

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORDER SECURITY AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE DEATH OF JAKELIN CAAL

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the tragic passing of a 7-year-old child, Jakelin Caal, on December 8 of this year.

Jakelin died in Customs and Border Patrol custody, reportedly due to shock and dehydration. It is an understatement to say that we need a thorough and independent investigation to understand exactly what happened in this case and to make sure it never happens again.

Jakelin entered Customs and Border Protection custody and was held with her father overnight with about 160 migrants, nearly half of whom were minors, at the Antelope Wells border station.

Customs and Border Protection has stated that food and water were made available, but the child's father and news articles have stated that water was not—was not—available.

It is not visible from a distance, but I will just hold up a story and a headline from today's Washington Post. The headline reads: "Lawyers: No water provided to migrant who died."

Here is what the first paragraph of this Washington Post story, dated today, says:

El Paso. Seven-year-old Jakelin Caal and her father, Nery, were not provided water during the eight hours they were held in a remote Border Patrol facility with 161 other migrants, the family's lawyers said Wednesday, contradicting statements by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

The story goes on from there.

Similarly—and I am getting back to my observations of this—although health screenings were reportedly conducted, news reports indicate that none of the agents on duty had advanced medical training.

Though the father signed a DHS Form I-779, which is titled "Juvenile Medical Screening," and he apparently also signed other medical paperwork, there are questions as to whether he understood the form itself. I believe it is critical that we evaluate this form and also evaluate the medical screening that children undergo.

I would like to know—and I am sure many Americans would like to know—whether the American Academy of Pediatrics and our Nation's medical professionals believe the current system is adequate. I would add this: When this form and other protocols and procedures were put in place, were those experts, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, consulted? Was this process or the forms informed by the expertise that is available? That is another set of questions.

This has to be about improving the conditions at our Border Patrol sta-

tions to make sure they are safe, including ensuring that there is sufficient food, water, and medical attention at every one of these Border Patrol stations. If that means that the administration comes forward to the Senate or the House in the appropriations process to have more dollars appropriated for this purpose, not just general appropriations but for this purpose—to make sure that food and water and appropriate medical attention is available, and trained medical professionals are available at every Border Patrol station—we should make sure that we engage in a dialogue about such specific appropriations.

Understanding what happened in this tragedy is not about assigning blame. That is easy. That happens all the time in Washington. This shouldn't be one of those instances. This is about fixing the problem so it never happens again. It is also about making sure that our policy and the procedures that surround this policy and the details of the policy and the resources dedicated to it are not just correct, but that these policies are consistent with our values.

Therefore, we need an expeditious, thorough, and independent investigation. We are told that the inspector general is reviewing this. That is good, but that report has to be done expeditiously, and we have to get to the bottom of what happened to this 7-year-old child.

In addition to all of that, there needs to be debate about how to improve the system and how to investigate what happened, with recommendations on the record to improve these policies. We also need Commissioner Kevin McAleenan and Secretary Nielsen to come to testify before Congress so they can provide testimony about what happened here and about what both of them and their Agencies are doing to make sure this never happens again.

Finally, we must take a moment to think about the broader atmosphere and the policies that relate to our border. Those who come to our shores seeking asylum are often fleeing terrible conditions of violence and poverty. In some cases, they are fleeing from almost indescribable horror. All of those seeking asylum should have a fair opportunity to present their claims and should not be subjected to unhealthy, unsanitary, or unsafe conditions while their claims are processed.

It is entirely possible to have an immigration system that treats all individuals with compassion and dignity while also securing the border and protecting national security. None of that is internally inconsistent. A great nation can do all of that. I am certain that our Nation is capable of that.

We must come together as a nation to mourn the loss of Jakelin and others who die under similar circumstances. We need to put politics aside to fix our broken immigration system so that these policies are consistent with our American values.

I would yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 3764

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, my Montana colleagues, Congressman GIANFORTE and Senator TESTER, and I have worked for years to bring Federal recognition to the Little Shell Tribe, and for the first time, we are just one vote away from making it happen.

Congressman GIANFORTE championed his bill through the House with unanimous votes in the committee and on the floor. When it came to the Senate, Senator TESTER and I pressed it, also by unanimous consent, through the Indian Affairs Committee. Now, with just hours left in the 115th Congress, we need to pass this important bill out of the Senate and get it on the President's desk.

The Little Shell Tribe has waited for lifetimes. It should not have to wait another year to get this done. Therefore, in the fashion of all of the previous votes on this bill that have had strong bipartisan support, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 574, H.R. 3764. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, Tribal recognition is a very serious matter. It is not one that should be undertaken lightly. Given the sacred nature of Tribal recognition and the significant impact it has both on the Tribe in question and on the U.S. Government, as well as on surrounding communities, we have an orderly process by which this needs to be done.

In 2009, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, having considered the argument by the Little Shell, concluded it had failed to meet three of the seven categories that are typically considered for Tribal recognition, and on that basis, the Bureau turned down its application. It has been suggested that there is still an appeal pending—a challenge to that finding—by the Little Shell.

I am not aware of any legal analysis suggesting that the Bureau of Indian Affairs got it wrong. This is not to say that Congress cannot or should not or could not decide on its own to recognize it. Yes, this is a power that Congress has. Yet, as I see it, those seven criteria ought to be considered and considered carefully. I am aware of no