

Ladies and gentlemen, distinguished members of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and fellow Americans, I stand before you today in unwavering support of Secretary Noem and her bold, necessary efforts to deport not just criminal illegal immigrants, but all illegal immigrants who have no right to be in our great nation. As a parent whose life has been shattered by the failures of our broken system, I speak from the heart and from personal pain.

My daughter, Dalilah Coleman, was involved in a devastating vehicle accident caused by an illegal immigrant. The sanctuary state of California issued him a commercial driver's license at the age of 20, enabling him to be on our roads. But when the crash happened, state authorities refused to acknowledge it or even check on Dalilah's status. She now lives with the aftermath, her dreams derailed, our family struggling day to day. This is the human cost of policies that shield lawbreakers. The crash resulted in her inability to walk, talk, eat orally, or attend kindergarten as planned. She was in a coma for three weeks and required six months of hospital treatment before her family could bring her home. While in the hospital, she had a craniectomy and was without half of her skull for four months.

Blue states are failing the entire country by ignoring ICE detainer requests and harboring these individuals, which is not just negligent, it's borderline illegal. They demand and receive billions in federal funding for everything from disaster relief to public health, infrastructure, and more, yet they refuse to comply with federal law by turning over criminal aliens to ICE for deportation. They take our taxpayer dollars while actively obstructing the enforcement of immigration laws that protect all Americans, including their own citizens. Where is the same fire and outrage for those killed by illegal immigrants they willingly harbor? These sanctuary policies release dangerous individuals back into communities, endangering lives nationwide, all while these states line up for more federal handouts.

They condemn Secretary Noem for refusing to support such chaos, yet they enable it. These illegal immigrants do not see our children and teens as innocents; to traffickers, they're the next paycheck; to rapists, the next opportunity; to drug dealers, the next client or mule; to cartels, the next pawn; to murderers, the next thrill. But Secretary Noem sees them as our nation's future, our kids, our hope. She fights every day to protect them, and all American citizens, against the hate and backlash thrown her way by this committee at every hearing.

While 47 of you here in this chamber bash, thrash, and ridicule her for undertaking this impossible task that none of you have the courage to face in your own states or districts, she shoulders the burden for the entire U.S. Not one of you has reached out to check on Dalilah or the countless victims like her. You're quick to inspect detention facilities for illegals' living conditions but seem to forget to check on my daughter's—how she no longer lives as before, how we struggle as the people you're sworn to protect.

The foxes are in the henhouse, and too many Democrat-run states are allowing the worst of the worst to live in society at our children's expense, while happily accepting federal funds to keep the doors open. I turn my back on that hypocrisy and thank Secretary Kristi Noem. I am the voice you try to silence, but we will be heard. How about we focus on our future, our American dream. My daughter lost hers so others could chase theirs illegally. I will continue this fight. God bless Secretary Noem, and God bless America.