

EXCLUSIVE Biden administration doesn't 'want to turn ANYONE away' at the border: Republican Senator Eric Schmitt says 'nine out of 10 asylum claims are bogus' in interview with Daily Mail laying out his predictions for next year

By Morgan Phillips, Congress Reporter For Dailymail.Com 08:49 EST 31 Dec 2023 , updated 08:55 EST 31 Dec 2023



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- **'Joe Biden owns this. His party wants this,' the Missouri senator said in an interview with DailyMail.com**

Sen. Eric Schmitt predicted [Congress](#) will never come together on a [foreign aid](#) and immigration package because President Biden 'is not interested at all in securing our southern border.'

'[Joe Biden](#) owns this. His party wants this,' the [Missouri](#) senator said in an

interview with DailyMail.com, expressing skepticism that he could even vote for such a package.

'I'm skeptical that any kind of language change we might get, that even if it's better than what we have now that it's going to be enforced by an administration that just doesn't believe in the rule of law.'

Prior to his first year in Congress this year, Schmitt led the legal case against the Biden administration's repeal of [Title 42](#) and [Remain in Mexico](#).



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'We had to go to the court over and over and over to force the administration to actually abide by court orders telling them you have to keep doing this. So it's just not in their DNA right now,' he went on. 'They don't want to turn anyone away.'

In fiscal year 2023 border agents apprehended migrants nearly 2.5 million times at the southwest border - a new record. Migrant crossings are on track to hit a new monthly record in December.

Reflecting on his first year in Washington, Schmitt said he was 'honored' to be given the job but but frustrated by the way [Capitol](#) Hill operates.

'We don't spend any time on the floor debating some of the most important issues of our time,' said Schmitt.

'I think it leads to a lot of frustration. I think this deadline politics, it's more focused on deadlines instead of dollars, is leading to a lot of frustration.'

After weeks of back and forth over a package that would include Israel and Ukraine aid and border restrictions, the Senate jetted off last week with no legislative text in sight.

When lawmakers return, they only have a matter of legislative days to figure out a spending plan for fiscal year 2024. The Senate has only passed three of 12 appropriations bills - with deadlines for spending fast approaching on January 19 and February 2.



Migrants seeking asylum wait to be processed by the United States Border Patrol after having crossed the Rio Grande River from Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua State, Mexico, on December 28

Only 21 bills have passed both chambers and become law in the past year.

'We don't have many vehicles for legislation to actually move to the floor. There's just not a lot happening on the Senate floor, and that really lays at Chuck Schumer's feet,' Schmitt went on, referring to the Democratic majority leader.

In 2024, Schmitt said he'll focus on his work on the Armed Services and Commerce, Science and Transportation committees instead.

'We cannot lose the space race to China,' the senator said.

'We need a lot of rare earth materials , they're talking about mining asteroids in space. So there's a lot of things are going to happen in the next 10 years on that front that are going to determine our place in the world.'

