see is Vice President HARRIS and Democrats want to nationalize the dangerously liberal policies of San Francisco Democrats. That is what

she is, a very liberal, dangerous San Francisco Democrat. That is her history.

That is how her voting record had been in the U.S. Senate, voted the most liberal Member of the U.S. Senate, more liberal than BERNIE SANDERS, the most liberal of 100 U.S. Senators.

What we see is that as Vice President, and now Presidential nominee, she wants to bring the California nightmare of high taxes, high crime, and no accountability to every household in America. These policies would crush the middle class.

What do Americans want? Lower prices and secure borders. What are the Democrats? The party of high prices and open borders.

Senate Republicans will lower Democrats' wallet-wrecking high prices. Senate Republicans will work to secure our wide open border and will work to keep Americans safe, at home as well as abroad.

There is no question that Republicans are committed to get America back on track.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

TRIBUTE TO JULIE KITKA

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, you know what time of the week it is, and I think our pages are learning. But it is a special time of the week here in the Senate because it is Thursday, and Thursday is when I usually come out and talk about the Alaskan of the Week.

Now, look, the press—where are they? I am not sure they are around right now, but they love this speech. They call it probably the most important speech of the week in the Senate, regardless of what is going on. The Presiding Officer is a big fan and the pages are because I like to tell stories about what my constituents are doing back home to earn them this very prestigious title—very prestigious, by the way—the Alaskan of the Week.

I like to begin this speech, as you know, talking a little bit about what is going on back home in Alaska.

Here in the Senate, we are all getting ready to go on a recess work period, we call it. We are all going to be going home, seeing our constituents. Speaking of things in Alaska, I just happened to host our Senate lunch. On the Republican side of the Senate on Thursdays, one of the Senators hosts lunch every Thursday. Today was my day to host, which is kind of exciting.

I am not going to brag, but I think a lot of the Senators like it when Senator MURKOWSKI or I host because we bring in great salmon, halibut. So we had a feast for lunch today. My wife Julie was here, which was really special.

We brought in peonies. A lot of people don't know Alaska is now becoming a huge peonies flower producer. I didn't even know what a peony was a couple of years ago, but now we are big into that. So if you saw these peonies all

over the Senate today, they were from Alaska.

What I like to do at the lunch is talk a little bit about Alaska. I have this fact sheet with these great facts about Alaska. And during the lunch, we have a video cam going, literally a live feed video of what is happening in Alaska in the Katmai National Park, Brooks Falls. That is the real famous place in Alaska where all the big brown bears gather by the falls because the salmon are trying to jump up through the falls, and the brown bears are literally catching them in their mouths and eating them right there. So that is a live feed in the lunch that we just had, dozens of bears. It is awesome.

If you are interested in watching it, just go on Brooks Falls, live feed. It is awesome to watch. So there is a lot going on in our State.

It is kind of dangerous right now. One of the things that I showed to my colleagues is this slide. It is going to be hard to see, but this is a slide of Russian and Chinese strategic bombers—not good. That is a Bear bomber, Russian. That is a Chinese bomber. It is the first time in history they were working together to push into our airspace, Alaska airspace—Russian-Chinese strategic bombers coming into Alaska airspace. Our brave military men and women in Alaska jumped them. Over 10 fighters, fully armed to the teeth, said: Hey, China, Russia, get out of our airspace. Go back to your countries.

So up in Alaska, we are on the frontlines of a lot of this great power competition. These authoritarians are on the march pushing. We are not going to let them push in our State. So there is a lot going on. And I was talking about that at lunch.

By the way, I was talking about this, too: My wife Julie and I were recently up in Utqiagvik, Barrow. That is the highest point of North America. These are too hard to tell, but we were able to see some polar bears, beautiful polar bears in the wild. We took some photos—magnificent, beautiful animals. So there is just a lot going on.

I always like to make the pitch to people watching here in the Senate or on TV: Come up to Alaska. You will have the greatest trip in the world. It is an incredible place, a lot of fun. Especially now, it is beautiful. You would just love it.

So a lot happening there, as I was talking about to my colleagues at lunch today. But I want to talk about the people.

Today, we have a really great Alaskan of the Week who I know super well. I just want to talk about what a great job she has done. Her name is Julie Kitka. She has been, for over three decades, the president of a really important organization in Alaska called the Alaska Federation of Natives—the Alaska Federation of Natives, AFN, as we call it, in Alaska.

I also want to give a shout-out to Ben Mallott. He is actually related to my