

As one female runner who was robbed of multiple wins by a biological male described the situation, “It robs girls of the chance to race in front of college scouts who show up for elite meets, and to compete for the scholarships and opportunities that come with college recruitment. I’ll never know how my own college recruitment was impacted by losing those four State championship titles to a male. When colleges looked at my record, they didn’t see the fastest girl in Connecticut. They saw a second- or third-place runner.”

A 2024 United Nations report on violence against women and girls—this one focused on sports—had this to say:

Policies implemented by international federations and national governing bodies, along with national legislation in some countries, allow males who identify as women to compete in female sports categories. . . . The replacement of the female sports category with a mixed-sex category has resulted in an increasing number of female athletes losing opportunities, including medals, when competing against males. According to information received by March 30, 2024, over 600 female athletes in more than 400 competitions have lost more than 890 medals in 29 different sports.

Let me just repeat that:

[O]ver 600 female athletes in more than 400 competitions have lost more than 890 medals in 29 different sports.

You cannot allow biological men to compete in women’s sports without disadvantaging women. That is just simply a fact. It is also common sense. I have given examples and cited a U.N. report, but most people don’t need to know that the idea of biological males taking up space in women’s sports is wrong. Polling shows that a huge majority of the American people oppose biological males playing in women’s sports.

And last year I gave Members of both parties the chance to take action to uphold the intentions of title IX and to ensure that there are genuine spaces and opportunities for women. The Senate voted on the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, legislation from my colleague Senator TUBERVILLE, a former high school girls’ basketball coach, to ensure that women, and women only, participate in women’s sports at federally funded educational institutions, and every single Democrat opposed the bill.

Every Democrat voted against protecting spaces for women and girls in sports. Not one Member, not one Member of the party that likes to style itself as the champion of women’s rights, could bring himself or herself to support women. Transgender ideology won the day, and women took second place.

And so the challenges for women and girls in sports continue. Thanks to this administration’s actions, title IX is being enforced and upheld, and women and girls playing sports at federally funded educational institutions are protected.

But thanks to my Democratic colleagues, those protections can be re-

moved or reversed by the next administration. Generations of women have benefited from fair competition and equal opportunity thanks to title IX. Will Democrats spell the end of title IX’s achievements?

I hope not.

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. 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 Democratic leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the wounds of this Nation will not heal until the terrible abuses of ICE are reined in. The deaths of Renee Good and Alex Pretti have shocked people from one end of America to the other. The image of Federal law enforcement gunning down and murdering U.S. citizens in broad daylight is abominable.

Now, a few moments ago, Tom Homan announced that there will be a drawdown of 700 law enforcement officers in Minneapolis.

Let’s be very clear. Homan’s announcement is not close to enough. Seven hundred officers is going to be like a drop in the bucket to the people of Minneapolis, as over 2,000 agents—representing 70 percent of agents—will still be on the streets, brutalizing citizens, abusing citizens, abusing people. It is not close to enough.

They all have to leave now. That is what the people of Minneapolis want, and, frankly, that is what the American people want, having seen these images.

Seventy percent of the problem is still stationed in Minneapolis. The chaos is going to continue. The danger that someone gets killed—God forbid—continues. All of ICE needs to leave Minneapolis now. They are not needed. Residents don’t want them patrolling the streets like a military occupation.

To say, if 70 percent represents it, that about three-quarters of Minneapolis will still be militarily occupied ain’t close to good enough. It is not what the people of Minneapolis want. It is not what the American people want. A full withdrawal of ICE is the only step—the only right step—for the safety of the citizens and to allow Minneapolis to go function again.

I have heard from our Senators. People can’t go to schools. Stores are closed. Life is disrupted, and it is disrupted as much by 2,000 agents as by 2,700 agents.

Tom Homan is saying that a small group of agents will leave sometime down the line, and that is meaningless.

And let’s be honest, Tom Homan is no hero. Removing Bovino and replacing him with Homan is like switching from somebody who is really, really,

really bad to someone who is just really, really bad. That is cold comfort to the people of Minneapolis.

Tom Homan was the architect and the chief progenitor of many of the awful policies we see in effect right now that are hurting residents in Minneapolis and in so many other places in America.

Today’s announcement only affirms that the real solution to ICE is never going to come from the executive branch policing itself. ICE’s abuse is not a problem that can be solved by executive fiat—and particularly when it is from Donald Trump. We all know that tomorrow Donald Trump could put the 700 troops back, acting like he didn’t even ask for them to be withdrawn. That is how Trump operates.

We need legislation, not executive fiat subject to the whims of Donald Trump. With Donald Trump, it is easy come, easy go. So we need legislation.

Look, most Americans—certainly I—stand firmly behind law enforcement. They have a tough job. They put themselves at risk every day to keep our communities safe. But what Americans don’t like is a subset of Federal agents going off the rails and acting with zero restraint, zero accountability, and acting like a squad of roving thugs—goons.

So Democrats have been clear about what Congress needs to do to end ICE’s violence and ensure public safety. ICE needs to end roving patrols, follow basic standards of accountability, and end the secret police who are masked and unidentified.

These are reasonable demands. Reasonable demands include masks coming off and cameras staying on. Real reasonable demands include accountability so that someone is looking over what is going on here and stopping it and limiting it. Reasonable demands mean no roving patrols where these ICE agents just, at whim, pick up people going to schools and churches.

What we are asking is common sense and what the American people want, and so it is troubling and perplexing that some Republicans, led by Speaker JOHNSON, are right now siding with the secret police.

Speaker JOHNSON says having ICE agents take off their masks would somehow create further danger. Does he know anything about law enforcement? When he goes home to Louisiana, do the sheriffs or police officers wear masks? No.

In every jurisdiction in America, police officers identify themselves. It is a good way of dealing with the handful of abusive officers that exist. It is a good way to make sure people know what is happening.

And JOHNSON says taking masks off is a danger? A greater danger than people getting shot or beaten to a pulp on the streets by unidentified secret police?

Meanwhile, the senior Senator from Texas called the idea of no masks ridiculous. Senator CORNYN says taking masks off is ridiculous.

But I will tell you what is actually ridiculous: defending secret police after they murder or maim or brutalize people in our streets. It is ridiculous to look at all the images of chaos to see what is happening in Minneapolis and other cities, to see the tear gas and bodies lying lifeless, people hurt and beaten, thrown into dark prisons with no understanding of why they were picked up and put in these prisons. That is the danger.

It is ridiculous to think that ICE, a force of untrained people, should get special treatment, while every other law enforcement agency in the country is asked to follow reasonable codes of conduct.

When you get pulled over, the traffic cop doesn't wear a mask. People don't see sheriffs and their deputies running around wearing masks. Security guards and State troopers and even most FBI agents don't walk around wearing masks. But, all of a sudden, these ICE agents, who have one of the worst records of law enforcement we have seen in America in decades, should be allowed to wear masks.

It is truly ridiculous for Republicans to argue that at this very delicate moment, when people fear excessive force from Federal agents, the right answer is to defend ICE's ability to wear masks and enter homes with zero guardrails.

Now, we have just a few days until DHS funding runs out. Democrats have been clear on what needs to happen. Our proposals are designed to ensure public safety and instill the kind of guardrails that the vast majority of Americans support.

Republicans need to realize that the single worst thing they can do right now, in the eyes of the Nation, is to double down on the status quo of ICE. They must negotiate. They must sit down and work out a real solution.

The Nation is tired of the chaos ICE is unleashing on our streets and does not want Republicans in the Senate and House to sit on their hands and allow it to continue.

EPSTEIN FILES

Mr. President, now on Epstein, yesterday, Donald Trump said that the Nation should finally just move on with the Epstein files.

Here is what he said: "I think it's really time," Trump said, "for the country to get on to something else, now that nothing came out about me."

Of course, it is only about Donald Trump, as usual.

But let me just say this to Donald Trump. You are wrong again, Mr. President. America will not move on from the Epstein files until America gets the whole truth—the full truth—about the Epstein files. America will not move on until Donald Trump does what he promised—full transparency—and we haven't come close to that yet.

Millions upon millions of documents remain shrouded in darkness. We have no idea what is left in them, what is in there about Donald Trump. Did the

Justice Department particularly hide and not reveal documents that might be damaging to Trump?

Instead of prioritizing transparency and complying with the law, the Department of Justice, to this day, is still obsessed with prioritizing protecting Donald Trump. It is pretty obvious.

Trump chose people in the Justice Department to be his own attack dogs, his own puppets. They don't have any independence, and so we don't trust them. The American people don't trust them.

So, President Trump, no, the Nation will not "get on to something else" until you do what you promised and release all the Epstein files, so the whole truth—the whole truth—can come out. 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. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call in relation to the Benton nomination.

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

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, yesterday I was in the Oval Office with the President of the United States, and President Trump signed into law five appropriations bills. And as a result, 96 percent of the Federal Government is funded through the end of the fiscal year. That is good news for the American people.

We accomplished all of this through the normal legislative process—a bill going through the House, through the Senate, and then to the White House. This is how Congress is supposed to work. The Appropriations Committee, led by Senator SUSAN COLLINS of Maine, made it happen here in the Senate. This is a welcome change from how things were done in the past during the Democrat administration.

Today, Republicans work to continue to fully fund the last 4 percent of government, and that is the Department of Homeland Security. The Department of Homeland Security is charged with one of the Federal Government's most basic duties, and that is to keep Americans safe. The Department of Homeland Security enforces our Nation's immigration laws; it oversees TSA agents; it directs the Federal Emergency Management Agency; it commands the U.S. Coast Guard; and it protects our Nation from cyber attacks.

Republicans are ready to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security. We are ready to do it through the end of the fiscal year. And we have been ready to do it for weeks. Democrats are

holding the funding hostage. Democrats have an unreasonable and growing list of demands. Democrats' demands would undermine law enforcement, and Democrats' demands would make our Nation less safe.

One of the Democrats' most dangerous demands is for local police to ignore Federal immigration law. Democrats in Congress and Democrats who run big cities do not want the law enforced. They have proven it by their words and by their actions.

For years, the Democrats have been the party of "defund the police." Democrats have now taken it a step further. Now, they are the party of defund American security. The debate is about much more than Federal funding. It is about whether Federal law is enforced or ignored. It is about whether our communities are safe or not. Seventy-eight percent of Americans want to deport illegal immigrant criminals. Americans support more cooperation between local and Federal officials. This applies specifically to deporting illegal immigrant criminals.

Americans also say that local jails should transfer criminal illegal immigrants to Federal officials. Let me point out that in today's Washington Post—and I have a copy of it right here, of their editorial page—the Washington Post this morning, February 4, 2026:

Congress has its work cut out on DHS funding.

They start a paragraph that says:

Something else Schumer says he wants is an end to roving patrols.

Senator SCHUMER just spoke here on the floor of the U.S. Senate. The editorial said Democrat-run cities should "hand over dangerous illegal immigrants in their jails" instead of "hiding behind sanctuary policies."

The Washington Post this morning is advising the Democrats and, specifically, Senator SCHUMER by name that we need more cooperation, not less, which is what we are getting from Democrat-run cities in big Democrat bastions and promoted by each and every one of the Democrats on the floor of the U.S. Senate. We need more cooperation.

We have gotten to this place because of the law, specifically the Laken Riley law, which, Mr. President, you were one of the cosponsors and advocates and worked so hard on. Because of that law—the law that Senator KATIE BRITT wrote, you worked with, we got passed, signed into law—DHS has detained an additional 20,000 illegal immigrants who otherwise would have been released back onto the streets of our communities.

Clearly, when local officials cooperate with Federal officers, the American people are safer. By contrast, Senate Democrats—and we are going to hear it again today—want to enact sanctuary city policies on a national level. People in my home State and yours hate the idea of sanctuary cities. American cities—already, over a dozen Democrat-