

implement a lot of the things he fought for. And then he worked for Vice President Gore.

For nearly a quarter century, Bill has been a leader at the AFL–CIO, where he served as director of government affairs. He has been a constant at the AFL–CIO through multiple federation presidents and periods of transition. AFL presidents, AFL affiliates, and congressional offices have all come to rely upon his insight and upon his wisdom. He leads the AFL–CIO's legislative committee. He advocates for the federation's 10 million union members.

Bill makes that balancing act look easy. He builds consensus across the affiliates. He coordinates with every union. He engages with workers and members and representatives. He is at the center of every operation, every initiative, every campaign. We rely on him. We get good information. And we rely on his wise counsel.

He is the first person my team calls on issue after issue. They know what I know: Bill understands the issues. He understands how to build consensus. He understands how to get things done. He understands how to mobilize the entire union movement. And he is always fighting for others.

I have had the privilege of working alongside Bill on issues that matter so much to my State. We worked to pass the Butch Lewis Act, named after an Ohioan. With it, we saved the pensions of 100,000 Ohio union members whose earned retirement benefits were at risk because of Wall Street greed.

Most people in Washington ignored the challenges facing union retirees. They didn't take the problem seriously or treat this as the emergency that it was. In Washington, most people don't understand collective bargaining. They don't understand the collective bargaining process. They don't understand that workers sit down at the table. Worker representatives sit down at the table, negotiate, and are willing to give up benefits today—pay and even some healthcare benefits today, perhaps—to have a pension in the future.

That is why Butch Lewis was so important. That is why Bill never gave up. And along with Ohio leaders like Mike Walden and Rita Lewis, he mobilized workers. He helped put this on the agenda and keep it there, and we got it done.

Whenever politicians proposed anti-labor, anti-worker legislation, Bill stood up. Bill stood up for workers. His entire career he fought for the people who make our country work.

And, today, at a time when there is unprecedented momentum behind unions, there is stronger support among this generation of young people for unions than there has been in my entire lifetime. That is partly because of the work that Bill did in organizing and in showing people how important it is and the unwavering dedication to workers.

Thousands of workers across our Nation don't know Bill personally, but

they benefit from his efforts and his advocacy on their behalf.

We congratulate Bill on his career of service and wish him a happy and healthy retirement. He will be able to spend more time with Tracy and with his children, Jack and Lucy.

I look forward to working with Bill's successor, Jody Calemine, to continue fighting for workers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3168

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, we have all watched what has happened with the Iran strike this weekend. And my colleagues across the aisle like to say that they support Israel. But in this moment of peril for the world's only Jewish state, I fear that what they are doing is deciding to play politics. And, in the months after the October 7 attack, they insisted on tying aid for Israel to supplemental packages that do not have the votes to pass through both Chambers.

Now, Republicans have been very clear: Any supplemental bill that fails to address the security crisis at our southern border is a nonstarter.

We already have a solution to President Biden's border crisis. It is H.R. 2, the Secure the Border Act. But for almost a year—and bear in mind, that border security bill landed over here in May of last year. So it has been almost a year. And our colleagues—the Democrats—who are in charge, have refused to bring that up for a vote.

Now, Democrats voted to table different measures that came along. My colleague from Kansas is going to have one in a few minutes, and they are going to vote to table that also. And they are going to object. And they are doing this at a time when legislation we bring forward would provide billions in aid for Israel as it fights to destroy Hamas and bring some innocent hostages—including Americans—home.

Now, the reason the bill—and this is their reason. They say the bill would pay for itself—my colleagues's bill that he is going to bring forward—because it would use the funding for Biden's army of 87,000 IRS agents. They say they don't like that. And Democrats would rather hound small businesses on Main Street, which we know most of those would be targeted toward, than deliver aid that is necessary for our closest ally in the Middle East.

Now, think about what they are saying when they say this. They would rather keep those IRS agents than to give this aid. They would rather tie aid to Ukraine. They would rather tie it to Taiwan. They don't want it to stand alone.

So for months, they have delayed, and, now, after these months of delay, Iran, for the first time ever, directly attacked Israel from Iranian territory. It launched 170 drones, 30 cruise missiles, and 120 ballistic missiles toward the Jewish State. This was the largest aerial attack ever carried out in the Middle East.

So if Democrats are objecting to everything that would, in any way, tie up aid to Israel, then let's look at it another way, because this issue is too important for any more delays. That is why I am calling for unanimous consent for S. 3168, the Israel Supplemental Appropriations Act.

This bill is nearly identical to legislation that passed the House and would provide \$17.6 billion in aid to our cherished ally, including \$4 billion to replenish the Iron Dome, \$1.3 billion to help Israel counter mortar attacks, and \$3.3 billion to support U.S. military operations in the region.

But my bill does not make any cuts at all to Joe Biden's army of IRS agents. It doesn't make any cuts to the budget. It doesn't have any offsets. My legislation very simply says: They need this aid. Let's send this aid. Let's make certain Israel has what they need to protect themselves.

The world's only Jewish State is in a fight for its survival. Time and time again, Iran and its proxies have vowed they would annihilate Israel. We have heard them say: "Death to Iran. Death to Israel. Death to the U.S."

Iran funds these proxies. So let's give Israel what they need to defend themselves. Let's do it unencumbered, no offsets. Let's all stand together.

And I would ask my Democratic colleagues: How much longer do you think Israel can wait?

Let's push this forward, and let's allow Israel to have the funding they need to protect themselves without ties to anything else.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I want to thank my senior Senator from the State of Tennessee for leading the charge on this important issue.

Time and time again, my colleagues across the aisle have blocked passage for a fully funded, standalone aid package for Israel. We have heard them claim they won't support our bill because cutting the IRS would allow millionaires to get away with tax evasion.

So Senator BLACKBURN and I are rising once again to make things easy for our colleagues who want a bloated IRS. But I have to tell you, not once in my lifetime have I heard any Kansan come to me and express interest in inflating the IRS, of all Agencies.

But we will press on, calling this bluff and putting forth the exact same bill without the IRS pay-for. For several months, I have said: If you don't like my pay-for, show me another. But at the end of the day, what matters is getting the aid to Israel.

Since this body won't allow us to make cuts to the IRS—on tax day, no less—to pay for the aid, unfortunately, it just won't be paid for. We will do away with the cuts if it means Democrats will stop holding aid to Israel. Let's make this deal right now. The people of Israel need us to make the deal.

But, once again, we will see the Democrats block this bill. That is because it is not about the cuts to the

IRS. It is time to stop politicking. Senate Democrats' opposition here against this live unanimous consent proves to the American people and Israel that this was never about the IRS cuts being used as a pay-for. It was never about tax cheats or millionaires. It is about using our ally, Israel, as a pawn in their underlying mission to send another blank check to Ukraine, and it is about a handful of pro-Iranian and pro-Palestinian votes in swing States. It is that simple.

Again, I call on my Democratic colleagues to do the right thing. Drop the political posturing and let's secure a gigantic bipartisan victory for Israel in their time of need.

I yield the floor.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I ask for the immediate consideration of S. 3168, the Israel Supplemental Appropriations Act.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mrs. MURRAY. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Is it my understanding the Senator is asking unanimous consent to proceed to consideration of the bill?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. That is the Chair's understanding.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, let me just say, reserving the right to object, Iran's attacks over the weekend underscore the precarious moment that we find ourselves in and the urgent need for Congress to act decisively to confront the many challenges we and our allies face.

Of course, the surest and fastest way to do that is to pass the carefully negotiated comprehensive national security supplemental that the Senate actually cleared in an overwhelming bipartisan vote over 2 months ago. There is urgency for aiding all of our allies facing grave threats. We cannot afford half steps or half measures like this one, because for months now, Ukraine has been desperately waiting for more aid and counting how many bullets they have left, how many missiles, and how many Iranian-made drones they can still intercept, and how much longer they can hold out if we don't keep our word.

At a time like this, we simply cannot settle for a bill that helps one ally and ignores all the rest. Ukraine hasn't just been calling for aid for months. Many House Republicans, including the Speaker, have been saying for months: We will not abandon them. This bill would leave Ukraine in the dust. It would ignore the threat that the Chinese Government poses in the Indo-Pacific, and it would fail to take action to address the dire humanitarian crisis we are seeing around the world, which will lead to more instability.

Not on my watch.

Let me make this simple. If we want a safer world with strong American leadership, then we cannot send the message that America only keeps some of its promises to some of its allies

some of the time. Otherwise, how are our partners supposed to trust us? Why would our adversaries take us seriously?

How do my colleagues offering this bill plan to answer all of the allies who come knocking after something like this asking: Are we a priority like Israel or a bargaining chip like Ukraine?

That is not a rhetorical question. How do you plan to answer them?

We cannot tell the world that we forget some of our allies in their time of need; that partnering with us might mean getting left behind. And that means we cannot ignore the reality that Israel is not the only ally of ours in the middle of a brutal conflict facing grave threats. The people of Ukraine are fighting and dying for their homeland as we speak. They are literally running out of bullets fighting off Putin's bloody invasion. Are we going to pretend, with the whole world watching, that we do not hear their cries for help?

That is not an acceptable outcome, especially when, right now, we already have a comprehensive bipartisan bill to support all of our allies and address the many threats we face across the globe. The Speaker has said many times he wants us to get aid to Ukraine. Well, all he has to do is prove he is serious and put that bill up for a vote. That is it. Further delaying, including by going back to the drawing board and sending something back to the Senate will waste more time that we simply do not have.

So the Speaker needs to put the bipartisan national security supplemental up for a vote because, unlike the bill before us right now, the bipartisan Senate bill stands by all of our allies. It leaves no one behind. It includes support for Israel and Ukraine; and, importantly, it includes badly needed humanitarian aid and absolutely essential investments to support our allies in the Indo-Pacific and deter aggression by the Chinese Government.

We have to do better than half steps. We just have to. We cannot settle for a bill like the one that is proposed here tonight that would shamefully tell the world we don't stand by all of our allies—a bill that would leave every partner we have asking whether we are going to treat them like a true ally or like an afterthought. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I appreciate that my colleague talked about half steps because the inconsistency of this administration to our allies is an issue. Our allies don't know if they are our allies. They don't see us as being there for them; and our enemies do not fear us.

Iran, for the first time ever, has attacked Israel. I gave you those numbers just a few minutes ago—170 drones, 30 cruise missiles, 120 ballistic missiles. After Hamas attacked Israel

on October 7, they told us they don't intend to stop. They are continuing over and over.

Israel has been very specific in telling us what they need: \$4 billion to replenish the Iron Dome, \$1.2 billion to help Israel counter mortar threats, \$3.3 billion to support military operations in the region. They are very specific about that.

When you look at the axis of evil—Russia, China, Iran, North Korea—of course, the threats are growing every day. Why are they growing? Because the Biden administration is practicing appeasement—appeasement.

There is agreement in supporting Israel. I continue to say it is time for us to support Israel, our greatest ally in the region, the only Jewish State. Let's make certain that they have what they need to defend themselves.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 6126

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President:

As Israel is under attack from Iran, we stand with Israel and its people, and the United States will do everything we can to support Israel's defense against Iran.

Now, I have said similar things to that, but that is actually a quote from the Democratic Senate majority leader CHUCK SCHUMER:

As Israel is under attack from Iran, we stand with Israel and its people and the United States will do everything we can to support Israel's defense against Iran.

The majority leader said basically the same thing several months ago on the Nation's Mall when he said he wouldn't sleep until we help the people of Israel.

It has been almost 200 days since Iran-backed Hamas terrorists invaded Israel and brutally killed innocent civilians—women, senior citizens, and children—since that horrific day on October 7. I called for aid to our ally Israel, with no strings attached, on this floor four times.

Sadly, Democrats have blocked our efforts every single time. Every time we come to the floor to have this debate, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have stood on this floor and lectured us on why the bipartisan House-passed, stand-alone Israel legislation that maintains the spending levels requested by President Biden is somehow unreasonable.

Well, what is unreasonable to me and to most Americans across this country is this body's reluctance to help our ally Israel in their time of need following not just one but now two unprecedented attacks on Israel's sovereign soil. Unreasonable is the Biden administration coming out today admitting that they are yet again holding Israel funds hostage. And why? That is a question I get back home: Why? I will tell you why.

Because they are, again, using this crisis as a lever to secure more money for Ukraine. And they object to protect their members who are pro-Iran, who are pro-Hamas, from a tough vote, as they call it.