

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