

and our efforts to defeat the battle against violence in our country are directed at the Federal level by the Department of Justice. They do so with the various Federal agencies—the DEA, the ATF, U.S. Marshals, and the FBI. But they often work—and I am glad they do—in conjunction with our local sheriffs and police departments across our country.

This bill funds law enforcement at the Federal level and continues to encourage and provide resources for law enforcement—police departments in our local communities, sheriffs' departments in our local counties—for their efforts to work together with the Federal Agencies—the DEA, the FBI. That is the way we fight crime and have success in this country, is State, local, and Federal law enforcement working together.

This bill also funds the efforts at the Department of Commerce, particularly in this case related to trade, as President Trump is negotiating with various countries for resolution of tariff issues. The Department of Commerce—and we know that Secretary Lutnick has been engaged in those negotiations—the Department of Commerce houses the Agencies that are responsible for trade policy and trade legislation in this country, including the actual trade Ambassador who negotiates trade agreements on an ongoing basis.

So this bill funds the Department of Commerce in a number of ways, but I highlight for my colleagues the importance of trade, learning just this morning—yesterday—that the United States—President Trump—and Japan have come together in an agreement with regard to tariffs.

It also invests in science. It helps us meet our mission to get to the Moon, the Artemis Program. We have a goal of making certain the United States of America is on the Moon before the Chinese—returns to the Moon before the Chinese. This legislation funds NASA in a way to continue the efforts to support the Artemis Program and then reach further, as the President has indicated his desire to see the United States travel to Mars and explore further regions of outer space.

I highlight and offer my concerns and condolences to my colleagues from Texas in particular but across the country who have had weather-related circumstances that have caused tragedy across our Nation.

This Commerce-Justice-Science bill, in the science category, funds NOAA. We are making certain they have the resources to make certain we preserve and save life.

This all was done in a way that was designed to make certain that we met our responsibilities to the American taxpayer and that we were fiscally responsible.

Overall, with regard to the budget authority—the ability to obligate funds from the General Fund to the Treasury—what most Americans would consider to be Federal spending—be-

cause of offsetting credits and fee collections and rescissions—and we removed those. If they were there, we would have been able to spend at higher levels. But because we rescinded those opportunities, the decline in—let me say it differently.

Accordingly, as a result of those things being the case, the real increase in spending power at the Commerce-Justice-Science-funded Agencies is only a \$270 million increase—or 0.037 percent—above the fiscal year 2025 levels. Almost all of the increase went to the census. Commerce-Justice-Science is responsible—the Department of Commerce is responsible for the decennial census, and we have begun our process of gearing up for the next census to take place, so we had to appropriate money for the census.

In addition to that, we found savings—reduced spending—by reducing bureaucratic and workforce funding at both the Department of Commerce and the Department of Justice.

My point is that within the allocation that we were provided by the full committee—by the chairman and vice chairman of the committee—Commerce-Justice-Science is within its funding levels, of course, that they allowed us. While we prioritized the things we thought were most important, we also did so in a way that the increase in spending is less than 1 percent and certainly way less than last year and certainly less than the rate of inflation.

I know that the 11 o'clock hour has come. I am pleased to have conversations with my colleagues about moving this bill forward.

I yield the floor.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Arielle Roth, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

#### VOTE ON ROTH NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Roth nomination?

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 426 Ex.]

#### YEAS—52

Banks	Fischer	Moreno
Barrasso	Graham	Murkowski
Blackburn	Grassley	Paul
Boozman	Hagerty	Ricketts
Britt	Hawley	Risch
Budd	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Husted	Schmitt
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Collins	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Justice	Sheehy
Cotton	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cramer	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Curtis	Marshall	Wicker
Daines	McCormick	Young
Ernst	Moody	
Fetterman	Moran	

#### NAYS—41

Alsobrooks	Kaine	Sanders
Baldwin	Kelly	Schatz
Bennet	Kim	Schiff
Blumenthal	King	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Booker	Markey	Slotkin
Cantwell	Merkley	Smith
Coons	Murphy	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murray	Warner
Duckworth	Ossoff	Warnock
Durbin	Padilla	Welch
Gillibrand	Peters	Whitehouse
Hassan	Reed	Wyden
Hirono	Rosen	

#### NOT VOTING—7

Gallego	Luján	Warren
Heinrich	McConnell	
Hickenlooper	Mullin	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of John Hurley, of California, to be Under Secretary for Terrorism and Financial Crimes.

#### VOTE ON HURLEY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Hurley nomination?

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 427 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Banks	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Moreno
Blackburn	Grassley	Murkowski
Boozman	Hagerty	Paul
Britt	Hawley	Ricketts
Budd	Hoeven	Risch
Capito	Husted	Rounds
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cramer	Lankford	Sullivan
Crapo	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Tillis
Curtis	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young

NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Luján	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Galego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	

NOT VOTING—2

McConnell Mullin

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, in the United States, we justly pride ourselves on being a nation of laws. This is one of the things that makes our country different from the rest of the world. Economists have written about the fact that, while there are many entrepreneurial or innovation societies and economies, it is the rule of law, the predictability, the enforcement of contracts, and the fundamental guarantees of rights that make us successful where other countries fail.

Unfortunately, we have seen the undermining of the rule of law, in the last 4 years, by President Biden's refusal to simply enforce our immigration laws. And my prediction is we will be paying the price not just in weeks and months but in years and decades for what has come to be known as the "Biden border disaster."

President Biden's policies betrayed the American people because of the lack of leadership in the face of a historic crisis—here, again, of his own making—at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Yesterday, I chaired a subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary hearing enti-

tled "Biden's Border Betrayal: Criminal Aliens in America." At that hearing, we examined some of the false narratives that the mainstream media have peddled about President Trump's enforcement of our immigration laws.

We were honored to be joined by two Angel moms whose children were murdered by criminal aliens who never should have been in the United States in the first place.

Marie Vega joined us. Marie is the mother of Javier Vega, Jr., who went by the name "Harvey." Harvey was a Border Patrol agent who was murdered by illegal aliens nearly 11 years ago. I am grateful to her for sharing her story, as painful as I know it must have been for her, and talking about the trauma that she, her grandchildren, and her entire family have experienced over her son's murder.

Our second guest was Tammy Nobles. Tammy was the mother of Kayla Hamilton, who was murdered by an illegal alien who was also a member of the MS-13 gang—one of the most violent gangs in the world. Kayla's murderer entered our country as an unaccompanied minor and was later released into the custody of an unvetted sponsor.

Mrs. Nobles' passion for ensuring this horrific tragedy won't happen again to more families was evident throughout the hearing. I am grateful to her, again, for sharing what had to be a very painful experience but one she did in honor of her daughter's memory.

Our third guest was Victor Avila, a former ICE Homeland Security Investigations agent who, along with his partner, was shot in the line of duty by Los Zetas. Los Zetas is a cartel operating in Mexico and in the United States occasionally.

Victor was seriously wounded that day, and his partner was killed. I have known Victor a long time, and he is a steadfast advocate of the rule of law and understands what is required if we are going to keep Americans safe.

These families and victims would never have had to suffer such devastating loss were it not for the criminal aliens who never should have been here in the United States in the first place.

It was a curious matter to me that our Democratic colleagues claim to be the party of compassion when it comes to immigration, but they would rather society and the media and Congress turn a blind eye to these victims of criminals who entered the country as a result of open border policies. That is not compassion. Some of the individuals ICE—Immigration and Customs Enforcement, which is what the initials stand for, of course—some of the individuals ICE has apprehended recently include murderers, rapists, pedophiles, and sex traffickers.

Our fourth guest was Sheriff Roy Boyd of Goliad, TX, a small, South Texas county. He described the horrifying details of human trafficking and criminal activities carried out by the

transnational criminal organizations—this is organized crime—the cartels he has witnessed in recent years. He said during his testimony:

The border has always been a location for criminal activity, however, I never witnessed such an increase in blatantly open criminal activity as I did between 2021 and 2024.

It is truly shocking to think about the sheer number of illegal criminal aliens who are currently roaming free in the United States.

Now, you would think, listening to some of my Democratic colleagues, that ICE is arresting gardeners, cooks, housekeepers—people who are basically just trying to earn a living. But the truth is, there are 291,000—291,000—criminal aliens in the United States who are under final orders of removal. That means they have exhausted all potential legal remedies to be able to stay here, and they have been found not qualified to stay, and they have been ordered removed, but they simply ignored that order by a court.

For this fiscal year alone, 213,000 criminal aliens with final orders of removal have criminal convictions, while another 78,000 have pending criminal charges against them. Even more disturbing is the fact that 282,000 of these criminal aliens are still roaming free, not being held in ICE custody.

I know Tom Homan, who is the border czar who is heading up these efforts, is working to chip away at this list of criminal aliens who are still present in the United States who are under final orders of deportation. But, again, to listen to the news or listen to some of the political rhetoric, you would think, again, that Tom Homan and ICE are detaining gardeners and cooks and housekeepers, when 282,000 of these criminal aliens with final orders of deportation are still roaming free.

Most aliens with final orders of removal have been in the immigration system for almost a decade. They have been litigating their claims in immigration courts, some for almost a decade, and many, if not all, were given the opportunity to have their day in court. Many of them just neglected to show up. They were given a notice to appear in an immigration court and if they had a bona fide claim to asylum, to present that to an immigration judge. But many of these individuals simply did not show up, forfeiting any right they had to claim they could legally stay in the United States. But all of this doesn't stop our colleagues from across the aisle from claiming that illegal aliens detained by ICE are not being given "due process."

We are blessed to live in America, no doubt, and I think sometimes we take for granted all the privileges we are afforded and all the rights we have as citizens. So it is worth asking the question: What sort of process are these illegal aliens actually due?

While the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution and the Bill of Rights apply to all individuals in the United