

crisis and so many people in the country struggling to pay the bills. People deserve their day in court, and the American people deserve to not have their money wasted by a process that is so clearly broken.

And, third, we need investigations into the conditions immediately. The nearly billion dollars going to GEO Group for Delaney Hall—those are your taxpayer dollars. You should know where it is going and how they are spending it.

We should have independent investigations into this and make sure that Members of Congress can effectively conduct oversight business because I tried to go this past week. I was denied. The guards at the gate by Geo Group said: Nope. You can't go inside.

I had to literally call our old colleague Secretary Mullin to get access to this facility that—by the way, I actually called ahead and got approval to go inside, but they still stopped me.

And when I went inside the facility and talked to the head of GEO Group in Delaney Hall and explained that his guards prevented me from going inside for an authorized visit, he looked me in the eye and called me a liar. That is not something that seems like it has any semblance of accountability, transparency, or obedience and accordance to the rule of law. We can and should do better.

This is at a time when this Chamber is getting ready this week to potentially send upward of another \$70 billion for ICE and CBP without the reforms, without the accountability and the transparency. GEO Group is taking your money, and you should know what they are doing with it.

These are hard days for my State. Nobody should want the images that we have seen over the past week, but even more so, nobody should want the conditions to be able to continue, whether it is in Delaney Hall or elsewhere around this country because it doesn't just stop at Delaney Hall. These problems exist and persist all over the country.

Delaney Hall isn't one bad apple. It is part of a systemic failure that we are witnessing across the Nation. How we move forward is a choice, a choice between a status quo of corporate profit and cruel policies or moving forward to enforce our laws with humanity.

It doesn't have to be the way that we have seen, and I would urge my colleagues to work with me. Let's make the changes we know we need—not just at Delaney Hall but at every detention facility across this country—and let's fix this broken system once and for all.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BANKS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Lane nomination.

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

REMEMBERING BRETT SCROGHAM

Mr. BANKS. Madam President, 23-year-old Brett Scrogam of Greenwood, IN, had a bright future ahead of him. After graduating recently as a top 100 student from the IU Kelley School of Business, Brett had plans to invest in housing properties and help his community grow and prosper.

As a young child, Brett helped a neighbor rescue her dogs from a terrible house fire. Friends of his referred to him as “a God-fearing Christian man” who was always willing to help people.

Though I never had the chance to meet him, it is clear to me that Brett was really an incredible person. And now I will never get the chance to meet this bright young man because, tragically, Brett was murdered in cold blood this weekend on his way to an Indianapolis Indians game with his family.

The killing took place in a parking garage right next to the biggest church in downtown Indianapolis. College students and young families park there every week.

I am heartbroken by this senseless act of violence. Brett's family is in my thoughts and prayers, and I hope that the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department will arrest the murderer soon—who is still at large.

INDIANA

Mr. BANKS. The mayor of Indianapolis put out, frankly, a very weak statement that didn't even mention Brett's name, and so I wanted to come down to the floor, as we kick off this week and our legislative business, and talk about who he was but also talk about what is happening in our capital city in Indianapolis in my State.

Brett's murder is the second murder in downtown Indianapolis in less than a week. Just before the Indianapolis 500, Gregory Anderson, a father of five children, was murdered in the downtown bar district in Indianapolis. And then last Sunday, a 16-year-old teenager was murdered in the northwest side of Indy. These murders have no place in Indiana, especially in our capital city.

Indianapolis is truly a great city. It has so much going for it. Indy is home to the Indianapolis 500, headquarters for the NCAA, the home of great businesses and their headquarters like Eli Lilly, world-class sporting events, and other conferences and events that take place there like the Indy 500 last week—so much more going for it.

But what is happening in Indianapolis right now is a crisis. Soft-on-crime policies are ruining this great city. How much longer will we allow this to go on?

The reason Indianapolis is plagued by violent crime is because Marion Coun-

ty lets it happen. Marion County prosecutor Ryan Mears refuses to prosecute violent criminals.

For example, 1 man in Indiana has faced over 30 criminal charges—most of them felony charges in Marion County since 2020. This man should be locked up forever, but he is not, thanks to Ryan Mears—the prosecutor—and liberal judges and all of their soft-on-crime policies.

And the rest of Indiana—especially the nearly 60 percent of all Hoosiers who live in the “donut” counties around Indianapolis and Marion County—the rest of them are punished for Marion County's refusal to do anything about it.

Ryan Mears is a prosecutor gone rogue. He refuses to keep violent criminals behind bars, and he is a failure—an absolute failure—of a prosecutor.

But it is not only the prosecutor that refuses to enforce the law. State Senator Andrea Hunley—also a Democrat—recently said with regard to crime in Indianapolis that “we are not going to ever enforce our way out of the problem.”

That is not only a lie, it is a total excuse. If we keep making excuses for why we can't enforce the law and keep violent criminals in prison, we will never have safe neighborhoods and communities, and innocent people like Brett will continue to pay the price.

Everyone wants to talk about fairness and dignity and legal protections for criminal defendants, but what about Brett? Where was his fairness? Why do we talk about the dignity of criminals and never about the dignity of their victims?

We know how to keep our cities and our communities safe: We need to put large amounts of police officers on patrol. Let them do their job and ensure that criminals remain in prison. It is really as simple as that, but it is the opposite that keeps happening.

A violent criminal who set a bus on fire in Indianapolis a few years ago was in and out of prison over 45 times in less than two decades. This is outrageous and completely unacceptable. But this is the world that soft-on-crime policies in Indianapolis and other big soft-on-crime cities enable.

Law and order are necessary for any country or city to run well. And for there to be law and order, you need law enforcement officers who proudly wear the uniform and badge and rise up every morning to protect their communities. Those law enforcement officers need our support to do their jobs.

We are now just a couple of weeks away from National Police Week. Our Federal, State, and local police officers are heroes—truly. They wake up every single day with the hope of serving their communities well and safely returning back to their families. They love what they do, and they want to keep all of us safe while they are doing it. But we need to make sure that they are not being sabotaged by soft-on-crime policies and politicians.

Nothing will ever bring back Brett. And if we hope to prevent more young lives like this one from being taken far too early, we need to double down on our efforts to enforce law and order.

We need to support our law enforcement officers and demand that our elected officials throw the book at violent criminals instead of letting them continue to cause mayhem and violence in our communities.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

AMERICAN AI SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND ACT

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, artificial intelligence will almost certainly be the most transformational technology in the history of the world. It will profoundly impact the lives of every man, woman, and child in our country and, in fact, throughout the world. It will bring and it is already bringing unimaginable changes to our economy, to our democracy and political system, to our emotional well-being, to the health of our children, to our environment, and to how we educate and raise our kids.

Further, there is a very real fear that as AI becomes smarter than humans, it could eventually function independent of human control with potentially catastrophic consequences. That is not me; that is what Nobel Prize scientists and experts are saying.

The question, then, is not whether AI will change the world. It will. The question is: Who will own and control the future? Who will benefit from AI, and who will be hurt by it? Will AI be used to make life better for working families? Will it enrich our quality of life? Will it help us eliminate poverty, extend life expectancies, and help us solve the climate crisis? Or will the future of humanity be determined by a handful of some of the wealthiest people on the planet who have promoted and developed AI, with no democratic input, in order for them to become even richer and more powerful than they are today? That is the choice before us.

Let us be clear. AI was not created out of thin air. It was not a brilliant idea that just popped into Mark Zuckerberg's head or Elon Musk's imagination. The foundation of AI is our collective human intelligence. Let me repeat that. The foundation of AI is based on our collective human intelligence: our books, songs, artwork, journalism, computer code, scientific research, videos, conversations, images, and ideas spanning generations. It is our tweets, our Facebook posts, our TikTok videos, our Reddit comments. It is everything that human beings produce and that is absorbed into the digital world. That is not just my opinion. According to Sam Altman, the head of OpenAI, AI models were trained on our "collective experience, knowledge" and "learnings of human-

ity." That is Mr. Altman, the head of OpenAI.

The reality is that Big Tech oligarchs have fed this knowledge into their AI models without permission, without acknowledgement, and without compensation. In other words, the creative work of many millions of people—writers, artists, musicians, journalists, teachers, scientists, and ordinary people—has been stolen—has been stolen—by the wealthiest people in the world.

The time has come for us to reclaim what was stolen from us. Since AI is built on the collective knowledge of humanity, the wealth it generates must benefit humanity—not just Elon Musk, not just Jeff Bezos, not just Mark Zuckerberg or Larry Ellison and the other multibillionaires who have invested hundreds of billions into the development and implementation of AI, not the venture capitalists in Silicon Valley or the vulture funds on Wall Street who see AI as the next great wealth-extracting machine.

That is why in the coming weeks, I will be introducing the American AI Sovereign Wealth Fund Act. This legislation would give the public a direct ownership stake in the largest AI companies in our country. How would it do that? Through a one-time, 50-percent tax not on the profits of the largest AI companies in the United States but something that is far more valuable than that: the stock.

If passed, this legislation would do two critical things:

First, it would give the American people a direct role in determining the future of this technology. No longer would the future of AI and the transformation of human life that it will bring be dictated by a handful of Big Tech oligarchs. These people do not have the right to determine the future of humanity. Under this bill, the Federal Government would have the power, through its voting shares and an equal representation on each company's board, to block decisions that hurt the public and to push for policies that help them.

Secondly, this legislation would guarantee that the trillions of dollars potentially created by AI are used to improve the lives of all of us, not simply to make the richest people in the world even richer. Further, if these AI companies continue to grow as dramatically as many analysts expect, then the value of the sovereign wealth fund created under this bill would grow as well, and the benefits to the American people would grow along with it.

Let us be clear. This is not an original idea. In fact, it is an idea that has been endorsed by some of the leading AI companies in America. For example, OpenAI recently proposed creating a "Public Wealth Fund that provides every citizen—including those not invested in financial markets—with a stake in AI-driven economic growth." Anthropic also proposed the creation of "national sovereign wealth funds with

stakes in A.I." Elon Musk, the owner of xAI, went further and said that "Universal HIGH INCOME via checks issued by the Federal government is the best way to deal with unemployment caused by AI."

Let us not forget, over 100 sovereign wealth funds exist all over the world. Again, this is not a new idea. Norway's sovereign wealth fund—the largest in the world—was funded from the country's abundance in oil and is now worth more than \$2 trillion. Instead of a few oil executives pocketing all the benefits of that natural resource, Norway made the decision that the wealth created from it should be used to improve life for all of their people.

This concept also exists right here in the United States. Fifty years ago, Alaska created a sovereign wealth fund from the State's oil revenues, and for decades, it has paid dividends directly to Alaskans. In 2022, that check was over \$3,000 per person. In 2023, it was \$1,300 per person. In 2024, it was \$1,700. Last year, it was \$1,000. This is a direct check coming from a sovereign fund in Alaska to the people of that State. Even President Trump, in an Executive order, has proposed establishing a U.S. sovereign wealth fund.

The billions, if not trillions, of dollars generated by this legislation would provide direct payments to the American people. Further, as the fund generates more and more wealth, the proceeds would be used to ensure that every man, woman, and child in our country has a decent and dignified standard of living, including healthcare, education, and housing.

The principle behind this legislation is simple: When a public resource generates wealth, the public should share in that wealth. In this case, artificial intelligence is being built on a public resource far more valuable than oil: the accumulated knowledge, creativity, and labor of humanity throughout history. That is what AI is all about.

Bottom line: The future of AI and the fate of humanity must not be decided behind closed doors in Silicon Valley by the wealthiest people in the world. It must not be dictated by billionaires seeking to maximize their power and their profit. It must be decided by workers, parents, teachers, artists, scientists, communities, and the American people.

It is our future. We must decide it. Let's get it done.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 736, Kathleen S. Lane, of Montana, to be United