

will go down with Donald Trump's ship.

FEDERAL RESERVE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on Kevin Warsh—Kevin Warsh's confirmation hearing comes at a dire time for an independent Fed and for the American economy at large. Donald Trump continues his brazen efforts to force the central bank to serve his personal political interests rather than the best interests of the American economy and the American people.

Trump's attempt to oust Lisa Cook from the Fed Board and his sham investigation against Chair Jerome Powell have threatened the independence of the Fed, one of the most important financial institutions in the world.

If you are worried about the cost of living, if you don't want to see interest rates go up, then Donald Trump's meddling in the Fed should alarm you. If there is one thing markets do not like, it is chaos. And the more Donald Trump meddles with an independent Fed, the more chaos he injects into the markets. And the more chaos he injects into the markets, the more interest rates go up.

The markets hate chaos. Do you hear that, Donald Trump? The markets hate chaos, and you are causing chaos in the markets with your on-again, off-again, hot, medium, cold statements about this war.

No new Fed Chair should be confirmed under this body under a cloud of coercion and uncertainty that has been created by Donald Trump. It would set an awful precedent for the future independence of the Fed.

I urge Senate Republicans not to proceed with Warsh's confirmation so long as these attacks on the Fed's independence continue, as Senator TILLIS has pledged to do.

With inflation rising, costs soaring amidst Trump's disastrous war of choice with Iran, Trump will even put more pressure on the Fed to manipulate interest rates to serve as part of his agenda. Whoever serves as the next Chair must be able to withstand that immense amount of pressure.

From Trump's blundering war in Iran to his costly and constantly changing tariffs, the Trump administration has poisoned our economy with uncertainty. Senate Democrats will not allow Donald Trump to inject more chaos into our economy by undermining the Fed.

RECONCILIATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on reconciliation, instead of focusing on the issues that Americans truly care about right now, Senate Republicans will entangle the Senate in the partisan sideshow that is reconciliation. In just a few hours, Republicans will release a budget resolution that will demonstrate just how out of touch they are with the American people.

Senate Republicans want to pour \$75 billion into ICE and Border Patrol without putting any restraints on these rogue Agencies' rampant violence in our streets. That is not what the American people want.

Americans want us to lower their costs, to end this debacle in Iran; to reopen FEMA, the Coast Guard, TSA, and other Agencies Republicans have shut down. And they do not want us to waste our time and their tax dollars empowering Trump's personal police force.

For weeks, Democrats have been ready and willing to address Americans' priorities. For weeks, Republicans have chosen to put the partisan policies of Donald Trump and Stephen Miller first.

Americans want to know why Republicans aren't fighting to lower their gas, healthcare, grocery, and housing costs. During reconciliation, Democrats are going to make sure this majority answers to the American people, and we will put a focus on lowering the costs of healthcare and gas and groceries and housing costs and many other costs that have gone up due to Trump's incompetence.

HAITI

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on Haiti, later today, I am meeting with Haiti Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aime to discuss how we can support Haiti's path to security and democracy by helping its government stop violence and root out corruption.

The Haitian community is woven into the fabric of American society, and it is particularly true in New York, which is the proud home of the largest Haitian-American diaspora in the country.

Sadly, Donald Trump continues to vilify and demean Haitian-Americans with his bigoted attacks. He repeated vile, baseless stereotypes about Haitians on the campaign trail and tried to strip them of temporary protected status.

In defiance of the process that Congress established, Trump threatened Haitians' TPS, even though the dangerous conditions they fled in Haiti persist and are even getting worse. That is cruel, and that won't fix our broken immigration system.

I will continue fighting for the Haitian community in New York and beyond to help Haiti make progress on the challenges it faced today, and I look forward to meeting with the Prime Minister.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 1689

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant executive 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. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if it were up to Republicans, we would have finished the appropriations process months ago. We made a lot of progress on restoring the appropriations process this past year.

We had, for the first time in years, actually moved 11 of the 12 appropriations bills across the finish line under regular order, something that literally hadn't been done in years. And I think if you go back to when the last time we did all 12, it might have been 30-some years ago. But that progress was disrupted.

It was disrupted, first, when Democrats shut down the entire Federal Government in the fall. It was disrupted again when Democrats refused to fund the Department of Homeland Security in February. And it was disrupted, yet again, when Democrats walked away from bipartisan talks because they refused to fund law enforcement and border security.

For 67 days now, Democrats have refused to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security. That is unacceptable, and it is why Republicans are going to move forward this week with a budget resolution that will allow us to take up a funding bill for the law enforcement and border security components of DHS.

And to prevent another reckless attempt by Democrats to defund law enforcement when we next take up appropriations, Republicans will fund law enforcement and border security for the next 3 years.

Now, I say "reckless" about the Democrats because that is exactly what they are. Democrats are refusing to fund the Agency that protects our Nation's borders. Think about that for a minute. Let that sink in. Democrats are refusing to fund the Agency that protects our Nation's borders.

These are the people who not only stop people attempting to enter our country illegally but defend our Nation against a number of threats. In fiscal year 2025, Border Patrol agents apprehended 460 gang members trying to enter our country illegally. They apprehended 73 known or suspected terrorists—terrorists—illegally crossing our borders. They seized almost 80,000 pounds of illegal drugs.

They are the ones capturing the human smugglers, the drug traffickers, and the criminals engaged in human trafficking, not to mention that they are the ones conducting rescue operations when illegal immigrants are drowning in the Rio Grande or dying of dehydration in the desert.

And Democrats want to defund—defund—this Agency. They want to leave our borders completely unprotected. I would say they want to go back to the days of the Biden border crisis, when you had literally tens and often hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants flooding across our southern border every month. But it seems Democrats may be looking for something even worse.

Democrats are also refusing to fund Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and that is the Agency that removes criminal illegal immigrants from our country like criminals who are in our country because of the open border policies of the Biden administration.

Do Democrats really want to go back to the days when criminal illegal immigrants were often allowed to live freely in our country? We owe it to the families of Laken Riley and too many others to keep our communities safe, and that is what ICE is doing.

The American people support that mission. Democrats apparently don't.

I expect we are going to hear Democrats this week talk about reforming ICE operations. Here is what I don't think they are going to talk about: The White House reformed how ICE operates on its own months ago. On top of that, the White House repeatedly offered Democrats a robust package of legislative reforms, but nothing was ever enough for Democrats. They kept moving the goalpost, and eventually they just walked away.

Democrats may have decided to abdicate their responsibility to fund crucial government Agencies, but Republicans will not do the same. As I said, the budget resolution before us this week will unlock funding for law enforcement and border security at DHS for the next 3 years.

For the past year, Republicans have operated in good faith to fund the Federal Government with—with—Democrats. We made considerable progress and, as I said, passed 11 out of the 12 appropriations bills. And we were on track to pass a bipartisan Department of Homeland Security funding bill until Democrats walked away.

I suspect our Democrat colleagues will cry "partisanship"—we heard it

from the Democrat leader this morning—throughout this process. The Democrat leader had the gall last week and this to accuse Republicans of embarking on a "partisan circus" to fund law enforcement and border security. And it would be funny if those words were not so hypocritical.

Democrats—and Democrats alone—alone—have made this process partisan. Republicans bent over backward to work with them, but it was never enough. And we have run out of time to play the Democrats' games. We have a job to do, and Republicans are going to get it done.

I yield the floor.

Mr. President, 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.

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

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

RECONCILIATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, the U.S. Border Patrol and our Immigration and Customs Enforcement have a complex and essential role in the lives of all Americans. They have a big mission. They arrest drug traffickers, they arrest terror suspects, they arrest human traffickers, they save exploited children, and they secure our border. This work is absolutely critical to our Nation's security.

Not long ago, Democrats actually agreed with all of those things I said. In 2019, Senator SCHUMER, the minority leader—this is what he said to NBC News.

He said:

ICE does some functions that are very much needed.

They don't seem to think that anymore. Now Senator SCHUMER is leading the charge to abolish ICE, and he wants to defund the Border Patrol. That is because today Democrats care more about protecting illegal immigrant criminals than protecting law-abiding American citizens.

For more than 2 months, Republicans have negotiated in good faith to fully fund critical law enforcement Agencies in this country. We are done negotiating. We are moving forward alone. Republicans are going to fund ICE and Border Patrol without a single Democrat vote. We are not going to concede a single one of their demands, and these are demands made by radical Senate Democrats.

The Senate is going to consider a budget resolution this week. The resolution is targeted, and it is focused. Here is what it does:

First, it fully funds and fully supports the men and women of ICE and Border Patrol.

Second, it funds them for the next 3 years.

Third, it gives them more resources than ever before. ICE receives more money to protect our communities. Border Patrol receives more money to secure our borders. Increased funding means more law enforcement. It means more illegal immigrants will be deported as criminals. It means more investigations into drug cartels and human traffickers. It means that our communities will be safer.

It is just common sense. Consider the commonsense policy changes that Republicans offered and Democrats refused to accept: \$20 million to buy body cameras for agents to wear; Democrats voted no. More oversight of ICE spending; Democrats voted no. More money for deescalation training; Democrats voted no.

The Department of Homeland Security now has a new leader. It is Markwayne Mullin—we know him—from the great State of Oklahoma. At his confirmation hearing, now-Secretary Mullin committed to working with Democrats on commonsense reforms to immigration enforcement. Almost every Democrat still voted against his confirmation. Why? Not because they don't like him personally but because Democrats don't want to reform ICE. They want to abolish ICE. That is the difference. They want to abolish our Border Patrol. They want to defund law enforcement in America.

Here is what Democrats are still demanding: Senate Democrats want to ban ICE agents from wearing masks. Masks help protect agents and their families from being doxed by gangs of radical thugs. We know that open border groups are publishing the names and home addresses of agents online. These dangerous actions are one more reason that attacks on ICE agents have been rising dramatically.

These open border Democrats have a long-term goal. Their goal is to make life so miserable and so frightening for the families of ICE and Border Patrol agents that these highly trained professionals quit their jobs. The Democrats' long-term goal is to undermine the hiring of new agents and shut them down completely.

So, today, Republicans are moving forward to fund law enforcement.

To my Democratic colleagues, you have lost your war on law enforcement. You have failed to turn America into one big sanctuary country, as you have turned so many cities into sanctuary cities all across the country. You have failed to take America backward to the days of open borders by the Democrats, when more than 10 million illegal immigrants flooded into our country on the Democrats' watch. Under Republican leadership, zero illegal immigrants have been released into our country now in almost a year.

Republicans want ICE and Border Patrol to be able to do their job. Republicans want law enforcement to be funded. We want American citizens and American communities to be safe. Americans deserve safety and security.