

Failing to move an emergency supplemental this week would be in my view unconscionable. I urge all my colleagues to do the right thing and make sure we deal with this before we leave for 5 weeks.

Dealing with the challenge we are facing on the border is, rightly, our main focus right now. However, we cannot lose sight of the root causes that are driving the surge in migration in the first place. In this country all too often we focus so much of our attention on dealing with symptoms of problems and not enough attention on addressing the underlying causes. This is particularly true on our borders. Listen to this. Since 2003 we have spent \$223 billion—that is almost one-quarter of a trillion dollars—enforcing our immigration and customs laws, strengthening our borders, strengthening the security of our borders—almost one-quarter of a trillion dollars. We have spent a small fraction of this—a very small fraction—actually less than 1 percent helping El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras improve conditions for their citizens.

I commend the President and Chairman MIKULSKI for including \$300 million in this emergency supplemental request aimed at addressing what I am convinced are the root causes of this problem. What are they? The lack of economic hope, lack of jobs in Central America, combined with increasing violence and insecurity in the region. I know. I have been there. I have been to two of those three countries, Guatemala and El Salvador. This year down to Mexico, down to Colombia, which 20 years ago was just about a failed nation. Remember in Columbia roughly 20 years ago when a bunch of gunmen rounded up the Supreme Court judges in the country and took them out and shot them to death? That was Colombia 20 years ago. They are no longer a failed nation. They came back from the brink. They are a strong partner of ours, along with Mexico, to turn this situation around in these three Central American countries which are the source of all this migration to our country.

Based on my recent conversation with Central American leaders as recently as last week, the Ambassadors of these three small countries as well as the Ambassador to Mexico, and based on trips to the region, I believe one of the critical needs is to foster economic growth and create jobs. How might we do that? One, by helping restore their rule of law. In those countries we have police who don't police. We have prosecutors who don't prosecute and we have judges who don't adjudicate. We have prisons that either don't rehabilitate or punish. We have kidnappings and extortions. We have people who are scared to stay there and live there and they are bailing. They are voting with their feet. We need to help them restore the rule of law, much as we helped other countries such as Colombia from the last two decades.

Their energy costs are roughly three times what they ought to be. Most of their energy from the electricity grid comes from petroleum. They could use natural gas and spend half of what they spend for energy. They need to improve their education and workforce skills and access to capital. Those are some of the ways to strengthen their economy.

I am not suggesting any of this will be quick or easy to do. It will require a sustained investment and focus on the region by the United States and also by a number of others. This is not our job alone. This is a shared responsibility, and we need to keep that in mind. But it can be done. In fact, we have already done it with two of our most important allies in Latin America, as I mentioned Colombia and more recently with Mexico, where the economic situation was so bad that more than 1 million Mexicans were traveling across our borders every year—more than 1 million. Today both countries have vibrant democracies and vibrant economies and their citizens have hope for their future. Now there are more Mexicans leaving this country going back to Mexico than are coming this way.

I will say again what I just said. We cannot and we should not do this alone. This is not all on America. This needs to be a shared responsibility with the governments of these three countries, with all the partners in the region, including Mexico and Colombia, with all the private sector nonprofits and institutions of faith. Three hundred million dollars as an emergency supplemental is a downpayment on what will need to be a long-term commitment to our neighbors in the region. This cannot be one and done. If we are serious about addressing the surge, we will need to do more, and frankly so will others—and I would underline “so will others.”

Based on what I have seen, this crisis requires a holistic approach and one that tackles the underlying causes that are pushing people out of Central America and the factors that are pulling them to our borders.

If we turn our backs on these countries I am convinced we will be back 10 years from now dealing with another expensive humanitarian crisis on our border. We don't need that in any of these countries.

I urge all my colleagues to put politics aside and pass this emergency supplemental.

I yield the floor. Thank you so much.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, the distinguished senior Senator from Delaware and I came to Washington together, and I am so proud of the work he is doing and what he has done. He has been a Member of Congress, Governor, and now Senator and chairman of the Homeland Security Committee. He has done a remarkably good job, and I am very proud of the work he does.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President,

I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY OLKEWICZ

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to a Senate staffer who is retiring after 36 years of service. Nancy Pittore Olkewicz began her Senate career in February 1978 working for Senator Paul Sarbanes of Maryland, who was her home State Senator. She remained on his staff for 23 years, which included the birth of her three children. She values her time with Senator Sarbanes and is especially grateful for the opportunity to work part-time while her three children, Jenny, Brian and Eric, were small.

After leaving Senator Sarbanes' office in 2001, Nancy joined the staff of the Senate Appropriations Committee, where she worked for me on the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee. She later joined the Legislative Branch subcommittee and served as clerk under Senators DURBIN, LANDRIEU and Ben Nelson. During that time she represented Appropriations Committee chairman Robert C. Byrd on the Capitol Preservation Commission and was instrumental in many high-level decisions regarding the construction and operation of the Capitol Visitor Center. Nancy joined the staff of the Senate Sergeant at Arms in 2011 as the legislative liaison to then-Sergeant at Arms Terry Gainer.

I wish Nancy the best of luck in all of her future endeavors. She will be greatly missed by many in the Senate.

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I previously filed budgetary aggregates and committee allocations for budget year 2015 pursuant to section 116 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2013. Today I am adjusting those levels to account for three reported bills from the Appropriations Committee.

Section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 establishes statutory limits on discretionary spending and allows for various adjustments to those limits, while sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act allows the chairman of the Budget Committee to establish and make revisions to allocations, aggregates, and levels consistent with those adjustments. The Committee on Appropriations reported three bills that are eligible for an adjustment under the Congressional Budget Act:

1) The State, Foreign Operations, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, which includes \$8.625 billion in budget authority and \$2.5 billion in outlays that is designated as Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) funding.

2) The Homeland Security Appropriations Act, which includes \$213 million