

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, enforcing our Nation's laws is not optional. Securing our borders isn't optional. Supporting the men and women who do this important work—funding law enforcement—isn't optional either. That should go without saying, but unfortunately, Members of the Democrat Party have made it clear that they disagree. Incredibly, Democrats have refused to provide a single penny for border security and immigration law enforcement for fiscal year 2026—that is zero dollars for a physical presence at our Nation's border; zero dollars to deport criminals who have made their way into our country illegally. If Democrats had their way, illegal immigrants would be allowed to flood across our Nation's southern border entirely unchecked.

I guess we really shouldn't be surprised. After all, it is hardly the first time Democrats have demonstrated that border security and immigration enforcement are at the very bottom of their priority list. For decades now, Democrat-led cities and States have implemented sanctuary policies that prevent local law enforcement from cooperating with Federal immigration authorities. These policies have had deadly consequences. Yet Democrats have defended them and continue to uphold them across the country.

Then there was the crisis at the southern border. There were 4—4—straight years of recordbreaking illegal immigration at our southern border under Democrats and President Biden.

The New York Times reported:

After Mr. Biden became president, migrant encounters at the southern border quickly doubled, then kept rising. New arrivals overwhelmed border stations, then border towns, and eventually major cities like New York and Denver.

That from the New York Times.

Contrast that with today. Illegal crossings have plummeted to a trickle, and as of the end of April, not a single illegal immigrant has been released at the border and into our country for an entire year.

But Democrats are apparently determined to bring back unchecked illegal immigration. To do that, they are embracing the far-left ideologies of "defund law enforcement" and "abolish

ICE." These were once considered fringe positions among Democrats. Today, they are basically the official positions of the Democrat Party.

The junior Senator from California said in January:

I'm not giving ICE or Border Patrol another dime.

The junior Senator from Massachusetts told a crowd in February:

We know that we must defund and abolish ICE.

One Democrat Senate candidate has even said:

Dismantling ICE is the moderate position.

This is today's Democrat Party—a party in thrall to its far-left base and a party that has completely abandoned its national security responsibilities when it comes to enforcing immigration law and securing our borders.

Needless to say, as long as Republicans are in charge, we are not going to let Democrats defund border security and immigration law enforcement. So we are moving forward with a bill to fund these important responsibilities for the remainder of the Trump administration so that Democrats cannot again put our Nation's security and Americans' safety in jeopardy.

I don't know who Democrats think benefits from blocking funding for Border Patrol and ICE. The American people certainly don't benefit from there being no law enforcement at the border. They don't benefit from human traffickers and drug smugglers being able to enter our country unchecked or from rapists, murderers, and other criminals being allowed to live freely in our country.

Democrats' position puts illegal immigrants in danger as well. Border Patrol agents are the ones pulling illegal immigrants out of the Rio Grande and rescuing dehydrated migrants in the desert. But Democrats don't support these agents' work.

If Democrats' position helps anyone, it helps the cartels, the coyotes, and other criminals who prefer to act without risk of detection and apprehension. And I suspect that is why we haven't heard much from Democrats in recent weeks about the core of this legislation. Democrats haven't exactly demonstrated an eagerness to come to the floor and defend open borders, and I strongly suspect that is because at some level, they know their position is completely indefensible.

President Trump and Republicans have cleaned up Democrats' mess at the border. We have secured the southern border and put criminals on notice that they will no longer be living freely in our country. And we plan to keep it that way.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### ANTI-WEAPONIZATION FUND

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the press reports that Trump says he will table his \$2 billion MAGA slush fund, but a promise from Trump is worthless. If Trump and Republicans are truly abandoning this corrupt scheme, they should have zero problem banning it in law.

This week, Senate Democrats will push legislation to ban this slush fund and ensure no President can ever do this again. Trump's word is nowhere near enough.

Donald Trump's attempt to establish this trust fund alone is one of the most glaring cases of corruption in American history. Trump's slush fund is the textbook definition of self-dealing. Trump sued himself, settled with himself, and then Trump gives himself and his family immunity to evade their taxes; and Trump makes you, the American taxpayer, pay for it all.

This slush fund could never have passed the smell test. At a time when Americans can barely afford to fill their tanks, to keep the lights on, put food on their table, Trump wants the American people to pay for handouts for MAGA billionaires, cop-beating January 6 insurrectionists, and his own family. He wanted no transparency, no oversight, no accountability. It is disgusting.

Now Trump is claiming that the slush fund is dead for now, but Democrats will not stop until it is well and truly buried and can never see the light of day. Democrats are going to make sure this slush fund is dead and cannot be revived just like we did with the ballroom.

Republicans can try to wriggle their way out of answering for this corruption, but it won't work. If Republicans try to force through their reconciliation bill again, the first amendment I will offer will be to ban the slush fund permanently and forever. If Republicans try to meddle with the appropriations process to do Trump's bidding, we will fight it there too. And if Republicans try to use toothless constraints to make the slush fund more palatable, we will press them to dismantle it entirely.

For something as inherently corrupt as this slush fund, half measures won't cut it. You don't fix a corrupt slush fund by relying on the word of the most untrustworthy President we have ever had; you ban it.

The slush fund is rotten to the core. Democrats will make sure Republicans vote on it no matter what. This is corruption in broad daylight, and Republicans are foolish to think they can hide in the shadows.

## ECONOMY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on costs. Last week we got new inflation numbers showing that prices are at their highest level in years. Families are saving less as they struggle to make ends meet. Americans are working harder, paying more, and getting less.

That is Trump's economy at work.

From Trump's mouth to the American people's ears, he said:

I don't think about Americans' financial situation.

All Trump thinks about is building his golden ballroom, putting his name on a massive arch, lining his pocket with taxpayer dollars, and slapping his face onto a \$250 bill.

None of that lowers costs; none of that helps working families. All Trump's vanity projects do is waste time and money, and our Republican friends seem to go along with almost all of it—maybe even all of it.

Meanwhile, two-thirds of Americans—two-thirds—say they have had to cut back on groceries the past few months because of skyrocketing costs. This comes as new data shows household electricity prices have spiked by 18 percent since Trump took office. With the hottest months now upon us—summer season—rising energy costs will only further strain families' pocketbooks.

The average home cooling costs could reach nearly \$800 this summer, an 8.5-percent increase over last year and 37 percent more than in 2020.

A poll over the weekend found that 53 percent of all Americans say the current cost of living is the worst they have ever seen. What happened to lowering costs on day one, which Trump so proudly proclaimed?

And, of course, where are the Senate Republicans? Instead of listening to the American people, working with Democrats to bring costs down, Republicans are working around the clock to aid and abet Trump's corruption, to build his vanity projects on the taxpayers' dime, and funnel tens of billions of dollars to his masked agents who are already flushed with cash.

Americans are screaming for relief, and all they hear back from Senate Republicans is silence—complete, complicit silence.

## IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the Iran war, once again the ongoing fighting in Iran has blown holes in Trump's claim that victory is at hand. Over the weekend, Trump said he is "in no hurry to end the war in Iran."

No hurry? Tell that to our troops who are in harm's way every second this war continues, including those who were fired upon in Kuwait just this morning. Tell that to their families.

Really, no hurry? I will tell you who is in a hurry for this blunder to end: the American people who are getting

crushed by record gas prices at the pump. They are in a hurry.

Trump has proven over and over again that he is incapable of getting our country out of this mess. Congress needs to step up.

Democrats and a handful of Republicans came together before Memorial Day to advance a War Powers Resolution to withdraw our troops from hostility with Iran. We will not stop forcing votes to end this war until this disastrous war is over once and for all.

Trump and his allies in the Senate may not see the urgency of ending this war, but Democrats and the American people do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

## NOMINATION OF KATHLEEN LANE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Senate will soon vote on the nomination of Kathleen Lane, President Trump's nominee to serve as a lifetime appointment and judge on the U.S. District Court for the District of Montana.

There are more than 3,000 licensed attorneys in the State of Montana. You would believe that the White House in finding a Federal judge for a lifetime appointment would be able to find among those 3,000-plus licensed attorneys in Montana one with experience having served as a judge.

Instead, President Trump has selected Ms. Lane. Ms. Lane is not remotely qualified to serve as a district court judge in the Federal system. That is not my opinion; that is the official finding by the American Bar Association.

Ms. Lane is the first judicial nominee to receive a "not qualified" rating from the ABA during President Trump's second term. As the American Bar Association explained in finding this rating, it is "based on issues with her experience, which is an important component of competence."

The organization found that Ms. Lane had failed to gain "substantial courtroom and trial experience in the less than nine years since she was admitted to the bar."

As the ABA detailed:

Ms. Lane [has] never tried a case as lead counsel, whether civil or criminal.

Moreover, as the ABA noted:

[I]t appears she has never conducted a direct examination [in a courtroom], picked a jury, or offered an opening statement or a closing argument.

Putting this lady on the bench for a lifetime appointment to the Federal court would be like selecting an umpire for tonight's Major League Baseball game who has never even worked a Little League game.

Ms. Lane's experience is disqualifying. Now my Republican colleagues may claim that the ABA, American Bar Association, is a partisan organization, but over the past year, the ABA has rated dozens of Trump nominees "qualified" or "well qualified." Ms.

Lane is the only one who has received a "not qualified" rating.

Not only has her legal career been extremely brief, but it has also been extremely partisan. Ms. Lane currently works at the Republican National Committee, which President Trump highlighted when he announced her nomination.

She certainly may not have courtroom experience, but she has got experience at the so-called MAGA think tank.

He claimed, the President claimed, that Ms. Lane "played a critical role in stopping Voter Fraud . . . at the Republican National Committee."

He believes that qualifies her for a lifetime appointment to the Federal court.

But before she went to work for the Republican National Committee, Ms. Lane repeatedly chose to litigate politically charged issues and worked to limit women's rights, voting rights, and the rights of LGBTQ Americans.

Ms. Lane is not the person for this job. She is too ideological, too inexperienced for the role to which she has been nominated.

I urge my colleagues to oppose her nomination.

## ANTI-WEAPONIZATION FUND

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on a separate topic, today is June 1, the arbitrary deadline President Trump imposed on the congressional Republicans to send their partisan funding bill to his desk for signature.

So why aren't the Republican colleagues headed to the White House today for a flashy bill signing ceremony to fund more abuses by the ICE Agency? I will tell you. Because 2 weeks ago, Senate Republicans left town after an internal revolt over the President's so-called Anti-Weaponization Fund.

Nearly \$1.8 billion—\$1.8 billion. That is even more than the ballroom—\$1.8 billion for the slush fund for the President's cronies and allies.

Well, who would be eligible for any part of the \$1.8 billion fund? People like Brandon Fellows. This may be a new name to you, but we are becoming more familiar with him.

He was pardoned by President Trump, a full and unconditional Presidential pardon, for being one of the January 6 insurrectionists who was convicted and sentenced on felony and misdemeanor charges for climbing an exterior wall of the Capitol, entering the building through a broken window.

Well, time has passed. Has he shown any remorse since he was convicted of that crime? No. He still believes President Trump's Big Lie about the 2020 election and the conspiracy theory that January 6—which he is on video participating in—was a setup, entrapment.

I remember that day very well. I was seated here. Vice President Pence was presiding over the Senate. We were officially counting the ballots as to who