

to the Chinese and just pull out of the race rather than compete with them. At the same time, they are saying we will drill; that we will drill for oil in the most precious part of our national public lands. It is an absolute disgrace.

We are a technological giant. To give up on our ability to be able to make these vehicles more efficient is a death sentence for the most precious and vulnerable areas in our Nation. It is completely and totally irresponsible, immoral, and it is going to wind up with scarred oilfields all across these refuges that, unfortunately, were completely and totally avoidable.

Yesterday, President Trump signed, in many ways, the death warrant for all of these precious areas in our country because he pulled out of the race to increase the fuel economy standards—where we put the oil in the vehicles that we drive.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

HALO ACT

Mrs. MOODY. Mr. President, last week, across America we were shocked, astonished, gutted. The night before our Nation paused to give thanks for the blessings in our lives—the night before Thanksgiving—two of our country's finest were shot down mere blocks away from the White House. Two young National Guardsmen, who had served their country like the Presiding Officer, who were doing their jobs of keeping us safe, were ambushed by a gunman here on asylum.

It was 20-year-old Sarah Beckstrom who tragically perished from her injuries and 24-year-old Andrew Wolfe who remains in critical, yet stable condition.

We all in the Senate and across America continue to pray for these guardsmen, for Andrew's recovery, and for their families and loved ones.

After the suspect started firing—and many missed the news on this—a National Guard major who was just doing his rounds was nearby, checking on other troops. He started running toward the gunfire, and all he had was a pocketknife. I would like to think everyone in this room would have the immediate response to do the same, but I think we would all pause and question: Would you, with a pocketknife, run toward gunfire to protect others?

There are heroes in this Nation who sign up to do that, like the Presiding Officer, who say that they will put their safety behind others. They will stand as a guardsman of their fellow countrymen, and that is what this man did. He rushed toward danger to protect other people. I am so grateful that there are heroes like him in our country.

Last week—just a few days ago—in my home State of Florida, Sergeant Erik LeVasseur, from Port St. Lucie, while doing his job as a law enforcement officer, was shot in the face when

he responded to a call for help. These attacks, threats, and harassment cannot begin to feel commonplace in our country—not in our States, not in our cities. We cannot get used to this, and we should always be outraged when they occur.

Unfortunately, a tragedy like this is happening time and time again in a growing stream of incidents across our country, wherein our Nation's guardians, with whatever badge they wear and whatever oath they have taken—from our guardsmen to our Federal law enforcement, to our State law enforcement heroes—are being targeted.

Then I hear dire language from the speaker before me—using the term “death warrant” as it related to an issue—but they won't fully engage and stand up against those who are supporting groups that are targeting our heroes.

An attack on those who enforce our Nation's laws is an attack on what this country was built on. It is an attack on the people's law. Indeed, it is an attack on the rule of law.

Over the last 10 months, our Federal officers and agents have faced a dangerously escalating pattern of violence, ranging from hitting, spitting, kicking, and biting during arrests to vehicle-ramming, open gunfire, and throwing Molotov cocktails—all because they are doing their jobs that they took an oath to do to protect other human beings. From January 21, 2024, through November 21, 2024, there were only 19 recorded assaults against ICE law enforcement. At the same time this year, ICE law enforcement has faced 238 reported assaults. It is a 1,153-percent increase in assaults on those law enforcement officers.

These nationwide incidents show how officers are being targeted because of the badge they wear, because of the oath they take. And you know in many, many instances, they are going after people who have repeatedly harmed American citizens. The attacks are not just on the enforcement operations; they are an attack on the officers themselves.

Incredibly, incredibly radical, Democrat-led cities and States in this country are using taxpayer money to encourage the harassment and obstruction of our law enforcement officers in the United States of America.

I just introduced the Halo Act to protect Federal officers while they conduct their official duties, and I am proud to say that this week, more of my colleagues have signed up to co-sponsor this important legislation. They have said: No more. Our heroes have to be able to do their jobs to protect us without feeling threatened in the execution of their duties.

The legislation would make it illegal for anyone, after being told to stay back, to knowingly come within 25 feet of a Federal officer that is trying to do their job if the intent is to interfere with the officer's work or threaten physical harm.

You know, personally, I am the wife of a law enforcement officer. It is incredibly dangerous, as they are trying to execute official duties, to have people interfere with them. The distraction of not being totally focused on what they are doing endangers not only them but those around them, and we have seen that happen in this country.

I expect every one of the colleagues in this U.S. Senate to speak out against that, to stand up for the people we ask to take an oath to stand in harm's way to protect us. It is the very least they could do—to use words of support for them. My guess is you will hear utter silence on that side of the Chamber.

This act is modeled after something we have done in my great home State of Florida, where we are the most pro-law enforcement State in the Nation. I was proud to say that, and I worked towards that in my time as attorney general in the great State of Florida. That is why not only are we leading in the Nation in people wanting to move to our State for protection, the people who are doing that protection, our law enforcement officers, are coming from all over this Nation, uprooting their families, to be Florida heroes because they know we have their back. We need to do that for all of our heroes across this Nation, and it needs to start right here in the Senate.

It takes a truly special person to answer that call, whether that is in our military or in our law enforcement professions—and I am proud to be the wife of a law enforcement officer—to be the one that runs towards danger to help others like that courageous National Guard major last week.

They shouldn't be worried while they are doing their jobs unnecessarily by people wanting to target them or attack them. Indeed, if it weren't for our Nation's heroes, our society would fail, our rule of law could not exist.

I came here to DC to fight for these heroes like you, and it is a battle. There are those that will stand up and fight for our heroes, and there are those that will not even remain just silent, they will actively work against them and support groups that are targeting them. It is battle, and it is one we must win. There is not an option.

For our heroes' sake, for our country's sake, for the success of this great American experiment, living as a free man under the rule of law, I urge my colleagues to have our officers' backs while they cover ours.

I hope they will join me in supporting my Halo Act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for up to 5 minutes, followed by Senator HYDE-SMITH for up to 5 minutes and Senator MURKOWSKI for up to 3 minutes, prior to the scheduled roll-call vote.

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

H.J. RES. 131

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak on the 11:30 vote we are about to have. And I come because I want to speak against the effort to overturn the land management plan for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Congress established the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in 1980 to protect the diverse and unique, very fragile ecosystem located on 20 million acres in the northeast corner of Alaska. However, at the time, Congress failed to permanently protect 1.5 million acres of Coastal Plain, the biological beating heart of this incredible wilderness—a wilderness that is often called America's Serengeti; that is because of the hundreds of thousands of caribou that migrate and depend on these lands. Herds that Alaska Native Tribes rely on for subsistence and they have been an essential piece of their traditional culture and way of life.

Because it is one of the largest remaining untouched ecosystems on our entire planet, I believe we should strive hard to protect it. It is so unique. People do want to travel there. But many would like to ignore the fact that it is a fragile and irreplaceable beauty that lives along the Coastal Plain in order to search for oil and gas that may lie beneath.

The battle has been the subject of many intense congressional debates for decades. So far, we have been able to protect the Coastal Plain and keep it intact, as it has been for millions of years. And many Americans had hoped we had moved on. That is, moved on because even the oil companies have said, by virtue of not wanting to pay for any leases, that this area is not a good place to drill.

Some companies even paid to get out of their leases. I say moved on because, time and time again, insurers and major banks have pledged not to finance development in the refuge. The two failed lease sales under both the Trump and Biden administrations should have been the end to all of this, and that is because we were supposed to raise \$2 billion. In fact, when the language was passed, they said, well, we will raise \$2 billion, but they have actually only raised a few million.

So, in other words, this vote is about whether we want to spoil one of the last great pristine spots on planet Earth for what the market says is worth a few million dollars. I know, especially in Europe, there is a lot of tourism in the Arctic today. There are many people that want the last frontier experience and are paying for cruise ships that actually have ice-breaking capacity to travel to the Arctic Circle.

Why aren't we encouraging the same kind of tourism? And I think what makes even less sense about the future

is that, why would we vote to destroy something so fragile and so irreplaceable when we have a choice?

I want to point out that using the Congressional Review Act to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge could very well backfire on our drilling advocates. If Congress votes to overturn the Biden record of decision today, it would create legal and regulatory chaos, not clarity.

That is because it would revive the Trump era leasing plan that is legally flawed and under active litigation, effectively leaving no valid framework for how leasing could proceed. Just a way of saying, my guess is, it would have more lawsuits that would be easier to attack. That is because the CRA, if signed into law, the Department of the Interior couldn't reissue a similar rule, and the old leasing program did have serious legal deficiencies.

Contrast that with the existing record of decision, which followed science, law, and public input and balancing environmental protections and resource extraction in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

So I hope we won't make an irrevocable, irredeemable mistake in the Senate today by voting to overturn a science-based record of decision that was done by the book and with the public input. We should be hammering out a bipartisan agreement instead on other major issues like healthcare affordability or finding other ways to reduce the cost of living.

But this administration has opened up all drilling all over the United States for oil and gas production, and yet it isn't much higher than the record levels that were achieved during the Biden administration. That is even after the Big Beautiful Bill gave nearly \$6 billion in tax breaks this year for some of the biggest oil and gas companies.

So we gave huge, massive tax breaks that could have gone into paying for affordable healthcare, and instead, we gave them to oil companies. And yet we are not really producing much more than we have been producing under the last administration.

Even after we have seen the repeal of dozens of environmental regulations that protected America's health the oil companies had complained about. Even after the administration opened millions of acres in the sensitive lands, including the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, and millions of offshore acres, even when coastal residents are screaming they don't want these oil rigs off their coast.

So it isn't producing the effect that some of my colleagues hoped. So this is not a CRA we should vote for. We should oppose the CRA and keep the land management that is in place.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

COMMERCIAL DRIVER'S LICENSE SYSTEM

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I rise to call attention to a critical safety issue that affects every American who travels our roads and highways.

Across the country, we are seeing a disturbing rise in deadly accidents involving large commercial trucks driven by individuals who should have never been behind the wheel to begin with, often foreign nationals in the country illegally who exploited weaknesses in our commercial driver's license or CDL system.

We have seen the video of the horrific crash in Florida where an undocumented immigrant driving an 18-wheeler made an illegal U-turn on the interstate, killing three Americans who should be with us here today.

In mid-October, a semi-truck driver in California, in the United States illegally, with an immigration detainer notice, was accused of being intoxicated when he slammed into multiple vehicles, killing three people and injuring several more.

Sadly, incidents like this are becoming far too common, and we must ask why. The answer lies in failed policies.

Under previous Democratic administrations, safety enforcement was weakened, loopholes were opened, and fraudulent CDL issuance went unchecked. Under the Obama administration, inspectors were directed to issue citations rather than take unsafe commercial vehicle drivers completely off the road—a policy decision that has resulted in loss of life.

Meanwhile, open border policies of prior administrations would have allowed illegal immigrants to enter the United States freely which, combined with lax Federal oversight, has let some States issue CDLs without proper language or competency testing.

A Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration audit prompted by President Trump found that multiple States issued nondomiciled CDLs improperly to unqualified, often foreign drivers, even in some instances allowing them to keep licenses after their legal status expired.

In the Florida case, the FMCSA investigation revealed that the driver had failed the English language proficiency test, answering only 2 out of the 12 verbal questions correctly. Yet multiple States still allowed him to hold a valid CDL and operate a commercial vehicle on our roads.

The ongoing FMCSA audit revealed systemic violations by many States—including California, Washington, and New Mexico—that simply fail to follow Federal laws and regulations as they issue CDLs, which has resulted in greater threats to public safety.

After Secretary Duffy's criticism about California's lack of policy enforcement and threat to revoke Federal funding, California announced the revocation of 17,000 CDLs that were given to immigrants without valid visas. This means California has been allowing thousands of unqualified drivers to