

with a list—a new list—of demands designed to protect illegal immigrant criminals. We just heard him speak about it on the floor just a few minutes ago. The minority leader has said that he has 10 demands. Last week, he had three. Now, he says he has 10. I read the fine print. It looks to me that this ballooning list is now up to 23 demands. The minority leader just said Republicans are calling the demands political. I see them as radical and extreme. This is about funding the Department of Homeland Security for our Nation, keeping our Nation safe.

The minority leader said Republicans can't explain why their demands are extreme. I can tell you why they are extreme. They prioritize the safety of illegal immigrant criminals over the safety and security of the American people. I would think the majority of Americans would see that as extreme and dangerous.

Now, the minority leader might think that he has leverage to defund law enforcement. He is wrong. Border Patrol is funded. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is funded.

To me, what is reckless here, from this far-left wish list, is it is closing the Federal Emergency Management Agency—closing them down—the Coast Guard working without pay, TSA agents working without pay, making our Nation more vulnerable to cyber attacks. Those are all things that are funded by the Department of Homeland Security. So that is why I tell you that these demands are radical.

It is the demand to change the rules regarding immigration enforcement warrants. And that is a big part of what they are talking about. When Democrats say they want to "improve warrant procedures and standards," it sounds nice. I am not a lawyer. You study it, you look into it, because you hear the Democrats use that phrase a lot. What Democrats won't tell you is the people that benefit from that are criminals.

Here is what this Democrat demand actually does. I will tell you because Senator SCHUMER refuses to tell us what it does. It ends immigration enforcement—ends it. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is forced to use what are called judicial warrants. For each and every immigration arrest, America will become a sanctuary country, not just a bunch of sanctuary cities in different States—no, an entire sanctuary country. That is what they are pushing for, and that is their goal, and it is a destructive goal for our Nation.

Democrats want to abolish ICE. You have even the signs being carried in the streets. They want to abolish borders. They want to turn America into a sanctuary country for illegal immigrants and, specifically, for illegal immigrant criminals who Joe Biden let flush into this country all the way through 4 years—10,000 a day, illegal immigrants coming into the Nation. If Democrats had their way, removing il-

legal immigrants from our communities, from our streets would be nearly impossible.

Today, more than 1 million illegal immigrants have received, from the courts, a final court order for removal. Democrats want every single one of them to stay in our communities, to stay on our streets and in our neighborhoods, all across the country forever.

If you have a final removal order, you have already gone before an immigration judge. You presented your case. You received due process. You exhausted every possible appeal. After a fair and thorough process, a judge has affirmed you may not stay in this country any longer—finished. It is time for you to go. It is the law.

Federal immigration officials have used administrative warrants for decades. Federal law provides for them. The Supreme Court upheld their constitutionality in 1960. We are talking 65 years ago. Federal circuit courts have reaffirmed their use in decade after decade after decade. Senate Democrats want to overturn long-term constitutional precedent. Why? Because Democrats seek to dismantle immigration enforcement completely.

The Democrat demand is not a minor adjustment. If Democrats have their way, it will lead to fewer arrests, fewer removals, and lead to more illegal immigrant criminals released onto the streets in our communities and our neighborhoods. That is what this is about.

The Senate should be very clear-eyed about the Democrats' goals and the dangerous consequences of the demands that are being made by Senator SCHUMER and the Democrats just to fund the Department of Homeland Security, something that we had agreed to do in the weeks prior to their decision, a week ago, to just say no. They said: No, we are done.

Joe Biden and the Democrats spent 4 years ignoring our Nation's immigration laws. They are the party of wide-open borders. They have been. They have proven it. They brought back catch-and-release. They abused parole powers, and they demonized law enforcement. They demonize the very men and women who devote their lives and commit their careers to keeping our Nation safe. As a result, 10 million illegal immigrants flooded into the country, and our communities became less safe because Democrats refused to enforce the law.

In Georgia, Laken Riley, a 22-year-old nursing student, was murdered by an illegal immigrant. Her killer crossed into this country illegally in 2022. The Biden administration released that killer into our country instead of removing him. Before he killed Laken Riley, he was arrested in New York City for child endangerment—somebody arrested in New York City for endangering a child. Despite his crime, what happens in New York City? He was released. Why? Because New York

City is a sanctuary city. Now, the Governor there wants to make it a sanctuary State.

Had her killer been in custody, Laken Riley would still be alive today. She would have finished her nursing training and be taking care of patients in her community.

In North Carolina, two teenagers were killed by an illegal immigrant in a deadly car crash. The killer was driving drunk. His criminal record before the incident was lengthy—a lengthy criminal record. Yet before the crash, his other charges were dismissed by sanctuary cities.

North Carolina's legislature passed multiple bills to require local police to get illegal immigrant criminals off the streets. So what happened? Well, North Carolina's pro-crime Democrat Governor, named Roy Cooper, vetoed them all. So criminals are back on the streets thanks to a North Carolina pro-crime Democrat Governor named Roy Cooper—three vetoes by Roy Cooper, Democrat Governor of North Carolina, allowing illegal immigrant criminals to roam freely. And because of Governor Cooper's reckless vetoes, parents had to bury their teenage children.

Tragedies like this remind us that we all pay the price when liberal politicians favor illegal immigrant criminals over the safety of American citizens. That is exactly why Republicans passed the Laken Riley Act. Because of that law, the Department of Homeland Security has detained an additional 20,000 illegal immigrants who otherwise would have been released back into our communities.

When it comes to public safety, Democrats continue to fail the American people. Senate Republicans will not accept changes that make our communities less safe. When I read Senator SCHUMER's list of the 23 demands—he may call it 10; it started as 3—these are things that will make our communities less safe. Republicans are going to continue to stand on the side of safer and more secure communities.

WINTER OLYMPICS

Mr. President, on a separate matter, tomorrow, in Milan, Italy, the 2026 Winter Olympics officially begins.

Wyoming is once again helping to lead Team USA to the top of the mountain, literally. Three extraordinary Wyoming women are competing on the world's biggest stage. They are Jaelin Kauf, Breezy Johnson, and Anna Gibson.

Jaelin Kauf is from Alta, WY, and is competing in her third Olympic Games. Skiing runs in her family. Both of her parents were professional mogul skiers. Wyoming was thrilled, but not at all surprised, when she took home the silver medal at the 2022 Games. This year, she is going for gold, and she is competing in the single and dual moguls, which is a new Olympic sport, making its debut this year.

Breezy Johnson of Jackson Hole, WY, is competing in her second Winter Olympics. The 2026 Olympics mark

Breezy's return to alpine skiing. She had to withdraw from the 2022 Games after tearing her anterior cruciate ligament and meniscus. Known for her speed, she embodies the relentless drive of a champion and the ability to overcome adversity.

Anna Gibson from Jackson Hole, WY, will compete in ski mountaineering. Both Anna and ski mountaineering are making their Olympic debuts. In this event, athletes ski up a steep mountain before skiing back down the mountain. It is a grueling test of strength, endurance, and willpower.

As a decorated cross-country runner, which is going to get her up the mountain, and Nordic skier, which will get her down the mountain, Anna is made for this challenge.

My home State of Wyoming will be cheering on each and every one of these three incredible women, and we will be watching them with pride.

Few athletes ever know the honor of representing Team USA. Fewer still will be able to stand on the Olympic podium when the "Star-Spangled Banner" plays.

These three Wyoming women are part of a very elite group. They remind us of the greatness that comes from the courage and from the determination and from the willingness to chase something extraordinary.

I know all of America wishes the very, very best for Team USA in the days and weeks ahead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

TRIBUTE TO GENERAL JAMES J. MINGUS

Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a fellow Iowan and an exemplary leader, GEN James J. Mingus, upon his retirement from the U.S. Army after more than four decades of distinguished service to our Nation.

Born in Spencer, IA, General Mingus was instilled with strong midwestern values of hard work, service, grit, and teamwork.

Long before he wore four stars on his shoulders, General Mingus took up the call to service, in 1981, in the same way that so many of us did. He enlisted in the Iowa Army National Guard. It was there that he learned the mundane tasks of a young soldier, at that time—shining black leather boots, making sure your uniform was ready for those weekend drills in a blustery cold Iowa. But he also learned the more impactful lessons in the National Guard, such as leadership and teamwork and caring for the brother to the left and right of you. His focus, even as a young soldier, was always on people.

In 1985, he earned his commission in Field Artillery at the Winona State University Reserve Officers' Training Corps. When he entered Active Duty, 2 years later, he transitioned to the Infantry.

From the outset, General Mingus' trajectory took him through some of the Army's most demanding assign-

ments. He commanded and served in positions that required courage, initiative, and an unwavering sense of duty. Those early assignments prepared him for service in the 75th Ranger Regiment, where he served as an operations officer and later commanded the 4th Ranger Training Battalion, helping to shape the Army's toughest trainees into elite warriors.

Throughout his career, General Mingus was repeatedly entrusted with greater responsibility. This was a reflection of the confidence placed in him by soldiers and senior leaders alike. Over the course of his career, General Mingus deployed not once, not twice—nope—not 5 times, not even 10. General Mingus deployed 12 times to Iraq and Afghanistan, repeatedly placing himself along soldiers in harm's way and earning the enduring respect of those whom he led.

He went on to serve in key staff roles at U.S. Central Command and the Joint Special Operations Command, where his strategic insight helped to guide complex and high-risk missions.

In August 2018, General Mingus assumed command of the 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg—one of the Army's most storied divisions. Through these experiences and as a testament to his dedication and leadership, he was selected to serve as the 39th Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Army and was promoted to the rank of four-star general. In that role, he has served as the Army's second highest ranking officer, helping to oversee the readiness, modernization, and the strategic direction of our Nation's land forces.

But beyond rank and assignments, those who have served under him will tell you that General Mingus' greatest legacy is his focus on people—on soldiers and their families, on mentorship—and on ensuring that the Army remains lethal, ready, and grounded in its core values. His journey from an enlisted Iowa Army National Guardsman to Vice Chief of Staff of the Army is a powerful example for every young man or woman of how great our American opportunity is.

On behalf of a grateful nation, I extend my deepest thanks to GEN James J. Mingus for his extraordinary service and sacrifice.

I also have a profound appreciation for Amy, his wife, who has such a tremendous and beautiful spirit, and for their family, whose support made this remarkable career possible.

As he moves into his next chapter, his legacy will endure in the strength of the U.S. Army and in the countless soldiers who are better leaders and better Americans because they served alongside him and under him.

God bless you, GEN Jay Mingus, and thank you for your service and sacrifice to our great U.S. Army and to our great United States of America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The Democratic leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. RES. 597

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, 2 months ago, nearly every single Member of the House and Senate voted to pass a very simple bill with a very simple message: release the Epstein files. The legal deadline to release the files was December 19—nearly 50 days ago—and the American people are still waiting for the truth to come out. The December 19 deadline was not a recommendation; it wasn't a suggestion. Releasing the Epstein files is the law, a law that every single Member of this Chamber—Democrat, Republican, Independent—supported as well as every Member of the House, save one.

So where are we today, 50 days past the deadline?

At best, according to the Department of Justice's own admissions, maybe half of all of the available Epstein files have been released. That means millions of documents which contain the names of coconspirators: financial records, travel logs, letters, emails. The public deserves to see those documents, but the heinous crimes of Jeffrey Epstein and his coconspirators remain shrouded in darkness. These are things the public deserves to see, but they are shrouded in darkness, and whatever materials have been released have often been redacted to an absurd degree. Hundreds of pages have been blotted out to the point that it is just a wall of black ink. That is it—a wall of black ink. Look at this: There are hundreds of pages that look just like this. This is not transparency. This is not what the law requires. This is a mockery of the truth and an insult to the survivors.

What makes this all the more sickening is that, in over 1,000 instances, the Justice Department failed to follow the law and leaked the identities of over 100 victims. But do you know whom the Justice Department did seem to protect? Epstein's coconspirators. Do you know whom else the Justice Department seemed to protect? Donald Trump. What is Pam Bondi trying to hide?

Enough is enough. Today, I come to the floor to seek unanimous agreement of a resolution directing the Senate to sue the Trump administration for violating the Epstein Files Transparency Act. Fifteen of my Democratic colleagues have joined in cosponsoring this resolution, and I thank every single one of them for standing firm.

I urge my Republican colleagues not to stand in the way today. It is the height of absurdity for Republicans to have supported the Epstein Files Transparency Act but to then go ahead and object to enforcing it—what hypocrisy. Objecting today would completely cancel out the whole point of Republicans' supporting the law in the first place.

Finally, the people who have lost the most and who have suffered the most are Jeffrey Epstein's victims. With me, I have a letter from about 20 of the victims, explaining how reckless and dangerous it was for the DOJ to carelessly