

that investment and the Trump administration's actions at the border. Encounters at our southern border have dropped dramatically. For the past 12 months, not a single illegal immigrant has been released into the United States.

Democrats are clearly trying to undo that progress, but Republicans won't let that happen. As soon as this week, we will take up a bill to fully fund Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement for the remainder of the Trump administration and ensure the Democrats cannot put our Nation's security in jeopardy by defunding law enforcement.

I mentioned earlier that we have confirmed almost 500 civilian nominees since last January, and that has been in the face of a historic—historic—level of obstruction from Democrats. After months and months of unprecedented Democrat obstruction, last year, Republicans took action to restore the Senate's tradition of confirming largely noncontroversial nominees in batches. Last night, we confirmed the fourth package of Trump nominees and effectively eliminated the backlog of nominees awaiting confirmation.

Speaking of Democrat obstruction, Democrats have also blocked several pieces of commonsense legislation here in the Senate. They blocked Senator TUBERVILLE's Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, which would have simply prevented biological men from competing in women's sports. They blocked Senator LANKFORD's Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, which would have required that babies who survive abortion are given the same level of care as babies born at the same gestational age. Democrats wouldn't even let us debate these bills—I have to imagine because their position is completely indefensible.

Then, just recently, Democrats blocked the SAVE America Act. We had a robust debate on this bill for several weeks. Republicans gave Democrats opportunities to support the whole bill, and we had stand-alone votes on some of the individual and very commonsense components of the bill: requiring proof of citizenship to register to vote, requiring a photo ID to vote, protecting children from gender transition surgeries, keeping biological men out of women's sports. Democrats are on the record against all of it, and we will be sure the American people know that Democrats are blocking commonsense policies that have broad support from the American people.

I have mentioned a number of accomplishments this morning, but there is more work to be done. Last week, the Banking Committee advanced the CLARITY Act—a market structure bill for cryptocurrencies that builds on the GENIUS Act that became law last year and which was the first-ever crypto bill passed into law.

I expect the Senate will also take action on an artificial intelligence bill

this year that builds on the AI framework the White House has put out. Legislation dealing with name, image, and likeness in college athletics is also on the agenda, as is legislation ensuring continued funding for our Nation's transportation infrastructure.

In the near term, we will also need to extend FISA and ensure that this critical national security program does not go dark. We will soon begin work on the fiscal year 2027 National Defense Authorization Act, which will continue Republicans' efforts to modernize America's military, and, of course, we will continue to prioritize efforts to make life easier for hard-working Americans.

Mr. President, 500 days ago, Republicans had a long to-do list. We have checked a lot of things off, but we still have more to do, and we are not about to take our foot off the gas.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, Donald Trump looks at the Federal Government and sees one thing: a cash register full of Americans' money—and he keeps trying to ring himself up.

Nearly \$2 billion for his MAGA slush fund, a billion more for his gilded ballroom, and not one serious plan to lower costs for families forced to pay the bill.

This week, Trump showed us again exactly what his Presidency is about: not helping Americans, not lowering costs, not making life easier for working families; but finding new ways to turn taxpayer dollars into political payouts, personal perks, and vanity projects.

Just look at this nearly \$2 billion slush fund. Just look at it. It is enough to make you cringe.

Trump settled with himself in his own lawsuit against his own government to funnel taxpayer money to his political allies, January 6 insurrectionists, and far-right loyalists.

Let me say that again: Donald Trump settled with himself in his own lawsuit—have you ever heard of something like this?—against his own government to take taxpayer dollars to his political allies, stuff it in their pockets, and, for all we know, his pocket.

Trump didn't bother making a deal with the Devil. He just made a deal with himself to set up this MAGA slush fund.

That is not justice. That is not law and order. That is corruption—corruption in broad daylight—no disguise, no shame, no attempt to hide it.

And this is the through line of the Trump Presidency: If there is taxpayer

money on the table, Donald Trump wants a big cut of it.

Trump wants to fill his coffers. That is why he created this MAGA slush fund. That is why he keeps demanding taxpayers bankroll his billion-dollar ballroom, and it is why his family business always seems to be lurking around the business of government.

Americans are working harder than ever just to make ends meet, while Donald Trump schemes to turn their tax dollars into personal payouts and vanity projects.

And where—where—are the Republicans, here in the Senate and elsewhere? Are they going to stand up for the taxpayer, or are they so afraid of Donald Trump that they will let him raid the Treasury in broad daylight?

The American people are watching, and they will remember who fought to lower their costs and who helped Donald Trump line his pockets.

RECONCILIATION

Mr. President, that brings me to the Republicans' reconciliation bill.

While Americans are getting crushed by the cost of rent, groceries, gas, healthcare, and childcare, Senate Republicans have spent their time trying to salvage a plan to force taxpayers to fund Donald Trump's gilded ballroom.

Democrats stopped Republicans' first attempt. Now, Republicans have a choice. Republicans can drop this ballroom boondoggle because Democrats exposed it and the public saw it for exactly what it was, or Republicans can keep this boondoggle in the bill.

Either way, Democrats will make sure they will have a chance to vote on it on the Senate floor. Republicans do not—do not—get to hide from this.

Americans can barely afford to keep a roof over their own heads. They should not be forced to pay for a golden roof over Trump's head.

And, to be very clear, I don't care if the Republicans ask for a billion dollars, a million dollars, or a single dollar. Every penny of taxpayer money for Donald Trump's vanity project is a penny too much, and Senate Democrats will fight to make sure not one penny of Americans' money is used for it.

The ballroom is the perfect symbol of this Republican budget bill: Republicans focused on all the wrong things.

This bill still pours tens of billions of dollars into Trump's masked agents, uncontrolled raids, and unaccountable police forces. The Republican bill still does nothing—nothing—to lower grocery costs, lower rent, lower gas prices, lower healthcare costs.

That is the contrast: Democrats fighting to lower costs, Republicans fighting to launder Trump's corruption through the Federal budget.

So let Republicans rewrite the text. Let them change the number. Let them try to hide the ballroom after they got caught. The truth will not change.

Donald Trump sees Americans' money as his money. He somehow thinks he is entitled to reach into the

average American family's pockets, take the money out of their pockets, and put it in his own. It is incredible.

Republicans are writing the check. Democrats are saying: Hell no.

IRAN

Mr. President, on Iran, yesterday, Donald Trump once again displayed the vicious cycle he has trapped America in with his disastrous war in Iran. Within hours, he went from threatening to blow Iran into oblivion to saying that a peace deal was imminent. This he does within 6 hours of one another.

Can anyone believe this guy? Whether you are a world leader, an American citizen, or anything in between, can you believe him? He keeps making it up. He doesn't care about the truth. And what is worse is, he thinks you don't care about the truth—that he can lie, lie, lie.

First—first—he threatens to blow Iran into smithereens, and 6 hours later, he says a peace deal is imminent. We know it is bull. Everyone knows it is bull.

But maybe people don't realize the consequences of that bull—how disastrous this war is and how it turns America's attention, or at least Trump's attention and his followers' attention, to this disastrous war, rather than lowering their costs.

We have seen Trump follow the same pattern in Iran again and again. Trump threatens, Trump retreats, then threatens again—rinse and repeat. That is what he does. Trump is practicing "Groundhog Day" diplomacy, smashing the clock over and over again like Bill Murray does in the movie. Trump is no closer to ending this war, no closer to bringing down the skyrocketing costs of this war, no closer to getting our troops out of harm's way.

Senate Republicans must not continue to allow Trump to remain stuck in this never-ending loop of threats and failed negotiations. I urge Senate Republicans to support Democrats' War Powers Resolution to withdraw our troops from hostilities with Iran, which we are bringing to the floor for an eighth vote—an eighth vote—later today.

Republicans, instead of perpetuating Trump's reckless cycle, could help break it by supporting our War Powers Act to end the war. That would be doing what the American people need and want.

CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS

Mr. President, on a speech I am giving at the Center for American Progress on election protection: Later today, I will speak at the Center for American Progress' IDEAS Conference to detail Democrats' plans to protect our elections from MAGA interference.

Donald Trump is escalating his attacks on our elections because he knows his agenda is unpopular. He knows he is going to lose the elections, and so he wants to throw the election, to cheat. Senate Democrats are not

waiting until after the damage is done. I am launching Senate Democrats' election protection task force to prevent, monitor, and challenge any malfeasance from Donald Trump and the far right before, during, and after our elections in November. Our task force is bringing together 11 Senators and some of the sharpest election experts in the country—people like Marc Elias, Eric Holder, Vanita Gupta, Norm Eisen, Skye Perryman, and others—as well as a variety of election protection organizations to safeguard our democracy. I am looking forward to detailing some of our task force's upcoming plans, and I encourage everyone to tune in.

SAN DIEGO SHOOTING

Mr. President, finally, on the San Diego mosque shooting, I speak for the entire Senate when I say that we are praying for the families of the victims of yesterday's heinous mass shooting which killed three people at the Islamic Center of San Diego, the city's largest mosque. One of the victims was a security guard and father of eight, Amin Abdullah, who was killed while preventing the gunman from entering the building. His heroic actions surely saved many lives, and we will always owe him and his family a debt of gratitude.

In recent years, mosques, synagogues, churches, and other places of worship have increasingly become targets of discriminatory attacks. We each have a responsibility to condemn the type of Islamophobia we saw in San Diego yesterday, just as we have a duty to stamp out all forms of prejudice and bigotry in our society. No one—no one—in America should have to live in fear of hate crimes or gun violence, but so many do, and that is so, so wrong. Many of us live in fear in our places of worship, in our streets, in the grocery aisle, and we must stop this.

Congress needs to come together to combat hate and to pass commonsense gun reforms to prevent violent individuals from acting on that hate with such deadly efficiency.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Clarke nomination.

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

SECURE AMERICA ACT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, since January, Democrats have refused to fund Immigration and Customs Enforcement; they have refused to fund U.S. Border Patrol. Month after month after month, Democrats have tried to defund law enforcement in America. When illegal immigrant criminals roam freely, our communities are less safe.

The Biden administration tried an open borders approach. From Fairfax

County, VA, to San Francisco, CA, Democrats' sanctuary cities all across America continue this dangerous and deadly experiment. Consider the families of Laken Riley, Stephanie Minter, and Sheridan Gorman. These families are mourning the tragic loss of their loved ones, each murdered by an illegal immigrant criminal.

It is time for Congress to fully fund Immigration and Customs Enforcement. ICE and Border Patrol keep our communities safe. They protect our country at great risk to themselves personally. The work they do is important, it is urgent, and it is necessary. And the results are undeniable. For the last 12 months, absolutely zero illegal immigrants have been released into our communities through the Biden catch-and-release program.

Republicans are going to make sure that our Border Patrol is fully funded—all of it. This week, the Senate will vote on the SECURE America Act. The SECURE America Act will keep our Nation strong, and it will keep our communities safe. The SECURE America Act funds ICE and Border Patrol. It does it for 3 full years. It builds on the border security successes of the Laken Riley Act, the HALT Fentanyl Act, and the Working Families Tax Cut law. Most importantly, the SECURE America Act guarantees Democrats cannot defund American security during the administration of President Trump.

The SECURE America Act also improves training for Secret Service agents. This prepares agents to counter the evolving threats that we face. It safeguards major national events and every American who attends them. This weekend is the Indianapolis 500. The World Cup is coming up. The 2028 Olympic Games are right around the corner. Americans from coast to coast will be safer when the SECURE America Act becomes law.

Every single Democrat here in the Senate opposes the SECURE America Act. Senator SCHUMER vowed to fight it. He said he would use "every tool in our arsenal." Why is he saying this? Because Democrats believe in open borders. They are the party of open borders. They are the party of "defund the police."

Democrats' outright opposition to protecting the American people contrasts sharply with their own personal demands, which is opposite of what they want for the American people. Democrats are demanding more personal security for themselves but not for the American people.

Following the murder of a State representative last year, Senator SCHUMER complained and said:

[W]e need more protection. We need more money.

Senator CHRIS MURPHY of Connecticut warned that limited resources, he said, "should not be the reason why an assassination of a member of Congress is successful."

Do you know the amount of money that Democrats have demanded? One