

We all remember the strain on our healthcare systems during the height of the pandemic. Hospitals inundated with COVID cases made it more difficult to get care in the event you were experiencing some other health emergency. As Brooks County Sheriff Martinez wrote in his testimony in the hearing we had last week, ambulances that ordinarily would respond to emergency calls from local citizens are now diverted to answer calls in remote areas to answer the needs of the migrants who are experiencing a health emergency, reducing the medical services available for the local residents who actually pay the taxes that support those services.

The impact of this crisis on border communities in Texas is not a consideration for the Biden administration. They simply don't care—or, frankly, most of my Democratic colleagues here in the Senate. We heard from the chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the senior Senator from Illinois, complaining about the terrible state of our broken immigration system and what is happening now as migrants are being bused to places all across the country, including Chicago. But he is the only one who can convene a markup of legislation.

Our Democratic colleagues have a Democrat in the White House, a Democratic Speaker, and a Democratic majority leader in the U.S. Senate, yet we have not seen a single piece of legislation offered or passed to try to deal with the crisis. It is always somebody else's problem or it is just a political issue that you flail in the runup to the coming election.

Migrants are arriving in someone else's backyard—what do you care?—inundating someone else's public health system along the U.S.-Texas border and filling up somebody else's morgue. Apparently, the Biden administration doesn't care.

And I haven't mentioned the 108,000 Americans who have died of drug overdoses last year alone. Virtually all of those drugs, including for the 71,000 Americans who died from synthetic opioid or fentanyl overdoses, come from the southern border.

The precursors come from China. They come to Mexico, where the cartels get rich shipping their poison into the United States. And then it is distributed by criminal street gangs, like the same gangs that are responsible for the dozens and dozens of shootings that seem to occur in a lot of our major cities on a weekly basis, including places like Chicago.

These gangs that distribute the drugs that kill Americans fight for market share. They fight for territory. Yet our Senate Democratic colleagues who have been in the majority now—who control both the Senate, the House, and the White House—have not offered a single piece of legislation or a single response.

In Texas, because of our proximity to the border, we don't have the luxury of

ignoring this problem. Our communities are somehow expected to absorb and care for this vast humanitarian crisis, even though they don't have the resources to do so, even though it is the Federal Government's responsibility. International borders and immigration enforcement is a Federal responsibility. Yet the State of Texas and taxpayers in the State have spent billions of dollars to do the job that the Federal Government simply refuses to do and even then are overwhelmed.

It simply is unacceptable for our Senate colleagues or our Members of the House who haven't lifted a finger to deal with these problems to say this isn't our problem because it is not happening to us. Well, that is why maybe—just maybe—the fact that migrants who are showing up in Washington, DC, in New York, and Chicago seem to be getting the attention of others who previously have not lifted a finger or expressed any concerns whatsoever.

By the way, the Biden administration has been shipping and flying migrants into the interior of the United States for the last year and a half. I mean, you haven't heard a single peep. But when they start showing up in relatively small numbers compared to what is coming across the border, the Mayor of Washington, DC, declares a crisis. She asked for the activation of the National Guard.

Since April, roughly 9,400 migrants have arrived in Washington, DC. I mentioned 2.3 million have showed up at the border. But now, when 9,400 migrants arrive in Washington, DC—a self-described sanctuary city—the Mayor cries out for help from the Federal Government. She declared a public health emergency.

Well, I mentioned the total number, but an average of 6,000 migrants cross the southern border every day. And yet the Mayor of Washington, DC—a self-described sanctuary city—is in a panic when 9,400 come to her city.

The Border Patrol's Rio Grande Valley Sector alone sees almost an average of almost 1,400 migrants a day. Over the last 5 months, DC has absorbed the same number of migrants that the Rio Grande Valley Sector sees in a single week, and the city is crying out for help.

The way the Mayor really could help is to pick up the phone and call her friends in the Biden administration and say: We need to do something about what is happening at the border.

That would be a constructive thing to do. We are more than happy to work with our Democratic colleagues to come up with some solutions like the Bipartisan Border Solutions Act that I introduced last year with a Democrat, a border State Senator, Senator SINEMA; TONY GONZALES, a Republican from the 23rd Congressional District; and HENRY CUELLAR, a Democrat from Laredo, TX.

We offered this bill as a bipartisan, bicameral beginning to come up with a solution. Yet we have not heard a sin-

gle peep out of the Biden administration. You would think with the President's poll numbers plummeting as a result of his failure to deal with this border crisis, they would be looking for some way out, somewhere to land that plane. But they have not reached out at all. They have not responded. And Democratic leadership in the White House, House, and the Senate have taken zero action.

I would just like my Democratic colleagues to pause for a moment and think about the communities in my State that have been operating at crisis levels since President Biden took office more than a year and a half ago. We are the ones and they are the ones picking up the Federal Government's slack and managing a crisis—or trying to—that our Democratic colleagues refuse to even acknowledge.

My constituents and border communities in Texas and beyond are exhausting resources paid for by their tax dollars to serve their own communities—spending them on the Federal Government's responsibility. And it shouldn't be any surprise if they are exhausted; they are overwhelmed; and they are desperate for the Biden administration and the Democratic leadership in the House and Senate to do something.

Maybe, just maybe, now that this crisis has caught the attention of the Mayors of Washington, DC, and New York, and Chicago—maybe the administration will pay attention to those Mayors when they have ignored this problem so far.

Maybe, just maybe, they will see that what is happening along our border every day is dangerous, unsustainable, and a problem that we need to work on together to address.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. DUCKWORTH). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

DEMOCRACY IS STRENGTHENED BY CASTING LIGHT ON SPENDING IN ELECTIONS ACT OF 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to consider Calendar No. 484, S. 4822.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4822) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional disclosure requirements for corporations, labor organizations, Super PACs and other entities, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant 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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 484, S. 4822, a bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for additional disclosure requirements for corporations, labor organizations, Super PACs and other entities, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie Hirono, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Benjamin L. Cardin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Patty Murray, Michael F. Bennet, Jacky Rosen, Alex Padilla, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Chris Van Hollen, Edward J. Markey, Angus S. King, Jr., Tim Kaine.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, September 19, be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1055.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Amanda Bennett, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant 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. 1055, Amanda Bennett, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Ben Ray Lujan, Chris Van Hollen, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeff Merkley, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Baldwin, Christopher A. Coons, Tina Smith, Michael F. Bennet, Jacky Rosen, Edward J. Markey, Angus S. King, Jr.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1097.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Arati Prabhakar, of California, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant 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. 1097, Arati Prabhakar, of California, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Charles E. Schumer, Cory A. Booker, Tim Kaine, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Gary C. Peters, Jack Reed, Chris Van Hollen, Alex Padilla, Debbie Stabenow, Ben Ray Lujan, Christopher Murphy, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, Raphael G. Warnock.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, September 19, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. 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.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RESTORING LAW AND ORDER ACT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. As I have talked on this floor through the past few years, I have talked about visiting each of the 95 counties in our great State of Tennessee every year. And when I am there, I spend much of the time talking with local leaders, small business owners, families, citizens who call Tennessee home. And I have seen firsthand what the Biden agenda has done to them over these past 2 years.

The out-of-control spending that started almost immediately after Democrats took power and the inflation it caused has made life too expensive to afford for many individuals. The open border policy that did indeed start on day 1 of this administration overwhelmed Border Patrol and turned every Tennessee town, just like towns all across this country, into a border town.

The Democrats' obsession with environmental radicalism and the Green New Deal destroyed thousands of jobs, and as a bonus, this has sent gas and energy prices soaring.

They ignored our broken-down supply chains, and now economic development in rural and depressed areas has stalled out. I wish I could chalk all this up to gross incompetence, but after 2 years, I know and Tennesseans know there is a lot more to that story. Joe Biden and the Democrats know what they are doing. They know it is wrong, and they are doing it anyway.

One of the most frightening consequences of Joe Biden's reckless abuse of power is the rise in violent crime. The left's "defund the police" movement gained traction before Biden and his Democratic allies took power here in Washington, DC, but it was their decision to let it fester and undermine local law enforcement.

Instead of abiding by their duty to keep Americans safe, they have made heroes out of criminals and turned police officers into villains.

The results have been disastrous. Compared to mid-2019, America's largest cities have seen a 50-percent increase in homicides and a 36-percent increase in aggravated assaults.

Cities that caved to the radical left's demands to gut the police department have seen crime rates rise even higher.

The people of Memphis have had a front-row seat to this violence. I would implore my colleagues to listen to them, rather than to the anti-police activists making their phones ring, because they—they—are the ones who are paying the price for this little experiment.

Ask them how they felt as they watched a shooting spree play out live on social media. I won't use the perpetrator's name here on the floor of the Senate, but he is accused of murdering three people, wounding three others, and committing not one but two carjackings.

Ask them how they felt when they found out what happened to the wife,