

is why the composition of these migrants has changed so much over the years from single adults to children and to families.

In April, 68 percent of those apprehended were either families or unaccompanied children. This has put the Border Patrol in a very awkward position. Chief Provost noticed that her agents were spending now about 40 percent of their time processing migrants and providing care and transportation. She had a picture—a chart—that she demonstrated with a Border Patrol agent nursing a baby with a bottle and another Border Patrol agent cradling an infant in his arms. In other words, instead of being on the frontlines against illegal drugs coming across our border—which contributed to the deaths of 70,000 Americans last year alone and where 90 percent of the heroin and synthetic opioids known as fentanyl come principally from Mexico—instead of fighting that scourge and stopping that poison from coming into the United States, our Border Patrol has now been diverted to being, essentially, a childcare center handing out juice boxes and diapers. They aren't processing or stopping illegal immigrants or the human traffickers.

Trying to deal with these record high numbers, we know that the numbers of people coming across are far exceeding the resources available for the Border Patrol. With so many more people to process and more manpower needed, the Border Patrol has been taken off the line, leaving areas of the border vulnerable to exploitation by human smugglers and drug cartels.

Think about it. If you are a leader of a drug cartel trying to move heroin, methamphetamine, fentanyl, or other illegal drugs into the United States, why wouldn't you try to flood the Border Patrol with children and families so they would be taken off the line and distracted to take care of these individuals, as opposed to stopping those drugs? Of course, this is part of a larger plan.

Unfortunately, the Congress is doing little, if anything, about it. I don't think it takes an expert to see that things are bad, and I hope my colleagues can recognize that we need to act before they get worse. This is a problem that the President can't solve on his own and the Border Patrol can't solve on its own. This is about the legal authorities that the U.S. Government has to deal with this chaos and this humanitarian crisis at our own border. It takes a change in laws passed by Congress. So we must act on a bipartisan and bicameral basis to respond or this is going to get worse and worse.

Yesterday Chief Provost compared the current situation to holding a bucket under a faucet. It doesn't matter how many buckets you have if you never turn the water off. Well, that is what we need to do—stop the flow of people trying to enter our country illegally.

Last week, Congressman HENRY CUELLAR—my friend, a Democrat from Laredo, TX—and I introduced a bill called the HUMANE Act, which would at least slow that faucet to a drip and provide serious relief for the personnel who serve along the border. It focuses on the problems posed by high numbers of unaccompanied children and families, whom we do not have the capacity to adequately care for. It requires the Department of Homeland Security to keep families together through court proceedings—something we all should agree to—and provides safeguards to prevent children from being placed in the custody of dangerous individuals—sex offenders, human traffickers, and the like.

It also requires the Department of Homeland Security to establish regional processing centers in high traffic areas and to improve the processing of humanitarian relief claims by requiring those to be processed at ports of entry.

Finally, it mandates the hiring of 600 new CBP personnel to alleviate the personnel strain and get more of these highly trained men and women back on the frontlines. I hope we will have the opportunity to review this legislation soon in the Judiciary Committee. Chairman GRAHAM has told me he is willing to do that, and I hope our friends in the House will take it up soon.

America would never think of sending our men and women in the military to war without providing them the training, the equipment, and the support they need in order to fight and win our Nation's wars. Yet somehow we have sent the Border Patrol into a battle that is designed for failure. They simply don't have the numbers. They don't have the resources. We don't have the facilities in order to deal with this. We can't just try to staunch the flow while it gets worse and worse and worse and worse. Instead of putting another bucket under the faucet as it runs wide open, we need to turn that faucet off, and the only way we can do that is by Congress acting. It is on us, and we must act and act soon.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise in celebration of Public Service Recognition Week, a time to honor public servants at all levels of government for their dedication and outstanding service to this Nation. Since 2010, I have taken to the Senate floor to honor our particularly noteworthy government employees—a tradition that was first begun by my good friend Senator Ted Kaufman.

Today and during this week, I would like to continue this tradition by highlighting the contributions of three Virginians who have worked tirelessly to improve the functioning of our government and advance America's interests at home and abroad.

TRIBUTE TO MICHAEL KOZAK

Mr. President, I would like to first recognize Ambassador Michael Kozak from Arlington. Ambassador Kozak currently serves as Senior Bureau Official at the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor. When I first read this, I did a double-take because Ambassador Kozak's remarkable career at State spans 47 years and nine Presidents.

Throughout his accomplished career, Ambassador Kozak has been a steadfast advocate for democracy and human rights abroad, serving at the forefront of many historical negotiations. During the seventies and eighties, he played a key role in negotiating the Panama Canal and Egypt-Israel peace treaties. In the 1990s, as chief of mission in Havana, he led the talks with senior officials from Fidel Castro's regime in Cuba before his appointment as Ambassador to Belarus.

Throughout his career, Ambassador Kozak has worked to combat anti-Semitism and promote human rights, and his work has been instrumental to promoting global peace and U.S. interests abroad.

Thank you, Ambassador Kozak.

TRIBUTE TO KARA DE CASTRO

Mr. President, next I would like to recognize Kara De Castro from Haymarket, VA. Through her work at the National Nuclear Security Administration, Ms. De Castro has led crucial programs to reduce one of our Nation's most significant national security threats—nuclear proliferation. Ms. De Castro has been instrumental in developing a "nuclear security culture" that is focused on the proper handling and use of nuclear materials. She is an Army veteran, and the Russian language training she received in the military has been put to good use through her work in the former Soviet Union. These efforts have led to the downgrading of 17 metric tons of highly enriched uranium, the equivalent of 446 nuclear weapons.

I thank Ms. De Castro for making the world a safer place.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN WAGNER

Finally, Mr. President, I want to recognize John Wagner from Ashburn, who serves as Deputy Executive Assistant Commissioner of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. For those of you who might actually follow some of this and are keeping score at home, John's name might sound familiar. He has been recognized before, including by me on this floor, for strengthening the passport control process through the Global Entry Trusted Traveler Program and the Automated Passport Control Program, which are widely familiar to many international travelers. That alone would have been enough to gain recognition and be good enough for a whole career.

Since then, John has spearheaded facial recognition systems at several major U.S. airports, which offer a fast and paperless method of screening incoming and outgoing travelers. To