

As evidence, he specifically referred to a conversation the week before with Ms. Jones.

These revelations raise the prospect that Secretary DeVos, Ms. Jones, and other Department officials may have misled me and other members of Congress in their responses to questions on this matter.

Ultimately, the Dream Center debacle led to thousands of students being lured into a predatory enterprise on the verge of collapse.

The question is, to what extent did the DeVos Department of Education, and Ms. Jones in particular, inappropriately aid and abet Dream Center's exploitation of students and bilking of taxpayers as the company collapsed.

In February of this year, House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee Chairwoman ROSA DELAURO and I asked the Department's Office of Inspector General to investigate the Department's role in the Dream Center collapse.

Now, the revelations accompanying Chairman SCOTT's letter, raise serious questions about the Department's truthfulness with Congress and a potential attempt to cover up inappropriate involvement by Ms. Jones or others.

In his letter, Chairman requested transcribed interviews with several Department officials, including Ms. Jones, and a host of documents and correspondence.

I call on Secretary DeVos to immediately comply with these requests, to direct her Department to fully cooperate with Chairman SCOTT without delay. Anything less and we will be forced to ask what exactly Secretary DeVos is trying to hide.

TRIBUTE TO MATTHEW BLADE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to tell you about a remarkable young man from my hometown of Springfield, IL. His name is Matthew Blade. In late May, Matthew graduated from Lutheran High School in Springfield as his class valedictorian. He was also the president of his senior class, president of his school's Spanish Honor Society and an Illinois State scholar. He was involved in theater and Madrigal singers and his school's praise band. He was a member of Students Against Destructive Decisions. Outside of school, Matthew volunteers at a local food pantry, and he is an Eagle Scout.

If Matthew Blade had done nothing more, he would be exceptional. What makes Matthew's accomplishments even more extraordinary is that Matthew Blade spent half of his high school years battling bone cancer.

He first felt the pain in his left arm when he was 15 years old, a sophomore. At first, he thought he might have pulled a muscle playing soccer. When the pain didn't go away, Matthew went in for x rays, then an MRI. The same day he underwent the MRI, Matthew

and his parents, Doug and Tricia, received the devastating diagnosis. The pain in Matthew's arm was not a sprained muscle; it was most likely osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer.

What Matthew did next tells you a lot about his character. He went to school, didn't tell anyone about his diagnosis, took a biology exam—and aced the test.

But Matthew wasn't able to keep his diagnosis private for long. Over the next 9 months he underwent 18 grueling chemotherapy treatments. Each time, he had to be hospitalized for 4 or 5 days. His mom Tricia never left his side. Matthew lost his hair and his eyelashes. When he was up to it, he went to school, often pulling an I.V. bag on a pole. When he was too sick for school, he kept up with his lessons from home or from his hospital bed.

What got him through those hard times, he said, was his faith, prayers, the love of his family, and "great doctors and nurses" at St. John's Hospital in Springfield and Children's Hospital in St. Louis. His other saving grace, he says, were his friends, who never treated him differently and helped him to feel like a normal kid, even at his sickest.

Matthew undergoes scans every 6 months to monitor his health. His latest scans, in June, showed "no detectable cancer." These days, his hair has grown back. He is playing soccer again. He is working this summer as a counselor at a church summer camp, working with little kids, ages 5 to 7.

But the cancer changed Matthew in some ways. Early in his treatment, he had to have a 6-1/2 inch section of his left humerus bone—the long bone in his upper arm—removed, so he can no longer lift his left arm above his head. After the surgery, Matthew had to wear a sling, which made playing his guitar impossible, but Matthew adapted. He learned how to play the ukulele.

Before his diagnosis, Matthew wanted to be a lawyer. Now, he wants to be a pediatric oncologist, to help other kids with cancer. He is looking forward to starting college in the fall at St. Louis University.

In his valedictory remarks, Matthew told his classmates: "Life—like a hike through the mountains—is full of peaks and valleys. The more time you spend in the valleys, the sweeter the peaks will seem." By his example, Matthew Blade has taught his classmates—and really, our whole town of Springfield—how to endure life's valleys, and how to cherish its peaks.

I want to wish Matthew all the best on his accomplishment, and I know I am not alone in saying that I can't wait to see what he does with the rest of his remarkable life.

HONDURAS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, anyone who follows the situation in Honduras, as I and many Vermonters do, cannot help but be disappointed and concerned

by what is happening there. I won't take the time to discuss in detail the lengthy litany of circumstances that have resulted in the deep social and political divisions, the rampant corruption, violence and insecurity, the prevalence of threats and assassinations by gangs, the dysfunctional justice system, and the sense of desperation and hopelessness that so many Hondurans are feeling, but I do want to mention several that should concern every Senator.

To put the situation there in perspective, it is important to keep in mind what is happening in our own country.

For purely political reasons, President Trump has directed his wrath and contempt on the thousands of Central American migrants seeking entry to the United States, many of whom are women and children and many of whom are from Honduras. Regrettably, his xenophobic attacks have encouraged other extreme voices demonizing migrants and asylum seekers. They have apparently forgotten that America is fundamentally a nation of immigrants.

There is no question that our government is woefully unprepared to humanely and expeditiously handle this influx and that there is a humanitarian crisis at our southern border. We are each aware of the appalling treatment to which many of these desperate migrants have been subjected, both during the harrowing journey from their home countries to the U.S. border and in our government's custody—human beings trafficked, robbed, and sexually abused by unscrupulous smugglers; defenseless, impoverished people crammed into grossly overcrowded detention facilities; frightened children forcibly separated from their families and sleeping on cement floors in wire cages; a backlog of hundreds of thousands of asylum applications; and if that were not enough, racist and disparaging Facebook posts by U.S. Border Patrol officers about the people in their custody.

This, not the Statue of Liberty, is what awaits the Hondurans who have abandoned their impoverished, violence-ridden communities in search of safety and a better life for themselves and their children. Yet they continue to come because remaining in Central America is a worse option.

While the White House justifies its mistreatment of Central American migrants by falsely labeling them all as criminals who have engaged in asylum fraud, it has rightly asked Congress for millions of dollars to help care for refugees from Venezuela who are fleeing economic collapse, violence, and political chaos in that country. The similarities of the factors that are motivating the exodus of Hondurans and Venezuelans are far greater than their differences, which illustrates the blatant hypocrisy and unfairness of the administration's incoherent policies.

Honduras has been in a state of convulsion since the coup that ousted President Manuel Zelaya in 2009 and