

But the notion that this young man should be somehow ashamed for shining a light on this fraud that occurs in Minnesota is simply absurd.

The mainstream media once again is failing the test of objectivity. It is not telling the truth about who ICE is targeting, particularly the criminal aliens, including fraudsters that were responsible for this scandal. This deception encourages leftwing radicals to target young men, young journalists like Nick Shirley.

It is important to note that the fraud scheme in Quality Learning Center is hardly an isolated case. The State of Minnesota has been under Federal investigation on multiple occasions for fraud schemes with Federal taxpayer dollars.

In 2022, the Department of Justice investigated a Minnesota nonprofit, non-governmental organization, NGO, known as Feeding Our Future. The Department ultimately charged 47 defendants associated with Feeding Our Future for participating in a massive fraud scheme. These defendants took advantage of taxpayer-funded programs intended to provide food for needy children and used it to enrich themselves, buying luxury cars, jewelry, and vacation properties in other countries.

More recently, last September, eight defendants were charged by the Federal Government with participating in a housing stabilization fraud scheme.

That same month, another woman was charged for participating in a fraud scheme involving an autism program. This woman was also participating in the Feeding Our Future fraud scheme and allegedly stole nearly half a million dollars.

There is clearly a problem here and a pattern. When describing the full extent of fraud cases in Minnesota, this is what one Federal prosecutor said:

What we see are schemes stacked upon schemes, draining resources meant for those in need. It feels never ending. . . . I have spent my career as a fraud prosecutor and the depth of the fraud in Minnesota takes my breath away.

But while the State of Minnesota has a longstanding history of widespread fraud, we would be foolish to assume that this is an isolated event, and it is high time for Congress to address it. These instances of fraud are an illegal diversion of Federal tax dollars so it should be of concern to all taxpayers, not just those in the State of Minnesota.

In the last year, we have seen dozens of arrests, charges, and convictions of illegal aliens who have committed public benefit and other types of fraud all across America. For this reason, as chair of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security, I am hosting a hearing tomorrow entitled: "Somali Fraud in Minnesota—the Tip of the Iceberg."

In this hearing, we will begin by examining the most recent case of childcare fraud in Minnesota, but we will not limit our inquiry to this re-

cent scandal that has dominated the headlines. We will also go a step further and look at the longstanding, endemic cases of fraud committed by illegal aliens all over the United States. We will hear from several witnesses, including Rebecca Gambler, Chief Quality Assurance Officer and Managing Director of Audit Policy and Quality Assurance with the Government Accountability Office. She will be able to offer GAO's perspective on these longstanding abuses of taxpayer dollars. Simon Hankinson, a former Foreign Service Officer who currently serves as a research fellow on border security and immigration at the Heritage Foundation will also testify. We will hear from another Foreign Service Officer, Phillip Linderman, who is now a fellow at the Ben Franklin Fellowship. And, finally, Matt O'Brien, deputy director at the Federation for American Immigration Reform, or FAIR, will speak to this issue.

All of these witnesses will help us get a better handle on the full breadth of the problem posed by illegal immigration and the aliens who are abusing our country's welfare system in order to send money back home to their home countries.

But let me be clear: It is not racist or xenophobic to target fraud wherever it is found. Fraud is not a victimless crime, and neither is identity theft. And Democrat attempts to deflect discussions of fraud are an injustice to the victims of these crimes, which happen to be all of the American taxpayers.

Furthermore, these incidents raise questions about the prevalence of government grants and contracts to non-governmental organizations. For us here in Congress, we will consider whether it is wise to continue to dole out funds to nongovernmental organizations without sufficient accountability mechanisms in place.

Recently, I introduced the Stop Fraud by Strengthening Oversight and More Accountability for Lying and Illegal Activity Act, or Stop Fraud by SOMALIA Act, to amend the Childcare and Development Block Grant Program and impose strict penalties on childcare providers who commit fraud.

But as we know, this issue touches virtually every industry. It is nothing short of an insult to the generosity of the American taxpayer that aliens are able to enter the country and enrich themselves by taking advantage of Federal programs that are intended to help needy Americans.

Hard-working American citizens who paid taxes to the U.S. Government deserve accountability for how their dollars are being spent, and tomorrow's hearing will help shine a light on just how rampant this abuse is. I look forward to tomorrow's hearing so we can get to the root of this rampant abuse that is happening, not just in Minnesota but all over the country, and begin to take concrete and positive steps to stop it.

#### WAIVING QUORUM CALL

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CORNYN. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative 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. 608, Daniel E. Burrows, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, John R. Curtis, Tim Sheehy, Joni Ernst, Pete Ricketts, John Cornyn, Jim Banks, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, John Barasso, Mike Crapo, Kevin Cramer, David McCormick, Jon A. Husted, Dan Sullivan, Lindsey Graham.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Daniel E. Burrows, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Attorney General, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 33 Leg.]

#### YEAS—51

Banks	Ernst	McCormick
Barrasso	Fischer	Moody
Blackburn	Graham	Moran
Boozman	Grassley	Moreno
Britt	Hagerty	Mullin
Budd	Hawley	Murkowski
Capito	Hoeven	Paul
Cassidy	Husted	Ricketts
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cornyn	Johnson	Schmitt
Cotton	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lankford	
Cruz	Lee	Sheehy
Curtis	Lummis	
Daines	Marshall	

Sullivan	Tillis	Wicker
Thune	Tuberville	Young
NAYS—47		
Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Luján	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden

## NOT VOTING—2

McConnell

Risch

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 51, and the nays are 47. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Daniel E. Burrows, of Colorado, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. BANKS. Mr. President, on February 3, an illegal immigrant from Kyrgyzstan who was allowed into the United States under Joe Biden in 2023 killed four people on State Road 67 in Indiana—not far from where I live.

He drove a semitruck head-on into a van. That van was carrying a 50-year-old father and two boys who were only 19 and 25 years old, along with a family friend, and they were all from a local Amish community, and now they are all dead.

I am angry about it. I have had enough of it because it is stories like this that show why mass deportations matter and why they are needed now more than ever. At least seven Hoosiers have died on Indiana highways in the past 6 months because of illegal immigrants recklessly driving on our roads and at least eight more have been seriously injured and those are just the cases that I know about.

In November, an illegal immigrant with a fake green card crashed his SUV into a van killing the 76-year-old driver from Decatur—again, not far from Columbia City where I live—before fleeing the scene. The illegal immigrant also seriously injured three innocent drivers in that same crash.

Shortly before that accident, an illegal immigrant who was driving drunk and without a license crashed his car into two young parents who were on their way to pick up their kids from their grandparents' house. The young couple was seriously injured. I have

seen images of the wreck, and they are lucky to be alive.

Just a couple of days before that, an illegal immigrant from the country of Georgia was driving a truck and towing a trailer when he swerved abruptly and forced a military Humvee off the road. That crash killed Hoosier National Guardsman Terry Frye and seriously injured three others. Terry was just 23 years old.

In October, an illegal immigrant driving a semitruck killed a 54-year-old man on Highway 20 in Indiana when he failed to stop in traffic. That illegal immigrant had a fake trucking license and opened a trucking company that received a \$35,000 loan in taxpayer dollars funded through PPP.

At least seven innocent Hoosiers have died in their own State because of illegal-immigrant drivers. Every single one of these deaths were preventable. Every single one of these deaths happened because someone who shouldn't have been in our country in the first place got behind the wheel and killed American citizens.

Most of the deaths were at the hands of illegal immigrants driving semitrucks. Trucking is an incredibly important industry in my State because Indiana sits at the crossroads of the country. In fact, our State motto is literally “The Crossroads of America.”

Indiana is the fifth busiest State in the country for commercial traffic freight. Each year, 724 million tons of freight travels through Indiana.

I speak to truckers regularly, and they are outraged by what is happening. One of my friends who works in the trucking industry said many trucking companies are hiring illegal immigrants to drive their trucks because they can pay them less. That takes jobs away from hard-working Americans. They would rather take care of their bottom line than put safe and trustworthy drivers out on the road.

We have to hold those trucking companies accountable for endangering us all. In fact, the truck that killed four Hoosiers last week belonged to a shady trucking company that the industry refers to as a “chameleon carrier.” “Chameleon carriers” are trucking companies that after being shut down or heavily fined by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, just disguise themselves by changing their name or address or Department of Transportation number to continue operating.

Many of these “chameleon carriers” are run by foreign nationals. The Government Accountability Office has said that “chameleon carriers” are three times more likely to be involved in serious crashes than legitimate operators.

Not only are illegal immigrants and foreign nationals running illicit trucking companies but Democrat States like California and New York and Pennsylvania are giving out commercial driver's licenses to illegal immigrants like they are Halloween candy.

In fact, 50 percent of CDLs reviewed by the Department of Transportation in New York had been issued improperly.

The driver of the truck that killed Indiana National Guardsman Terry Frye got his CDL from New York after he was waved across the border by the Biden administration in 2022. When police arrived at the scene of the crash, they reported there was a “language barrier” and that a translator was needed at the scene.

How could anyone give this guy a CDL to begin with? If he couldn't even talk to police, do we really believe that he could read our road and traffic signs? Do we really think that illegal immigrants who can't even speak English can obey our road rules?

The law doesn't think so. Federal regulations require that commercial truck drivers be proficient in English. Think about how insane this is. You get into the country illegally, you are living in violation of Federal law, but Democrat politicians in blue States violate the law and let you drive an 18-wheeler across State lines.

It is more than just insane. It is dangerous and deadly, and it is this reckless policy that is getting people killed in Indiana. So while Hoosiers are being killed in their own State by illegal immigrants, what are Democrats this week doing in Congress?

They are trying to cut funding to ICE. They are working to prevent illegal immigrants from being taken off of our streets.

We have a Federal Agency whose job it is to enforce immigration law and remove people who are here illegally, but Democrats want to defund that Agency. They want to tie ICE's hands while illegal-immigrant truckers are killing Americans on our highways. This is a deliberate choice to prioritize illegal immigrants over American citizens.

This has to stop, and it has got to stop right now. We need to support President Trump's efforts to deport every illegal immigrant out of this country. We are not doing enough to get them off of our roads as you can see in my State of Indiana.

Every day that we wait, every day that Democrats want to play petty politics, we run the risk of more Americans and more Hoosiers dying on our highways.

ICE needs more resources, not fewer, so that we can get illegal immigrants off of our streets and out of semitrucks driving on our highways. Hoosiers have had enough. I have had enough. It is time that Congress starts acting like American lives were worth protecting.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

## ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. BANKS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, all postcloture time be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Burrows nomination at 11:30 a.m. tomorrow, and if any