

actually won the election in 2020. All of a sudden, a little after 2, those doors opened and policemen came in—I assumed they were policemen, they had on plain clothes—and went up to the Vice President on the podium, whispered in his ear, and pulled him off the podium quickly through that door. We sat here wondering what was going on. There was a big demonstration going on outside. Nobody knew what was happening. They were making noise, but that is not unusual in the Capitol.

At that point, a member of the Capitol Police, one of the officers who protected you in the Gallery and me today when we entered the building, came and stood before us and said: Stay where you are. Stay in your seats. This is going to be a safe room. This mob that came up from the White House is going to be stopped. Stay where you are.

So we all sat here not quite sure what to do next. Ten minutes later, the same policeman came up and said: New orders. Leave immediately. Evacuate through this door, and we will follow you.

So we headed out, all of the Senators off the floor and the staff as well, to an adjoining building.

What happened next? The mob then broke down the doors and came into the Capitol, came into the Senate Chamber and the House Chamber, rifled through our desks, aped for pictures in front of one another, and basically threatened people who were here that they had to leave. That is what actually happened.

Now, we know that happened because it was on a videotape. We saw it. America saw it. Every minute of it followed carefully. And yet we actually have people today who deny it ever happened.

If you are a student of history, you know that in the Soviet empire, they did that regularly. If history became inconvenient, they rewrote it, wrote another book, condemned people for saying the old way was the right way. That is what is happening here.

Well, this fellow Brandon Fellows was one of the people who broke into the Capitol through a broken window. He still believes that Trump won the 2020 election. He still believes that conspiracy theory about January 6, despite—it actually never happened is what he says, which he is on video participating in.

He likes to spend his free time dressing up as an ICE agent and encouraging others to do the same to terrorize immigrants. How much is Mr. Fellows seeking from the anti-weaponization \$2 billion slush fund of the President? He thinks his inconvenience that he encountered is worth \$30 million Federal tax dollars—\$30 million.

And we can expect droves of other January 6 insurrectionists to also seek these cash rewards. Even those who continue to threaten our communities by committing more crimes, many of them of the January 6 mob that

mobbed this Chamber, are back in jail for committing another crime after President Trump's pardon, ranging from conspiracy to murder, to child sex abuse, and exploitation.

Let me say it in a different way: While American families are struggling to afford gas for their cars, put food on their tables, pay their utility bills—thanks to Trump's tariffs and war of choice in Iran—the President wants to hand lofty payouts to his political buddies and the criminals who attacked our democracy at his request. It reeks of corruption.

I will also note, as part of the settlement, the IRS is permanently barred from auditing past tax returns of President Trump, his family, and related companies. Get that? Ever play Monopoly? Remember that get-out-of-jail card you had hung onto? President Trump wanted a get-out-of-jail card from the Federal Government, his government, that he would never be prosecuted for tax fraud—never. It included his family, his colleagues, his business buddies, and friends. That was part of this deal in creating this slush fund. Is this America? Is this a Monopoly game? And if it is, it is embarrassing—permanently barred from auditing past tax returns of Donald Trump, his family, and related companies. Taken altogether, this is deeply disturbing.

Senate Democrats will continue to fight this unprecedented and unacceptable \$1.8 billion slush fund for January 6 insurrectionists and Trump loyalists and will work to halt the flow of taxpayer dollars to Trump's massive deportation campaign while standing ready to have a serious bipartisan negotiation about the need for reforms of Trump's immigration system.

If this partisan reconciliation bill ever sees the light of day, we will put Republicans on record by votes on this floor as to whether or not they accept this as a legitimate exercise of government function. Will Republican colleagues stand by the Constitution and the laws of our country, or will they join the President in this folly? I hope time will tell that they will join us in a bipartisan effort to stop the slush fund.

I yield the floor.

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

NOMINATION OF JEFFREY M. KUHLMAN

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, the Senate will shortly consider—in fact, tomorrow we will vote on cloture and the confirmation of the nomination of—Jeffrey Kuhlman to be a judge for the U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas. I rise this evening to urge my colleagues to support his confirmation.

During my time in the Senate, I have had the opportunity to vote on the confirmation of three current Kansas district court judges. With each nominee, I weigh the candidate's temperament,

principles, experience, and commitment to administer equal justice under the law.

In addition to the three current court judges in Kansas, there are three additional vacancies in the district courts of Kansas. Mr. Kuhlman is the first of the three Kansans the Senate will be considering to fill those vacancies.

I certainly had the opportunity to meet with Mr. Kuhlman. I encouraged the White House to make his nomination to be a judge, and I was impressed. I would not have done that but for my sincere and real impression of his expertise, his legal experience, and his commitment to serving the people in Kansas.

I have always had a desire to see, as growing up in a small town in rural Kansas, that there might be Federal judges who could come from small towns, and I have always been looking for someone who practices law in a small town in our State that has Federal court experience.

Mr. Kuhlman is a native of western Kansas. He grew up in a county-seat town called Ness City, not too far from my hometown, and it has a population of just a little over a thousand. And maybe this doesn't matter to everyone—or to most people—but I want people who grew up in that manner to know that there is a future, that there are things that they can do, and that there is not a handicap to be a smalltown, rural Kansas kid.

In helping select candidates for the White House, I had the goal of making certain we selected qualified candidates from across the State, but I also was always interested in “Could there be a rural person?”

Jeffrey earned his bachelor's degree in history from Kansas State University before receiving his law degree from the Antonin Scalia Law School at George Mason University.

After law school, Mr. Kuhlman returned to Kansas and was selected to serve a 2-year clerkship for who soon became Chief Judge Eric F. Melgren. In that role, he gained experience. He gained valuable and hands-on experience across all phases of Federal litigation.

Jeffrey then entered private practice as a litigation associate at a Wichita firm, the Hinkle Law Firm.

Mr. Kuhlman now has been a partner at Watkins Calcara in Great Bend, where his practice focuses on civil litigation, including municipal law, constitutional matters, commercial disputes, and personal injury cases.

Mr. Kuhlman and his wife Lauren—who is originally from Albert, an even smaller town—are raising their five young children in Great Bend, another small town in Kansas.

Mr. Kuhlman has demonstrated strong commitment to the rule of law, a deep respect for the Constitution, and a clear dedication to serving the people of Kansas. His experience both inside and outside the courtroom has prepared him well for the responsibilities

of the Federal bench, and I am confident in his professional competence and judicial temperament.

I am pleased to support his nomination, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting to confirm Mr. Jeffrey Kuhlman as a U.S. district judge for Kansas. I believe he would meet all of the qualifications and the desires of the Members of the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. KIM. Madam President, I rise today to share stories that I have heard from detainees and families at Delaney Hall and to tell you why these stories should be a call to action to ground our immigration policies in humanity.

There are, currently, approximately 800 detainees at Delaney Hall, which is located in Newark, NJ. Over the past week, it has become an example of our broken immigration system.

We have seen the images, but what you have not heard are the stories. It is the stories of people I have met and their families that have stayed with me over the past weeks and months. They have stayed with me because these are stories of people who are afraid, people who are asking to be treated with dignity, people who just want the humanity that any of us would ask for.

I have heard repeatedly—and seen with my own eyes—the substandard conditions at Delaney Hall. Food that is inedible. I had a man show me a container of milk that was curdled solid because it was clearly not stored properly. I have heard about the issues of mold and issues of safety and security.

What I have heard has been unacceptable. The totality of the stories that I have heard have been disturbing. But when I think about individual people, the failures really come into focus.

I spoke, over this week, for instance, with a man at Delaney Hall who has stage III lung cancer and has not been given the medical care that he needs. And he told me he knows his time is short. He actually just wants to go back home—to his home country of origin—to spend the rest of whatever remains in his life with his family, but he is not able to do so.

I spoke with an 18-year-old high school senior, and all she wanted to do was be able to graduate and go to prom. Instead, she is stuck there by herself.

I actually met with her mother outside of the facility. You can imagine how worried she was about her 18-year-old high school senior in this detention facility by herself.

This isn't someone who is a hardened criminal or someone we desperately need to get off of our streets. It is a kid. It is a high school student who is at least spending her time in there trying to translate for some of the other detainees that don't speak English. She

is trying to figure out how to help other people. And, instead, we have her stuck in there for an indefinite amount of time. She has no idea how long it is going to take to resolve her circumstances. This is someone who—as a father, when I think about my own two boys—I worry about what is being robbed of her childhood as she is going through this situation.

There is a commonality with a lot of these stories: parents just trying to take care of their kids; parents who have been in the United States for many decades and many of them married to American citizens, many of them parents of American citizens.

These are people that deserve better, but they aren't getting better because we have a fundamentally broken system; a system that is built on corruption and profit, fueled by cruelty; a system that strips people of their humanity.

Let's start with the motivating factor of profit that drives some of this. Delaney Hall is operated by a company called GEO Group. You may not know that name, but it is the largest private prison corporation in America, which runs about 20 facilities for ICE, coast to coast—from New Jersey to California, from Florida to Pennsylvania, to Texas and beyond. They are making a lot of money. They got awarded nearly a billion-dollar contract to operate Delaney Hall.

This is something that is driving so much of the decision making, because when they are telling me that they have only one full-time doctor for nearly 800 detainees there—many of them have really significant healthcare needs—you can understand that they could hire more than one doctor. They could hire more doctors, but then that is going to be less profit for GEO Group.

When we are talking about the substandard food, they could get better food, at least some quality measure better, without the spoiled and disgusting milk that I was talking about. But, again, that would be less profit.

And here is just something that is just driving so much of this for so many of the problems that are out there.

When it comes to our immigration policy, that is no choice to me. From what we are seeing in terms of the profits and the conditions that are there, we should always be putting people before corporate profits.

It is not just GEO Group or CoreCivic or these other companies that are pushing this forward. We know that we can find ways to be able to address this, and it starts with not upholding their standards when it comes to these detention facilities.

At Delaney Hall, we have seen the detainees and the challenges to getting access to doctors. I talked to a pregnant woman who is not getting the care that she needs when it comes to doctors and medical checkups. And she has no idea how long she is going to be there for.

She literally asked me—she looked in my eyes and said: Do I have to be prepared to have a baby in Delaney Hall, in this detention facility?

And instead of upholding a standard of basic humanity, what we are hearing from detainees now is about retaliation for them simply speaking out—detainees being transferred now away from their families to other detention sites because they were protesting, because of this retaliation that is happening before our eyes.

And, finally, we see a judicial system that has fundamentally failed detainees, their families, and our entire immigration system. Simply put, there are not nearly enough judges to hear the number of immigration cases we face at this moment. We already had a backlog of millions of cases before, and it is getting worse and worse.

And, yes, we see the Republicans here in Congress pushing forward on the enforcement, but what is it that we can do to be able to address the needs on the judiciary?

When I was there at Delaney Hall, one of the detainees ran out into the hallway to grab a piece of paper off of the bulletin board and showed me a piece of paper that said: When the courts come back into session, after the holiday weekend, one judge—one immigration judge—had before them 74 cases in 1 day. How is that a fair process? It is a farce—74 cases in 1 day. That is about 5 minutes a case. That is if everything goes perfectly back to back, not to mention the translation needs of so many. We can do better, and I hope that all of us can agree that in this country, the rule of law is sacrosanct, and that is something where everybody has the opportunity for making their case in court.

What I have heard at Delaney is disturbing, and what I have seen in the brokenness of our immigration system is disheartening. But what we need to do is move forward with clarity, and here are three things we can immediately focus on:

First, let's surge the medical support. Again, 1 doctor for 800 people is not enough, especially when they have such things. ICE has something called ICE Health Service Corps. There are other means by which we can surge medical support to Delaney and elsewhere to make sure that people are not being looked over and their needs passed aside. That is something, again, that I hope all of us can agree on.

No. 2, we need to give people access to the courts. This is not just something that I said is important for us to have adherence to the rule of law, but it is costing the American people billions of dollars to just have this process continue to hold up because when someone is there at Delaney Hall 8 months, 10 months, 12 months, or beyond, with no sense of when it is going to end, that is on us. We are paying for it. The American people are paying for this. It is coming out of our pocket at a time when we have this affordability