

and Renee Good, the American people wanted change.

Democrats told our Republican colleagues we needed to work together to rein in ICE and Border Patrol and prevent this kind of violence from happening again. We put forth common-sense reforms modeled on guardrails law enforcement already follows in the States: no masked agents in unmarked vehicles, no bursting into people's homes without warrants, and body cameras for all agents.

But after weeks of back and forth, it became painfully obvious that Republicans were not serious about reform. Instead of listening to the people, Senate Republicans listened to Donald Trump and Stephen Miller. Even when Democrats offered to narrow the reforms to a small, targeted set of proposals in exchange for funding, Republicans, afraid of Trump, afraid of Miller, said no.

Leader THUNE eventually brought a bill to the floor that would fund the rest of the Department of Homeland Security, while leaving ICE and Border Patrol aside, as negotiations on reform continued. Democrats unanimously supported this bill. It was something we had been pushing for weeks because we believed FEMA, the Coast Guard, CISA, TSA, and the other four Agencies of DHS must be able to serve the American people.

But that agreement is now collecting dust in the House. Speaker JOHNSON and House Republicans refuse to move it.

And that brings us to where we are today. It is Republicans who have chosen to keep FEMA, the Coast Guard, CISA, TSA, and all other DHS Agencies shut down. It is Republicans' own divisions and their own inability to govern that have led to the longest shutdown of an Agency in American history.

Even now, instead of working with Democrats, Republicans want to waste even more time by going it alone through reconciliation. Any moment now, they are expected to release a budget resolution that would tee up more than \$75 billion over 3 years for ICE and Border Patrol through reconciliation, while doing nothing—absolutely nothing—to lower costs for hard-working Americans.

Let's be clear. What the Republicans are doing is not how a well-functioning Congress should be spending its time. We should be debating legislation to help people pay for groceries, afford the rent, and bring down electric bills. We should be focused on outrageous gas prices and on retiring Donald Trump's costly military endeavors. Instead, Republicans are preparing to spend precious time bogging the Senate down by partisan bickering.

And at a moment when President Trump claims we cannot afford Medicare or daycare, Republicans somehow think that we can give ICE and Border Patrol a blank check. Isn't that amazing? People are suffering because they can't pay for their healthcare needs,

and, instead, the Republicans want to send more money to ICE and Border Patrol.

One thing is clear—one thing is very clear: Americans cannot afford the cost of Republicans' continued chaos.

HAITI

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, on Haiti, after spreading hateful, bigoted lies on the campaign trail, Trump continues to target the Haitian community as President. Despite ongoing violence—gang violence—civil instability, terrible medical infrastructure, and poor food access in Haiti, Trump directed Kristi Noem to strip Haitian immigrants of their TPS—their temporary protected status—disregarding the process Congress set into law.

Last week, a bipartisan majority in the House—bipartisan—passed legislation on a discharge petition to extend temporary protected status for Haitian immigrants.

In New York, home of the largest Haitian-American community in the Nation, we cherish our Haitian neighbors and value the many contributions they have made to America. I will do everything I can to protect the Haitian community.

There are many Haitians in New York and beyond who anxiously await word on whether they will be forced to return to the dangerous circumstances they fled in Haiti.

That is why I will rule XIV this bill, so that the Senate can give this issue the consideration that it deserves without delay. I urge Leader Thune to put this legislation on the floor.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 1689

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows: A bill (H.R. 1689) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to designate Haiti for temporary protected status.

Mr. SCHUMER. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

KASH PATEL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, when Kash Patel was confirmed as head of the FBI, I said that he had neither the experience, the judgment, nor the temperament for the job. Fourteen months later, Director Patel has confirmed my worst fears about his integrity and competency.

Director Patel has spent his tenure at the FBI weaponizing the world's preeminent investigative Agency to serve the political interests of one person—Donald Trump. Patel has fired dozens of career law enforcement agents simply because they were assigned to work on investigations related to President Trump's and his allies' misconduct. These firings have deprived the FBI of decades of experience at a time when our Nation is facing growing threats not only at home but overseas.

Director Patel has timed these politicized purges to shield himself from allegations of misconduct. After his embarrassing actions at the Olympics and whistleblower disclosures to my office describing how his misuse of FBI aircraft has negatively impacted high-profile criminal investigations, Director Patel tried to save face by firing even more people at the FBI who worked on President Trump's mishandling of classified documents.

Several of the fired agents at the FBI were part of a global counterintelligence squad whose responsibilities included investigating espionage and cyber threats from Iran. Just days before the war began, Director Patel deliberately undermined the FBI's ability to counter Iranian threats—all to distract from his own failings and mismanagement as Director.

An article recently published in *The Atlantic* revealed that Director Patel's behavior has been even more erratic and irresponsible than previously reported. Current and former FBI officials are worried that Director Patel has become a national security risk due to his chronic absenteeism and his personal lifestyle. Those at FBI headquarters and field offices often find the Director absent at critical moments, delaying time-sensitive decisions on important investigations that require his approval.

These accusations would be concerning for any government official, but for one of the people principally responsible for keeping America safe, they are downright disqualifying. Director Patel should be replaced immediately. Our country's safety is too important to be left in the hands of an unqualified and undependable individual who is loyal only to the President and not to the people of this Nation.

FISA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, known as FISA, is a valuable, important national security tool

for collecting foreign intelligence. The problem is that the government is also using section 702 as a backdoor for warrantless spying on Americans here at home.

FISA section 702 allows the intelligence community to collect the communications of foreigners who are overseas without a warrant. The justification for bypassing the Constitution's warrant requirement is that foreigners overseas are not protected by the Fourth Amendment. American citizens certainly are. But the government isn't just collecting the communications of foreigners; they are also collecting millions, if not billions, of communications of innocent Americans in touch with those foreigners as well. Our government then searches those private emails, phone calls, and text messages of Americans without a warrant. Congress has repeatedly failed to fix this end run around the Constitution's protection.

Unsurprisingly, without court approval for such searches, the independent Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board and the FISA Court have documented shocking abuses of section 702 by our government. The intelligence community has used this authority to spy on American businesses, American religious leaders, political parties, campaign donors, journalists, and protesters across the political spectrum. And this was all before we had an administration which was expressly intent on targeting its political enemies.

In April 2024, Congress enacted the Reforming Intelligence and Securing America Act, which reauthorized section 702 for 2 years with reforms that were meant to rein in past abuses. However, these reforms failed to prohibit warrantless searches of Americans' communications collected under section 702. In fact, warrantless searches of Americans increased in 2025, with the FBI alone conducting more than 7,000 warrantless searches on Americans last year.

Just as troubling is the increase in so-called sensitive queries by the FBI under Kash Patel's leadership. These are warrantless searches of section 702 data that target religious leaders or organizations, politicians or political organizations, or journalists. In 2025, the FBI conducted over three times as many sensitive queries as in 2024.

These statistics are troubling enough, but with the Trump administration closing oversight offices, firing compliance staff, dismantling the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, and failing to testify, the full scope of their abuses remains unknown.

The administration is also keeping the latest FISA Court ruling on section 702 secret from the American people. The administration acknowledged that the court found "deficiencies" with how the government is conducting 702 searches. Yet it hasn't released the court's opinion or the details of these "deficiencies" to the American people.

Meanwhile, POLITICO reports that Stephen Miller—the architect of President Trump's immigration crackdown in Minneapolis, Chicago, and beyond—is the White House's chief advocate for extending section 702.

Miller reportedly views section 702 as "critical to a variety of homeland security missions." Why does Stephen Miller view section 702—a statute designed to collect foreign surveillance and intelligence—as critical to homeland security inside the United States? Well, in 2024, Congress quietly expanded section 702 to allow it to be used for immigration vetting.

How is the President exploiting this expansion of section 702 to carry out his mass deportation campaign? We don't know because the administration refuses to testify about the use of this authority.

Congress should not give Donald Trump, Stephen Miller, and Kash Patel unchecked power to spy on Americans.

Last week, the House rightly rejected on a bipartisan basis attempts to renew section 702 without safeguards. Congress instead enacted a 10-day extension so it could reach an agreement on reform needed to protect our constitutional rights.

As in the past, some may argue that that is not enough time to enact reform before section 702 expires, but section 702 surveillance operates under yearlong certifications approved by the FISA Court. Even if 702 were to expire today, the law makes it clear that surveillance may continue under the current certification until March of 2027. There is no emergency excusing Congress from getting this right.

Congress should reform section 702 to protect Americans' constitutional rights and prevent further abuses. Senator MIKE LEE of Utah—a conservative Republican—and I have proposed the bipartisan SAFE Act to do just that. Our bill includes a warrant requirement for conducting searches of U.S. persons' communications collected under section 702. This safeguard ensures that a judge, not the executive branch of government, approves the search.

There are exceptions for emergencies and other legitimate security needs to ensure that we can protect security and liberty at the same time. If the government has a legitimate basis for the search, they can make that case to the judge. If they do not, then they should not be rifling through private communications of Americans.

For too long, Congress has renewed section 702 without this basic protection from arbitrary government searches. Enough is enough. Congress should reauthorize 702 with sensible reforms to protect Americans from threats to their security and to their basic constitutional rights.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). The Senator from Kansas.

TRIBUTE TO KEITH RILEY

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, the residents of Hill City, KS, a county seat town in Northwest Kansas will experience something new next winter: a new boys basketball coach will be on the sidelines for the Hill City Ringnecks. After 58 seasons as the head coach of Hill City High School, Keith Riley has officially retired.

Today, I pay tribute to his career, not just as a coach on the basketball court and the track field, but also as a teacher in the classroom.

His success was the result of his genuine interest in the well-being of the students who walked the halls of Hill City High School. Whether kids played for him or simply took his industrial arts classes, Coach Riley sought to help them achieve their full potential.

Like so many educators, he cared about his students, and they knew he cared. He freely gave his time to kids who asked to spend an extra hour in the evening shooting hoops or a Sunday afternoon in the spring learning to pole-vault.

When class projects were due at the end of the school year, he stayed in the woodworking shop late into the evening so his students could apply that last coat of varnish.

Under his leadership, Coach Riley's team won more than 800 games and 3 State titles—plus another 6 track and field championships—and his students won class projects; they won competitions there.

In those seasons where there was less success, his expectations for his players remained unchanged. Talent wasn't required to play hard and do the fundamentals well.

Teaching basketball over decades required him to be a student of the game himself. He would watch KU practice under Ted Owens, Larry Brown, Bill Self and take those ideas home to Hill City from Lawrence. He learned from other peers at coaching clinics and befriended many of them. His own work ethic and that of his players would result in him being inducted into the National High School Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2018. But for Coach Riley, personal accolades were far less important than the success of his kids, in high school and beyond.

Many of his players went on to become teachers and coaches too, no doubt running the same plays they learned from him. His assistant coaches became head coaches and won State titles on their own. Those who pursued other professional paths also credit Coach Riley's impact on their lives.

For Coach and his wife Merriel, his players were like their boys, in addition to their sons Brian and Geoff both who played for him. Players from his first year as coach still call him to check in, or if they are in town, they drop by his house.

He has always credited any success to those who played for him. I lived briefly in Hill City shortly after Coach