

Republicans must reject Trump's call to nationalize elections, the very pillars of our grand democracy, our grand national experiment. Democracy must prevail over the cult of arrogant, autocratic, egotistical personality.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. President, now on ICE, yesterday, Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem, who for some reason still has a job—she should have been fired long ago—announced that all Federal immigration agents in Minneapolis are going to begin wearing body cameras.

I want to be very clear about something. Kristi Noem does not get participation points by saying agents are going to start doing something they should have done all along.

Why just Minneapolis? This policy, which is the right policy, should be nationwide. There is no reason to delay that.

Most importantly, Executive actions alone will never be enough for the American people. We need to pass legislation. We know how whimsical Donald Trump is. He will say one thing one day and retract it the next.

The same with Secretary Noem—we don't trust some Executive order, some pronouncement from some Cabinet Secretary. We need it enshrined into law.

What Democrats want is exceedingly common sense. We need to end the roving patrols. This means we need arrest warrants and an end to racial profiling.

Second, we need accountability. ICE needs to abide by the same rules as local police, including embedded investigations. And there has to be real accountability forcing them to do so when they don't.

And, third, masks need to come off, and cameras need to stay on. Every ICE officer should do what every police officer, or just about every police officer, in America does—have an ID. Every citizen knows when they meet a police officer or sheriff, their ID is clear on them.

There has always been accountability that we have had for decades and decades. And Noem thinks and some people think—like Speaker JOHNSON thinks—we shouldn't do it. Why is JOHNSON pro-secret police?

It is absurd for the Speaker and others like him to argue that masked ICE agents should get special treatment and be held to a different standard from just about every law enforcement Agency in the country. Sheriffs, local police, traffic cops—you don't see them with masks, do you? No. Defending ICE agents wearing masks and giving them special treatment, especially when they are so brutal and thuggish, is totally against the views of most Americans who want basic accountability.

Anyone defending these agents keeping their masks on is not seriously trying to solve this huge problem with the chaos we have seen in Minneapolis and in so many of our other cities when ICE is sent in there. It begs the question: Why are some Republicans speak-

ing so loudly trying to defend masked secret police? Is it that these new ICE hires weren't qualified as police officers in other departments? Could it be that some of them were kicked out of police departments and then they signed up to snatch people off the streets and beat protesters up with impunity because that is what they wanted to do?

The American people have a right to know, and the first step is identifying who they are.

Finally, I want to make one other very important point. Since the deaths of Alex Pretti and Renee Good, nothing meaningful has changed about ICE's abuses. Nothing meaningful has changed about ICE's abuses even since the deaths of Pretti and Good.

Last week, in Portland, OR, Federal agents fired tear gas at a crowd of demonstrators that included children.

There is a video circulating online of an agent in Colorado stealing a woman's phone. When she tried to get it back, the agent shoved her to the ground, yanked her by the hair, and then battered her. If you saw that video, it would turn your stomach.

Greg Bovino, the disgraced chief thug, former head of the Border Patrol, is seen in another video trying to motivate agents by saying—this is what Bovino said: "Arrest as many people who touch you as want. Those are the general orders way from the top."

This is absolutely not, not, not what the American people signed up for. Republicans in Congress need to see the chaos and realize it is finally time for ICE to be reined in.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

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

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

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, we are at a point where America faces a critical choice about our Nation's security, and the debate isn't complicated.

Republicans are fighting to keep Americans safe. To do that, we need to enforce the law. We need to keep our borders secure.

The Democrats—and we just heard from the minority leader—they are fighting to weaken law enforcement. They want to reward illegal immigrants for their illegal behavior.

Right now, criminals who are here in this country illegally are among the most dangerous threats to the families of this country. They are violent offenders, murders, rapists, drug dealers, child traffickers. They are the worst of the worst.

Many entered our country when Joe Biden and the Democrats threw open the borders 5 years ago. Over 10 million illegal immigrants flooded into the country during those 4 years of the

Biden Presidency. During the 2024 election, the American people spoke very clearly. Americans voted for more border security, not less. Americans wanted more law enforcement, not less—and, yes, people spoke for deporting illegal immigrants, for not allowing them to stay. Republicans understand that safe communities are a result of secure borders.

Today, Democrats continue to choose illegal immigrants over American citizens—right here, on the floor of the Senate, this morning. Democrats are the party of defund the police. They have been for a long, long time. Now they want to defund our security even further—our security, our borders. You have seen them protesting: Eliminate ICE. Eliminate Immigration and Customs Enforcement. They don't want the law enforced.

Republicans refuse to allow this dangerous agenda of the Democrats' to succeed. Since retaking the majority, Republicans have made public safety a top priority. Republicans secured the border in record time. Illegal border crossings at the southern border are now at their lowest level in 50 years.

Republicans passed the Laken Riley Act. It was the first law that we passed this past year, and it was the first bill signed into law by President Trump. The Laken Riley Act simply says that illegal immigrant criminals must be detained. Republicans then passed the Working Families Tax Cuts. That law invested over \$170 billion to secure the border and safeguard our communities.

Republicans secured the largest investment in history in border security and law enforcement. That is what we promised to do, and we did. That investment includes \$46 billion to finish the wall and \$75 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. It is going to help train, hire, and retain more agents. It includes a bonus for those agents who continue to serve so that they remain on the job.

Republicans also ended catch-and-release. For eight consecutive months now, zero—zero—illegal immigrants have been released into the country. None. Republicans strengthened enforcement in our country. More than 400,000 illegal immigrants who have been charged with or convicted of a crime have been arrested and removed from the country—400,000.

The lesson is clear: When we enforce the law and when we support law enforcement, Americans are safer.

So what have the Democrats done?

Well, they continue to put illegal immigrants ahead of law-abiding American citizens.

Last week, the Senate—right here in this body—voted to complete funding for 96 percent of the Federal Government. The Democrats blocked the final 4 percent. They weren't for that. As for the bipartisan Homeland Security appropriations bill—a bill that Democrats helped to write—the Democrats then blocked it. The Homeland Security appropriations bill funds TSA

agents for people who are going through the airports. It funds FEMA, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, at a time when there is great need related to the storms that we are trying to recover from. It funds the Coast Guard. These are critical functions that keep Americans safe. Democrats blocked it.

Democrats are willing to shut them all down—FEMA, emergency relief. Why? Because of the Democrats' war against law enforcement, against the Department of Homeland Security. They are the people who want to defund the police. That is who the Democrats are.

And as we are here working to keep the government open, Senator BERNIE SANDERS of Vermont—a Member of the Democrat coalition—came to the floor last week, with a targeted amendment, as we have been fighting on these appropriations bills. The Sanders amendment targeted Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Democrats wanted to defund ICE to the tune of \$75 billion. They wanted to redirect the money that was headed to an area where there has been great fraud. Every single Democrat—every single one of them—voted yes for the BERNIE SANDERS amendment to defund ICE. That is how radical the Democrats have become. They are the party of wide-open borders.

Now, Republicans, rightly, are the majority—were elected to the majority—because people were fed up with the open border Democrats. Republicans rightly defeated that amendment, but the Sanders amendment exposes Democrats' open borders goals. When given the choice between protecting Americans and defending law enforcement, the Democrats side, time and time again, with illegal immigrants—every single time.

We are trying to keep Americans safe. They are trying to protect illegal immigrants. It is that clearly defined. You have seen it on the signs as they protest in the streets: Abolish ICE. Republicans believe government must protect law-abiding citizens from criminals, not protect the criminals. The Democrats are, once again, choosing illegal immigrants ahead of law-abiding citizens. The events of the past few weeks are serious—they are tragic—but the tragedies are no excuse to defund law enforcement.

If Democrats want to have a debate about Americans' safety, we welcome it. I am going to stand on the side of the American people. Democrats want to stand on the side of the illegal immigrants. Republicans are going to continue to stand with the men and women who keep us safe as Democrats try to defund the police and defund border security.

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. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 1 minute.

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

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Peterson nomination.

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

NOMINATION OF NICHOLAS JON GANJEI

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Nicholas Ganjei of Texas to be the U.S. district judge for the Southern District of Texas.

Nick Ganjei's story is in many ways a classic American story. He grew up in Northern California as the youngest of four children. His mother, the daughter of immigrants, was a public school teacher, and his dad was an engineer for General Electric.

Nick's father emigrated from Iran in 1961 as a student with \$100 to his name and found his way from New York to El Paso and then to California.

Nick's upbringing instilled a fidelity for public duty, a respect for limits on government power, and an unwavering commitment to the rule of law.

As U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Texas, Nick has been on the frontlines of Federal law enforcement—leading one of the busiest districts in the country, prosecuting violent crime, cartel activity, and transnational threats while enforcing the law fairly.

Nick's career is filled with great success and clear dedication to this country, but I want to highlight his work in the U.S. Senate.

Nick served as my chief counsel for 3 years, during which he oversaw vital initiatives on criminal justice, border security, judicial nominations, anti-trust issues, intellectual property, and religious liberty. During his time on my staff, I saw firsthand Nick's dedication to judicial integrity. I am confident that he will work tirelessly in service of the American people and in faithful adherence to the Constitution.

I also want to note a happy personal milestone of Nick's. Just last week, Nick became engaged to his now-fiancee Jessica. She will join him in Houston and become one of our newest Texans, and we look forward to having her in the Lone Star State.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote in support of his nomination as U.S. district judge for the Southern District of Texas. He will make us proud.

I yield the floor.

VOICE ON FOWLKES NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Fowlkes nomination?

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 22 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Banks	Fischer	Moody
Barrasso	Graham	Moran
Blackburn	Grassley	Mullin
Boozman	Hagerty	Murkowski
Britt	Hassan	Ricketts
Budd	Hawley	Risch
Capito	Hoeben	Rounds
Cassidy	Husted	Schmitt
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Justice	Shaheen
Cramer	Kaine	Sheehy
Crapo	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cruz	Lankford	Thune
Curtis	Lee	Tuberville
Daines	Lummis	Whitehouse
Durbin	Marshall	Wicker
Ernst	McCormick	Young

NAYS—40

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Baldwin	Hirono	Schatz
Bennet	Kelly	Schiff
Blumenthal	King	Schumer
Blunt	Rochester	Slotkin
Booker	Markey	Smith
Cantwell	Merkley	Van Hollen
Coons	Murphy	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murray	Warnock
Duckworth	Ossoff	Warren
Fetterman	Padilla	Welch
Galleo	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	
Heinrich	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—6

Kim	McConnell	Paul
Lujan	Moreno	Tillis

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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 senior assistant executive 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. 611, Nicholas Jon Ganjei, of Texas, to be United