

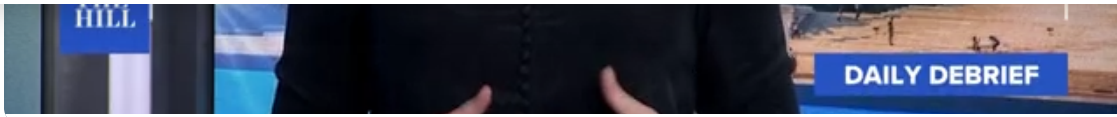




Those Democratic lawmakers have likened the handling of the bill to a disorganized retreat and warn it has sparked deep frustration in a caucus still stung from the loss of their majority in November.



“There is huge frustration that the bill didn’t go to committee on something so consequential,” fumed one Democratic senator who requested anonymity to discuss the intense debate that rocked the caucus.



“There is enormous frustration,” the lawmaker added. “They put up the white flag from the very beginning and said, ‘For too many people [in the caucus], immigration is too toxic, and we have to just get through this,’ without really understanding the gravity of this bill and what it represents in terms of violating the norms — indefinite detention, no judicial review, based on an allegation.”

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was previously arrested in New York and Georgia.

Ten Democrats voted Friday to advance the bill to a final up-or-down vote, including Sens. [Jon Ossoff](#) (D-Ga.), [Gary Peters](#) (D-Mich.) and [Jeanne Shaheen](#) (D-N.H.), who face potentially competitive races next year.

The bill passed the Senate on Monday evening.

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Sen. [Michael Bennet](#) (D-Colo.), who blasted the bill as bad policy, said the lack of opportunity to modify the legislation on the floor — aside from three amendments —



He was referring to the bill's language that requires the mandatory detention of migrants without legal status who have been accused of theft but not convicted.

Eighty-two senators voted to proceed to the bill on Jan. 13, including 24 members of the Democratic caucus.

Bennet warned the bill would require Immigration and Customs Enforcement to spend billions of dollars incarcerating nonviolent criminals instead of violent criminals. And he argued it would put state attorneys general in charge of immigration policy, something he said is a federal responsibility.

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in border security and having an immigration system that better serves America's economy," he said. "I think it's important for us to enter the debates like the one we just had [on the Laken Riley Act] with a clearer expression of where we stand together."

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Bennet said the Democrats' strategy of trying to insulate themselves during the campaign from attacks related to the border by negotiating a border security deal with Sen. [James](#)



Trump and Republicans continued to pummel Democratic candidates over the huge influx of migrants during former President Biden's four years in office, which totaled roughly 10 million people.

"[Donald Trump](#) turned our party into a punching bag when it came to immigration and the border, and there was no need for that to happen," Bennet said.

Other Democrats vented over the swift passage of the Laken Riley Act, which is likely to pass the House and make it to President Trump's desk.

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failing to appear at immigration court proceedings.”

Kaine said, “There is frustration about it.”

“What’s frustrating is so many people signaled, ‘I’m going to vote for it, whether there are any amendments or not.’ And once the Republicans have enough Democrats who are on the record saying they’re going to vote [for a bill] regardless, what motive do they have to really have a robust amendment process ... or to try to fix the bill?” he said.

“I hope my colleagues won’t just signal in advance, ‘Well, we don’t need to consider any amendments at all because I’m voting yes regardless.’ I think that was a strategic error,” Kaine added. “Leadership might have been able to give everyone a little bit of a woodshed talk before.”

Sen. [Bernie Sanders](#) (I-Vt.), who caucuses with Democrats, said he had concerns “about the bill, the process and the product.”



“This is a bill that has many, many deficiencies,” he said. “The concern is what kind of precedent it sets in terms of criminal justice and the degree we believe in due process.”

Sen. [Peter Welch](#) (D-Vt.) said he was concerned with how the bill was handled.



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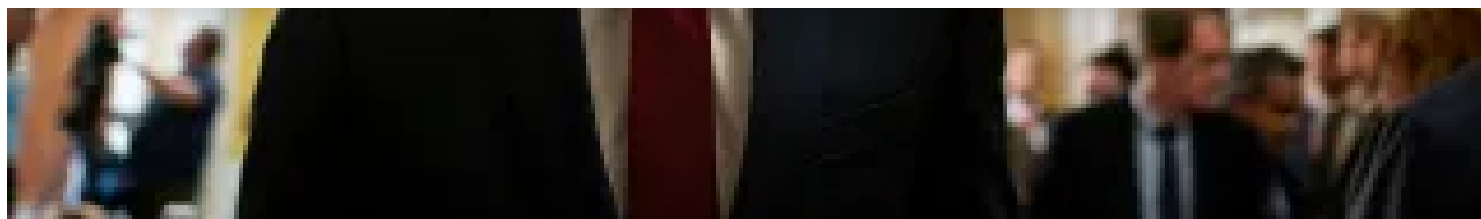
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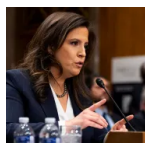
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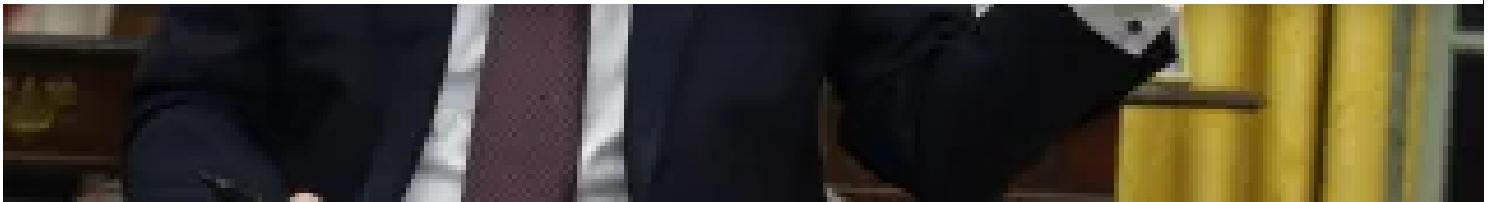
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