

his home and dropped him off there with his broken down front door.

This is not about law enforcement. This is not about public safety. It is a campaign against people because of the color of their skin or where they are from.

If you support President Trump's policies, you have to ask yourself: Wait a minute. It is not really about law enforcement. It is about 5-year-old kids. It is about U.S. citizens. It is about people who have no criminal background. And you ought to ask yourself whether that is, in fact, what you support.

Immigrants are crucial and beneficial to the economy in Virginia and throughout America. Just some statistics: Nationwide, our immigrant families generated more than \$236 billion in income in 2022 and paid nearly \$66 billion in local, State, and Federal taxes.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that immigration flows to the United States that are projected currently will likely increase American gross domestic product by nearly \$9 trillion between now and 2034, if we don't screw it up.

As of June 2025, 15.4 percent of U.S. residents are immigrants, including naturalized U.S. citizens. So everyone in this room has, in their State, hard-working immigrant families who do not appreciate being demonized by the President and his policies.

Immigrants make up 13.2 percent of Virginia's population. That is more than one in eight. When I was born, it was 1 in 100. I was born in 1958. So 1 of 100 Virginians in 1958 had been born in another country. Today it is one of eight. I guess that must mean, if you follow the President's logic, that this has been a horrible thing for Virginia. To the contrary, Virginia, by my last checking, was one of only two States in the United States that, in my lifetime, has gone from bottom quarter per capita income to top quarter per capita income. There is nothing about life in Virginia today that is not dramatically better than in 1958.

And the growth of our immigrant populations with their strength and their innovation and their culture has been a huge part of the reason that Virginia has gone from back of the pack economically to front of the pack economically.

Virginia has started to see some population decline in recent years, except for immigration. Immigration has actually enabled our State to continue to grow. Growth is helpful to the economy. Immigrants contribute \$104 billion annually to the Virginia economy. Get this: 29 percent—nearly one-third—of our Main Street business owners in Virginia are immigrants; our Main Street business owners, nearly 30 percent. Sixteen percent of our workforce is immigrant.

Let me tell you about a couple of industries, specifically, and give you some Virginia statistics: 34 percent of our chefs are immigrants; 44 percent of

our computer engineers are immigrants; 28 percent of our childcare workers are immigrants; 52 percent of our painters are immigrants; 46 percent of our agriculture workers—ag and forestry is still the No. 1 industry in Virginia as it is in most States in the country. Forty-six percent of our ag workers are immigrants; 43 percent of our construction workers are immigrants. Health aides—more than 20 percent of our health professionals are immigrants. I notice this particularly when I visit rural Virginia; that if it weren't for immigrant-trained doctors and workers and allied health professionals, many of the rural parts of our State would not have health providers at all.

Demeaning and attacking, terrorizing and frightening, disrespecting immigrants is not only the wrong thing to do, it hurts our country and it hurts our economy.

What would we do without 46 percent of our agriculture workers? What would we do without 43 percent of our construction workers or 23 percent of our health aides? Don't they deserve some positive words? Some thanks, like: Thanks for choosing us. You could have chosen someone else. Instead, you chose to come here and enrich our communities.

And the skills I gave you are everything from sort of more manual skills to high-end computer engineering and health professions. I could have done this with virtually any profession in Virginia, and I would have made the same case. We would not be the Commonwealth that we are, the success that we are, without the growth of our immigrant populations.

I want to conclude by just saying, in being here for 13 years, I just have heard too few words on this floor that talk about the contributions that immigrants have made to this country during our entire history. Immigration is the transfusion into the bloodstream of the American economy and the American politic that keeps our Nation young at 250—new skills, new ideas, new connections to places around the world.

Are there challenges? Yes. Do we need order? Of course, we do. Should we reform? Yes. But it should be within the overall framework of immigrants like this little guy are not a problem. Our immigrant communities are part of what makes our Nation great and successful. I am tired, after more than 13 years, of hearing immigrants just dragged down, called "illegals"? Why don't we call people convicted of fraud "illegals"? Why don't we call people convicted of sexual harassment "illegals"?

There is only one kind of person that some label an "illegal" in the United States and that is if they have violated the laws to enter the country. What about all the other illegalities people in this country commit?

But there is only one kind of person we demonize with the label, and I am

tired of it. I am tired of people getting kicked around because of the countries they came from and color of their skin.

I speak from personal experience having worked as a missionary in Central America. And I know the kinds of people who come here, and I know why they come here. They come for the same reason my great-grandparents came here from Ireland in the late 1840s—because there weren't opportunities for them. The laws may be a little different today than then, but the motivations are no different.

Virtually, everybody in this Chamber has an immigration story where, thank God, their family decided that they could make a better life for themselves in the United States. And just as we don't demonize each other because we have immigrant roots, we shouldn't be demonizing people like this young 5-year-old's family and terrorizing them as we are.

Any policy that begins with the assumption that immigrations are a problem or a threat or a public safety concern, instead of beginning with the reality that our immigrant communities have been part of the great success of this Nation—any policy that starts with the wrong assumption is bankrupt morally, bankrupt legally, bankrupt economically, and it will hurt our Nation. It is already hurting our Nation and will continue to hurt it even further.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

#### APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I rise today to note that the House, earlier today, passed a series of appropriations bills that will now be sent to the President's desk that will allow us to continue to fund our Agencies. And that is good news. It represents 11 of the 12 appropriations bills that we pass every year.

I want to thank our Republican leader for bringing these bills to the floor. I want to thank our chair of the Appropriations Committee SUSAN COLLINS and Ranking Member PATTY MURRAY for their work to be able to get that done. This is important work.

One of the reasons I came to the U.S. Senate was to be able to help bring fiscal responsibility. As Governor of Nebraska, my budget grew at 2.8 percent per year, on average, across 8 years. That demonstrates the sort of fiscal responsibility you find in States like Nebraska. It is part of our "Nebraska Solutions, Ready for America" is bringing that sort of fiscal responsibility here. It was sorely lacking under the Biden administration in Washington, DC.

In 2019, the Federal Government, broadly speaking, spent \$4.4 trillion, and we had a \$900 billion deficit. Under Joe Biden's leadership, by 2024, that spending had grown to \$6.8 trillion and a \$1.9 trillion deficit, more than doubling the deficit, a 55-percent increase over those 5 years—a 55 percent-increase over 5 years in that spending.

In 2025, the deficit had declined by 9 percent. Now, we still have a long way to go. We have to get that spending under control, and that is why this appropriations process is so important.

The way we get our spending under control is by bringing appropriations bills to the floor of the Senate and giving us, as Senators, the opportunity to offer amendments and to vote on those bills.

Under the previous majority Democrat leadership, that did not happen. Though the Appropriations Committee was doing its work and passing appropriations bills out of committee—last year, 11 out of 12; the year before that, 12 out of 12—the previous Democratic majority leader would not bring those bills to the floor and, in fact, in some cases, brought the bills after the end of the fiscal year.

Instead, what were we forced to do? We were forced to pass continuing resolutions. Those continuing resolutions are terrible. They are basically just taking the budget and continuing to spend money at the recklessly high levels we saw under the Biden administration.

But it also undermined our national defense because when you pass continuing resolutions, the military cannot do long-term planning. And we are in a very dangerous world right now. We know that communist China wants to supplant us as the world leader. We see a war of aggression by Russia. We see Iran, the largest state sponsor of terrorism, funding groups like Hamas, the Houthis, Hezbollah, and we see North Korea continuing to launch missiles.

National defense is very important to deterring our adversaries. Yet we passed 13 continuing resolutions under the Biden administration. Now, under the Trump administration, with Republicans in charge of the Senate, we are bringing these bills to the floor. We are passing and getting them done. We still have to get to Homeland Security.

I encourage my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to work quickly with what they want to see in that bill to negotiate and get that bill done. This is important, too, because Homeland Security is what we fund our FEMA out of, right? So there are going to be disruptions to FEMA if we don't get this done. We just had a deadly snowstorm on the east coast, and that will disrupt those FEMA payments if the Democrats can't come to some sort of solution on what they want so we can pass Homeland Security.

Homeland Security is also how our TSA folks get paid, people who help us make sure we can fly safely around this country. It is how our Coast Guard gets paid. Again, it is important for our national defense. So all these things are wrapped up in Homeland Security, which is why it is important to get that 12th and final bill done.

I, again, want to compliment the House for passing these bills, compliment the Appropriations Committee

here in the Senate, compliment our Majority Leader THUNE for getting this done. We have 11 out of 12 done. That is 96 percent of the funding of our discretionary Agencies. Getting that done is an important step forward and getting back on track to fiscal sanity in this Nation. It is sorely needed. Republicans are delivering on that here in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

TRIBUTE TO KEVIN RUDD

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I am here today to honor a remarkable diplomat and dear friend, Ambassador Kevin Rudd, as he prepares to leave his post as Australian Ambassador to the United States.

I first got to know Kevin and his wife Therese over a decade ago. But now, more recently, as chairman and now vice chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, I have had the pleasure of working with Ambassador Rudd on some of the most pressing challenges of our time.

With his departure, we are going to bid farewell to a statesman whose tenure has strengthened the bonds between Australia and the United States and upheld the values we share.

From the day Ambassador Rudd arrived in Washington on March 2023, he proved to be a driving force in advancing our mutual national interests. During his accomplished career in the Australian Parliament and as Prime Minister, he understood the importance of engaging Congress, steadying the Australian relationships through changes in administrations.

And in 3 years, he delivered enduring and positive outcomes for Americans and Australians alike. Ambassador Rudd spearheaded Australia's push to advance the landmark AUKUS security pact, expanding the broad bipartisan support and securing the endorsements of both President Biden and President Trump and advancing investment in limitation strategies both here in the United States and back in his home in Australia.

He negotiated a critical minerals agreement that is already spurring new mining and processing projects to benefit both our countries.

He also spearheaded a cutting-edge tech partnership that is unlocking billions of dollars in bilateral investments, including for AI and quantum technology.

Ambassador Rudd's leadership strengthened Australia's security and our shared security alliance for decades to come. Thanks, in part, to his efforts, our governments, our Armed Forces, our intelligence services, our private sectors, and industries are working together more closely than ever, ensuring that our alliance forged on the battlefields of the last century remains unbreakable in this century.

Under Kevin's tenure, the United States-Australia partnership has never been stronger. He understands that our

alliance isn't just an old friendship to be maintained; it is a living bond to be continually strengthened. He built personal relationships across the whole political spectrum in working with Democrats and Republicans and across two very different Presidential administrations to keep this alliance with Australia above the partisan fray. Kevin demonstrated that no matter Democrat or Republican control, or whether it is Labor or Liberal in Canberra, our alliance is the alliance of values and vision that transcends politics. That is an extraordinary legacy to leave in government.

As someone who spends a lot of time thinking about China policy, I don't think there is anyone that is more informed or who has, frankly, written more scholarly articles on the intentions of President Xi in China than Kevin Rudd. Kevin Rudd is a scholar on China and a fluent Mandarin speaker. He puts that expertise to work each day. He reminds me, at times, that I am supposed to address him as "Dr. Rudd."

Kevin has been a voice of principled leadership in pushing back against unnecessary coercive tactics by the PRC. He understands, from Australia's own experience, that we must not allow the PRC to act as a bully either in the Indo-Pacific region or around the globe. Kevin saw how China's attempts at coercive economic diplomacy against Australia backfired a few years back when its allies and partners, including the United States, rallied around Australia and declared such coercion unacceptable.

Kevin carried that leadership into his ambassadorship, and he often reminded many of us in the Senate of a key lesson: When pushing back against an adversary, it is best to do so "in the company of friends" rather than alone.

There is also a popular African proverb: "If you want to go fast go alone; if you want to go far, go together." Ambassador Rudd understood that resisting coercion and deterring aggression requires building capacity among our nations, as through AUKUS and the Quad partnership. Whether in shaping Indo-Pacific strategy, in helping to refocus and strengthen the indispensable Five Eyes intelligence partnership, or in speaking out on foundational international norms, he made sure that Australia and the United States stood shoulder to shoulder against intimidation.

Beyond policy achievements and strategic vision, Kevin Rudd is one of the sharpest minds on the diplomatic stage. Few can match his knowledge of history or his analytical depth on international affairs. That is why I hate to see him leave this post, but he is not going far. He is going to return to the Asia Society that he will head up in the United States—although, with a number of his kids and grandkids being in Australia, I know he will be going back and forth between our two nations. The fact that