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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we lift our hearts to You, the giver of wisdom, strength, and peace. Guide our lawmakers through the deliberations of this day. Lord, give them wisdom to work for justice and to advance Your kingdom on Earth. May they set a course for this Nation that unites people in dedication to truth, courage, and righteousness. Lord, empower our Senators to meet today's joys with gratitude, its difficulties with fortitude, and its duties with fidelity. Teach them to toil and to ask for nothing more than to know they are pleasing You.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The assistant bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, January 22, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. DUCKWORTH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read the nomination of Christopher Koos, of Illinois, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, this week, Senator LANKFORD and several colleagues continue their work to finalize the most substantial border security policy in 30 years. This agreement would come not a moment too soon. Over the past 3 years, we have watched the flood of illegal immigration tick past 6.7 million encounters—6.7 million since President Biden took

office and an especially alarming surge just last year. December reportedly saw the highest monthly total for border encounters on record.

The President's open borders have meant booming business for the cartels who specialize in trafficking humans and smuggling drugs and far harsher realities for American communities grappling with lethal fentanyl and the thousands of people who have died trying to cross.

This is a crisis, whether the Washington Democrats are willing to call it one or not. The American people recognize what CBP and ICE are up against, even if their Commander in Chief does not. And the entire world understands what is at stake here in the Senate in the coming weeks.

America's national security begins with securing and maintaining our borders. It is a matter of basic sovereignty.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. President, but we are also a global superpower with global responsibilities. We are facing serious, linked challenges on multiple fronts, and, once again, that is reality—whether or not our Commander in Chief acknowledges it.

In Europe, our closest allies and trading partners are one border away from facing the brunt of naked authoritarian aggression, and it took months for the Biden administration to grasp the urgency of that threat.

America's allies look to us to lead by example, to deliver decisive capabilities to Ukraine, and to step up investments in upgrading our arsenal and expanding our capacity to stock it.

But for months, getting the administration to authorize lethal capabilities to help beat back Putin's escalation was a little bit like pulling teeth. And, for years, the administration's defense budget requests have failed to demonstrate willingness to take the threats we face seriously.

Right now, at long last, our European allies are making serious commitments

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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to carry their share of responsibilities of collective defense, and they are leading the pipeline of lethal assistance to Ukraine's war effort. This is encouraging, but it is not guaranteed forever. The West's leading power still has to behave like one and continue investing in our own strength.

Of course, on multiple fronts, our adversaries are not behaving like they have reason to fear American strength. China continues to back up its regional bullying with massive investments in hard power and long-range alliances with the enemies of America around the world. And Iran and its terrorist proxies demonstrate daily that the Biden administration's policy has left them fundamentally undeterred.

Undoubtedly, the terrorists enjoy watching the administration henpeck America's closest ally in the region and attempt to constrain Israel's response to their barbaric violence. They laugh at belated, half-hearted, unenforceable declarations of sanctions against tertiary characters on Iran's terrorist stage and at the President's half-measured strikes against low-value terrorist infrastructure.

So this isn't just a matter of vanity or optics. It is about a sober calculation of relative strength. The failure of American deterrence isn't just an embarrassment; it is a tragedy, and the price of which is now being measured in American lives. Today, the Pentagon confirmed the deaths of two Navy SEALs during operations to interdict Iranian weapons bound for Houthi terrorists on the high seas. They were young, exceptional warriors engaged in an enemy's brazen campaign to threaten America and their allies, and their comrades and loved ones are in our prayers.

Just this weekend, Iran's proxies attempted yet again to claim the lives of even more U.S. servicemembers. For at least the 150th time since October 7, terrorists used lethal force against Americans in Iraq and Syria. Several U.S. personnel are being treated for traumatic brain injuries resulting from these attacks, and frankly it is miraculous that this unchecked aggression hasn't exacted a higher price already.

Our adversaries are posing pretty fundamental questions about America's national security and the security of our allies and interests around the world. Will we act to secure America's sovereign borders and help our friends fighting for theirs?

Will we equip U.S. forces and our allies to meet aggression with overwhelming deterrent strength? Will we invest seriously in the cutting-edge capabilities and expanded capacity necessary to outpace our top strategic adversary?

Very soon, the responsibility to answer these questions will rest on the Senate, and we need to answer in the affirmative.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ROE V. WADE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, 51 years ago today, our Nation's highest Court issued a ruling that protected a woman's right to make the most fundamental choice in her life. *Roe v. Wade* enshrined into law that in America, women would have legal autonomy over their own bodies.

As a result of the constitutional protections in *Roe*, America's women took a giant step forward toward gender equity: being afforded the right to choose whether, when, and how to start a family.

But after nearly 50 years of progress, in June 2022, this Supreme Court overruled *Roe* in its *Dobbs v. Women's Health Organization* ruling, taking women's rights back half a century.

The *Dobbs* decision was a win for extreme conservative activists who waged a relentless campaign to capture the Supreme Court and overturn *Roe v. Wade*, but it was a tragic loss for women in America.

Take the case of Kate Cox, a married woman, mother of two, from Texas. Kate was elated to learn that she was pregnant with her third child. However, tests revealed that her baby had trisomy 18, a genetic condition that is almost always fatal very soon after birth. The prognosis was grim. Moreover, carrying the child could damage Kate's future fertility for another child.

Kate and her husband made one of the hardest decisions. They made the decision to go forward with an abortion. But in Texas where they live, it is illegal in nearly all circumstances. The Cox family hoped that the exception in Texas law for the life and health of the mother would allow her to terminate this ill-fated pregnancy.

Shockingly, it did not. Although a State court judge initially ruled that Kate could obtain an emergency abortion, Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton immediately took legal steps to block Kate from receiving the care that she needed.

In addition to appealing the trial court's decision to the Texas Supreme Court, Attorney General Paxton sent a letter to hospitals and doctors, warning them that anyone involved in performing an abortion for Kate would face civil and criminal liability.

The Texas Supreme Court, controlled by Republicans, joined in the rule against Kate. She was forced to leave her home State and go across State lines to terminate the pregnancy.

Let's take the case of Brittany Watts, a 34-year-old from Ohio. Brittany was arrested after miscarrying in her bathroom. Thankfully, just 2 weeks ago, a grand jury with empathy, com-

mon sense, and reason declined to indict her, understanding that miscarriages are devastating and extremely common, a pregnancy outcome that women should not be punished for.

But in a post-*Roe* America, these are the horrific situations that women and the doctors who provide them care often face. Republican politicians in States like Texas and Ohio have made it clear they do not trust the judgment of women and their families in these matters.

But even amidst this devastation unleashed by *Dobbs*, Democrats continue to fight for women. In our home State of Illinois, we have become an oasis for women in an area that otherwise would be left without abortion options. New data shows the number of women traveling to our State of Illinois for abortions rose nearly 50 percent in 2022, and we experienced the largest increase of any State in the number of patients traveling out of State for abortions last year. Remember, in each and every case, there is the cost and burden of travel as a part of this calculation.

Our commitment to reproductive health has real-world impacts. In June of 2022, Margaret from Cook County, IL, lost her son. She was devastated. But one thing that made the experience less painful was living in a State that respected her right to make healthcare decisions privately with her doctor. Only a week after Margaret lost her son, *Roe* was overruled, throwing women's bodily autonomy and reproductive freedom in States across the country into real uncertainty but, fortunately, not in Illinois.

Margaret wrote to my office and said:

I cannot stress how awful it was to lose a child I loved so much, but how glad I was to be in Illinois when this devastating thing happened.

We are proud to be a State that fights for women. But there are consequences to blue States meeting increased demand for abortion care.

More than 28 million women of reproductive age live in States where abortion is banned, unavailable, or restricted—28 million American women living in those States. When thousands of women are forced to go out of State to get an abortion, it increases wait times for people in blue States, and it puts enormous stress on providers and clinics. Moreover, not every woman is able to afford the trip, find childcare, and take time off to travel to another State. This creates inequities for those who are trying to access safe and legal abortion.

One thing is clear: *Dobbs* does not stop abortion. In fact, the numbers show us quite the opposite has happened. The data shows that in the year following the *Dobbs* decision, abortions actually increased nationwide. Moreover, public opinion polls show that the majority of Americans still support abortion rights. And from the States of Kansas to Kentucky, in every State where it has been put on the ballot, abortion and the rights of women to

make these choices remains a winning issue.

Republicans may continue to attack women's rights and freedoms, but these unpopular, dangerous policies will catch up with them.

Let's not be naive. From trying to outlaw medication abortion—even in States where abortion is legal—to challenging a Federal law that requires access to reproductive care in emergencies is a reality.

Antiabortion activists continue trying to chip away at women's reproductive rights and healthcare, and they are not going to stop. That is why we must pass the Women's Health Protection Act, enshrining the woman's right to choose into Federal law. It is the right thing to do.

I urge my colleagues to swiftly stand up for women in this country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, over the weekend, Senate Democrats and Republicans and the White House continued negotiations on the national security supplemental. We have come a very long way since talks began 2 months ago, and Democrats remain committed to working in good faith on reaching an agreement. President Biden has also made clear he is willing to work with Republicans in a big way—in a big way—on border security.

All of us on the Democratic side are serious about getting something done. I remained in contact with the negotiators throughout the weekend. We remain hopeful, but it is certainly not a done deal yet. There are a handful of issues that have not yet been agreed to. On something as complicated as the border, it is not just what we do that matters; it is how we do it. So negotiations are not done yet. Nevertheless, Democrats remain serious about finishing the job.

Senators don't need to be reminded about what is at stake in this negotiation. The future of the war in Ukraine hangs in the balance. The security of our Western democracy hangs in the balance. The safety of our friends in Israel, our partners in the Indo-Pacific, and more humanitarian aid for innocent civilians in Gaza all hang in the balance.

Ukraine is already running low on armaments and munitions that were, in large part, provided by the United States. A mere month from now, the tide of the war could turn greatly in Russia's favor, to the detriment of the

West and, in all probability, for many years to come. If America comes up short, if we abandon Ukraine in their fight against Putin, the consequences will reverberate for years. Make no mistake. Putin will not be satisfied with merely taking Ukraine. His military influence in Europe will expand westward. The costs to NATO to hold Putin at bay will increase greatly.

And, if we fail, our adversaries in Iran, in North Korea, and in the Chinese Communist Party will conclude that America no longer has the resolve to defend democracy in its hour of need. They have always bet on the fact that we would lose resolve.

On our side, here on the Democratic side, we are not losing resolve. We want to get this done, and we know a good number of our Republican colleagues want to join us. We hope there will be enough. We cannot afford to go down a dark and ominous road where we abandon Ukraine and the consequences roll before us. The eyes of the world are watching closely what we do and how we respond.

Sadly, it is clear there are some in this Congress and beyond who wish to prevent bipartisan action on the border and on our national security challenges. Whether they are blinded by naked partisanship or cowed by political pressure, these minority voices are cynically working to stymie bipartisan cooperation. In the Senate, both sides must make sure these voices are in the minority.

For the sake of our national security, for the sake of our friends in Ukraine, for the sake of America's interests around the world, we must stay the course. Senate Democrats remain committed to finishing the job on the supplemental, and, if presented with the opportunity to pass a national security supplemental here on the floor, we intend to act as quickly as possible. We are not there yet, but we will keep going.

ROE V. WADE

Madam President, now, on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, today, January 22, 2024, should have marked 51 years of Roe v. Wade. The anniversary of Roe should be a joyous day for America, a day when the Supreme Court officially recognized a woman's right to make her own decisions about her body. But for decades, the hard right has made it their mission to overturn Roe and dismantle a woman's fundamental right to choose. And, in 2022, tragically, alarmingly, outrageously, the hard right succeeded when a 5-4 majority of extremist Justices on the Supreme Court overturned Roe, inflicting the greatest restriction of rights on Americans in over 50 years.

It has just been a year and a half since the disastrous Dobbs decision, but it has already proved to be one of the worst, most damaging decisions for Americans in modern history. Since the hard right's Roe reversal, one in three Americans has lost abortion access; 21 States have enacted draconian,

near-total bans. Republicans in Florida just introduced a ban on nearly all abortions, even—even—in the case of rape and incest. And, earlier this month, the Supreme Court allowed an extreme abortion ban denying women critical emergency care to go back into effect.

Make no mistake about it. The hard right won't stop there. They will keep going until a Federal abortion ban is the law of the land.

Let me say that again. The hard right will keep going until a Federal abortion ban is the law of the land.

Because of the hard right's policies, women and girls today are growing up in a world with fewer liberties than previous generations. My granddaughter will have fewer rights than her grandmother. These extreme bans have caused chaos and inflicted irreparable harm on thousands and thousands of women whose stories we will never hear.

Democrats will not accept this new MAGA status quo, and neither will the American people. Since the Dobbs decision, people in States like Ohio and Kentucky and Kansas and Michigan have defeated efforts at the ballot box to restrict abortion access and protect a woman's right to choose.

The message from the American people to MAGA extremists has been loud, clear, and unmistakable: Back off our fundamental rights. And make no mistake. A woman's right to choose will remain a defining issue for Americans as this year progresses.

So we still have a long way to go, but the Democrats will never stop fighting for a woman's right to choose.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. BUTLER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING DEXTER SCOTT KING

Ms. BUTLER. Madam President, just last week, we honored the legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on what would have been his 95th birthday. Today, misfortune touches the King family again with the passing of Reverend King's youngest son, Dexter Scott King. America will forever be indebted to the sacrifices of the King family, and our prayers remain with them in this challenging time of loss.

ROE V. WADE

Madam President, I rise on this day that, 51 years ago, the Supreme Court issued its ruling in the landmark Roe v. Wade decision, a legal victory that granted millions of women in every corner of this Nation the right to make decisions about their own bodies—a decision that gave them the right to decide their own future. Today, this anniversary now serves as a reminder for

over 25 million women that there are those who believe that their futures are not for them to decide.

Make no mistake, the Supreme Court's decision in June 2022 to overturn Roe and dismantle nearly 50 years of precedent was a direct attack on freedom. We now live in an era where our children, including my 9-year-old, are less free than their mothers and grandmothers before them.

The Supreme Court's decision in Dobbs will indeed have repercussions that will be felt for generations to come. It is shameful that current and future generations are being saddled with fighting the same battles that their grandparents fought, the very battles that their parents thought were already won. The American spirit once meant that each generation was determined, if not obligated, to advance freedom and opportunity for the next. Yet, at this moment, we are failing—passing them the baton of a nation that is less free day by day.

I stand not just concerned but furious at the dangerous attacks on reproductive freedom. Extremist lawmakers have championed a draconian anti-abortion agenda that stunts our progress and drags our country backwards. These legislators are responsible for the ban of some or all abortion care in 21 States, leaving 1 in 3 women without the ability to get the care they need where they live. They have introduced bills laden with harmful restrictions, even going so far as to criminalize our doctors and other essential healthcare workers providing life-saving care.

The impacts of these restrictions are not felt equally. Women of color and women of lower socioeconomic status are disproportionately burdened by these restrictions. Many face the financial barriers and carry the scars of shame that leave them without access to care in state and being forced to remain pregnant while our Nation is already combating a devastating maternal mortality crisis.

These intentionally harmful policies have targeted women. They have targeted healthcare providers. They have become tools of division, dismantling the trust between colleagues and neighbors afraid to seek support or advice for fear of retribution—all in an effort to send the undeniable message that there are those who will stop at nothing to cut off a patient's right to decide for themselves.

But just as these policies serve to undermine our democracy and right of people to make decisions about our own bodies, the American people have shown that they stand on the side of freedom. Ever since the Dobbs decision, Americans all over the country and of varied political parties have spoken at every opportunity they have had in staunch opposition to these attacks on their reproductive freedom. In States like Ohio, Kentucky, and Montana, people have stood up and turned out in favor of reproductive rights. In my

home State, Californians overwhelmingly decided to amend the State constitution, enshrining the right to abortion care into State law.

Standing with the majority of the people in my State and States all across this country, I join my colleagues as a proud cosponsor of legislation like the Right to Contraception Act, the Freedom to Travel for Health Care Act, and numerous other policies that would safeguard reproductive freedom. That includes the Women's Health Protection Act, which would ensure access to comprehensive reproductive health care options, including abortion, across the country.

In closing, the American people have been clear: Their doctor's offices and their healthcare decisions are a freedom they will stand to protect. So I invite my colleagues to stand on the right side of history by supporting critical legislation that protects access to reproductive care. The next generation is counting on us to ensure that they inherit a future with the same rights as generations before them, so today and every day, I stand ready to do just that.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Madam President, today is the 51st anniversary of Roe v. Wade. We should be standing here celebrating more than five decades' worth of access to essential reproductive health care—healthcare that is central to well-being, life, liberty, equality, and economic and social freedom for everyone; healthcare that is essential to equity for women, LGBTQ, Black, Brown, indigenous, rural, immigrant, low-income, and disabled Americans. But instead of celebrating, we are fighting—fighting for Americans' freedom. We are fighting to protect the right to abortion.

Since the rightwing, extremist Supreme Court majority's Dobbs decision, women and millions of people across America have watched as States strip away their freedom to make decisions—decisions about their own bodies and their own families.

Taking Dobbs as a clarion call to rip away Americans' freedoms, rightwing Republicans across the country have marched forward to strip away the right to abortion State by State, with calls to expand that to a Federal ban on abortion. These politicians are more obsessed with interfering in the lives and decisions of the American people and their healthcare providers than actually fixing the healthcare system of our country to make sure that every American can get the care they need when and where they need that care. They are more obsessed with pretending they know more about the healthcare workers trained to support patient decision making than actually representing the American people who want to see their right to abortion being protected.

Americans across the country have suffered horrific pain and hardship,

like Massachusetts resident Kate Dineen, who drove 500 miles to receive an abortion after her son experienced a catastrophic stroke in utero. This suffering especially affects those who do not have the means or the resources to travel across State lines. Tens of millions of Americans live in States where their reproductive health care is banned or restricted.

These rightwing extremists aren't finished. Dobbs was but a preview of coming atrocities by this Supreme Court and by rightwing Governors and State legislators all across our country. They have threatened the right to contraception. They have blocked access to birth control for teenagers at federally funded clinics. They have suspended emergency contraception payments for survivors of sexual assault. They will not stop at overturning Roe v. Wade.

On this anniversary of Roe, we must recommit to taking decisive action to protect millions of Americans' access to abortion care, remove unnecessary limits on reproductive freedom, and protect against coming attacks from rightwing Republicans and this extremist Supreme Court. We must abolish the filibuster, a Jim Crow-era relic impeding the will of the American people. We must pass the Women's Health Protection Act to restore Roe v. Wade as the law of the land, protect patients' rights to an abortion, and protect healthcare workers providing these services. We must guard against coming attacks on our freedom by passing my Right to Contraception Act and pass the Judiciary Act to expand the Supreme Court and bring balance and fairness back to the Supreme Court before they make more and more decisions that overturn precedents that have been protecting the American people for generations.

We have a moral duty to act. There is no more time to waste. Supreme Court Justices may serve lifetime appointments, but we cannot wait a lifetime to right injustices. Congress can step in to protect the American people from the overreach of this radical Supreme Court majority. We must rise up and meet this moment with everything we have.

I ask my Senate colleagues what other rights Americans must lose before we act. What vulnerable communities in their States will be left without healthcare, without autonomy, without freedom? There can be no justice without healthcare justice in our country, and there can be no health justice without reproductive freedom in the United States of America being once again restored.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I want to start by saying a very special thank-you to Senator BUTLER for calling us here today.

Today should have been the 51st anniversary of Roe v. Wade; instead, too

many people can't get the medical care they need when they need it, where they need it. Students who are desperate for help get the runaround. Poor women face impossible hurdles. Children who have survived rape and become pregnant are frightened and confused. Fertility clinics are abandoning services, and families who hoped for a baby face excruciating heartache when a pregnancy goes wrong and doctors are barred from helping. At every turn, we see a new form of hell brought to us by an extremist Supreme Court and a powerful band of Republican lawmakers determined to obliterate reproductive freedom across the country.

To every person watching these events unfold and feeling hurt, I see you, I am with you, and I grieve alongside you.

But I do more than grieve, more than complain; I fight back, and I am asking you to fight back too because, right now, this is our moment to act and, if we don't, we might not get another opportunity for a long, long time.

Roe wasn't overturned by some accident. We are here because Republican extremists have been waging a decades-long war to take down Roe. They have poured billions of dark money into our politics to chip away at our rights. They handpicked judges with proven anti-abortion records. They took over State and local governments. They built an anti-Roe coalition right here in Congress. And the very second—the very second—that the Supreme Court gave them the green light, they jumped into action enacting the most severe restrictions possible on abortion access.

The result: Over the last year and a half, over 20 States have banned or severely restricted abortion access; passed laws criminalizing doctors who perform abortions; or threatened access to pregnancy care, miscarriage care, fertility assistance, and more.

Well-organized and well-funded extremists have brought lawsuits to further restrict access, hoping to undermine access in States that are firmly pro-choice. The result has been cruel and frightening. Some people have given in to despair, but I don't see it that way.

To me, the end of Roe marked a new era in the movement for abortion rights. Yes, an era that has been harrowing for people across the country, but also one that marks the end of a plan Republicans hatched 40 years ago to reverse Roe and the beginning of a new chapter. And in this new chapter, we are leading the way.

Together, we have made clear that an overwhelming majority of Americans support reproductive freedom and individuals' rights to make decisions about their own bodies. Across this country, millions of Americans have come together and said they are with us. Not just in places like California and New York, but in Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, and Ohio.

The Biden-Harris administration has stepped up to vigorously protect repro-

ductive freedom from defending medication abortion from baseless lawsuits to preserving access to care for service-members and veterans to strengthening protection for patients' sensitive health information.

Republicans know that the majority of Americans oppose overturning Roe, but they aren't letting up. Instead, overturning Roe is not enough for them; they want more. They have introduced legislation to ban abortion nationwide, and if they can't pass it through Congress, they will use a Republican President to dust off a 19th century anti-obscenity law, instead, to try to get the job done.

We cannot let that happen. We have the energy; we have the numbers; and we know what we need to do. President Biden has called on Congress to act. We need to pass the Women's Health Protection Act to protect our human rights and to roll back the extreme abortion bills that radical rightwing legislatures have enacted across this country, and we need to get in the fight right now to secure the Congress that we need to get this job done.

This won't be easy, but important fights never are. I know our strength; I have seen it in the millions of people marching in the streets for abortion rights. I have seen it in the thousands of calls made to Congressional offices. I have seen it in the resolve of people standing up for Kate Cox in Texas and Brittany Watts in Ohio. And that is how I know that even when it gets hard, we will persist.

From this moment on, what happens is up to us. Together we have the power to restore Roe and to protect our right to make our own decisions about our own bodies and our own futures. I am in this fight all the way. The stakes are too high not to be.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, President Biden, last Friday, garnered a lot of attention for his comments on the border crisis.

When asked by a reporter if the border was secure, the President didn't hesitate; he didn't equivocate. He said, "No, it's not."

"No, it's not."

On its own, that statement is not particularly shocking because it is actually true. What is shocking is that it represents a 180-degree flip from the position taken over and over and over by the Biden administration, from the President to the Vice President to the Secretary of Homeland Security, on down.

The fact of the matter is that under President Biden's leadership, the Federal Government has shattered virtually every record on the books when it comes to illegal border crossings. In the last 3 years, Customs and Border Protection has logged more than 6.7 million—6.7 million—border crossings. At the same time, the cartels have

trafficked record amounts of fentanyl across the southern border, fueling the overdose epidemic.

Gang members, dangerous criminals, and potential terrorists—people on the Terrorist Watchlist—have used the chaos on the border to attempt to sneak into the United States. And 1.7 million of them, the so-called "gotaways," that were detected on cameras and other various sensors simply have evaded law enforcement, and the Biden administration can't tell you who these people are, what they are doing, and what their intentions are while they are here.

Communities across the country, not just in my State—in Texas—but across the country have been forced to carry the burden of caring for thousands of immigrants who cross our border every day.

No, the border is not secure, not in the least. Anyone who has been paying attention for the last 3 years could have told you that.

But it took the President 3 years to finally be willing to speak the truth, because for President Biden, this is a shocking reversal. After all, as I said, the senior most leaders of the administration have spent the last 3 years trying to convince the American people that there is no such thing as the Biden border crisis.

The White House press secretary has said, "The border is secure." Secretary Mayorkas, the Secretary tasked with the border security responsibilities, the Department of Homeland Security, he said, "The border is secure."

Vice President HARRIS, the anointed border czar for President Biden, said, "The border is secure."

This is the same line that has been parroted over and over and over by leaders throughout the Biden administration. And it is not true. It is not true.

On Friday, President Biden not only admitted that the border is not secure, he went on to say he believes it hasn't been secure for the last 10 years. That means every single attempt by his administration to assure the American people that the Biden administration was performing its responsibilities by enforcing the laws to secure the border has been untrue.

I don't know how to say this charitably. I don't easily accuse a President of the United States for intentionally telling an untruth, but it appears that that is absolutely the case. By his own account, President Biden has known all along the border was not secure, but he chose to gaslight the American people with untrue assurances that everything was just fine.

Sort of like the story goes: "Don't believe your lying eyes," when the American people see caravans of migrants coming up to the border, because they know that President Biden has laid out the welcome mat and will release them into the interior of the United States. That is a huge magnet, not only for people coming from Mexico, but around the world.

That is what has changed under the Biden administration is that this is not a regional, this is not even an economic issue. This is a matter of the human smuggling networks making billions of dollars smuggling people from around the world and, unfortunately, overwhelming the Border Patrol to the point that the Border Patrol is processing paperwork, providing transportation and care for unaccompanied children, who were likewise incentivized to come to the United States, and here come the drugs that took the lives of 108,000 Americans last year alone.

Finally, when the President was asked if he believed his own policies had enabled this crisis, he offered another shocking statement: "No."

So he said the border is not secure. He admitted that, finally. He said it hadn't been for 10 years. And he was asked whether his own policies had enabled that, and he said no.

I don't think you can have it both ways. There is a huge difference between the number of border crossings that we saw during the previous administration, during the Trump administration and compared to the Biden administration.

None of the laws have changed. It is simply the willingness or, in the case of the Biden administration, the unwillingness to actually enforce the law.

Since President Biden took office, the United States has logged, as I said, more than 6.7 million illegal border encounters. That is higher than the 8 years under President Obama and the 4 years under President Trump. So in 3 years, he has managed to accomplish something that took 12 years in the previous two administrations.

The fact that President Biden believes his policies have nothing to do with this sea change is absolutely unbelievable. It is not credible—that is what I mean. It is unbelievable. You can't believe it. This administration's refusal to take its responsibility for this crisis is pathetic, and it should be embarrassing. But, sadly, it is nothing new. We have seen this song and dance many times over.

The Supreme Court of the United States, I am told from published reports, just said that the State of Texas, which was trying to fill the breach left by the failure of the Federal Government and the Biden administration to do its job couldn't put razor wire or impediments to illegal immigration on the border.

I haven't read the opinion, but, presumably, they say it is the Federal Government's exclusive authority, and the States can't enforce that. But if the Federal Government is not going to do its job, why can't the State do it? It doesn't affect people here in Washington, DC, directly, although we have heard the mayor of Washington, DC, complaining about the fact that migrants have come to the District of Columbia. But it does affect my State.

We have 1,200 miles of common border. The huge tsunami of humanity

coming across the border has affected my State disproportionately because we are at ground zero. And now, because Mayor Adams in New York or Mayer Bowser in Washington, DC, or Governor Pritzker in Illinois, it is impacting them in a rather minor way compared to the way it has affected my State over the recent years.

The Biden administration has finally realized this is a huge political liability. President Biden is going to be on the ballot in 2024, and he realizes that this is a huge problem for him and everybody up and down the ticket because the American people really never believed the statement that the border was secure, because they could watch on television and watch on social media the huge numbers of people coming across. They knew it was not true. But now, after 3 years, the President has finally come around to admit it. You know we talked about the drugs. We have talked about the people. What we haven't talked about enough, in my view, is the fact that the Biden administration has simply lost track of unaccompanied children who have been placed with sponsors in the interior of the United States. The New York Times ran several investigative pieces pointing out that 85,000 calls were made to these sponsors to see, How are these kids doing? And the calls were never answered, and they were never followed up on. The Biden administration takes the position—I think it is an irresponsible position—that once they place these children with sponsors, they have washed their hands of any further responsibility—no followup, no wellness check if there is no response to the phone call. And the Biden administration, apparently, just does not care.

And then, most recently, we have seen a new low as they falsely blamed the State of Texas for three tragic drownings at the border at Eagle Pass, TX. A little over a week ago, a woman and two children drowned in the Rio Grande River attempting to get across the river. It was near a park that is currently the subject of a standoff between Federal and State officials.

Now, migrant deaths are a tragedy. There is no two ways about it. And, sadly, it is a too common tale along the border. Migrants frequently drown crossing the Rio Grande. In the summer, they may die due to the intense heat and from lack of water across remote stretches of desert or ranch land. It is an inhospitable place in the heat of summer. Some are killed in car accidents in high-speed chases, while others are killed while being smuggled into the United States in the back of a semitractor trailer.

Given the skyrocketing number of border crossings on President Biden's watch, these sorts of tragedies now seem to happen routinely. According to the National Border Patrol Council, roughly 2,300 migrants have died at the southern border since President Biden was sworn into office. It is an average

of more than 2 deaths each day since his open border policies have been in place.

As I said, these deaths are tragic, and they are tragically common. But this pace is not. In fact, the pace of migrant deaths has more than doubled compared to previous administrations. More and more migrants are losing their lives because of the failed open border policies of the Biden administration. Yet the Biden administration refuses to take responsibility for the dangers their policies have actually created.

The day after the most recent tragedy in Eagle Pass, the Department of Homeland Security put out an outrageous, outrageously false statement pinning the blame on the State of Texas and its attempts to do what the Biden administration has refused to do, which is to secure the border. The statement actually claimed that "Border Patrol agents were physically barred by Texas officials from entering the area." It went on to describe the efforts by State officials to help manage the chaos at the border. They called that "cruel, dangerous, and inhumane." In other words, when the Federal Government does nothing and the State officials try to step in, the Biden administration calls that "cruel, dangerous, and inhumane."

And the White House press machine has been quick to repeat the claims, saying:

Texas officials blocked U.S. Border Patrol from attempting to provide emergency assistance.

These statements were designed to paint a very specific picture. The White House and the Department of Homeland Security tried to portray Texas as heartless and cruel for refusing to let Border Patrol agents rescue these three migrants in distress.

The problem with this carefully crafted story line is it is absolutely false, but the story spread like wildfire. The Associated Press published a story with the headline saying: "US says Texas blocked border agents from entering park to save 3 migrants who drowned." Countless other news outlets ran similar stories. Social media, pundits, and even Members of Congress spread the story and criticized the actions by Texas officials.

Again, the problem is this entire narrative is demonstrably false. It is a lie.

In a new Supreme Court filing, the Biden administration has now admitted that the three migrants died before Border Patrol even attempted to enter Shelby Park on Friday night. Sadly, they were part of the 2,300 migrants who died on President Biden's watch, but it didn't have anything to do with what Texas officials were doing. The Justice Department now admits that the women and two children died around 8 p.m., and the Border Patrol didn't even request access to the area until roughly an hour later.

But by the time this correct and accurate information became public, the

damage had already been done. News stories had circulated far and wide blaming Texas officials for blocking potentially lifesaving care for a woman and two children who drowned.

Well, did the Biden administration apologize for its false accusation? Did it admit that it had perpetrated a false narrative? Absolutely not. Then, again, why would you really expect them to? This is just another example of the Biden administration that cannot be trusted to tell the truth, another example of spreading lies about what is happening at the southern border—no remorse, no shame, no accountability. The lies, dishonesty, and mischaracterizations have become commonplace, and the American people are fed up with them.

Leaders in the Biden administration have repeatedly intentionally misrepresented what is happening. They dissemble; they shift the facts; they deflect; they distort the truth; and then they try to pin their own failures on somebody else.

Well, as sad as it is now 3 years into the Biden administration, I am glad that the President has finally admitted that the border is not secure, and I am really shocked that, 3 years in, he is finally come around to admit it.

But the fact he won't accept the reality that it is his administration's policies that created the crisis is a serious problem because the status quo at the border is absolutely unsustainable and has been for a long time now, and something has got to change.

As we speak, several of our colleagues are trying to secure an agreement on legislation that will address the border crisis. I am sure it will fall short of what I would like to see happen, but Senator LANKFORD and Senator SINEMA, Senator MURPHY, and others are working to try to come up with some changes in the law that will force the Biden administration to put an end to some of the most egregious practices. And I, for one, am eager to see if they can come up with something that will force the administration to change its disastrous southern border policy, and I will be watching closely with interest as the negotiations progress.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 467.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jacquelyn D. Austin, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 467, Jacquelyn D. Austin, of South Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch, Mazie K. Hirono, Alex Padilla, Jeanne Shaheen, Jack Reed, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, Richard Blumenthal, Gary C. Peters, Raphael G. Warnock, Christopher A. Coons, Jeff Merkley, Christopher Murphy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 474.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Cristal C. Brisco, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 474, Cristal C. Brisco, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch, Mazie K. Hirono, Alex Padilla, Jeanne Shaheen, Jack Reed, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, Richard Blumenthal, Gary C. Peters, Raphael G. Warnock, Christopher A. Coons, Jeff Merkley, Christopher Murphy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 475.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Gretchen S. Lund, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 475, Gretchen S. Lund, of Indiana, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch, Mazie K. Hirono, Alex Padilla, Jeanne Shaheen, Jack Reed, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, Richard Blumenthal, Gary C. Peters, Raphael G. Warnock, Christopher A. Coons, Jeff Merkley, Christopher Murphy.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, January 22, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. SINEMA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 358, Christopher Koos, of Illinois, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

Charles E. Schumer, Tim Kaine, Angus S. King, Jr., Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Jeanne Shaheen, Richard Blumenthal, Chris Van Hollen, Mazie K. Hirono, Tammy Baldwin, Edward J. Markey, John W. Hickenlooper, Laphonza Butler, Richard J. Durbin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jeff Merkley, Peter Welch, Gary C. Peters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Christopher Koos, of Illinois, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 82, nays 7, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 13 Ex.]

YEAS—82

Baldwin	Daines	Marshall
Bennet	Duckworth	McConnell
Blackburn	Durbin	Menendez
Blumenthal	Ernst	Merkley
Booker	Fischer	Moran
Boozman	Gillibrand	Mullin
Britt	Grassley	Murkowski
Brown	Hassan	Murphy
Budd	Heinrich	Murray
Butler	Hickenlooper	Ossoff
Cantwell	Hirono	Padilla
Capito	Hoeven	Peters
Cardin	Hyde-Smith	Reed
Carper	Johnson	Ricketts
Casey	Kaine	Romney
Cassidy	Kennedy	Rosen
Collins	King	Rounds
Coons	Klobuchar	Rubio
Cornyn	Lankford	Sanders
Cortez Masto	Luján	Schatz
Cotton	Lummis	Schumer
Crapo	Manchin	Shaheen
Cruz	Markley	Sinema

Smith	Vance	Wicker
Tester	Warner	Wyden
Thune	Warnock	Young
Tillis	Warren	
Van Hollen	Whitehouse	

NAYS—7

Braun	Paul	Tuberville
Hawley	Schmitt	
Lee	Scott (FL)	

NOT VOTING—11

Barrasso	Hagerty	Stabenow
Cramer	Kelly	Sullivan
Fetterman	Risch	Welch
Graham	Scott (SC)	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 82, the nays are 7.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING LOLA'S FINE HOT SAUCE

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, I am privileged to recognize Lola's Fine Hot Sauce of West Des Moines, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Lola's Fine Hot Sauce was founded by Taufeeek Shah in West Des Moines, in 2017. The original hot sauce recipe is courtesy of Taufeeek's mother Carmelita "Lola" Shah, who grew up in the Philippines before immigrating to the United States for medical school in the early 1970s. Lola spent over 35 years at Winthrop Medical Clinic in Winthrop, IA, where she practiced family health. Lola's hot sauce is a family recipe, entrusted to Taufeeek in 2015. After receiving the recipe, Taufeeek shared the homemade hot sauce with his coworkers and friends. Their positive reviews encouraged Taufeeek and Lola to embark on their entrepreneurial journey by renting out a commercial kitchen and selling the hot sauce at farmers markets in central Iowa.

Lola's Fine Hot Sauce quickly grew from its beginnings as a popular stand at local markets. Today, the business offers a variety of hot sauces and salsas, merchandise, a Southern Jalapeno Bloody Mary mix, honey jalapeno beef jerky, and Lola's Original

Seasoning. They also post videos of recipes on their YouTube channel that folks can make at home using their favorite Lola's Fine Hot Sauce products as ingredients. In addition to being sold on their website, Lola's Fine Hot Sauce can be purchased across the United States, Canada, the Virgin Islands, and the Philippines at over 14,000 retailers. In 2022, Casey's announced a partnership with Lola's Fine Hot Sauce with their new Casey's Zesty Jalapeno Peanuts, Casey's Zesty Jalapeno Cashews, and Casey's Zesty Jalapeno Pretzels. All products are seasoned with Lola's Fine Hot Sauce and are available in-store and online for delivery.

Lola's Fine Hot Sauce is actively involved in the Des Moines community. Taufeeek currently serves on the board of directors for the Iowa Center for Economic Success and the board of directors for the Des Moines Area Community College Foundation. In 2023, Taufeeek won the American Dream Award from the Iowa Restaurant Association. In addition to these awards, the Des Moines Register named Taufeeek Shah as one of their "15 People to Watch" in 2023. Lola's Fine Hot Sauce is a proud member of the West Des Moines Chamber of Commerce and celebrated its seventh business anniversary in 2024.

Lola's Fine Hot Sauce's commitment to providing quality hot sauces and products across the globe while maintaining its Iowa roots is clear. I want to congratulate Taufeeek and Lola Shah and the entire team at Lola's Fine Hot Sauces for their hard work and success. I look forward to seeing their continued growth in Iowa.●

RECOGNIZING THE HEARTLAND PREGNANCY CARE CENTER AND TRIBUTE TO BECKY REIMER

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise to day to recognize the Heartland Pregnancy Center and Becky Reimer for their efforts in declaring January 22, 2024, the Sanctity of Human Life Day and Respect for Life Day in Harvey County, KS.

As a staunch advocate for life who spent my career as an OB/GYN protecting the lives of both mother and child, I had the privilege of delivering over 5,000 babies, witnessing each time the beauty of the gift of life. There is nothing more precious than handing a child to his or her mother to be held for the first time.

As a U.S. Senator, I have continued this passion for protecting life in all its forms, including the unborn, the pregnant woman, and the new mother. Having started and supervised multiple family planning clinics, I can tell you that we must all work together towards ensuring access to prenatal care, proper nutrition, and childcare, as well as attending to the social challenges a mother faces. I am proud to have sponsored legislation that addresses these points, and I look forward to future opportunities to continue protecting the sanctity of life.

Our Founding Fathers acknowledged the defense of life, from conception until natural death, as the backbone of our country when they declared that all men are created equal, endowed by their Creator with the unalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Thus, it is our collective duty to create and provide an environment in which life, from conception until natural death, is safeguarded as the moral foundation for America and the rest of the world.

For this reason, I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Heartland Pregnancy Center and Becky Reimer for their collective efforts in declaring January 22, 2024, as the Sanctity of Human Life Day and Respect for Life Day in Harvey County, KS.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2023, the Secretary of the Senate, on January 18, 2024, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 2872. An act making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2023, the enrolled bill was signed on January 19, 2024, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cote, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 3222. An act to ensure the security of office space rented by Senators, and for other purposes.

S. 3250. An act to provide remote access to court proceedings for victims of the 1988 Bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1568. An act to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 to protect personally identifiable information, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3058. An act to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve foster and adoptive parent recruitment and retention, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3667. An act to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for the reissuance of social security account numbers to young children in cases where confidentiality has been compromised.

H.R. 4250. An act to maintain the free flow of information to the public by establishing appropriate limits on the federally compelled disclosure of information obtained as part of engaging in journalism, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6914. An act to require institutions of higher education to disseminate information on the rights of, and accommodations and resources for, pregnant students, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6918. An act to prohibit the Secretary of the Health and Human Services from restricting funding for pregnancy centers.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment:

S. Con. Res. 25. Concurrent resolution providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 2872.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 2872) to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3058. An act to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve foster and adoptive parent recruitment and retention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 3667. An act to amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide for the reissuance of social security account numbers to young children in cases where confidentiality has been compromised; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 4250. An act to maintain the free flow of information to the public by establishing appropriate limits on the federally compelled disclosure of information obtained as part of engaging in journalism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 6918. An act to prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from restricting funding for pregnancy centers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 6914. An act to require institutions of higher education to disseminate information on the rights of, and accommodations and resources for, pregnant students, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3335. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, pursuant to law, a notice of requiring additional time to ensure a thorough response on an annual report on Military Department compliance and safety standards and a semiannual report on the activities of the Joint Safety Council; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3336. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to

law, a report relative to a notification of a Mid-Tier Acquisition program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-3337. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Legislative Affairs, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled entitled "Fair Credit Reporting; Background Screening" (12 CFR Part 1022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3338. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Legislative Affairs, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled entitled "Fair Credit Reporting; File Disclosure" (12 CFR Part 1022) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3339. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Legislative Affairs, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled entitled "Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustment" (12 CFR Part 1083) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3340. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Community Reinvestment Act Regulations Asset-Size Thresholds" (RIN3064-AF98) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3341. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rules of Practice and Procedure" (RIN3064-AF10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3342. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Additions to the Unverified List" (RIN0694-AJ49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3343. A communication from the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Removals to the Unverified List" (RIN0694-AJ50) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3344. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 14014 with respect to the situation in and in relation to Burma; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3345. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Regulation M (Consumer Leasing)" (RIN7100-AG70) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3346. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal

Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Truth in Lending (Regulation Z)” (RIN7100-AG69) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3347. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans Exemption Threshold” (RIN7100-AG19) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3348. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Federal Reserve Bank Capital Stock” (RIN7100-AG72) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3349. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Community Reinvestment Act Regulations Asset-Size Thresholds” (RIN7100-AG73) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3350. A communication from the Assistant to the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Regulatory Capital Rules: Risk-Based Capital Requirements for Depository Institution Holding Companies Significantly Engaged in Insurance Activities” (RIN7100-AF56) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-3351. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Seventh Biennial Report to Congress: Estimates of Natural Gas and Oil Reserves, Reserves Growth, and Undiscovered Resources in Federal and State Waters off the Coasts of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama - 2023 Update”; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-3352. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Revision of the NRC Enforcement Policy” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 17, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3353. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval: Illinois; NAAQS Update” (FRL No. 10900-02-R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 11, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3354. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Chemical Substances Designated as Inactive on the TSCA Inventory; Significant New Use Rule” (FRL No. 9665-02-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 11, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3355. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review” (FRL No. 8510-01-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 11, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. SANDERS, from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3392. A bill to reauthorize the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 3632. A bill to prohibit the use of Department of Homeland Security grant funds for politically biased activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. CARPER:

S. 3633. A bill to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to allow the District of Columbia to receive Federal funding under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 3634. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3901 MacArthur Boulevard in New Orleans, Louisiana, as the “Dr. Rudy Lombard Post Office Building”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 3635. A bill to improve the President’s Cup Cybersecurity Competitions; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 54. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Egypt of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 55. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Egypt of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PAUL:

S.J. Res. 56. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sales to the Government of Egypt of certain defense articles and services; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 158

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Colorado

(Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 158, a bill to increase United States jobs through greater United States exports to Africa and Latin America, and for other purposes.

S. 462

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 462, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to modify the loan repayment program for the substance use disorder treatment workforce to relieve workforce shortages.

S. 711

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 711, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society.

S. 722

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 722, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permit certain expenses associated with obtaining or maintaining recognized postsecondary credentials to be treated as qualified higher education expenses for purposes of 529 accounts.

S. 815

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 815, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the “Hello Girls”.

S. 993

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 993, a bill to prohibit certain uses of xylazine, and for other purposes.

S. 1538

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1538, a bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants for outdoor learning spaces and to develop living schoolyards.

S. 1886

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1886, a bill to establish a Federal Clearinghouse on Safety and Best Practices for Nonprofit Organizations, Faith-based Organizations, and Houses of Worship within the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

S. 1925

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1925, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve the detection, prevention, and treatment of mental health issues

among public safety officers, and for other purposes.

S. 2372

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2372, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 2757

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2757, a bill to limit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from modifying the rate of payment or reimbursement for transportation of veterans or other individuals via special modes of transportation under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 2839

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2839, a bill to clarify the maximum hiring target for new air traffic controllers, and for other purposes.

S. 2901

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) were added as cosponsors of S. 2901, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require institutions of higher education to disclose hazing incidents, and for other purposes.

S. 3297

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3297, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand the availability of medical nutrition therapy services under the Medicare program.

S. 3373

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3373, a bill to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend the time period during which licensees are required to commence construction of certain hydropower projects.

S. 3520

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3520, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for education.

S. 3607

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3607, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that

amounts paid for an abortion are not taken into account for purposes of the deduction for medical expenses.

S. 3608

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3608, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit treatment of certain distributions and reimbursements for certain abortions as qualified medical expenses.

S. 3609

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3609, a bill to ensure that women seeking an abortion are informed of the medical risks associated with the abortion procedure and the major developmental characteristics of the unborn child, before giving their informed consent to receive an abortion.

S. 3619

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3619, a bill to amend chapter 25 of title 14, United States Code, to prohibit the use of Coast Guard funds and facilities to perform abortions and to prohibit the provision of travel and transportation allowances to obtain abortions.

S. 3620

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3620, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a corporate tax rate increase on companies whose ratio of compensation of the CEO or other highest paid employee to median worker compensation is more than 50 to 1, and for other purposes.

S. 3624

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3624, a bill to restrict the availability of Federal funds to organizations associated with the abortion industry.

S. RES. 333

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 333, a resolution designating 2024 as the Year of Democracy as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of Government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—VETO MESSAGE ON S.J. RES. 38

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if the Senate receives a veto message on S.J. Res. 38, it be considered as having been read and be printed in the RECORD and spread in full upon the Journal; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the veto message with respect to S.J. Res. 38 be considered at a time to be

determined by the majority leader in concurrence with the Republican leader prior to January 31, 2024; that there be up to 2 hours for debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; and that the Senate then vote on passage of the joint resolution, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 6914

Ms. SMITH. I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6914) to require institutions of higher education to disseminate information on the rights of, and accommodations and resources for, pregnant students, and for other purposes.

Ms. SMITH. I now ask for a second reading and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 23; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Koos nomination postclosure; further, that all time be considered expired at 11:30 a.m.; that the Senate recess following the cloture vote on the Coscia nomination until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; further, that if cloture has been invoked on the Coscia nomination, all time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m., and that if cloture is invoked on the Szabat nomination, all time be considered expired at 6 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, if there is
no further business to come before the

Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned
under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate,
at 6:35 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday,
January 23, 2024, at 10 a.m.