

# A HEARING WITH SANCTUARY STATE GOVERNORS

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## HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND  
GOVERNMENT REFORM

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

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BILLY GRANT, Professional Staff Member  
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CONTACT NUMBER: 202-225-5074  
  
JAMIE SMITH, Minority Staff Director  
CONTACT NUMBER: 202-225-5051

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## **A HEARING WITH SANCTUARY STATE GOVERNORS**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 2025**

**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM**  
*Washington, D.C.*

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:05 a.m., in room HVC-210, U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Hon. James Comer [Chairman of the Committee] presiding.

Present: Representatives Comer, Jordan, Gosar, Foxx, Grothman, Cloud, Palmer, Higgins, Sessions, Biggs, Mace, Fallon, Donalds, Perry, Timmons, Burchett, Greene, Boebert, Luna, Langworthy, Burlison, Crane, Jack, McGuire, Gill, Lynch, Norton, Krishnamoorthi, Khanna, Mfume, Brown, Stansbury, Garcia, Frost, Lee, Casar, Crockett, Subramanyam, Ansari, Bell, Simon, Min, Pressley, and Tlaib.

Also present: Representatives Stefanik, Emmer, Miller, Fischbach, Lawler, Stauber, Tenney, LaHood, Ocasio-Cortez, Davis, Moskowitz, Ramirez, Goldman, Morrison, and Craig.

Chairman COMER. This hearing of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform will come to order. I want to welcome everyone here today.

Without objection, the Chair can declare a recess at any time.

I now recognize myself for the purpose of making an opening statement.

### **OPENING STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN JAMES COMER REPRESENTATIVE FROM KENTUCKY**

Good morning. Today, the House Oversight Committee will continue to examine the consequences of reckless and dangerous sanctuary policies that jeopardize public safety. Three sanctuary state governors from Minnesota, New York, and Illinois are here to testify under oath about why they allow criminal illegal aliens to roam free in American communities. Let me be clear: sanctuary policies do not protect Americans. They protect criminal illegal aliens. That is a fact that the Abraham family knows all too well. With us today is the father of Katie Abraham, Joe, and Katie's stepmother, Michelle.

In January of this year, Katie was tragically killed in a car crash near the University of Illinois in Urbana. Urbana, like the State of Illinois, is a sanctuary jurisdiction. Katie's killer was a previously deported criminal illegal alien who was driving drunk. He fled the scene and the jurisdiction and was later apprehended by the U.S.

Marshal Service in Texas. Katie was just 20 years old. She had a bright future ahead of her that was stolen from her and her very loving family. The illegal alien who took Katie's life should never have been allowed into our country. This was a preventable crime. Unfortunately, there are too many instances where criminal illegal aliens have harmed Americans.

Behind me are photos of some of the many criminal illegal aliens that have been captured in Illinois, Minnesota, and New York. These criminals have been convicted of crimes, including vehicular homicide of a woman, sexual abuse of children, slashing a victim with a machete, and carjacking, among many other crimes. It is absolutely sickening that sanctuary jurisdictions seek to protect these criminals rather than protect Americans.

Instead of putting America first, the Biden-Harris Administration deliberately dismantled the border security to unleash the worst border disaster in American history. Their radical policies allowed millions of illegals to flood into our country. Americans voted to end the Biden border crisis, and President Trump has delivered on his promise to secure the border. He has taken bold, decisive action to restore our sovereignty and make America safer with each passing day. And here in Congress, we are working to pass the One Big Beautiful bill to fund U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement so it can carry out the mass deportation of criminal illegal aliens.

Despite President Trump's efforts to secure the border and enforce the law, Democrat-run sanctuary cities and states are siding with illegal aliens. For today's Democrat Party, it seems unlimited illegal immigration is not a failure of policy. It is the policy. And that agenda is being pushed at every level of government, and this comes at a steep cost to public safety, strains law enforcement resources, and imposes a massive financial burden on both Federal and state taxpayers. That is not just bad policy, it is a serious oversight failure. Congress must confront this absurd reality. State and local officials are actively undermining Federal immigration enforcement even when it is aimed at making their own communities safer. It is time to determine what legislative action is needed to stop this subversion and restore the rule of law. It is growing more and more absurd every day.

In recent weeks, we have witnessed a Democrat senator who traveled to a foreign country for a wellness check on a foreign Mara Salvatrucha (MS-13) gang member and now indicted human smuggler that ended with a photo op and margaritas on the rocks. The fervor among Democrats that take the side of illegal alien criminals grew so strongly, that I even had to deny a written request from Members of this very Committee to go on a taxpayer-funded junket to visit with this same MS-13 gang member. Earlier this year, I launched an investigation into the radical pro-illegal immigration policies of sanctuary jurisdictions. At an Oversight Committee hearing with some of our country's worst sanctuary city mayors earlier this year, the public was able to clearly see how they care more about illegal aliens than their own citizens. They have pledged not to cooperate with Federal law enforcement officials, not even to hand over criminals in their custody who were originally arrested by their own local law enforcement officials for crimes.



The absurdity does not stop there. Several of those local officials pointed the finger to laws and policies that their state governments put in place.

I invited these governors here today because, as the chief executives of their states, they willfully ignore Federal law, shield illegal aliens, and pass the cost of free services onto their hardworking taxpayers. It is hard to figure out whose side these governors are on. They shield criminals while their own citizens pay the price.

Just a few weeks ago, Minnesota Governor Walz stood at a commencement podium and smeared Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents as, “Trump modern-day Gestapo.” Comparing brave law enforcement officers who risked their lives to uphold Federal law to Nazi thugs is not just wrong, it is vile and disgusting. I can only hope this reckless remark was not meant to incite violence. Assaults on ICE officers are already up 400 percent compared to this time last year, and we have witnessed repeated attempts at obstruction and assaults against Federal law enforcement recently captured on video in California.

Governor Hochul’s sanctuary policies cost taxpayers billions to house, feed, and provide driver’s licenses for illegal aliens while the cost to rent rises and hospitals are overrun. Her defiance of Federal law invites crime to plague communities across the state. Governor Pritzker faces lawsuits for obstructing ICE as he turns cities, like Chicago, into havens for drugs and crime. He is yet another governor providing free care—free care—to illegal aliens that many of his own citizens lack. These governors handcuff law enforcement from doing their jobs, harbor predators, and call it compassion. It is not compassion, and it is costing lives, hurting Americans, and draining taxpayer money.

Congress must consider whether to defund every single penny of Federal dollars going to cities and states that prioritize criminal illegal aliens over the American people. Americans want to return to common sense. The Trump Administration and this Republican Congress aims to restore our safety and sovereignty. It is past time for these governors to put America first.

I now yield the Ranking Member Lynch for his opening statement.

Mr. LYNCH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, I want to thank our witnesses. Governor Walz, good to see you again. Governor Pritzker, Governor Hochul, good to see you again. Ms. Perryman. Thank you for your willingness to come before this Committee and help us with our work.

**OPENING STATEMENT OF RANKING MEMBER  
STEPHEN F. LYNCH  
REPRESENTATIVE FROM MASSACHUSETTS**

Mr. LYNCH. At this very moment as we sit in this hearing and at the order of President Trump, the National Guard are on the streets of Los Angeles, and active-duty Marines are on their way. At Trump’s order, Californians are now forced to navigate an active military zone in their midst as they try to go to work or decide if it is safe to send their kids to school. And because of Trump, no American city or state is safe as he lays this groundwork to take his militarization playbook nationwide. Two days ago, he confirmed

that he is considering invoking the Insurrection Act to expand the deployment of active-duty military forces against civilians across this country, preparing for a future in which dissent is met with armed force, and the machinery of war is turned inward on the American people. If unchecked, this marks not just a threat to our most sacred civil liberties, but a violent blow to American democracy itself.

Last week in Los Angeles, peaceful Americans came out to protest the Administration's cruel and illegal mass deportation operations in their neighborhoods. President Trump inflamed events on the grounds as an excuse to unleash the U.S. military on its own people. Sending in 4,000 National Guard members without the approval of the Governor of California, and deploying 700 active duty Marines into an American city is meant to provoke, not pacify, and is an aggressive assertion of Federal control where it is neither needed nor desired. Our Marines are often the first responders in a war zone, but American neighborhoods are not war zones. Protesters are not the enemy. They are Americans who have the constitutional right to peacefully assemble and speak up.

The problem for President Trump and my colleagues across the aisle is that the American people hate what he is doing in Los Angeles to inflame tensions. Americans are deeply concerned that the President deployed Federal troops to an American city over the objections of state and local leadership, and knowing it would escalate the situation. He put members of the public, law enforcement officers, and troops in danger because he loves the images and theatrics of using force. Let us be clear: Democrats oppose violence and lawlessness in all his forms as well as any threat to public safety. President Trump himself is the worst offender. The chaos he is fomenting in LA is just an extension of his flagrant disregard for the Constitution and our rule of law and democracy.

It is clear that the Trump Administration's mass deportation policy is not limited to those that have committed serious and violent crimes. It also includes children who are U.S. citizens, immigrants with legal status, and even international students. On February 4, President Trump deported a 10-year-old girl, a U.S. citizen, who was recovering from brain cancer while traveling to Houston for an emergency hospital visit. This 10-year-old girl was detained and deported with her undocumented parents and four siblings, three of whom were also born here in the United States. Her parents have no criminal history, and what is going to happen to her, an American child, now that she can't see her expert doctors is unknown. Trump deported another U.S. citizen, a 2-year-old toddler from Fort Lauderdale, on February 21st, deported to Brazil, but because she is not a citizen or resident of Brazil, she had to enter the country as a tourist, which leaves her unable to access key programs like pediatric care and daycare or school. Are our cities safer now that this 10-year-old girl and the 2-year-old toddler are gone, U.S. citizens, both of them?

In Austin, Texas, a husband and wife were recently detained after a routine traffic stop. The husband was quickly deported while the wife was released to pick up her three children from school, only to be deported with them several days later. Two of those kids are U.S. citizens. Is the family the violent criminals that

Trump is supposed to be saving us from? The Trump Administration has tried to sweep aside the fact that this pattern of mass deportation operation is letting dangerous criminals roam free while it picks off peaceful, contributing members of our communities: busboys at restaurants, day laborers at Home Depot, parents who are taking their kids to school.

In late March, ICE agents wearing masks and hoodies detained Rumeysa Ozturk, and those of you who watched that abduction, when you compare the old films of the Gestapo grabbing people off the streets of Poland and you compare them to those nondescript thugs who grabbed that student, that graduate student, it does look like a Gestapo operation. It does look like the Gestapo. She was snatched away and detained 1,700 miles away. Her Congresswoman could not reach her. Her family could not reach her. She was held incommunicado 1,700 miles away. Her attorney could not reach her. Yes, that was Gestapo-like. That is an appropriate comparison. That is exactly what it was like.

She was here legally—legally—studying at Tufts University. She had every right to be here. We gave her permission to come. Her family entrusted us. They chose Boston because it is a place of intellectual freedom and respect for cultural freedom, and that trust was apparently misplaced. Ms. Ozturk is a Turkish national on a student visa to attend Tufts University. A video of that incident shows Ozturk walking along a public street in Boston, Massachusetts, my home city, when several masked figures just snatched her phone and backpack, handcuffed her, and hustled her into an unmarked vehicle. What does that sound like? What does that sound like?

The Trump Administration is putting extremism, cruelty, and chaos over protecting kids and families. Trump is not focused on getting violent criminals off our streets. He is terrorizing our communities to fulfill deportation quotas with fathers and mothers, grandparents and kids, and he is trying to strong arm our city and state leaders to divert their limited resources away from serious public safety threats to instead focus on peaceful, law-abiding families, just as he has diverted Federal resources away from combating drug trafficking, violent crime, and terrorism to fuel his lawless mass deportation campaign.

Trump is not trying to protect us, he is trying to divide us. It is us and them. He is trying to divide us, and some people are helping him. He is pitting neighbor against neighbor, but it is not immigrant kids who are about to kick millions of Americans off their healthcare. It is not them, and he is doing that to pay for a tax break for billionaires. And it is not immigrants who are using the military to silence Americans exercising their right to speak truth to power. These are not the strong and measured actions of the leader of a free country. They are the ruthless maneuvers of an aspiring autocrat hellbent on consolidating power by any means necessary. This is disgraceful. It should not happen in this country. This is wrong. Deploying the military against a civilian population is wrong, and if we do not step up, this will continue. If we do not step up and declare what is right under our Constitution, then other cities, other citizens will meet this same fate. I am proud of

my Democratic colleagues who are willing to stand up to this thug-gery.

Trump is a wannabe gangster, and he is showing the world what he is about, and I am proud. You know, my dad served in the Second World War. He fought the Nazis in Northern Africa, he fought the Nazis on the Italian peninsula and I think he is looking down right now and he is happy that I am fighting today's Nazis. He is proud of that. We all should be. Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, Representatives Stauber, Finstad, Fischbach, Emmer, Morrison, and Craig of Minnesota, Representatives Miller, LaHood, Davis, and Ramirez of Illinois, Representatives Stefanik, Tenney, Lawler, Goldman, Ocasio-Cortez, Gillen of New York, and Moskowitz of Florida are waived onto the Committee for the purpose of questioning the witnesses at today's hearing.

Without objection, so ordered.

Our witnesses today include the governors of three states. We want to welcome you all here. First, we have Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota. He was sworn into office on January 7, 2019. His second term began on January 2, 2023. Governor, welcome back to the House of Representatives. Next, we have JB Pritzker, Governor of the State of Illinois. He was sworn into office on January 14, 2019. His second term began on January 9, 2023. I am going to yield briefly to my colleague, Raj Krishnamoorthi, for further introduction.

#### **INTRODUCTION BY RAJA KRISHNAMOORTHY REPRESENTATIVE FROM ILLINOIS**

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you for yielding. In Illinois, we like our pizza deep, our politics lively, and our budgets balanced. The last one used to be a miracle before Governor Pritzker took office. I know firsthand, as the son of immigrants who realized the American Dream in Illinois, that immigrants make enormous contributions to our country. Governor Pritzker understands that, too. His great-grandfather fled pogroms in Ukraine in 1881 and settled in Chicago to build a better life. That legacy has shaped his lifelong commitment to public service, justice, and opportunity.

Before entering public office, Governor Pritzker built a successful business career and became a leading philanthropist supporting early childhood education and establishing the Illinois Holocaust Museum. Governor Pritzker has delivered historic investments in education, workforce training, infrastructure, technology, and clean energy, all while expanding paid leave, raising the minimum wage, and defending the rights of all Illinoisans. Governor, thank you for your leadership and for joining us today.

Chairman COMER. Yields back. Next, we have Kathy Hochul, Governor of the State of New York. She was sworn into office on August 24, 2021. Welcome, Governor. And finally, we have Skye Perryman. She is the President and CEO of the Democracy Forward Foundation. Thank you all for joining us. Look forward to your discussion this afternoon.

Pursuant to Committee Rule 9(g), the witnesses will please raise their right hand. Please stand and raise your right hand.

Do you all solemnly swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

[A chorus of ayes.]

Chairman COMER. Please let the record show that the witnesses answered in the affirmative. Thank you all, and you may take a seat.

We appreciate you being here today and look forward to your testimony. Let me remind the witnesses that we have read your written statement, and they will appear in full in the hearing record. Please limit your oral statement to 5 minutes. As a reminder, please press the button on the microphone in front of you so that it is on and the Members can hear you. When you begin to speak, the light in front of you will turn green. After 4 minutes, the light will turn yellow. When the red light comes on, your 5 minutes have expired, and we would ask that you please wrap up.

I now recognize Governor Walz for his opening statement.

#### **STATEMENT OF TIM WALZ GOVERNOR, MINNESOTA**

Governor WALZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member Lynch, and Members of the Committee. I am proud to be here today as the Governor of the great State of Minnesota.

Wherever you go in this country, people tend to want the same basic things: safe neighborhoods, affordable household goods, meaningful work, good schools. That is what my administration has worked to ensure for our people, and that is what we have delivered. Under our leadership, Minnesota has been ranked the fourth best state to live in, the second best state to raise a family in, and the third best state for jobs. When it comes to serious crime, Minnesota has hit its lowest level in over three decades, and we consistently have lower violent crime rates than the U.S. average.

Now, we have a broken immigration system in this country. I think everyone in this room agrees with that, but nothing Minnesota has done to serve its own people stands in the way of the Federal Government managing border security and policies. While you have convened this hearing to explore the issue of so-called sanctuary states, Minnesota is not even a sanctuary state. The Minnesota legislature has passed no such bill making Minnesota a sanctuary state, and I have signed no such law.

Minnesota cooperates with Federal authorities in a number of ways. When there is a convicted felon in our prisons, we ask about their immigration status and share that information with the Department of Homeland Security. We also cooperate with Homeland Security requests when there is a judicial warrant and when due process, as been afforded by our Constitution, has been served. But enforcing immigration law is not the role of local and state governments. The fact is Congress has given Federal agencies the authority to enforce immigration laws across this country. That includes Minnesota, and I support them doing so. It is the Federal Government's job to secure the border. That is why when I was in Congress, I visited the Southern border and voted for bills that would have increased funding for Border Patrol, made it easier to hire qualified agents, and deployed advanced technologies to the border.

Most importantly, I recognize that securing our border does not mean we sacrifice our constitutional values. Unfortunately, the cruel and misguided policies of this current Administration fail to live up to those values. Minnesotans are angry with what they have seen happen to their neighbors. They are angry that the Federal Government has been snatching people up, putting them in prison, and deporting them without a shred of due process. There has been no notice, no meaningful opportunity to object, and, according to the President, no way to get out of these overseas prisons once you end up there. And let us be clear: many of these are law-abiding Americans, people who have been granted asylum or promised protected status. In many cases, it seems these people were deported not based on criminal behavior but how they looked or what they have said, and being in the wrong place at the wrong time. Even U.S. citizens, like a 4-year-old boy with cancer, sent to Mexico away from his father, away from the medical needs to a country he was not born in or had never been to.

Americans deserve a sensible, humane, and effective immigration policy that reduces illegal immigration while protecting fundamental rights. Meanwhile, the Administration continues to make life worse for hardworking Americans in a lot of other ways, trying to slash Medicaid, Social Security, Medicare, making basic household goods more expensive and telling people they just need to do much more with less. The American people deserve better. You all have the power to legislate, to investigate this Administration's abuse and overreach, and protect the American people, and I have to say I am disappointed. At a crucial inflection point in our Nation's history, Congress is choosing to spend its time trying to cast blame on states like Minnesota that have no hand in creating this crisis. While we may disagree on the best way to maintain border security and public safety, I know we should all be able to agree on a few principles: that everyone in America deserves due process, and that we live in a free country where people should not be locked up for exercising their basic constitutional rights.

I hope you will join me in enforcing accountability to those fundamental ideas, and I look forward to your questions. I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. I now recognize Governor Pritzker for his opening statement.

#### **STATEMENT OF JB PRITZKER GOVERNOR, ILLINOIS**

Governor PRITZKER. Mr. Chairman, Ranking Member, Members of the Committee, good morning, and thank you for inviting me. As Governor of the great State of Illinois, I have seen firsthand how states have had to shoulder the consequences of a broken immigration system. I am proud of how we have responded by promoting public safety, treating people with dignity, supporting our economy, and respecting the rule of law.

Safe and compassionate immigration policies, I believe, are vital. In fact, my own family owes everything to this country accepting a young refugee named Nicholas Pritzker to its shores over a century ago. My great-grandfather fled the massacre of Jews in Ukraine and arrived in the United States when he was just ten

without a penny to his name. A social service agency provided him a place to live. A public school taught him English. A public university allowed him to pursue a higher education. My father and grandfather both were naval officers and raised their families with a powerful sense of duty to community and patriotism to our country that still lives deep in my generation. Both were successful entrepreneurs. My family's story is not unique. Today, Illinois is home to 1.9 million immigrants. Just like my great-grandfather, they are hard-working, raising families, and paying taxes. Our state and our country have been strengthened by people from across the globe seeking freedom, opportunity, and refuge here.

Recently, children, pregnant women, and others fled poverty, violence, and persecution, seeking asylum at our border. Some border state politicians chose to treat them as political pawns, bussing them to states like mine and dropping them off in the dead of night in the freezing cold. Illinois chose a different path. Faced with a humanitarian crisis, our state made sure children and families did not go hungry or freeze to death. By doing so, we helped to maintain safety and order in Chicago.

As Governor, one of my responsibilities is to keep the public safe. That is why I expanded our state police, banned assault weapons and ghost guns to take guns out of the hands of criminals, and invested more than ever before in violence prevention. As a result, violent crime is down in Illinois, and Chicago ended 2024 with its lowest homicide rate in five years. As I have consistently said, violent criminals have no place on our streets and if they are undocumented, I want them out of Illinois and out of our country.

And as we are reminded in Los Angeles this week, we can all agree that violence of any kind, whomever it is directed at, is unacceptable. People must be held accountable to the law. Illinois follows the law, but let me be clear: we expect the Federal Government to follow the law, too. We will not participate in abuses of power. We will not violate court orders. We will not ignore the Constitution. We will not defy the Supreme Court. We will not take away people's rights to peacefully protest.

We also respect, and expect this Administration to respect, the traditions and legal precedent that dictate how and when our national guard and military are deployed. As Governor, I have had to make the difficult decision to call the Illinois National Guard into service. I have always done it in partnership with my local governments and law enforcement and with deep and abiding respect for the sacrifice I was asking of our volunteer armed forces. It is wrong to deploy the national guard and active-duty Marines into an American city over the objection of local law enforcement just to inflame a situation and create a crisis, just as it is wrong to tear children away from their homes and their mothers and fathers, who have spent decades living and working in our communities raising their families.

Besides being a father and husband, the greatest honor of my life has been serving as Governor. I believe with my whole heart that Illinois is the best place in the country to live, work, and to raise a family. Illinoisans take seriously their responsibility in upholding the most fundamental values of our Nation, values like kindness, empathy, hard work, and fair play. Our people embody the most

American ideal of all, that where your life began matters far less than the dreams you can realize here for yourself and your family. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Governor Hochul for her opening statement.

**STATEMENT OF KATHY HOCHUL  
GOVERNOR, NEW YORK**

Governor HOCHUL. Chairman Comer, Ranking Member Lynch, and Members of this Committee, as we speak, an American city has been militarized over the objections of their Governor. At the outset, I just want to say that this is a flagrant abuse of power and nothing short of an assault on our American values.

My views on immigration are simple and direct. Our Nation needs secure borders, our Nation needs comprehensive immigration reform from this body, and our state laws dictate that we cooperate with ICE in criminal cases, and our values dictate that we treat all law-abiding people with dignity and respect. The America I believe in is a Nation of laws and a Nation of immigrants. Abandoning either threatens the very foundation on which this great country was built.

For 400 years, New York has prospered because of the hard work of these people, these newcomers, people like my grandfather who fled great poverty in Ireland. Grandma and Grandpa had the same American Dream that the immigrants today have. I see it in their eyes. They are not here for handouts. They are not here to take advantage of the situation. They are here to work. They want to contribute, or earn their place, raise their families, yet every day there is another story of children being ripped from the arms of their mothers, wives separated from their husbands, families arrested while attending legal immigration appointments.

Not long ago, in a small town known as Sacketts Harbor in up-state New York, masked and armed ICE agents stormed into a home before dawn. They abducted a mother, her three children, including a third grader. They were cast into a living hell in a detention facility in Texas. I immediately contacted border czar, Tom Homan, and demanded their release. In Jefferson County, more than 60 percent of the residents voted for Donald Trump, and those people protested in the streets. Local Republican lawmakers, business owners, school leaders all spoke out. Finally, after two long weeks, the family was finally returned home. In New York, we understand the difference between going after criminals and traumatizing law-abiding families.

Now, some of you will use this hearing to stoke fear. I am here to talk about the facts. New York has managed an unprecedented immigrant influx because of a broken border, yet, at the same time, our state has become stronger and safer. Today, New York has the lowest homicide rate among the Nation's top ten states. We did not achieve this with indiscriminate roundups, not by tearing apart innocent families, but by investing \$2.6 billion in public safety, engaging in smart, targeted policing, and partnering with Federal law enforcement to apprehend and deport serious criminals. And since I have become Governor, we have cooperated in handing over 1,300



convicted criminals to ICE, but what we do not do is civil immigration enforcement. That is the Federal Government's job. New Yorkers need their state troopers on our highways, seizing guns and drugs.

States like mine are doing our part, but we cannot be expected to fix the broken immigration system. The very people who go on cable news and rail about the border are the same ones who torpedo bipartisan legislation each and every time. So, here is my message: if you truly care about public safety, if you truly care about the economy, if you truly care about human dignity, then sit down, negotiate, have real reform, secure the border, revive legal pathways, and let people work. At the end of the day, I will go home and do my job keeping New Yorkers safe. I hope that you will do yours. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. And I now recognize the Democrat witness, Ms. Perryman, for her opening statement.

**STATEMENT OF SKYE PERRYMAN (MINORITY WITNESS)  
PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
DEMOCRACY FORWARD FOUNDATION**

Ms. PERRYMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Acting Ranking Member, for having me here today, and at the outset, let me offer my sincerest condolences to all of you for the passing and your loss of your colleague, Representative Gerry Connolly.

I am here today as a lawyer and as the president and CEO of Democracy Forward Foundation, which is a national nonpartisan legal organization that is committed to achieving democracy and a Nation that enables all people to thrive. At Democracy Forward, we represent people and communities who make up the very fabric of our Nation on a pro bono basis, in Federal and state courts, and regulatory bodies throughout the country. I know this is a hearing focused on immigration and so I would like to say at the outset and echo the calls for bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform. I will also note that the rhetoric that we have heard the President and his allies use in recent days about immigrants and people in this country is inaccurate, overly politicized, and not solutions oriented.

Fundamentally, Democracy Forward Foundation's work centers on the premise that when the government does its job and delivers for people, our society is stronger, and when our government strays from that purpose, ignoring the Constitution, not achieving and respecting the fidelity of people's rights, our democracy and our people are in danger. Right now, based on the work that we are doing, I am here to say that our American people are in danger and that our democracy is in crisis. I am looking at these United States flags. We need to remember who we are. We, right now, have a President who has proclaimed, without irony, that he is a king in a Nation that next year will celebrate 250 years since it threw off the reins of monarchy.

Since Inauguration Day, the President and his Administration have acted beyond the lawful bounds of executive authority. They have usurped the power of this Congress. They have sought to eliminate due process of law. They have ignored court orders, and they are targeting people, civil society organizations, and lawyers.

These are anti-democratic actions that present an overall threat to every single American and their well-being and to our values in America. That is why at Democracy Forward Foundation, we have had to go to court to file more than 70 legal actions in Federal and state courts and agencies and offices since Inauguration Day to protect the American people's rights.

From stopping the President's Federal funding freeze, to blocking the decimation of the Department of Education, to having to safeguard due process, to challenging The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) and Elon Musk's attempts to access personal data on behalf of individual Americans, our team is in court every single day on behalf of people of all identities and ideologies, people in red states and blue states, people in small towns, urban areas, and rural communities. Our work at Democracy Forward demonstrates that the United States' Constitution is still here, and it is here for all of us.

This Administration's tactics with regard to immigration enforcement that we have seen, they shock the conscience. The shock the conscience of the vast majority of the American people, including people who do not see eye-to-eye on how to fix our immigration problem in this country. They have led us to file and have to file litigation on behalf of religious communities to prevent ICE from entering houses of worship. We are litigating against policies that prolong the detention of individual immigrant children without their families, and, of course, we are challenging the lack of due process afforded to our clients: men who were disappeared through an unlawful agreement between the Government of El Salvador and the United States Department of State. All told the courts have ruled against the current Administration more than 170 times in less than 200 days because of the fast-moving harms and flagrant violations of the law and of our Constitution. And while this is a dire situation, our work demonstrates that the American people are determined to protect their rights. They are determined to use lawful and peaceful means of petitioning their government and, when necessary, of holding their government accountable.

People have talked about their families, and last week was June 6, which is, of course, the anniversary of when American troops landed on the beaches of Normandy in World War II. I, too, am the mother of a 9-year-old boy, and that 9-year-old boy's great-grandfather served in that battle and many others throughout the European theater, but as I reflected last week, we do not need to be in Normandy to defend our democracy in June 2025. We need to be here in these halls doing the work in courts across the country and in our communities, and we do need to remember the essential and historical commitment that our Nation made at the end of that war to advance democracy and to ensure that we never turn our backs on people who are fleeing persecution.

I so appreciate you inviting me here today to participate in this hearing, and it is with a sincere hope that we can come together that I offer my testimony and comments.

Chairman COMER. All right. Opening statements have concluded. We are now going to begin the questioning portion of today's testimony, and I am going to begin with Governor Walz.

Governor Walz, I thought that maybe your statement referencing ICE as Gestapo was an outlier statement, but now that Mr. Lynch has endorsed it, it appears that it could be some type of Democrat talking point. Governor, do you and other Democrat politicians understand why referencing ICE as Gestapo is offensive? I am going to explain.

The Department of Homeland Security is reporting that ICE agents are now experiencing a 413-percent rise in assaults. We have seen numerous videos of rioters obstructing and assaulting Federal law enforcement after your remarks, including in Los Angeles. So, Governor, do you think that comments like that and rhetoric like that put ICE officers and other law enforcement in greater danger?

Governor WALZ. Well, thank you for the question, Mr. Chairman. First and foremost, any attack on law enforcement is unacceptable wherever it is at, whether it is state, local—

Chairman COMER. So, you understand that I have got limited time here. I want to highlight for the governors the real-world impact of the policies that you all continue to defend, even in your opening statements, have on American families.

Earlier this year, in Governor Pritzker's Illinois, a previously deported illegal alien who had reentered the country, was allegedly drunk driving near the University of Illinois when he struck a car sitting at a red light and then fled the scene. The crash killed two young women, including Katie Abraham, whose father and step-mother are here today, and this is her poster.

Katie had her whole life ahead of her cutoff in an instant. Governor Pritzker, this illegal alien should never have been here. He did not just flee the scene. He fled the state and was apprehended by Federal marshals in Texas using a false name. He now faces criminal charges for reckless homicide, leaving the scene of an accident resulting in death, and driving under the influence resulting in death, and he faces a Federal indictment for having a fraudulent permanent resident card, a fraudulent Social Security card, and a fraudulent use of passport. Governor Pritzker, do you agree that this illegal alien who killed Katie should never have been in the United States in the first place?

Governor PRITZKER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, let me express my condolences to the family. Those are terrible circumstances. Let me also say that anyone who commits a crime in the State of Illinois—

Chairman COMER. I understand, Governor. Should that criminal have been here in the first place? Did he have a right to be in this country illegally?

Governor PRITZKER. If the person is a criminal of any sort, then they ought to be—

Chairman COMER. So, that person had a right to be—

Governor PRITZKER. They ought to be arrested. They ought to be—

Chairman COMER [continuing]. In the United States.

Governor PRITZKER. They ought to be given their due process rights, and they ought to be convicted, and—

Chairman COMER. The criminal who—

Governor PRITZKER. Yes.

Chairman COMER [continuing]. Entered this country illegally, in your testimony, had a right to be in this country?

Governor PRITZKER. No, I am suggesting to you that, and I have responsibility for the State of Illinois, I can tell you that it is the responsibility of the Federal Government to manage immigration in this country. And if you are suggesting that the Federal Government did not do its job, that is up to you to determine.

Chairman COMER. Let me ask you this, Governor.

Governor PRITZKER. I can tell you that in the State of Illinois—

Chairman COMER. Do you believe that—

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. We follow the law.

Chairman COMER. Do you believe that law President Biden did his job in securing the border?

Governor PRITZKER. I was critical of things that President Biden did. I think I have been very public about that. I wrote a letter to the President telling him that.

Chairman COMER. Okay. Thank you. Now back to Governor Walz. You were obviously selected by Vice President Harris to be her running mate in 2024. I am curious. Did you ever ask Vice President Harris about former President Biden's and then-President Biden's cognitive decline?

Governor WALZ. No, not that I can recall, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. You saw President Biden's disastrous debate performance. I am just curious. You never did comment to Vice President Harris, like, wow, he may not be on the top of his game? Nothing was ever mentioned to Vice President Harris, and the reason I ask, obviously, is because I know you watch CNN, and other networks have interviewed a lot of people, including Jean-Pierre and Buttigieg and others, that have suggested that they were shielded from President Biden and were not allowed to speak to him and that his mental decline was obvious. You never discussed that with Vice President Harris?

Governor WALZ. No, not that I can recall, Chairman, and as governor and then being on the ticket, I was probably more concerned with my own debate performance than President Biden's, so, no.

Chairman COMER. Let me ask you this, Governor. Do you believe that the Biden-Harris Administration secured the border? You mentioned it is the Federal Government's role to secure the border to protect Americans from illegals entering the country, I guess. Do you think they did a good job of that?

Governor WALZ. I think the border has been broken for a very long time through many administrations. It is one of the reasons why Vice President Harris was advocating so strongly for the bipartisan bill that—

Chairman COMER. Did she mention her role as the border czar any when you all were out campaigning?

Governor WALZ. Not that I can recall, other than we talked about the need to pass the bipartisan border legislation that would have done many of the things that, as a governor, I know would have made our jobs easier.

Chairman COMER. But President Trump secured the border without any legislation. I mean, that was kind of a myth that was in the media and a Democrat talking point that we needed legislation to secure the border. The border is secure.

Governor WALZ. Everything is fixed?

Chairman COMER. That is step one. Step two is to deport the criminal illegals, and that is where we are facing obstruction in your all's states, so I am sure there are a lot more questions that will pertain to that. My time has expired. I now recognize Ranking Member Lynch for his questions.

Mr. LYNCH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is worth saying again that Democrats oppose violence and lawlessness in all its forms. I do want to point out that the vast, vast majority of protestors have been peaceful, but the most egregious and sweeping displays of the use of force and lawlessness we see in the United States today and the gravest threat to the rights and freedoms of those that we hold dear are the acts of the Trump Administration itself.

President Trump and his Administration have crossed the line over and over again, from January 6 when this building was attacked at his direction, to invoking the Alien Enemies Act, to dismantling The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), to ignoring court orders, to attacks and threats against law firms that were protecting democracy. In the five months since Trump took office and put the "for sale" sign over the White House, he has earned \$2.9 billion on his crypto scam. I mean, to call this unprecedented, that word has lost all its meaning. He keeps making history but the wrong kind. Just the act of sending the National Guard and troops and active-duty Marines to LA was already an overreach. Now, we hear reports that those soldiers and marines were sent to quell protests but now are detaining civilians and are being trained to perform immigration enforcement functions.

Ms. Perryman, what else could go wrong with the National Guard and Marines deployed in LA? What are the risks of the Americans who live, work, and exercise their right to freedom and to free speech there?

Ms. PERRYMAN. Well, I would just say that what our Constitution recognizes and how good government functions is really based on trust. And when we look at national guards, it is the governors that often call the national guards in. And so, of course, the fact that we are seeing a situation where the President has taken this step without cooperating with the governor and with local communities there is deeply concerning, and, of course, we know from history that could lead to escalations and could lead to violence that is really problematic for all of our communities across the country, including in Los Angeles.

Mr. LYNCH. Thank you. Ms. Perryman, Secretary of Defense, Pete Hegseth, has talked about the deployment order, and he testified that, "This order is getting ahead of a problem so that if there are other riots in places where law enforcement officers are threatened, we would have the capability to surge the National Guard there if necessary." Ms. Perryman, how does the President's broad order and the presumption—the presumption—before the fact, that military force would be deployed, how does that pose a threat to other cities across the country?

Ms. PERRYMAN. Well, again, it appears to be an escalation, and the main thing that is really important to so many Americans across the country as well as local law enforcement in so many

areas, that local law enforcement is there to help people be able to peacefully protest. And so, there are ways that people in this country can express their views. We do not all agree with each other, and right now, you really see the White House, for whatever reason, I think escalating, maybe seeking to create some made-for-TV moments. It is not clear, but I do think that there is a lot at stake here as you have heard this morning.

Mr. LYNCH. Thank you. I want to ask each of the governors—this is a general question—could each of the governors answer briefly how President Trump’s policies, his assaults on the rule of law, and his interjection of military force into California, how that would threaten your states, especially where Secretary Hegseth has said that he would support that expansion. Mr. Walz? Governor?

Governor WALZ. Well, thank you, Ranking Member Lynch. Well, first of all, the federalism policy of this, especially when it comes to Posse Comitatus and the Insurrection Act, governors are in charge. Our National Guard, as all of you know, serve in either Title 10 or Title 32 status under the role of governor, and on all of these operations, the absolute pinnacle and the most critical piece is the coordination amongst them. And as a governor not being notified as local law enforcement, it creates a chaotic situation that they cannot operate as a joint unit. And governors are always there—we do it for floods, we do it for civil unrest—but doing it without causes immense danger, not citizens, too, but to those very law enforcement officers who are then put in that chaotic situation.

Mr. LYNCH. Thank you. Governor Pritzker?

Governor PRITZKER. Local law enforcement are the ones who indicate to the governor or to their local officials who talk to the governor about their need for National Guard. And indeed, I have had that situation in the State of Illinois and called out the Guard when I needed to. I am careful about when I do it, but again, when local law enforcement indicate that they want that backup or they need that support, we do it. Now, I have to say when the President of the United States is calling out your National Guard over the top of local law enforcement—

Mr. LYNCH. Right.

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. Saying that they do not need it, that they have things under control, it tends to have an inflaming effect on what is going on, on the ground, just when local law enforcement and officials are getting things under control, and I think that is what we saw in Los Angeles.

Mr. LYNCH. Governor Hochul?

Governor HOCHUL. Those actions absolutely undermine the sovereignty of individual states. States’ governors are the commanders-in-chief of the National Guard. They know what to do. As you have heard from my colleagues, we have deployed them in a number of occasions. But undermining confidence in local law enforcement, you are basically saying that there is not a belief that the highly trained individuals of our municipal police departments, like Los Angeles and the city of New York, for example, can handle their jobs? I have more confidence in our law enforcement then perhaps the President does—

Chairman COMER. Thank you.

Governor HOCHUL. [continuing]. And we ought to step back and say, this is an overreach of epic proportions.

Chairman COMER. Thank you. The Chair recognizes——

Mr. LYNCH. Thank you for your courtesy on the time. Appreciate that. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. Yep. The Chair recognizes Ms. Stefanik from New York.

Ms. STEFANIK. Thank you. Governor Hochul, on your first day in office, you signed Executive Order 1. Is that correct?

Governor HOCHUL. I believe it is.

Ms. STEFANIK. And you extended this executive order not once, not twice, but three times, most recently, January 16 this year. Is that correct?

Governor HOCHUL. If that is what your facts show. I signed countless executive orders and policies and laws.

Ms. STEFANIK. I would assume you would know it is Executive Order 1, and this is a continuation of your predecessor's sanctuary state policies, correct? Is included in that?

Governor HOCHUL. I want to be sure we are defining "sanctuary state" properly.

Ms. STEFANIK. I will define it for you. It is the policy of the state that, "state officers or employees shall not disclose information to Federal immigration authorities for the purpose of Federal civil immigration enforcement." It goes on to say, "Law enforcement officers may not use resources, equipment, or personnel for the purpose of detecting and apprehending any individual suspected or wanted for violating a civil immigration office. Law enforcement officers have no authority in the State of New York to take any policy action solely because the person is an undocumented alien." That is a quote in your executive orders that you extended. Now, do you know who Sakir Akkan is?

Governor HOCHUL. I want to get back to the first part of the question.

Ms. STEFANIK. No, I am asking a question.

Governor HOCHUL. Well——

Ms. STEFANIK. Do you know who secure Sakir Akkan is?

Governor HOCHUL. I want to make sure you understand that this simply says that we will cooperate with ICE in all——

Ms. STEFANIK. No, it does not say that. I read what it says——

Governor HOCHUL. We will——

Ms. STEFANIK [continuing]. And let me talk to you about the results. Do you know who Sakir Akkan is? You should as the Governor of New York State. Do you know?

Governor HOCHUL. Refresh my recollection.

Ms. STEFANIK. He was an illegal migrant in New York, and do you know what crime he committed in addition to being here illegally?

Governor HOCHUL. No, I do not.

Ms. STEFANIK. You do not. This was widely reported. He found a 15-year-old girl, threatened her with a metal pole, told her to get into the backseat of his car. He took her clothes off, and he violently raped her in Albany, New York. Do you know who Sebastian Zapeta-Calil is?

Governor HOCHUL. I am sure you will tell me. There are many cases whether they are——

Ms. STEFANIK. These are high-profile cases. New Yorkers know about them, and you do not? So, let us talk about Sebastian Zapeta-Calil. Do you know who that is?

Governor HOCHUL. I do not have the specific details at my disposal, no.

Ms. STEFANIK. Well, this is an illegal migrant in New York because of your sanctuary state policies. Do you know what crime he committed?

Governor HOCHUL. I am not familiar at this moment.

Ms. STEFANIK. I bet you are going to be familiar when I remind you. He found a sleeping woman on the subway, lit her on fire, and burned her alive. This is in Kathy Hochul's New York, and, as I am sure you are aware, and I will remind you, that ICE issued an order to detain this violent criminal, but that was rejected by New York officials due to sanctuary state laws. Now, do you know who Raymond Rojas Basilio is?

Governor HOCHUL. I just want to say this. These crimes are horrific.

Ms. STEFANIK. Because of your——

Governor HOCHUL. I condemn them, and I would say——

Ms. STEFANIK. Because of your sanctuary state policies.

Governor HOCHUL. [continuing]. In all of these cases, we worked with ICE to remove them——

Ms. STEFANIK. You did not in this case.

Governor HOCHUL. [continuing]. If they need our assistance.

Ms. STEFANIK. They are walking on the streets because of your policies in your executive order that you signed three times. Now, Raymond Rojas Basilio, do you know who that is?

Governor HOCHUL. I am telling you this.

Ms. STEFANIK. You do not know who it is?

Governor HOCHUL. I will explain the policies of New York.

Ms. STEFANIK. You do not——

Governor HOCHUL. I know you are just trying to——

Ms. STEFANIK. Specifically, ICE was told not to detain this individual, and he burned a woman alive on the New York Subways in Kathy Hochul's New York, so I will keep on going. What about Raymond Rojas Basilio? Do you know who that is?

Governor HOCHUL. I am going to tell you our overall policy, which will address all this. We do not——

Ms. STEFANIK. I will tell you who that is. He is an illegal who molested an 11-year-old in our state because, again, of your sanctuary state policies. This illegal was shielded from Federal immigration enforcement and able to commit this heinous crime. And what about Wilson Castillo Diaz? Do you know who that is?

Governor HOCHUL. I am telling you this. We do cooperate fully with ICE in criminal prosecutions. Our sanctuary regulations only deal with civil enforcement.

Ms. STEFANIK. You are not advocating for these victims. This is a 5-year-old who was raped——

Governor HOCHUL. Civil enforcement.



Ms. STEFANIK [continuing]. On Long Island in Nassau County. You are not advocating on behalf of these victims. You are shielding illegals. Even in your opening statement.

Governor HOCHUL. That is not true.

Ms. STEFANIK. You prioritized putting illegals first.

Governor HOCHUL. That is not true.

Ms. STEFANIK. Rapes of young girls, beatings of New York City Police Department (NYPD) cops by illegals who are here under Kathy Hochul's failed policies, burning New Yorkers alive. This is Kathy Hochul's New York. It is one of the many reasons why you are hemorrhaging support from hard-working New York families.

Governor HOCHUL. These are horrific crimes, and they are heart-breaking.

Ms. STEFANIK. They are horrific crimes that are committed on your watch. You signed this executive order on your first day in office. You signed it again and again this January. We deserve a governor who stands up for law-abiding New Yorkers, does not put illegals first, but actually puts New Yorkers first. I appreciate the Chairman's——

Governor HOCHUL. Rather than going after the viral moment, I suggest you look at facts.

Ms. STEFANIK. No, no, no, I am standing up for New Yorkers.

Governor HOCHUL. No.

Ms. STEFANIK. Rather than addressing the illegals in New York, you are prioritizing your far-left sanctuary state policies, which you put in place with executive orders. Instead of advocating——

Governor HOCHUL. We cooperate in all those cases.

Ms. STEFANIK [continuing]. For victims. A 5-year-old who was raped.

Governor HOCHUL. We cooperate with ICE.

Ms. STEFANIK. You did not. They were released——

Governor HOCHUL. We cooperate with ICE.

Ms. STEFANIK [continuing]. Because of sanctuary state policies in New York State.

Governor HOCHUL. We cooperate with law enforcement.

Ms. STEFANIK. No amount of words is going to clean up your failed record and these horrific crimes committed in a sanctuary state that you created, and with that, I yield back.

Governor HOCHUL. Your representation of facts is absolutely false.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady yields back.

Governor HOCHUL. Absolutely false.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Ms. Norton from Washington, D.C.

Ms. NORTON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let us be real. Since the start of the Trump Administration, each day has been more nightmarish than the last. But in the past few days and weeks, we have seen a significant escalation of Trump's mass deportation agenda. On May 29, a 9-year-old child and his father were reportedly detained in Torrance, California, and separated from one another by ICE. A fourth grader ripped from the only community he knows and from the arms of his father. We have kids who are afraid to go to school, afraid that ICE will grab them and their families from school grounds, and afraid their parents will not be

there when they get home. Schools are supposed to be safe havens for our children that foster learning and growth. Instead, the Trump Administration is deliberately weaponizing them, terrorizing children and families with its immigration policies, and threatening more than 600,000 students, kids, with detention and removal.

President Trump has called for an end to birthright citizenship, a constitutional right recognized since the end of slavery. He has cut Federal contracts that give 2-year-olds representation in immigration court. He has ripped the children who are immigrants and U.S. citizens from schools, their friends, their neighborhoods, and their homes. There is no other way to spin this. President Trump is waging a cruel and deliberate war against children. Ms. Perryman, do all children residing in the United States have a constitutional right to attend public schools regardless of immigration status?

Ms. PERRYMAN. They do.

Ms. NORTON. Ms. Perryman, how is President Trump going further than past Presidents in authorizing ICE to carry out enforcement activities in schools, hospitals, and places of worship?

Ms. PERRYMAN. Yes. I mean, this is what brought us to court on behalf of the Baptists and the Quakers and the Sikh communities and other religious communities that are having to challenge this. For more than 30 years, the country had a policy that prevented indiscriminate enforcement activities at what we call sensitive locations—that includes houses of worship and it includes schools. We saw, in the early days of this Administration, the Department of Homeland Security rescind that policy and endanger people, all people, not just immigrants, but people who are seeking to engage in communal worship, people who are seeking to go to school and to be present in other sensitive locations like hospitals.

Ms. NORTON. Governor Walz, what does it mean for children in Minnesota if ICE comes to their classrooms?

Governor WALZ. Well, thank you, Congresswoman. Minnesota prioritizes education. We are proud of our education system. We are proud that when students come to school, they get a good meal, they have well-qualified teachers, and it is a place where it is safe. It is a safe place where they can learn. We prioritize it because our economy depends upon it, and it is the right thing to do. Disruptions at places like schools—when ICE is free to operate in Minnesota within the laws, but to disrupt schools, to disrupt and come to those schools, not only the impact to that individual student, but to the entire learning environment in those schools are disrupted by it. And again, we agree with everyone here: those committing crimes is where we need to focus, but being on campuses in elementary schools is not getting at that.

Ms. NORTON. Thank you. Governor Pritzker, when ICE detains and arrests parents as they drop off kids at school, how does this affect educational outcomes?

Governor PRITZKER. Thank you very much, Congresswoman. Let me begin by saying that, as you may know, under President Trump, ICE showed up in Chicago nearly immediately and began terrorizing our neighborhoods, our schools, and parents. Indeed, many parents felt like they needed to go into hiding even though

their children needed to go to school every day. And so, disrupting that environment, frankly, not just for the children but for the parents and for teachers and the entire school community, it is something that, you know, we believe in Illinois in educating all of our kids, making sure that they get what they need in our public schools. In fact, we have invested significantly in making sure the results have been very good. Eighth graders in Illinois rank second in reading in the entire country, eighth graders in Illinois rank fifth in the country in mathematics, and it is because we have a safe environment, but not when Tom Homan brings Dr. Phil with the overreach of force with ICE to disrupt our education system and, particularly, our elementary schools.

Chairman COMER. Thank you. The gentlelady's time has expired. The Chair recognizes the Majority Whip, Mr. Emmer from Minnesota.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Chairman?

Mr. EMMER. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Welcome back to Washington, Governor. I am going to run through a series of facts before I get to my questions, so let us get started.

Governor Walz, you signed the health and human services omnibus bill into law in May 2023. That bill expanded Minnesota care to provide free healthcare to illegal aliens. You signed the higher education omnibus bill into law in May 2023. That bill allows illegals to have their college tuition paid for by the state. You signed the Driver's License for All Act into law in March 2023, and that bill allows illegals to receive driver's licenses. So, you claim you are not a sanctuary state. You just provide free healthcare, free college, and driver's licenses to illegal aliens.

One reason you are here testifying before us today is because you refuse to cooperate with ICE. While states like Florida and Virginia empower their law enforcement to detain and remove criminal illegal aliens, you, sir, have done just the opposite. Your attorney general is directing law enforcement to ignore ICE immigration detainees. Do you agree with the attorney general's guidance?

Governor WALZ. Well, Congressman, it is good to see you again, and thank you for being here. First, I would say, is my job as Governor of Minnesota is to make Minnesota the best state in the Nation.

Mr. EMMER. Do you agree with the attorney general's guidance?

Governor WALZ. Congressman, what I would say on this, is that Minnesota follows all law. I would say—

Mr. EMMER. Sir, it is a very easy question. If you claim that you are not a sanctuary state, I guess, you just claim that you are not a sanctuary state, but you support policies that prevent ICE from doing their job.

Governor WALZ. Congressman, that—

Mr. EMMER. Isn't that right?

Governor WALZ. That is incorrect, Congressman. We follow the same laws when you were in the Minnesota House.

Mr. EMMER. Well, sir—

Governor WALZ. The law has not changed, sir.

Mr. EMMER. Sir, if you will allow me. I have got limited time. Well, that is what you tweeted, by the way, sir. On May 23, 2018, you tweeted, "I support policies that keep law enforcement from en-

forcing Federal laws.” On May 17, just this spring, at the University of Minnesota Law School’s commencement ceremony, you said, “Donald Trump’s modern-day Gestapo is scooping folks up off the streets.” When you said the words, “modern-day Gestapo,” you were referring to ICE agents. Gestapo, by the way, sir, was the official secret police of Hitler’s Nazi Germany. So, you are calling ICE agents modern day Nazis. Given the attacks on ICE agents that took place in Los Angeles over the weekend, don’t you regard your dangerous inflammatory rhetoric is a problem?

Governor WALZ. Which of the questions do you want me to answer first?

Mr. EMMER. So, sir, it saddens me that you refuse to express regret from comparing ICE to Nazis. ICE agents are brave Americans who get up every morning, leave their families, and put their lives in harm’s way to protect our country, sir. You, at the very least, owe an apology to these dedicated public servants. I will say, sir, inflammatory rhetoric, such as yours and the other governors on this panel, is responsible for putting a target on the back of every ICE agent who is risking their life to protect our communities.

Minnesota is all too familiar, by the way, with the chaos that ensues when you refuse to work with law enforcement to enforce the law. In May 2020, looting, acts of violence, and arson occurred on your watch in Minneapolis after you refused to bring in the National Guard. Governor, your agenda is clear: free healthcare, free college and driver’s licenses for illegals, while handcuffing law enforcement when they are trying to protect our citizens and their communities. If you think that is not a sanctuary state, you should not be governor. By turning Minnesota into a magnet for illegals, you have opened up our communities to dangerous criminals, including known terrorists, gang members, murderers, and child predators. You have sent a resounding message that if you are a hard-working, law-abiding citizen of Minnesota, your safety and well-being are not the priorities of Tim Walz and his administration. But if you are coming to our state illegally, you are not only welcome with open arms, you are entitled to free stuff on the taxpayer’s dime. This is absolutely disgraceful.

Governor Walz, your sanctuary state agenda has been defined by your utter failure. You have failed to enforce the rule of law. You have failed to uphold our national sovereignty, and, most importantly, you have failed the people of Minnesota. The time for radical sanctuary state policy, sir, is over. The voters made that clear last November when they elected President Trump and Vice President JD Vance. You remember him, don’t you? Governor, the time for real leaders and real leadership is now.

Actually, Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to introduce into the record the Governor’s tweet that I referenced from May 23, 2018, which makes it clear his hatred for Federal law enforcement. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Chairman?

Chairman COMER. Yes. The Chair recognizes Mr. Mfume.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. I have a unanimous consent request, and I would like to present both of those to you at the same time.

Chairman COMER. Proceed.

Mr. MFUME. Okay. I ask unanimous consent that we enter into the record an article from *The Hill* on the 8 day of June: "Latinas for Trump co-founder blasts inhumane immigration arrests."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. MFUME. Thank you, sir.

And the second one is from *The Independent* of May 28: "Trump ordered a critically ill 4-year-old Mexican girl to leave the country. Experts say she could die in days." I ask unanimous consent.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. MFUME. Thank you, sir.

Chairman COMER. The Chair now recognizes Mr. Krishnamoorthi from Illinois.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Governor Pritzker, when it comes to immigration, you have been clear that Illinois follows the law. I would like to go into this issue just a little further. First, there has been a lot of misinformation about the Illinois Trust Act. As you know, this is the 2017 law signed by then-Republican Governor, Bruce Rauner, which requires state agencies to cooperate with ICE when it presents a criminal arrest warrant for an individual, correct?

Governor PRITZKER. Congressman, yes, that is correct.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. And just to be clear, the Illinois state police, the Department of Corrections, and other Illinois agencies must cooperate with ICE when they present a criminal arrest warrant, correct?

Governor PRITZKER. And do every single time.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. This is Illinois law.

Governor PRITZKER. Yes, it is.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. Donald Trump may not like state law, as we are seeing in California, but what Donald Trump likes is irrelevant. The law is the law. *The Wall Street Journal* reports that ICE's recent raids in California, including at a Home Depot in the LA area, were organized because the Administration was falling way short of its cruel goal of deporting thousands of people per day. *Politico* said this is "the standoff that Trump wanted." There is another reason why Trump has provoked the current situation in California. He does not want to talk about what he calls the big, beautiful bill and what I call the large, lousy law. So, let us talk about what Trump does not want to discuss.

What Trump does not want to discuss is that his large, lousy law cuts \$625 billion in Medicaid, a program that ensures millions of Americans. Governor Walz, in a press release on Medicaid cuts, you said, "The victims of these cuts will be families, children, veterans, rural Americans, and pregnant moms." That is what you said, right?

Governor WALZ. That is correct, Congressman.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI. And Governor Hochul, in a recent op-ed you wrote, "Even if you do not rely on Medicaid, these cuts affect you because when millions lose coverage, hospitals and other vital healthcare institutions lose funding, and that strains the entire system." That is what you wrote, right?

Governor HOCHUL. That is correct, sir.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Governor Pritzker, cuts in the large, lousy law are going to leave upwards of 700,000 Illinoisans without health insurance. Isn't that correct?

Governor PRITZKER. Yes. People will die.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Trump's large, lousy law adds trillions to the national debt as well, which could force \$500 billion in automatic cuts to Medicare in addition to the cuts in Medicaid that we just referred to, and, of course, Medicare is a program that every senior relies on.

Let me turn to my final topic. Governor Pritzker, President Trump has called Illinois "a poorly run state," but the truth, of course, is the opposite. Governor, Illinois has had seven consecutive balanced budgets, right?

Governor PRITZKER. That is correct, Congressman.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. And our credit rating has been raised nine times in the last six years, correct?

Governor PRITZKER. After 21 downgrades under Republican and others.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. And it now stands at an A rating, right?

Governor PRITZKER. It does.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. In contrast, under President Trump, every credit agency has downgraded America's credit rating below the top level, the first time in history that has happened. Isn't that right?

Governor PRITZKER. That is correct.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Trump and others claim the Federal Government props up Illinois, but in reality, we are one of 13 states in the country that actually give more tax revenue to Washington, D.C. than we receive in return. Now, let me turn to some of the reasons why Illinois is a donor state and not a taker state. Illinois has a \$1.1 trillion economy. We produce the most soybeans in America, and we are the number two producer of corn, right?

Governor PRITZKER. That is correct.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. We are the number two manufacturing state in the country—

Governor PRITZKER. We are.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY [continuing]. And we are the number two destination for corporate expansions and relocations, right?

Governor PRITZKER. And Chicago is number one.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Thanks to you, we have the world's first quantum and microelectronics park, correct?

Governor PRITZKER. That is right.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. And we are ranked top in the Midwest for workforce development, correct?

Governor PRITZKER. Yes, we are.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. And startups?

Governor PRITZKER. That is right.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Illinois is the heart and soul of America, Governor. It is where the cellphone was invented, was home to the first McDonald's, and was the home of amazing leaders: Lincoln, Reagan, Obama, Grant, even Superman, and, yes, the Pope.

[Applause.]

And here is a picture of the Pope wearing a Chicago White Sox cap. The next pope is going to be a Cubs fan.

Governor PRITZKER. There you go.

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Illinois has terrific jobs, people, and pizza. Some may even say that God is on our side, Governor. I am proud to be from Peoria. I always stand up for Illinois, loud and proud. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The Chair now recognizes Mr. Jordan from Ohio.

Mr. JORDAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Governor Hochul, third paragraph, second sentence in your written testimony, you said, "New York State cooperates with U.S. Immigration Customs Enforcement in criminal cases." Governor, who is Jesus Romero Hernandez?

Governor HOCHUL. Thank you. I want to reaffirm that we do cooperate in cases where—

Mr. JORDAN. That was not the question. I just read your statement. I can read your statement. Who is Jesus Romero Hernandez?

Governor HOCHUL. I do not have the details on every single person—

Mr. JORDAN. I will tell you.

Governor HOCHUL. [continuing]. In the state of 20 million people.

Mr. JORDAN. I understand, but this guy is a citizen of Mexico, deported seven times, came to your state, assaulted one of your residents with a machete, choked a police officer, then when he was in custody, assaulted a corrections officer. ICE finds out this guy is in your state's custody, and they send you a detainer. You are familiar with a detainer, right?

Governor HOCHUL. Yes, I am.

Mr. JORDAN. Notice of Action Immigration Detainer to Tompkins County Jail from Syracuse Immigrations and Customs Enforcement. Section 1, they check a couple boxes. The first one they check is "a final order of removal against the alien has taken place." That means a court has said this guy needs to go. This machete-wielding, cop-choking, corrections officer assaulting guy needs to go. Then they also check another box and they say biometric confirmation of who this individual is, this alien's identity. So, they got the right guy and a court has said he needs to go. Any idea what Tompkins County Jail decided to do with that detainer order?

Governor HOCHUL. I will tell you this. The state of—

Mr. JORDAN. No, no, no. It is a specific question.

Governor HOCHUL. Well, I am telling—

Mr. JORDAN. What did Tompkins County do?

Governor HOCHUL. The descriptions you have put forth are absolutely chilling and disturbing and reprehensible to all of us.

Mr. JORDAN. Of course they are, which—

Governor HOCHUL. My job is to protect the people of New York.

Mr. JORDAN. Which is why I asking the question. What did Tompkins County do?

Governor HOCHUL. What I have responsibility for—

Mr. JORDAN. I will tell you since you are not going to answer.

Governor HOCHUL. [continuing]. Our state courts, state police.

Mr. JORDAN. We cannot and will not hold Mr. Hernandez. We cannot keep the machete guy who had choked a police officer and assaulted a corrections officer. We cannot keep him. In fact, we have the back-and-forth from Tompkins County and ICE on January 28 of this year. 8:56 p.m., Tompkins County tells ICE we are

not going to hold this guy. Seven minutes later, ICE responds back, "We will be there to take custody this evening." Twenty-four minutes later, Thompson County reiterates we are not going to have him. We are not going to turn him over. 10:45 p.m., ICE arrives at the jail 1 hour and 18 minutes later, and guess what? Mr. Hernandez is not there. They could not wait 1 hour and 18 minutes for a guy who assaulted one of your residents with a machete, choked a police officer, and then when in custody, assaulted corrections officers. That is sanctuary policy in a nutshell, and that is what your state supports, and so do these other governors. That is what is so wrong and why the American people hate this concept.

Governor HOCHUL. You are conflating. What the state of New York does is, I control state police and prisons. We have turned over 1,300 people.

Mr. JORDAN. Okay. So, you disagree?

Governor HOCHUL. We turned 1,300 people.

Mr. JORDAN. Did the sheriff make the wrong call?

Governor HOCHUL. Those are local policies that we would not have done in the State of New York. State of New York. That is a local decision.

Mr. JORDAN. So, you are saying this sheriff is wrong.

Governor HOCHUL. I would say this. If it happened in a state prison, we have already turned over 1,300 people. In fact—

Mr. JORDAN. Is the sheriff in Tompkins County a Democrat a Republican, Governor?

Governor HOCHUL. I want to say this. There have been times—

Mr. JORDAN. You have any idea?

Governor HOCHUL. Excuse me.

Mr. JORDAN. Is the sheriff in Thompson County a Democrat or Republican?

Governor HOCHUL. Excuse me. Excuse me. There have been times—

Mr. JORDAN. No, excuse me. I ask the questions. You give the answers.

Governor HOCHUL. Well, I am asking—

Mr. JORDAN. Is he a Democrat or Republican?

Governor HOCHUL. Wait a second.

Mr. JORDAN. Do you know?

Governor HOCHUL. I am asking for this moment to explain that I am sometimes waiting for ICE to come pick up people.

Mr. JORDAN. I am asking is a Democrat or a Republican and do you agree with the actions he took.

Governor HOCHUL. I think he is a Democrat.

Mr. JORDAN. Do you agree with the actions he took? How about that question?

Governor HOCHUL. They are in conflict with what the State of New York would do.

Mr. JORDAN. Well, maybe they are scared. By the way he is a Democrat sheriff. Maybe the county guys are a little scared because you said this. I am quoting from, it looks like the *New York Times*. We all know you can trust them. This is last month, May 25. You said, "We have some counties that are renegade counties and work with ICE." Maybe they are nervous of being called a renegade county by their governor. So, the Democrat sheriff says we are not



going to keep the machete-wielding, cop choking, corrections officer assaulting guy, we are not going to keep him here for you to get here. We cannot even wait an hour and 18 minutes.

Oh, you know what else was interesting in this case? You know what else was interesting? There was actually an arrest warrant from United States District Court, Northern District of New York, signed by Judge Wiley Dancks, magistrate from Syracuse. There was an arrest warrant, and they still could not keep him.

Governor HOCHUL. The State of New York cooperates. We cooperate in removal of individuals who have served time. We responded. You are confusing, and maybe there is a lesson in—

Mr. JORDAN. I am asking the question.

Governor HOCHUL. [continuing]. In civics here that is necessary.

Mr. JORDAN. Okay. Well, will you say on the record right here—I got 12 seconds—will you say on the record was Tompkins County wrong in the actions they took on January 25, 2025, when they would not hold the guy for 1 hour and 18 minutes. Was Tompkins County wrong?

Governor HOCHUL. Those are not the policies that we would have in the State of New York.

Mr. JORDAN. No, no.

Governor HOCHUL. Those are not the policies we would have.

Mr. JORDAN. Were they wrong.

Governor HOCHUL. I have already said—

[Cross talking.]

Mr. JORDAN. Should they have turned that guy over to ICE? It is a simple question, Governor.

Governor HOCHUL. That was a horrible situation. The person should not have been out there, and it—

Mr. JORDAN. It is a horrible situation, but it is a yes or no question.

Governor HOCHUL. It is a response that this is a locality.

Mr. JORDAN. Do you agree or disagree?

Governor HOCHUL. In the State of New York—

Mr. JORDAN. Agree or disagree?

Governor HOCHUL. [continuing]. The person should have been held.

Mr. JORDAN. Yes or no.

Governor HOCHUL. The person should have been held, and in the State of New York we would have turned him over. That is in conflict with what we would do as a state with respect to prison.

Mr. JORDAN. I appreciate the Chair's indulgence. I yield back.

Governor HOCHUL. And I want to know why ICE will not come and pick up the individuals who have served time in our state. I have cases where they have not even shown up.

Mr. JORDAN. Governor, a court order and a detainer for a guy who did the things Mr. Hernandez did, and Tompkins County cannot hold him an hour and 18 minutes, and you will not say that is wrong?

Governor HOCHUL. I have said we cooperate when there is a criminal case where someone has committed a crime. We turn them over.

Mr. JORDAN. This is sanctuary policy. This is sanctuary policy in a nutshell.

Governor HOCHUL. You are mischaracterizing.

Mr. JORDAN. You will not even condemn something that anyone with common sense knows is ridiculous.

Governor HOCHUL. You are mischaracterizing.

Mr. JORDAN. I have the facts here. Oh, can I get one other thing, Mr. Chairman? Now he has been rearrested, and guess what? This guy, who has now been rearrested, there is imminent danger that this inmate will do injury to himself and to others and presents a threat to safety, security, and good order of the facility, so he is not permitted to leave his cell. So, this guy is not even allowed out of his cell, but they let him out on the street a few months ago. That is how ridiculous this all is.

Governor HOCHUL. When he does leave his cell, it will be to go back to his country under our orders of deportation.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman's time has expired. The Chair recognizes Mr. Mfume, and I will give you an extra minute.

Mr. MFUME. Mr. Chairman, I have got two unanimous consent requests that I hope would not count against my time.

Chairman COMER. Okay. We will not.

Mr. MFUME. Okay.

Chairman COMER. The clock has stopped.

Mr. MFUME. I ask unanimous consent to submit for the record an article from *Forbes* magazine entitled, "Trump Team Focuses Deportations on Immigration Numbers, Not on Criminals."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. MFUME. And an article from the *Rolling Stone* from 6 of last month entitled, "Trump Has Now Deported Multiple U.S. Citizen Children With Cancer."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

That is a good diversity of sources.

Mr. MFUME. It is. *Rolling Stone* and *Forbes*, yes.

Chairman COMER. *Forbes* and *Rolling Stone*. I like that. All right, proceed.

Mr. MFUME. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. A couple things on the record, and then some observations. I do not know that I necessarily have any questions, but I do have some observations and a statement.

I think before we let this get out of control, everybody on this side of the aisle is against violence of all forms. Everybody on this side of the aisle finds that to be unacceptable. We believe that convicted criminals who are, incidentally, illegally here and have been convicted should have no safe harbor, and we believe that victims of criminals should have our collective prayers and empathy. So, this is not about Democrats not having a balance or about Democrats supporting something that is not right.

The other thing that I want to say is that I find something eerily chilling about what is going on here, and what is chilling about it is that if I take myself out of 2025 and roll myself back in time, some of the hatred that I see displayed under the guise of good government just scares the hell out of me. We are not that far away from situations that existed where things like this affected other groups, and I am not talking about anybody that is a convicted illegal criminal. I am talking about innocent Americans who live in our neighborhoods, who do the work that we will not do, who abide

by the laws, who play by the rules, who love their new country and who cherish their faith.

Because if we just roll this clock on the wall back 75 years, we would be looking at a time in Nazi Germany where people ran around with signs like this new ICE sign that says, "Report all foreign invaders to ICE," with Uncle Sam there holding up the sign. This could have been a Gestapo member 75 years ago, "report all Jews." A hundred years before that, it could be a plantation owner that said report all Negroes and all colored and all those who are from Africa because they are disrupting our country.

So, let us not get it twisted here. We in this country are not pure and pristine. We had runaway slave laws to get the people who ran away from slavery. We had 50 years of black codes where you got fines and you got rewards and you got all sorts of things if you did or did not do something to report Black people. After 150 years of slavery, and 100 years of segregation, and 100 years of Jim Crow after that, you could be arrested for anything in this country not that long ago. I remembered when the National Guard was deployed in 1968, and I walked out of my house facing fixed bayonets with men in uniform, not knowing what the hell they were there for, but obeying the chief executive officer of this country. And I know what it is like to face a bayonet and to face a national guardsman, and I have seen the tension that it brought about and how that group of demonstrations across this country continued to go for days and days and days.

And so, do not give me there is something about these people because they are immigrants. No, there is something about them because they are people, and like all groups, they have got bad people in them. I could have been arrested 75 years ago for walking into a restaurant, for drinking out of a water fountain, for being accused of looking at a White woman like Emmett Till did in 1955, and he was burned and lynched in this country. When future generations peer through the telescope of time, I hope that they look at us and realize that there are some who chose not to shirk their responsibility, not to run away from the reality and to face it head on.

Not too long ago, I went to visit a proud lady, who this year will celebrate her 149th anniversary, and she stands today even as we sit in this hour. In her left hand is a great torch, and in her right hand, guess what? She clings the Declaration of Independence close to her breast, and on her head is a crown of spikes and on her feet broken shackles, symbolizing freedom from tyranny, the tyranny that so many immigrants faced before coming to this country. And as that plane flew over, I could still hear her cry out through silent concrete lips saying, "Send me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses who yearn to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore." She says, "Send those, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, for I lift my lamp beside the golden door," that all of you, and all of you, and all of you might follow.

And so, we came. Some took the circuitous route, some came for a thrill, and some of us came against our will, but we came and became what we are today as a Nation, and we must never lose sight of the things that make us great for the things that take away from our greatness. Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Chairman COMER. Thank you. The Chair now recognizes Mr. Gill from Texas.

Mr. GILL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Governor Pritzker, do you know how much illegal immigration costs your state each year?

Governor PRITZKER. No, sir, I do not.

Mr. GILL. It costs over \$780 per family per year. That is a lot of money, isn't it?

Governor PRITZKER. Yes, it is, and may I ask, what do you mean by the cost?

Mr. GILL. That is a lot of money for costs to your state.

Governor PRITZKER. The cost of illegal immigration?

Mr. GILL. Let me ask you, do you know who Franklin Jose Pena Ramos is?

Governor PRITZKER. Are you talking about the Federal Government's cost to the State of Illinois when there is a failed——

Mr. GILL. I am asking you know who Franklin Jose Pena Ramos is.

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. Immigration policy?

Mr. GILL. It is a yes or no question. I will take that as a no. Do you know who Jose Rangel is?

Governor PRITZKER. No, sir, I do not.

Mr. GILL. You do not. You should. Those are two men who came into this country illegally, raped and murdered 12-year-old Jocelyn Nungaray in my home State of Texas. Do you think that elected officials should have welcomed them into our communities? It is a yes or no question.

Governor PRITZKER. Sir, before they committed a crime? I am not sure what you are asking.

Mr. GILL. Do you think that they should have been welcomed into our communities? That is a very straightforward question.

Governor PRITZKER. Someone who commits murder? No, someone who commits murder should be——

Mr. GILL. Why did you state during Biden's border crisis that illegal aliens "should have been welcomed and helped by elected officials?"

Governor PRITZKER. When you say, "illegal aliens," people who should be given asylum?

Mr. GILL. I am asking if these are people who should be welcomed in our communities?

Governor PRITZKER. People who are asylum seekers?

Mr. GILL. That is an easy yes or no question.

Governor PRITZKER. You are mischaracterizing them.

Mr. GILL. It is your position that they should have been welcomed into our communities. Is that correct?

Governor PRITZKER. There were asylum seekers who were here legally.

Mr. GILL. That is from your own statement. And then they went on and murdered and raped 12-year-old Jocelyn Nungaray.

Governor PRITZKER. Someone who commits murder should be held accountable. We do that in the State of Illinois.

Mr. GILL. And you think they should have been welcomed into our communities before they did.

Governor PRITZKER. I do not know how you can tell before somebody commits a crime that they are——

Mr. GILL. We can secure the border and not let illegal aliens come into our communities. Do you support abolishing ICE?

Governor PRITZKER. Asylum seekers.

Mr. GILL. Do you support abolishing ICE?

Governor PRITZKER. No, I believe we need an immigration force in the United States. In fact——

Mr. GILL. You do not. You believe a budget is a moral document. Is that correct?

Governor PRITZKER. I do.

Mr. GILL. You do. You tweeted that. Your administration gave \$12,000 to the Organized Communities Against Deportations, which just this past month was marching in the streets of Chicago with signs saying, “Abolish ICE.” Do you support this? Is this a reflection of your moral values?

Governor PRITZKER. I do not support abolishing an immigration force.

Mr. GILL. Is this a reflection of your moral values?

Governor PRITZKER. I do not support abolishing an immigration force.

Mr. GILL. That is good to hear. Mr. Governor, do you think that biological men should be able to use women’s restrooms?

Governor PRITZKER. I am not sure how this has to do with immigration.

Mr. GILL. It is just a yes or no question.

Governor PRITZKER. Why are you emphasizing this?

Mr. GILL. It is very easy to answer.

Governor PRITZKER. I thought we were here doing fact-finding.

Mr. GILL. Do you think that men should be using women’s restrooms?

Governor PRITZKER. I am sorry?

Mr. GILL. Do you think men should be allowed in women’s restrooms?

Governor PRITZKER. This issue has nothing to do with immigration.

Mr. GILL. You tweeted that, “As a protest against President Trump, everyone should use the other gender’s bathroom today.” Have you ever used the women’s restroom?

Governor PRITZKER. Not that I can recall ever, sir, no.

Mr. GILL. You wanted everybody else to do it, but you did not?

Governor PRITZKER. Sir, I am not sure why we are on a topic that has nothing to do with today’s hearing.

Mr. GILL. I am asking you. You are advocating for men to use women’s restrooms, but you did not do it?

Governor PRITZKER. I do not advocate that, no.

Mr. GILL. Well, actually you did. You said everyone should use the other gender’s bathroom today. Do you regret saying that?

Governor PRITZKER. I can tell you that you are politicizing this in a way that what we ought to be focusing on is failure of the Federal Government——

Mr. GILL. Do you regret encouraging men to use women’s restrooms?

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. And the Congress to deal with immigration reform.

Mr. GILL. Do you regret encouraging men to use women's restrooms?

Governor PRITZKER. Again, you are taking us on topics that have nothing to do with the subject that you invited us here for.

Mr. GILL. Did you ever consider that women do not want you in their bathrooms?

Governor PRITZKER. So, you are admitting that this is just a political circus. Is that what you are doing?

Mr. GILL. No, I am asking you because you put this on the internet for everybody to see.

Governor PRITZKER. This has nothing to do with immigration and really about you grandstanding.

Mr. GILL. I am asking you, have you ever considered that women do not want you in their bathrooms, that that is a private space that they do not want you or any other man in? You cannot say that?

Governor PRITZKER. Congressman, let us talk about your failure to vote for Medicaid. Like, you wanted to take Medicaid away.

Mr. GILL. Normal people can say that they do not think men should be in women's restrooms.

Governor PRITZKER. And Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and veterans services.

Mr. GILL. That is a very straightforward question.

Governor PRITZKER. You apparently want people to die in the United States——

Mr. GILL. And you are encouraging men to use women's restrooms where there could be underage girls.

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. Because you want to take healthcare away.

Mr. GILL. Do you think that is appropriate? Do you think that is normal?

Governor PRITZKER. Sir, if we are going to politicize this, let us talk about what you are doing to people in this country——

Mr. GILL. Do you think that is normal?

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. By virtue of your votes with President Trump.

Mr. GILL. All right. Let us move on. Do you support Hamas' agenda?

Governor PRITZKER. Sir, I do not. They are a terrorist organization.

Mr. GILL. Your administration gave a grant to the Muslim Civic Coalition, which just two weeks after October 7 was marching in the streets of Chicago to "stop the U.S.-backed genocide against Gaza." Is that a reflection of your values?

Governor PRITZKER. I have spent my life fighting antisemitism. I have spent my life——

Mr. GILL. No, I am asking is this a reflection of your values?

Governor PRITZKER. I am not sure why you are attacking me about something that an organization——

Mr. GILL. But your administration gave money to this organization.

Governor PRITZKER. I am explaining to you that what we do in the State of Illinois is stand up for what we believe are rights and freedoms.

Mr. GILL. You did not have to give money to the Muslim Civic Coalition in March——

Governor PRITZKER. People have the right to express themselves. We do not——

Mr. GILL [continuing]. To stop U.S.-backed genocide against Gaza. That was your choice. That was your administration.

Governor PRITZKER. I know Republicans want to take away people's right to free speech. We do not in the State of Illinois, and I think——

Mr. GILL. They have got the right to free speech. They do not have the right to tax dollars, and you gave them to them.

Governor PRITZKER. You want to take those rights away from people. I understand.

Mr. GILL. The gentlemen time has expired. The Chair recognizes Ms. Brown from Ohio.

Ms. BROWN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Trump Administration is not serious about public safety. It is not serious about solving immigration challenges. It is only serious about blatantly violating constitutional rights, stoking fear, and demonizing immigrants for political gain. That is why Trump is weaponizing ICE to recklessly and lawlessly target immigrant communities, and here is the reality.

Two weeks ago, I met with community leaders from across my district. Multiple Hispanic faith leaders told me the same thing: their congregants, regardless of immigration status, are afraid—afraid to speak Spanish in public, afraid to attend community events, afraid to go to church. Because ICE, under this Administration, has shown it will harass, detain, and deport even wrongfully, no due process, no oversight, no transparency, and now we are seeing this fear weaponized at scale. Just this week, the President deployed 4,000 National Guard troops to Los Angeles without the consent or consultation of California's governor. So, let us be clear: this is not about border security. This is not about law and order. What it is really about is a reckless power grab. Militarizing American cities does not make anyone safer. It escalates and puts everyone at risk.

So, Governor Pritzker, as commander-in-chief of your National Guard, how concerned are you about this executive overreach?

Governor PRITZKER. Thank you very much, Congresswoman, and thank you for the remarks that you just made. Our job as governors is to concern ourselves with the public safety of our states, and indeed, one of the very important things that we do is listen to our local law enforcement and listen to the local officials who ask us for help when they need it. We have probably, in my view—forgive me, governors—we have the best state police in the entire country, and we have a terrific 13,000-person National Guard. We go to our state police for support, and then, if necessary, we will ask the National Guard to step in, and again, only when local law enforcement and our local officials ask us for that help.

When the President of the United States goes in over the top to grab our National Guard for domestic security, for domestic, when there is not, as he said in a memo falsely, a rebellion, that is taking away the rights and obligations of a governor, and it ought to be done in consultation with governors. In fact, the more local you

get, the more accurate I believe the information is about what is happening on the ground. That is why I speak with local leaders of law enforcement—CPD in Chicago or others—before we take any action with National Guard.

Ms. BROWN. Thank you.

Governor PRITZKER. The President of the United States fails. Fails. Why? Because he wants mayhem in the streets.

Ms. BROWN. Thank you.

Governor PRITZKER. Why did he call in Marines?

Ms. BROWN. And that is the point. This Administration says it is targeting violent criminals, but that is not what is happening. They are going after parents dropping off their kids, workers showing up to their jobs, and asylum seekers navigating the legal system. And let me say this plainly: if you commit a violent crime in this country, you should be prosecuted. If you came here to do harm, this country is not your home. Governor Pritzker, can you set the record straight with, which direction is violent crime headed in your state? Up or down?

Governor PRITZKER. Down significantly.

Ms. BROWN. Thank you, and, Governor Pritzker, across the country, undocumented immigrants are less likely, less likely, less likely to commit violent crimes than U.S. citizens. Does that hold true in your state?

Governor PRITZKER. Immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than people who already live there.

Ms. BROWN. Now, that may come as a surprise to some tuning in today, especially those fed a steady diet of fear. A recent poll found that *Fox News* viewers are twice as likely to believe the false claim that immigrants commit more crime. It is not true. It is not true. It is not true. So, let us stop with the scapegoating and start focusing on real solutions. So, quick yes or noes, Governor Pritzker. Did Trump's pardon of the January 6 defendants who violently attacked police officers make Illinois safer?

Governor PRITZKER. It did not.

Ms. BROWN. Does blocking common sense gun laws, like universal background checks, make your state safer?

Governor PRITZKER. Absolutely not.

Ms. BROWN. Did DOGE cuts to community violence prevention funding make your state safer?

Governor PRITZKER. Much less safe.

Ms. BROWN. Would cutting Medicaid to pay for tax breaks for the wealthy make your state safer?

Governor PRITZKER. No.

Ms. BROWN. Cutting SNAP benefits?

Governor PRITZKER. No.

Ms. BROWN. Okay. So, this is what we are dealing with, with this current Administration: things that are not making our country any safer and are doing harm to the people who need it the most. And with that, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady yields back. I recognize Mr. Donalds from Florida.

Mr. DONALDS. Thank you, Chairman. To piggyback off my colleague, Governor Pritzker, how much does the state of Illinois spend on illegal immigration every year?



Governor PRITZKER. Again, illegal immigration, that is a Federal responsibility. They could tell how much is wasted as a result of their failures.

Mr. DONALDS. Governor, don't you keep track of how many people are on your Medicaid rolls, how many people who are illegal immigrants in the State of Illinois who are getting actually benefits in your state? Doesn't your government keep track of that?

Governor PRITZKER. They do not get Medicaid in Illinois or any state as far as I know.

Mr. DONALDS. Governor Pritzker, you do not keep track of any public service dollars in the State of Illinois that goes to illegal immigrants or goes to people in your state who are not legal residents of the United States and of the State of Illinois. You do not keep track of that?

Governor PRITZKER. We absolutely keep track of our budget and work very closely, and, in fact, it has been balanced for seven years in a row unlike the Republican before me, yes.

Mr. DONALDS. You know, it is interesting. I noticed that in the State of Illinois, you guys do not really keep track of your money because I asked your mayor in Chicago similar question about a month ago, and he did not have an answer. It was quite interesting. I think this might be an Illinois problem.

Governor HOCHUL, in your state you are spending about roughly \$4 billion on illegal immigration, and at the same time, you are actually asking the Federal Government for \$4 billion to finish Penn Station. Don't you think it would be better to stop funding illegal immigrants in your state and actually use those resources to finish Penn Station as opposed to coming to the Federal Government for the money?

Governor HOCHUL. Penn Station is owned by Amtrak, not by the state, so it is an appropriate use of their dollars, and Donald Trump has agreed to spend upwards of \$7 billion. I appreciated that very much. What we spend on immigrants, the immigrants who are here, hardworking, to live a life, and working on our farms, and taking care of our parents in nursing homes, and taking care of our children. They have been coming here for 400 years, and we do not keep track of individuals based on their status. We make sure that people have services, so we do not end up with an unexpected——

Mr. DONALDS. So, essentially, what you are telling me is that you keep no track of money that is going to people who are not legal in the United States. Resources that are taken away from New Yorkers, resources that are taken away from Illinois, you guys do not keep track of any of this.

Governor HOCHUL. You know what is really challenging is that many people came here with legal status, I mean, temporary protective status, 300,000——

Mr. DONALDS. Do you go——

Governor HOCHUL. All of a sudden they wake up one day and it is gone.

Mr. DONALDS. Do you go along with the strategy from the Biden Administration which massively expanded immigration protocols that overwhelmed your city and overwhelmed your state. Do you agree with that?

Governor HOCHUL. We call for secure borders. We call for this body to do its job.

Mr. DONALDS. I never remember you calling for secure borders at all, Governor Hochul.

Governor HOCHUL. Well, we certainly have. We certainly have.

Mr. DONALDS. That does not come to my memory.

Governor HOCHUL. Many conversations I had with the White House, and we asked for Federal resources. I mean, you are putting a Federal problem on our laps, and you know what? It gets old after a while. I wish you would just do your job here and pass—

Mr. DONALDS. If your party actually would do the job of securing the Nation the way President Trump has now had to do twice, we would not be in this predicament. Wouldn't you agree?

Governor HOCHUL. It is a Federal job—

Mr. DONALDS. Do you agree or disagree that securing the Nation's borders is the job of the President of the United States? President Trump has done that job twice now—

Governor HOCHUL. Well—

Mr. DONALDS [continuing]. And previous Democrat presidents have not done that job. Wouldn't you agree with that?

Governor HOCHUL. This has been a problem that has been in place since I was a young staffer here on Capitol Hill. We worked on immigration, and Ronald Reagan signed amnesty for three million people.

Mr. DONALDS. It is interesting you bring up Reagan's amnesty in 1986. You know what part of that deal was to actually build a border wall and secure it, but the Democrat Party refuses to build a border wall. You oppose it every single time. Is that your position? Do you now support border walls, Governor Hochul?

Governor HOCHUL. There has been many times when bipartisan legislation is presented to this body, and people just walk away from it. They refuse to do the hard work of governing like Governors like us have to do every single day. When I leave here, I am going to go home and govern a state. I am not going to tweet about this experience because I have too much work to do taking care of New Yorkers—

Mr. DONALDS. You are really not doing a good job, Governor Hochul, because a lot of New Yorkers are actually coming into my state, in Florida, many of them. They come all the time because they actually want to come to a state that is well run, that protects citizens, does not allow illegal aliens to victimize citizens like they are victimized in the State of New York, like they are in the State of Illinois, like they are victimized in the State of Minnesota. They choose states like Florida and Texas to find safer places to live and raise their families. Hold on, Governor Hochul. We have had enough time.

Governor HOCHUL. Our crime rates are much lower than yours, much lower.

Mr. DONALDS. Governor Walz, you have been sitting over there pretty quiet. I have got a question for you.

Governor WALZ. I love to talk. Thank you, Congressman.

Mr. DONALDS. Fair enough. You said earlier that the ICE agents under the orders of President Trump are a modern-day Gestapo.

Do you realize how disgusting a phrase that is considering the history of Nazi Germany? Would you like to recant that statement?

Governor WALZ. What I said, Congressman and I have a long history of supporting law enforcement, I said President Trump was using them as his modern-day Gestapo, not identifying who you are, coming up in unmarked bans, taking people away, and giving—

Mr. DONALDS. Is it the responsibility of ICE to actually deport illegal aliens in the United States who are here? Isn't that their responsibility?

Governor WALZ. Yes, it is, Congressman, except that the Constitution is not an inconvenience. It is not an either/or. You can your job—

Mr. DONALDS. Nobody said it is an inconvenience. We have a responsibility to deport illegal aliens—

Governor WALZ. [continuing]. Through due process.

Mr. DONALDS. [continuing]. And the President is going through that process right now.

Governor WALZ. We are not—

Mr. DONALDS. And let us be very clear, the previous Administration, they abused every process there is under border laws to allow more than ten million people into the country illegally, and this is a burden on all Americans, and so the President is doing his job. So, it is sick to refer to Americans who are ICE agents as Gestapo. Governor, you are wrong. You need to apologize to these agents. They are doing their jobs. They are Americans. They serve this country with honor and decency and respect. Do not diminish their work simply because you tried to make a cheap point that you could tweet. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The Chair now recognizes Ms. Stansbury from New Mexico.

Ms. STANSBURY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Well, some interesting theatrics today. Welcome, everyone, to the Oversight reality TV show. I know Mr. Trump loves himself some good TV, and today is not disappointing, and, in fact, I want to say welcome to some of the Members who have showed up to this Committee who I have never seen here before. It is great to have you here in the hearing room with us.

Now, before I get started on the topic at hand, I want to take a moment to speak directly to the immigrant community who might be watching and listening today. I want to say to everyone out there who is living in fear, we see you, we love you, we respect you, and we are fighting for you and every community that is being targeted by this Administration and this Congress. We also want all of you out there to know that you have rights. You are protected by the law, and you should not have to live in fear and wonder whether or not you are going to be safe if you leave your home or if your family is going to come home at night. We see you. We are fighting for you. You have rights.

Now, let us turn to the situation in California, which, of course, much of this hearing has focused on. As someone from a Marine veteran family, let me be clear: Marines are combat troops. They are highly trained, highly disciplined, lethal, fighting force combat troops, and they should never—never—be deployed against the

American people who are exercising their constitutional rights. This is a gross and disgusting abuse of power, a disgusting abuse of power by fake tough guys, fake tough guys who think that they can intimidate our communities while taking away their rights. And this is from the same man, the same man, who dodged the draft and called our military service-members suckers and losers. That is your commander-in-chief.

And here, these folks here and the President want to say they are for our military and our veterans while they are illegally deploying servicemembers, violating state sovereignty, gutting the department of Veteran's Affairs (VA), firing generals and lifelong service members. And you all want to sit in here and play like you are with the military and the American people while Donald Trump is planning to spend \$45 million of your hard-earned taxpayer dollars on a fake military parade this Saturday, that they cannot even fill, that they put a super political action committee (PAC) ad on Craigslist to recruit citizens of the city of Washington, D.C. to go stand in the parade route. Congratulations. It is made for TV, but this is serious because this is an abuse of power.

So, I want to read a list of grievances: obstructing the administration of justice, refusing to assent to the laws for the public good, sending swarms of officers to harass our people, keeping standing armies without consent of our legislatures, transporting Americans overseas to be tried for pretend offenses. Mr. Chairman, I wonder, do you know where these offenses come from?

[No response.]

Ms. STANSBURY. No? Ah, that is too bad because it is actually the Declaration of Independence. That is right. It is the Declaration of Independence, and my colleagues across the aisle might want to bone up on that and the U.S. Constitution before they go attacking our communities, especially as we head into the 4th of July holiday and celebrate our independence from an abusive and mad king, because here in America, there are no kings and we reject people who believe they are, and no one is above the law and we will hold them accountable.

But I think it is very clear today, and I think it has been borne out by every witness that we have here, that what Donald Trump is doing is not only an abuse of power and abuse of the military and abuse of our citizens, but also, y'all should know this, while you are sitting here creating this made-for-TV moment, that two-thirds of Americans, according to the polling yesterday, are opposed to what Donald Trump is doing with both immigration and the deployment of the military in our communities. It is wrong, it is immoral, it is illegal, and it is a violation of our rights, and with that, I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Langworthy from New York.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. Governor Hochul, yes or no—do you think someone who has committed murder or rape in this country and they are here illegally, should have tools at their disposal to avoid deportation?

Governor HOCHUL. As the governor—

Mr. LANGWORTHY. It is a yes or no question.

Governor HOCHUL. [continuing]. My primary responsibility is to protect the people of New York.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. I am sorry.

Governor HOCHUL. Those crimes are abhorrent.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. I am sorry. Whatever response you prepared to give today dwarfs in comparison to your actions as governor. I would like to remind you of someone named Gianfranco Torres-Navarro, an illegal alien and suspected leader of a violent Peruvian gang. He was tied to 23 murders in Peru and came to this country illegally across the Southern border. He had his victims' faces tattooed on his body, and he was hiding in plain sight in Endicott, New York for an extended period of time where ICE could not locate him, and why did it take so long to find him? Because policies like your Green Light Law, which blocks ICE and U.S. Border Patrol from accessing critical Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) data bases. In fact, it threatens the badges, and threatens to charge with felonies, any officer that shares that DMV data with Federal agents. These agents rely on data to be able to know who they are pulling over on the side of the road. They are taking their lives into their hands every time they are trying to keep our streets safe.

The really sick irony here is that your government in New York, my home state, freely shares that same DMV data with the Government of Canada at our bridges in you and my hometown, but it does not share that data with your American Federal Government. Why, Governor?

Governor HOCHUL. You are misstating the Green Light Law because—

Mr. LANGWORTHY. No, I am not.

Governor HOCHUL. [continuing]. We are able to cooperate with Federal authorities when there is a crime.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Why do you shield the data base, Governor?

Governor HOCHUL. Anything they want from us related to investigating a crime is available to them.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. This is data that is needed in real time to enforce the laws on the streets. They cannot subpoena these records from your government, and I have had these conversations with my county sheriffs all across the State of New York, state police. They want to work with the Federal officials, they want to clean up these messes, but they cannot because they are being threatened by you and our attorney general that they will take away their badge and end their careers.

Governor HOCHUL. There have been countless, countless instances where we have cooperated with Federal law enforcement happens on a daily basis. And so, your characterization is just incorrect of how we should provide information to people who ask for it.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. You share the database in its entirety with Canada, but you do not share it with the Federal Government. It is beyond belief. I mean, this is denial and excuses, Governor. You know damn well that the New York State Sheriff's Association, the State Association of Chiefs of Police, have both condemned the Green Light Law. Sheriff's from Erie County, Niagara County, Monroe, Albany, Broome, Dutchess, and Oneida Counties, multiple

parties represented here, not just Republicans, have warned that your law ties their hands. It puts officers' lives in danger, and it shields criminals from accountability. When you refuse to work with law enforcement, when you refuse to hand over data that can protect communities and save lives, you are actively aiding the illegal alien criminals who have crossed our borders and committed violent crimes.

And the consequences are not hypothetical. Your bail reform law is the reason that Laken Riley is dead. He should have been in jail in New York, and he was not. He went to Georgia. He fled our state because he should have been in prison. These are tragic and real circumstances. In Buffalo, a Venezuelan illegal immigrant hacked his wife to death with an axe. In Syracuse, an Ecuadorian national strangled a young woman on her birthday and dumped her body in a park. In Irondequoit, in Monroe County, a Dominican national slaughtered an entire family, including two toddlers, and he set their house on fire.

Governor Hochul, you took an oath to serve the citizens of the State of New York, and you have allowed violent criminals who came here illegally to hide in plain sight and to avoid Federal officials because of your support for the Green Light Law. I mean, this is an abomination. This is not keeping New Yorkers safe. This is——

Governor HOCHUL. We turn over the information you are referring to all the time. You are misstating the laws and its purpose. We cooperate all the time.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. As much as I want to believe you, Governor, I believe the cops more.

Governor HOCHUL. Well——

Mr. LANGWORTHY. I believe the cops that I know and I trust in our same hometown that are out there in the streets every single day. Your laws put lives in danger. Your laws have led to people being murdered.

Governor HOCHUL. My job is to protect the people of New York, and I fight hard every single day. I have done more——

Mr. LANGWORTHY. You are doing a very lousy job of it, Governor.

Governor HOCHUL. [continuing]. Reduced the crimes. Murder rates are down to historic lows, and we are working hard to make sure. One crime is one too many. I take this very seriously, but we do cooperate anytime they need help with law enforcement, and you are just refusing to accept it.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. That is just not what the law enforcement officials tell me, Governor.

Governor HOCHUL. You are not accepting the facts. I cannot help that.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. I trust the professionals. You and I are not police officers. I trust the people out in the field that wear a badge that are honorable, decent, hardworking people.

Governor HOCHUL. And that is why they serve.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. And you have a record of disrespect to law enforcement, just like you disrespected every corrections officer in the State of New York. You have a lot of gall to come here and criticize the President for using the National Guard to actually bring law and order to the streets of our country when you sent those same

National Guard officers to become corrections officers after you destroyed the lives of so many of the hardworking corrections officers of the state when you broke their union.

Governor HOCHUL. You are absolutely right. There is a distinction. I have the authority over the National Guard in the State of New York. The President is usurping the sovereignty of another state of the 50 states when he imposes the National Guard against the will of the governor.

Chairman COMER. The time has expired.

Governor HOCHUL. It is the difference of understanding of basic civics.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Chairman, I have a unanimous consent request.

Chairman COMER. I am sorry?

Ms. ANSARI. I have a unanimous consent request.

Chairman COMER. Proceed.

Ms. ANSARI. First, I would like to seek unanimous consent to enter into the record this article, "Counties that provided 'sanctuary' to undocumented immigrants saw falling crime rates, study finds."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. ANSARI. Second, "Data Shows Sanctuary Policies Make Communities Safer, Healthier, and More Prosperous."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. ANSARI. And third, "Trump Team Focuses Deportation on Immigration Numbers, Not Criminals."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

The Chair now recognizes Mr. Garcia from California.

Mr. GARCIA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank our governors for being here as well. Thank you all for your service to your states and to our country.

I want to just be clear: Donald Trump, clearly, and House Republicans are really not serious about helping our states and our cities. Before I came to Congress, I was a mayor, and I worked closely with our police department, incredible men and women that worked really hard to promote policies that actually make the public safer. Now, during that time, our city actually reported some of the lowest murder rates in history, and I have been in close touch with our current police departments, our local sheriff and local law enforcement, and I want to be clear: Donald Trump is intentionally provoking chaos, hate, and division.

Now, Trump is trying to intimidate, he is using our military to create fear, and there is no legal justification for his actions. I strongly believe he is trying to keep American citizens from peacefully making their voices heard. We just had a demonstration in my hometown of Long Beach, California. Over 500 people showed up. There was no vandalism, there were no arrests, and it was peaceful, and I want to thank them. Trump is trying to make it very clear that this is about intimidation. I believe he is fueling violence on our streets because he thinks it is politically helpful to him, and I actually want to remind our Committee that when Donald Trump was President, in 2020, that is actually when we saw surges in violent crime across the country. They increased under Donald Trump's watch.

So, we should be focused on actual public safety threats. But we know that Donald Trump is taking Federal law enforcement away from actually investigating serious crimes and cartels. And if you ask any police department/police chief across the country in your states, they will tell you they want their police focused on the issues in their neighborhoods, in the state. Traffic violations, speeding, domestic violence, those are the issues that people want to see addressed. Law enforcement should be focused on those issues, and I know the governors agree.

Back in my home district in Downey, California, we have had agents just yesterday grab people in front of churches, their houses of worship. Agents refuse to identify themselves and show warrants. An elderly man was dropping off his granddaughter at their local church and was detained in front of the property and the family. That is outrageous and should be disturbing to every single American, and we know this does actually nothing to protect the public, but this, of course, is Donald Trump's playbook. He does not care about the safety of the American people. He fuels hate and fear.

It is no coincidence that Donald Trump is fueling chaos at the same time he is advancing legislation which the American people know is completely toxic and harmful to this country. We are looking at 16 million people losing healthcare. It is being debated right now as we speak in the Senate—nutrition cuts for seniors and veterans, huge tax cuts for the wealthiest and the largest corporations in this country—and while this is being debated, Donald Trump is causing chaos and fear across our country.

I want to ask the governors in the remaining time that we have, it is clear that healthcare and these impacts of this bill will impact all three of your states greatly, and so I have a brief question. What is the bigger risk to your state, ripping away healthcare from millions of people across the country, thousands and thousands in your own states, or the law-abiding, working undocumented folks in your states? And I will let you each go ahead and give that answer. We will start with Governor Pritzker.

Governor PRITZKER. Thank you very much, Congressman Garcia. There are 770,000 people who stand to lose their healthcare in the State of Illinois, perhaps even more depending on how this bill turns out, and I can tell you that there are people who are dependent upon Medicaid and Medicare to survive. I am deeply, deeply concerned about the deaths that will occur as a result of the cuts, not to mention that we are taking away SNAP benefits from families that need it most, and children—children. Veteran services. People who have Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) who need to see their therapist at a certain time now have to wait much longer periods of time because of the threat of this bill, so I am deeply concerned. DOGE has taken away one of our facilities in the State of Illinois already. It is a huge problem—

Mr. GARCIA. Thank you, Governor.

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. And that is the threat. That—

Mr. GARCIA. Thank you. Governor Walz?

Governor WALZ. Yes, thank you, Congressman. In Minnesota, in 2023, we were ranked as the top state for healthcare, home of the



Mayo Clinic. We have more people covered almost than any other state. This bill would take 250,000 people off of healthcare, make it more difficult, reduce the outcomes we are getting. Forty percent of those are children who receive their care through that way, and over, I believe, 70 percent of nursing home patients. It would be catastrophic, and the state has built it up to improve lives of all of our citizens.

Mr. GARCIA. Thank you, and finally, Governor Hochul?

Governor HOCHUL. Healthcare is a basic human right, and I am proud in the State of New York that 95 percent of people in our state have healthcare coverage, but these devastating cuts will throw off at least 1.5 million New Yorkers, and not just those individuals, but when hospitals in rural areas have to shut down, the entire community will lose important services. So, this will have a ripple effect through our economy and hurt more than just the people who will lose their Medicaid. And it is devastating and absolutely unwarranted, and we encourage everyone to stand up, speak up on behalf of their constituents, especially those from the State of New York who represent rural areas. They are counting on you.

Mr. GARCIA. Thank you. Governors, I thank you, and I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The Chair now recognizes Mr. Biggs from Arizona.

Mr. BIGGS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I get a kick out of you, sanctuary state, county, city leaders who talk about having to deal with the border crisis. It cracks me up actually, but at least, Governor Pritzker, you did call it a crisis in your statement. I appreciate that. Ultimately, as you said in your statement, you receive 50,000 illegal aliens into Cook County, and Governor Hochul stated that New York received about 220,000 illegal aliens. That is fantastic that you know those numbers roughly.

Now, I want you to imagine you are a Southern Arizona community of about 80,000 people sitting right on the border, and over the course of the Biden Administration, a couple of million people came through your little town. And I quote you, Governor Pritzker, "Illinois did not ask for this crisis," and I am going to tell you, neither did Yuma, Arizona. Its lone hospital, only hospital, could not handle the influx. Nor could its single food bank, its law enforcement, its schools, and other services and infrastructure. That was a failure, you are correct, on the part of the Federal Government under Joe Biden. That has all stopped now. That has all stopped now because it did not take a new law. It took enforcement of the current law.

But you know what drew a lot of those people? Because you might have been down there once. I have been down there dozens of times. I have taken more people from Congress down there than anybody else here, and you know what those people told me? They are coming here because they wanted to get to places, and they would name Chicago, and they would name New York to me. And I would say, why the heck are you crossing here not crossing at Del Rio? Because you guys offered sanctuary policies. They believed that they would be protected in your jurisdictions.

And now that these millions of illegal aliens are here, permitted to get here by the Democrats and the Biden Administration, your

jurisdictions actually hindered the enforcement of immigration laws because of the sanctuary policies you have adopted. And then you have the temerity to complain about the influx of illegal aliens that strain your social services. Well, you did that. That is not even an unintended consequences. That is what it is.

So, I will ask you, Governor Walz, do you agree with your attorney general's opinion stating that it is not lawful for Minnesota counties to hold people for immigration authorities, even if there is an immigration warrant? Do you agree with his statement? That is his statement. It is not yours. I just want to know if you agree with him.

Governor WALZ. Yes. Well, I know you know this, Congressman, that all 87 Minnesota counties follow Federal law.

Mr. BIGGS. I do not know that. I just want to know.

Governor WALZ. I have not yet explained.

Mr. BIGGS. I do not know, though. Why would I know that? I am just going by your attorney general.

Governor WALZ. I have not got—

Mr. BIGGS. He says not to do it. Do you agree with the attorney general? That is all I am asking.

Governor WALZ. The attorney general is elected independently in Minnesota. Nothing in his opinion allows it—

Mr. BIGGS. So, are you telling me you disagree with him? Do you disagree with him?

Governor WALZ. Could I have 20 seconds just to—

Mr. BIGGS. I just want you to answer the question. You are not answering the question.

Governor WALZ. I served here, Congressman, and there is the respect to the witnesses to just be able to speak.

Mr. BIGGS. Yes, yes, there is and that respect from the witness should be to answer the question.

Governor WALZ. Our counties and jurisdictions can do whatever they deem necessary. They have to be—

Mr. BIGGS. Do you agree with your attorney general? Apparently, we do not know because you are not going to answer. You are going to be oblique about it.

Governor WALZ. That is an unfair characterization. I am trying to answer. I am not the Attorney General of Minnesota.

Mr. BIGGS. Do you agree with his memo?

Governor WALZ. You are not letting me—

Mr. BIGGS. You are killing time because you are filibustering. Do you agree with his memo? That is all I am asking.

Governor WALZ. Nothing is—

Mr. BIGGS. And you do not want to even answer it. You just say, oh, maybe that, maybe yes, maybe no, I do not know.

Let us go to you, Governor Pritzker. A lawsuit was filed against you in the State of Illinois, and your response to the claim is that Illinois has a "constitutionally protected choice not to assist Federal authorities with deportation." Give me the constitutional reference you are making there. What are you referring to?

Governor PRITZKER. Congressman, I do not know the lawsuit that you are referring to, and I do not know that I was the respondent in that lawsuit. I can say that—

Mr. BIGGS. This is from the response filed on your behalf, so you did not read the response? Well, let me then ask you, if that is the response officially of you, how is that consistent with *Arizona v. United States*? It is not. How is it consistent with 8 U.S.C. 287(d)(3)? It is not. Let us just cover it in the last 18 seconds. You say we do give these people the information only on a criminal warrant. Is there any distinction in 8 U.S.C. 1373(a) and 1324(c) that says, yes, you do not have to give information, you do not have to provide the body, you do not have to respond to the ICE detainer. Is there anything in there that says there is the distinction between the criminal law, the criminal warrant, the criminal detainer, and a civil warrant/civil detainer? Is there anything in there? The answer is no. I will answer for you.

You do violate the law. You are sanctuary cities, and every one of you sitting there, if you do not know that by now, you should know it walking out of here that you are actually committing a Federal crime every time someone does that because you do not have the authority under Federal law or under the Constitution to negate even a civil warrant for someone who has violated a Federal offense when you get a detainer notice. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Frost from Florida.

Mr. FROST. Thank you, Mr. Chair. All over the country, people are protesting, nonviolently, President Trump's treatment of immigrants, and they are right to, and I think it is important that we are clear as leaders about what is going on in this country right now. There is no mass deportation campaign. Deportation is a process, a process that is not being followed right now. What is going on is people are being snatched up in the middle of the streets, trafficked, kidnapped in the middle of the streets, trafficked to other countries without due process. Trump is taking blatantly illegal and inhumane actions to stoke protests and then escalating things from there.

Over the weekend, he sent U.S. troops to California—this is dangerous—first, the California National Guard without the Governor's support and now the Marines. The Marines are trained to fight and win wars, not to deescalate a protest in the heart of an American city. Members of our armed services have sworn an oath to the Constitution. They did not swear an oath to Donald Trump, and they are not his personal army. And so, in the face of a wannabe dictator, we have to have strong opposition.

First, the Trump Administration says they are going to arrest judges, then they arrested a judge. Then they talk about arresting elected officials, then a mayor gets arrested. Then they said they would arrest a Member of Congress, and one has been indicted. A Democratic Member of Congress has been indicted. And now we have Trump's border czar, Tom Homan, who has threatened to arrest the California Governor, and I do not think we should take this as an empty threat. Why is Trump now saying he wants to arrest governors? It is because he knows that some of the people who are going to be the greatest opposition to his lawlessness are Democratic governors standing up for their people.

And so, I am just curious to hear from our three governors here today because these things can be put forth as hypotheticals, but they are not hypotheticals. Elected officials are being arrested. This

is happening. The DOJ is being weaponized against us. So, if Federal agents were to come to your door, to the governor's mansion, approach your security staff to arrest you—you have Tom Homan on the news saying I want to arrest Governor Hochul, Governor Pritzker, Governor Walz—what do you do? What do you say? I am just curious. Governor Hochul, you can start.

Governor HOCHUL. If Tom Homan comes to Albany to arrest me, I will say go for it. You cannot intimidate a governor. What is this country coming to when people can threaten us on social media and on cable news, and try to stop us from doing our jobs? We are here on the front lines every day fighting to defend our rights, our values, and the public safety of our residents, and so anything threatening our responsibility is an assault on our democracy, nothing short of that.

Governor PRITZKER. Thank you, Congressman. Let me begin by saying I have the highest duty to protect the people of my state, and, indeed, if Tom Homan were to come to try to arrest us, me rather, I can say, first of all, that he can try. I can also tell you that I will stand in the way of Tom Homan going after people who do not deserve to be frightened in their communities, who do not deserve to be threatened, terrorized. I would rather that he came and arrested me than do that to the people of my state.

Governor WALZ. Well, thank you Congressman, and just sitting here listening today, again, there are many of you here, friends on both sides of the aisle, that I served here. The job of governor is very different than the job you are doing, but we need you. We need to work together. No one here wants to hear these horrific stories, but we have a job to do on limited resources, and equating that not doing ICE's job means we are not cooperating? We are patrolling our highways. I am proud that Minnesota is a state, third lowest in traffic deaths. If we start doing all the things at ICE, and nothing we do precludes them from doing their job. And so, threatening and political, and I did not realize, I guess. I watch it. I did not realize how much animosity there is here. We have a responsibility to the American public to work together, and I think threatening arrests on elected officials, Congressman, it does not help any of us. And Governor Pritzker is right. Our citizens are scared and angry, and it is not necessary. We can fix this with a bipartisan border bill. Help us out.

Mr. FROST. Thank you, Governor. I want to end by saying former governor and now Secretary of Homeland Security, Kristi Noem, just last year said that "Federalizing the National Guard would be a direct attack on state's rights," and now she is cheering it on. President Trump has consolidated power so much in his own party, there is little to no, pretty much zero, opposition left to his lawlessness. We hear it in this room right now. And the last thing I want to say, too, is what is going on right now is not just a distraction from the fact that they want to pass a massive tax break for the richest Americans and take away services and things from working families, but it is to enable it. These are not two different stories because the only way you rip away healthcare from 15 million Americans in this country and not feel like you have to fear for your job or that you are going to be protested every day, is by scaring the people and suppressing their First Amendment right.

What is going on in Los Angeles and what Donald Trump wants to do around the Nation is directly connected to the fact that he is going to take away healthcare from all of these people, 15 million Americans, to benefit people like him and his donors, and it is shameful. These are not two different things. It is the same thing. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Higgins from Louisiana.

Mr. HIGGINS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Governors, I guess thank you for being here today. This was staged to be, it was bound to be a political conflict here, but I would like to get pretty real with each of you. I know Governor Walz pretty good. He and I came to be, believe it or not, America, Governor Walz and I came to be quite friendly. I consider him a friend for many years, and it was fascinating that we disagreed on almost everything politically. I doubt there was a vote we had in common, but I am pretty sure I could call Governor Walz and get a straight answer even now, at least in private. But a setting like this is difficult to get a straight answer because you are being viewed so closely. All of us are. So, I am going to try and be real with you.

Governor Pritzker, I do not know you. Governor Hochul, I do not know you. I can tell you that you strike me as extremely political and rather arrogant, quite smug, good lady, and this is a serious topic, man. We have hundreds of thousands of Americans dead from fentanyl that came across our border. Our Nation suffered generational trauma for four years from open border policies, and we listened in ad nauseum speech after speech after speech about how Mayorkas, who struck me as equally smug in many horrific meetings, said we need more money, we need more laws. We never needed more money. We never needed more laws. We needed an executive branch that had the will to enforce the law and, thus, end the trauma that the American people were continually suffering at our Southern border.

Now, the impact of that policy remains, and sanctuary cities are a large part of this thing. And I do not know the life of you three, your background. I do not know if you have held the hand of a mother or father and had to deliver to them the news that their child had been killed by a violent criminal, prayed with that person, but I have, and the victims of crime commonly have a simple refrain: why? Why? Why did this happen to my family?

And I am going to ask you, Governor Pritzker, and you, Governor Hochul, what do you say to those people, have ever had the courage to speak with one in person in private without cameras, and when they ask you why, why was this horrible person invited to Illinois or New York? Why do your sanctuary policies encourage, why did this guy that killed my daughter, why was he in my state? Why?

Governor HOCHUL. Representative—

Mr. HIGGINS. Do not tell me it is limited resources.

Governor HOCHUL. Representative—

Mr. HIGGINS. Do not tell me it is limited resources. I will let you know when it is time for you to answer the question, Ma'am. Do not tell me it is limited resources because we are talking about the resource of righteousness and goodness, and God controls the bank of righteousness and goodness, and there is no limit to that with-

drawal. Governor Pritzker, what do you tell a family when they ask you why, why was this murderer in my state that came here across the border illegally and was encouraged to come to my state by your policies? Go.

Governor PRITZKER. You said invited or encouraged. Fifty thousand people were——

Mr. HIGGINS. Yes, invited and encouraged by sanctuary policy.

Governor PRITZKER. Fifty thousand people were shipped to my state——

Mr. HIGGINS. Yes, yes, yes.

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. By a border state governor.

Mr. HIGGINS. Do not beat around the bush. Own it, man. Own it.

Governor PRITZKER. I am not beating around. I am telling you, 50,000 people were shipped to my state by a Republican border state governor.

Mr. HIGGINS. Would you ship them back? Fifty thousand is a smidgen. We have 15 million cross the border.

Governor PRITZKER. I understand.

Mr. HIGGINS. I am glad they bussed some to your state——

Governor PRITZKER. And I have——

Mr. HIGGINS [continuing]. Because you need to face it.

Governor PRITZKER. And I have been clear about——

Mr. HIGGINS. Your sanctuary policies.

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. About favoring border security.

Mr. HIGGINS. Governor Hochul——

Governor PRITZKER. There was a bill last year on that very subject, sir.

Mr. HIGGINS [continuing]. I will give you the last couple seconds here. Governor Hochul.

Governor PRITZKER. And you opposed it.

Governor HOCHUL. On the question of what I would say to that family, I would say my heart is breaking for you. I am a mother. When you describe the pain of a family like that, I have been there. I have held victims' families in my arms.

Mr. HIGGINS. That is a good start.

Governor HOCHUL. And I will tell you this. You appear to be a religious person.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Chairman, my time has expired. I yield.

Governor HOCHUL. We are called——

Chairman COMER. The gentleman's time has expired.

The Chair recognizes Ms. Lee from Pennsylvania.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman? Mr. Chairman?

Chairman COMER. Oh, oh, I recognize the Ranking Member for a unanimous consent.

Mr. LYNCH. Okay. A couple of things. One, I want to raise a point of order. It is against the rules to attack or to breach the decorum with respect to our witnesses. You cannot——

Mr. HIGGINS. Well, the Ranking Member has a different definition of "attack" than I do, that is for sure.

Mr. LYNCH. You look like this or you look like that. You cannot criticize the countenance of a witness when they come before the committee. You can raise issues, no question, but you cannot personally attack a witness. That is not within the rules. That is not

in accordance with decorum here, and I would raise that same concern if one of our Members was attacking.

Ms. BOEBERT. Did the Ranking Member not call us Nazis?

Chairman COMER. All right. All right.

Mr. LYNCH. Secondly. Secondly.

Chairman COMER. Proceed with the unanimous consent.

Mr. LYNCH. Second, unanimous consent. I ask unanimous consent to submit a document entitled, "Trump wants to cut funding to sanctuary cities and towns, but they don't actually violate Federal law."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

The Chair now recognizes Ms. Lee from Pennsylvania.

Ms. LEE. Yes. Thanks, Mr. Chair. It is always funny the lack of decorum that we get, and we do drop the gentleman act here often-times when attacking women who are not able to defend themselves with equal time, but that is kind of the theme here, right? Attacking Americans or people who are not able to defend themselves, or at least who Republicans hope cannot defend themselves, and that is what we are seeing, essentially, in Los Angeles. So, I would say that this hearing is quite timely. What is happening with ICE in the military in Los Angeles is terrifying, and it is directly caused by Trump's policies and his cruelty.

It was Trump's overzealous ICE agents who started this specific incident, and now they want us to get bogged down and arguing over the right types of protests or the right types of way or the right way to defend yourself, the mythical perfect type so that we could ignore that Trump is the one who is escalating all of this. Trump is the one who ordered in thousands of national guardsmen over the objection of Governor Newsom, something that has not been done since 1965. Trump is the one deploying Marines, not on an enemy abroad, but on the American people who are exercising their First Amendment right in this instance, the only opportunity that they have to defend themselves against lawless lawmakers who are imposing cruelty upon them.

For a party of so-called law and order folks, they sure are stampeding over people's constitutional rights and intentionally inciting more chaos, more fear, more anxiety, and increasing the likelihood that people will get hurt. In the end, what is happening in Los Angeles is just one of many incidents where Trump and his Administration have not given a single damn about people's safety. For one, the ICE and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) agents that are arresting people and raiding places often do not even have any kind of uniform or identifying badge. They are masked, and they are in unmarked cars. Ms. Perryman, just briefly, why is it so dangerous to have masked, plainclothes ICE agents arresting people?

Ms. PERRYMAN. Thank you, Congresswoman, for your question. I will go back to what I said before, that we know our Constitution recognizes and our country recognizes the importance of trust between local law enforcement, the Federal Government, and governors. And what we are seeing here is a breach of trust, it is an escalation, and it is dangerous for the American people.

Ms. LEE. Trump said he was only going to go after undocumented criminals, but that is clearly not the case. Whether through incompetence or straight-up racial profiling, ICE and DHS agents

are wrongfully arresting U.S. citizens, we have talked about it today, and catching these mistakes often happens too late after an American citizen has already been illegally thrown into another country, and Trump's Administration is doing nothing to get them back. These agents are also going into previously protected spaces, as we have discussed, like churches and schools and hospitals. DHS agents tried to get into an elementary school by lying that they had the permission from the parents. That is a cartoonish level of evil. ICE also arrested a Massachusetts high school senior, Marcela Gomez de Silva, on his way to volleyball practice.

Governor Walz, you are a former teacher and coach. Do you think these kinds of actions create instability for students, and do you worry about increasing anxiety of kids coming to school?

Governor WALZ. Well, thank you, Congresswoman. I certainly do. Creating that safe environment where our kids can come and the expectation is to learn, they certainly do. Once again, there is no reason to use these enforcement actions at those locations when there are other tools. And I think, again, this false equivalency that we do not want violent criminals to be arrested, detained, and go through due process, we do, but hugely detrimental to the educational system, hugely detrimental to a system that is dependent on trust and the goodwill of everyone in that school system. So yes, it is detrimental.

Ms. LEE. Thank you, Governor Walz. These same kids getting arrested are often being separated from their families. They are scared. They are alone. An attorney is one of the few resources they had access to. That is now being taken away as well. The Trump Administration has canceled contracts with legal groups that represent those undocumented children in immigration court. This is going to force thousands of kids as young as two years old to represent themselves. Very quickly, as we are running out of time, Ms. Perryman, how is a 2-year-old supposed to represent themselves in court?

Ms. PERRYMAN. A 2-year-old cannot represent itself in court, him or herself in court, and I will just say that we are in court every single day seeking to try to ensure that people have access to legal representation, which, of course, this Administration is really seeking to curtail. They are seeking to ignore due process rights.

Ms. LEE. I was going to say, would you say that it is due process if a 2-year-old is left to represent themselves?

Ms. PERRYMAN. Absolutely, it is a flagrant violation of our Constitution. It is also something that shocks the conscience.

Ms. LEE. We will leave it there. Thank you. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The witnesses have requested a 15-minute bathroom break, but before we do that, I am going to go to Dr. Foxx for 5 minutes of questions. After Dr. Foxx, we will take a 15-minute break for the witnesses, and then we will start back with Mr. Casar. So, the Chair recognizes Dr. Foxx from North Carolina for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Thank you very, much Mr. Chairman. Governor Walz, as you are aware, Minnesota saw the largest COVID-19 fraud scheme in the Nation. The so-called nonprofit, Feeding Our Future, falsely claimed to have served 91 million meals to children for which it received nearly \$250 million in Federal funds. According



to the FBI, the \$250 million in Federal taxpayer money was “funneled into luxury homes, cars, and lavish lifestyles while families struggled.” In March, two individuals were convicted in connection with this case, and I understand related investigation continues.

The FBI stated that, “The egregious fraud uncovered in the Feeding Our Future case represents the blatant betrayal of public trust. The FBI will not allow criminals to rob Federal programs and walk away unscathed. We will expose their schemes, dismantle their networks, and ensure they face the full weight of justice.” Do you support the Federal Government’s efforts to bring to justice those who stole Federal taxpayer money at the expense of hungry children in your state?

Governor WALZ. Thank you, Dr. Foxx. Wholeheartedly, and this is a great example when the Federal Government works with the state, we reported it, they prosecuted them, they are imprisoned.

Ms. FOXX. So, do you support Federal efforts to bring to justice those who commit Federal crimes in Minnesota?

Governor WALZ. I most certainly do.

Ms. FOXX. Okay. Does Minnesota honor ICE detainer requests?

Governor WALZ. Congresswoman, thank you for the question. I have been making sure I get my opportunity here. Minnesota follows all Federal law. State law requires, and I would say this, state law requires all state and county facilities to ask for immigration status when a convicted felon is committed and tells DHS if they are undocumented, all state facilities. DOC calls DHS before a convicted felon leaves prison. We have a controlled handover. ICE is——

Ms. FOXX. How can we be sure that your state is serious about cooperating with the Federal Government to enforce our immigration laws?

Governor WALZ. We do it on a daily basis, Congresswoman, and again, I say this is the floor. Counties can do more, but here is the confusion we have right now. Last week, a list of supposed sanctuary cities or counties were put out. Many of those were counties in Minnesota that had gone above and beyond. Their sheriffs said it put them at risk because they were doing that. They were sharing information and doing what they are supposed to do. It is a coordination issue, and——

Ms. FOXX. But you said in your answer it is only if they have been convicted of crimes that you——

Governor WALZ. Or a judicial warrant. Or a judicial warrant, that is correct, after due process has been served.

Ms. FOXX. So, you do not cooperate if they are illegally here and the ICE comes to get them.

Governor WALZ. If they have gone through the process, Congresswoman, and they have received due process, and ICE’s job is to come and get them. It is what I have been saying all day.

Ms. FOXX. But if they are here illegally, then they are here illegally. They have broken the law already. That is a given.

Governor WALZ. Many are here as asylum seekers.

Ms. FOXX. That is a given that they have broken the law.

Governor WALZ. They have overstayed a visa.

Ms. FOXX. I have another question to ask you, Governor. As I have said before in this Committee, innocent American taxpayers

are collateral damage in the Democrats' pursuit of open border policies. Americans pay with their wallets, their safety, and, all too often, their lives. This is unacceptable. I am sure you are aware, Governor, that your state has spent hundreds of millions of state taxpayer dollars to address the surge of illegal aliens in Minnesota. Are you also aware of any non-governmental organizations (NGO) operating in your state that provide services to illegal aliens, and have those NGO's received any Federal funding?

Governor WALZ. I cannot answer that at this time. I do not have it in front of me.

Ms. FOXX. Well, we have to end the shameful practice of NGO's working against immigration law enforcement efforts. That is why I introduced H.R. 245, the Grant Integrity and Border Security Act to stop NGO's who work against U.S. laws from receiving a single cent of taxpayer funds. Americans should never tolerate a government that uses their own tax money against them, and, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady yields back. Before we recess, I recognize the Ranking Member for a UC.

Mr. LYNCH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I ask you unanimous consent to submit an article from the *Seattle Times*, entitled, "National sheriff's association head tears into fed's sanctuary list."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Pursuant to the previous order, the Committee will stand in recess for 15 minutes. The Committee stands in recess.

[Recess.]

Chairman COMER. The Committee will attempt to come back in order. I will give the witnesses a second to find their seats, and then we will recognize the next questioner.

[Pause.]

Chairman COMER. Thank you all. The Chair now recognizes Mr. Casar from Texas for 5 minutes.

Mr. CASAR. Good afternoon, Governors. Republicans have dragged you in today for questioning because they say your immigration policies are dangerous for American citizens, so I want to ask each of you some questions about recent events affecting U.S. citizens. Governor Pritzker, was it your administration or was it the Trump Administration that arrested a 10-year-old U.S. citizen recovering from brain cancer and sent her to Mexico?

Governor PRITZKER. It was the Trump Administration, sir.

Mr. CASAR. Correct, that was the Trump Administration. Governor Walz, was it your administration or was it the Trump Administration that jailed an American for days, alleging he was in the country illegally, despite him being a U.S. citizen?

Governor WALZ. I believe that was the Trump Administration.

Mr. CASAR. That is correct. That was the Trump Administration. Governor Hochul, was it your administration or was it the Trump Administration that arrested a totally innocent U.S. citizen pregnant woman who wound up in the hospital after her detention?

Governor HOCHUL. Those horrific situations are all the results of the Trump Administration's over-enforcement of our laws.

Mr. CASAR. That was just this week, and that is correct.

Governor HOCHUL. That is right.

Mr. CASAR. That was the Trump Administration. Let me be clear: Democratic governors who are trying to protect the rights of all of us are not the real danger that we face. Donald Trump's reckless immigration policies are what is putting us at risk, U.S. citizens included. Trump and his puppets here in Congress put out a constant stream of lies about immigration, so let me summarize what is really going on here.

Trump has ordered law enforcement agencies to focus not on violent criminals but on indiscriminately rounding up as many people as possible. Trump is targeting people going to work at Home Depot and 7-Eleven, ignoring gangs. Trump is targeting people trying to follow the rules and go to a court hearing, ignoring those who commit real violence. And then there are the kids. Imagine just for a moment that they are your kids: law enforcement raids at our schools, kids with their hands zip tied behind their backs, multiple U.S. citizen children with cancer deported to foreign countries separated from their treatment, their care, and their doctors. This is not just about immigrant families. Donald Trump is undermining the rights that protect all of us, no matter who we are and where we come from.

People are being arrested without ever having been accused of a crime, held for days without contact with their families or their lawyers. People are being deported in violation of judicial orders. Trump also is going after anyone who dares try to put up guardrails against this, arresting judges, arresting mayors, arresting Members of Congress and union leaders. This is not law. This is not order. This is chaos, and it is dangerous for all of us.

Around the country right now, people are peacefully protesting to show the world the awful things the Trump Administration is doing: tearing families and communities apart, ignoring the rule of law, making us all less safe. And please know, if you are one of those peaceful demonstrators, I hear you. I see you. I have your back. So many of you are suffering because someone you love is terrified or has been unjustly taken away from you by this Administration, but Donald Trump does not want people to hear your message. That is why he has taken National Guard troops and the Marines away from their jobs and has sent them to Los Angeles, breaking all the rules about how protests like this are handled. Trump and Governor Abbott have even sent troops to my district in downtown San Antonio, a place that has been perfectly orderly and peaceful, because, as always, we know Donald Trump is trying to stoke up chaos and division, and he does not care who gets hurt in the process. He wants to start a fire, pour gasoline on it, and blame somebody else for the flames.

So, if you are watching at home and you see images of disorder or chaos in the coming days, remember this: it is Donald Trump's fire. It is him who lit the fire, and he does not care if the rest of us get burned. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back. The Chair now recognizes Mr. Fallon from Texas.

Mr. FALLON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Governor Walz, would you say that one of the most important things any governor or, quite frankly, any elected official can do is to keep their citizens and constituents safe?

Governor WALZ. I would, Congressman.

Mr. FALLON. Great. I would agree, and I ask this because when I was reading your bio that you provided, nowhere did you mention the safety and security of Minnesotans or fighting crime or supporting law enforcement, or, for that matter, the rule of law, so I want to take you back to 2020. You are the Governor of Minnesota. There were summer protests. You referred to them as peaceful demonstrations. In hindsight, would you still stand by that? Were they mostly peaceful?

Governor WALZ. Congressman, after the murder of George Floyd on the streets, thousands gathered in the streets. Were there those that——

Mr. FALLON. But Governor, were they mostly peaceful protests?

Governor WALZ. The vast majority certainly were.

Mr. FALLON. They were?

Governor WALZ. Those that were not——

Mr. FALLON. So, why would you have to call out the National Guard for mostly peaceful protests?

Governor WALZ. They were not all peaceful protests.

Mr. FALLON. Okay. So, they were not, all right, mostly. So, Governor, the total damage in dollars, what was that in Minnesota for the peaceful protests?

Governor WALZ. I do not have that in front——

Mr. FALLON. All right. According to the insurance industry in Minnesota, they put the number between \$1 and \$2 billion, and your own state senate put the price tag at \$500 million. So, if that is a peaceful protest in Minnesota, I shudder to think what a violent one would cost.

Governor WALZ. I did not call it a peaceful protest.

Mr. FALLON. Governor, I like to keep things simple.

Governor WALZ. I did not call it that.

Mr. FALLON. Okay.

Governor WALZ. We had folks who were there.

Mr. FALLON. Okay.

Governor WALZ. And they are in prison.

Mr. FALLON. Okay. great. I would like to keep things simple as far as when we talk about Federal detainers, and I have talked to several Federal law enforcement officials about this. So, a detainer is issued when someone is already in custody and confined—jail, prison, court. It is not somebody just plucked off the street randomly, and there are really three conditions, and it is and/or probable cause that a foreign national is subject to removal from this country, final deportation order has been issued, or it is a foreign national that has been convicted of a crime and is about to be released. So, sanctuary states will not cooperate with Federal law enforcement. In Minnesota, do you cooperate sometimes, never, or all the time?

Governor WALZ. We follow Federal law in all 87 counties and all the jurisdictions. Some of them do honor detainer requests.

Mr. FALLON. Some do, and some do not.

Governor WALZ. That is correct.

Mr. FALLON. Okay.

Governor WALZ. Counties have the ability.

Mr. FALLON. Okay. So, Governor, would you commit here and now, and this is really simple; I think it is commonsensical—to compel state and locals in Minnesota to cooperate with all Federal detainers issued by Federal law enforcement when it involves a foreign national that has been convicted of a felony. And I am talking about kidnappers, rapists, child molesters, murderers, predators, parasites, scumbags, in all those instances.

Governor WALZ. Convicted of a felony, being held by my state corrections, every time we call.

Mr. FALLON. Every single time you are going to do that in Minnesota.

Governor WALZ. Every time we call them and have them come pick it up. What I would ask you to commit to is are you going to fund ICE, what they do not pay us, on detainers?

Mr. FALLON. Well, listen, on detainers and on ICE, I do not call them the Gestapo, and this is my definition of Gestapo, Governor: real Nazis from 1933 to 1945 that facilitated and participated in the murder of millions. I do not call Federal law enforcement officers Gestapo. You were recently quoted. Where is the apology?

Governor WALZ. Donald Trump—

Mr. FALLON. Oh no, Donald Trump. Listen, Donald Trump is not here.

Governor WALZ. Yes.

Mr. FALLON. You are, Governor.

Governor WALZ. Yes.

Mr. FALLON. You are a big boy. Put your big boy pants on.

Governor WALZ. I would ask, do not wear masks. Identify who you are. Do not pull up in an unmarked car.

Mr. FALLON. Governor, you called them Gestapo. Will you apologize for that?

Governor WALZ. You do not pull people—

Mr. FALLON. Will you apologize for that?

Governor WALZ. Congressman, my job—I am a history—

Mr. FALLON. Okay. So, you will not, okay. We are going to move on.

Governor WALZ. I used a historical reference.

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Chairman, I reclaim my time if you will not answer the question. I think that is hyperbolic demagoguery. I mean, you said that in a speech. Maybe you got a little carried away. I do not know if you apologized for that, too, that you were “going to kick Republicans’ asses.” I mean, I did not say that. You said it, and that is dangerous rhetoric, especially when you use “Gestapo.” That is lazy, too, and it is terribly inaccurate. The fact of the matter is, time and again, you have excused violence, and you use dangerous, irresponsible rhetoric. And you can choose between being on the side of law enforcement or the side of vicious criminals, and you have chosen the latter time and again. I do not know why. Maybe it is because you want to impress your limousine liberal friends when you are eating wine and cheese or you are getting your coffee every morning at the hemp store. I do not know, but I think it is ignorant and I think it is culpable, and I think it is disgusting. I can see why the American people on November 5 made it very bad night for you and a very great night for our future. Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The Chair now recognizes—is Ms. Crockett here? Okay. The Chair recognizes Mr. Bell from Missouri.

Mr. BELL. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and our witnesses for being here today. I think that it is important for leaders to be honest and understand the nuance of issues. And as my grandmother used to say, all the easy problems have already been solved, we are left with the tough ones, and so it is important to our constituents that we are explaining the nuance in these issues, and this hearing is yet another attempt at dismantling the system of power and the rule of law in America.

The Administration's threats to withhold funding and resources from states to coerce them to adhere to Federal immigration law is unconstitutional, period. The deployment of Federal troops without authorization is unconstitutional, period. Masked, unidentified ICE agents snatching people off the streets is unconstitutional, period. And since my colleague brought this up, Governor Walz, I am a former prosecutor. Is it good precedence to allow masked men to show up and take people off the streets, not even identifying themselves?

Governor WALZ. No, and it also puts law enforcement at risk.

Mr. BELL. Absolutely, and there is this criminal element who might say, hmm, we can kidnap people, we can rob people, come with masks, identify ourselves as ICE, and someone may not know what they can do. Is that correct?

Governor WALZ. Well, if I am not mistaken, I thought yesterday I saw that that very thing happened. Someone identified themselves as ICE and committed a crime, yes. Look, you wear the badge for a reason, you wear the name for a reason, and you make sure that you are coordinated with those other law enforcement agencies are there. It is a dangerous situation for everyone.

Mr. BELL. Absolutely. And so, Governors, quickly, as it relates to criminal trends in your state, are illegal immigrants more or less likely to commit serious violent crimes?

Governor PRITZKER. It is clear that immigrants commit crime at a lower rate than the rest of our population.

Mr. BELL. Studies suggest that illegal immigrants were about half as likely as U.S. citizens to commit an offense serious enough to result in incarceration, and it seems to me that we are redirecting critical resources from communities to address immigration when, statistically, immigrants commit less serious crimes. And this misalignment risks undermining community stability by deprioritizing other high public safety concerns, which you all have to deal with. And so, I would like to ask quickly, too, Ms. Perryman, are you familiar, and I am not sure if you are because this was out of the State House in Missouri. Are you familiar with the Second Amendment Preservation Act?

Ms. PERRYMAN. Is that the act, Congressman, where the State House in Missouri sought to pass a law that it would not cooperate with Federal law enforcement?

Mr. BELL. Particularly with gun cases, yes, ma'am. And so, I am a little confused, and I would love for my Republican colleagues to clear this confusion up. On one hand when it involves immigration, they are saying that states like yourselves should do the job for them, reallocate resources from places that you are doing tremen-

dous work in, to do the Federal Government's job; but when it comes to gun violence, Missouri passed a law forbidding local police from cooperating with Federal law enforcement. And so, I got to ask, in your respective communities, is gun violence a problem? Governor HOCHUL.

Governor HOCHUL. Any incidence of violence is a problem for us, but I am proud that after investing nearly \$3 billion in law enforcement since I have been governor, our crime rates are trending downward, particularly violent crimes, and a place like New York City had the lowest crime rate in May in history.

Mr. BELL. And I am going to reclaim just because I am short on time.

Governor HOCHUL. Lowest murder rates.

Mr. BELL. But gun violence is a concern. Would that be safe to say, Governors?

Governor WALZ. Yes.

Governor HOCHUL. It is. It is absolutely a concern, yes.

Mr. BELL. And so, when local law enforcement and Federal law enforcement work together to curb gun violence, which protects all of us and all of our families, I do not hear Republicans complaining about the fact that local law enforcement is literally barred, until the Supreme Court overturned this, barred from working with Federal officials. And I think it is just about hypocrisy to suggest in this situation that you should be forced to take the finite resources that you have to do the Federal Government's job. That is my time. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Sessions from Texas.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Chairman, thank you very much. To our friend, Mr. Walz, welcome back. The opportunity that we have today to talk about this brings up a lot of issues. I think we all understand and we know this, there are over 600,000 migrant children that crossed the border without supervision from 2020 forward—600,000 children. We are sitting here arguing about a lot of things, but during the Biden Administration, they took no steps, none, to affect, and this is from an Office of Inspector General (IG) report. They were unprepared. They did not know what they were doing. They let people come across. They did not check. They just took people's word for it. Of those, 233 migrant children were never even given dates to appear in an immigration court, no dates by the Biden Administration. Here, come on in. Here you go.

I would suggest to you that each of you are participatory for bringing people because of your words, your words of New York is open, Illinois is open for business, we want you to come, we want you to be here, and terrible things have happened in our country as a result of a false promise. I know you are perfectly willing to pay millions of dollars to people out of your own coffers, but the bottom line is they came through Texas and other areas, and it caused a great deal of carnage and harm, and these migrants are in trouble. They are in trouble. The entire pathway to be taken advantage of and to cause harm, not just to themselves but other people.

I would submit to you, all three of you, have encouraged people to come, and the numbers are stunning about the numbers of not

just people that got caught, but those people that came here who have criminal records—criminal records—and they appear on terrorist watch lists. And I would ask each of you, are you aware that when you put your open come to America sign, come to the State of Minnesota, come to Illinois, come to New York, are you aware that you were doing that where there would not be a background check, where there would be people who would openly hear this, who were criminals and terrorists, and they evaded this process and overwhelmed law enforcement. You created a gold rush. You created a rush whereby people came, and the entire pathway is littered with not only brand-new areas, and the number of communities that now participate under 280(g) has exploded, and that is because it is the drug cartel's plan to have someone in every single city around America.

In Texas, it used to be Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, Austin, maybe Fort Worth and El Paso. Now it is smaller cities, even in the congressional district that I represent. They brought their marketing team with them because there are people who still owe the cartels. This is not a new story. Vice President Biden, he spoke about receiving a briefing from Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), understanding there were people that had to pay off the cartels for being here. Each and every one of you have participated. Each and every one of you have put a green light out—please, come, be with us, we will take care of you—and it has caused carnage. Governor WALZ.

Governor WALZ. Well, thank you, Congressman. First of all, I think the idea of a nation of immigrants, no one asked for folks who were—

Mr. SESSIONS. Illegal.

Governor WALZ. [continuing]. Illegally. Absolutely not.

Mr. SESSIONS. We bring in over a million people—

Governor WALZ. Absolutely not.

Mr. SESSIONS [continuing]. That legally go through a process, know what our rules are. We do background checks.

Governor WALZ. That is why we need a—

Mr. SESSIONS. We are talking about millions of people, no background check.

Governor WALZ. We need to make sure the legal process is done and those that should not be here are not.

Mr. SESSIONS. Okay. That is your viewpoint now. That is not what has been said in the past. That is not what Governor Hochul said at the period of time when people were flooding in. It was seen as being okay, just come. Governor Pritzker.

Governor PRITZKER. Thank you, Congressman. As a great grandson of an immigrant to this country, I can tell you that my views about immigration are that it is a positive for this Nation in general. Immigration is—

Mr. SESSIONS. Legally.

Governor PRITZKER. Legal immigration. Now, let us talk about what has happened over, certainly, the last 40 years if not much longer, which is—

Mr. SESSIONS. Why don't we go the last four because we have never ever had—

Governor PRITZKER. I understand.



Mr. SESSIONS [continuing]. Anything like the last four. Let us not put this into a context of history. Let us put it under you as governor, your public comments, Governor Walz's comments, and Governor Hochul's public comments to encourage people to break the law, to come through my state and cause carnage, and drug cartels to have people now where they have a marketing organization everywhere to where communities have to have a 287(g) problem because they have people staying where they had never stayed before.

Governor PRITZKER. Well, that mischaracterizes things that I have said. Let me just be clear. We have had 40 years of failure at the border and failure of immigration policy. We will talk about the last four years, right? There were people that came to the border, because the Federal Government decided that, because there is law that allows this—

Mr. SESSIONS. There was not law that allowed it. There was a presidential directive.

Governor PRITZKER. Okay. Fair enough. We are not in charge of the border in Illinois, I can tell you that. We do not have a border with a foreign country—

Mr. SESSIONS. Well, you encouraged knowing there would be—

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. Other than we have Lake Michigan between us and Canada.

Mr. SESSIONS [continuing]. Knowing there would be tens of thousands of children that would come. Governor Hochul.

Governor PRITZKER. We had 50,000 people who came from Texas because they were shipped to us, and let me tell you, I was in favor of helping Texas, helping Texas, indeed find a way to provide for them. We as a Nation should be welcoming people to this country.

Mr. SESSIONS. Well, not illegally.

Governor PRITZKER. Handling—

Mr. SESSIONS. That is the difference, and you need to say that. Mr. Chairman, I know my time is up. I would like to ask unanimous consent to enter into the record the United States Department of Homeland Security Management reports, August 19, 2024, March 2025, where unaccompanied alien children—

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

The Chair recognizes the Ranking Member for a unanimous consent.

Mr. LYNCH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I, too, have a unanimous consent request for an article from *The Nation* magazine, dated May 23, 2025, entitled, "Trump Wants Thousands of Migrant Children to Represent Themselves in Court."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

The Chair recognizes Ms. Tlaib.

Ms. TLAIB. Thank you, Mr. Chair. To all the witnesses, all of our Governors, thank you for being here. I want to start with questions, just really quick. Yes or no, do you believe in due process for everyone no matter their immigration status?

Governor PRITZKER. I do.

Governor WALZ. I do.

Governor HOCHUL. Yes.

Ms. TLAIB. What if they did not vote for you?

Governor WALZ. I still support them.

Ms. TLAIB. Does not matter, right?

Governor WALZ. I represent everyone in my state.

Ms. TLAIB. They disagree with you on immigration. They disagree with you on climate, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning (LGBTQ), right? All of you?

Governor PRITZKER. We take care of everyone who lives in our state.

Ms. TLAIB. So, what about Palestinian human rights? I will start with you, Governor.

Governor WALZ. Yes, support.

Governor PRITZKER. Human rights for everyone, yes. Palestinians.

Ms. TLAIB. Do you believe they deserve due process even if you disagreed with them on Palestinian human rights position?

Governor WALZ. Yes.

Ms. TLAIB. Governor.

Governor PRITZKER. Yes, and by the way, we have——

Ms. TLAIB. Well, Governor Hochul——

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. A Palestinian-American population.

Ms. TLAIB. Oh, I know. I am aware of that.

Governor PRITZKER. Yes, ma'am.

Ms. TLAIB. Governor Hochul, how about you?

Governor HOCHUL. Yes, we do.

Ms. TLAIB. Your constituent, Mahmoud Khalil, is still in ICE detention. Are you aware of him?

Governor HOCHUL. Very much so, and I am hoping he is returned home on Friday because——

Ms. TLAIB. Yes, we are working on that. So, he is a legal permanent resident.

Governor HOCHUL. He has been denied due process.

Ms. TLAIB. I know. This is important. He is a legal permanent resident. He was kidnapped over three months ago, and one of the things I want to do is, if I may, Chairman, submit for the record a letter from Mahmoud Khalil to his son who was born while he was kidnapped and illegally detained by our country.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. TLAIB. I am going to read a little bit from what he wrote to his son. "I waited on the other line, end of the phone, as your mother labored to bring you into this world. I listened to your pain breaths." Do you understand they had to put the phone next to his wife birthing his child while he was illegally detained. "I listened to your pained breaths"—her pain breaths—"and tried to speak comforting words into her ear over a crackling line. During your first moments, I buried my face in my arms and kept my voice low so that the 70 other men sleeping in this concrete room would not see my cloudy eyes or hear my voice catch," the cruelty of what is happening in our country. Everyone, to all my colleagues, should understand the human toll of separation of families. Read this letter. Take a moment.

Governor Hochul, sometimes I feel like because he is Palestinian, you did not speak up enough, and I say that as a Palestinian-American serving here in Congress. We all need to always support due process for everyone, no matter if you disagree with them po-

litically or not. The judge said they might release him on Friday. You should use this opportunity, Governor Hochul, to redeem yourself and welcome that decision. I urge you to all protect your constituents' constitutional rights no matter if you disagree with them politically, including the right to boycott, right, Governor Pritzker?

Governor PRITZKER. Including the right to protest, boycott, do whatever.

Ms. TLAI. That is right. I want to discuss the next item.

This is a person that is now, I believe, already on a plane to Columbia. This is Maykol Bogoya Duarte from Southwest Detroit. He was on his way to a field trip while local police racially profiled him, said, oh, he don't speak English, let me call Border Patrol. He spoke English just fine. That set in motion to separate him from his mother and his community. He was 3.5 credits away from graduating high school. To us, he was our son. Our son. He was not a criminal. He was trying to do the right thing. He had attorneys at a nonprofit legal agency. And, you know, Governors, I think about him and his trip, and he is there and he is with all his friends, and he is trying to experience this beautiful thing that we all have experienced.

But what makes me angry about the fact that he went on this flight, he is probably in Columbia now without his family, without his school community, without his classmates, is that many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, maybe some on mine, their donors benefit from a broken and humane immigration system. The President of the United States benefited financially and personally by having a broken immigration system that keeps our immigrant neighbors in a broken system that does not allow them to come out of the shadows. Why? Because that is cheap labor. Let us be honest. They are arresting dishwashers, people at Home Depot that work, and their donors benefit. You know it. The restaurant industry benefits. They know exactly what they are doing. If they even wanted to fix this immigration system, they would go to the people that are employing them, and we know it.

Now detention centers. Guess who is going to benefit from private detention centers and holding our immigrant neighbors? Their donors. So, shame on us in bringing these Governors here when we know exactly what is happening here. This is all for profit, all for cruelty and fear and division. Fix our economic system in our country. People are starving. People cannot afford basic needs, and you are ripping our loved ones away from us because you do not have the courage to fix our broken immigration system. It has been inhumane for decades. Shame on us, both Democrats and Republicans, for not doing what is right in this chamber and doing what is right for the American people in making sure we are not separating families. With that, Mr. Chair, I yield.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Palmer from Alabama.

Mr. PALMER. Thank you, Mr. Chair. First of all, I want to point out that under Article XI, the Constitution Supremacy Clause, that by declaring your states sanctuary states, you declared your intent to violate Federal law. With that, are you aware that illegal aliens with known ties to terrorist organizations are now residing in the

United States? That is a “yes” or “no.” Quickly, yes or no, Governor Walz?

Governor WALZ. I do not have firsthand knowledge, but I would assume so, yes.

Mr. PALMER. You should have. Governor Pritzker?

Governor PRITZKER. I know that has been alleged. I do not have firsthand knowledge myself.

Mr. PALMER. You should have. Governor Hochul?

Governor HOCHUL. My joint terrorism task force has surveillance—

Mr. PALMER. Ma’am, that is a “yes” or “no.” Either you know or you do not.

Governor HOCHUL. We are aware.

Mr. PALMER. That is amazing considering that the Customs Board Patrol reported just in Fiscal Year 2023, 736 encounters with illegal aliens with ties to terrorist organizations, and it is 2.2 million estimated got-aways. We have no idea how many known terrorists are in our country. Do you support the arrest and deportation of illegal aliens with ties to terrorist organizations? Yes or no, Governor Walz?

Governor WALZ. If due process is given, certainly.

Mr. PALMER. Governor Pritzker?

Governor PRITZKER. Exactly. We need due process before we arrest people.

Mr. PALMER. Governor Hochul, yes or no?

Governor HOCHUL. Anyone involved in a crime, we cooperate.

Mr. PALMER. Ma’am, yes or no?

Governor HOCHUL. We cooperate when—

Mr. PALMER. Ma’am, yes or no?

Governor HOCHUL. We cooperate with—

Mr. PALMER. You cannot give a straight answer, and the answer is you are giving safe harbor to people with ties to terrorist organizations. Are you aware of that? Let me tell you, you are shielding members of known terrorist organizations, such as MS-13; Tren de Aragua; Brown Pride Aztecas; Barrio Azteca; Sureños, which is otherwise known as Sur 13; and 18th Street Gang. Those are designated terrorist organizations. These are the people responsible for bringing fentanyl in that has killed, along with other drugs, killed over a 100,000 people per year. We are no longer in a war on drugs. We are involved in a war with drugs. These are casualties. Are you aware that Department of Homeland Security identified over 400 illegal aliens who were smuggled into the United States with the help of an affiliate of Islamic State of Iraq (ISIS)? Are you aware of that, Governor Walz?

Governor WALZ. Congressman, I do not have direct knowledge of that.

Mr. PALMER. Well, I will help you. Mr. Chairman, I would like to enter into the record an article from *NBC News*, “DHS identifies over 400 migrants brought into the united states by an is-affiliated human smuggling network.” Is that a problem?

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. PALMER. Does that raise any concern for you?

Governor PRITZKER. None of us want terrorists in this country, Congressman.

Mr. PALMER. Then why are you shielding people here from being picked up by our ICE agents, referring to this as a Gestapo organization? I never want to get up on another morning like I did on September 11, 2001. There are people in this country who are here with the full intent to do us harm. They came across our borders illegally. Three hundred and fifty-eight of them crossed the Northern border into New York. Not all of them, into New York, but some of them came through New York. There is arm smuggling across the Canadian border into New York, and you are shielding these people.

Are you aware that if just one-half of one percent of the estimated 15 million—14.7 million to be exact—that came into our country illegally during the Biden Administration, if just one-half of one percent are tied to criminal organizations or terrorists organizations, that that constitutes more than the combined active duty forces of the Army and Marines? Does that not strike you as something that should be of great concern to us?

Governor HOCHUL. Since you raised New York, I would like to answer.

Mr. PALMER. Are you aware?

Governor HOCHUL. We cooperate fully with all investigations, particularly terrorists.

Mr. PALMER. Well, how do you know if they are terrorists?

Governor HOCHUL. And you cannot say “9/11” and not invoke incredible emotion for us.

Mr. PALMER. How do you know, Governor Hochul, that they are terrorists if you do not allow people to be picked up who came here illegally to at least give an account for their presence?

Governor HOCHUL. We say that you should close the border.

Mr. PALMER. How do you know if they are not part of that 400 that we know came in through an ISIS-affiliated human smuggling operation? You do not know. You are not even looking into that.

Governor HOCHUL. You are pointing to an abject failure—

Mr. PALMER. No, I am not.

Governor HOCHUL. [continuing]. Of the Federal Government to do its job to secure our borders.

Mr. PALMER. I am not pointing out at anything. What I am pointing out here is that your sanctuary policies now constitute a threat to our national security.

Governor HOCHUL. We cooperate in all criminal investigations.

Mr. PALMER. You are engaged—

Governor HOCHUL. Always have, always will.

Mr. PALMER [continuing]. In operations against Federal Government attempts to enforce Federal law that I think now constitutes a threat to our national security, and you are in violation of Federal law.

Governor HOCHUL. That is 100 percent false.

Mr. PALMER. And charges for obstruction should be brought against each one of you for doing this. I will leave that up to the Department of Justice. Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The Chair now recognizes Ms. Crockett from Texas.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Chairman?

Ms. CROCKETT. And Mr. Chair?

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Point of order. Point of order. That was intimidation of the witness.

Chairman COMER. Do you have a point of inquiry?

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Yes, I have a point of inquiry.

Chairman COMER. State your point.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Raising the prospect of charges against witnesses is a form of intimidation, is it not?

Mr. PALMER. I strike those words. I strike those words.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Thank you. Thank you, and I withdraw the question. I appreciate it.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Ms. Crockett.

Ms. CROCKETT. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you so much to our governors, and I want to say I apologize. I apologize for the abuse that you are facing in this Committee that is supposed to be about waste, fraud, and abuse, and I also apologize for wasting your time because this is nothing more than political theater. Now again, this Committee is supposed to be about waste, fraud, and abuse. We did not have to have this faux creation of DOGE. The Committee itself, that is our job. So, what I want to talk about is something that the American people may want to know, which is economically, how is this impacting them, these failed immigration policies that are only put on so that they can have a show because we have a reality show President who seemingly still believes that this is all about TV instead of real lives.

So, let me talk about something really quickly because I want to clarify something because I believe that all of you understand the importance of something like tourism. Any of you, are you aware as to whether or not tourism in the United States is anticipated to decrease to the extent that we are estimated to lose \$12.5 billion in international vendor spending in just the year 2025?

Governor HOCHUL. I can answer as a tourism capital of the country.

Ms. CROCKETT. I assume you could.

Governor HOCHUL. Tourism is already down. It is down in the North Country where the Canadians refuse to come over because of the hostility toward their country. It is happening in New York City. It is happening at our sporting events, our theater. There is a ripple effect throughout our entire economy because of the change in attitude that our country, that once welcomed people from all over the world to visit and recreate and to live here, now feels like a very hostile place to them. It is going to have an economic impact on our bottom line, without a doubt.

Ms. CROCKETT. So, let us talk about it a little bit more. So, I am supposed to have a number of FIFA games in Dallas, and I am fully anticipating that we are going to have a problem because I have been receiving phone calls that people do not feel safe coming here. And it is not the immigrants, it is this government that is making them feel unsafe. But let me also do this, because they love to cherry pick. They can find any one person that has been killed, and if they have been killed by an immigrant, then god darn it, every single immigrant is going out and they are killers, and that is the problem, but they do not want to talk about white supremacy. I do not know how many hearings we going to have about the

fact that there has been this one immigrant that killed this one person.

And, no, I am not excusing any killings by them or white supremacists, but they have not had these hearings. We did not have a hearing on Buffalo and what happened there. We did not have a hearing on El Paso and what happened there. We did not have a hearing on Charleston and what happened there. So, it is interesting that they pick and choose because it seems like they love to pal around with the white supremacists, and so they do not want to talk about certain other things, but economically, I want to make sure that we are making this point again because I know that, Governor Pritzker, you are the beneficiary of a lot of things from the State of Texas. A lot of people believe that Republicans are fiscally responsible, but instead, they are actually fiscally irresponsible because what he spent was a whopping \$221 million transporting people from Texas to your state. Something tells me that he could have done something else with that \$221 million.

In addition to that, I know that there has been some conversations about what is going on in LA, and they want to say that it is riots because they did not want people to keep talking about, say, the Epstein files or whatever other drama was popping off between the President and his little friend. So, they wanted to change the conversation to immigration because they feel like, well, the polling is in our benefit, but let me tell you something. If they cared about making sure we were going to be fiscally responsible, they would tell the American people that it cost them \$134 million to send the National Guard to LA for the "riots" that the governor did not ask for, nor did the mayor of LA ask for, and they sent them over there. And they say that they care about our service members, yet they sent them and they were laying on the floor. They did not provide for food. So, I do not know why we would believe that, number one, they want to fix this. They do not want to fix this because the brokenness is a feature, not a flaw of the system because it is beneficial to them when it comes to campaigning. If they cannot stoke fear, then why are they going to, say, have anybody vote for them because that is what people are doing. They are voting out of fear.

But Ms. Perryman, we know each other a little well, and I know you got a law degree, and it seems like we all need law degrees in here nowadays to understand the Constitution. So, really briefly, I just want to make this point. There is a certain person that was afforded, say, due process, but let us say if, say, Donald Trump had been charged with all of these cases that he got charged with in four different jurisdictions, if he was not afforded due process, there could have been a possibility that he just would have been locked up and thrown somewhere, right?

Ms. PERRYMAN. That would be a possibility.

Ms. CROCKETT. And then maybe we would not have a tariff war, or anything else that we are dealing with, or all the other nonsense. But the point is he was afforded due process, and regardless of the political opposition, Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, I thought, believe that due process should be afforded to everybody, even him.

Ms. PERRYMAN. Due process is for everyone.

Ms. CROCKETT. Okay. So, the Fifth Amendment does not say that it is just for the people that are Americans?

Ms. PERRYMAN. It does not.

Ms. CROCKETT. It says anybody on our soil?

Ms. PERRYMAN. It is for everyone.

Ms. CROCKETT. Okay. It is pretty simple. I do not know why we are having issues, but I thank you, and I will yield.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Dr. Gosar—oh, before I recognize Dr. Gosar, Mr. Palmer has a unanimous consent request.

Mr. PALMER. To enter into the record, testimony before, actually before a subcommittee of Oversight and Government Reform, Subcommittee on Federal Law Enforcement, from Joseph M. Humire, who is——

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Chair, I have a unanimous consent.

Chairman COMER. Okay. Ms. Tlaib.

Ms. TLAIB. Can I please issue to the record a statement from Senators Chang, Cavanagh, Santana and Bayer, in response to the ICE detention and deportation of Maykol Bogoya-Duarte?

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Now, the Chair recognizes Dr. Gosar from Arizona.

Mr. GOSAR. Governors, good afternoon.

Voices. Good afternoon.

Mr. GOSAR. Would you agree that good process builds good policy, builds good politics? Pretty normal, right? Would you agree, Governor Pritzker?

Governor PRITZKER. Yes, sir.

Mr. GOSAR. How about you, Governor?

Governor WALZ. I would agree, Congressman.

Mr. GOSAR. Governor Hochul.

Governor HOCHUL. I would agree with that.

Mr. GOSAR. Good. Now, would you support the disclosure of Federal fundings to nonprofits either directly or indirectly? Governor Pritzker.

Governor PRITZKER. Federal funding of nonprofits, just generally? There is, actually, nonprofits do report their——

Mr. GOSAR. Well, they do kind of, because we do not get that. That is all blocked out, okay? But you cannot make good decisions if you do not have that. Would you agree?

Governor PRITZKER. All of it is available, as I understand, publicly, yes.

Mr. GOSAR. Okay. Now I am going to quote U.S. Supreme Court associate justice, Louis Brandeis. He said, “In a government of laws, existence of the government will be imperiled if it fails to observe and uphold the law scrupulously. Our government is potent, the omnipresent teacher for good or for ill. It teaches the whole people by its example. If the government becomes a lawbreaker, it invites contempt for the law. It invites every man to become a law unto himself. It invites anarchy.” Governor Pritzker, do you agree with Louis Brandeis on this quote? How about you, Governor Walz?

Governor PRITZKER. I do. It is what the President Trump has done, though.

Mr. GOSAR. Oh, I am going to get to that.



Governor PRITZKER. He is the one who has broken the law and the U.S. Government.

Mr. GOSAR. Governor Hochul.

Governor HOCHUL. We follow all the laws, Federal and State.

Mr. GOSAR. Okay. So, why would I ask you about nonprofits financing and this quote from Louise Brandeis? What if I were to present you evidence that U.S. citizens and even foreign citizens on foreign soil were coaching illegal aliens had bypass U.S. immigration law? Now, let me remind you, as soon as an alien crosses the border illegally, they become criminals under the Federal law. Governors with sanctuary policies blatantly ignore the Supremacy Clause, as Mr. Palmer expressed, of the U.S. Constitution, and it circumvents Federal immigration laws to harbor criminals. As of July 2024, under the Biden-Harris Administration, there were over 660,000 illegal aliens with criminal histories in the United States, but I am talking about everyone, not just criminals, once you violate the law by entering our country illegally. Let me be clear, you are aiding and abetting criminal illegal aliens, which is a felony under Title 8 U.S. Code 1324, punishable up to 20 years in prison or life in prison, or even the death penalty, seems kind of weird, but if aiding and abetting results in someone's death, which this Committee and all Americans know has happened. Wouldn't you want to even err on the aspect of caution? I would. I really would.

Now, Governor Hochul, do you like nature, and do you consider yourself a conservationist? I do. I am one of those.

Governor HOCHUL. I am particularly fond of New York State's great State Parks, so, yes, of course I love nature.

Mr. GOSAR. Good. So, why would you allow illegal aliens to destroy a National Park Service land at Floyd Bennett Field? Yes, I was there. I got to see it all, but, I mean, even putting people in that process. Well?

Governor HOCHUL. I would hardly call it a park. It was a place that people used to train for military exercises, but—

Mr. GOSAR. But you know what? Somebody founded it as a park, right, did they not? It is considered a national park. It is a park. Okay.

Governor HOCHUL. Technically, it is under the Department of Interior.

Mr. GOSAR. Okay. Governor Walz, do you know the estimated size of milligram, of two milligrams?

Governor WALZ. I think generally, yes.

Mr. GOSAR. You can barely see. It is the tip of a pencil, sharpened pencil at that, and that is a lethal dose of fentanyl, which your running mate, Harris', open border policies welcomed to the United States. Similarly, your sanctuary policies are playing games with American lives. Do the millions of lives lost to fentanyl constitute an all-out all assault on our broken borders? They do. Yes or no, do you support tribal communities, Governor Walz?

Governor WALZ. Do I support tribal communities?

Mr. GOSAR. Yes.

Governor WALZ. Under PL 280? Yes, I certainly do.

Mr. GOSAR. I do. Okay. What about the transnational criminal cartels trafficking drugs and people across the tribal lands? This is epidemic. Epidemic. So, I am going to finish up by this. Governors,

this is my promise to you. I will work tirelessly with President Trump to secure the border, build the wall, stop the fatal fentanyl into our Nation, and I will see that you are held accountable for the violations of our crimes against the people of the United States. Our immigration system is not broken. We just needed somebody like Donald Trump to uphold the rules of law. I pray for the safety of our immigration ICE officers and all the officers, and I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back. Ms. Crockett has a unanimous consent request.

Ms. CROCKETT. Yes, Mr. Chair. I would like to submit a unanimous consent request for—this is from the *Alabama Reflector*. It says, “Study says undocumented immigrants paid almost \$100 billion in taxes.”

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Ms. CROCKETT. And my second one is from *Reuters*, “White supremacists behind over 80 percent of extremism-related U.S. murders in 2022.”

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Now I recognize Mr. Lynch.

Mr. LYNCH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I also have a couple of unanimous consent requests. The first is from *Law and Crime Magazine*: “Judge rebukes Department of Justice explanation for ignoring a court order.”

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. LYNCH. The subhead is, “The government again evaded its obligations. The judge upbraids the Trump Administration’s woefully and insufficient explanation for flouting his court order.”

The second one is from *NBC News*, “Trump administration’s threat to suspend core U.S. legal right sparks outcry and alarm.”

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

The Chair now recognizes Ms. Pressley from Massachusetts.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Thank you to our Democratic Governors for being here today. This hearing is an utter and complete waste of your time. It is a waste of taxpayer dollars. Republicans have called you here alleging that you are circumventing Federal law. You are not, but you know who is the poster child who is violating Federal law daily? The current occupant of the Oval Office, Donald J. Trump. To make matters worse, these hardworking governors had to leave their states to be here in a moment when their work is incredibly difficult because Donald J. Trump and his accomplices and co-conspirators, who, by the way, Donald Trump does not give a damn about your constituents, and he does not give a damn about you. He does not even respect the seat you hold in Congress is a co-equal branch of government. But Donald Trump and his accomplices, many of whom are in this room, are hellbent, what you want your legacy to be is tearing food away from our babies and medical care from our elders.

These Democratic governors have to stand in the gap and figure out how to stretch budgets and modify programs to keep their constituents fed and alive. Constituents like this precious little soul that I wish I did not have to leave to come be here, Layla, who drew me this rainbow, a 5-year-old who lives with a rare liver disease, had a successful liver transplant at Boston Medical Center.

Thank God she is thriving today, but Layla will need immunosuppressant drugs for the rest of her life that are paid for by Medicaid, and without Medicaid, well, I shudder to think what might happen to Layla. But for sure, her family will at least go bankrupt trying to do everything to keep their baby alive. That is what these governors, that is the situation that they have been put in because of your big ass ugly bill and if it comes to pass, and they are dealing with the fallout of this White House pulling Federal grants recklessly, grown men throwing temper tantrums. So, again, let me be plain: the Trump Administration is breaking the law, not these Democratic governors.

Ms. Perryman, how many legal challenges is the Trump Administration currently facing?

Ms. PERRYMAN. I believe there are over 300 right now.

Ms. PRESSLEY. And Ms. Perryman, can you explain how litigation like this has helped to shield and defend vulnerable communities?

Ms. PERRYMAN. Absolutely. Without our courts upholding the rule of law and upholding the rights of people, right now, there could be Federal funds frozen across the country that would endanger things like Head Start and Meals on Wheels and community safety programs, including community safety programs that help prosecutors and help law enforcement in states and communities across the country. The Administration has terminated over \$800 million in Office of Justice program grants that we are having to challenge in court, and the list goes on and on and on.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Thank you, Ms. Perryman. Thank you for your good work. That is right. In case after case, the media might not want you to know, but we are winning. Trump tried to end birth-right citizenship: blocked. He tried to shut down asylum: blocked. He tried to defund cities: blocked. And because we are winning in court, Republicans are trying to change the rules to rig the system. Tucked in the big, ugly bill the Republicans voted for is a provision, section 70302, titled, Restriction on Enforcement, that would restrict the judiciary from enforcing court orders and holding government officials accountable. This is an intentional and deliberate attempt to undermine the courts so that the Trump Administration can break the law with impunity. Republicans, Ms. Perryman, pretend to care about law and order, but this provision is the exact opposite. What message does this send to people who count on the courts to protect their rights?

Ms. PERRYMAN. It suggests that the people that voted for the bill do not want the American people protected and that they do not want them to access their courts and access the ability to protect their rights.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Do not want the American people protected. That part. Allegedly all in the name of law and order and safety. This is about nothing but power and control and abuse of power and terror, which makes everyone less safe, the shame and the sham of it all. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Grothman from Wisconsin.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Thank you. Glad to see we have three governors here. I hear a lot about Illinois being from Wisconsin. I just had some, I think, some builders in my office yesterday talking about

all the Illinois people building houses and in Southern Wisconsin to get out of Illinois.

In any event, I think we have a very generous country here. Right now, every year, another eight million new citizens are sworn in, naturalized in this country. I think we have about another 500,000 people coming in this country on work visas and a little under that coming in on student visas. So, we are very generous about allowing people in this country. I should have said 850,000 new people sworn in. In any event, really, it is not impossible to get here illegally. Nevertheless, we have a lot of people every year overstaying visas or still sneaking across the border, and the question I am going to ask you guys and gal is, do you believe we should have immigration laws in this country? I guess we will go right down the line. Governor Walz.

Governor WALZ. Congressman, the question is should we have immigration laws?

Mr. GROTHMAN. Yes, that is it.

Governor WALZ. Yes, we should.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Governor Pritzker.

Governor PRITZKER. They are very important. In fact, we should have more robust immigration in this country, and it should be done under a law.

Mr. GROTHMAN. And Ms. Hochul.

Governor HOCHUL. Yes, of course we should have immigration law.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Okay.

Governor HOCHUL. In fact, we do.

Mr. GROTHMAN. The question is, when people come in this country and break those laws, do you believe they should be enforced? Let us say people come in this country, Gulf of Mexico, Pacific Ocean, however they come here. Should they be spun around and sent back out of the country, or should we just allow them to stay here?

Governor WALZ. It depends, Congressman, if they are coming on an asylum claim, protected status.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Exact question. Assuming they come on an asylum claim and that claim has been rejected, should they be allowed to stay here?

Governor WALZ. If the judge denies their asylum claim, no, they should not. They should not be able to.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Governor Pritzker. If someone is overstaying—we will say it a different way—overstaying their, say, work visa, a student visa, should they be allowed to stay here, or should they be removed?

Governor PRITZKER. Given due process, sir.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Should they be removed?

Governor PRITZKER. Due process is required, yes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Okay. Governor Hochul.

Governor HOCHUL. Yes, agree. Following due process, the Federal Government has the authority to make those removals. It has nothing to do with—

Mr. GROTHMAN. I will ask you, should people who are here illegally get welfare benefits, Governor Walz? I would add food

stamps, low-income housing? Should they get assistance that would be here?

Governor WALZ. Yes. We provide for all of our people in Minnesota. It is one of the reasons——

Mr. GROTHMAN. Okay. So, your statement is that if somebody comes here, say, on an asylum claim, whatever, they should be able to get low-income housing benefits, almost free rent, free food, free healthcare. That is what you believe?

Governor WALZ. I believe in states' rights. In some states, they do.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Well, I know that. That is what you believe we should do. Okay. Governor Pritzker.

Governor PRITZKER. It is the Federal Government's job to determine what welfare benefits at the Federal level, and I can say to you that we have hundreds of thousands of people in the State of Illinois who are undocumented but have been living, abiding by the law, holding down a job, paying taxes for years and years and years.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Okay. Do you believe it is right then that if they come here, they should get free housing, free medical care, free food?

Governor PRITZKER. It depends on the circumstances. I am just explaining to you, though, that we have millions of people across the United States who were here and were here long before you got elected or I got elected.

Mr. GROTHMAN. No, I know all that. I mean, the question is you do not have a problem with them getting these benefits.

Governor PRITZKER. Again, law-abiding, tax paying. We are talking about people who are adding to our society.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Okay. I will take it to be, well, not if they are not working, but either way, you have no problem giving them those benefits.

Governor PRITZKER. We provide benefits to people all across——

Mr. GROTHMAN. Okay. Ms. Hochul, is that the same thing with you? Do you believe people who come here who are not citizens, come here make asylum claim, they should all be getting food, healthcare, housing?

Governor HOCHUL. Depending on which law you are referring to. In certain circumstances, we do provide these services, but they are not universal.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Okay. Well, do most people, your average person who is overstaying a student visa in New York, do you think they should be getting food stamps, housing, medical care?

Governor HOCHUL. We provide Medicaid for individuals who are senior citizens or moms with new babies.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Well, the question is people who are not citizens who are overstaying a student or work visa, should they be eligible?

Governor HOCHUL. People are making their own way here in the State of New York. In fact, I have 400,000 open jobs. I wish you could help them find a path——

Mr. GROTHMAN. You are not answering the question.

Governor HOCHUL. My task——

Mr. GROTHMAN. I take it to mean——

Governor HOCHUL. Give us more work authorizations.

Mr. GROTHMAN. I just want you to answer the question.

Governor HOCHUL. Let us put them to work. Let us put them to work.

Mr. GROTHMAN. You refuse to answer the question. If somebody is otherwise eligible for low-income housing or food stamps or medical care in New York, do you believe they should be entitled to those benefits as Americans?

Governor HOCHUL. There is not a blanket answer to that. It depends on which provision of the social services law. In some cases, it is allowed. In some cases, it is not.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Okay. Thank you.

The Chair recognizes Ms. Simon from Arizona.

Ms. SIMON. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I would hope that I am also able to go over my time.

Chairman COMER. I am sorry, California.

Ms. SIMON. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and as my colleague did, I hope I am allowed to also go over my time by approximately 45 seconds.

Chairman COMER. Well, I have been very fair. Mr. Frost went over a minute and a half.

Ms. SIMON. Okay. I am just asking. Thank you. I appreciate that, sir. I just wanted to make—

Chairman COMER. I did not say you could, but you can go ahead.

Ms. SIMON. I just want to make sure that I have a fair opportunity to also speak as an individual of this body.

Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you Ranking Member Lynch. I am so honored to be here today and having this really important conversation.

We have talked about victim advocacy in this place. Actually, I was a victim advocate, was at 8133 in San Francisco for many years, and had to sit with families who buried their folks, and sitting, literally figuring out how to mend together obituaries. I have worked with young people who have been victims of gun violence and, literally, have had to scrub blood off the streets. There is nothing that anyone can say to a family—I get it—that is grieving. We have a lot of work to do, not just here in this country, but around the world to deter violence. I come from a state, the fourth largest economy in the world with the best higher public education system in this country. In fact, at California Berkeley, we lead some of the research that are keeping folks here and your relatives alive. Those labs and that research is being attacked by this Administration, but I digress.

I have a number of questions today, but this hearing has been so difficult. Not only was I a victim advocate for many years, working with folks who had witnessed and who had been victimized by rape, by murder. I also led the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights of the San Francisco Bay Area that was founded by JFK, and our asylum clinic honored, it honored the work of this country by supporting folks who came here, escaping tyranny and violence, to just be met by an immigration system day after day that has spat in their face. I am thankful to both members of the private bar and our community lawyers who are doing their American duty by supporting people who are leaving tyranny.

I have actually one question. I am concerned that we are deflating the conversation around public safety. It is my understanding that the current Administration, and this question goes to you, Ms. Perryman, has deducted or stopped payments of upwards of a billion dollars in local public safety funding around the country. With my time remaining, can you talk to us a little bit about this very hypocritical moment in time where we are uplifting public safety, and yet we are taking resources away from communities, police departments, community safety leaders, and organizations that are taking guns out of kids' hands. Give us a little bit of the flavor. Talk about what money has been taken away from communities under this Administration.

Ms. PERRYMAN. Since January, the Administration has abruptly terminated a range of funding and grants for community programs across the country, including grants under the Office of Justice programs, which was obviously a law that President Reagan signed. And there has been over \$800 million grants and funding that have been abruptly terminated that we are having to litigate right now. They have also cutoff funding for programs that help lawyers and law enforcement become trained in what they are doing in communities across the country to keep people safe. And then I know that one of the colleagues mentioned terrorism, and as part of the Administration's broader Federal funding freeze that we had to block in the first weeks of this Administration that remains blocked by a Federal court, officials from states like Arizona and Oregon swore out declarations in court talking about the risk to counterterrorism funding that they were concerned about with respect to this Administration's Federal funding freeze. Those are just some examples. Our team is literally in court every single day.

Ms. SIMON. Ms. Perryman, so would you say, is it of your knowledge that police chiefs, their grants have been frozen?

Ms. PERRYMAN. Yes, many, many people and community safety programs.

Ms. SIMON. And so, taking away literally upwards of a billion dollars in local public safety funding from around the country, including violence provision and gun safety, programs, would you say this Administration is making us more safe or less safe?

Ms. PERRYMAN. Less safe.

Ms. SIMON. Any members, any other governors? I have a few seconds.

Governor PRITZKER. We have programs that we work with the Federal Government, between cities, law enforcement, and Federal Government law enforcement that are being torn apart, drug task forces are gang task forces, gun task forces. This is making us less safe.

Ms. SIMON. Grants for rape kits and rape investigations, the disassembling of the Department of Education, including the Office of Civil Rights that investigated rape and sexual assault on college campuses decimated. I would agree that our Administration is making us less safe. Thank you, and I yield back. Thank you, Chairman, for the extra time.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Perry from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Sad to say I am disappointed today, but Governors, Ms. Perryman, welcome to the House of Representatives. Great to have you here and hear about your thoughts and views on things.

Governor PRITZKER, you said, I think, numerous times now that the President broke the law. You are an attorney, right? Northwestern, is that where you went to law school?

Governor PRITZKER. Congressman, yes, sir.

Mr. PERRY. So, just can you cite which law in this regard he has broken?

Governor PRITZKER. Well, there have been congressionally approved appropriations that this President has cutoff, and we have had to go to court. That is illegal. We have had to go to court to have it reinstated.

Mr. PERRY. It is illegal?

Governor PRITZKER. It is illegal.

Mr. PERRY. If you have to go to court, it is illegal?

Governor PRITZKER. Yes.

Mr. PERRY. And it is still working its way through the courts, right?

Governor PRITZKER. Yes, but things have been ruled on already.

Mr. PERRY. Okay. So, it is not illegal yet. It is your opinion, but regarding—

Governor PRITZKER. When a judge rules on it—

Mr. PERRY. Okay.

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. That is the law, okay?

Mr. PERRY. It is the law at that moment until the next judge rules on it, okay? Right, because you understand the courts.

Governor PRITZKER. If another judge—

Mr. PERRY. You are the attorney here, I am not, but you are not saying he broke the law regarding the riots in Los Angeles right now, or are you saying that?

Governor PRITZKER. That has not been ruled upon yet, so.

Mr. PERRY. But are you saying he broke the law in that regard or not?

Governor PRITZKER. I believe that he did, but that is not what I am referring to.

Mr. PERRY. Okay. You are not referring to that.

Governor PRITZKER. No, I just told you there are appropriations—

Mr. PERRY. Okay. All right. I just want to clear about that.

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. Congressional appropriations have been cut off.

Mr. PERRY. Because the implication, because of what this hearing is about, is that you are saying that he broke the law regarding the mobilization in Los Angeles, and you are not saying that. I want to make that clear. You are not saying that.

Governor PRITZKER. What he is doing is overstepping his authority, and we are going to court.

Mr. PERRY. Oh, Okay. So, okay.

Governor PRITZKER. And we are backing—

Mr. PERRY. So, let me ask a couple questions because I want to go through a little—

Governor PRITZKER. Yes.



Mr. PERRY [continuing]. Walk down memory lane here in history for you. In 1794, George Washington mobilized the military. Are you familiar with the Whiskey Rebellion?

Governor PRITZKER. Yes, sir.

Mr. PERRY. Okay. So, Washington is beyond his scope? Did he overstep?

Governor PRITZKER. What about inciting riots on January 6—

Mr. PERRY. I am just asking if he did. We are talking—

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. At the Capitol, right, this building.

Mr. PERRY. Sir. Sir.

Governor PRITZKER. Well, you are asking.

Mr. PERRY. I am asking—you are saying he is breaking the law.

Governor PRITZKER. Yes, he has broken the law, and he is breaking the law.

Mr. PERRY. Governor Hochul, you are also an attorney. How about Abraham Lincoln, 1862? Did he do it?

Governor HOCHUL. The abuse of power is an overreach into the responsibility of states—

Mr. PERRY. Okay. Okay. How about Dwight Eisenhower? Did he do it when he mobilized?

Governor HOCHUL. In situations where you are overruling—

Mr. PERRY. John Kennedy. John Kennedy.

Governor HOCHUL. If you seriously do not want an answer for me, I will not even bother.

Mr. PERRY. Twice, John F. Kennedy. How about Lyndon Johnson, 1965 and 1967 and 1968. You are saying that is against the law what the President is now doing. You are the attorneys here, and I am not talking to Governor Walz here because he is not an attorney. He called himself a knucklehead, so I am leaving him out of this right now. Are you guys familiar with Sections 251 through 255, Title 10 of the U.S. Code?

Governor HOCHUL. The conditions under which a President may usurp the authority of a governor in activating the National Guard is under an invasion or an insurrection. I would argue that neither one of those standards has been met.

Mr. PERRY. Governor Hochul, I would refer you to Section 253. I am not going to bore everybody with reading it for you, but you are wrong, and to accuse the President, quite honestly, that is the least that you have accused him of. Also, in this room, he has been accused of being a dictator, maybe not by you, and if you are willing to say he is not one, we would love to hear it, but also that the law enforcement agents are Nazis with Gestapo-like tactics. Governor Walz, you mentioned that in a commencement speech.

Now, I am going to ask the three of you this. 8 CFR 287.7. It arises from the Secretary's power under Section 103(a)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, the INA. So does Sections 236, 241, 287, are those things laws that should be followed and enforced? Are you okay with those things being laws and enforced or not?

Governor HOCHUL. Federal immigration laws are designed to be enforced by the Federal Government.

Mr. PERRY. So, you are okay. You are okay with that, each one of you.

Governor HOCHUL. The state cooperates——

Governor WALZ. I do not know what you read. I do not have that in front of me.

Mr. PERRY. These are laws, Governor Walz, that are on the books, the Immigration and Nationalities Act, and those are sections of them, as is 8 U.S.C. 1226(A), 8 U.S.C. 1357(a)(2), 8 U.S.C. 1357(a)(4), 8 U.S.C. 1357(a)(5).

Mr. LYNCH. Would the gentlemen provide copies of that for that witnesses? If you are going to cite a law, you provide a copy for the witnesses, typically.

Chairman COMER. Out of order. Mr. Perry.

Mr. PERRY. Two of these governors are attorneys, sir. I am not. They should know this and I should not. Let us just assume that these are laws. Let us just assume I am not lying to you, that these are laws on the books right now. Are you okay with them being enforced?

Governor WALZ. You might be asking us a lot. Governors do not get to deal in hypotheticals, so.

Mr. PERRY. Okay. So, putting myself aside.

Governor WALZ. As long as you realize that.

Mr. PERRY. These are laws. These are current laws on the books regarding immigration and naturalization.

Governor PRITZKER. We abide by all of those laws.

Mr. PERRY. You abide by all these laws?

Governor PRITZKER. We abide by Federal law.

Mr. PERRY. Okay.

Governor PRITZKER. We abide by state law.

Mr. PERRY. Governor Hochul, do you abide?

Governor HOCHUL. We follow all state and Federal laws.

Mr. PERRY. Governor Walz, do you abide?

Governor WALZ. We abide by all laws.

Mr. PERRY. Is there any ICE detainer that you will reject, that you will instruct your law enforcement community or corrections facilities and enforcement community in your states to reject, any one for any reason, a legal ICE detainer under the laws that I just cited?

Governor WALZ. Every jurisdiction in Minnesota follows the law.

Mr. PERRY. Every single one?

Chairman COMER. And the gentleman's time has expired, but feel free to answer the question, Governor Walz.

Mr. PERRY. Governor Pritzker.

Governor WALZ. We follow all laws, state——

Mr. PERRY. But you do not. That is my point, that you do not.

Governor WALZ. In Minnesota, there is——

Mr. PERRY. I want you to say you will because we hope you will, but you actually do not and you have not——

Governor WALZ. But the courts——

Mr. PERRY [continuing]. Which is why we have this horrific mess.

Governor WALZ. The courts will determine that.

Mr. PERRY. I yield.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman, can we allow the witness to answer? That would be great. Thanks.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Ms. Ansari from Arizona.

Ms. ANSARI. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you so much, Governors, Governors for being here. I am the proud daughter of immigrants who fled an authoritarian regime, and it is especially devastating as a first-generation American to watch Donald Trump's reckless, cruel, and radical policies transform this country into an authoritarian regime.

Mr. Perry just mocked us for referring to Donald Trump as a dictator, so let us run through the list. Donald Trump has, since he was inaugurated, pardoned violent January 6 insurrectionists: dictator; defied Supreme Court orders and attacked the judiciary: dictator; unilaterally abolished congressionally chartered Federal agencies: dictator; attacked the free press: sounds like a dictator; kidnapped people off of the streets and deported them to foreign prisons without due process: sounds like a dictator; defunded higher education: dictator; threatened law firms and the legal profession: dictator. This weekend he is spending tens of millions of dollars to host a massive military parade for his birthday. Like, is this North Korea?

On top of all of that, our twice-impeached President, with a 34-count convicted felony President who is not a king, has deployed the active-duty military in American cities, and he has spent \$134 million to do so. He has their guns trained on American citizens without the consent of local authorities or the state's governor to purposefully generate chaos and provoke a reaction. Meanwhile, we have Republicans on this side of the aisle asking governors of states about bathrooms. Like, this is the most dystopian, horrific episode of "Black Mirror" that I have ever seen.

To our witnesses, the governors, thank you so much for being here today. I agree with my colleagues who say this is a waste of your time. You have been instrumental in fighting back against cruel and illegal Trump Administration actions. I represent an extremely diverse district, one of the most diverse in the country where more than 64 languages are spoken. I can tell you that the actions of this Administration toward immigrants and immigrant communities is a blatant abuse of power, but, more importantly, these steps are harming our economy and our national security, so I want to ask you a little bit about that.

Governor Walz, can you share the ways in which immigrants contribute economically to your state?

Governor WALZ. Well, thank you, Congresswoman. Well, there is no aspect in Minnesota life that they are not involved, whether it is economically in the impact that they make, whether it is involved in the arts and the culture that Minnesota is very proud of, whether they are in higher professions—medical students, engineers—and Minnesota is proud to have an immigrant heritage. We set on the land of the Dakota and the Anishinaabe, and all the rest of us came through via immigration, and so the impact is widespread. It is intertwined. It may have been the Norwegians and the Swedes, then the Hmong and the Somalis, but it is the same story: coming to America for a chance to start and then contribute to a better state.

Ms. ANSARI. Thank you so much, Governor Walz, and, in fact, according to the American Community Survey, immigrants paid \$382 billion in Federal taxes and \$196.3 billion in state and local taxes

in 2022. Undocumented immigrants using individual tax identification numbers paid \$59.4 billion in Federal and \$13.6 billion in state and local taxes in 2022. Governor Pritzker, you recently called immigrants the anchors of their communities. How does Donald Trump's mass deportation project harm the security of your state and instill fear throughout Illinois communities?

Governor PRITZKER. Thank you very much, Congresswoman. Let me be clear: the Homan raids that occurred in the first week of the Trump Administration drove people into hiding. It ruined the entire area of commerce for our Mexican-American community where people who were documented, people who are citizens, actually, had to go into hiding because they know people that are undocumented. They did not want to get picked up and having to talk about somebody that they know that is undocumented. You could see it was a ghost town. It was a ghost town.

We have had people who are working, I am talking about for decades, who have raised families, who are paying taxes in my state, who have had to flee, and these are good people. These are our neighbors. These are people that are bringing culture and art to our communities, people that should be given an opportunity if we had good immigration laws to apply, to stay legally in this country, and maybe to become U.S. citizens. Indeed, many of them have proven themselves to be maybe more worthy than some people who are already U.S. citizens. Let us give them an opportunity.

So, I can tell you that it is had a profoundly negative impact on my state that Donald Trump has been attacking people who are not the problem. If you are talking about terrorists, and one of the Congressmen mentioned that, let us go after terrorists. Let us know who they are. We will go arrest a terrorist any day of the week, every day of the week.

Ms. ANSARI. Governor Hochul, if you could also answer.

Governor HOCHUL. I am very proud to represent the state that has the Statue of Liberty in our harbor, millions of migrants and immigrants who have passed through, including my own grandparents. My grandfather was a migrant farm worker. They are an important part of our identity, our economy. The diversity of New York is what sets us apart and makes us so fascinating and so desirable. For businesses large and small, they are so critical to our identity and our existence, and I am really hurt. It hurts me as the leader of a state where people are living in fear in the shadows. People cannot go to school. They cannot worship. They cannot go get healthcare. They cannot go to their senior center. What is happening has been traumatic. It is unnecessary.

We will help every day of the week to get rid of people who commit crimes that never should have come here or commit crimes here. That is my number one job, but what is happening is un-American.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady's time has expired. The Chair recognizes Mr. Timmons from South Carolina.

Mr. TIMMONS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Governor Hochul, the difference is, is that the millions of Americans that came through Ellis Island did so legally. I will yield to my friend from Georgia, Ms. Green.

Ms. GREENE. Thank you. Governor Hochul, are you a Democrat? Yes or no.

Governor HOCHUL. I am a proud registered Democrat, yes.

Ms. GREENE. Did you support Joe Biden for President? Yes or no.

Governor HOCHUL. Yes, I did.

Ms. GREENE. Did you support the Biden Administration's policies for the past four years?

Governor HOCHUL. I raised my concerns in many meetings with the administration—

Ms. GREENE. That is a yes or no question.

Governor HOCHUL. [continuing]. About how the border was being enforced, and so I raised concerns—

Ms. GREENE. I will reclaim my time. You said you are a proud Democrat. You supported Joe Biden for President. Clearly, you supported the Biden Administration's policies.

Governor HOCHUL. I supported many of them, yes.

Ms. GREENE. Governor Hochul, did you swear an oath to faithfully uphold New York's Constitution and laws?

Governor HOCHUL. I certainly did.

Ms. GREENE. In 2017, New York became a sanctuary state when Governor Cuomo signed Executive Order 170. It directs that "No state officers or employees, including law enforcement officers, shall disclose information to Federal immigration authorities for the purpose of Federal civil immigration enforcement unless required by the law." Do you support this law as Governor of New York?

Governor HOCHUL. Yes. This pertains to civil enforcement.

Ms. GREENE. So, you do enforce sanctuary policies of New York.

Governor HOCHUL. I support helping law enforcement and ICE when it comes to—

Ms. GREENE. Thank you. I reclaim my time. You support sanctuary policies that have led to the horrific murder of people, Americans. *Fox News* got it wrong. It should say "Monster" arrested in broad daylight, rape of a 13-year-old in a New York park. This girl was raped at knife point in the park near New York Mets Stadium. That is your state, Governor Hochul. *New York Post* also got it wrong and called him a "Migrant"—that is a monster—"busted in brutal beating of NYPD cops in Times Square are members of bloodthirsty 'Tren de Aragua' gangs." That is your state where you support your sanctuary state laws. Also, Governor Hochul, do you recognize this image—

Governor HOCHUL. Yes.

Ms. GREENE [continuing]. Where a homeless woman was burned alive by an illegal alien monster where you uphold the laws to protect these monsters in your state, and then you force the New York citizens that pay taxes to pay for these people. This is the result of your sick and disgusting, treasonous laws that you uphold as governor.

Governor HOCHUL. New York is not a sanctuary state for criminals.

Ms. GREENE. I did not recognize you, Ms. Hochul. This was my time. Do you know the name Laken Riley? Do you know the name Laken Riley?

Governor HOCHUL. Yes, I do. Yes, I do.

Ms. GREENE. Oh, you do. Jose Ibarra murdered 22-year-old Laken Riley. He is an illegal alien monster from Venezuela, convicted of ten charges. He was first arrested by the Biden Administration that you stated that you support. Joe Biden for President, right? Proud Democrat, Governor Hochul. First arrested at the border and released by the Democrats that you support, then guess what? He made it to New York because the Biden Administration flew illegals all over the country, and your state was one that accepted him. He lived at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Queens, an upscale hotel that was turned into an illegal alien shelter at the taxpayers' expense. Two million dollars a month went to this hotel. The second time he was arrested was in the State of New York for endangering a child, but he was released quickly before ICE could even issue a detainer because you support those laws, Governor Hochul.

Then he flew—get this, this is shocking—he flew from the State of New York to my home state in Georgia, and you all paid for it because, why? Because it was reticketing, and that was the little gift that you were giving my state by sending monsters there. Cost the State of New York \$5 to \$10 million a day to feed and house. Are you smiling at me about this?

Governor HOCHUL. No, I am not.

Ms. GREENE. You look like you got quite a smile on your face.

Governor HOCHUL. No.

Ms. GREENE. Because I can tell—

Mr. LYNCH. The gentlelady will not—

Ms. GREENE. This is my time. Reclaiming my time.

Chairman COMER. Yes, order.

Mr. LYNCH. Do not attack the witness.

Governor HOCHUL. I am thinking about—

Mr. LYNCH. Do not attack the witness.

Ms. GREENE. Don't you dare smile about the murder of Laken Riley.

Governor HOCHUL. I am thinking about her parents. Do not question how I look.

Ms. GREENE. The time Jose Ibarra—

Governor HOCHUL. My heart is breaking for her parents.

Ms. GARCIA. My time, Governor Hochul. The third time he was arrested was in the sanctuary city of Athens, another Democrat policy, and then he went on and attempted to rape Laken Riley and murdered her. He murdered her. Let me explain something to you. Let me explain something to you. This little girl right here, she would be alive today if you were not such a treasonous governor supporting sanctuary laws in the State of New York. This little girl would be alive today, and her mother very much would like for her to be alive. This is outrageous for anybody—anybody—in this country to support for noncitizens to be able to come in our country, be able to travel wherever they want, and then make taxpayers pay to house them, feed them, and then give them a plane ticket after they had been arrested in their state. That is what you did. You are responsible for the murder of this little girl, Laken Riley. And the Department of Justice should prosecute you for her murder.

Mr. LYNCH. Objection. Objection.

Ms. GREENE. I do not care how much you object.

Mr. LYNCH. Objection.

Ms. GREENE. And if you support it, too, you are responsible for her murder. I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady——

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman, a point of order. Point of order.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady's time has expired.

Mr. LYNCH. I want a point of order.

Chairman COMER. State your point.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman, these witnesses have been here for over four hours. They all voluntarily have been engaging with our Members with respect. They have all treated our Members with respect. Our rules of decorum.

Ms. GREENE. Laken Riley is dead forever. Forever.

Mr. LYNCH. Our rules of decorum.

Chairman COMER. All right.

Ms. GREENE. Forever. They can sit there all day.

Mr. LYNCH. Reclaiming my time.

Chairman COMER. Hold on. Hold on.

Mr. LYNCH. Reclaiming my time.

Chairman COMER. No, wait, wait. State your point.

Mr. LYNCH. I am trying to.

Chairman COMER. No, no.

Mr. LYNCH. Let me do without interruption. Our rules——

Chairman COMER. No, no, it is a point of inquiry, not a debate.

Mr. LYNCH. Our rules——

Chairman COMER. You have had your time.

Mr. LYNCH. If you would let me speak. Our rules of decorum dictate that our witnesses should be treated with respect, and I ask you to enforce decorum and remind Committee Members to treat our witnesses with respect.

Chairman COMER. Our Members are treating the witnesses with respect. This is not a courtroom. We engage with the witnesses, and I think everybody is acting within the realm. We have not cried and screamed when you all are criticizing the current President even though that is in the rules not to criticize——

Mr. LYNCH. Accusing them of treason and breaking the law and how they look? How they look?

Governor HOCHUL. Mr. Chairman?

Chairman COMER. If you win the chairmanship, if you all flip the House, you win the chairmanship, then you can do what Ms. Crockett says she is going to do and try to impeach Trump again or whatever you all are planning.

Governor HOCHUL. Mr. Chairman, is there any chance you would yield me 30 seconds to just respond that we are heartbroken what happened to her family. Laken Riley should be alive today, and I am so sorry for what happened to her, I truly am, what happened, but this has nothing to do with our civil enforcement of the laws. We are always cooperating with criminal investigations. Always have, always will, so misstating our policies is not serving the purpose of making sure we have meaningful policies that will actually move the dime. Why are not we working together to come up with meaningful immigration reform, secure our borders, do vetting at the border? We are simply asking——

Chairman COMER. Wait a minute. Okay, Governor, with all due respect, the policy of the previous Administration was an open border. It was an open border. You all supported that. Now you are saying we need——

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Point of order. Whose time is it?

Chairman COMER. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez, I will recognize you because I, actually, I like you.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Thank you.

[Laughter.]

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate that.

Chairman COMER. The border was opened, and you all said nothing, all right? You said we had to pass legislation. We did not have to pass legislation. Donald Trump secured the border on the first day. Now, there is no question you all have been obstructing and criticizing and failing to work with this Administration in trying to apprehend the criminal illegals. That is what this hearing is about. It is not about theater. It is about trying to get a consensus on working with this Administration to deport the criminal illegals.

Governor HOCHUL. We do it every day of the week, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. Not to defend all the people who are over here illegally. To deport the criminal illegals.

Governor HOCHUL. We do it every day of the week.

Chairman COMER. So, everyone is out of order. I am going to let Ms. Ocasio-Cortez state her point, and then we are going to go to Ro Khanna.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Oh, we can continue. I was just curious whose time it was, but we can proceed. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. All right.

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Chairman, I have a unanimous consent request.

Chairman COMER. Okay.

Ms. ANSARI. I would like to seek unanimous consent to enter into the record this tweet, just happened: “Stunning. Senator Alex Padilla from California was just forcibly removed from the news conference being held by DHS.”

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered. You just have to state that the title. Go ahead.

Ms. ANSARI. This is the title.

Chairman COMER. Mr. Lynch. The Chair recognizes Mr. Lynch.

Mr. LYNCH. All right. Mr. Chairman, I have a unanimous consent request. This is from *MSN*, “Unquestionably in violation: Judge says U.S. Government didn’t follow court order on deportations.”

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. LYNCH. The next one is from *Rolling Stone*. “Trump has now deported multiple U.S. citizens, children with cancer.”

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. LYNCH. This is *New York Times*, “LA deployments of the military to cost \$134 million”——

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. LYNCH [continuing]. “In the last few days.”

And lastly, “Secretary Hegseth won’t commit to obeying the court’s order on Marines in Los Angeles.”

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.



The Chair recognizes Mr. Khanna from California.

Mr. KHANNA. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Governor Pritzker, I have admired your moral clarity during these times. You had a speech about a month and a half ago where you said you would not bend the knee to any President of any party. I highly recommend the American people listen to that speech in its entirety. Professor Chenoweth has said at Harvard that if 3.5 percent of a population engage in peaceful protests, that is the single best way to bring change and stand up for constitutional values. As you know, there is the No Kings protests that are happening this weekend. I would like you to weigh in and share your thoughts about what that could mean for the country.

Governor PRITZKER. Thank you, Congressman, and let me say that peaceful protest has been the avenue for so much positive social change in this country. I think about the Civil Rights Movement as the best example of that, and it continues to be: civil rights for LGBTQ people, civil rights for immigrants, et cetera. I encourage people to peacefully protest, and I have said that many times. I think getting out your microphones and your megaphones, speaking up, speaking out, and very importantly for people who can vote, go to the ballot box and vote. Too many people do not do that, and too many people do not stand up and speak out because they are a little bit afraid. And in this environment, I have to say, President Trump has created a situation where people are afraid. They are afraid, and they are afraid they are going to get targeted because that is what is happening under this Administration. People are getting individually targeted when they stand up and speak out.

Mr. KHANNA. Thank you. Governor Walz, I thought you conducted yourself with such dignity as our vice Presidential candidate. You and Gwen and many of your former colleagues are really proud of how you ran, and one of the things, even people who voted for President Trump, said about you is, he is so decent. He is kind. He deals with people with respect. What is happening in this country that we have started to demonize immigrants? When I grew up in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, it was 99 percent white. I grew up as an Indian American of Hindu faith. I never felt demonized, felt different, made to feel like I did not belong. Something is going on where we have created a permission structure for that. How do we model the kind of decency that you have exhibited so that become a cohesive community like this country has always been?

Governor WALZ. Well, Congressman, thank you for the kind words. I think the people of this country expect us to do that. Look, I think we could all agree these horrific situations that happened that have been highlighted in here, we all hate that, but we also lift up the great success stories. And I will just tell you, Congressman, on Tuesday night at 2 a.m., Minnesota has the most closely divided legislature in the country, 101 to a 100, and we passed bipartisan legislation that kept us with a balanced budget, a Triple A bond rating. We invested in our schools, we invested in our roads, and we did it with civility. We did it with an eye to the future, and we did it, Republicans and Democrats, with the idea that we are a Nation of immigrants, and people simply want to make

sure that if the laws are being asked to be followed, people are given due process.

So, I have to tell you, we have a model. It is our Constitution. We have a model on how to do this, and we have done it before, and I would just encourage all of us to be part of the solution rather than just continue to demonize each other.

Mr. KHANNA. Thank you, Governor. Governor Hochul, I appreciate your speaking out about the Marines being sent into my state. I was horrified. There is just footage today of Senator Padilla being shoved out. I do not know if people have seen it, but he went to ask Secretary Noem a question, and the police literally grabbed the senator and shoved him out of the room. I want to get back to the Marines, though. The fact is that we have a principle called federalism in this country. No one in Los Angeles asked for the Marines. No one in California ask for the Marines. Do people's voices not matter or what we want locally in state way? Tell me how you would feel if Marines were sent into your state or your senators were taken by the fists and pushed out of rooms? What is going on in this country?

Governor HOCHUL. Thank you for the question. It is disturbing at so many levels. I served as a member of the Armed Services Committee when I served in this body years ago, and to think that the Marines are being deployed against fellow citizens, fellow residents, is unprecedented. Now, we have different levels of law enforcement to manage crowds. That is all this is, is a crowd. When it gets out of control, when it is violent, there must be consequences, and that is what the police are trained to do, whether they are Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) or what we have in New York is one of the highest trained organization of top law enforcement people, put their lives on the line every day who know how to deal with crowds and protests and if they devolve into riots. But to go to the extreme of not just the National Guard, which usurps the governor's authority—the governors are the commanders-in-chief of the National Guards—but to go all the way to the U.S. military as an indication that a mayor and a governor cannot handle what is happening in their own streets is overkill at a level that is just unconscionable, and I hope we do not see this in other cities. We need to calm the situation down, get rid of the criminals, we will work together every day, and leave law-abiding individuals alone.

Mr. KHANNA. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Burchett from Tennessee.

Mr. BURCHETT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Governor Walz, you said that as long as you are governor, immigrants will be welcome in Minnesota. Do you find a difference between an immigrant and an illegal immigrant?

Governor WALZ. A difference, their status?

Mr. BURCHETT. Is there a difference, legal status or otherwise?

Governor WALZ. Well, the legal status is different, but in Minnesota, we have a long tradition of welcoming.

Mr. BURCHETT. Okay. ICE in St. Paul arrested a criminal illegal alien who been convicted of possession of child pornography on a

work computer. Do you still stand by your statement that ICE agents are the modern-day Gestapo?

Governor WALZ. ICE agents need to do a job, but they need to do it within the realm of due process and the law. Wearing masks, no notice of who they are, no notice of the vans, and picking people up off the streets without that due process, I stand that that is wrong and a road toward authoritarianism. I certainly stand by that.

Mr. BURCHETT. I have one rule. I have a couple rules in my office, but one of them has never compare anything dealing with the Holocaust except for the Holocaust. I think that it de-sensitizes people about what really went on in Nazi Germany by making any comparisons there. Does Minnesota receive Federal tax dollars for any programs that assist illegal immigrants?

Governor WALZ. Minnesota's Federal tax dollars are appropriated by you, in Congress, and then we use state dollars under our laws.

Mr. BURCHETT. During the Biden Administration, nearly \$1.5 billion was sent to sanctuary states to pay for their illegal immigration policies, housing, and healthcare. Governor Hochul, are crimes committed by illegal aliens preventable, in your opinion?

Governor HOCHUL. Our law enforcement is highly trained in how to identify prospective perpetrators, but certainly we try to prevent crimes, and we also work to resolve them and make sure that, if there is a crime committed, that people—

Mr. BURCHETT. Okay.

Governor HOCHUL. [continuing]. Find their time in court and are incarcerated.

Mr. BURCHETT. Yes, ma'am.

Governor HOCHUL. That is how it has always worked.

Mr. BURCHETT. By definition, illegal aliens are unlawfully present in the United States. They should not be in here in the first place to commit crimes. Don't you agree with that?

Governor HOCHUL. It depends on the circumstances of coming over. I mean, there are civil violations, there is also criminal, so it is the Federal Government's determination on the status of an individual if they are prosecuted.

Mr. BURCHETT. But I mean, if they are not here, the crime is not going to be committed.

Governor HOCHUL. I think if there was not—

Mr. BURCHETT. If they are not going to be here, ma'am, the crime is not going to be committed. A young man—

Governor HOCHUL. If there was no one in our country, no crimes would be committed. I suppose you could say the same thing.

Mr. BURCHETT. A young man in my district, whose family is very close to me, lost their son to an illegal alien, and I can guarantee you, if we would followed the laws of the land and there would been some enforcement, that that young man would be here today. Well, let me ask you this. Why did your state say that you are welcome with open arms in reference to illegal aliens? That was a direct quote attributed to you, ma'am.

Governor HOCHUL. It is a 400-year history we have in the State of New York of welcoming all. I do not know why we would change that now.

Mr. BURCHETT. Okay. Governor Pritzker, you mentioned in your opening statement that criminals have no place in our country, but Cook County released numerous criminal migrants last year, including one that was charged with raping a minor. Why would you release a criminal rapist back into your community?

Governor PRITZKER. Thank you, Congressman. First of all, we do not need to release somebody if ICE or another law enforcement authority shows up with a judicial warrant, and that is just the fact, and if somebody gets released, it is usually because they have had due process and determined not to be eligible to be held. That is—

Mr. BURCHETT. Okay, but do you know what happened after that individual is released?

Governor PRITZKER. I do not, but again, a judicial warrant, if appropriate—

Mr. BURCHETT. I will tell you, 17 days later he was charged with a homicide. And then Cook County also released a migrant charged with domestic violence in August 2024. Do you what this individual was charged with one month later?

Governor PRITZKER. No sir, I am not sure what case—

Mr. BURCHETT. Aggravated criminal sexual assault and abuse of minor. As Governor, have you done anything to ensure local and county governments are not releasing illegal immigrants charged with sexual or violent crimes?

Governor PRITZKER. As a matter of fact, first of all, we chase down criminals every single day. We put them in jail, we try them, put them through due process. They get convicted, they get put into our correction system. We do that every single day. You are implying that we are not. We are. In fact, our law enforcement are some of the best in the country. They do their job.

Mr. BURCHETT. Well, if these laws were enforced, then I would assume these people would not be back out on the streets so freely. How many programs does Illinois have that explicitly supports illegal immigrants?

Governor PRITZKER. Sir, we have created programs to deal with, not illegal—I mean, we have one program that is related to—

Mr. BURCHETT. Okay.

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. Undocumented people who are—

Mr. BURCHETT. I am out of time, but—

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. That are the most vulnerable.

Mr. BURCHETT. The answer is at least four: health benefits for immigrants, HBIS; health benefits for immigrant adults, HBIA; retention of Illinois students and Equity—RISE is the acronym for that; and the Illinois Dream Fund. And I am sorry, I am out of time. Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Min.

Ms. ANSARI. Mr. Chairman, I would like to finish the title of the article that I was trying to read into unanimous consent.

Chairman COMER. Okay.

Ms. ANSARI. “Stunning: Senator Alex Padilla, California, was just forcefully removed from the news conference being held by DHS Christie Noem in Westwood. Senator attempted to interrupt”—

Chairman COMER. That is the title?

Ms. ANSARI. "He was handcuffed in the hallway." Yes. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. All right.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Chairman, for the record, he rushed the podium. He was being disruptive, and that is not conducive to a member to an elected body. Thank you.

Ms. ANSARI. A senator was forcefully shoved to the ground and arrested.

Chairman COMER. All right. Order. The Chair recognizes Mr. Min from California.

Mr. MIN. I just want to followup my Republican colleague's comments, since he is talking so much about sexual assault, and note that our current President was found civilly liable for sexual assault. And for the record, I just want to note that Elon Musk, who was once part of this Administration, not so long ago accused the President of being part of the Epstein files, so all of great interest and something perhaps we should look into some oversight on.

Governors, I want to ask you a few questions. Please raise your hand if your state has any laws or policies that prevent ICE from enforcing Federal immigration laws.

[No response.]

Mr. MIN. Note for the record that no one has their hand up.

Governors, please raise your hand if you are aware of any laws or policies that prevent Federal authorities from enforcing immigration laws in any city or state in the United States.

[No response.]

Mr. MIN. Again, no hands are up, and that is because there is no such thing as sanctuary from Federal laws anywhere in this country. What is really at stake here is whether state resources, including National Guard troops, should be used for Donald Trump's immigration policies, or whether National Guardsmen should be used primarily for responding to state emergencies, supporting state law enforcement priorities, or whether they should be conscripted to support ICE. This is really a question about state's rights, and it is being starkly illustrated right now with what is happening in Los Angeles, just up the way from my district in Orange County, where the Trump Administration has claimed authority to deploy 4,000 troops from the California National Guard.

I also want to note that the existence of the National Guard is rooted in the Second Amendment to the Constitution: "A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed." The first part of that amendment, the part my Republican colleagues always forget to quote whenever they cite the Second Amendment, is the key part of it: "A well-regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free State," with "State" being capitalized so that we know we are talking about the states in the United States of America. The Second Amendment guarantees the state the right to keep and maintain a well-regulated militia, which is the basis for the National Guard.

So, Governors, I want to just try to set the record straight because I think it is not clear that everyone fully understands what a National Guard unit is, when and how they can and should be called up, and what activities they are restricted from engaging in.

I have limited time, so I am just going to ask you to keep your answers brief so we can really unwrap how deeply concerning President Trump's actions are.

Governor WALZ, in a sentence or two, what does the Minnesota National Guard do, and how does it serve the people in the State of Minnesota?

Governor WALZ. It has a dual role. I know this personally from 24 years. You can be deployed federally under Title 10 X with the President's authority or Title 32. In Minnesota, we have used them, everything from flood and tornadoes. We used them to help during the COVID pandemic, and they serve overseas when called upon.

Mr. MIN. But typically, they report to the state governor per Title 32 of the U.S. Code, correct?

Governor WALZ. That is correct.

Mr. MIN. And in times of crisis, a governor can activate the state's National Guard units to respond and assist. As you noted under Title 10, the President sometimes that authority to deploy them. Governor Pritzker, in a few words, under what circumstances can or should the President Federalize a state's National Guard?

Governor PRITZKER. Well, the President of the United States, and I have been in office 6-and-a-half years, has, in fact, deployed under Title 10 our National Guard to foreign lands. We have a terrific encampment of Illinois National Guard in Poland. We have the largest Polish-American population in the country, and very proudly, our national guards serve all over the world, in fact, as part of our military to protect our Nation.

Mr. MIN. And so, Title 10's Section 12406 allows the President to deploy National Guard troops when the United States is being invaded, when there is a rebellion, or when the President is unable with regular forces to execute the laws of the United States. Do you believe that the protests in Los Angeles or the ICE raids qualify for any of these particular provisions?

Governor PRITZKER. I do not.

Mr. MIN. Okay. Thank you. And you are aware that Governor Newsom did not make any request to President Trump to Federalize the California National Guard?

Governor PRITZKER. He did not. In fact, he rejected it.

Mr. MIN. And so, this is illegal. It does not comply with the bases for deployment. It was done against the express wishes of Governor Newsom. Now, I want to highlight a key point that my Republican colleagues across the aisle should keep in mind regarding the Federalization process of National Guard units. Even under Title 10, these troops may not be used for law enforcement purposes, and what we are seeing right now is a total violation of that. We are seeing them used to aid ICE raids. And I just want to note that ICE is acting largely as a civil organization at this point in time. Governor Hochul, correct or incorrect: being undocumented in the United States is a civil violation, not a criminal offense. Yes or no, please.

Governor HOCHUL. I believe most cases are civil. In some cases, the Federal Government can determine that it is a criminal.

Mr. MIN. Criminal violation, right, and correct or incorrect: deploying U.S. Marines to support ICE raids constitutes a law enforcement purpose and non-national security purpose?

Governor HOCHUL. It appears to have crossed the line given that we have highly trained local law enforcement who are more than capable of handling those situations.

Mr. MIN. Thank you, and I will just close with this. There is no rebellion. There is no invasion. Law enforcement has not collapsed. There is no national emergency. What is happening right now is not just unprecedented, it is illegal, and it is very alarming to those of us who care about democracy and the rule of that law. And with that, I yield back, but with unanimous consent, I would ask to introduce this article into the record, "Marines to Join National Guard Troops Protecting ICE Agents in Los Angeles."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. MIN. Thank you.

Mr. LYNCH. Unanimous consent.

Chairman COMER. Go ahead.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to enter into the record this is a picture of Senator Padilla being knuckled and looks like he is being arrested and restrained by three police officers. I cannot understand.

Chairman COMER. Okay. We will enter the picture in.

Without objection, so ordered.

The Chair recognizes Ms. Mace from South Carolina.

Ms. MACE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Welcome to the unofficial 2028 Democrat Presidential primary right here on stage at the Oversight Committee. Governor Newsom must be seething. The three of you beat him to the stage, but he is a little busy right now defending illegals and defending Antifa torching what is left of Los Angeles. Governor Walz knows the playbook. In 2020, he rolled out the red carpet for anarchists while Minnesotans watched their neighborhoods burn. You have turned your states into sanctuaries for illegals. You have done more to shield MS-13 than to protect the single mom working two jobs in Chicago, Queens, or Minneapolis, and you have worked harder against ICE than with them.

So, Governor Walz, and boy, does that feel nice to say the word, "governor," my first question is for you. Did you know the Nazis killed six million Jews during the Holocaust? It is a yes or no question. Did you know the Nazis killed six million Jews during the Holocaust?

Governor WALZ. I am pushing my button down to answer.

Ms. MACE. Okay.

Governor WALZ. Yes, I believe that is historic.

Ms. MACE. Okay. Would you agree the Holocaust is the most horrific atrocity in human history? Yes or no.

Governor WALZ. I think the Holocaust ranks amongst them, yes.

Ms. MACE. Did you know the Nazi Gestapo imprisoned, tortured, and murdered Jews by the hundreds of thousands and committed genocide against the Jews? Did you know that?

Governor WALZ. I do know they operated a secret—

Ms. MACE. Did you know ICE has done none of that? Yes or no.

Governor WALZ. Operated as a secret police force?

Ms. MACE. No, that is not the question. Did you know that ICE has not committed genocide against anyone?

Governor WALZ. Yes, I do know that.

Ms. MACE. Okay. Do you apologize for your disgusting comparison of ICE to the Gestapo who killed hundreds of thousands of Jews during the Holocaust?

Governor WALZ. As a history teacher—

Ms. MACE. Yes or no is the question.

Governor WALZ. A historical comparison—

Ms. MACE. You are a governor. You understand the question. It is yes or no. Will you apologize for what you said about ICE comparing them Gestapo.

Governor WALZ. I would ask ICE, too, to identify who they are when they operate. Do not use unmarked vehicles.

Ms. MACE. Okay. Mr. Chairman, this governor, or honorable, cannot answer the question. Do you believe the Nuremberg trials were a good exercise in holding the Nazis accountable? Yes or no.

Governor WALZ. I think due process is always—

Ms. MACE. Okay. So, are you calling for ICE agents to be brought to a tribunal under the threat of death by comparing them to the Gestapo?

Governor WALZ. Everyone is afforded due process.

Ms. MACE. What don't you understand about "yes" or "no?" Like, what cannot you comprehend about yes or no questions?

Governor WALZ. I think being a governor is a different job.

Ms. MACE. Do you still want to abolish ICE? Do you still want to abolish ICE? Yes or no.

Governor WALZ. I never said I wanted to abolish ICE.

Ms. MACE. Didn't you march in a rally calling for ICE's abolishment?

Governor WALZ. Not that I can recall, Congresswoman.

Ms. MACE. Well, according to widespread media reports you did.

Governor WALZ. And the media is always correct.

Ms. MACE. How do you rate Kamala Harris' job as border czar? I want a number between one and ten. How was she as border czar?

Governor WALZ. I would not have a way to measure that. I was not in the Administration.

Ms. MACE. Weren't you her running mate for Vice President?

Governor WALZ. In the campaign. I was not part of the Administration.

Ms. MACE. And you cannot rate her role as border czar? On a scale of one to ten, was she great at ten or was she a one, terrible?

Governor WALZ. I think her proposal that she put forward to make sure we had the bipartisan immigration—

Ms. MACE. It was not bipartisan. Did you ever personally speak with Kamala about Joe Biden's cognitive collapse?

Governor WALZ. Not that I can recall, Congresswoman.

Mr. MILLER. Not as her running mate for Vice President? You never once talked to her about the President and why she was nominated instead of him?

Governor WALZ. No, not that I can recall.

Ms. MACE. What kind of operation were you guys running over there?



Governor WALZ. I was more concerned with Donald Trump's cognitive decline.

Ms. MACE. Thank God he is President and J.D. Vance is Vice President and not you. Have you ever served in a combat zone, Governor?

Governor WALZ. I have not, Congresswoman.

Ms. MACE. Okay. Are you still friends with school shooters?

Governor WALZ. I have never been a friend with a school shooter.

Ms. MACE. Didn't you say you were friends with school shooters on the debate stage?

Governor WALZ. I misspoke, Congresswoman. I think that is very evident—

Ms. MACE. Is bullying—

Governor WALZ. [continuing]. As a teacher and a parent.

Ms. MACE. My mom was a teacher. I am a high school dropout. We can talk about that later. Is bullying okay?

Governor WALZ. Is bullying okay?

Ms. MACE. Mm-hmm.

Governor WALZ. As a teacher?

Ms. MACE. Is bullying okay? Yes or no. Is it okay to bully somebody? Yes or no.

Governor WALZ. I think there is a time to push back at a bully, so, yes, I do think there is a time.

Ms. MACE. So, you think it is okay to bully others.

Governor WALZ. I think it is okay to bully the bully at times.

Ms. MACE. Well, you are showing that the Democrat Party is a party of violence. Were you at Tiananmen Square?

Governor WALZ. Have I been to Tiananmen Square? I have.

Ms. MACE. Were you at Tiananmen Square?

Governor WALZ. I have been at Tiananmen Square.

Ms. MACE. When were you there?

Governor WALZ. As I recall, January 1990.

Ms. MACE. Okay. What is a woman? What is a woman is the question.

Governor WALZ. I am not sure I understand the question here.

Ms. MACE. Okay.

Governor WALZ. What do want me to say? This is—

Ms. MACE. I want you to say that a woman like me is an adult human female, that men cannot become women. You guys are the party of violence, and you are the party erasing women. You do not respect us. You are a bigot, you are a misogynist, you are a sexist. Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

Governor WALZ. Congresswoman?

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady yields back.

Ms. MACE. Mr. Chairman, I would ask unanimous consent—

Chairman COMER. I recognize Ms. Ocasio-Cortez from New York.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. All right, well that was some kind of bingo going on over there. I do not know what is going on. Anyways.

Ms. MACE. Oh, I know what is going on. Thank you.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. So, thank you to the witnesses for coming here today. I apologize for the treatment that the four of you have been subjected to. And Governor Walz, I just have to say I know you are getting a lot of grief from the Majority here, but we are talking about individuals who have cheered on an individual who

issued a Nazi salute from behind the Presidential Seal of the United States of America, who have cheered on the pardoning of individuals who attacked the United States Capitol and flew a Nazi flag and the flag of the Confederacy, traitors to the United States, sworn enemies of the United States of America, through The Capitol of this Nation. And now they want to act offended because someone has the courage to say if it walks like a duck and it talks like a duck, maybe it is a duck. So, I want to thank you for not wavering to their bullying, which is unconscionable and sad to see. So, I just wanted to let you know that, Governor. Thank you.

Governor WALZ. Thank you, Congresswoman.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. To the three of you, Governor Walz, Governor Pritzker and Governor Hochul, you three have each sworn in oath to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America, correct? I will start with you.

Governor WALZ. Yes.

Governor PRITZKER. Yes, ma'am.

Governor HOCHUL. Yes, I have.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. And I imagine that also includes the Fourth and Fifth Amendment protections for due process and the rule of law.

Governor WALZ. It does.

Governor PRITZKER. Sure does.

Governor HOCHUL. Yes.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. And that means protecting your people in your states, U.S. citizens and every individual, because that is what makes America great, that we are a land of the free and of rule of law to protect them from infringements of their civil liberties, correct?

Governor WALZ. Yes.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Now, what we are seeing is a pattern where ICE is breaking the law. We have the detention of a U.S. citizen who has been detained by immigration officials. We have ICE here that has also blamed and arrested U.S. citizens for being simply suspected of being an immigrant, largely because of their appearance. In January, a Chicago-based U.S.-born citizen, Julio Noriega, was arrested by ICE and held in custody for over ten hours. In April, a Florida highway patrol officer pulled over Juan Carlos Lopez-Gomez, a United States-born citizen and arrested him on suspicion of being in the country illegally. He had his Real ID, his Social Security card, his mother presented his birth certificate, and they still did not let him go. In May, U.S. citizen, Leonardo Garcia Venegas was filming an ICE raid. He was arrested by ICE. In May, a veteran and U.S. citizen who is Puerto Rican—Puerto Rican—was detained during an ICE raid at his workplace in New York City. That is called a paper bag test, and your job, Governor Hochul, is to protect people from that kind of infringement, correct?

Governor HOCHUL. Yes.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Because all of us must adhere to the law, and no one is above it. So, if a U.S. citizen tries to break the law or if an ICE officer tries to break the law, your job is to uphold the law, correct?

Governor HOCHUL. We absolutely uphold the laws of the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of New York.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. And sanctuary states are about U.S. citizens as well having sanctuary against the attacks on our constitutional rights from illegal search and seizure. There is nothing preventing ICE from issuing a warrant and you having complete compliance with their request, correct, Governor Hochul?

Governor HOCHUL. We comply in cases where there has been a criminal activity alleged, yes, we always do, but we are not involved in civil immigration enforcement because our state police, that I control, have to deal with other crimes that they are solving.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Yes, and apologies, I just have ten seconds left. But when they say illegal versus legal immigration, they are trying to end legal status in the United States as well, correct, Governor Pritzker, with the end of TPS and making people undocumented by removing legal status, ending legal status, and then having the audacity to call them illegal when they were here documented, correct?

Governor PRITZKER. Taking students' visas away from people, taking their legal right to be in the United States away from them when they have been granted, maybe years earlier, to stay.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. So, I do not want to hear about how this is about illegal versus legal immigration. They are attacking legal status and removing legal status. The Republican Majority is anti-legal immigration in the United States, and I want to make that very clear, and I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The Chair now recognizes——

Mr. FROST. Mr. Chair? I have a unanimous consent request.

Chairman COMER. Mr. Frost.

Mr. FROST. Unanimous consent request to enter into the record an *NBC* article: "Senator Alex Padillo removed from news conference with Homeland Security Secretary Noem."

Chairman COMER. All right. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. FROST. I have another one, *The Hill* article, "Padilla forcibly removed from Noem press conference."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. FROST. And I have a third one, *Axios*: "Democratic senator forcibly removed from DHS press conference."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. FROST. We were just talking about this. I want to know if you can commit to working with us so we can subpoena——

Chairman COMER. You are out of order. The Chair recognizes Ms. Greene.

Mr. FROST. I have a point of order.

Chairman COMER. No.

Mr. FROST. I have a point of order.

Chairman COMER. State your point.

Mr. FROST. We need to subpoena Secretary Noem.

Chairman COMER. That is not a point of order. The Chair recognizes Ms. Greene for——

Mr. FROST. We just talked about this earlier.

Chairman COMER. That is not a point.

[Cross talking.]

Ms. GREENE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Reclaiming my time.

[Cross talking.]

Ms. GREENE. Reclaiming my time.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Ms. Greene.  
 Mr. FROST. A senator was thrown to the ground.  
 Ms. GREENE. Reclaiming my time.  
 Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Ms. Greene.  
 Mr. FROST. In handcuffs.  
 Chairman COMER. No, no  
 Mr. FROST. In his own damn state.  
 Ms. GREENE. Oh, Democrats cannot follow the rules.  
 Chairman COMER. All right.  
 Ms. GREENE. Cannot follow the laws.  
 Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Ms. Greene.  
 [Cross talking.]  
 Chairman COMER. No.  
 Ms. GREENE. Cannot follow the rules. Cannot follow the law.  
 Mr. FROST. We need to subpoena Kristi Noem. It is her staff.  
 Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Ms. Greene.  
 Mr. FROST. DHS Federal officers——  
 Ms. GREENE. There is a privilege of the Majority——  
 Mr. FROST [continuing]. That threw a U.S. senator to the ground.  
 Ms. GREENE [continuing]. And that means we are in charge, not your side.  
 Mr. FROST. Just before, we were talking about this happening to governors.  
 Ms. GREENE. Because you lost the election.  
 [Cross talking.]  
 Chairman COMER. All right. All right. Ms. Greene, we are going to start the clock.  
 Mr. FROST. Do you have anything to say about that?  
 Ms. GREENE. Because you supported the invasion of our country.  
 Chairman COMER. All right.  
 Ms. GREENE. My time.  
 Mr. FROST. Will you commit on the record——  
 Chairman COMER. Stop the clock.  
 Mr. FROST [continuing]. That we are going to subpoena Kristi Noem?  
 Ms. GREENE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.  
 Chairman COMER. Okay. You are out of order. The Chair recognizes Ms. Greene.  
 Mr. FROST. Will you commit on the record——  
 Ms. GREENE. Thank you.  
 Mr. FROST [continuing]. To subpoenaing Kristi Noem because a U.S. senator was just thrown to the ground and detained in his own state?  
 Chairman COMER. Mr. Frost——  
 Ms. GREENE. Democrats cannot follow the rules, cannot follow the law.  
 Chairman COMER [continuing]. You are out of order.  
 Mr. FROST. Will you——  
 Chairman COMER. Shut up. Just shut up.  
 Mr. FROST. No, you do not——  
 Chairman COMER. Shut up.  
 Mr. FROST. No, you are not going to tell me to shut up.  
 Mr. LYNCH. Hold on.

Chairman COMER. How do you get him in order?

Mr. FROST. Not like that.

Chairman COMER. He has been out of order six times. He is trying to get on *MSNBC*. You probably knocked somebody off *MSNBC* to get on there.

Mr. FROST. I do not have any problem getting on there.

Chairman COMER. Ms. Greene is recognized.

Ms. GREENE. I think because he has been arrested as a former Antifa member, right? Antifa.

Chairman COMER. Well, okay. Back to order. Ms. Greene, go.

Ms. GREENE. He is a former Antifa member, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. All right. Ms. Greene, you are recognized. You got it.

Ms. GREENE. No surprise.

Mr. FROST. Who is a former Antifa member, me?

Ms. GREENE. Yes, you.

Mr. FROST. I ask that these words be taken down.

Chairman COMER. No. Ms. Greene——

Ms. GREENE. Thank you.

Chairman COMER [continuing]. You are recognized.

Mr. FROST. I ask that these words be taken down.

Ms. GREENE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. LYNCH. There is a motion on the floor.

Chairman COMER. Ms. Greene is recognized.

Mr. FROST. I ask that these words be taken down.

Ms. GREENE. Governor Hochul, you stated that you are a proud Democrat, proud registered Democrat.

Chairman COMER. All right. We got to suspend. There has been a parliamentary move. They said they were not going to do that.

Mr. LYNCH. Just ask her to strike what she said.

Chairman COMER. Okay. Suspend for 2 minutes, and while we are suspending, we have votes in about seven minutes. We are going to try to get three more questioners in, then we will break for, I think there are four votes, and we will come back right after the last vote. We do not have that many more questioners, so.

[Pause.]

Ms. GREENE. Mr. Chairman?

Chairman COMER. Yes?

Ms. GREENE. I move to revise my remarks. Congressman Frost was arrested in 2021 at a voting rights rally.

Chairman COMER. Okay. Without objection.

Mr. FROST. Proudly.

Chairman COMER. All right. The Chair recognizes Ms. Greene.

Ms. GREENE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Governor Hochul, you stated that you are a proud registered Democrat.

Governor HOCHUL. Yes, I did. Is that illegal now, too, in your country?

[Laughter.]

Ms. GREENE. Governor Hochul, this is not a laughing matter. You also stated that you swore an oath to uphold the laws of New York, and one of the laws that you have upheld and proudly kept in place is the executive order signed by former Governor Andrew Cuomo that directs that no state officers or employees, including law enforcement officers, shall disclose information to Federal im-

migration authorities for the purpose of Federal civil immigration enforcement unless required by law. And because of your state's policies of paying for flights of illegal aliens, we ended up with Jose Ibarra in our State of Georgia.

And I am a mother of three children, and two out of my three, I have two daughters, and you are a mother. Is that correct?

Governor HOCHUL. Yes, it is.

Ms. GREENE. Yes, and I think you have got two children. You have one daughter. Is that right?

Governor HOCHUL. That is correct.

Ms. GREENE. And so, you and I are both mothers, and there is one mother that I wish could be here today and could talk to you instead of me, and that is Allison Phillips. That is Laken Riley's mother, and we talked about Laken a few minutes ago. There is a really special bond between mothers and daughters, and we speak with our daughters daily. We speak with our daughters all day long. We speak with our daughters about every single thing that is happening in our lives and every single thing that happening in their lives. And I want you to know the last time that Laken Riley and her mother, Allison Phillips, tried to talk to each other, and that happened to be in the morning when Laken was getting ready to go out and go for her morning jog.

And on the morning of her murder, at 8:55 a.m., Riley texted her mother and said, "Good morning. About to go for a run if you are free to talk," and I can tell you that is something I do with my girls, and they text me, and I am sure you and your daughter text each other as well. But she did not get her mother, and then Riley called her mother just a few minutes later at 9:03 a.m. as she was starting to listen to music, but she did not get her mom on the phone. And the trail cam actually captured her going out for her run at 9:05 a.m. At 9:11, Laken called 9-1-1. This was just not but a few minutes after she had tried to call her mother.

And then at 9:24, Laken received a call from her mother, but it went unanswered, and at 9:28, Laken's heart stopped, and according to the data of her smartwatch, Laken fought for her life for 17 minutes. Seventeen minutes. Seventeen minutes this little girl fought for her life as she was being beat in the head by this monster, as she was being strangled by this monster, as she was being almost raped by this monster, and drug off into the woods. She fought for her life for 17 minutes, and her mom tried to call during that time, and it was only a few minutes after she had tried to call her mother. And I think as mothers, not politicians, this is something that we should easily share with Allison Phillips.

So, when we are talking about the laws in place and the policies that we uphold as elected leaders in this country, do you know who we should be thinking about? We should be thinking about our daughters and the fact that, look, everybody can fight all day long—Democrat, Republican. I got to tell you, though, it is so much bullshit when it comes down to the fact that this little girl fought for 17 minutes of the end of her 22-year-old life. The end of her 22-year-old life. And Governor Hochul, for the love of God, as you are a proud registered Democrat, I do not know how on earth you can uphold laws that protect and give aid and comfort to monsters, es-

pecially one that was arrested in your state and let go because of your policies in your state. And I just cannot comprehend it.

Mr. Chairman, just one more second. Laken Riley and her mother deserve to have one last chat, like you know what, me and you get to have chats with our daughters. Mr. Chairman, I yield.

Chairman COMER. Yield back. They have called votes. We are going to try to get two more questions in. I will recognize Mr. Davis from Illinois and then Mrs. Luna.

Mr. DAVIS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I thank you and the Ranking Member for letting me waive onto this hearing. I want to thank all of the witnesses, all of the governors who have been here, and who have been here all day. But I also want to thank you, Governor Pritzker, for the outstanding leadership you have provided to the State of Illinois. Our state is characterized as being progressive and humane. Could you share why we think that is important, you as Governor and I as a citizen resident?

Governor PRITZKER. Well, we had to do a lot of reform of our state government in order to get there, but it is important to me that we provide healthcare, that we provide education for all of our people, that we have policies and a government that take care of, particularly, those who are most vulnerable in our society, including working families, including the middle class, and it is very important to me that we be known for that. We are a state that is, frankly, cares a great deal about our fellow man. We are a state that is humanitarian in so many ways and that stands up for the law, and so I am very proud of our state.

We have the greatest state in the country, the Land of Lincoln, and we say that proudly because we know that Lincoln would be a Democrat today if he were alive. I am a big believer in taking his values and promoting those as well as the values now of today's Illinois and promoting those, and we have done that and, frankly, succeeded in so many ways to lift people up. Thank you.

Mr. DAVIS. Well, thank you. We are proud of you and your leadership, and I yield back, Mr.—

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Will the gentleman yield?

Chairman COMER. The gentlemen yields back. The Chair recognizes Mrs. Luna from Florida.

Mr. DAVIS. Mr. Chairman, point of inquiry. Did you skip me in the order on purpose? Just curious.

Chairman COMER. It must have been an oversight, Mr. Moskowitz. The Chair recognizes Mrs. Luna.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Well, this is the Oversight Committee, which has lots of oversight.

Mrs. LUNA. Gentlemen. Gentlemen, please. I would like to ask my questions.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mrs. Luna.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. The fact that he is, you know, suppressing free speech.

Chairman COMER. Mrs. Luna, you are recognized.

Mrs. LUNA. Thank you very much, Chairman. First and foremost, I would like to take this opportunity to educate the American people on what is really happening right now with these riots. So, I see right now there is a lot of back-and-forth and finger pointing, but the fact is, is that there is a financial tie to these riots tied to

immigration that actually leads right back to the Communist Chinese party.

The LA riots have been organized by an organization dubbed PSL, the Party for Socialism and Liberation, funded by billionaire Chinese activist, Neville Singham, who spends parts of his year by living in Shanghai. In addition to that, although he is not a registered foreign agent, he accepts a lot of money from the CCP and then turns around and funnels it right into some of these violent protests that we are seeing, but it does not just stop there. This is not the only organized protest that is using Brown people and immigrants as a ruse to push their Communist and Marxist agenda.

Mr. Waltz, thank you for coming in today to testify, or Mr. Walz. Real quick, is it true, yes or no, that you are speaking at the June 14 Twin Cities No King Rally?

Governor WALZ. I cannot confirm that right now.

Mrs. LUNA. Okay.

Governor WALZ. Could be true.

Mrs. LUNA. Okay. Just so you know, they are advertising you speaking there.

Governor WALZ. Okay.

Mrs. LUNA. The graphic is actually on X right now. I would be happy to provide it for you, so I will take that as probably speaking. Is it true also, I know on your campaign that you had admitted to visiting China anywhere from 15 to 30 times, sir. Yes or no, please?

Governor WALZ. I did live in China.

Mrs. LUNA. Okay. No, no, visiting, sir, in addition to living there and in addition to having—

Governor WALZ. Yes, that is correct.

Mrs. LUNA. All right. Also, too, I would like to note that during your time in Congress, that you filed for a \$5 million earmark that actually was secured. Two million of it went to the Hormel Institute that actually collaborated with the Wuhan Institute. Also, the Department of Homeland Security, sir, just so that you are tracking, actually had an internal memo that was released that stated that the Government of China considered you a prime target for influence operations. I am letting you know that now because I do believe that you should be made aware, if you are not already, that you are working with and going to be speaking at an organization and rally that not is just funded by Christie Walton, the heiress of Walmart, but also has ties to the Chinese Progressive Association largely funding it that actually brags on their website that they are pro-Maoist. Also, too, funded by the National Endowment for Democracy. I know there are a lot of people on this committee that do not like billionaires interfering in politics, but say nothing when George Soros gets over \$260 million from USAID through the last Administration that is then funneled into some of these nonprofits and organizations.

So, I guess my question for you guys is, now that I have made you aware that these riots are not about illegals and they are not about immigrants—if they did, they would have been protesting under Barack Obama, who is also dubbed the deporter-in-chief, and, frankly, I think many of you would say that Barack Obama



was a good President. Are you going to say that Barack Obama was not a good President? Yes or no, Governor Walz. Do you think he was a good President?

Governor WALZ. Do I think Barack Obama was a good President?

Mrs. LUNA. Correct.

Governor WALZ. I think he did a good job.

Mrs. LUNA. Okay. How about you, Governor Pritzker?

Governor PRITZKER. I think he did a good job, yes.

Mrs. LUNA. Hochul?

Governor HOCHUL. Hochul, and, yes, he did do a good job.

Mrs. LUNA. Okay. Next, Perryman?

Ms. PERRYMAN. I think President Obama did a good job.

Mrs. LUNA. So, then, you would understand that Barack Obama had the very same policies, for the most part, on immigration that Republicans are parroting today, and yet you guys are sitting here saying that we are Gestapo. And what I would tell you is that what happens with open borders is that the real people that are coming here, the ones that are exploited, actually it hurts people on both sides, not just Americans but the illegals. Some of you had said here, to the actual Committee, that you are doing what you can to assist these people, but what I would say is that your policies are not actually done from a place of understanding and sympathy. I would say that it is actually doing the exact opposite.

And when you use Brown people, just like they use Black people with Black Lives Matter (BLM) and Marxists during BLM to usher that in, when you use Brown people and you put Mexican flags with them saying that you stand up for illegal immigrants, but you follow the money and it is going back to the communist party, what you are essentially doing is using your platform as elected officials, the trust the American people have put in you, essentially, to usher in communism. You are not actually fighting for American values. Do not roll your eyes because it is a serious topic, and that is where the money is coming from.

So, now I am informing you so now you guys can make your decisions, but please be informed, sir, Mr. Walz, that if you truly do uphold the American ideologies and perspectives on the Constitution, you should not be speaking at that rally. I have given you the correct information, and as of right now, I have authorized a letter to be sent to my office to the President of the United States to rescind millions of dollars in funding that we know are going to the No Kings Protest that were authorized and basically given under the last Administration. That is what Congress is supposed to do: not point fingers, not blame people, but actually ensure that the American people are protected and not fighting for foreign interest, foreign governments, and also the communists.

Mr. GOLDMAN. Will the generally yield for a question?

Mrs. LUNA. No. Mr. Chairman?

Mr. GOLDMAN. You do not want to tell us what your evidence is of all these actions?

Mrs. LUNA. Actually, no, I will yield for that.

Mr. GOLDMAN. You know, I appreciate—

Chairman COMER. Mr. Goldman, you will get 5 minutes in a minute.

[Cross talking.]

Mr. GOLDMAN [continuing]. Take your word for it.

Mrs. LUNA. I will. Let me answer the question. Let me answer the question.

Chairman COMER. Mr. Goldman.

Mr. GOLDMAN. But you appreciate we might want actual evidence.

Mrs. LUNA. I will happy to provide that, and I would also be happy to inform, Chairman, that actually we have a letter of which you can sign on to. I know you like to sign on to letters with us, especially on the Epstein stuff, but we actually have a letter going out to Neville Singham on Friday, and it is actually signed by every single Member of Oversight. I would like to extend that to you because that letter is calling him to testify, and it is also calling for his financial transactions. And do you agree, sir, that we should not be accepting money from the Communist Chinese Party? I think anyone on this platform would agree that that should not be accepted, correct?

Mr. GOLDMAN. I would like for you to actually present evidence—

Mrs. LUNA. We are, right? Yes.

Mr. GOLDMAN [continuing]. Rather than just “inform the witnesses,” and now that they are informed, I could assume what you say is true—

Mrs. LUNA. Look, I do not disrespect you. I am going to answer your question.

Mr. GOLDMAN [continuing]. When it could either be debunked as a right-wing—

Mrs. LUNA. We are having a hearing on it where we can present all the evidence.

Chairman COMER. Order.

Mrs. LUNA. No, but let us have—

Chairman COMER. Yes, go ahead. You are recognized, Mrs. Luna.

Mrs. LUNA. We are going to be having a hearing, and you can gavel on to the hearing. I would appreciate you to do it, because the fact is, is that the Democrat Party—remember that, look—

Mr. GOLDMAN. Is it going to be as good as the Biden impeachment hearing?

Chairman COMER. Mr. Goldman, you will have 5 minutes in a moment.

Mrs. LUNA. Let us keep it focused, real quick. I would like to go a step further.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Well, Mr. Chairman, she is out of time. Obviously, you are trying to not let me talk.

Mrs. LUNA. Guys, if you guys want to talk about it, I will answer the question, but Mr. Singham is also funding Code Pink through his wife.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. You know what? It is my turn.

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Can we ask Elon to divest from China while we are at it?

Chairman COMER. The lady’s time has expired. The lady’s time has expired.

Mrs. LUNA. Okay. Thank you very much. We will be having the hearing. You all are invited.

Mr. MOSKOWITZ. Thank you.

Mrs. LUNA. We might have you guys back. Thank you.

Chairman COMER. All right. Thank you. Before we go to votes, which have been called, I am going to recognize Mr. Donalds for a unanimous consent.

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Chairman, I want to submit a letter into the record from Congressman Richie Torres to Governor Hochul speaking specifically about that the Penn Station Center is actually being led by The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) where the Chairman is actually appointed by the Governor of New York, and the cost overruns of \$7 billion.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

And again, the witnesses, I apologize. The votes were supposed to be at four when we scheduled this. They have been moved to three. We have four or five votes. We will come back here as soon as the last vote.

So, pursuant to the previous order, the Committee will recess for Floor votes. The Committee will return 5 minutes after the last vote. There are only seven or eight more questioners, so the Committee stands in recess.

[Recess.]

Chairman COMER. And the Chair recognizes—and I appreciate the witness' indulgence here. Again, we were told the votes would be at 4:15, and they were at three, so I apologize. We had two more votes than we were supposed to.

So, the Chair recognizes Mr. Burlison from Missouri.

Mr. BURLISON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am just still kind of trying to understand the connection between our ICE officers and the Gestapo. I think the statement was horrific. The acting ICE Director had this to say, "On the final day of National Police Week, when those brave enough to put on a badge and a uniform to mourn their fallen brothers and sisters, Minnesota Governor, Tim Walz, referred to my professional, hardworking ICE agents and officers as a modern-day Gestapo. This is abhorrent, dehumanizing, and ignorant comments should not be tolerated. It seems that Mr. Walz prefers violent criminal aliens are released into Minnesota's communities. If the Governor does not like the laws, he is free to advocate that Congress changed them, but he should refrain from putting ICE officers in danger by likening them to one of the most appalling groups in history. Assaults on against ICE officers are up over 400 percent from this time last period, and part of that is because politicians like Governor Walz are careless with their politically motivated rhetoric. He should issue an immediate apology to the men and women protecting his communities."

Governor Hochul, do you agree with the statements that Governor Walz said? Do you agree with the characterization that ICE agents are Gestapo?

Governor HOCHUL. I do not use language like that in describing anyone.

Mr. BURLISON. Thank you.

Governor HOCHUL. My view is that we respect our law enforcement, but also in a case where people have gone too far, they should be called out.

Mr. BURLISON. Governor Pritzker, do you agree with that association, associating ICE officers with Gestapo?

Governor PRITZKER. It is not a word I would use, but I will say that I understand the sentiments that people feel.

Mr. BURLISON. Okay. Well, thank you for being reasonable here. Next door, Governor Walz, is a group called—they were actually meeting here today—the Zionist Organization of America, and I spoke with Morton Klein, who is their national President and he had this to say. He wanted me to read this to you. “As a child of Holocaust survivors who lost almost my whole family to Gestapo Nazis, I find Governor Walz comparing Americans ICE officials to Nazis a dramatic insult. Walz should be ashamed of himself, and I demand that he retract and apologize for this ugly, phony statement that diminishes the horror of the Holocaust.” So, I am going to give you another chance, Governor Walz. Do you apologize for your comparison to ICE agents as Gestapo?

Governor WALZ. Thank you, Mr. Burlison. What I said is using a historical reference on authoritarianism, watching in my state and across this country on covered faces—

Mr. BURLISON. Governor Walz, it is simple question.

Governor WALZ. [continuing]. Covered faces.

Mr. BURLISON. Will you apologize to this Jewish community? Will you apologize to Jewish Americans?

Governor WALZ. I do not know Mr. Klein. I would certainly be glad to speak with him if he would like.

Mr. BURLISON. Okay. Mr. Walz, let me ask you this question. Are there any events that you regret from actions of illegal immigrants in your state? Are there any events that come to mind that you think of that weigh on you?

Governor WALZ. I certainly think something that harmed someone, all of—

Mr. BURLISON. So, let me give you an idea. Minnesota, your state, April 25, ICE arrested an illegal alien from Ecuador charged for criminal sexual conduct with a child. Again, in Minnesota, on May 8, ICE arrested an illegal alien from Mexico for selling heroin, meth, and fentanyl. Mr. Pritzker in Chicago, in 2018, an illegal alien from Mexico is charged with aggravated criminal sexual abuse of a minor, then was released back into the public in 2022. And then, Governor Hochul, in New York, again, a Mexican national was charged, but this time for slashing a victim with a machete and then released in January of this year, ignoring ICE detainers and Federal warrant. Mr. Walz, would you deport any of these individuals?

Governor WALZ. Could you give the names of the individuals and what their—

Mr. BURLISON. I can get those to you, but if these are true, if somebody from Ecuador was charged with criminal sexual conduct with a child, would you want that person deported?

Governor WALZ. If they followed through due process and were found guilty, certainly. That is what we do now. We follow Federal law.

Mr. BURLISON. Your states refuse to honor ICE detainers, even for illegal aliens convicted of serious crimes like assault or sexual offenses. The ICE data shows that—

Governor WALZ. That is incorrect.

Mr. BURLISON [continuing]. 56,791 illegal aliens booked for serious offenses in 2025 alone, including over 3,000 for sex crimes, and that is why we are here today. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back. The Chair now recognizes Mr. Crane from Arizona.

Mr. CRANE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Governor Walz, you stated in your opening statement the following: "But nothing Minnesota has done stands in the way of Federal Government managing its border security policy." Governor, I want to ask you, why are you lying to this Committee?

Governor WALZ. I am not, Congressman.

Mr. CRANE. Who is the top law enforcement officer in the State of Minnesota?

Governor WALZ. The top law enforcement officer?

Mr. CRANE. Yep.

Governor WALZ. Attorney general.

Mr. CRANE. Yes, that is right. What is his name? What is his name?

Governor WALZ. Are you asking me do you know his name?

Mr. CRANE. Do you know his name? Do you know his name?

Governor WALZ. I know the AG. AG Ellison.

Mr. CRANE. This is an article right here I would like to submit for the record. "Minnesota AG says will not enforce Federal immigration laws as DOJ threatens to prosecute officials who resist."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. CRANE. Why are you lying to this Committee? That is the top law enforcement officer in your state who is saying he will not comply with the Federal Government.

Governor WALZ. Nothing in his opinion changes the fact that state law requires all state and county officials to ask for immigration status when a convicted felon——

Mr. CRANE. No, I am sorry, Governor. He is saying he will not comply with Federal laws. That is your top law enforcement officer.

Governor WALZ. Nothing in this opinion changes.

Mr. CRANE. You are lying and misrepresenting yourself to this Committee. Now, I want to ask you this. Do you think, in that line of questioning, free healthcare, food assistance, free college tuition, driver's licenses, and cash assistance, do you think that that is helping or hurting this government manage its border security and policies?

Governor WALZ. Well, Minnesota ranks first in healthcare. We rank third in safety on the roads.

Mr. CRANE. Let me answer that for you. It is actually hurting because what you created——

Governor WALZ. Making our state safer and more profitable. There is no law——

Mr. CRANE [continuing]. Is you have created a state that is now a magnet that is drawing illegals to Minnesota.

Governor WALZ. There is no sanctuary law in Minnesota, Congressman.

Mr. CRANE. I know you guys have not put it that way on the books, but your state has everything, every element in it, that is consistent with a sanctuary state.

Governor WALZ. That is incorrect.

Mr. CRANE. Moving on, Mr. Walz. How about you calling ICE agents modern-day Gestapo? Do you think that that helps our Federal Government carry out its law enforcement of border security policies?

Governor WALZ. I think best practice and law enforcement by identifying who you are, identifying the vehicles, and making sure everyone has due process helps our law enforcement. I think covering your faces—

Mr. CRANE. So, you think that that helps, calling our law enforcement agents that. What does ICE stand for, Governor? Immigration Custom Enforcement, right? These are the guys that are tasked with enforcing Federal immigration laws?

Governor WALZ. That is right. That is their job. It is not the states' job.

Mr. CRANE. Do you think that calling them Gestapo is helping? None of the messaging, none of the rhetoric is standing in the way of this Administration doing what they have been tasked to do. Is that what you are saying?

Governor WALZ. I think what would help them is to follow due process, and when they do these missions, do the things that we expect of law enforcement to identify themselves.

Mr. CRANE. How about when you went on "Anderson Cooper," Governor Walz, and you said, "How high is this wall? If it is 25 feet, then I will invest in a 30-foot ladder factory." Do you think that that helps our Federal Government carry out its law enforcement, its border security, and policy operations?

Governor WALZ. When did I say that?

Mr. CRANE. You went on "Anderson Cooper" and said that. Do you not remember saying that because you have said so many outlandish things that you cannot even keep track of them?

Governor WALZ. No, I do not recall, the point being is—

Mr. CRANE. The clip is there for everybody. It is there for all Americans. If you guys want to go watch it, it is an easy Google. All right. Governor, you recently went on Gavin Newsom's podcast. You stated, in regards to "Make America Great Again" (MAGA) voters, "I scare them a little bit, which is why they spend so much time on me. No, I am serious, because they know I can fix a truck." That is your direct quote. You also said on the show, "I think I could kick most of their asses." I want to be very clear with you, Governor, you do scare us a bit, but it is not because you can fix a truck or change a tire. It is actually because of your radical left-wing agenda. You supported putting tampons in boys' bathrooms. You advocated for the disarming of Americans of their Second Amendment rights. You are pro-sanctuary city, as we have uncovered here today. You claim there is no guarantee to free speech when it comes to misinformation and hate speech. That right there is why the American people have such a hard time with you. It is not because we are crazy MAGA people. It is because of your radical left-wing agenda.

I want to ask you on that last one where you claim there is no guarantee to free speech, did you pick that up on one of your 30 trips to Communist China, Governor? That sounds a lot like something that they would do. Yes or no?

Governor WALZ. I am sorry. I do not believe hate speech has a place in there, hate speech that incites violence.

Mr. CRANE. Governor Walz, you said that Kamala Harris picked you for Vice President to code talk to white guys. How did that work out for this Administration? How well did you do with white guys?

Governor WALZ. I do not have the——

Mr. CRANE. You lost by 22 points to white guys, and it is because you talk like the way you do, you say the things you do, and you have this radical left-wing ideology. So, if you want to continue that rhetoric, go on, brother, keep doing it. We will keep destroying you in elections. Thank you, and I yield back.

Governor WALZ. The people of Minnesota will continue to have me serve them.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Ms. Ramirez from Illinois.

Ms. RAMIREZ. Thank you, Chairman. I want to start by acknowledging Governor Pritzker from our great state of Illinois and thank him for coming before the Committee, especially given the deeply unserious nature of this hearing. I want to start by asking Governor Pritzker a few questions. Governor, you have said that actions that bring all branches of government to stand in respect of one another underpin the guardrails of democracy. Is it your assessment that this Administration's actions reflect the commitment to stand in respect of all branches of government or honor the guardrails of our democracy?

Governor PRITZKER. Thank you very much, Congresswoman, and it is good to see you. This Administration has ignored court orders. This Administration has ignored the laws that have been passed by the Congress. This Administration is in many ways telling its agencies not to follow the laws and the regulations that have been on the books, and this Administration has been going after people, individually and as groups, that they believe are political opponents of theirs. That is not the way that a President ought to operate. We ought to have a President who follows the rule of law and does not break it.

Ms. RAMIREZ. Thank you, Governor. I agree with you. In your 2025 budget address, you noted that our state, the State of Illinois, is among the best in the Nation for workforce talent, clean energy, educational and scientific institutions, and more. I could not agree with you more. Our economy is over \$1.1 trillion, the fifth largest in the United States and the 18th largest in the world. And I understand that we are one of only nine states, including New York and Minnesota, whose taxpayers contribute more to the Federal Government than they receive, so I just want to make sure I put that to the record. This is who we are putting here at a hearing.

Governor, earlier this year, you noted that, "The authoritarian playbook is laid bare here. They point to a group of people who do not look like you, and then they tell you to blame them for your problems." Governor Pritzker, do you believe that the Trump Administration is using the authoritarian playbook, particularly as it relates to immigrant communities across the country?

Governor PRITZKER. It is clear when you look at every action that they have taken with regard to immigration since they have taken

office, including going in and attacking our communities in the State of Illinois. I think, in the first week in office, Tom Homan bringing Dr. Phil with him unseriously, and then bringing the very serious ICE officials in to break down doors, to scare communities, to keep people from going to work, and so on. It is clear that they are targeting communities of people who do not look like them and going after people that they think are opponents of theirs or—

Ms. RAMIREZ. Including United States senators, Governor.

Governor PRITZKER. Including, thank you, Alex Padilla. And by the way, I want to say to all of you—all of you—on both sides, but particularly those on the Republican side, that I cannot believe the disrespect that was shown to a United States senator who was thrown down, handcuffed, and not allowed to ask a question of our Secretary of Homeland Security, Kristi Noem. That seems completely irrational.

Ms. RAMIREZ. Governor, I agree with you, and because I have a limited time—

Governor PRITZKER. Yes.

Ms. RAMIREZ [continuing]. I actually want to show the footage because I think what you are saying has to be seen here. I am going to ask now that we play a clip of Senator Padilla being wrongfully arrested while we are in this hearing. Go ahead and play it. A United States senator. I want to make sure that people see.

Ms. RAMIREZ. They do not want you recording so that you do not see how they violate due process repeatedly. I want to make sure that you see that footage. This is a United State senator asking a question of Secretary Noem, and, in return, he is pulled from the press conference, shoved down to the floor, slammed to the ground with handcuffs, arrested for doing his job of oversight. So, let me go ahead and make sure that I say this clear because I serve on Homeland Security, and I can tell you for a fact they are weaponizing the government and the military against U.S. citizens to exert control and suppress dissent. I call that authoritarianism. We have seen it before.

Here is the point: terror, that is what they are doing here. This hearing is a witch hunt against the governors that run successful cities, and we need to call it what it is. What we need here right now is Secretary Noem answering questions in Oversight on why the hell she thinks that what happened to the senator is acceptable. With that, I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady yields back. Hopefully, you will get to see the beginning of that tape when he approached the podium where the Secretary was. You had not seen that yet?

Mr. GOLDMAN. To ask a question.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman, on the full statement of the Committee on the Democratic side, "Senator Padilla is currently in Los Angeles exercising his duty to perform congressional oversight of the Federal Government operations in Los Angeles and across California. He was in the Wilshire of Federal Building to receive a briefing with General Guillot and was listening to Secretary Noem's press conference. He tried to ask the Secretary a question and was forcibly removed by Federal agents forced to the ground as you saw and handcuffed. He is not currently detained, and we



are working to get additional information.” And while we respect the Senate’s ability to review this as a primary investigation, we also echo Ms. Ramirez’s statement that we would like to have an investigation of that incident here from beginning to end.

Chairman COMER. Do you want to enter that into the record?

Mr. LYNCH. I do.

Chairman COMER. All right. Without objection, so ordered.

Now, the Chair recognizes Mr. Jack. Okay. Wait a minute. We did two Republicans, so we are going to go to Mr. Goldman.

Mr. GOLDMAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would urge you to reserve comment on what happened to Mr. Padilla until you get full information. In fact, I would urge all of my Republican colleagues to take a breath before you once again desperately run to bend the knee to Donald Trump and to Kristi Noem because anyone with two eyes that can see, can see that that was authoritarian, lawless behavior that no person in America, much less a senator conducting constitutional oversight, should have received. And I know it is hard for all of you to speak up against Donald Trump, and that is why we are here at this hearing talking all about Joe Biden, talking all about Joe Biden’s policy this Joe Biden’s policy that, all these people who committed crimes under Joe Biden. Is just because you are consistently trying to ignore the fact that Joe Biden is not President? Donald Trump is President, and what he is doing right now, which you all know, is he is going after people who are lawfully present.

Now, I appreciate the governors being here. I am sorry you have to deal with this crap. Governor Hochul, especially, I want you to know, as a proud member of the delegation of your state, I am not going to use my 5 minutes to mount a campaign for governor against you as my colleague from the North Country chose to do. I will give you the opportunity to actually answer some questions, unlike she did, and I will allow you to explain exactly what the policies in New York are as it relates to cooperation between the state and Federal agents.

Governor HOCHUL. First of all, glad you are not running against me. Thank you. Second, I appreciate the opportunity to break through all the noise here today and to stop the talking points that keep mischaracterizing our policies in the great State of New York.

New York is not a sanctuary or a haven for criminals. We devote an enormous amount of our energy working to keep New Yorkers safe, \$2.5 billion I have allocated just in the last few years. We do cooperate with ICE when it comes to investigating or building a case against criminals. We do this all the time, and when someone goes through the criminal justice system in the State of New York, they do their time in prison. We alert ICE 30 days in advance of when they are to be removed, and we send them away. That is how it is supposed to work. But what we do not do under our laws is divert our essential resources to protect everyday New Yorkers from crimes themselves and have that help ICE with civil immigration enforcement. That is their job. That is a Federal Government’s job, and we cannot be told to enforce Federal laws. It is not constitutional.

Mr. GOLDMAN. Or to use all your limited resources to spend all that time doing their job.

Governor HOCHUL. That is right. My concern is that every minute that ICE officers are going after moms and dads and kids and separating families, perhaps one more criminal is still out there at large.

Mr. GOLDMAN. Well, it is funny you say that.

Governor HOCHUL. Why don't you focus on them?

Mr. GOLDMAN. I am sorry to interrupt you because I, actually, in my district office down in lower Manhattan witnessed ICE officers waiting for immigrants to come out of a courtroom. These are immigrants who have asylum applications, and I am sure you agree with me that asylum is a lawful pathway to immigrate to this country. Is that correct?

Governor HOCHUL. That is absolutely correct.

Mr. GOLDMAN. So, in order to make these immigrants here unlawfully, the DHS is now dismissing their cases, their own removal proceedings against them, to void out the asylum claim. That way, when they go downstairs in the elevator, there are ICE agents that can be there to arrest them and put them in expedited removal, and they do not have an asylum claim that is live anymore because they have just voided it out. These are non-criminal, these are non-violent immigrants who are here going through lawful process, and this is who the Trump Administration is going after every single day. It is a disgrace.

You said you were going to go after the worst of the worst. You were going to go after convicted criminals. You are here questioning about all these criminals. You are going after people who actually are going through the lawful process you say they should, but just because Donald Trump and Stephen Miller need to bump up their numbers because they cannot do a good enough job in actually finding convicted criminals, you are going after moms, dads, separating parents from children. You have a voice, Republicans. Speak up. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. Now the Chair recognizes Mr. Jack. Is he here? Okay. Mr. McGuire from Virginia.

Mr. MCGUIRE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is a yes or no question, hopefully fast because I do not have much time. So, each witness one at a time, if you break the law, are you a criminal? Can you guys answer that quickly? We do not have much time.

Governor PRITZKER. In certain circumstances, many circumstances, yes.

Mr. MCGUIRE. The answer should be yes. If you come across our border illegally breaking our law to come across, are you a criminal? Yes or no.

Governor PRITZKER. If you speed, are you a criminal? I mean, that is—

Mr. MCGUIRE. That is the law. That is a crime.

Governor PRITZKER. Okay.

Mr. MCGUIRE. So, if you come across our border illegally, you are a criminal. Just want to see if we can get that straight. All right. Governor Pritzker, are illegal aliens counted in the U.S. Census?

Governor PRITZKER. Every person in the United States is counted.

Mr. MCGUIRE. The census decides how many Members each state gets in the U.S. House of Representatives. Year after year, tens of

thousands U.S. citizens are flee-ins. The State of Illinois ranks only behind Governor Hochul's New York and Governor Newsom's, California. You all are protecting and harboring illegal aliens for political purposes. Governor Pritzker, would you support prohibiting illegal aliens from being counted in the census? Yes or no.

Governor PRITZKER. Your numbers are wrong, sir.

Mr. MCGUIRE. Would you, yes or no?

Governor PRITZKER. Your numbers are wrong, sir. The Constitution says count the census.

Mr. MCGUIRE. Would you support prohibiting illegal aliens from being counted in the census, or is harboring illegal aliens part of the strategy to get more Democrats in Congress? The bottom line is this: illegal aliens have committed a crime and should be deported. Any additional act of violence committed by an illegal alien is entirely preventable. All sanctuary jurisdictions are unlawful. Each of you are breaking the law, and my message to you or the message from the people is you need to get it straight.

Governor Walz, just over three weeks ago, you compared ICE agents to Donald Trump's modern-day Gestapo. Governor, do you regret those comments?

Governor WALZ. I regret that law enforcement is not following best practices, showing who they are, not taking people off the street, not giving due process, which puts all of us at risk.

Mr. MCGUIRE. We would not have a country without our men and women in law enforcement.

Governor WALZ. That is correct, and those who show their faces—

Mr. MCGUIRE. Yes or no, did you know ICE officers are facing a 413-percent increase in assaults?

Governor WALZ. Do not wear the masks, identify yourself, and work with local law enforcement.

Mr. MCGUIRE. You guys are doxxing them, all right? Your attacks on ICE officers are putting our law enforcements in deadly situations. It led to destructive riots breaking out in Los Angeles last weekend. President Trump had no choice but to step up and stop Los Angeles from burning buildings to the ground. Did you see videos of rioters throwing rocks through the windows of police officers' vehicles while they were driving on the highway? Did you guys see that?

[No response.]

Mr. MCGUIRE. Again, we would not have a country without our men and women in law enforcement. In 2023, you signed legislation to expand eligibility to illegal aliens for taxpayer-funded healthcare, Minnesota driver's licenses, and free college tuition. America last policies. Let us take a look at some of the illegal aliens you so boldly want to support with taxpayer funds. I will probably say his name wrong, but Abdirashid Elmi, illegal alien from Somalia, criminal history includes convictions of murder, DUI, and disorderly conduct; Erick Martinez Mondragon, illegal alien from Mexico and known member of 18th Street Gang, he served time on robbery and possession of a firearm; and Marco Granda, illegal alien from Ecuador, he was convicted for criminal sexual conduct of a child. The taxpayer-funded incentives you are providing in Minnesota bring in vicious thugs who are robbing, raping,

and killing your citizens, and American people are tired of these America last Marxist policies.

We need more patriotism. When I look at MAGA, to me, it makes America great again for all Americans regardless of party, race, religion, or creed. America first, and that is why we won the presidency and we got the Senate and the House. If you had a basketball team and you hate your basketball team, you will never win. And we have a heart and love all people of the world, but if we cannot take care of our country, if we are allowing these illegal criminal aliens to rob, rape, and kill the American people, that is wrong, and that is why we won, and if you guys keep that up, we will keep winning.

Governor WALZ. Congressman, can I respond to the two cases in Minnesota? I think it is important to the hearing we are having if you want to know what we are doing. Mr. Elmi was held in Freeborn County Jail, state resources paid for that.

Mr. MCGUIRE. So, Governor Hochul, Sabrina Quam fell asleep on a subway in New York. While she was asleep on a train, she was set on fire and killed by an illegal alien from Guatemala. This could have been prevented, and what upsets me or strikes me the most is that in Democrat-run cities, people are so de-sensitized by the violence and the policies that people just stood by and watched that happen. What can we do better?

Governor HOCHUL. The entire situation sickens me to know that that happened in our state. I abhor all crimes, and that one was particularly heinous, and that is why my law enforcement are dedicated to keeping the streets, subways, and communities of our state safe. It is my number one priority. It is how I have invested enormous amounts of resources. And just for the record, we do cooperate in criminal identification, prosecution, and removal of individuals who commit crimes who are not in this country legally. We want them deported. We cooperate with ICE every day of the week to make our streets safer. I am not sure why that is not breaking through in this hearing. How many times can we say that? We are not supporting this. We do not want these individuals here. We abhor this violence and crime. So, that is the message that should be the takeaway.

How can we work together? How can you do your job and help us secure the border, and have more legal pathways for people who want to be here legally and contribute to our economy, but not the criminals. We are not a sanctuary for any criminals.

Mr. MCGUIRE. I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman's time has expired. Now the Chair recognizes Ms. Morrison from Minnesota.

Ms. MORRISON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank the witnesses for being here today, especially you, Governor Walz.

Governor WALZ. Thank you, Congresswoman.

Ms. MORRISON. It is great to see you as ever. Welcome back to the People's House.

Thank you for your distinguished service in the National Guard, 24 years, I believe. Thank you for your service here in Congress and as our governor. I am sorry you have not received the warmest welcome here today, but I would like to start by taking a moment to correct the record on a few points.

I think all of us here would agree that violent criminals who are not citizens should not be in this country, full stop, but that is not what this hearing is about. This hearing is about intimidation and striking fear in immigrant communities. This hearing, unfortunately, is not about moving forward with the comprehensive immigration reform our country so desperately needs. It is about distracting the American people from the disaster that has been the first few months of the Trump Administration and his Republican Majority in Congress.

Much like our state, my congressional district is diverse. I represent many immigrant families who call our community home, and we welcome them because they make our communities stronger. I recently had the honor of attending a naturalization ceremony where we welcomed new Americans from 85 different countries. It was an incredibly moving day, an auditorium full of new Americans who were so excited and proud to join our Great American Project. The room was full of hope and patriotism. I could not have been more proud to welcome them and to participate in that day. We are a country of immigrants. It is what makes us strong and dynamic and unique in the world. My colleagues' characterization of our state bears no resemblance to reality. Would you agree, sir? Minnesota is an incredible state with a wealth of business, industry, natural resources, beauty, and rich diversity, and it is a state where working families thrive.

As you know, Governor, we worked together for six years when I was in the state legislature, and I am so proud of what we accomplished during that time. We delivered for the people of Minnesota the largest middle class tax cut in the history of our state, historic investments in education, created a paid family and medical leave program that allows working parents to care for their children and their loved ones, codifying the right to comprehensive reproductive healthcare, and providing school breakfast and lunches for K-12 students so no child of Minnesota goes hungry.

If we want to talk about protecting our children and families, let us talk about the chaotic tariff war President Trump started, which is serving only to make life less affordable for families and is decimating small businesses. Let us talk about the 16 million people who are going to lose their healthcare or going to have their healthcare taken away from them by the Republicans and their ridiculously named Big Beautiful Bill. Let us talk about the millions of children who will go hungry if the Republicans are successful in taking away their food assistance.

Governor Walz, since my Republican colleagues want to talk about threats to our children and families, let us talk about food insecurity. It has now been over two years since you signed the school meals legislation into law. What has been the impact of this program on fighting child hunger in Minnesota?

Governor WALZ. Yes. Well, thank you, Congresswoman, and we miss you in Minnesota but glad you are here. Well, the direct impact to families is a savings of about \$1,700 a year to those families that they are able to see in mostly middle class, but the real impact is on educational achievement. Last year, Minnesota was able to notch the highest graduation rates in our state history. We also see school attendance rates go up. We see better behaviors, less dis-

cipline from it. So, it is a smart investment, it is the right thing to do, and the payoff for Minnesota is we have a healthier, better-educated workforce, which is why Minnesota almost always ranks near the top in quality-of-life indicators.

Ms. MORRISON. Thank you, Governor. Now, I want to talk more about the Republican plan to take food assistance away from our children and families. If their budget becomes law, it will be the biggest cut to SNAP in history and jeopardize food assistance for millions of families across the country, including 100,000 Minnesotans, many of whom are children. Would you agree that the Republican proposal to cut SNAP is one of the biggest threats facing children and families in Minnesota right now?

Governor WALZ. Yes, coupled with Medicaid and Medicare cuts.

Ms. MORRISON. And, also, Governor Walz, I just want to give you a moment to, if there is anything you would like to clarify that has been said in this unbelievable Committee hearing today. I do not even know what the adjective is.

Governor WALZ. Well, thank you, Congresswoman, and I know we only have 30 seconds. Look, we are here to work with you, which you have heard time and time again. We have a job to do as governors. The Federal Government has a job to do. Not doing ICE's job is not interference or not wanting to get these people, and the gentleman asked the question and then left. The gentleman he brought up, we held him. We paid for it. We called DHS before he was released. The second one he mentioned, DOC called DHS prior to his release. We do that every single time in Minnesota. That law has been on the books for many years, and that is how we implement it. So, I just do not understand why we don't want to work together to be successful. None of us want the criminals on the street, but I certainly want immigrants in Minnesota who are contributing to our quality of life.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady's time has expired.

Ms. MORRISON. Thank you, Governor.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Ms. Boebert from Colorado.

Ms. BOEBERT. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Los Angeles riots are certainly a shameful explosion of lawlessness that we are once again seeing. The narrative has changed in these riots, but it is certainly the same type of actors. We are seeing businesses torched, cars torched, families uprooted, certainly communities that are scared, and this is by no means a peaceful protest. It is absolute chaos, and rioters do not get a free pass to burn down cities just simply because they are mad, because they are mad that our Nation's laws are being upheld, that our Federal agents are upholding their oath and doing what they were hired to do. Our first responders deserve respect. They do not deserve to have rocks thrown at them and to be injured, but, I mean, let us be honest: this violence did not really spark in a vacuum. Sanctuary policies are a magnet for trouble. They shield criminals, undermine the rule of law.

And Governors, I have sat here and I have heard you today. You say that safety is your number one priority. You want your community safe, you want your people safe, and, Governor Hochul, you just asked how can we work to ensure that that happens. Well,

that is exactly what we want to do in this hearing. We want to work together. We want to talk to you about your sanctuary policies that are actually preventing us from working with you to keep your communities safe because we want them safe as well. I have the same policies in Colorado that restrict our local law enforcement officers from coordinating with Federal agents, and some of my counties have issued lawsuits to try to end that. But this is serious, and we owe it to every American to restore safety and enforce our laws. It has been stated that this is a Federal law, and it is not your job to uphold the Federal law. Well, we are not asking you to uphold it. We are just asking you to kind of step out of the way and allow the Federal Government to do the job, to uphold these laws. When you have someone, do not wait until they commit a violent heinous crime before we know their immigration status.

So, now, we are seeing these riots everywhere. We have heard in 2020 that everything was mostly peaceful as cities burned down, as people lost their lives, as law enforcement officers lost their lives. So, I just want to ask you three governors, yes or no, is the destruction of private and governmental property, is that something that fits under your definition of a peaceful protest? Governor Walz, yes or no.

Governor WALZ. No, it does not.

Ms. BOEBERT. Thank you. Governor Pritzker.

Governor PRITZKER. I find it hard to believe that you are lecturing us——

Ms. BOEBERT. Yes or no.

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. About peaceful protest.

Ms. BOEBERT. Yes or no.

Governor PRITZKER. Look at what happened on January 6 here at the Capitol.

Ms. BOEBERT. No, what we are seeing in LA——

Governor PRITZKER. The attack on our democracy.

Ms. BOEBERT [continuing]. Is an insurrection. You want to talk about an insurrection?

Governor PRITZKER. That is an insurrection.

Ms. BOEBERT. This is an absolute insurrection. They are——

Governor PRITZKER. You do not understand what insurrection is.

Ms. BOEBERT. I asked you a yes or no question, sir.

Governor PRITZKER. When people are trying to overturn an election here at the Congress.

Ms. BOEBERT. I started this off showing you decorum.

Governor PRITZKER. You were here. They were attacking you, by the way.

Ms. BOEBERT. I would expect the same. I would expect the same.

Governor PRITZKER. I am answering your question. It is outrageous——

Ms. BOEBERT. Is it——

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. That you are asking us these questions——

Ms. BOEBERT. Is it peaceful to destroy——

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. When you are the one condoning the pardoning——

Ms. BOEBERT [continuing]. To destroy——

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. Of people who attacked police.

Ms. BOEBERT [continuing]. Private and government property?

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. Right here at our Capitol.

Ms. BOEBERT. Governor Hochul. Governor Hochul, it has been a long day. Does that fit under your definition of a peaceful protest, the destruction of private and government property?

Governor HOCHUL. No, and we feel for the business owners and the community for what is going on there——

Ms. BOEBERT. So do we. Yes or no——

Governor HOCHUL. [continuing]. But this is a narrow scope of people, and the mass majority are peaceful.

Ms. BOEBERT [continuing]. Would lighting police cars on fire fit under the definition of a peaceful protest?

Governor HOCHUL. No, we reject that. No one should be lighting police cars on fire.

Ms. BOEBERT. Governor Pritzker, yes or no.

Governor PRITZKER. I am opposed to violence in any form, yes.

Ms. BOEBERT. Governor Walz.

Governor WALZ. Yes, we reject that.

Ms. BOEBERT. Okay. Throwing bricks or large rocks at police officers, is that peaceful?

Governor WALZ. It is not.

Ms. BOEBERT. Is that peaceful Governor?

Governor PRITZKER. Whether it is in Los Angeles or here in Washington at the Capitol, no.

Ms. BOEBERT. Yes, that did not happen here. Governor Hochul.

Governor PRITZKER. Rejected.

Governor HOCHUL. It actually did, but, no, it is not acceptable.

Ms. BOEBERT. Okay. Governor Pritzker, have you or have you not called for mass protests and mobilization and disruption?

Governor PRITZKER. Indeed. Microphones, megaphones, and going to the ballot box.

Ms. BOEBERT. Well, they are responding in a much different way, are they not? President Trump also asked for people——

Governor PRITZKER. Peaceful is the history of this country.

Ms. BOEBERT [continuing]. Peacefully make their voices heard, so it is okay for you to say that and hold that standard, but President Trump has a different standard when he is actually makes the claims peacefully?

Governor PRITZKER. Inciting riots at the Capitol?

Ms. BOEBERT. And you said you want mass protest——

Governor PRITZKER. Yes, there is a difference between the two.

Ms. BOEBERT [continuing]. Mobilizations and disruption as a response to President Trump's policies. I just think that this is all hypocritical. You have called in your National Guard. You do not want President Trump to come in and enforce the rule of law to keep communities safe, and your destructive policies are harming American citizens. We should not have to wait until violence is committed to find out their legal status. We have two million unknown got-aways because of Joe Biden's Administration, and we have got to find them and get them out of America, and I thank President Trump and his Administration for doing just that. I yield.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady yields. The Chair recognizes Ms. Craig from Minnesota.



Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Chairman, thank you so much for allowing me to waive on to this Committee today. I think if I were a permanent member, I would have a permanent headache.

Chairman COMER. Well, you will not have to worry about it, but go ahead.

Ms. CRAIG. Governor Walz, it is so good to see you today. Let me start by saying that we should all be against chaos. We all are for a safe and secure border and an orderly immigration system. What we are seeing now, though, is chaos out of the current Administration with their blatant disregard for due process and their indiscriminate immigration executive orders. In fact, the Trump Administration's Department of Homeland Security had to take down its posted sanctuary jurisdictions list because it created mass confusion in Minnesota for local officials and was opposed by local law enforcement. And so, Governor Walz, let me just start. Just so we know the record is correct, I did not think Minnesota was a sanctuary state. Is Minnesota a sanctuary state, Governor?

Governor WALZ. We are not. The legislature has passed no such law, and I have signed no such law, and we follow all Federal law.

Ms. CRAIG. Thank you, sir. That list included 20 counties when it came out across Minnesota without any rhyme or reason, including Le Sueur County, which I represent. I have inquired into why they are listed from DHS but still absolutely no answers. Governor Walz, I thought it might be helpful to point out that according to the FBI's own 2023 data, Minnesota has fewer violent incidents per 100,000 than states such as Tennessee, Louisiana, Missouri, Texas, Alabama, Georgia—I am going to repeat that again, Georgia—and Ohio. Why do you think that our state has been able to maintain a lower crime rate than other states?

Governor WALZ. Well, thank you, Congresswoman, and we are at a 30-year low on serious crimes, and as you said, we consistently rank below, and I think that is because we invest, as we have, historic investments in law enforcement, but law enforcement works with the community. There is a process in place. We know who they are. They work hand in hand. We make sure that those laws are followed. And we also have policies where we show compassion to our neighbors, and it is not chaos, as you said. It is done right. I am grateful, grateful for the law enforcement who does that work, but I am also grateful to the legislature and my administration who have put in historic amounts of help to make sure they are able to deliver those services, and they are the ones that are best trained to do it.

And the case that you brought up of listing these, in Minnesota, counties can go above the Federal floor. If they want to issue detainers, they certainly can. Many of those counties that were listed on there would fit the definition of everyone on this side of the aisle is asking for, and they are doing that. Nothing prohibits them in Minnesota from doing that, and yet they ended up on the list, it caused great chaos, and law enforcement themselves, and as you heard earlier, the Sheriff's Association issuing that it cannot be done this way.

Ms. CRAIG. Thank you, Governor. Earlier today I spoke with the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, and I think all of us here share the goals of lowering costs for our constituents and growing the

economy. According to a Minnesota Chamber Foundation report from this February, Minnesota's immigrant labor force participation rate was over 74 percent, well above the national average, and they fill important jobs in our agriculture, healthcare, and manufacturing sectors. Governor Walz, how can we ensure Minnesota remains a state to attract the talent we need and a strong economy?

Governor WALZ. We invest in our people. We make sure we remain the number one healthcare state. We make sure that people are safe in their communities. We talk about focusing on the work, that the state patrol keeps our roads safe—safest top three state for the lowest number of traffic accidents. That is what they should be focusing on. Investing, as the chamber is focusing on, Minnesota is number four in Fortune 500 per capita, and we are ranked sixth best state for business, continue to have a well-educated, a healthy, safe, and make sure we are investing in those opportunities for people. That is all we are asking, and we are asking that the Federal Government do their job.

You continue to ask states to do ICE's job. They are free to do their job in Minnesota, but they are asking us to do the job when we are doing everything we can to help, but we have all of the other responsibilities of educating, of public safety, of roads, of transportation, of water infrastructure. And that is why Minnesota remains a top state because we invest in our people, we invest in their growth, we invest in their families.

Ms. CRAIG. Thank you, Governor. I appreciate this, and, And Mr. Lynch, I will yield last 20 seconds to you if you have got that.

Mr. LYNCH. Thank you. I am happy to take that. Thank you very much, Representative. For this 12 seconds, I just want to read. This is from the *Minnesota Reformer* from February 12, 2025. "The sanctuary bill that was offered in the Minnesota legislature is already dead as House speaker says it does not have the votes." So, this was an attempt to actually make Minnesota a sanctuary state, and it, like the speaker said, did not have the votes and died very early in the process.

Governor WALZ. And we got to the business of balancing our budget and investing in all of the other things we needed to do.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady's time has expired. The Chair recognizes Mrs. Miller from Illinois.

Mrs. MILLER. Thank you, Chairman. Governor Pritzker, Illinois is at a crisis point. Illegal aliens in our state have overwhelmed local communities and schools, causing untold pain and suffering, while costing the Illinois taxpayers billions. Governor, in a recent report by *Capital News of Illinois*, you called for mass protests, for mobilization, for disruption.

Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to submit the *Capital News of Illinois* report titled, "Trump's 100 Days: Pritzker calls for mass mobilization as he grows his national profile."

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mrs. MILLER. Governor, before we go any further, will you commit today to working with the Trump Administration and ICE to ensure that the violence we have seen in Los Angeles does not occur in Chicago or anywhere else in our state? Yes or no.

Governor PRITZKER. Thank you, Congressman Miller. We work every day with the Federal Government—

Mrs. MILLER. Yes or no, sir.

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. To keep our streets safe.

Mrs. MILLER. Will you commit to working with the Trump Administration?

Governor PRITZKER. We do, all the time, work with the Federal Government, law enforcement constantly.

Mrs. MILLER. Okay. I am taking that as yes. Governor, you said earlier this afternoon that you were willing to “stand in the way of Tom Homan,” who, I would like to note, is carrying out Federal law. I have before me numerous examples of illegal alien violence in Illinois, but I want to highlight the story of Joe Abraham whose daughter was tragically murdered by an illegal alien in Central Illinois under your watch, sir. I will now read his account.

“Hello. My name is Joe Abraham. I am the father of three, and Katie was my youngest. Katie had a beautiful soul, a sharp wit, and a huge personality. She loved life, and she lived it with authenticity, humor, and heart. She was a kind of person who succeeded at anything she put her mind to. She had a future full of promise. She was everything to our family.

“In the early hours of Sunday, January 19, Katie was riding in a Honda Civic with four friends. They were stopped at a red light when their car was struck from behind by a sports utility vehicle (SUV) traveling 78 miles per hour. The driver did not break. He did not swerve. He just slammed into them. The driver had previously been deported and was in the country illegally using an alias. He was allegedly intoxicated. After the crash, he fled the scene on foot without calling 9-1-1, without offering any help to the five women he had just hit. Katie died at the scene. Another young woman passed away the next day at the hospital. Instead of staying to face what he had done, the driver fled Urbana, made his way to Chicago, and then boarded a bus headed to Mexico. Thankfully, he was captured before fleeing the country. We share Katie’s story not just to honor her memory, but to raise awareness and to seek justice. No family should have to endure this type of loss.”

Sir, the family is here. The father is here. Would you like to apologize to Katie’s family? Feel free to direct your comments to me.

Governor PRITZKER. I am very sorry for their loss. I really am.

Mrs. MILLER. I can only imagine what other instances have taken place but have not been reported. You have stated that Illinois will not allow local police departments to assist ICE as they work to address the illegal immigration crisis that you helped to create. In light of the crimes that I have mentioned, do you stand by your policy of tying the hands of Illinois law enforcement? Yes or no, sir?

Governor PRITZKER. You know, Congresswoman Miller, I am not going to be lectured—

Mrs. MILLER. Yes or no, sir.

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. To by somebody—

Mrs. MILLER. I am reclaiming my time.

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. Who extols the virtue of Adolf Hitler.

Mrs. MILLER. I am reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman.

Governor PRITZKER. Of somebody who has allowed the pardoning—

Mrs. MILLER. In 2024, after—

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. Of January 6.

Mrs. MILLER. I am reclaiming my time. In 2024 after the Presidential election, you stated on *MSNBC* that, “I am going to do everything that I can to protect our undocumented immigrants.”

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to submit a *Fox News* report into the record titled, “Dem Governor JB Pritzker vows to do everything I can to protect our undocumented immigrants.”

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mrs. MILLER. These policies are not only deadly—

Governor PRITZKER. Congresswoman, I was talking about the people who have lived in our state for decades now.

Mrs. MILLER. These policies are not only deadly, but they have cost Illinois taxpayers billions, to the tune of \$3 billion since 2022. Governor, your state budget does not balance without massive yearly tax increases. This year, you hiked taxes by \$800 million. Your budgets fund the services of illegal aliens—

Governor PRITZKER. That is inaccurate, Congresswoman.

Mrs. MILLER [continuing]. While Americans are left behind—

Governor PRITZKER. Again, inaccurate.

Mrs. MILLER [continuing]. Being forced to flee our state.

Governor PRITZKER. Nearly everything is mischaracterized in your statement.

Mrs. MILLER. Governor, I judge you based on your actions, not on your words, and from what I can tell, you are doing everything in your power to roll out the red carpet for illegal aliens to protect them all at the expense of working people of Illinois. Your policies have been disastrous for our state and they would be disastrous for our country, and with that, I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady—

Governor PRITZKER. Your failures are a disaster for this country.

Chairman COMER [continuing]. Yields back. The gentlelady yields back. The Chair recognizes Mr. Subramanyam.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I first want to say that what happened this afternoon, this afternoon’s manhandling of Senator Alex Padilla after he sought to speak at a public press conference, was wrong and should be condemned by both parties, by every Member in this chamber. But it follows a pattern and this Administration of weaponizing law enforcement and using excessive force to attack peaceful protests and political opponents, and it is terrible. We are talking about what is going on in “sanctuary states.” I live in Virginia, and we are not a sanctuary state, but what is happening is that our sheriff’s office has made a decision to participate in the 287(g) program and, basically, working with ICE to show up in schools, show up in businesses, and try to, basically, attack kids, right, detain kids, and this is wrong. And this is not what our country is about, and so I do not want us to be supporting these types of actions.

Yesterday in Sterling, Virginia, we had masked men show up to a courthouse and detain people and arrest people, and a lot of this is peaceful. And this, again, follows this pattern of weaponizing law enforcement and weaponizing the DOJ and other places to attack

political opponents, attack peaceful protests, and to go around trying to make a political point because I think that is what this is really about. This is about politics, and this is about using law enforcement to show strength, but that is not strength. That is not strength.

And so, the other thing about this is none of this is making our communities safer, and none of this is good for our country. And so, I want to ask, Governor Walz, do these raids and do these actions and this use of law enforcement, is it making the folks in Minnesota safer?

Governor WALZ. Well, thank you, Congressman. In my opinion, no. It is causing chaos and fear amongst folks, and characterizing folks who are waiting on asylum flames who are trying to become naturalized, it causes chaos. And the other thing it does, it causes local law enforcement, they lose trust in the community. It puts them at risk, and the lack of coordination that we hear that no calls are coming in, we always coordinate.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Exactly.

Governor WALZ. And in the past, Democratic and Republican administrations have coordinated with us. We are not seeing it. It is creating chaos and fear, and, yes, get these stories of these violent criminals. We hold them, we call DHS, but those violent criminals are not at a preschool. That is what we have to get right. Go after why you are doing this. Get us a bipartisan bill that makes sure that folks can process and be documented, and let us make this country prosperous and continue to have a country.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Exactly. That is a great point because if we really want to solve immigration, why don't we do a bipartisan immigration reform bill? We can strengthen our border. We can find a path for those who have been here for a long time. We can actually solve this problem in Congress, but instead we are going around with masked men, intimidating people, throwing U.S. senators to the ground, and not solving any problem. And Governor Pritzker, I have talked to a lot of businesses in my community who are really concerned about what is going on, and this is not good for our economy either. And so, I would ask you, Governor Pritzker, what do you feel? Is this good for your state? Is this making folks in your state safer or well off or better off?

Governor PRITZKER. Congressman, thank you, and, no, this is making us worse off. It is actually harming public safety. It is frightening our communities, and, frankly, if you are one of the people, the U.S. citizens, that are getting taken off the streets or people who are here in this country legally taken off the streets, imagine what effect that has on the rest of the population.

And in my state, we reject that. The values of the people of the State of Illinois reject that, and I just want to say, because Congresswoman Miller would not allow me to, I just want to say, very importantly, that anyone who is condoning the \$400 million airplane going to the President of the United States from the Qataris, who would spy on us in an instant if they were able to do this, anybody who is condoning the President of the United States accepting the Chinese Communist Party money to his family through his meme coin, I mean, that is corruption, and yet that is what Congresswoman Miller is condoning. She is the one who thinks it is

okay to pardon people who attack police right here at the Capitol. Thank you for giving me that moment.

I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman's time has expired. The Chair recognizes Mrs. Fischbach from Minnesota.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair, and I just want to say thank you so much for allowing me the opportunity to be waived on today, Mr. Chair. And I will just say that Oversight is far livelier than Ways and Means.

[Laughter.]

Mrs. FISCHBACH. And Governor Walz, I want to say I thank you for being here because I know you have been very, very busy running around the country giving speeches and having town halls in Republican districts.

Governor WALZ. And passing balanced budgets.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Yes, well, you were running around, though, I know while they were trying to negotiate that.

Governor WALZ. I am a multitasker.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. It is my time, Governor Walz. This is my time. But there has been a lot of discussion and questions about policies that provide benefits for illegal aliens, and I understand, Governor, that you are going to say Minnesota is not a sanctuary state per se because the legislation was not passed, and just a yes or no question. Ranking Member Lynch had mentioned that there was a bill that was introduced for a sanctuary state this year in the Minnesota legislature. Would you have signed that bill? Did you support that bill?

Governor WALZ. Oh, thousands of bills are introduced. Hypothetical. We do not have it. I operate under the same law you operated under—

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Okay. Thank you, Governor Walz.

Governor WALZ. Under the lieutenant governor.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. But Governor Walz, we all know that you probably had some opinion on that bill. You are just choosing not to answer because the answer was probably, yes, you would have signed that bill if it had passed. But like Mr. Emmer, Mr. Crane, I think Mr. McGuire, a whole bunch of them mentioned the policies that Minnesota has. So, yes, I understand, not a sanctuary state per se. I think, as I recall, they mentioned driver's license for all. They mentioned the free tuition for illegal immigrants. They mentioned the Medicaid benefits. So, you, in essence, create a sanctuary state, you know, not formally.

Governor WALZ. You know the sheriffs supported the driver's license bill, the hospitals, and others—

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Governor Walz, I am certainly aware of that. I served many years in legislature, and I have many friends there. I understand that, but, in essence, they are creating a sanctuary state in practice. And so, we are going to talk a little bit about the legislature because just earlier this week, both chambers of the Minnesota legislature passed H.F. 1, and you are probably familiar with it. I do not know if you have signed it yet or not, but it repeals Minnesota care eligibility for illegal immigrants adults, ages 18 and older.

And with that recent repeal of eligibility for illegal immigrants, a policy that, initially, I mean, it was after my time, was enacted, in your time, 2023 under your administration, now being reversed with those budget negotiations, I was just wondering, first of all, do you know how many illegal immigrants were covered and are currently covered in Minnesota with Medicaid?

Governor WALZ. I do not have the exact number. It is not Medicaid. It is state that does this through MinnesotaCare, different program.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Okay. Well, but you still do not know how many?

Governor WALZ. I do not have—

Mrs. FISCHBACH. So, all of those negotiations you were deeply involved in earlier that you mentioned you were deeply involved in, that number never came up?

Governor WALZ. I do not have it in front of me right now.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Okay.

Governor WALZ. So, we can certainly get it to you.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. I would love it. I would love to have that.

I mean, I understand. Did you support that provision removing the illegal immigrants?

Governor WALZ. I will sign it into law.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. No. No, did you support it during the negotiations?

Governor WALZ. Did I support it? I am going to sign the bill.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. But there are negotiations, so I guess what I am hearing, though, is you did not support it.

Governor WALZ. We are very good at it. That is why we have a balanced budget.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. You did not support—

Governor WALZ. That is why I negotiated with the Republicans. Do I think it makes sense? Look, you know, Congresswoman, that Federal law requires us to provide healthcare to people when they show up in emergency rooms. That is why the hospitals have uncompensated care.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Reclaiming my time because you are trying to change the subject because I asked you very specifically, during negotiations, did you support the provision to eliminate illegal immigrants from healthcare?

Governor WALZ. It is a question that makes no sense.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. All right. All right.

Governor WALZ. I support it at the end of the day in a negotiation, which I agreed to sign it.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you, Governor. I mean, you were in Congress. You understand what reclaiming your time means. Yes, you understand that, but I guess I will move on because there was concerns about SNAP provisions being cut, but you supported that. I mean, you supported that over the healthcare to illegal immigrants. I guess I am confused about because you had other cuts you had to make, so all of the things that you guys have been talking about with law enforcement, education, school breakfast and lunch, did you cut that during the budget negotiations this year because my understanding is you had quite a deficit.

Governor WALZ. We do not. We have a budget surplus, as you know, Congresswoman.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Well, long term, but you had to make cuts this year.

Governor WALZ. We had a balanced budget. It is something we can help you all with. We have a balanced budget we agreed on. We left \$1.9 billion on the bottom line for this biennium, and even——

Mrs. FISCHBACH. But your structural budget——

Governor WALZ. The structural balance——

Mrs. FISCHBACH [continuing]. Had to be cut.

Governor WALZ. [continuing]. Was reduced by 50 percent.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. You had to make cuts or, no, you did not make any cuts?

Governor WALZ. We balanced a budget. We moved and we invested. It is what we do.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. All right, Governor, I am going to move on because I have one more thing, and I am running out of time because I really do want to talk about, you had mentioned civility or someone had mentioned civility. There was a discussion earlier about civility, but Mr. Fallon had mentioned how you had said you want to kick Republican ass. You have mentioned bullying. There is another one where you are going to bully the S-H-I-T out of President Trump. There are all kinds of things, and then you had a discussion about civility. And I am embarrassed because you say you are an educator, and you are the governor of my state that I am supposed to be proud of, and this is the kind of garbage, the example you are setting for our children that you are telling people to bully each other. And I try very hard not to say those kinds of things because I understand that it is meaningful when you hold the position like this. You should not be saying things like that.

Governor WALZ. But you support the President's language, Congresswoman?

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady's time has expired.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. The President is not in front of me right now, Governor.

Chairman COMER. The gentlelady's time has expired.

[Cross talking.]

Governor WALZ. And he should be.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes the Ranking Member for a unanimous consent.

Mr. LYNCH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have here a statement from the distinguished representative, Betty McCollum, from Minnesota, that notes that Minnesota's crime is declining, 30-year low. Companies hiring. It is one of the best places to raise a family in America, and it is not a sanctuary state.

Without objection, so ordered.

The Chair recognizes Mr. Lawler from New York.

Mr. LAWLER. Governor Hochul, under your watch, New York has spent billions of dollars of taxpayer money providing free housing, clothing, food, education, and healthcare to illegal immigrants. Meanwhile, you are charging hardworking New Yorkers \$2,500 annually just for the privilege of driving to work. Speaking of driving,



when you ran for Congress, did you oppose giving driver's licenses to illegals? Yes or no.

Governor HOCHUL. No, that was previous to that. It was in 2020.

Mr. LAWLER. You had a commercial running for Congress touting your position about driver's licenses.

Governor HOCHUL. No, but the position goes back earlier than that, is my point.

Mr. LAWLER. Did you oppose giving driver's licenses to illegals when you were running for Congress? Yes or no.

Governor HOCHUL. At the time I did, and I will tell you why.

Mr. LAWLER. Governor, it is yes or no.

Governor HOCHUL. I had a chance to go out and see a very rural district—

Mr. LAWLER. Reclaiming my time.

Governor HOCHUL. [continuing]. Where mothers were being denied the chance to drive to the doctor's office.

Mr. LAWLER. Governor, yes or no, do you support illegal immigrants getting taxpayer-funded healthcare?

Governor HOCHUL. People were being denied the chance to their jobs.

Chairman COMER. Governor, please answer the question.

Governor HOCHUL. I am not sure there will ever be a real question.

Mr. LAWLER. You were asked a question, and you chose to try to deflect.

Governor HOCHUL. I gave an answer.

Mr. LAWLER. The fact is you did support giving illegals driver's licenses—

Governor HOCHUL. Those are—

Mr. LAWLER. [continuing]. Or oppose giving illegals driver's licenses, now you support it. Governor, yes or no, do you support illegal immigrants getting-taxpayer funded healthcare? Yes or no.

Governor HOCHUL. We provide healthcare to people in need, including moms with new babies.

Mr. LAWLER. Do you support giving illegal immigrants taxpayer-funded healthcare? Yes or no.

Governor HOCHUL. We support giving support for healthcare.

Mr. LAWLER. The answer is yes. You expanded healthcare access in 2024 under Medicaid.

Governor HOCHUL. Yes, I did, for senior citizens and moms with new babies.

Mr. LAWLER. Governor, after the election, you said—

Governor HOCHUL. I would do it all over again.

Mr. LAWLER. Reclaiming my time. Governor, after the election you said, "Someone breaks the law. I will be the first one to call up ICE and say get them out of here." Governor, yes or no, have you personally called up ICE and asked them to get anyone out of New York?

Governor HOCHUL. As the Governor of New York, I have an entire state police force that carries out my directions.

Mr. LAWLER. Have you personally called anyone up and asked ICE to get anyone out of New York? Yes or no.

Governor HOCHUL. My state police acts as agency and my surrogate.

Mr. LAWLER. You have not, correct?

Governor HOCHUL. When I say “me,” I am referring to my entities such as the state police that handle that.

Mr. LAWLER. Oh, you are like Governor Cuomo, I am the government? Is that your position?

Governor HOCHUL. That is your characterization, not mine.

Mr. LAWLER. Yes or no, should ICE have been called on Sebastian Zapeta-Calil?

Governor HOCHUL. Can you refresh me as to the circumstances of the case?

Mr. LAWLER. He is the individual who burned the woman alive on the train.

Governor HOCHUL. Of course they should.

Mr. LAWLER. Could ICE have been called on him?

Governor HOCHUL. NYPD was handling that situation.

Mr. LAWLER. Should ICE have been called? That is my question. Yes or no.

Governor HOCHUL. If there was an arrest made, he should have been deported after conviction, yes.

Mr. LAWLER. Okay. So, Governor, when you were sworn in in 2021, you signed an executive order keeping many of Governor Cuomo’s executive orders in place, including EO 170. Interestingly enough, you did not include EO 170.1. Are you familiar with EO 170.1?

Governor HOCHUL. I do not have it in front of me. I have thousands of executive orders.

Mr. LAWLER. I have it right here, Governor.

Governor HOCHUL. I am sure you do.

Mr. LAWLER. And what you did, you waited several years until this year, January 16 of this year, in which you finally signed it and reinstated it into law. Why did you wait until just four days before Donald Trump was sworn in as President to sign EO 170.1 into law? And to refresh your memory, it basically mandates that Federal immigration authorities cannot enforce civil arrests in New York State buildings. Why did you wait several years to reinstate that?

Governor HOCHUL. Because we had a high level of confidence that under the previous Administration, that people going into the courthouses, whether they are victims of crimes, witnesses of crimes, would have their rights protected. I had no assurance that that would happen.

Mr. LAWLER. In other words, you believed they would not enforce Federal immigration law, and you were concerned that President Trump and his Administration would enforce Federal immigration law?

Governor HOCHUL. We thought it was important for victims of crimes and witnesses to murders, for example, that they have access to courts without being threatened or intimidated.

Mr. LAWLER. Yes. Speaking of crime, more than 3,200 illegal immigrants have been arrested in New York City for committing crimes while living in taxpayer-funded housing under your watch, Governor. Governor, are you aware of any law or executive order that would prevent a citizen of New York, a citizen of the United States from facing criminal or civil enforcement in a state building?

Governor HOCHUL. I am not aware.

Mr. LAWLER. So, you think that citizens should be treated less than and have less protections than illegal immigrants.

Governor HOCHUL. No, we report.

Mr. LAWLER. Is that what you are saying?

Governor HOCHUL. Our state laws say we cooperate in all criminal cases. I have made that very clear over the last seven hours.

Mr. LAWLER. Yes, but you are not doing that. That is the reality. Governor, do you support the New York for All Act?

Governor HOCHUL. The truth is we do not help them with civil enforcement because civil enforcement—

Mr. LAWLER. Governor, reclaiming my time.

Governor HOCHUL. Go for it.

Mr. LAWLER. Do you support the New York for All Act?

Governor HOCHUL. I am not speaking about hypothetical bills.

Mr. LAWLER. No. Governor, Governor, this is not a hypothetical. There was a sit-in in the state legislature today by activists blocking state senators from coming into the chamber. Do you support the New York for All Act? It is “yes” or “no.”

Governor HOCHUL. I will tell you this. I get about a thousand bills put on my desk—

Mr. LAWLER. Do you support the New York for All Act?

Governor HOCHUL. [continuing]. Probably by midnight tonight, which this is keeping me from doing the work of the people back home, but I can sit here as long as you like.

Mr. LAWLER. Governor, you have you done a terrible job as Governor. It is not keeping you from anything. Frankly, New York is better off with you down here and not in the state. The fact is—

Governor HOCHUL. I do not think we are better off with you here.

Mr. LAWLER. The fact is, Governor, you will support the New York for All Act. You will sign it into law if it passes the state legislature.

Governor HOCHUL. I have no confidence it is going to pass.

Mr. LAWLER. You have no confidence it will pass.

Governor HOCHUL. I do not know.

Mr. LAWLER. If it does pass, will you sign it?

Governor HOCHUL. I am not able to keep an eye on it. They are voting on it now.

Mr. LAWLER. Will you sign it into law if it passes?

Governor HOCHUL. I have about a thousand bills that gets passed every year.

Mr. LAWLER. Will you sign the New York for All Act into law if it passes? Yes or no.

Governor HOCHUL. You will have wait and see like every other bill.

Mr. LAWLER. We have to wait and see?

Governor HOCHUL. Yes, because I have—

Mr. LAWLER. Governor, you cannot take a position on the New York for All Act. It would put into state statute that New York is a sanctuary state. That is why you are here. That is the exact reason why you are sitting in front of us testifying because of your disastrous EOs, your disastrous pro-criminal policies that have resulted in the death of New Yorkers.

Mr. LYNCH. Chairman?

Mr. LAWLER. That is your failure, and the fact is that you cannot even answer the question. Will you support the New York for All Act? Yes or no.

Governor HOCHUL. No, the reason I am sitting here is because Republicans want——

Chairman COMER. The gentleman's time has expired.

Governor HOCHUL. [continuing]. To deflect from their big, bad, ugly bill that is going to hurt people.

Mr. LAWLER. Governor, Governor, will you support the New York for All Act?

Chairman COMER. The gentleman's time has expired. Governor, are you going to answer his question? Will you sign the bill?

Governor HOCHUL. I do not know what he is asking me. I do not——

Chairman COMER. He asked if you are going to sign the bill.

Governor HOCHUL. Ask any anybody in the State of York. I never say how I am going to vote on, decide on a bill until it is lands on my desk. Thousands——

Mr. LAWLER. You are the governor of the state. You are supposed to be——

Governor HOCHUL. I am well aware, well aware I am the Governor of the State of New York.

Mr. LAWLER. You want New York to be a sanctuary state, and it is shameful.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. LAWLER. It is shameful. You cannot even answer the question?

Governor HOCHUL. When it lands on my desk, I will do the proper evaluation.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman?

Mr. LAWLER. And do what?

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes——

Governor HOCHUL. That is what we do.

Mr. LAWLER. You will do what?

Governor HOCHUL. That is how you become a Governor.

Mr. LAWLER. You will sign into law, and that is exactly what you will do. You will sign into law.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes the Ranking Member.

Mr. LYNCH. Thank you. Mr. Chairman, I have a number of unanimous consent requests, one from the National Immigration Center.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. LYNCH. National Immigrant Justice Center, and the Alliance for Immigrants.

Chairman COMER. Without objection. So ordered.

Mr. LYNCH. They speak for themselves.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Stauber from Minnesota.

Mr. STAUBER. Thank you very much. Governor Walz, thanks for being here today. I am going to ask you a few questions and I ask you to keep your remarks brief. I got a lot to go through. As you know, I spent 23 years as a law enforcement officer in the State of Minnesota. You know that right? Do you know that? Yes or no. It is not a trick question. It is not a trick question.

Governor WALZ. Congressman, I do not know how many years.

Mr. STAUBER. I will answer it for you: 23 years in Duluth.

Governor WALZ. Thank you for that.

Mr. STAUBER. So, Governor, do you recognize this picture?

Governor WALZ. I do recognize the picture.

Mr. STAUBER. Briefly describe it to us. What is it? What is going on?

Governor WALZ. I believe the people in the picture now are incarcerated in Minnesota to the best of my—

Mr. STAUBER. It is a precinct burning down because of your decision. Was this a peaceful protest? Was this a peaceful protest?

Governor WALZ. The gentleman standing there? That was—

Mr. STAUBER. Was this a peaceful protest?

Governor WALZ. It was a criminal act that people were prosecuted for.

Mr. STAUBER. So, it was not a peaceful protest, right? As I watched lawlessness devastate Los Angeles this past week, I was reminded of your failure to protect Minnesota from similar riots. Governor Walz on May 29 of 2020, during your own press conference, you described your response to the riots during the 2020 Summer of Love as “an abject failure.” Governor, I could not agree with you more.

Governor WALZ. That is out of context, Congressman, and you know it.

Mr. STAUBER. And on May 17, 2025, you were at the Minnesota Law School talking to the graduates, and we have talked about this. You called the enforcement of illegal immigrants a modern-day Gestapo. You have been asked three, four times if you would rescind that, and you will not? Will you rescind it? This is, like, the fifth time. Yes or no.

Governor WALZ. Congressman, I was talking to law students about due process, and I said every—

Mr. STAUBER. So, you will not rescind it.

Governor WALZ. You took an oath to due process.

Mr. STAUBER. Governor, was there a violent Al-Shabaab terrorist who entered our country illegally arrested in Minneapolis last year? Yes, there was. Were there three child predators arrested by ICE in St. Paul earlier this year?

Governor WALZ. I certainly hope so. That is their job.

Mr. STAUBER. Yes, there was. Are the officers who arrested the Al-Shabaab terrorists or the child predators. Are they Nazis or the Gestapo?

Governor WALZ. The tactics of wearing masks—

Mr. STAUBER. They are not.

Governor WALZ. The tactics of wearing masks—

Mr. STAUBER. Why did you—

Governor WALZ. [continuing]. Unidentified, due process—

Mr. STAUBER. Why did tell us that they were the Gestapo? Do you believe that any of the violent illegal immigrants I have mentioned have a right to be in this country?

Governor WALZ. I do not know what their immigration status was.

Mr. STAUBER. They are illegal, violent criminals that the ICE took off the streets of Minneapolis. Last week—

Mr. STAUBER. You did not say, Congressman what their status was.

Mr. STAUBER. Governor, last week, law enforcement officers in the State of Minnesota took 900 pounds of meth off the streets. Do you support that?

Governor WALZ. We certainly do. Fentanyl——

Mr. STAUBER. Do you know that ICE assisted in those arrests and investigations? Do you support the assistance of ICE in that enforcement action? Yes or no.

Governor WALZ. I cannot speak to that because we were not included in the briefing.

Mr. STAUBER. You do not know if ICE was part of it? I am telling you they were.

Governor WALZ. I do not have that data. I would have to trust you.

Mr. STAUBER. Will you apologize to our constituents and law enforcement officers for making them and their families less safe with your incendiary actions?

Governor WALZ. I will congratulate them that they helped us work on the largest pension bill for——

Mr. STAUBER. Governor.

Governor WALZ. [continuing]. Minnesota law enforcement——

Mr. STAUBER. Governor.

Governor WALZ. [continuing]. In 30 years.

Mr. STAUBER. Claiming my time, Governor, what weapons did you carry in war?

Governor WALZ. Congressman, for 24 years, I carried——

Mr. STAUBER. No, no, no. What weapons did you carry in war?

Governor WALZ. What did you carry in war?

Mr. STAUBER. I tell you what, Governor——

Governor WALZ. You know I misspoke. You know I misspoke.

Mr. STAUBER [continuing]. You are barking down the wrong tree, okay?

Governor WALZ. You know I misspoke.

Mr. STAUBER. You lied to Minnesotans. You said that you carried weapons in war.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman?

Mr. STAUBER. That is stolen valor. You know what? My wife served 24 years in the military.

Mr. LYNCH. Yes, Mr. Chairman?

[Cross talking.]

Mr. LYNCH. A little bit of respect for the witness.

Mr. STAUBER. She is an Iraq war veteran.

Mr. LYNCH. You know what I mean? This hectoring is not——

Mr. STAUBER. She was over in the war zone.

Mr. LYNCH. On a point of order.

Mr. STAUBER. That is stolen valor.

Mr. LYNCH. Point of order, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. STAUBER. And I am disgusted with you, and so are the people that you served with.

Mr. LYNCH. Point of order.

Chairman COMER. Point of order.

Mr. STAUBER. That is stolen valor.

Chairman COMER. Halt just a minute. State your point.

Mr. STAUBER. Stolen valor.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman?

Mr. STAUBER. You did not carry weapons in war——

Mr. LYNCH. That is not a question.

Governor WALZ. Congressman, my 24 years was public——

[Cross talking.]

Mr. STAUBER. Will you apologize for lying?

Mr. LYNCH. Objection.

Mr. STAUBER. Will you apologize for lying?

Mr. LYNCH. Objection.

Chairman COMER. All right. Hold on. Pause.

Mr. LYNCH. That is not questioning a witness. That is not questioning a witness. You think so, huh?

Chairman COMER. Point of order. State your point, Mr. Ranking Member.

Mr. LYNCH. No, no, you are yelling at him, and you are hectoring him.

Chairman COMER. State your point.

Mr. LYNCH. You are hectoring. You are hectoring.

Chairman COMER. All right. State your point.

Mr. STAUBER. Governor, you didn't carry weapons in war, did you? You did not carry weapons in war, did you?

Chairman COMER. You got 24 seconds.

Governor WALZ. Congressman, you know I misspoke.

Mr. STAUBER. You did not carry weapons in war, yes or no? You lied. Governor, what rank did you retire at?

Governor WALZ. I served——

Mr. STAUBER. What rank did you retire at?

Governor WALZ. Congressman, I served my battalion as the command sergeant major and——

Mr. STAUBER. That is not the question I asked. What rank did you retire at?

Governor WALZ. I retired as a master sergeant, EA.

Mr. STAUBER. Okay. Here is your coin that says retired at a command sergeant major.

Governor WALZ. It says I wore the rank.

Mr. STAUBER. That is right. You did not retire, did you?

Governor WALZ. I did retire, after 24 years.

Mr. STAUBER. Stolen valor. Here is a picture of your coin, your challenge coin. I am disgusted with you. Governor, you lie when the truth is better.

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Chairman, the time has expired.

Governor WALZ. Congressman, I am sorry——

Mr. STAUBER. You lie when the truth is better.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman's has expired.

Mr. STAUBER. You called half Trump supporters Nazis and fascists, and you know what? That is why the Minnesota Police and Police Association did not support you in the last election because you are missing in action.

Governor WALZ. Well, I support them.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. STAUBER. On behalf of the folks from the Land of Rocks and Cows, thank you, and I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Ms. Tenney from New York.

Ms. TENNEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you for allowing me to waive onto this Committee for this important Oversight Committee hearing and happy to have the governors here to hopefully answer some questions and just to address a couple things that I have heard in this committee hearing. I have not appeared on Oversight before. I do serve in a much milder Ways and Means Committee, but I just want to say a couple things about what we are doing today and about sanctuary cities.

We are all children of immigrants. My grandparents met at Ellis Island. They sat in quarantine. They came from other countries. They came here to work. That is not what this is about. This hearing is about people who have taken advantage of our borders and our country, who have come in as illegal cartels, who have overrun our Northern border, which is part of my district in Upstate New York, in New York 24, and these people have taken operational control of our Southern and our Northern border. And we need our governors to make sure that they are providing the law enforcement backup to our ICE agents and others, and not assisting and aiding and abetting in such a way to these illegal immigrants, particularly the cartels.

And I think one of the most important things, I am sick of hearing everyone defaming my constituent actually, Tom Homan, who is doing an excellent job and who served our country honorably. His big concern, and I think it is a big concern for me because when I served in the state legislature, Governor Hochul was not there as either the lieutenant governor or the governor, but I was one of the leaders on human trafficking. And one of the important questions that Tom Homan talked about repeatedly is where are the 300,000 children? Children who were human-trafficked by people who are profiting off of these human-trafficking, not just drug trafficking, human-trafficking, innocent children all through our interior, we do not know where they are.

Those are the people that I am concerned about, and what ICE is trying to do is get to those people who are taking these children and profiting off them and having no regard, and that is what worries me the most is we have gotten off track on a number of things. And what concerns me is we have this defund and demoralize the police movement brought to a level where we are defunding and demoralizing ICE agents who are simply doing their job to protect our borders. And what concerns me is, and I know, Governor Hochul, obviously I am going to address you because you are my governor, people have addressed the billions of dollars that New York State taxpayers, by the way, the highest taxpayers in the entire Nation now. We are always in a struggle with California who is more, who is less, and I think we are winning out this race now. Not a good distinction by the way. Not a good distinction to have a Northern border that is overrun by people who are human-trafficking, bringing illicit drugs into our communities.

I have had three parents in my community, my own home community, where their sons died of overdoses because of illegal fentanyl. So, these are real issues that are coming from people that are coming across our borders. So, we know we have spent billions



of dollars on all kinds of illegal immigrants in New York State. The estimate is, between New York City and New York State, it is about \$7 billion, and that is New York taxpayer dollars. Those are my tax dollars, people, constituents, I serve who go to work every day, and all we are trying to do is keep these communities safe.

And you mentioned that, Governor Hochul, that you were talking about keeping these communities safe, but I want to ask you a question, and I have got a series of questions and some of them have been asked by my colleagues. But I want to ask you right now because you are the governor of our state, and you have been presiding over a pretty disastrous situation with our prisons. And many of those prisons, including one of the maximum security prisons, is actually in my district and a number of other facilities. Are there any criminal illegal gang members in the New York State prison system right now? Just yes if there are——

Governor HOCHUL. Congresswoman, I want——

Ms. TENNEY [continuing]. And if you know how many, and if you cannot get me the answer, can your staff provide us with general information on that?

Governor HOCHUL. No, I will tell you this. I totally agree with you, Congresswoman, that more needs to be done to protect our border. We have asked for support from the Federal Government for the border that you represent that I know so well. I have had to deploy \$8 million of my own state dollars to amp up the enforcement.

Ms. TENNEY. Well, there are our state dollars, but let me just take this——

Governor HOCHUL. [continuing]. To help with human-trafficking.

Ms. TENNEY. Let me get to the prisons because I want to get into another thing. Are there criminal illegal immigrant gang members in the New York State prison system right now?

Governor HOCHUL. If there are, there will be——

Ms. TENNEY. So, you do not know. Do you know if there are?

Governor HOCHUL. Of course there are. I am sure there are. I have already said 1,300.

Ms. TENNEY. That is all I wanted to know. Can you get me the number?

Governor HOCHUL. I have already had ICE take 1,300 of them——

Ms. TENNEY. I am not asking you that.

Governor HOCHUL. But no doubt that there is some.

Ms. TENNEY. I am asking you can we get the information about whether they are Tren de Aragua, whether they are MS-13, Crips, Bloods. I have toured the prisons. I have seen, you know, people that they line up in rows. I want to know how many of them are illegal immigrants that are putting not only other inmates at risk, but also our prison guards who are at risk because right now, these types of people are in our prison system, are putting our corrections officers at risk. And by you shutting down and cutting off the ability of our corrections officers who are trained to deal with these kinds of people there, we are losing the ability of having the trained people there. And our National Guard are wonderful people who serve our communities, but they are not trained to be able to

do this and many of them are underage in that. Can I get the information from you on that?

Governor HOCHUL. Certainly. Again, I just want to reaffirm that if there is someone convicted of a crime in our prison, they will be deported. We let ICE know 30 days before the end of their sentence, and that is why I have sent 1,300 people already, just since I have been governor, out of our country. I do not want them here anymore than you do, Congresswoman.

Ms. TENNEY. Okay. Can I just ask you one last thing, because you talked about you do not support a sanctuary city. You were lieutenant governor when this was signed into law under Governor Cuomo. We have the Green Light Law. The local DMVs, it gives driver's licenses to illegal aliens, which you once did not support, but now you do. You have admitted that today. Under the Green Light Law, would you support repealing the Green Light Law so that we can allow ICE agents to work with our DMV to find out when these people drive across the Canadian border and they have a carload full of innocent children, and they cannot find any information on them because they get a legal license? Can you just give me that information?

Chairman COMER. Last question, but feel free to answer it, Governor.

Governor HOCHUL. We absolutely share information on such situations with ICE. That is our job.

Ms. TENNEY. Do you support repealing the Green Light Law?

Chairman COMER. All right. The gentlelady's time has expired. The Chair recognizes Mr. LaHood.

Mr. LAHOOD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I appreciate your indulgence for letting me waive on the Committee today. I know it has been a long day. I want to welcome our governors here today. Thank you.

Governor Pritzker, on behalf of my constituents and myself, I have serious concerns about the current State of Illinois and the continued direction your administration is taking when it comes to sanctuary policies. And I know we have talked a lot about that today, and I want to be clear: your sweeping sanctuary policies are not just misguided, in my view, I think they are dangerous. Your agenda puts ideology above public safety, ties the hands of law enforcement, and signals to violent criminal illegal immigrants that Illinois is a safe haven.

Your administration has made the State of Illinois among the national outliers to defy Federal law, and you have doubled down on policies like Illinois Way Forward Act, which is legislation you proposed and signed, that prohibits local law enforcement from cooperating with ICE, even in cases involving violent criminals. And I think, hearing you today, I think you honestly believe that refusing to turn over convicted felons to Federal authorities makes our communities safer, and I will tell you, Governor, it does not. And as a former Federal and state prosecutor who has worked very closely with law enforcement, none of that makes us safer or makes law enforcement feel comfortable.

Instead of working with Federal law enforcement to remove dangerous individuals from our streets in Chicago and across Illinois, you are creating bureaucratic roadblocks and political cover. And in

my view, that is not leadership, it is government malpractice. Illinois families are already struggling with the highest combined state and local tax burden in the country, and they should not be forced to subsidize over \$2.5 billion in Illinois taxpayer money that is been spent on illegal immigrants over the last four years under your sanctuary policies in Illinois. I want to mention two specific cases, although I could talk about a lot more.

A tragic case involving the family of George Levin, a 63-year-old man who was murdered by a pair of illegal immigrants who were arrested in Chicago in January. He was found bound with duct tape and his legs tied with an extension cord. The title of an article was, "Two migrant men beat Chicago businessman to death, left him bound, gagged, prosecutors say," dated February 1, 2025, again, under your sanctuary policies in the State of Illinois. I would like to submit that for the record, Mr. Chairman.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. LAHOOD. The second one is a case of two families, and I want to highlight Chloe Polzin and, of course, Catherine Abraham, two girls in their early 20's that were killed in a fatal hit-and-run by an illegal immigrant in Urbana, Illinois. And, again, the title from that article, "Glenview family seeks justice after migrant suspect kills daughter and friend in Urban hit-and-run." I would like to submit that for the record as well.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. LAHOOD. And so, Governor, I guess a question for you, as you hear these stories, and there are many others, does it cause you to rethink your sanctuary city policies or regret some of the policies you have taken as it relates to sanctuary cities?

Governor PRITZKER. Thank you, Congressman. I am glad to see you here. I know you were unwilling to meet with your constituents about the Medicaid cuts that you voted for.

Mr. LAHOOD. So, answer the question. I thought you might not answer the question.

Governor PRITZKER. I am answering your question.

Mr. LAHOOD. I am going to reclaim my time because you did not answer the question, which I thought you would. When I asked, when you hear about victims that suffer violence because of illegal migrants in a sanctuary city state, you said, no, it has not caused you rethink.

Governor PRITZKER. These are heinous crimes.

Mr. LAHOOD. Reclaiming my time. Now, Governor Pritzker, you mentioned——

Governor PRITZKER. That is not what I said. These are heinous crimes. A judicial warrant is all the Federal Government——

Mr. LAHOOD. Reclaiming my time. I have the time. I have the time. Earlier, you——

Governor PRITZKER. You all have the ability to fix this.

Mr. LAHOOD. Governor Pritzker, earlier——

Governor PRITZKER. Do your job. Do your job, Congressman.

Mr. LAHOOD. Yes, I would deflect, too, instead of answering those questions. Now, you said earlier in a response to a question from Chairman Comer that you have been critical and had been critical of President Biden and his border policies, and you cited a letter October 2, 2023, that you authored. So, I pulled the letter,

and I was looking for this criticism of the Biden border policy. Three pages, nothing in there. Now, I am going to submit for the record so everybody can see it, October 2, 2023, letter from JB Pritzker to President Biden. Not one mention of being critical of the border.

Chairman COMER. Without objection, so ordered.

Mr. LAHOOD. Thank you.

Now, I want to——

Governor PRITZKER. Public statements on national programs about this.

Mr. LAHOOD. Again, it is not your time. Governor Pritzker, it was mentioned earlier all these rosy statistics about Illinois, but I want to mention a couple that were not mentioned. Illinois is the leader in outmigration of people leaving the State of Illinois. We have led for the last four years, five years. People to leave the State of Illinois. We lost a congressional seat, as you are well aware. We have the lowest population in the city of Chicago now than in 100 years. People continue to flee Illinois. We have the fifth highest unemployment rate in the country, the second highest property tax rate in the country, the fifth highest illegal immigration population in the country with over 500,000 illegal immigrants leaving in Illinois.

None of that got mentioned before, but that is the reality. And to be honest with you, Governor Pritzker, I wish you did not have to be here today as my governor, I really do, but unfortunately, because of your failed policies, you have spotlighted Illinois, and that truly is unfortunate, and I yield back.

Chairman COMER. The gentleman yields back.

Governor PRITZKER. Congressman, half of that is completely false and needs to be corrected, and I will if given the moment to speak.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes——

Governor PRITZKER. Our population is increasing. We have a higher population as a result of the——

Mr. LYNCH. The gentleman——

Governor PRITZKER. [continuing]. Census that was in 2020. It was your Republican governor, and you served in the legislature.

Chairman COMER. Governor, you will have time to answer that. [Cross talking.]

Governor PRITZKER. You were part of those policies. We are turning the ship around.

Chairman COMER. The Chair recognizes Mr. Jack.

Mr. JACK. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and as the questioner today, Mr. Walz, I think you are not going to need any more diet Mountain Dew after this. Just one thing just to kind of bring this entire hearing back into the perspective, just to help us understand and this Committee understand the policies of your administrations. We will start with you Governor Walz. Do you accept U.S. code which establishes that improper entry into our country is illegal and enforceable by the Federal Government?

Governor WALZ. Improper entry meaning not asking for asylum?

Mr. JACK. Illegally crossing is an illegal act and, therefore, a criminal act.

Governor WALZ. Civil in some cases, criminal as the government does it, yes.

Mr. JACK. Thank you. Governor Pritzker.

Governor PRITZKER. I am sorry. Can you repeat the question?

Mr. JACK. Sure, no question. So, just establishing that your administration respects that U.S. code affirms and your administration believes that improper entry into our country is an illegal act and, therefore, criminal.

Governor PRITZKER. As the Federal code says, we believe it, yes, and we follow it.

Mr. JACK. Thank you, Governor, and Governor Hochul.

Governor HOCHUL. It depends how the Federal immigration authorities enforce it. Sometimes it is civil. Sometimes they do it on a criminal side. It is up to them to make that determination.

Mr. JACK. Thank you. One of the reasons why we just want to establish that is with respect to illegal immigration. I mean, you are elected in your states, but your states' policies affect my state in Georgia, affect my constituents in Georgia because when you create policies that incentivize illegal immigration, incentivize folks crossing illegally and being criminals into our country, it presents challenges to us, and it presents challenges to our ability to protect our constituents, in my district.

Every single person on this panel, Republican and Democrat, has a story, a painful story about an illegal immigrant or many illegal immigrants have taken lives of those within our districts. In fact, in my district alone, in Columbus, Georgia, Dr. Malcolm Goodchild was killed by a drunk driver illegally here in our country. Of course, we talked about Laken Riley. My colleagues have done that ad nauseum. So, we also talk about the financial burden that is associated with those of us that represent folks in Georgia and your states as well. In Georgia alone, I just want the record to note, that \$563 has been associated with the increased costs and increased burdens of my constituents because of illegal immigrants within our state.

In our closing time, Governor Pritzker, we had Mayor Brandon Johnson testify before us, and I know you have at times expressed concerns about how he has run his administration in Chicago. I am just curious if you support—one of the things we talked about in this Committee, perhaps you prepared for, was a directive that he sent to Chicago police directing them not to cooperate with Federal law enforcement enforcing immigration operations. Do you support that action from Mayor Johnson?

Governor PRITZKER. I support actions that follow the law of the State of Illinois and the Federal law.

Mr. JACK. Do you think Mayor Johnson has done a good job with respect to law enforcement in his city?

Governor PRITZKER. Law enforcement has improved markedly since the choice of Larry Snelling as the superintendent of police in the city of Chicago.

Mr. JACK. What grade would you give, A to F, Mayor Johnson with respect to law enforcement in his city?

Governor PRITZKER. I would not grade the mayor. I will say that Larry Snelling is doing an excellent job as superintendent.

Mr. JACK. Thank you. Governor Walz, I think you bring an interesting perspective to this conversation because you were just a candidate for national office on a ticket that lost. Exit polls from 2024

show a clear bipartisan majority of Americans trust President Trump to effectively handle immigration. Recent polling of affirms Americans overwhelmingly support President Trump's immigration policies by a 30-percent margin. Even CBS published a survey that shows six out of ten Americans say it is very important to deport illegal aliens, and, of course, we have established that anyone crossing the border is, in fact, a criminal. So, Governor Walz, I am just curious, given Americans' overwhelming support of President Trump's immigration policies, do you believe your record on immigration is one of the reasons you lost the vice presidency?

Governor WALZ. Congressman, I am not familiar with the polls you are talking about. I can only speak to Minnesota, that there is an anger about how it is being carried out. No one disagrees that we needed immigration reform and we need to fix it. What they do not see is whether it is a United States Senator being taken down for asking a question or whether it is a 4-year-old girl with cancer being sent out of the country. That is the frustration.

Mr. JACK. Well, put another way, I am just curious. You were on a national ticket that lost, and I am curious what issues do you believe you failed to litigate properly with the American voters?

Governor WALZ. Oh, I will let history re-litigate that.

Mr. JACK. Fair enough, and I will just close, Governor Walz, if I could. One of the concerns that has been raised about why illegal immigration was so bad under President Biden is that he just cognitively was not there during the end of his presidency. When did you first become aware of President Biden's cognitive decline?

Governor WALZ. I do not have the expertise to judge on that.

Mr. JACK. Did you have conversations with Vice President Harris at any point about his cognitive decline?

Governor WALZ. Not that I can recall, no.

Mr. JACK. With that, I yield back to our Chairman. Thank you for convening this hearing, and I appreciate your attention to all of our communities that we serve. Thank you, Chairman.

Chairman COMER. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. Because we had some waive-on Members on our side that went over, I am going to yield 2 minutes to Mr. Lynch.

Mr. LYNCH. Thank you. I just want to update the gentleman on the most recent polls. You are right, the President did have favorable marks on his immigration policy early on, but since the snatch-and-grabs have started, he is underwater. Fifty-four percent of the American people oppose him, his current policy, this active policy he has got going on right now.

With that, I know, Governor Pritzker, you had a desire to fire back at some of the allegations to you. You have that opportunity now. I yield you as much time as you need, although if you have any left over, you can give it to your colleagues.

Governor PRITZKER. I appreciate it, and I am a sharer. Thank you very much, Congressman, and let me just say that I am so proud of my state and the way that we have operated, particularly, in the last 6-and-a-half half years to protect people. Public safety, so important in our state. I have increased the number of state police in Illinois actually to highs that did not exist even before my predecessor, the Republican governor. We also have done a lot to invest in violence prevention, and you have seen the result of that

and the fact that we have banned assault weapons, that we have banned ghost guns. I would ask the Members of Congress and the Members of this Committee to work to ban assault weapons across the United States. It worked back in the 1990's. It would work again, if you pass it, to lower the crime rate, lower the homicide rate.

We have so much work to do as a country on immigration reform, and I do not understand why, at about 50/50—this Congress is about 50/50 between the two parties—isn't it about time that you got together and got comprehensive immigration reform done? We have seen over the last 40 years, attempts along the way. It always fails every time. It is because of Republican Members walking away from the table. You all are in control of the Congress and the presidency. You can get together with Democrats and get something put together that will secure our border and have a big door that allows people to come who are working hard, who will raise families in the United States and help our economy.

Mr. LYNCH. Governor Walz, I know you took some incoming today.

Governor WALZ. Yes.

Mr. LYNCH. You got any closing remarks?

Governor WALZ. That is part of it. I would just say, Chairman Comer, Acting Ranking Member, thank you to you, and those folks sitting behind you and along the wall, thank you to all of you for accommodating this.

Chairman COMER. Thank you.

Governor WALZ. Chairman, thank you specifically for accommodating our state schedule on budget.

Chairman COMER. Thank you.

Governor WALZ. I am grateful.

Mr. LYNCH. Governor Hochul.

Governor HOCHUL. No, thank you for the opportunity, again, Chairman Comer, Ranking Member Lynch. Not sure what to say after today's experience, almost eight hours of sitting here and not doing the work of the people of the State of New York, but here is what I want to say. My number one priority has always been and always will be keeping New Yorkers safe. I believe our policies and our laws, as implemented, do. Second point I want to make, I want express my absolute outrage on what we have seen happen to a U.S. senator in the United States of America. Regardless of what anyone does, to have someone like that treated like a common criminal as if he was a threat, and throw him down and have to handcuff him with three people, shocks the conscience. And as a former member of this body, I hope we will all stand up and condemn this and say we can do better. This is a great country. Let us make sure we ensure that it stays great.

Mr. LYNCH. Thank you, and, Ms. Skye Perryman, I just want to say thank you to you for your help here today. Thank you.

Ms. PERRYMAN. Thanks for having me.

Chairman COMER. Thank you, Ranking Member, and I am going to assume you all have not seen the entire tape at the beginning. I am sure *MSNBC* or whoever sent you the clips have only shown you the end, but I think it will be interesting when you see the entire clip of the incident with the Senator.

Before we close, I want to thank the Abraham family, again, for attending today. The purpose of this hearing is to try to get the criminal illegal immigrants out of this country, and I think that is a goal that an overwhelming majority of Americans have. The governors said under oath that they were not sanctuary states and they would cooperate with the Federal Government. We will see if that happens. That is good to hear, but we will see if that happens.

So, with that and without objection, all Members have 5 legislative days within which to submit materials and additional written questions for the witnesses, which will be forwarded to the witnesses.

If there is no further business, again, I want to thank the witnesses for being here today. I know it was a long day. Thank you so much and thank you for your service.

So, without objection, the Committee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 5:59 p.m., the Committee was adjourned.]

