

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3746

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I rise today to propose a very simple bill that I think most Americans can understand. It has a very simple basic principle: If you are on any type of government aid, you are restricted from sending money overseas. It is pretty straightforward. We want to help American citizens who are in need, but if they are in need, why would they need to send money overseas?

I would say this: A nation's strength lies in its people's ability to sustain themselves and their countrymen first. To divert public benevolence overseas weakens the bonds of union at home, inviting dependence where independence should prevail. We cannot allow the fruits of American labor meant to nourish our own be scattered to foreign soils. True charity begins with securing the liberties and livelihoods of our fellow citizens.

Government aid is a ladder for the American worker to climb from poverty to prosperity. To send it beyond our borders is to weaken that ladder, denying our people the fruits of their own toil and the promise of a more perfect Union.

We have framed laws to protect our citizens from poverty's grasp, ensuring homes, livelihoods, and security for Americans. Diverting those resources overseas betrays that compact, for our progress is measured by providing for those who have little within our own shores.

And, finally, I would say this, Mr. President: Welfare should lift Americans up, not fund foreign dependencies. When those in public aid send money overseas, it is a sign the system is broken, trapping people in poverty while draining our Nation's hard-earned resources from those who need it at home the most.

So, Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Finance Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 3746 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, this legislation prohibits any individual—senior citizens, people with disabilities, our veterans, refugees, and the poorest of the poor—from sending money to friends or family overseas for any reason. That prohibition includes American citizens as well. So if you are a veteran who served our country and who counts on your VA benefits, you had better not provide any financial support to your grandmother living abroad or, under this legislation, you could be fined \$100,000.

The legislation comes straight from a very cruel playbook: First, target public programs that provide a lifeline to low- and middle-income people; second, smear the recipients of this help by characterizing them as fraudsters; and third, use the exaggerated claims as a pretext to slash funding. That was the playbook at the heart of the Republicans' major legislation, which made the biggest ever cuts to healthcare and food assistance in the history of America.

Why were those awful cuts made that are causing hospitals to shutter their labor and delivery units and slash staff? To fund the ICE surge that has led to untrained Federal agents roaming the streets of America's communities, committing violence with impunity.

That major legislation also lavished tax breaks onto the ultrawealthy while doing nothing to crack down on the billions that wealthy tax cheats don't pay their fair share with each year.

This legislation represents a dark heart—a dark heart of the Republican agenda: Scapegoat those who don't have a voice while letting the wealthy and well connected get off the hook.

If my colleagues on the other side really were worried about money leaving the United States, I can tell you, as the ranking Democrat on the Finance Committee, they can look at their own tax laws that encourage giant corporations to ship jobs and factories overseas. They ought to figure out why the Trump economy is driving investors and their dollars away from America and into foreign markets.

It would be an understatement to say this legislation is a solution in search of a problem. This legislation is obviously some kind of messaging bill that would challenge the very foundations of what draws people from all over the world to America—the chance to imagine and create a better life for themselves and their families.

For those reasons, I object.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. MORENO. To my colleague from Oregon, who I don't really know well, let me say this. As somebody that actually came to this country from a foreign land legally, I find it decently insulting that you would paint a picture of immigrants coming here to be dependent on the government. Let me just tell you, the exact opposite is true.

But that is actually the playbook of the Democratic Party—smearing with racist undertones immigrants, thinking that the only reason we would ever come to America is to be dependent on government.

Let me just be clear to the Americans out there who want to understand what is actually happening in DC, because I have only been here 13 months. My colleague has been here for 30 years. When you have been here for 30 years in Washington, DC, you think it

is perfectly normal for government to provide aid to those in need and then have those people send that money overseas. To them, that is normal.

And in terms of your comment, to my colleague from Oregon, that we are shipping jobs overseas or incentivizing companies to send jobs overseas, welcome to the Republican Party's position on tariffs. I am happy to see, finally, that we have a Democrat who is willing to embrace tariffs, because we are sick and tired of seeing our jobs shipped overseas.

So I am disappointed that we couldn't agree on a basic premise, that U.S. taxpayer dollars intended to help our citizens should stay within our shores. That should highlight why, yesterday, the Democrat Members of both Houses could not stand up when President Trump asked a simple question: Is it the first duty of an elected official to defend and protect American citizens?

And you were there, Mr. President. Not a single Democrat could stand up.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Since my colleague is talking about my family's background, you might be interested to know that my parents fled the Nazis in the thirties. Not all got out. And we were especially proud of my two parents, who weren't at all interested in coming to America for any benefits, as my colleague is suggesting; they persuaded themselves that they should be in our Army. My dad was one of the famous Ritchie Boys, renowned for their service to the country, writing the propaganda pamphlets we dropped on the Nazis. So my colleague is way off base with his comments about my family.

Finally, you might want to do some checking. When I first read this, I thought maybe my colleague and his staff just didn't get the text written correctly because the people who are really upset now are the veterans, people who wore the uniform of the United States, who my colleague is putting in a hardship situation, according to staff.

I just wanted to make sure the record was correct.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. MORENO. I will remind the Senator: I in no way disparaged your family. I didn't even mention your family. What I did mention is that you made the point that we are harming immigrants who come here who might be dependent on social safety net programs and sending that money back overseas.

And I came here from another country—not my parents. I came here. I wasn't born in this country. I came here to seek the American dream, and I am honored every day to be here—although, on a day like today, not so much, because it is grossly disappointing that the Democrat Party that I once knew, a party of the working class, is not willing to make a very

simple statement: When we help American citizens, we expect that money to stay in this country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

NOMINATION OF JOHN DELEEUEW

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to speak about the opposition to the nominee before us that we are going to vote on soon, Mr. John DeLeeuw. It is not necessarily about Mr. DeLeeuw's qualifications; it is about the dangerous precedent we are making as we confirm someone to replace an independent NTSB board member who was removed by the President without cause, while they are actively challenging this removal in court. And it is about a needless jeopardizing of public confidence in NTSB's critical work, which I will speak about in a minute, particularly as it relates to the House not taking up the ROTOR Act on suspension yesterday, a bill that we passed by 100 votes here in the U.S. Senate.

It has been less than 2 years since this body unanimously confirmed Alvin Brown to be on the NTSB. The Senate's overwhelming support for Mr. Brown should not be surprising. As a former mayor of Jacksonville, FL, and a former senior adviser to the Department of Transportation, Mr. Brown's background and experience qualified him to be on the NTSB.

My colleague Senator SCOTT of Florida introduced Mr. Brown at his nomination hearing before the Commerce Committee, praising his "excellent record of service" and noting that he would "do excellent work on behalf of the American people in this role." Senator SCOTT's prediction that Mr. Brown would focus on the NTSB and safety—shortly after he was sworn in, he began conducting critical work on the NTSB investigation into the collapse of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, which killed six people and caused billions of dollars in damage.

He was also leading the NTSB response to the March 13, 2025, highway accident on Interstate 35 in Austin, TX, that killed 5 people and injured 11 more. But seeking to unravel Congress' will and insert its own will, even though we voted on this gentleman and he is serving the NTSB focusing on safety, the White House basically is trying to remove Mr. Brown and replace him with Mr. DeLeeuw. As I stated earlier, Mr. Brown has filed a lawsuit challenging his removal. This remains in the courts and pending; the Supreme Court is prepared to rule this year on this decision to bring legal clarity to Mr. Brown's case.

So I ask my colleagues, why are we rushing to confirm Mr. DeLeeuw to a seat that isn't even really vacant under current law? Why would we needlessly create confusion, especially when the Supreme Court is expected to rule on this issue very soon? And why would the Senate allow the executive branch to undermine the confidence and the

independence of the National Transportation Safety Board?

As we pointed out, moving ahead with this nomination before us—Mr. DeLeeuw's—is especially problematic when the White House has still not nominated a single member of the opposing party to any independent board or commission, including the NTSB. I guarantee you, that is not the way the FTC, the FCC, the NTSB should run. You are undermining the confidence in these Agencies and the fact that we have both Democrats and Republicans who are supposed to serve on them.

This is not about might makes right. This is about policy and expertise and having both Democrats and Republicans on commissions so that you can continue the focus of bipartisan adherence to these principles that each Agency is supposed to profess confidence in and move forward on. So do we want an FTC that is driven just purely by politics, an FCC that is purely driven by the President's will or desire? Do we want an NTSB decided by the President of the United States? I guarantee you we don't because, yesterday, he couldn't deliver a vote on the House floor that would have gotten us the ROTOR Act—100 votes in the U.S. Senate and he couldn't do that. But he is going to tell us over our processes and over historical precedent about how Democrat and Republican nominees should be appointed. He is throwing the Democrats off, appointing his own person, and then basically leaving into question how strong is the NTSB really going to be on safety.

Congress established the NTSB in law as an independent Agency. It reauthorized the Agency as recently as 2024. So, if all of a sudden, everybody here didn't want to have appointments to the NTSB by the normal process, well, you had a big chance to say you didn't like that, but nobody did. In fact, we renewed it, so we should now not be rewarding the President's unlawful removal of Vice Chair Brown by rushing to confirm a nominee in a position that is not really vacant. I call on my Republican colleagues not to go down this path. Instead, uphold the constitutional duty to provide checks and balances and protect the American people.

ROTOR ACT

Mr. President, now, as I was mentioning—yesterday—an unbelievable failure of the House of Representatives to pass what this body did as one of the elements in response to the horrific crash on the Potomac when an Army helicopter collided with a commercial jet—carrying 67 individuals total that were involved in this accident. No one survived. So the Senate, starting this work, has really pushed the ROTOR Act out with 100 votes. It literally said the military has to, in this instance, provide the same kind of signaling and information that would allow this airspace to work—100 votes out of the U.S. Senate. And as my colleague Senator CRUZ from Texas tried to get this legislation passed as part of the NDAA, ev-

erybody said, "OK. You know what? We'll do this, but we just don't want to do it on this NDAA bill."

OK. That should have raised suspicion right then and there because, if this is one of the recommendations by the NTSB—oh, actually, it is not one of the recent recommendations of the NTSB. This recommendation has been out of the NTSB for 20 years—20 years, the NTSB has been saying that they believe that this kind of important pilot awareness in airspace, around airports, needs to be better coordinated.

And so for 20-plus years now, the NTSB has been making this recommendation, and smartly, after the tragic accident that took 67 lives, we passed legislation out of here—100 votes—and my colleague Senator CRUZ was promised by the Speaker that he would get this on the consent calendar. Oh, so yesterday, that is what happened—a vote in the House of Representatives on the consent calendar. That means there is not really opposition, and you can just get two-thirds of the body and get the bill expedited, and it would have gone to the President's desk.

But, no, that is not what happened yesterday. At the eleventh hour, people tried to subvert the will of the families that were there to talk about safety, subvert the NTSB from doing its job and advocating on behalf of the ROTOR Act—and all of a sudden, after a vote was called—closed, quickly—one vote short, this bill did not make it to the President's desk.

So I am calling on Speaker JOHNSON to get the 26 Members—who were unable to participate in this vote because of weather in the Northeast—to allow them to come back, schedule another vote, and allow the U.S. House of Representatives to do its job. Get the ROTOR Act onto the President's desk so he can sign it, and we can get safety. And let's move the other reforms that have to happen to the FAA so that we can ensure that our airspace is safe.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill 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. 647, John DeLeeuw, of Texas, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for the remainder of the term expiring December 31, 2026.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Ted Budd, Bernie Moreno, Shelley Moore Capito, Todd Young, Ted Cruz, Roger Marshall, Roger F. Wicker, John Cornyn, John R. Curtis, Steve Daines, Mike Lee, Joni Ernst, Jon A. Husted, Jim Banks, Rick Scott of Florida.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory