

this week. It is revolting that Secretary Kennedy, Secretary of Health and Human Services, has now fired staffers at the World Trade Center Health Program, including its Administrator, Dr. John Howard, a Trump appointee who dedicated his life serving 9/11 families and who is respected by all sides of the aisle.

As of right now, Secretary Kennedy has effectively shut the World Trade Center Health Program down. This is a betrayal—a betrayal—of the 9/11 families. I am sending Secretary Kennedy a letter to immediately undo this terrible, terrible decision. This is not a “mistake.” Some of the Republicans who care about the 9/11 program are saying it is a mistake. It is on purpose.

When I met Secretary Kennedy—then he was the nominee—he made a commitment to me, an unequivocal commitment that he would protect the World Trade Center Health Program. These firings break that promise, and I am calling on Secretary Kennedy to answer for this betrayal of 9/11 families. I am sending him a letter about it, as I mentioned.

None of these cuts have anything to do with efficiency. This is rightwing extremism, pure and simple. And this hurts our brave first responders and others who risked life and limb on 9/11, who rushed to the tower. They are suffering. They are getting cancers from the gunk they breathed in when they ran to the towers to help protect us and help us.

You want to cut that off to these heroes? How un-American can that be? How vicious, how nasty, how callous. We are abandoning the people who ran to the towers.

It is not efficiency. It is cruelty; it is meanness; and, fundamentally, it is anti-American. We always defend those who have risked their lives to defend and help us. All of a sudden, that seems to be out the window when it comes to the 9/11 responders.

These are our heroes. Secretary Kennedy and Donald Trump should not betray them. Donald Trump and RFK should not pull the rug out from these families who so desperately need this healthcare.

CYBER SECURITY

Mr. President, finally, on cyber security legislation, yesterday, the Washington Post reported that the National Security Advisor Mike Waltz used his personal Gmail account for official government communications.

So it is clear the controversy about Signal was clearly not an isolated incident; it was a pattern of gross negligence. It is clear that the Trump administration can't be trusted on their own to protect America's intelligence. So later today, I will be introducing legislation with Senators KIM and SCHIFF to shore up our national security and make sure the Trump administration knows how to handle classified information.

Under any other President, these stunning breaches would have resulted

in swift accountability. It is shocking that over a week later, Donald Trump has held nobody—nobody—accountable, with no firings, no corrections, nothing—just a bunch of statements saying “lessons learned.”

The Donald Trump of 2017, I believe, would not have hesitated to hold someone accountable by now. That he has not done so now makes it seem more and more like he is just out of touch with what America needs, with America's safety, with average American families.

Well, America cannot afford any “lessons learned” when it comes to our national security. We cannot afford it. And I hope that this legislation will do some good. You will hear more about it later.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, for the last 4 years, when Joe Biden was President, the American people knew that the southern border had been thrown wide open. So many of the television stories were done at the southern border.

So what has happened now with the criminal cartels? The criminal cartels were watching closely. They knew that Joe Biden hadn't just thrown up the southern border, he had also thrown open the northern border. The criminal cartels noticed, and they took advantage.

There are unique threats to the United States at our northern border. President Trump is taking the bold, decisive, swift action that is necessary to secure that border as well. His actions are working, and he is not going to let up.

Canada is making changes. They have agreed to deploy to the border more technology—that is helpful; more law enforcement officers—that is helpful. Canada also created their first-ever national fentanyl czar. That is helping.

Democrats have said in the past that they want to see the northern border secured. They sure aren't acting like that today. Let's take a look at what some of the Democrats have said in the past.

Senator MAGGIE HASSAN of New Hampshire said in March:

Strengthening security of our northern border is vital to keeping both New Hampshire and our country safe.

Senator KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND of New York said in September that Border Patrol agents at the northern border are “struggling to address a dramatic increase” in illegal border crossings.

Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR of Minnesota, a member of the Democrat leadership, called for, in January of 2022, an “expansion of Federal anti-trafficking and anti-smuggling efforts” on the northern border.

Now, today, however, Democrats are going to bring to the floor a resolution to throw out the commonsense action that a number of them had previously

called for to secure the northern border. They want to get rid of that.

The message is clear: Democrats remain the party of open borders. They lost an election being the party of open borders and high prices. Today, they want to become once again known as the party of open borders.

The largest, longest land border in the world is the border between the United States and Canada. That northern border is twice as long as our southern border with Mexico, and so much of that northern border, as the Presiding Officer knows, is unguarded. The northern border stretches across 13 States—New York, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, New Hampshire—and then you get out west. Vast areas.

Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Kash Patel testified before Congress last week. What did he say? Well, he spoke about the threats facing our country today, and he issued a stark warning. He said:

Known and suspected terrorists are flowing in through our northern border more [now] than they are at the southern border.

These are the facts. The northern border is now a hotspot for terror suspects, for drug cartels.

In the Biden administration, we would come to the floor and talk about how many terror suspects were captured while coming across the southern border. The number is astonishing now at the northern border. The cartels got the message.

President Trump is doing what he promised to do at the southern border—secure the southern border—so they are coming up to the northern border, with 143 terror suspects already caught this year at our northern border by Border Patrol agents. Why so many? Because that is where they are coming from now. They realize they have no chance at the southern border, so now the assault is coming at the northern border. If that is how many we have captured, how many have we not? This is a threat to the safety of our communities.

The Mexican cartels also have a growing presence at the northern border. You would think the Mexican cartels—that their presence would be at the southern border, adjacent to Mexico, but I am telling you the Mexican cartels now have a greater presence at our northern border, which would be a surprise to most people.

CBS recently interviewed a drug smuggler, a smuggler who works for a major Mexican cartel. That smuggler revealed a chilling fact. He said that the cartel is moving pounds and pounds and pounds of fentanyl across our northern border each and every month.

Human traffickers are also taking advantage of our open northern border. In 2024, in just 1 sector, more than 19,000 people crossed into our country illegally. There have been more illegal crossings in one sector in 1 year than in the previous 17 years combined. We are talking about the border between the United States and Canada.

The explosion of drug smuggling and human trafficking is hurting our American communities, and the impacts are felt way beyond the border. Fentanyl overdose deaths are the leading cause of death in young adults. Illegal immigration strains our communities, it strains our schools, and it strains our hospitals.

President Trump and Republicans are determined—determined—to stop this surge at our borders, both the northern border and the southern border, because this is a life-and-death issue for the American public.

Canada needs to continue to work closely with us to intercept deadly drugs and terror suspects. The security of both of our nations depends upon it. The best way to protect our communities is to secure our borders.

Now, this is not what Senator KAINE's resolution does. The resolution that the Democrats are going to bring to the floor today and that probably every one of them is going to vote for is going to undermine the work that the United States and Canada are doing to secure the northern border.

Fortunately, for the safety of the American people, the House of Representatives will not take up this legislation even if it passes the Senate, and it is never going to make it to President Trump's desk.

Senate Republicans are moving forward this week on major legislation that includes strong border provisions, protecting the border. This legislation will give the Border Patrol agents the tools they need to secure the border and deport criminal illegal immigrants—both northern and southern.

Republicans are out there, focused, working every day to make our communities safer. Democrats are not. They continue to be the party of open borders. Republicans are focusing on results, and the results speak for themselves.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Tennessee.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, in our constitutional Republic, the President represents the will of "we the people." He does this more than any other elected official in this country because, alongside the Vice President, he is the only office holder who is elected by the entire Nation, State by State.

And in November, the American people gave President Trump a powerful mandate to secure the border, lower inflation, rein in spending, restore our standing in the world, and usher in

what he terms is a new "golden age" for America. And to be certain, the administration is seeing a lot of success, and the American people are very pleased with what he has done.

However, on many fronts, the Trump agenda has been held up in court, not for legitimate legal reasons but because activist judges want to block as many actions by this administration as they possibly can.

In the last two months alone, judges issued more injunctions—and, in February, that was 15 against President Trump—than they did against President Biden in his entire 4 years. There were 14 against him.

Now, these judges are not issuing rulings on small details in narrow cases. They are trying to stop policies at the heart of President Trump's "America First" agenda.

What we know that the American people and, indeed, Tennesseans, whom I represent—what they want to see is a government that is going to be transparent, a government that is going to be accountable, a government that will be a good steward of their money.

But activists on the left can't get what they want at the ballot box. They lost on November 5. They lost, and they can't accept that. They can't get what they want legislatively. They don't have the votes.

The American people said we are tired of leftist DEI-ESG policies. We are tired of two tiers of justice. We are tired of seeing waste, fraud, and abuse in the government. Reporting it, and the bureaucracy does nothing—zip, zero, nada. They are tired of that, and they are pleased with the actions that are being taken by this administration to hold the bureaucracy to account—not for just what is some of what I think they are doing, but for every single penny that they are spending and every decision that they are making.

Now, as I said, we have got those on the left. They can't get what they want at the ballot box. They can't get what they want legislatively. They are looking at Governors and State legislators who are not giving them what they want, which is control and power over the American people.

But that is what the American people are saying: Oh, no, we are not going to let you have that.

So what have our colleagues on the left decided to do? Well, there is one branch of government that is left for them to try to go in and say: You do it for us. We have failed. We can't get it legislatively. We can't win these elections, but we are going to count on you.

And that is the judiciary.

So what we have seen and what is troubling so many Tennesseans is activist judges that are on the bench, but, all of a sudden, they are trying to act like they are Supreme Court Justices. They are trying to act like they have the authority to take down the decisions and actions of a President who is delivering what the American people want.

So our colleagues and friends on the left are now depending on the judiciary to rescue them—to rescue them. They failed because they are wrong, and the American people said we are not with you.

So now we have these judges. They are stepping up. They are district judges.

Now, what we know is this. A district judge has a case before him. His decision or her decision applies to that case, and it applies to the district in which that judge is seated.

But oh, no, these activists on the court have decided they are going to make nationwide injunctions to try to stop some of President Trump's policies, which as I said, are policies the American people have said: We want to see this done.

It is like cutting down the size of the Federal bureaucracy. The American people are loving what DOGE is doing, but the leftists go to a district judge out in, of all places, San Francisco, and they have that judge issue an order to block what the President is doing.

So this district judge out in San Francisco—the "left coast," appropriately named—directed the administration to rehire thousands of terminated bureaucrats.

Tennesseans and a lot of Americans, also want a government that spends taxpayer dollars responsibly because we have \$36 trillion in debt—\$36 trillion in debt.

Now, the Department of Government Efficiency, or DOGE, has already found north of \$140 billion in waste and fraud. They have identified this, and we are working to save this money for the taxpayers.

But here, again, the left can't pass what they want on the floor of the Senate or the floor of the House. So they go to the judiciary, and they say: You stop them because we can't get enough of the taxpayer money. We want more of it, and we want to shove it out the door to leftist NGOs and organizations and nonprofits. We want that money so we can waste it the way we want to waste it.

Now, that is, in essence, what they are saying. They want the power and the authority to waste your money. That is what the Democrats are working for.

Well, DOGE is working for the people—for the people. Go pick up those founding documents: "People"—"We the People." It is in caps. It is in caps.

But see what happens with the bureaucracy? The people stand up to be the people, and, all of a sudden, the leftists say: Oh, no, this is our sandbox. We have got to have more spending. We have got to have more money. We want to waste it all.

Who is going to pay for this? It is going to be our kids and our grandkids because it not only affects our Nation's solvency; that addresses our Nation's ability to be a sovereign nation.

We have got activist judges, and oh, you know, all those NGOs—they are