House sends Trump \$4.6B border bill

By ANDREW TAYLOR AND ALAN FRAM Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Democratic-controlled House voted on Thursday to send President Donald Trump a bipartisan, Senate-drafted, \$4.6 billion measure to care for migrant refugees detained at the southern border, capping a Washington skirmish in which die-hard liberals came out on the losing end in a battle with the White House, the GOP-held Senate and Democratic moderates.

The emergency legislation, required to ease overcrowded, often harsh conditions at U.S. holding facilities for migrants seeking asylum, mostly from Central American nations like Honduras and El Salvador, passed by a bipartisan 305-102 vote. Trump has indicated he'll sign it into law.

"A great job done by all!" Trump tweeted from his overseas trip.

Democrats Ninety-five opposed the bill, reluctantly brought to a vote by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., after her plan to further strengthen rules for treatment of migrant refugees ran into intractable opposition from Republican lawmakers and Vice President Mike Pence. Many moderate Democrats split with Pelosi as well, undercutting her efforts, which faded shortly after Sen-



AP Photo/Alex Brandon

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., speaks during her weekly media availability on Capitol Hill on Thursday in Washington.

ate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said he would swiftly reject them.

The legislation contains more than \$1 billion to shelter and feed migrants detained by the border patrol and almost \$3 billion to care for unaccompanied migrant children who are turned over to the Department of Health and Human Services. It rejects an administration request for additional Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention beds, however, and contains provisions designed to prevent federal immigration agents from going after immigrants living in the country illegally who seek to care for unaccompanied children.

The funding is urgently needed to prevent the humanitarian emergency on the U.S.-Mexico border from worsening. The government had warned that money would

run out in a matter of days. The Senate bill passed Wednesday by an 84-8 vote, with Democrats there pleased with the deal they cut with Republicans controlling the chamber.

The measure was initially only reluctantly accepted by the White House — which complained about elimination of the request for detention beds for immigrants facing removal from the U.S. but GOP support grew after the measure presented an opportunity to outmaneuver Pelosi. Just seven Republicans opposed the bill.

We could have done so much better," Pelosi said in a floor speech. Earlier, Pelosi

pushed a plan to ping-pong the Senate-passed bill right back across the Capitol with provisions requiring more stringent care requirements for detained migrant families and other steps. But confronted with splintering unity in the Democratic rank and file and intractable opposition from McConnell, Pelosi changed course.

Pence and Pelosi had an hourlong conversation on the legislation Thursday as the White House and Republicans kept pounding the message that the only way forward on the long-sought legislation was to pass the Senate bill.

Pence's chief of staff Marc Short described the call as friendly and productive. Pelosi, a devout Catholic, appealed to Pence's sense of faith.

Pelosi presented an effective case that House Democrats wanted more, Short said, but the vice president stressed that with the bipartisan vote in Senate and funding running out, now was not the time to be reopening the bill.

The leaders of the House Progressive Caucus, which includes almost half of House Democrats, immediately issued a statement calling the Senate bill — which had the backing of Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y. — "entirely insufficient to protect vulnerable children in our care."

BRIEFLY

Justices: Partisan gerrymandering none of our business

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court ruled Thursday that partisan gerrymandering of congressional and legislative districts is none of its business, a decision that leaves state officials free from federal court challenges to their plans to shape districts to blatantly help

The court's conservative majority, including the two justices appointed by President Donald Trump, prevailed in a 5-4 ruling that dealt a huge blow to efforts to combat the redrawing of district lines to benefit a particular party.

The decision, on the last day before the justices' long summer break, has no effect on racial gerrymandering challenges. Courts have barred redistricting aimed at reducing the political representation of racial minorities for a half-century.

But the outcome brings an immediate halt to lawsuits that sought to rein in the most partisan districting plans that can result when one party controls a state's legislature and governor's office.

Trump, Putin set for first meeting since Mueller report

OSAKA, Japan (AP) — President Donald Trump is under pressure to take a firm stand against election interference Friday when he holds his first meeting with Russia's Vladimir Putin since the special counsel found extensive evidence of Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. election. U.S. officials are on high alert for more interference next

Trump said in advance he expected a "very good conversation" with Putin but told reporters that "what I say to him is none of your business." His aides have grown worried that Trump could use the meeting to once again attack Robert Mueller's probe on the world stage, particularly since the special counsel now has a date to testify before Congress next month.

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer pressed the president Thursday to directly challenge the Russian leader on election interference and send a signal "not merely to Putin but to all of our adversaries that interfering with our election is unacceptable, and that they will pay a price — a strong price — for trying."

Putin is among five world leaders with whom Trump will hold with one-on-one meetings Friday on the sidelines of the Group of 20 summit in Osaka. The president went into the meetings complaining that the U.S. has been "ripped off" by other nations for years and after publicly airing grievances with Germany, India and even host nation Japan, whose leaders are all on his schedule for the day.

Democrats' use of Spanish in debate evokes praise, eye rolls

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Former Texas congressman Beto O'Rourke answered a question about marginal tax rates in Spanish. U.S. Sen. Cory Booker of New Jersey showed off his Spanish skills while discussing his ideas on immigration reform. Former U.S. Housing Secretary Julian Castro, who is Mexican American, gave part of his closing statement in Spanish.

The Democratic presidential hopefuls peppered their statements with Spanish on Wednesday night in Miami during the first televised debate of the 2020 election, evoking praise from some Latino activists and eye rolls from

Their efforts were a testament to the fact that Latinos are on track to be the largest minority racial or ethnic group eligible to vote in 2020 with 32 million, according to figures from the Pew Research Center. That amounts to about percent of the electorate, and the population is strong in such key states as Arizona, Florida and Colorado.

But using the Spanish language to woo voters is a double-edged sword: Advocates looking for clues about how candidates would respond to issues facing Latinos in the United States saw the gestures as promising and sincere. Critics called the moves "hispandering" — a term used to describe pandering to the Hispanic community.

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Politicians' tweets could get slapped with warning labels

By BARBARA ORTUTAY AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO — Presidents and other world leaders and political figures who use Twitter to threaten or abuse others could find their tweets slapped with warning labels.

The new policy, announced by the company on Thursday, comes amid complaints from activists and others that President Donald Trump has gotten a free pass from Twitter to post hateful messages and attack his enemies in ways they say could lead to

From now on, a tweet that Twitter deems to involve matters of public interest, but which violates the service's rules, will be obscured

by a warning explaining the

Users will have to tap through the warning to see the underlying message, but the tweet won't be removed, as Twitter might do with a regular person's posts.

Twitter said the policy applies to all government officials, candidates and similar public figures with more than 100,000 followers. In addition to applying the label, Twitter won't use its algorithms to "elevate" or otherwise promote such tweets.

"It's a step in the right direction," said Keegan Hankes, research analyst for the Southern Poverty Law Center's Intelligence Project, who focuses on far-right extremist propaganda online. But, he added, Twitter is



AP Photo/J. David Ake

President Donald Trump's Twitter feed is photographed on an Apple iPad in New York on Thursday.

essentially arguing "that hate speech can be in the public interest. I am arguing that hate speech is never in the public interest."

Twitter refused to comment on whether any of Trump's past tweets violated its rules and would not say what role, if any, his Twitter activity played in the creation of the new warning-label policy.

The new stance could fuel additional Trumpian ire toward social media. The president routinely complains, without evidence, that social media sites are biased against him and other conservatives.

Twitter's rules prohibit threatening violence against a person or group, engaging in "targeted harassment of someone," or inciting others to do so, such as wishing a person is harmed. It also bans hate speech against a group based on race, ethnicity, gender or other categories.

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