

BORDER SECURITY

(Mr. YOHO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, after the conclusion of the last shutdown, I was hopeful that we would work together in good faith to find a commonsense approach to secure our border. However, it appears that the Democrats are more concerned with releasing illegal aliens than addressing border security.

Recently, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have suggested that we reduce the adult detention beds for illegal detainees in exchange for border security. This is unacceptable. As we in this body are all aware, adult detention beds are an essential aspect of enforcing our immigration laws. Reducing the amount of beds would further exacerbate our problems with interior enforcement, thus relying on an ineffective catch and release policy. Only 4 percent of those released ever show up for their court date. That means that they have a 96 percent chance of staying in this country.

Our primary role of government is security. Border security is national security, and our national security should not be a bargaining chip for the Democrats' political games. I urge my colleagues across the aisle to take this issue seriously.

Please stop playing political games with our Nation's security and the brave men and women of our Coast Guard, TSA, CBP, and ICE agents. We must work together as Americans and fix our broken immigration system which starts with a secure border.

CONGRESSIONAL CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, the clarity that I would like to offer is that none of us should tolerate any shutdown of the government or ever holding our Federal workers hostage to policy debates, and that is for my colleagues and friends on the other side of the aisle and for this administration.

But I think in all fairness, the clarity on the question of detention beds is to make sure that the criminals are detained and to make sure that women and children, like little 9-month-old Roger, have alternative housing. That is the debate. But that debate can go on and go on beyond holding the government hostage and our workers hostage.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to introduce the fact that I am establishing the Congressional Children's Caucus, as we have done every year since I have been here. Our focus is for better quality of life for children, not only in this Nation but around the world. One of the priorities will be hunger amongst children here in the United States and around the world.

It is noteworthy that children do go to bed hungry here in the United States, and it is important that we support the food nutrition programs and the lunch, breakfast, and dinner programs in our public schools.

We must ensure that this Nation protects its children.

BORDER SECURITY

(Ms. CHENEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHENEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because every American should know that we are now at the point where the Democrats are demanding that ICE release dangerous criminals onto the streets of the United States.

First, they demanded that we not build a wall. Their leader said that would be immoral. Now they are demanding that we release dangerous criminals we have already apprehended.

Mr. Speaker, they are threatening to shut the government down, they are so committed to this position. Most Americans know their government's most sacred obligation is the defense of the Nation. The Democrats want to abolish one of the very agencies tasked with this responsibility. This is a backdoor effort to do so.

Under this latest proposal, ICE has said they could be required to release as many as 15,000 criminals on to our streets. The far left radical positions of today's Democrats are threatening the security of our Nation.

It is time to build the wall, secure our borders, support our law enforcement, and keep dangerous criminals off our streets.

GUN VIOLENCE

(Ms. BROWNLEY of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, this Thursday marks 1 year since the horrific shooting in Parkland, Florida, that took 17 precious lives. My community faced our own tragedy just 9 months later when 12 of our friends and neighbors were stolen from us at the Borderline Bar and Grill.

As our communities continue to mourn these devastating tragedies, we must also honor the memories of those we lost with action. There is no single answer that will stop every incident of gun violence, but to do nothing with the argument that it will not fix everything is unconscionable.

One of the first steps we need to take is passing H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act, which is being considered by the House Judiciary Committee this week.

I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill, a critical first step to keeping deadly weapons out of the wrong hands.

CAPPING ICE'S DETENTION CAPACITY

(Mr. BACON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak out against the dangerous proposal that is being put forth by leadership on the other side of the aisle, the Democratic proposal to place an artificial and arbitrary cap on ICE's detention capacity.

ICE is outstanding at arresting gang members, felons, drug dealers, and human traffickers, but now Speaker PELOSI and Minority Leader SCHUMER want to limit how many they catch. This represents a breakdown in law and order and will only make our broken border less secure.

It does not make sense to tell a State trooper that he can only pull over 10 people and then must stop, or a city cop saying: once you catch your second thief, she must stop.

Does the next person committing an illegal act get a free pass because we have hit some magic number?

Our country embraces the rule of law. We do not get to pick and choose, especially when it pertains to our national security.

I urge the Democratic leadership to withdraw this ludicrous proposal and come to the negotiating table. It is about time we work together, but we will not and cannot undermine our national security and the safety of our communities.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION AND A BORDER WALL

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss our broken immigration system and our need to overcome partisan politics to find a solution. The most glaring example of this broken system and the one most endangering to American citizens is our porous southern border. Tens of thousands of illegal immigrants bypass checkpoints and avoid our immigration laws by using that border to gain access to America.

But my colleagues across the aisle refuse to see the issue. They ignore all the evidence to push their political agenda and discredit the President at the expense of Americans' security. They now have found a new excuse—the number of ICE's adult detention beds.

Let's be clear what this stunt is: a backdoor attempt to defund ICE, prevent them from doing their critical mission, and attempt to appease those demanding open borders.

I sincerely urge my colleagues across the aisle to come to the table to negotiate in good faith for the safety and security of all Americans. We need border security along our southern border

which includes a wall structure, and we need ICE to achieve its public safety mission.

To the Democrats: Stop these last-minute games and let's do our job for the American people.

SUPPORTING OUR AMERICAN HERITAGE

(Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of American tradition and heritage, American law enforcement, and the sovereignty of our Nation.

I stand here in the Chamber of the people's House, a 57-year-old American man who has never witnessed such division and insanity as I have observed here in D.C., where right is wrong, where American traditions are rejected, where Christian principles are ridiculed, where many of my colleagues across the aisle envision an America with no sovereign borders, no fossil fuels, and no Second Amendment, a land where no airplanes fly, where police cannot arrest, and where jails do not exist.

I remind my colleagues that we are here to serve the best interests and security of the American people. We were not elected by citizens of foreign soil, nor should we allow our bicameral, bipartisan Congress to become infected with anti-American sentiment.

GOLD JOURNEY TO EXCELLENCE AWARD

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, for the eighth consecutive year, the Juniata Valley Council, Boy Scouts of America, achieved the Gold Journey to Excellence Award.

It was an honor to celebrate this outstanding achievement yesterday with the council as well as volunteers at the unit, district, and council levels, as well as the Scouts and parents in Centre, Huntingdon, Juniata, and Mifflin Counties in central Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, the Journey to Excellence Award measures a council's performance in a range of areas; including fiscal management, membership growth and retention, and program excellence; including camping, advancement, and community service, among other areas.

These key performance areas are directly related to producing successful, growing, and sustainable Scouting programs. I am incredibly proud of the Juniata Valley Boy Scout Council, which I have been a member of for four decades. The annual recognition dinner is a time to celebrate achievements, and I was pleased to see Jonathan Long of my hometown recognized as the Howard Cub Pack Leader of the Year.

Scouting makes a difference in the lives of so many youth. I congratulate the Juniata Council on this outstanding achievement.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUNNINGHAM). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

BORDER SECURITY

(Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to address the dangerous proposal being put forth by Democrats in the ongoing negotiations to secure our border and fund the government.

Talks on this issue are now stalled because Democrats are demanding a cap in the number of beds allocated to detain illegal criminals. But this new initiative blatantly contradicts what our leaders on the ground are asking us to do on this issue.

Just this weekend, the National Sheriffs' Association and the Major County Sheriffs of America both stated: "Any legislation that reduces ICE's detention capacity would hinder its ability to perform its national security and public safety missions. . . . In order to meet the cap being tentatively proposed by Congress, ICE would be compelled to release thousands of aliens from custody."

The sheriffs went on to say that if the Democrats' plans were approved, then 9,000 illegal immigrants would have to be released by the end of the fiscal year. That is 9,000 criminals.

We need to focus on securing our border, funding the wall, and making our country safer, not protecting criminals and sending them back onto the streets to endanger our citizens.

We need to listen to these recommendations.

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BORDER SECURITY

(Mr. BURCHETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to finally come to the table for a meaningful discussion around securing our Nation's borders.

The Democrats' leadership would have the entire country believe that our President and the Republicans are the ones holding up negotiations to avoid another unnecessary government shutdown, but it is the President and

the House Republicans who have come to the bargaining table in good faith.

Just this week, there were rumors that a deal was near with less border funding than the President and my party wanted. That is what happens in negotiations: We give, and they take.

Now that we are close to a deal being cut, the Democrats are moving the goalpost, Mr. Speaker. This brand-new cap on ICE detention beds came out of thin air and is proof that the Democrats are willing to do anything to keep from making a deal with the President and the Republicans.

What is worse, the move by the Democrats would make our country less secure. It is just a backdoor attempt to get rid of ICE entirely.

The citizens of this country deserve better, Mr. Speaker. They deserve a government that works. Let's do the job our constituents sent us here to do.

BORDER SECURITY

(Mr. ARMSTRONG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Mr. Speaker, sheriffs from across the country are in D.C. this week, and they have a simple message for Congress: Secure the border.

These sheriffs know that border security will help stem the flow of illegal drugs and human trafficking which affect communities all across the country.

The sheriffs warn that a new demand from my colleagues across the aisle could mean over 8,000 criminals would have to be released by authorities.

They wrote: "This dangerous Congressional proposal not only jeopardizes the risk of our national security, but hinders our law enforcement officers from effectively enforcing and upholding the law and protecting their communities."

In other words, this demand does not make our country safer.

We need to empower law enforcement to hold criminal aliens, when appropriate, to protect our communities. The last thing we should do is release dangerous criminals from custody.

I urge negotiators to come to an agreement to secure our border, build the wall—a barrier, a fence, a partition, a panel. I am less interested in semantics and more interested in supporting the law enforcement officers who are on the front lines every day protecting our communities.

BORDER SECURITY

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, instead of working in good faith to secure our borders and reach a compromise to