

President's own party, Donald Trump has decided to focus on a taxpayer-funded, gold-plated ballroom instead of focusing on these important national security issues: the war in Iran—dangerous for the United States; the fact that we haven't funded Homeland Security—dangerous for the United States. Does Donald Trump roll up his sleeves and say "Let's solve these problems"? No. He is focused on this ballroom—his gilded, gold-plated, taxpayer-funded ballroom—instead of focusing on the important national security issues facing the country.

Trump's values are perverse—just perverse. If the President and House Republicans truly care about our national security, fund DHS, fund the Secret Service, fund CISA, fund the Coast Guard, fund all the crucial, law-abiding Agencies that every Democrat and every Republican in the Senate unanimously voted to fund not once but twice.

Now House Republicans say they are tinkering with technical changes to our legislation.

Speaker JOHNSON, our bill—our bipartisan bill—doesn't need any changes. Just pass the damn thing. Pass the damn thing. We desperately need it.

Democrats chose to fund national security and keep Americans safe. For 32 days, House Republicans have blocked the funding for DHS. Donald Trump and Republicans' fixation on the ballroom just shows how out of touch—how very out of touch—they are.

Let us not forget that last year, Karoline Leavitt said Trump's gilded ballroom "is not going to cost the taxpayers a dime." Well, rewind. Instead, the ballroom is going to cost the taxpayers a pretty penny, to the tune of \$400 million. Let me repeat: \$400 million for Trump's walled palace—that is how much his acolyte Senator GRAHAM wants to authorize for the project in this new bill. He has also floated potentially forcing through ballroom funding with Republicans' partisan reconciliation process. Rush it through without debate and without amendment—\$400 million for a ballroom? Seriously? Apparently, Donald Trump wasn't satisfied with forcing Americans to foot the bill for a war they do not want and \$1 trillion in tax cuts for millionaires and billionaires that Americans eschew. It is absolute absurdity.

What happened to funding the ballroom with tens of millions of dollars in shady donations Trump received from billionaires and corporations or with the billions his family has made off the Presidency? What happened to that—ignoble as that was?

Instead of spending \$400 million to build a walled palace for Donald Trump, Republicans should use that money to lower housing, food, gas, and healthcare costs for the American people. I am putting out a framework today on how to bring down healthcare costs. Republicans ought to follow it—helping the American people for once.

Unfortunately, holding up DHS funding isn't the only way Republican infighting is threatening America's national security.

Speaker JOHNSON, Donald Trump, and national Republicans: America's national security is at stake. Get your act together on FISA. America cannot afford for you to continue dithering on FISA.

Get your act together, Speaker JOHNSON. Run the House of Representatives like it should be run—dealing with the problems America faces.

CUBA

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, on Cuba, since launching his disastrous war with Iran, Donald Trump has said that "Cuba's going to be next" and that "we may stop by Cuba" after we are finished.

The last thing working Americans need right now is another war, let alone one that is 90 miles south of the United States.

Republicans must get out in front of the looming catastrophe in Cuba before it gets even worse, as they should have done with Trump's war in Iran.

Today, Senate Democrats will advance a War Powers Resolution to give Republicans an opportunity to stop a looming catastrophe in Cuba.

Republicans, do Trump a favor: Support our War Powers Resolution so he doesn't get messed up in another foreign adventure that hurts America.

JOINT MEETING OF CONGRESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on King Charles, today is a great honor for both the House and Senate to welcome His Majesty King Charles III to address a joint meeting of Congress.

It has been 35 years since a British monarch addressed the elected representatives of the American people. In that time, the world has changed dramatically, but in many ways, the same tests remain before us. Conflict still grips regions across the globe, Russia grows more aggressive, the Middle East remains unstable, and the future of the transatlantic alliance hangs in the balance.

Today, the visit of King Charles III should serve as a reminder to the President of the United States and to every elected official in this country: Friends and allies matter, and most of all, for the security of Europe, NATO matters.

I encourage His Majesty to impress upon the President the absolute importance of NATO. I hope he is able to get Trump to listen and understand the stakes. NATO must endure. It must stay strong. Our national security depends on it. The security of much of the world depends on it. To walk away from NATO would be a terrible mistake that will reverberate for generations and make Americans far less safe. Trump must listen and understand the stakes.

I yield the floor.

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.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, as a U.S. Senator, I want to make sure we can keep America safe and secure. People who share that goal also share a common belief. The belief is this: Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol have an important mission for our Nation. Their mission is to keep America safe and secure.

At this very moment, these vital Agencies are running out of money. Secretary of Homeland Security Markwayne Mullin has warned that the money will run out by the end of this week. We are just days away from a law enforcement funding shortfall. If ICE and Border Patrol go unfunded, America itself will become less safe.

Last week, Republicans here in the U.S. Senate passed a budget blueprint, and it fully funds these critical Agencies. That budget has now been sent to the House of Representatives. Speaker JOHNSON has pledged to all of us that he will put it on the floor as soon as tomorrow, and I encourage my colleagues there to pass it without delay. A targeted and focused bill is the right path because it is the quickest path. It funds American law enforcement now. It protects the American people now as well as into the future.

If you believe in secure borders, this bill is for you. If you believe in safe communities, this bill is for you. If you want our law enforcement fully funded for the long term despite the Democrats' best efforts to defund them, this bill is for you.

This bill is also President Trump's bill. A few weeks ago, the President gave it his complete and total endorsement. I was with the President in the Oval Office, and we sat down and went through it. President Trump has been clear. He says he wants this funding bill on his desk. Senate Republicans heard him loud and clear. We stuck together. We passed a budget blueprint. It is one that keeps America safe. Republicans need to continue to stick together to meet the President's deadline.

Every Republican knows why this reconciliation process is necessary. It is necessary because, as President Trump has rightfully said, protecting American citizens is the first duty of government, and it is necessary because, as Senate Democrats continue to demonstrate, protecting American citizens is something that Democrats oppose. They have actively obstructed it.

Last week, the minority leader came to this floor, and he delivered a statement which I found very disturbing. I found it disturbing and also misleading and wrong. The Senator from New York, who just left the floor a few moments ago, stood here and said Republicans are funding “two groups: Border Patrol and ICE,” and he went on to say “that nobody respects in this country.” Those are the words of the minority leader, the Senator from New York. He said nobody respects them in this country. That statement alone is blatantly false. The heroes of ICE and Border Patrol spend their days arresting gang members, seizing fentanyl, and securing the border. The American people know it, and the American people respect it. Americans all across this country honor their service and their sacrifice.

Let me tell you what Americans don't respect, and let me tell you what Americans flat-out reject: It is the Democrats who call to defund the police. It is the Democrats who call to abolish ICE and to abolish our Border Patrol.

That is why today's Democrat Party is the way it is. It is because that is what they stand for. The Democrats would rather protect illegal immigrant criminals than law-abiding U.S. citizens.

The American people voted for secure borders. They voted for safe communities. President Trump and Republicans have delivered. Look at the historic border security accomplishments. What you have seen now under Republican leadership is that zero—absolutely zero—illegal immigrants have been released into our country in nearly a year.

Democrats want to return to the days of open borders. Well, Americans had open borders for 4 years under Joe Biden. It was one of the most dangerous and deadly times in American history. Ten million illegal immigrants flooded into our country. Open borders are a magnet, and they were a magnet and were proven to be a magnet for hardened criminals, for drug dealers, and for terror suspects.

Americans are done with this catch-and-release program. Americans are done with open borders.

ICE and Border Patrol deserve to be paid. ICE and Border Patrol deserve to have the tools, the resources, and the support they need each and every day to carry out their mission. It is time for Congress to fund these heroes who keep our country safe.

I yield the floor.

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.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there be 6 minutes of debate, equally divided, between Senator WYDEN and the majority leader prior to the scheduled cloture vote.

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

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, or FISA, is an important tool for gathering foreign intelligence and keeping America safe, but this authority of the government also serves as a backdoor for warrantless surveillance of Americans right here at home.

The Trump administration, led by Stephen Miller, has asked Congress for a no-strings-attached extension of section 702. There is a growing bipartisan recognition of the need to reform this surveillance tool to protect American privacy and civil liberties.

Section 702 allows the government to collect the private communications of foreigners overseas without a warrant issued by a court. The problem is that millions—potentially billions—of innocent American communications with friends, family members, or coworkers abroad are being swept up in this collection.

Once collected, the government can read Americans' private texts, emails and messages and even listen to phone calls without ever obtaining a warrant from a judge.

To no one's surprise, without court approval for such searches, administrations of both parties have abused section 702 to spy on American families, including the families of protesters, Members of Congress, journalists, and even women on dating apps and rental tenants. We have every reason to believe that such abuses will continue, if not get worse, under the Trump administration as it is using every tool at its disposal to target political enemies and undermine the basic underpinnings of our democracy.

Last year, the Trump administration conducted more than 23,000—23,000—warrantless searches of Americans' private phone calls, texts, and emails, and these are just the ones we know about.

Every Member of Congress should also be concerned about the increase in so-called “sensitive queries” conducted by the FBI under Kash Patel's leadership. These are warrantless searches of section 702 data that target religious leaders, organizations, politicians, political organizations, and journalists. In 2025, the FBI conducted over three times as many sensitive queries as the Biden administration in 2024. We don't

know whom the FBI has targeted using these sensitive queries, but we know under Kash Patel's leadership, the FBI has been all too willing to target political enemies to appease President Trump.

The Trump administration also refuses to release the latest FISA Court ruling on section 702, which found “deficiencies” with how the administration is conducting searches on Americans.

Rather than telling the American people what those deficiencies in the program are, the Trump administration is appealing the court's ruling. The American people deserve to see this opinion before their House Members and Senate Members vote on reauthorizing section 702.

Senator LEE is a conservative Republican from Utah. He and I are working together. We have proposed a path forward with the bipartisan SAFE Act, which would reauthorize section 702 for 3 years, while including critical reforms to protect Americans' constitutional right. Our bill would require the government to obtain a judicial warrant before accessing American citizens' texts, emails, or phone calls that the government has collected using section 702.

This would ensure independent, non-partisan oversight of the government's use of this surveillance approach and stop this never-ending cycle of misuse under 702. Our warrant would protect Americans' privacy without jeopardizing national security.

We have expressly included robust exceptions for legitimate security needs, including for what is known as exigent circumstances, where there is any threat to life and agents have no time to obtain a warrant. That, of course, is the response when we talk about changing this system: You are going to slow it down when we need it the most; there could be an emergency, and we have to move. We wrote expressly in our amendment that exigent circumstances could move forward in a state of emergency.

The SAFE Act would also put an end to the government's practice of buying our personal data from third-party data brokers without a warrant. The Department of Homeland Security has reportedly used this loophole to track protesters in real time under the pretext that they are “domestic terrorists.”

You remember the two individuals killed in Minneapolis by ICE? One of them was identified on the spot as a domestic terrorist—totally untrue.

If the government wants to spy on Americans, it needs to get a warrant, court approval. It is based on what we know as the Constitution's Fourth Amendment protection. Period.

That is why our amendment—our bipartisan amendment—is supported by conservative Republicans and progressive Democrats alike. The Senate could take up the SAFE Act and vote on it this week, and I hope we do. I believe