

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

just stuck in a tear over this. So you have got a judge that says: Oh, no, you have got to send this money out.

Are you kidding me? They don't want to save the taxpayers' money?

Now, I think one that has come up so often with Tennesseans and the reason this issue of these out-of-control leftist judges came up on our telephone town-hall last night—by the way, we had thousands of Tennesseans on that call, and it had to do with deporting these criminal illegal aliens—Tren de Aragua, MS-13.

To my colleagues, I remind you, we have deemed them foreign terrorist organizations. These are not people who are our friends. These are people who are terrorists. They are gangs. They have murdered. They have raped. They have robbed.

But we have some of our friends on the left who are saying: Oh, you can't deport them. You can't send them to the gang prison in El Salvador. You have got to bring them back.

Are you kidding me? Show me somebody that actually wants to have more murderers and rapists and robbers in their community.

I invite anybody: If you want to go out there and protect rapists and murders and robbers, you come on down here, and you explain why you would like to have them come.

If they are for that, I would like to hear why they are.

But what we see happening is these activist judges are undermining our Nation's Constitution. In each of our Nation's 677 district judges, there is no veto power over the President—none. They do not have it. There is nothing—nothing—that gives a Federal district judge veto power over the actions of the President of the United States.

Now, if they did have that power, they would be circumventing the will of the people, and we would no longer be a sovereign nation.

The separation of powers works both ways. Judges must respect the President's authority over the executive branch. That is his jurisdiction.

To ensure that happens, my Republican colleagues and I are introducing the Judicial Relief Clarification Act.

Now, this is being led by Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, who is chairman of our Judiciary Committee. And it would end this harmful practice of nationwide injunctions, make temporary restraining orders against Federal or State governments immediately appealable, and ensure the courts can only issue relief for the case or the controversy before them.

A district judge in San Francisco or anywhere else should not ever be deciding national policy. That is not something they have the ability to do. Altogether, these provisions would help restore Federal courts to their core purpose, which is administering justice under the rule of law—not deciding nationwide policy.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Madam President, this week, we are moving forward on a budget bill that

will help unleash the Trump agenda that the American people voted for in November. At the top of that agenda is making life more affordable for families across the country, especially after they have lived through 4 full years of what everyone has termed "Bidenflation."

Now, to do that, Congress must extend the first Trump administration's tax cuts. This is the 2017 Tax Cut and Jobs Act, and this will deliver historic tax relief to hard-working Americans, which we did in 2017, and it would make it permanent. When you see it made permanent, this would supercharge small business growth, and provide certainty for our Main Street smalltown businesses.

Another thing that it would do is to restore U.S. global competitiveness, but if we let many of these provisions expire, then at the end of the year, Americans are going to face a \$4 trillion tax hike. Think about that, a \$4 trillion tax hike. The bill that we will bring forward will prevent that from happening by extending these crucial tax cuts.

It will be so important for our families. In Tennessee, families already under Biden are paying \$1,700 more every month because of inflation just to buy the same basket of goods that they were able to buy in April of 2021. This is what Bidenflation has done.

So to support President Trump's agenda and get it across the finish line, it will bolster our Nation's security, help rebuild our military, and restore peace through strength, provide for border security, unleash energy production, provide a path to return Federal spending to prepandemic levels.

With this Trump agenda budget bill, we are going to deliver on our promise to the American people to do our part to pass the President's agenda and to make this Nation safe and healthy and prosperous and great again.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TUBERVILLE). The Senator from Maine. TERMINATING THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY DECLARED TO IMPOSE DUTIES ON ARTICLES IMPORTED FROM CANADA

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the resolution introduced by my colleague from Virginia, Senator KAINE, to overturn the emergency declaration for the northern border that is being used to impose tariffs on goods imported from Canada.

The Maine economy is integrated with Canada, our most important trading partner. From home heating oil, gasoline, jet fuel, and other refined petroleum products, to Maine's paper mills, forest products businesses, agricultural producers, and lobstermen, the tariffs on Canada would be detrimental to many Maine families and our local economies.

Of course I share the President's goal of stemming the tide of dangerous fentanyl that flows into the United States. I commend him for taking far stronger actions to halt this dangerous

and deadly flow than did the previous administration. I do not, however, agree with his invoking the powers of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act to impose tariffs on Canadian goods and products.

The fact is, the vast majority of fentanyl in America comes from the southern border. In fiscal year 2024, less than 1 percent of fentanyl seizures occurred at our northern border. And our Canadian neighbors are working collaboratively and cooperatively with our government to stop that trafficking.

One of the best examples of the intertwined relationship between Maine's economy and Canada can be seen at the Twin Rivers Paper mill in Madawaska, ME, way in the north on the Canadian border. Twin Rivers produces lightweight specialty paper for packaging materials, for our Nation's newspapers and our retailers' catalogs, for food and environmentally safe papers used in restaurants, and for a wide variety of other paper goods that are used all over the country.

The raw pulp for this paper mill in Maine is piped across the St. John River from Edmundston, New Brunswick, to Madawaska, ME. There literally is a pipeline through which the pulp travels between these two sister mills. A tariff placed on this pulp would jeopardize the financial well-being of this vital paper mill, which employs more than 500 people in rural northern Maine. There is not another big employer in that area that could possibly compensate for the loss of those 510 direct jobs, and that doesn't include the indirect jobs—the truck-drivers, the loggers, the restaurant owners who would be harmed by the closure or reduction in the operation of this vitally important mill. The tariff would not only devastate Twin Rivers but also harm hundreds of Maine families.

Another example of our integration with Canada is in energy. Ninety-five percent of the heating oil that is used by most Mainers to heat their homes comes from refineries in Canada.

Irving Oil, a Canadian-based company, has 150 gas stations in Maine and supplies two-thirds of the State's gas, diesel, and heating oil. This includes 100 percent of the jet fuel that is used by the Air National Guard base in Bangor. Maine consumers, Maine businesses, and the U.S. Department of Defense—our own Department of Defense—would bear the cost of that Canadian energy tariff.

Canadian tariffs would also harm many Maine farmers, lobstermen, and fishermen. According to the Maine Potato Board, 90 percent of the potash, which is the fertilizer used for growing potatoes, is imported from Canada. Fertilizer accounts for 11 percent of total input cost to grow our great Maine potatoes. Tariffs on imports like fertilizer will only hurt Maine potato growers.

I grew up in Aroostook County. I know these potato growers. I picked