

campaigned for President once before and worked hand in hand with President Biden for 4 years since. Instead, the problem is that, on issue after issue, Vice President HARRIS has, at one time or another, played both sides. Well, working families want to know, this time, what side she is on.

Take energy policy. Back in 2019, then-Senator HARRIS went on record, saying:

There's no question I'm in favor of banning fracking.

Fast-forward, after 4 years of undermining exploration of abundant American energy, the Harris campaign says her policies as President would be different.

During her time in the Senate, our former colleague cosponsored the Zero-Emission Vehicles Act, a bill that would require car manufacturers to sell only zero-emission vehicles after 2040. These days, her campaign avoids getting pinned down about whether she would seek an electric vehicle mandate.

Then-Senator HARRIS also went on the record in support of the Green New Deal, including its make-work programs and job guarantees. These days, as the Biden-Harris war on American energy rages on, the Harris campaign conveniently reveals that she no longer supports this resolution, and, apparently, there is no policy too small for the campaign to walk back, not even the Vice President's stated support for—get this—a Federal ban on plastic straws. According to the campaign, that has been reversed as well.

Well, micromanaging fountain drinks is one thing, but as millions of Americans contend with the business end of the Biden-Harris climate and economic agenda, they ought to know precisely where the Democratic Party's nominee stands. Policies matter. They can quite literally be the difference between affording gas and groceries and going without. Voters are fed up with flip-flops, and the Vice President ought to come clean.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT

Now, Mr. President, on another matter, I have noted frequently that America's resolve and willingness to lead are being tested by a dangerous world. How we respond has everything to do with preserving the peace, prosperity, and security America and our allies have enjoyed for decades.

Today, I want to talk about how the free and uninterrupted flow of goods, people, and ideas has fueled American prosperity.

We all know that trade is important for American workers and American jobs, but the benefits of trade run far deeper than exports of American-made goods, services, ideas, and values. Trade is a two-way street. When we engage in the global market, we open our own doors to new sources of economic strength—to lower prices and more choices and to good-paying jobs from foreign companies that set up shop here at home. For 12 straight years,

America has been the top destination for foreign businesses to invest their capital—investments that do a lot of good in big and small towns alike.

Let's take a look at Kentucky; for example, the Toyota plant in Georgetown. The Japanese automaker has invested billions—billions—in our economy. Today, it supports nearly 10,000 jobs in Central Kentucky.

In Carroll County, a Spanish-owned steel manufacturer supports nearly 1,600 more manufacturing jobs, and it is getting even bigger. Just this year, the company announced a new quarter-of-a-billion-dollar investment. Head west to Owensboro, where close to 500 jobs are on the way thanks to the Swedish manufacturer that invested hundreds of millions into their Kentucky-based production plant.

So, in Kentucky alone, in just looking at my State, businesses from 33 foreign nations support over 116,000 jobs. These jobs aren't just benefiting the biggest cities. Roughly, 60 percent of all of our counties in Kentucky are home to at least one international business.

Now, I have highlighted just a few examples in my home State, but these aren't anomalies. They speak to a situation true all across our country: Foreign investment benefits American workers and American communities, but it doesn't happen on its own. Foreign businesses invest in America because they know they can count on our commitment to free markets and free enterprise and on our rule of law.

Turning our backs on the world means signaling that we are closed for business. It means dulling the magnet of foreign direct investment that draws capital from all over the world to our shores. When our leaders throw up barriers to foreign investment from friends and allies, they risk hurting the very communities they intend to protect. Unfortunately, that is precisely what some loud voices are urging our leaders to do, and if they succeed, our economy will be worse for it.

To be absolutely clear, this isn't an appeal to the naive globalism of the 1990s. Trade is not a cure-all for the serious challenges of competition with China and Russia, but if our adversaries' predatory trading practices and exploitations of institutions tell us anything, it is that leaving a vacuum in global markets is an invitation for further misbehavior.

Working closer with like-minded friends and allies to preserve free and fair trade and to protect critical supply chains is essential to both our security and our prosperity. When friends and allies invest in the U.S. economy and, likewise, when American companies invest in theirs, we drive growth, boost paychecks, and increase American-made exports. That is good news for Kentucky and for workers and job creators all across America.

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.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, throughout our Nation's history, election season has brought out the dark side of politics.

John Adams and Thomas Jefferson famously waged smear campaigns against each other during the election of 1800. Andrew Jackson and John Quincy Adams exchanged accusations of murder and impropriety in the election of 1828, and questions about Grover Cleveland's activity out of wedlock became campaign fodder in the election of 1844—all to say dirty campaign tricks are hardly foreign to American elections.

But, today, I want to address a particularly vile lie being circulated by former President Trump and his Vice Presidential candidate, J.D. VANCE, and their supporters during this campaign, and this lie has real-life consequences.

In recent weeks, false claims have been circulating on social media that members of the Haitian immigrant community in Springfield, OH, are abducting, killing, and eating people's pets.

The former President even made this claim during his debate with KAMALA HARRIS. This claim is not only outrageous and patently false, with both city officials and law enforcement confirming they have received zero criminal reports of such conduct, but it is now becoming a safety concern for the entire Springfield, OH, community. Despite this, the former President and his running mate have continued to knowingly spread this lie.

Shockingly, in an interview with CNN this week, Senator VANCE admitted that he was willing to "create stories" to get media attention. And that is exactly what he and former President Trump have done—first on social media, then during last week's debate to an audience of 67 million Americans, and then on national news.

Think about that. A man who is seeking to become Vice President of the United States admitted that he was willing to spread vicious lies simply to get media attention.

But these lies have real consequences for Haitian immigrants in Springfield, OH, and across the country. Since this smear campaign began, there have been multiple evacuations of schools, government buildings, and medical facilities in Springfield, OH, because of bomb and shooting threats related to these lies.

I want to thank Ohio Governor Mike DeWine, a Republican and my former Senate colleague, for stepping up to debunk these lies and protect the people of his State.

Yet these candidates have doubled down. They are willing to spread lies and put an entire community at risk to amplify their anti-immigrant platform.

But this behavior is not a surprise. For years, the former President has engaged in bigoted fearmongering, especially when it comes to the topic of immigration.

One incident summarizes his approach well. It was January of 2018. Then-President Trump, myself, and a handful of other lawmakers were sitting in the Oval Office in the White House, discussing a bipartisan immigration deal that I had negotiated, along with Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM.

The agreement would have devoted billions of dollars to securing the border and giving legal protection to Dreamers, young immigrants who grew up in this country. But the former President was not interested. He complained that it would lead to more immigration from Haiti, which he dismissed in profane terms that I am loathe to repeat on the floor of the Senate.

I was stunned. His words were hate-filled, vile, and racist. I could not believe that the President of the United States of America not only held these views but felt comfortable enough to speak them aloud in the Oval Office. But he did. So it was hardly surprising that, when presented with the opportunity to continue to fuel his anti-Haitian hate, the former President has taken that opportunity.

I speak on the floor today to tell Haitian immigrants and Haitian Americans and the entire immigrant community: There is no place for hate in America—no place for hate. You are a critical piece of American leadership. You make our communities and our Nation stronger.

Just look at the attorney general of my home State of Illinois, a dear friend of mine, Kwame Raoul. He is the son of Haitian immigrants, and his service to the State of Illinois and the Nation is invaluable. He, too, has condemned the former President's fearmongering.

Or look at CPT Alix Idrache, a top member of his class and graduate of West Point, who is a pilot for the U.S. Army. He was born in Haiti. He rose to national prominence, in 2016, after a photo showed him with tears streaming down his face at the West Point graduation. His tears, he explained, were a representation of the American dream.

For Haitians who have already experienced violence and instability in their native country, the lies that the former President is spreading only make their lives in America—some where they hoped would be a safe place—more dangerous.

It disheartens me that, in the year 2024, I must come to the floor of the Senate to condemn the lies of a former President who is running yet another political campaign fueled by fearmongering and hate.

Immigrants make our Nation stronger, and any attempt to score cheap po-

litical points from lies suggesting otherwise should be met with swift condemnation from both sides of the aisle.

It is ironic that, at a time when these dehumanizing remarks are being made about immigrants in Springfield, OH, there was a press conference yesterday in St. Louis, MO. I call it to the attention of everyone.

St. Louis is a town I know well. I grew up across the river, in East St. Louis, IL, and I have spent many a day in St. Louis, MO. The town has seen its problems and its challenges, and, a few years ago, they decided to try to analyze what the problem was. The problem was they needed a workforce, and they didn't have one. Do you know what they suggested as a solution? Immigrants—immigrants. They need more in St. Louis.

Yesterday, there was an announcement by the chamber of commerce. It was an extraordinary announcement that they have attracted some 30,000 immigrants to that city. They believe that it means that they can move forward now with economic development. It was a plan by the chamber of commerce.

Contrast those two remarks—remarks of former President Donald Trump and his Vice Presidential candidate, J.D. VANCE—about immigration, dehumanizing these immigrants and suggesting they are not only unnecessary in the United States but actually negative in their impact. They are wrong in Springfield, OH. They are clearly wrong in St. Louis, MO. They are wrong in America.

Immigrants have made this country. We are a nation of immigrants, and I would say quite boldly: I am damn proud of it.

My mother was an immigrant to this country, brought here at the age of 2. I am glad that my grandparents, whom I never knew, had the courage to make that journey to the United States. Because of that courage and determination, like so many other immigrants—because of it—I am standing here today as a Senator representing the great State of Illinois.

How in the world can we continue to allow this rhetoric to come from Trump and Vance in terms of the immigrants' impact on America?

We can see before our eyes it makes a difference. The diversity of our population is our strength, and that strength should be capitalized on.

To think that young people who are Dreamers, brought here by their families, run the risk of being deported at some point because of this rhetoric makes me sick to my stomach. These are wonderful young people, extraordinary contributors to America's future, and we should applaud them, not hate them.

I can tell you for a fact. I know a little bit about the Senate. I have served here for a number of years. There are Members of the Senate on the other side of the aisle who want not one single new immigrant to come to America.

I believe there should be an orderly process. That is why I was one of the Gang of 8 to create the Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill, which passed in the Senate quite a few years ago. It should pass again.

We should have an orderly process of immigration and capitalize on the benefits that they bring to this country, and build our economy on those. But to say that we are opposed to all immigrants is just plain unfair. It is wrong, and it is un-American.

St. Louis now realizes that with a workforce, they can start to rebuild their economy, and they are applauding that. Immigration is part of the solution if it is done in the proper, orderly manner. And we can do it that way if we pass comprehensive immigration reform.

The notion of deporting 11 million people from the United States is a fantasy. It cannot, it should not ever happen. These people have made a great contribution to this country.

President Trump wants to say that, if you have a woman, for example, who is a mother who is undocumented in a house full of documented citizens, she should be deported or everyone in the house should be deported. It isn't going to happen, and it should never happen.

We should capitalize on comprehensive immigration reform and make it a viable part of America's future.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. 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.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, August border numbers came out on money, bringing the total number of encounters at our southern border, thus far, for fiscal year 2024 to more than 2 million—2,033,260 to be precise—the third highest total ever recorded, with another month still to go.

The highest total ever recorded was in fiscal year 2023. The second highest total ever recorded was in fiscal year 2022. And the fourth highest total ever recorded was in fiscal year 2021. In other words, President Biden and Vice President HARRIS have presided over 4 years of recordbreaking illegal immigration at our southern border.

The problem started right away. On the day he took office, President Biden began dismantling the border security policies of his predecessor, and illegal immigration began surging in response—no big surprise there.

For 3-plus years now, President Biden and Vice President HARRIS essentially just stood around and watched. They watched as recordbreaking numbers of individuals surged across the southern border. They watched as the Border Patrol and border cities struggled under the massive influx. They

watched as encounters of individuals on the Terrorist Watchlist nearly quadrupled in fiscal year 2022, and then rose even higher the next year.

Vice President HARRIS was supposed to be President Biden's border czar. I would be hard-pressed to name anything she did to stop the influx. If she did take any action, it was certainly ineffective, based on the steady increases in border encounters.

I don't have to tell anyone what the problems are with the kind of unchecked illegal immigration that we have been seeing. As I said, U.S. Customs and Border Protection has been stretched thin for pretty much the entirety of the Biden-Harris administration.

Cities at the border and around the United States have struggled with the influx of migrants, and migrants themselves have suffered as they have undertaken the perilous journey to our southern border, spurred on by the Biden-Harris administration's open-border policies.

Worst of all, the Biden-Harris border crisis has left a gaping hole in our national security. The kind of unchecked illegal immigration we have been seeing is an invitation to dangerous individuals to enter our country.

I mentioned that the number of individuals on the Terrorist Watchlist encountered at the southern border has surged, and those are just individuals who were actually apprehended. We have no idea how many terrorists or other dangerous individuals have made their way across our southern border without being apprehended.

We are closing in on 2 million known "got-aways" in the Biden-Harris administration's watch. Those are individuals the Border Patrol saw but was unable to apprehend. How many of those were dangerous people who should not be entering our country?

U.S. Border Patrol Chief Jason Owens, in a March interview with CBS News, said the number of known "got-aways" is keeping him up at night. This is his quote:

This is a national security threat. Border security is a big piece of national security. And if we don't know who is coming into our country and we don't know what their intent is, that is a threat. And they're exploiting a vulnerability that's on our border right now.

That same month, FBI Director Christopher Wray told the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence:

We are seeing a wide array of very dangerous threats that emanate from the border.

I want to repeat that.

We are seeing a wide array of very dangerous threats that emanate from the border.

That is from the Director of the FBI.

The June arrest of eight men from Tajikistan with suspected ties to ISIS who had illegally entered the country, as well as the identification of over 400 migrants that used an ISIS-affiliated smuggling network to enter our country, are just two examples of the kind

of threats that we face and the dangers of the chaos that President Biden and Vice President HARRIS have allowed to rage at our southern border.

In addition to threats from terrorists and other dangerous individuals, the chaos at our southern border has unquestionably facilitated illegal cross-border activity, including the smuggling of deadly drugs like fentanyl, which then make their way around our country.

My State of South Dakota is about as far from our southern border as you can get, but law enforcement officials consistently tell me that the illegal drugs that they are dealing with have entered the country across our southern border. In 2022, Minnehaha County Sheriff Mike Milstead estimated that 90 percent—90 percent—of the fentanyl and meth in our State comes from Mexico. That is 90 percent, Mr. President.

I could go on. There is a lot more to talk about when it comes to the Biden-Harris border crisis—from the mass amnesty the administration has offered to hundreds of thousands of individuals whose asylum cases have been closed without a decision to the placing of unaccompanied children with possibly dangerous guardians, something that Senator GRASSLEY and Senator LANKFORD are currently working to rectify and prevent in the future.

But I will stop here. Four record-breaking years of illegal immigration: the national security legacy of the Biden-Harris administration.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to point out that we are only 12 days from the end of the fiscal year and to call upon the majority leader to bring the appropriations bills to the Senate floor. We have wasted the last 2 weeks. We have spent time voting on issues that were not nearly as time-sensitive.

By the end of July, the Senate Appropriations Committee had held hearings on, thoroughly considered at full committee markups, and reported for consideration by the full Senate 11 of the 12 appropriations bills, roughly 96 percent of the discretionary funding permitted by the caps. All of the bills—all of them—received strong bipartisan support. We advanced six of the bills unanimously. Unanimous support for any bill in today's Senate is no small feat and a testament to the hard work and seriousness of our committee members on both sides of the aisle, led by our chair, the senior Senator from Washington.

But what has happened after the committee reported its bills? Nothing. They have languished on the Senate calendar. Instead of taking up the Senate committee-passed bills—including bills that passed unanimously—that we passed earlier in the summer, the Senate has spent this month processing nominations and taking show votes aimed at scoring political points.

Show votes: We had another of those yesterday. We voted for the second time on the exact same bill on IVF. What was that? That is not what the Senate should be doing at this critical time. That was simply an attempt by the majority leader to score political points, and I think that is highly unfortunate. We need to get back to legislating, and surely funding our government is an imperative. The Founders envisioned the Senate as a deliberative institution.

As I indicated, by July, the Senate Appropriations Committee had advanced the fiscal year 2025 Defense appropriations bill by a vote of 28 to 0. It was unanimous. The bill would provide our military with the resources it needs to confront the global threats facing the United States, which combatant commanders have described to me as being the worst and most dangerous in 50 years.

Our bill rejects the administration's budget that would have led to the smallest Air Force in history and would have yielded the seas to the growing Chinese navy. The committee, instead, called for a 3.3 percent increase in defense funding levels compared to last year.

Our bill strengthens our military across all domains: air, land, sea, space, and cyberspace.

Our bill would also provide our brave men and women in uniform the pay and benefits that they deserve. It would fund a 4.5-percent pay increase for most of our service men and women and a 5.5-percent pay increase for the most junior enlisted personnel.

These are just some of the highlights of the bill.

Our bill includes \$37 million for Navy shipbuilding, the largest shipbuilding budget ever. It begins to reverse the dangerous decline in the number of Navy ships.

For the Air Force, the bill provides additional funding to make nearly 500 more aircraft available than the President's budget request would allow.

The bill addresses the changing face of warfare with \$1 billion for counterdrone capabilities to address this evolving threat. The growing use of drones by Iran and its proxies as well as Russia in its attacks in Ukraine have demonstrated that warfare has changed and so must our strategies and budgets.

These are just some of the highlights of this critically important appropriations bill that we should have been debating, amending, and passing on the Senate floor.

Mr. President, don't take just my word for it. I would ask unanimous