

turn to them and promise to hold this administration to account while also voting to install someone who might be another “yes” man who will only enable this President to continue.

For these reasons, I will not support Senator MULLIN’s confirmation to lead the Department of Homeland Security.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Senator from Texas.

SAVE AMERICA ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this week, we kick off the 2026 Major League Baseball season. While fans across the country once again enjoy cheering on the Texas Rangers and the Houston Astros, I am reminded of the wise words of one of the great legends of America’s pastime. Baseball Hall of Fame legend Babe Ruth once said:

It’s hard to beat a person who never gives up.

For several days now, the Senate has been debating and considering the SAVE America Act. This bill would simply require individuals to present proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote as well as photo identification before voting in a Federal election.

To show how far the Democrats have gone in opposing commonsense measures, one of the amendments to this bill was one that would counter Democrats’ dangerous and radical gender ideology by prohibiting men from competing in women’s sports.

Our Democratic colleagues should be embarrassed by their opposition, but of course, they are not, and they did not agree. Poll after poll shows that Americans are strongly opposed to men competing in women’s sports. Republicans will not give up on this issue, and the American people are with us.

We also will not waver on our support for the SAVE America Act because it will secure the Nation’s elections. Voter ID is just common sense. We all know that. In this country, you need an ID for almost everything you do—from boarding a plane, to entering a Federal building, to buying a beer, to renting a car, to opening a bank account, to renting a hotel room.

Presenting an ID is a facet of almost every aspect of our daily lives. So why should it be prohibited in terms of exercising one of the most important prerogatives that American citizens can perform, which is casting their ballots? There is simply no rational explanation as to why Democrats are against this.

Of course, in trying to think of what possible reason they could have, one is, of course, the most obvious, which is Trump derangement syndrome. Demo-

crats have made it their mission to deny, refute, and obstruct every single policy put forward by President Trump simply because he supports it. If President Trump supports it, they oppose it. Of course, they won’t put it in those terms. Instead, they falsely claim that the SAVE America Act will disenfranchise voters. Well, it is a fascinating thing to me that anywhere from 70 to 80 percent of the people who are polled say they support the requirement for a photo ID. So I suppose, by logic, based on the Democrats’ position, that 70 to 80 percent of the people polled are for disenfranchising themselves. Well, obviously, that makes no sense whatsoever.

Earlier this week, the minority leader, Senator Schumer, said the SAVE Act is not about election integrity; it is voter suppression, plain and simple. Well, it is really interesting. You know, we have videos of then-Representative SCHUMER who said 30 years ago:

[O]ne way to prove you are a bona fide person who can have a job is to ask for a driver’s license and a Social Security card.

So my question to Senator SCHUMER is this: Which is true and which is false? Both statements cannot be true.

It seems that Senator SCHUMER is of two minds on this topic depending on political expediency, but we all know what is going on. We all know what is going on. The fact is that Democrats are masquerading their opposition to President Trump as voter suppression, but we all know that that is not true. The only votes that will be suppressed as a result of the passage of this bill will be those of noncitizens, who cannot legally vote in the first place.

Our Democratic colleagues may say: Well, it is already illegal.

There are a lot of things that are illegal that, if not enforced, deterrence will not occur; that accountability will not occur. So let me set the record straight. The only votes that will be suppressed by the SAVE America Act are those of noncitizens or illegal aliens.

One other theory I have heard suggested is: For 4 years, President Biden had open border policies. He let in literally millions of people into the country. As for many of them, we don’t know who they are or what they are doing. Occasionally, we find out when they commit criminal acts against innocent American citizens. Now that President Biden has opened the borders, what we are attempting to do is make sure that only American citizens get to vote, but Democrats are opposed. The only reason Democrats, beyond Trump derangement syndrome, would oppose this is that they want the people who came in during the 4 years of Biden’s open border policies to be able to cast a ballot.

If anything, voter ID empowers Americans to vote, and it protects the integrity of the voting process because every illegitimate vote that is cast undermines and dilutes a legitimate vot-

er’s ballot. By requiring voter ID, it will give people greater trust in our elections and faith in the outcomes. We need to restore the public’s trust in our institutions, including elections. The more people believe that our elections are free and fair, the more they will participate in those elections, which is something we should all want.

President Abraham Lincoln famously laid out his vision for our Nation in the Gettysburg Address when he talked about a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Well, what he was talking about was government by American citizens—the people who are legitimately casting their ballots and no one else. Nowhere do these words read truer than at the ballot box where the American people cast their votes and make their voices heard. This, of course, is how our democracy works. It hinges on the belief that elections are free and fair and secure and ensure a peaceful transition of power.

Requiring proof of citizenship is the surest and safest way we can help build trust and confidence with the American people and instill confidence in our elections. Self-government itself means nothing without free and fair elections.

As I have said multiple times this last week, this is an 80–20 issue; but of course, our Democratic colleagues believe that 80 percent who support these commonsense measures literally want to disenfranchise themselves, which is ridiculous. Public opinion is clear: The American people overwhelmingly support voter ID and proof of citizenship for voting. In 2025, the Pew Research Center showed 83 percent of voters, including 71 percent of Democrats, supported requiring photo ID at the voting booth. The facts speak for themselves: Americans want and deserve photo ID.

We will continue to fight to pass the SAVE America Act and deliver on the mandate given to us by the American people.

NOMINATION OF MARKWAYNE MULLIN

Mr. President, on another matter, later today, we will be voting on the confirmation of Senator MULLIN as Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

In the Senate, MARKWAYNE has been a conservative warrior with a proven track record of supporting the “America First” agenda and President Trump. He has been dogged in advocating for the good of his home State of Oklahoma, and I have every confidence he will carry out the same spirit of zeal and unwavering determination in his new role in overseeing the Department of Homeland Security. As Democrats continue to hold funding for this Agency hostage, we need a strong hand at the helm more than ever.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. President, we know that what the Democrats are doing in blocking the payment of appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security is endangering public safety in a number of ways—first, at the airports, where

our TSA agents are overwhelmed and are not being paid. They have now missed two paychecks. This was a basic security measure put in place after 9/11, after the terrorist attacks of 9/11.

We know one component of ICE is the Homeland Security Investigations, which works hand in hand with the FBI to investigate domestic terrorism attacks. So, literally, by not funding Homeland Security Investigations, Democrats are making it more likely, not less likely, that we will have a successful terrorist attack on our home soil.

We also know that the TSA agents had nothing to do with the differences that separate Democrats and Republicans here. In fact, their complaint is with ICE because, again, they are for the open borders policy, and they don't want immigration laws enforced. They are going to do everything they can to block funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, but that also includes Homeland Security Investigations.

Then they come out here, and they offer unanimous consent requests, saying: Oh, we will pay for the salaries of the Transportation Security Administration, but we won't pay to support the rest of the functions of the Department of Homeland Security, including support for FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency; for the Coast Guard; and for ICE.

The irony is that we already passed funding for ICE in the One Big Beautiful Bill. So their blockade of the funding for the Department of Homeland Security is not going to have an immediate impact on ICE, but it does demonstrate how out of touch and how extreme the Democrats have become in their opposition to commonsense measures that protect public safety.

It is inexcusable to have the Department of Homeland Security—the very Agency whose duty it is to protect and defend the homeland—shut down amidst all of this chaos. At a time when global tensions are rising and the threat landscape is even more perilous, we can't afford to play politics with the safety and security of the American people. It is time for this to end. It is past time for this to end. This is not how the Senate is supposed to work, and this certainly isn't what my constituents in Texas or any American deserves.

My hope is that the negotiations that are ongoing right now will be fruitful immediately and that we will reopen the Department of Homeland Security not for the good of any political party but for the good of the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. KIM. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

NOMINATION OF MARKWAYNE MULLIN

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, in just a little over a year since taking office, the Trump administration and the Department of Homeland Security have completely broken trust with the American people. In the last year, President Trump has made sweeping cuts to programs and personnel at the Department, undermining key missions from counterterrorism and cyber security protections to assistance following national disasters.

These actions are putting the safety and the security of Americans at risk at a time when many of the threats the Department was created to address—like terrorism and cyber attacks—are on the rise because of the President's war in Iran. These cuts to critical national security missions have all been at the expense of the Trump administration's singular focus on indiscriminate immigration enforcement that has led to serious disruptions in communities all across our country.

It was only 2 months ago when the country watched in horror as two U.S. citizens, Alex Pretti and Renee Good, were killed by Homeland Security law enforcement officers. We saw with our own eyes how officers have routinely deployed tear gas and pepper spray against Americans who were simply exercising their First Amendment rights.

Secretary Noem's leadership as the Department head has been a disaster, and Americans want to see a course correction, but I am not convinced that one change in leadership is enough to right the ship.

President Trump and advisers like Stephen Miller are continuing to drive so much of the chaos at the Department of Homeland Security.

When the President nominated Senator MULLIN to lead the Department, I came into the process with an open mind. However, I do not believe that he is the right person for the job. We need a Secretary who has a clear understanding of the Department's many different missions and a keen awareness of the challenges that the Department faces. We need a Secretary who is a steady leader, who won't rush to judgment without having all the facts, and who won't add fuel to the fire when there is a crisis. At a time when political violence is rising, we need a Secretary who will condemn violence, not encourage it. And we need a Secretary who can be trusted to be transparent and open with information to both Congress and the American people, especially—especially—when an emergency strikes.

Unfortunately, I have not seen the nominee exhibit these desperately needed characteristics in his confirmation process, and I urge President Trump to reassess his administration's prior record and nominate someone

who will help return the Department's focus to all of its critical national security missions. We need someone who will be more than just another rubberstamp. We need someone who will be thoughtful, deliberate, and work to restore the trust in the Department.

Therefore, I will be voting no, and I urge all my colleagues to do the same.

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. HYDE-SMITH assumed the Chair.)

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Nevada.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, as we enter spring and schools across the Nation approach their spring breaks, millions of families will soon be traveling. They will be relying on our airports to travel to visit family, to go on vacation, but unfortunately, they will be met with longer lines because Washington Republicans refuse to pay our TSA agents.

That is right—the Department of Homeland Security is currently without funding because Washington Republicans would rather see it shut down than pass commonsense—just commonsense—guardrails on ICE. In fact, every Senate Republican present voted just this past weekend against paying our TSA agents.

As a result, the American people are paying the price. When TSA staffing levels drop because officers aren't getting paid, wait times at airport security checkpoints—well, they stretch longer and longer. This doesn't just inconvenience travelers; it undermines security and directly threatens jobs and businesses and livelihoods.

The situation is so dire at our airports that the Trump administration is going to send untrained ICE agents to our airports—untrained ICE agents—to try to do the job of our highly trained TSA agents.

That is why I rise yet again with a simple, practical proposal to pay hard-working TSA agents, pay them right now. They deserve it. If we cannot move forward with funding for the entire Department of Homeland Security, we should at least be able to come together on this. The Trump administration and Senate leadership are having ongoing negotiations on the guardrails on ICE, and TSA officers should not be caught in the middle of that fight.

So today, I am asking my colleagues to take just a simple step: Pass my legislation right now to pay TSA workers so that commercial air travel remains safe and functional.

Let me say this: Claiming that you will not agree to pay TSA agents because this bill doesn't fund the entire