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## Common Sense Is Back

• Positive changes coming with return of conservative governance

By the Staff of AFP

It turns out, elections do matter, and voting does make a difference, despite what some people say. The 2024 U.S. elections, where Republicans took control of the White House and Congress, with conservatives dominating the Supreme Court, prove it.

On Jan. 3, the new 119th Congress was seated. Since then, common-sense legislation has already started wending through the House and Senate, slowly making its way to the desk of President Donald Trump, who is set to take office on Jan. 20 as AFP heads to press on Jan. 17.

The Laken Riley Act is one of those new bills.

This eight-page bill is named for Laken Riley, a 22-year-old nursing student who was brutally murdered on Feb. 22, 2024 in Athens, Ga. by Jose Ibarra, an illegal immigrant from Venezuela who had been previously apprehended by Border Patrol and released. Last November, Ibarra was sentenced to life in prison without parole, a small justice considering Riley would be alive today if federal immigration authorities had done their job in the first place.

Unlike a lot of legislation these days, the Laken Riley Act isn't packed with pork or handouts to wealthy donors. Instead, it sticks to one issue that figured prominently in the last election: illegal immigration. It would



LAKEN RILEY  
Death not in vain.

seem this bill is a can't miss.

Put simply, the bill forces immigration officials to arrest and detain illegal immigrants, who are suspected of any crimes starting even with petty thefts of \$100 or more.

The bill also expands the power that state attorneys general have over federal immigration policy. It allows state officials to go after the federal government in order to have specific immigrants detained, and it forces the State Department to block visas from countries that won't take back individuals who need to be deported.

It is a huge step in the right direction and is something that an overwhelming majority of Americans support. The measure is so popular that

even many Democrats back it.

On Jan. 14, The Laken Riley Act passed the House with support from 216 Republicans and 48 Democrats.

As AFP goes to press on Jan. 17, the bill is being debated in the Senate. It remains anyone's guess when it will come to the floor for a vote. Democrat senators, who represent border communities and are in competitive states, have endorsed the bill, including Sens. Ruben Gallego and Mark Kelly of Arizona; John Fetterman of Pennsylvania; Jon Ossoff of Georgia; Elissa Slotkin of Michigan; and Jacky Rosen of Nevada.

Ossoff, a liberal Democrat, is up for re-election in 2026. His spokesman told NBC News, "Sen. Ossoff supports the Laken Riley Act and plans to vote for it."

Even though Senate Majority leader John Thune (R-S.D.) has asked for more debate, he promises it is only to make the bill stronger, not bigger, more pork heavy or utterly incomprehensible, as is so much of the special-interest-influenced legislation put forth by Congress these days.

President Donald Trump has stated he will sign the bill if it makes it to the White House.

The Laken Riley Act follows on the heels of other commonsense legislation, such as the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, which bans males from female sports in elementary schools all the way up to universities. That measure, passed the House on Jan. 14, has advanced to the Senate. Trump has already said he will sign this bill, too.

A new conservative government has only just been seated, and, in many ways, common sense has returned to Washington—a breath of fresh air after four long years of Joe Biden, Nancy Pelosi, and Chuck Schumer controlling debate in the nation's capital. ★

### THE INSIDE SCOOP



How big was the FBI presence at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021?

See page 4



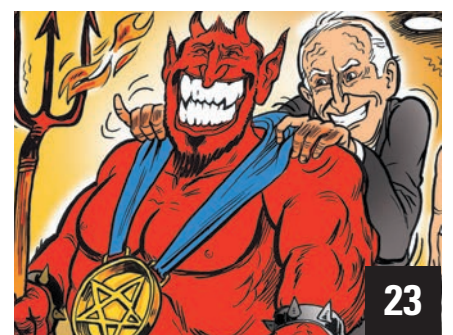
British government whitewashed organized rape of 1 million girls.

See pages 18-19



2025 predicted to be blockbuster year for hi-tech advancements.

See pages 22-23



Biden Medal of Freedom winners a rogue's gallery of wokeitarians.

See page 23