

Every detail should be brought to light, and anyone who committed egregious crimes should be held accountable no matter who they are.

My colleague from Oregon Senator RON WYDEN and the Senate Finance Committee have been investigating Mr. Epstein's financial network for years. They have been seeking disclosure.

I have a letter that Senator WYDEN wrote. It reveals more than 4,700 suspicious wire transfers adding up to more than \$1 billion from just one of Mr. Epstein's bank accounts and hundreds of millions of dollars in other bank accounts. What would that information show us about who they went to? What questions would it lead us to ask, and what questions would that information answer? The American public has every right to know the questions that Senator WYDEN and the Finance Committee are asking.

Let me be clear. That work was bipartisan work, Democrats and Republicans together calling for disclosure and accountability.

In this letter, Senator WYDEN notes:

Epstein clearly had access to enormous financing to operate his sex trafficking network, and the details on how he got the cash to pay for it are sitting in a Treasury Department filing cabinet.

For years, so many people across America in both parties have been demanding the release of the Epstein files, but we heard a lot from a few folks who are in the administration now.

December 15, 2023, Kash Patel said that Mr. Epstein's "black book" was "under [the] direct control of the FBI." Well, Mr. Patel is now the Director of the FBI.

On October 22, 2024, Vice—well, he wasn't Vice President yet, but now he is Vice President—JD VANCE said in a podcast:

Seriously, we need to release the Epstein list. That's an important thing.

On February 25, 2025, Attorney General Pam Bondi, who was in office, said Mr. Epstein's client list was "sitting on my desk right now to review."

But, suddenly, we are hearing a different tune from people in the administration. We are hearing: There is nothing to see here, they are saying. Go look somewhere else, they are saying. This is not important, they are saying.

But not everyone agrees with that. Let's take the Speaker of the House. July 15, House Speaker MIKE JOHNSON told CNN:

We should put everything out there and let the people decide.

On July 16, Senator Majority Leader JOHN THUNE told FOX News:

I'm always a believer in transparency—I think more is . . . better.

I agree with Speaker MIKE JOHNSON. I agree with Majority Leader JOHN THUNE. I agree that the right principle about this information is to put everything out there.

Let us not forget that as the Senate Finance Committee is pursuing those

information about the file transfers and what they show, that, ultimately, it is not about money itself but about what money tells us and the case it builds for who did what, because what really matters here is this: the victimization of young girls. That is what this is about, the abuse of young girls, the rape of young girls. That is what this is about. That is what transparency is about.

So whether the information in the Department of Justice files is about flight and travel records, names of people who were involved in various ways, names of businesses or nonprofits, other organizations, about meetings held or communications made, whether it was by email, whether it was by text, whether it was by phone call, any immunity deals, any nonprosecution agreements, any plea bargains, any settlements—whatever it is—the American people demand transparency, just as the Speaker of the House demanded transparency, just as the majority leader of the Senate has demanded transparency.

This bill requires "no record shall be withheld, delayed, or redacted on the basis of any of the following: embarrassment, reputational harm, or political sensitivity, including any government official, public figure, or foreign dignitary," regardless of where they live.

But what the bill also says is the information released must protect the victims and the underage witnesses, protect those who were victims or who were underage witnesses to crimes. So information can be redacted by those victims and underage witnesses—personally identifiable information, depictions of abuse, or information that would jeopardize a Federal investigation or national security.

Colleagues, the question before us is simple: Will this body follow the lead of the Speaker of the House and the majority leader of the Senate and call for full transparency?

The administration has said the law doesn't allow us to do it, so I am proposing a law that gives them the power to do what they have said they would like to do—transparency.

Will we, instead, object to this law to protect perpetrators of crimes against girls? That is the question tonight: Will we protect our children, or will the information be withheld? Will we fail to demand it, fail to adopt this law to ensure that it is delivered in order to protect the powerful? That is the choice: Protect the victims, be on their side, pursue justice, or protect the powerful?

So, Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 2557, which is at the desk. I further ask that the bill be considered read three times and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The majority whip.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

For years, Democrats have ignored this issue. Now they can't stop talking about it. Maybe it is because Democrats are trying to distract from their extreme, unprecedented obstructions here in the U.S. Senate.

As of this morning, there were 147 qualified nominees awaiting confirmation by the U.S. Senate. Many were approved by committee with Democrat support. These aren't controversial nominees or individuals. They are patriotic Americans patiently waiting for their opportunity to serve their country. Some have quit their jobs; others have sold their assets. But this Democrat Trump derangement syndrome is holding them back.

So far this year, Democrats have allowed exactly zero—zero—nominees to be confirmed by voice vote. This is a drastic departure from the norms and traditions of the U.S. Senate. It is very different from how Republicans treated Democrat nominees when we were in the minority in 2021. Or maybe it is because Democrats don't want to talk about their dreadful poll numbers—the lowest in 35 years. It is front-page news.

Senate Republicans included a provision that addresses this very issue in the appropriations bill that Democrats are currently holding up. They are stopping the progress on the bill that addresses this. Either way you cut it, this exercise is a Democrat distraction; and therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. MERKLEY. Would my colleague yield for a question?

Mr. BARRASSO. Regular order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon has the floor.

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask my colleague to yield for a question. He has chosen not to, and that is his right.

But the question I would ask is this: If the Speaker of the House is demanding transparency, if the majority leader of the Senate is demanding transparency, if the American people are demanding transparency, if my colleagues who have said time and time again just months ago there should be transparency, then why does my colleague come here and object to transparency? What is it that they know that they don't want the American people to know?

To withhold this information is an assault on justice, and it is absolutely wrong. We must continue to demand that the rich and powerful are not shielded from the full force of justice if they have perpetrated crimes against underage children.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

DACA

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, my colleagues, it feels like every single day the Trump administration finds new ways to defy the rule of law.

They will tear families apart, decimate local businesses, and deceive the public in order to distract from their own failures and scandals. And nowhere has this been clearer than in their cruelty toward immigrants.

As I have said time and again, this administration is not really just focused on cracking down on dangerous, violent criminals. We hear that from them all the time. But in practice, it is far from that.

If it was just deportation operations focused on dangerous, violent criminals, there would be no discussion, there would be no debate, and there would be no disagreement. But that is not what this administration is doing. They are going after all immigrants.

The vast majority of those who have been arrested and detained, and many of those deported—many without due process before being deported—are not convicted criminals. Don't just take my word for it. These are statistics and data coming out of ICE themselves, the Department of Homeland Security.

But through their indiscriminate raids, this administration is arresting not just undocumented immigrants but lawful permanent residents as well. There are U.S. citizens who have been arrested and detained, even veterans. Think about that: individuals who have served our country, prepared to pay the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our Nation and our democracy, now being rounded up indiscriminately.

If you think I am exaggerating with this concern, let the comments coming out of the Department of Homeland Security just yesterday leave no doubts. A Department of Homeland Security spokesperson declared for the first time—now, I want to make sure I get this right, so I am going to quote:

Illegal aliens who claim to be recipients of DACA are not automatically protected from deportations.

She went on to say that DACA recipients should now self-deport from the United States. Think about what that means. The Trump administration is saying that these young adults who were brought to the United States as children and who have lived here, who have studied here, and who have worked here legally—let me emphasize that: worked here, studied here, lived here legally since the year 2012, thanks to the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, this administration is saying now that they have no right to be here; that they could be deported or maybe should be deported at a moment's notice; or, worse, that they should choose to leave their families and their communities for countries that they have never known.

The whole point of DACA is protection from deportation. These are not criminals or some danger to society; these are young people who have lived in the United States for as long as they can remember. These are young adults who, as kids, were on your Little League team or in your Girl Scout troop. For God's sake, they are part of

our communities, and they are young adults who have now grown up to be lawyers, to be doctors, to be teachers, and who have more love for everything that this country stands for than anyone threatening them in Trump's Department of Homeland Security. But this week the Trump administration is now telling them that they should be arrested and thrown out of the only home they have ever known in an attempt to satisfy Donald Trump's quest for political points or an arbitrary quota.

So, to the Trump administration, let me say this: You cannot claim to love our country at the same time you are trying to destroy our future.

Already, this administration has worked to cut healthcare for millions of Americans, including DACA recipients. They are cutting education benefits and opportunities for DACA recipients, but now they are threatening to arrest DACA participants as well. That is exactly what has been happening in my hometown of Los Angeles when, last month, masked immigration officials—unidentified and masked immigration officials—carrying weapons, raided a carwash in Temple City. It was there that they confronted and arrested Javier Diaz Santana. Let me tell you about Javier, and I really, really hope you are listening not just with your ears but with your hearts.

Javier Santana is 32 years old. He is a DACA recipient. He is deaf. And he has been working at a carwash 6 days a week for the last 5 years.

Immigration officials confiscated his identification. They confiscated his cell phone. They proceeded to handcuff him, put his hands behind his back in handcuffs, leaving him no way of communicating. You need to be able to use your hands to communicate with sign language. They deprived him of his ability to communicate.

This young man was a DACA recipient who has been in the United States since he was 5 years old. He has no criminal record. His immigration removal case has been closed, and he was issued a work permit by USCIS. He is a son. He is a brother. He is a friend. Colleagues, he is a human being—just one of many cases.

So don't tell me the Trump administration is following the law when we hear cases like this, and don't tell me that the administration is only targeting dangerous, violent criminals because the data proves otherwise.

As his family was scrambling to find details about where he was, where he had been taken, DHS quickly whisked Javier out of Los Angeles, all the way to El Paso, TX. His family feared that he could be deported or he had been deported, not only to a country he doesn't know but to a country whose language he doesn't speak.

But as tragic and as heartbreaking as Javier's story is, he is not alone. There have been more and more stories of DACA recipients being arrested and detained. And the fear is just growing across communities.

One thing is certain: This mass detention and deportation operation will go down in our history as a stain, a dark chapter in our Nation's history, an outrageous moral failure intentionally caused by this administration—because for all the tough talk, this is not just politics as usual.

In fact, when the DREAM Act was first introduced over 20 years ago, it was bipartisan, and it enjoyed bipartisan support for most of the last 20 years. And even today, polling shows an overwhelming majority of the American public supports DACA recipients—yes, both Republicans and Democrats across the country.

Now, Democrats and Republicans in Congress have supported the DREAM Act for most of the last 20 years. And I think, in our private conversations, I sense the bipartisan support is still there, and I can't wait for it to resurface. Let the public statements be on both sides of the aisle—the political will on both sides of the aisle—reflect what we are saying behind closed doors because the only thing that we are seeing publicly is the Trump administration going out of their way to enact a policy of cruelty. But it is exactly what we have come to expect 6 months into this administration—using immigrants as scapegoats for the administration's failures, the administration creating a spectacle in their attempt to distract and deflect.

But make no mistake, Americans will not soon forget what this administration is doing to their neighbors—to their neighbors, to their coworkers, to their friends.

Now, this story doesn't end the way you think it might because we will continue fighting not just to stop these outrageous arrests, but we will not rest until we enact real and permanent protections for DACA recipients who contribute so much to our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). The Senator from Vermont.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED EXPORT OF CERTAIN DEFENSE ARTICLES TO ISRAEL—Motion to Discharge

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED FOREIGN MILITARY SALE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL OF CERTAIN DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES—Motion to Discharge

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, pursuant to 22 United States Code 2776 and in accordance with the provisions of Section 601(b)(3) of the International Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Act of 1976, I move to discharge the Committee on Foreign Relations of further consideration of S.J. Res. 41 and S.J. Res. 34.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motions are pending.