

home, at school, and with their doctors, and it is allowing us to meet 21st century demands like climate change and cyber attacks.

Even with last Friday's good news, we still have more work to do to make sure we have an economy that really works for everyone. Too many American families are still struggling to pay the bills and afford the basics amid global inflation caused by President Putin's unprovoked war in Ukraine and rising COVID cases in China that are disrupting our supply chains.

Last week, the Federal Reserve raised interest rates by half a percentage point. That is the biggest rate hike in 22 years. They are trying to tamp down this inflationary pressure. We know, for many American families, a break in rising prices can't come soon enough, but we also know that the root causes of this challenge are complicated and that it will take a global effort and some good fortune for us to address it successfully.

Democrats are committed to taking action to lower household costs and combat rising prices, get kids back to school, and workers back to work. We need to give families a helping hand when it comes to the basics: medication, housing, gas for your car or truck. We need to think ahead and begin preparing and investing now for future COVID surges so we can save lives and minimize the potential disruption to our supply chains and the economy.

It is incredible to me, after what this Nation and world have gone through and continue to go through with over a million Americans having died from COVID, that we still are in a fierce debate over whether we ought to prepare for the possibility that it could come back. We know it will. Sadly, it will. I hope it is in a manner that we can control. We believe, on the Democratic side, that we should "be prepared." We weren't prepared when it hit initially. With the statements by the former President that this was some sort of a hoax and that it would all disappear someday, we just lulled ourselves into thinking it wasn't serious. Well, a million American lives have been lost to prove just how serious it has been. We need to support workers and families—healthcare workers, too—and small businesses, like restaurants, that are the lifeblood of our economy.

I urge my Republican colleagues to sit down and get real. We ought to face this public health issue for the reality that it is. We ought to face this economy with the challenges we face. We need to boost American manufacturing and jobs. We need to lower costs for families, and we need to insulate our economy against future COVID.

#### UKRAINE

Madam President, the last few days have revealed a jarring contrast in human decency regarding the war in Ukraine.

Yesterday, on Mother's Day, First Lady Jill Biden visited the Ukrainian

First Lady, Olena Zelenska, in Ukraine, in a moving display of solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

This is an amazing photograph. It is a moment in history I am not sure any of us thought we would ever see. Here is our First Lady, who manages to finally meet with the First Lady of the President in Ukraine. There was some risk associated with it, but thank goodness, everything went well, and at the end of the day, the message was clear: America is standing by Ukraine. It is standing by the First Family of Ukraine with their amazing show of courage.

The two First Ladies met at a school that was converted to help displaced Ukrainians because of the Russian onslaught. During her visit there and at stops just before in Romania and Slovakia, Dr. Jill Biden met with Ukrainian refugees, including many exhausted kids and parents who were on the verge of tears from the horrors that they had lived through.

She poignantly remarked of her visits in the three nations and said:

I thought it was important to show the Ukrainian people that this war has to stop, and this war has been brutal.

Now contrast that humane display, that display of human compassion and grace by the First Lady of the United States, with the actions of Russian war criminal Vladimir Putin yesterday and today.

Over the weekend, Putin's forces continued brutal assaults on civilian targets in Ukraine, including shelling a school used as a bomb shelter, which left 60 or more buried and presumed dead. Putin disgraced himself and the millions of Russians who suffered horribly during World War II by crudely comparing their struggle to his unprovoked, unconscionable assault on Ukraine. In cynically using Russia's World War II Victory Day, Putin described his war in Ukraine as "sacred" and necessary for the "security of our homeland." This is delusional. It is Putin who is now acting in the same way as those who brutally attacked the Soviet Union during World War II.

In one of my first visits to the Soviet Union as a person, as just a civilian on the street who went on a tour and then again as a Congressman, I was struck by how meaningful World War II was to the people of Russia. It was not uncommon for brides and grooms to go to the monument of those who fought and died in World War II in the cities of Russia on the days of their weddings and have photographs taken in memory of the people who were lost in their families decades before.

But Putin has now turned the tables, sadly, on this event with the just incredible, delusional comments that he makes. Here is Putin, reducing Ukrainian towns to rubble if they refuse to surrender, forcibly deporting as many as 300,000 Ukrainians to Russia, trying to erase the Ukrainian identity from seized areas, and praising Russian military units that are accused of blatant war crimes.

A Washington Post editorial on Friday hauntingly noted the historic parallel when they said:

Of the mass deportations carried out by the Soviet regime during the early 1930s as part of the campaign by Joseph Stalin to subdue Ukraine through political repression . . . they used famine.

Today, it is Vladimir Putin who is using terror, murder, and starvation against millions of innocent Ukrainians.

This war is monstrous. It is a threat not only to Ukraine but to the peace and stability of the entire world. If we are going to pay homage to the men and women who fought and to some who died—to the many who died—in World War II, we should remember that they did it to stop Hitler and to stop the Japanese in their efforts to conquer parts of the world.

We thought in the 20th century, at the end of World War II, we had finally turned the page on that sort of conduct. Vladimir Putin is a reminder that those forces of evil are still in the world.

Putin, reportedly, even wanted the Russian military to hold a victory parade in the devastated Ukrainian port city of Mariupol, but the parade plans had to be canceled because Ukrainian soldiers continue to fight against the Russian invaders. Ukrainians just won't give up. And the city itself has been virtually bombed to dust—hardly the backdrop Putin wanted for his evil pretense of a celebration.

Well, I have a message for Vladimir Putin on this Victory Day: You have disgraced yourself by selfishly exploiting the memory of those Russians who protected your nation in World War II, and you do it to defend your own war crimes today. You will not erase Ukraine. You have only strengthened Ukrainian people and the collective will of the global community to defend them against Russian tyranny.

There will be a Victory Day parade one day in Ukraine, and it will be to honor the valiant Ukrainians who sacrificed on the frontlines to defend freedom and democracy in Ukraine and worldwide.

I am proud that the United States, through President Biden and a bipartisan Congress, are standing behind the Ukrainian people at this moment when they are being tested. We are going into the third and fourth week of this Russian onslaught, and they still show remarkable achievement and resistance.

We are going to stand by them. We are going to defend them. We are going to let the world know the brutality that Vladimir Putin has visited on these brave people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

#### ABORTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, 2 years ago, the Senate Democratic leader rallied a crowd on the steps of the Supreme Court and threatened Justices by name if they did not resolve an abortion case the way he wanted. Here was the quote:

I want to tell you, Gorsuch; I want to tell you, Kavanaugh: You have released the whirlwind, and you will pay the price. You won't know what hit you if you go forward with these awful decisions.

This incitement triggered rare public rebukes from the Chief Justice himself and even the liberal American Bar Association. But, apparently, the radical left heard their marching orders loud and clear.

Since the precedent-setting leak of a draft opinion last week, the left has set out to harass and intimidate sitting judges as they consider a pending case. We have seen angry crowds assemble at Justices' private family homes. Activists publish a map of their addresses. Law enforcement has had to install a security fence around the Supreme Court itself.

Trying—trying—to scare Federal judges into ruling a certain way is far outside the bounds of First Amendment speech or protest; it is an attempt to replace the rule of law with the rule of mobs.

It appears this may possibly be flatout illegal. There is a Federal law on the books that criminalizes “pickets or parades with the intent of influencing any judge, juror, witness, or court officer” at locations—listen to this—that include a judge’s “residence.”

Last year, Attorney General Garland’s Justice Department was quick to treat the concerned parents of America like potential domestic terrorists. But, curiously, I haven’t heard any announcement about how the DOJ may handle these intimidation tactics aimed directly at Federal judges.

Washington Democrats have gone out of their way to fuel the hysterical, potentially dangerous, climate. The President’s statement about the unprecedented leak didn’t condemn it. His Press Secretary has repeatedly appeared to endorse rallies at judge’s private family residences as long as they don’t turn into outright violence.

The senior Senator from Massachusetts stood on the Supreme Court steps and shouted:

We are gonna fight back.

Democrats are renewing their calls to break the Senate in order to pack the Court. They want to destroy two institutions for the price of one.

One liberal Georgetown law professor helpfully summarized their mission as follows: He explained this past weekend that the key moral difference between this pressure campaign and the Janu-

ary 6 riot is that, in this case—now listen to this—“the mob is right.”

So what has generated this reckless outrage? What is the Armageddon over which Democrats want to break the Senate, pack the Court, and condone potentially illegal rallies outside judges’ family homes? Here is the case in question: whether the State of Mississippi can enact an abortion law that would still be more liberal—more liberal—than laws in Germany, France, and Switzerland.

This is the case that is driving these hysterics, the possibility that abortion laws might begin to move away from China and North Korea and closer to Germany, France, and Switzerland? That is what has prompted the calls to destroy our institutions and surround Justices’ family homes. That is why a pro-life nonprofit in Wisconsin got a Molotov cocktail through its window and activists called for disruptions of Sunday worship.

Today’s Democratic Party is profoundly out of step with the American people on this issue. Their extreme position ignores modern science and public opinion.

Leader SCHUMER wants the Senate to vote again on a Democratic bill that would effectively legalize abortion-on-demand through all 9 months. Their bill is written to protect abortionists rather than mothers. It would roll back health regulations. It would attack America’s conscience rights and religious freedoms. It would overturn modest and overwhelmingly popular safeguards like waiting periods, informed consent laws, and possibly even parental notification. And it is written so that, in practice, it would allow elective abortion until birth.

Democrats’ extreme position is radical on a global scale and wildly unpopular with the American people. Only 34 percent of Americans believe abortion should be legal in all or most cases into the second trimester. That drops to 19 percent in the third trimester, but that is what the Democrats’ bill would allow in practice.

Every Senate Democrat but two and every House Democrat except a handful has put their name on this as cosponsors. That means 97 percent of Washington Democrats support a position that only 19 percent of Americans actually want. I will say that again. Ninety-seven percent of Democrats in Congress are cosponsors of an outcome that has 19 percent public support.

Notwithstanding inflation, energy insecurity, open borders, a violent crime-wave, and a war in Europe, Democrats want to spend this week explaining their extremism. Some Democrats even want to try again to break the Senate in order to ram this through. I have clearly stated I will never, never support smashing the legislative filibuster on this issue or any other. Yet Democrats want to wreck our institutions over their fringe position that Americans do not share.

I can understand why my colleagues want to distract from their governing

record. Their policies have created a living nightmare for working families. But Democrats’ extreme and unpopular position on abortion is not going to bail them out. It just gives Americans yet another reminder that the radicals are running the show.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. DUCKWORTH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### 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. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 848.

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 Alvaro M. Bedoya, of Maryland, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2019.

#### 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. 848, Alvaro M. Bedoya, of Maryland, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner for the term of seven years from September 26, 2019.

Charles E. Schumer, Jacky Rosen, Cory A. Booker, Elizabeth Warren, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patty Murray, Brian Schatz, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Alex Padilla, Amy Klobuchar, Tina Smith, Jeff Merkley, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, John W. Hickenlooper, Richard J. Durbin.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### WOMEN’S HEALTH PROTECTION ACT OF 2022—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to legislative session.