

\$8 billion of investment from nuclear companies around the world. And I am certain we are only just getting started.

I have had the honor of working with Governor Lee on an issue that is very near and dear to my heart: That is making Memphis the safest city in America. I have worked with President Trump, Attorney General Bondi, FBI Director Patel, Senator BLACKBURN, Representative KUSTOFF, Governor Lee, Commissioner Long, Sheriff Bonner, and Mayor Young for more than a year to get the Memphis Safe Task Force in motion. Because of Governor Lee's commitment to provide not only funds, but law enforcement personnel, we are seeing real results in Memphis that will provide a generational change for Memphians.

Crime in the Shelby County area is way down. As of yesterday morning, law enforcement has arrested 5,681 criminals and gotten them off the streets. They have seized 926 firearms and located 148 missing children. Think about how many families have had their lives changed for the better with 148 missing children returned to them. That, along with everything else I have laid out before you today, has benefited from Governor Lee's leadership.

NOMINATION OF BRIAN CHARLES LEA

Mr. President, I would like to address a separate issue. President Trump's nomination of Brian Charles Lea to be his District Judge for the Western District of Tennessee.

Brian is a fourth-generation Memphian, a graduate of Union University. His academic credentials are outstanding with a 4.06 GPA in law school followed by clerkships for Judge Ed Karnes and the U.S. Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas.

Brian has experience teaching law alongside Justice Thomas, and also as a partner at Jones Day, one of the nation's largest law firms, one of the Nation's finest law firms. He has even defended our legislative privileges as lead counsel in the case on behalf of our colleague Senator GRAHAM.

Brian currently serves as Deputy Associate Attorney General, serving the people of the United States of America as counsel in some of the most complicated civil litigations that we encounter.

Brian has the patience, courtesy, humility, and thoughtfulness of a good trial judge. He recognizes that the Constitution should be interpreted according to its original meaning, and it must be followed regardless of the ebbs and flows of public opinion or the personal preferences of the one who dons the robe.

I am confident Brian will serve the people of Memphis well and will uphold the highest standards of our judiciary. I urge my colleagues to support his confirmation.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, among the bills in the funding package that was signed into law yesterday was the State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill. And while people are understandably focused elsewhere, I want to take a moment to talk today about what is in the so-called SFOPS bill and why it matters because, simply put, this bill will save lives all around the world. It will strengthen our alliances and partnerships at a moment when global instability is at an alltime high. And, crucially, it will make Americans safer here at home.

As ranking member of this subcommittee, I saw in realtime the destruction and devastation wrought by Donald Trump's illegal dismantling of the U.S. Agency for International Development. Estimates are that more than 760,000 people, including 500,000 children, have died over the past year since American assistance suddenly vanished—760,000 people. Worse, millions more are expected to die in the next 5 years if the current trend continues.

So it is in that context that this bill is essential. It is proof that there is still broad bipartisan support for America showing up in the world, not just with tanks and guns but with food and lifesaving care and economic assistance. And we do that not just because we are the indispensable Nation and that is the right and moral thing to do—although that would be enough—but also because projecting power in all of its forms is smart, it is strategic, and it makes us more safe and more competitive.

In this bill, there are vital investments in global health, humanitarian aid, and economic and development assistance. There is more than \$9 billion for global health programs to help to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria, TB, and polio. The funding also supports vaccination efforts that the administration tried to eliminate and strengthens maternal and child health programs.

The bill includes close to \$7 billion for development programs focused on economic resilience, education, water and sanitation, and disaster mitigation. And there is a reason why we have funded these programs for decades. Yes, our partners want them. Yes, they employ tens of thousands of Americans. But more than that, these programs benefit our national interests in unique ways. For instance, it is because of USAID's war legacy work in Vietnam that we share a strong security partnership today. It is thanks to our disaster risk mitigation programs in the Pacific islands that we have as much access to the region as we do.

So it is not as if we just invest this money and hope for the best. This is not charity. This is not charity. It pays off over years and decades.

This bill also rejects the administration's efforts to retreat from multilateral institutions like the United Nations. It ensures that we can pay our

treaty dues to international organizations, restores voluntary funding for organizations like UNICEF, and fully meets our commitments to multilateral development banks that focus on economic development.

Relatedly, the bill includes billions of dollars in funding to allies and partners across the globe, including those in the Indo-Pacific and Eurasia who are working to counter Chinese influence and Russian aggression.

Now, I want to be clear: This bill is definitely not the bill that I would have written if it were up to me. There are steep cuts to really important programs, and we are asking our diplomats and our partners to navigate a riskier world with fewer resources. The cuts to humanitarian assistance are especially disappointing, and they are the result of the administration effectively shutting down the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, slowing assistance for those impacted by conflict, and reprioritizing funds for its own agenda. Our international broadcasting grantees are also experiencing significant cuts even as they try to provide essential information and services in Ukraine, Iran, and across the Indo-Pacific.

And I want us to understand that what happened in the spring around DOGE and USAID—a lot of people are not tracking some of these funding areas, but, for instance, this is about getting our message out in Ukraine, this is about countering the Government of China's propaganda in the Indo-Asia Pacific, and this is about people in Iran having access to the internet through VPNs that we helped them to get.

And so some of these programs—if you are just a tech guy and you have been assigned to find things to cut and you read a line item and you say: 75 million for what? VPNs in the mid—what is that? That is what this is. All of these programs serve our national interests.

That said, there was nothing inevitable about this bill. We are here today, a year on from the wholesale evisceration of the American foreign assistance enterprise, enacting a bipartisan law because Members on both sides were committed to preserving this enterprise. So I want to thank Senators GRAHAM, MURRAY, and COLLINS as well as Representatives DIAZ-BALART and FRANKEL for their partnership in negotiating the bill. It was one of the toughest negotiations and most important negotiations I have ever been involved in.

And I also want to thank the incredible staff here in the Senate who worked tirelessly to get this done. On the Democratic side, that is Alex Carnes, Sarita Vanka, Kali Farahmand, and Drew Platt, and on the Republican side, Paul Grove, Paul Denaro. This would not have been possible without all of you.

And now the hard work of implementation and oversight begins. We can appropriate as much money as we want,

but we need experienced people to administer these funds. So, to that end, while rejecting the administration's request to close USAID as an independent Agency, this bill sustains investments in our diplomatic workforce that provides new hiring authorities for the State Department in order to properly manage the additional assistance. And on oversight, we have closed loopholes and added new transparency requirements so that Congress can better track the use of funds and ensure that they are being spent as intended.

Just last week, Secretary Rubio committed to faithfully implementing this bill, and now it is on all of us to work together to make that true. There will be a lot more work to do in the months and years ahead to rebuild American foreign assistance, but this week marks a very important first step.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we had a hearing yesterday. It was an impromptu spotlight hearing, not in the ordinary course of Senate business. And we invited witnesses in to testify about what is happening in major cities across our country. Today, I am going to address one of those witnesses and her experience in the city of Chicago.

Her name is Marimar Martinez. She is 30 years old. She is a teacher in a Montessori school. In October, she decided that she was going to take some extra clothing that she had in her apartment to her church and leave it so that other people might be able to benefit from it.

Driving over there, she encountered a truck that was clearly being driven by ICE officials, Border Patrol officials. She beeped her horn because of their presence. They stopped the car, and the agents got out of the car with their guns. They started shooting her automobile. They ended up shooting her five times—five times. The agent who shot her, a 20-plus-year veteran of the Border Patrol, bragged on the text that he sent shortly thereafter that he caused seven holes in her body with five bullets.

What happened to her afterward is a grim story. She was able to drive about a mile to 35th and California in Chicago and got out of the car and passed out. And a fellow came to her aid and called an ambulance. They took her to the local hospital, where she was bleeding profusely. They were trying to save her life. Again, she was in and out of consciousness and asked to go to a second hospital when the bleeding wouldn't stop.

The FBI was then present, monitoring her every step of the way. This went on for hours and hours afterward: A victim with gunshot wounds. She was trying to survive, and they were trying to arrest her.

The charges, as I mentioned, were that she was ramming a Federal vehicle. She denied it. And this is an interesting part of the story. ICE and the Federal officials decided to move the vehicle from Chicago, IL, to the State of Maine—1,000 miles. Why would they take the vehicle, after this incident, 1,000 miles? Well, it turned out, they had some work to do on it so it wouldn't show that her damage was on the side of the car—on the side of their car and wasn't the result of any ramming whatsoever.

Of course, the Agencies involved described her as a domestic terrorist—this 30-year-old Montessori schoolteacher with no criminal record, born and raised in the United States. It took several months of hearings for the decision to be finally made by the government to drop all charges against Marimar Martinez.

Think of that experience for a minute: in America, driving your car, being shot five times by the Federal agents. That, unfortunately, is becoming commonplace.

We saw the terrible executions that took place in Minnesota—innocent people who were protesting within their constitutional rights are dead today, Alex Pretti and Renee Good.

What is going on in the streets of America does not reflect who we are and what our goals and values must be. I think about that repeatedly.

That young lady bears the scars of those wounds for the rest of her life and experience. She was asked: What does she want from this experience? What would she like to have, now that all the charges have been dropped?

She said: I want the government to clear my name. They branded me a domestic terrorist, and I am not one.

Is that too much to ask, for the government to say they were wrong, that they shot her five times in a car as she was leaving, and they were wrong in the charges they were bringing against her? I don't think it is too much to ask. What is too much to ask is that this continues.

There is a conversation underway between the leaderships of the House and the Senate and the White House about changing the rules when it comes to these ICE agents. The fact that they would wear masks is being argued as one of the points.

I have yet to meet a Senator or a Congressman arguing that they should be able to wear a mask, who tell me their State police wear masks on a regular basis. They don't. There may be a peculiar circumstance where it is required, but it is unusual. This Agency, ICE, wants to make this routine, that you could wear a mask and conceal your identity.

We believe that the masks should come off and video cameras come on.

The video cameras will tell us what happened, good or bad, for the officers involved. They are being used in police departments across America. Why wouldn't they apply to this situation?

When it comes to the right of individuals to be safe in their homes, that is one of the basics of the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution. The home is, in fact, a critical symbol of that constitutional right.

I think back to my courses that I took in law school on the Bill of Rights and the circumstances involving the British and the monarchy that led to the Bill of Rights. One of the things was that people wanted to be safe in their homes.

Now, it is being argued by these Federal Agencies that they don't need any warrant to batter down your front door and enter your home, and look and see if someone who is suspicious is inside. That is just unacceptable and unconstitutional.

A year ago, the U.S. Senate voted to confirm Pam Bondi as Attorney General. As I said during her confirmation hearing, last year, the Attorney General must be committed, first and foremost, to the Constitution and the American people, not to the President and his political agenda. I was unconvinced then that Ms. Bondi shared that view. Over the course of the last year, my concerns sadly have been borne out.

Even before Attorney General Bondi was installed atop the Justice Department, Donald Trump had moved swiftly to purge DOJ and the FBI of senior career law enforcement officials. In their place came partisan hacks, including a January 6 rioter who encouraged his fellow insurrectionists to murder law enforcement officers protecting the Capitol. He was shouting the words "kill em" when he came to the police who were defending this Capitol Building. That person ended up being pardoned and then becoming part of the Department of Justice staff. Can you believe it?

Under the direction of Attorney General Bondi, these MAGA loyalists pounced on President Trump's perceived enemies. In addition to the now-dismissed indictments against former FBI Director James Comey and New York Attorney General Letitia James, Federal prosecutors have opened criminal investigations into Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell, Governor Lisa Cook, and others.

The list goes on and on of the enemies of the President who are being prosecuted by the Department of Justice. Why? Not because they broke the law but because the President believes they are his political enemies.

And it begs the question: If the President can turn the Department of Justice and the FBI into his own personal police force to target his personal and political enemies, what is stopping him from targeting ordinary Americans?

Tragically, we are already seeing the answer to that question in the Department of Justice's partisan response to