

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, we are living in the twilight of *Roe v. Wade* and the incredibly important protections for Americans that flow from it. For almost 50 years, the Supreme Court held that the Constitution safeguarded women's access to critical reproductive healthcare, including abortion, and rightly so. Most American women have never lived without the ability to control their bodies, their health, and their families' economic well-being.

As we learned last week from a draft opinion, the Supreme Court is poised to strip away these fundamental freedoms from women around the United States by overturning its own precedents. This would be one of the very few times in American history when the Court has taken away rights rather than expanding them. If this draft stands, young women today will have fewer choices than their mothers and grandmothers had.

The Senate has an opportunity to pass Federal law to protect the right to choose across this country. I urge my colleagues to take and pass this legislation and do what a large majority of Nevadans and Americans want: to let women make their own decisions.

Here is what could happen if the Supreme Court draft becomes law. If the Supreme Court overturns longstanding precedent in June, the right to choose will immediately cease to exist in about 18 States, and others will act quickly to pass new bans on critical care. And within months, restrictions on reproductive choice will be in place in approximately half of the States, meaning that around the world, half of the women around the country, half of the women of child-bearing age will not be able to get critical care where they live.

The women who have the money and the time will travel to States like mine that have legal protections for reproductive healthcare. In Nevada, we are already seeing women traveling from Texas, where an extreme law offers a \$10,000 reward to vigilantes targeting anyone who "aids and abets" abortions.

If *Roe* falls, it would automatically trigger abortion bans in neighboring Idaho and Utah as well. We will see women traveling from Nevada to those States too.

But the vast majority of women seeking reproductive care won't even have the option to travel for care. We know what happens to these women. The research shows that when people cannot get essential reproductive care, their physical, their emotional, and their economic health suffers, as does the health of their families. They can face life-threatening pregnancy complications and long-term health impacts.

This Court decision will strip away women's power to make the best decisions for themselves and their families. That means women will not have the same control over their lives and bodies as men do, and that is just wrong.

Nevadans understand something fundamental about the right to choose. The fact is that you can never know what circumstances another person faces until you walk in their shoes. That is why most Nevadans want to preserve women's freedom to decide what healthcare they receive. They know it is not right to impose their own beliefs on others when Americans have such divergent religious views, economic and family circumstances, and medical histories.

This is why family planning is so important. We have seen it again and again over the years. Far-right, extreme Republican lawmakers want to target the entire spectrum of reproductive healthcare and family planning services.

The laws they are proposing in States like Louisiana and Tennessee would keep women who want to become pregnant from getting fertility treatments. They could stop women who are raped from getting the morning-after pill to prevent a potential pregnancy. These laws could block access to contraception for women who have painful menstrual cycles or other health conditions or who simply don't want to have a child.

It seems that these effects on women don't matter to many on the far right, including MITCH MCCONNELL, who is already discussing a nationwide abortion ban that could threaten even Nevada's legal protections.

That is why my colleagues and I are standing up for legislation that will codify women's reproductive freedoms into Federal law. The Women's Health Protection Act will preserve the right to choose nationally and ensure that women have access to critical care.

If we want our daughters to grow up with the same freedoms we have had for 50 years, we have to act now. We need to stand up for women in America and trust them to make their own decisions about their health, their families, and their lives.

I believe in American women, and that is why this fight for us is now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President and colleagues, this past week, following the leaked Supreme Court opinion that threatens to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, thousands of Californians have reached out to my office in the form of phone calls, in the form of letters, and in the form of emails, all to voice their support for the right to choose.

It is abundantly clear that Congress must pass the Women's Health Protection Act and codify the right to an abortion into Federal law.

Countless Californians and other Americans have spoken up—many in public, many in private—to share their own abortion stories.

Think about the students who want to finish high school before starting a family. Think of survivors of sexual assault, whose abortion reaffirmed their

right to choose for their own bodies. Think of parents who desperately wanted a child but, upon becoming pregnant, learned the devastating news about dangerous health risks associated with that pregnancy. Think of the women whose lives were saved by an abortion, because abortion is often critical medical care. And think about women who remember a time a half a century ago, before *Roe v. Wade* secured this right, a time when—don't get me wrong—abortion still happened, but they were unsafe secrets at the time, when women risked their lives for the choice that they needed.

I believe that the right to an abortion is a fundamental right, and I am proud to represent a State that fiercely defends abortion access. California is committed to safe, respectful abortion care for all who need it. That is why Californians have stepped up this year, with some even traveling to aid women who were threatened by SB 8, the Texas law that prohibits abortion at 6 weeks. This is the very law that Senator CORTEZ MASTO just referenced a few minutes ago, and it is why so many Californians are speaking up now.

We know that your right to choose should not end at a State border, and it certainly shouldn't rely on your income or your transportation options or whether or not you can afford to take time off from work.

All across America, a strong majority support a woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions. We can't stand by and watch while rightwing politicians and judges seem to roll back the clock on women's rights. That is why I am voting for the Women's Health Protection Act and why I urge each and every one of you to do the same.

We must secure the right to abortion nationwide. We must protect the fundamental rights of women across the country—not just in a few States but across the country.

Congress can and must do this by passing the Women's Health Protection Act.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 807 and 809; that there be 2 hours for debate equally divided in the usual form on the nominations en bloc; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote without intervening action or debate on the nominations in the order listed; that, if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified

of the Senate's action and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

NOMINATION OF ERIC M. GARCETTI

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I intend to lift my objection to proceeding to the consideration of the nomination of Mayor Eric Garcetti, of California, to be the U.S. Ambassador to India.

Today, I released the findings of a staff review examining whether Mr. Garcetti was aware of allegations of misconduct by a former senior adviser. I am making these findings public in the interest of transparency and for the benefit of my colleagues as the Senate fulfills its advice and consent duties. I intend to lift my hold on the nomination, but based on what I have learned, I intend to vote no if the nomination is considered by the full Senate.

Please see the full investigative report here: <https://www.grassley.senate.gov/download/report-on-investigation-into-eric-garcetti-nominated-to-be-ambassador-to-the-republic-of-india>.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Madam President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmations of Executive Calendar No. 660, Ryan K. Buchanan, of Georgia, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia for the term of four years; No. 661, Jason M. Frierson, of Nevada, to be United States Attorney for the District of Nevada for the term of four years; No. 663, Mark A. Totten, of Michigan, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Michigan for the term of four years; No. 739, Marisa T. Darden, of Ohio, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio for the term of four years; No. 740, Delia L. Smith, of the Virgin Islands, to be United States Attorney for the District of the Virgin Islands for the term of four years; No. 805, Jane E. Young, of New Hampshire, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Hampshire for the term of four years; and No. 859, Vanessa Roberts Avery, of Connecticut, to be United States Attorney for the District of Connecticut for the term of four years.

Had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted no on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 803, Paul Monteiro, of Maryland, to be Director, Community Relations Service, Department of Justice.

MEMORIAL DAY

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I rise today to honor and remember the veterans throughout Michigan's history who have given their lives on behalf of our country.

Even before Michigan was a State, these brave patriots have been willing to risk everything—even their lives—in order to defend our Nation, our people, and our way of life.

Perhaps the stakes were never higher than in World War II. Totalitarianism threatened free countries and free people, echoes of which we are tragically seeing today in Ukraine. Americans—and Michiganders—would not stand by and watch democracy die.

We planted victory gardens. We purchased war bonds. And we built an Arsenal of Democracy strong enough to defeat dictators and defend freedom around the world.

More than half a million Michigan men and women served in our Armed Forces. For more than 15,000 of them, it was the last thing they ever did.

We can never repay them for their sacrifice. But we can remember them, honor them, and share their stories.

That is the aim of the Michigan World War II Legacy Memorial in Royal Oak. Ground was broken for this special place just last month.

The memorial will feature statues representing life on the battlefield and the homefront. A series of pillars will stand for Michigan's contributions to the war. A brick walkway will tell the stories of those who fought and sacrificed. And a wall of stars will commemorate the lives that were lost.

Each one of the 1,300 stars will represent more than 10 Michigan men and women who gave their lives for our country. One of those stars shines for Pfc. Walter Wetzel of Roseville.

On the morning of April 3, 1945, Pfc. Wetzel was guarding his platoon's command post when it came under fire. German troops fought their way close to the building and threw two grenades into the room Pfc. Wetzel was defending alongside his fellow soldiers. Pfc. Wetzel shouted a warning and threw himself on top of the grenades, sacrificing his own life so that others could fight on.

For this supreme act of bravery, Pfc. Wetzel was awarded the Medal of Honor, which is now on display at the Michigan Heroes Museum in Frankenmuth.

Pfc. Wetzel deserves to be remembered, as does everyone who laid down their lives for our country. It is incredibly fitting that Michigan would honor their sacrifice in such a lasting way.

This Memorial Day, we remember all Michigan veterans who gave their lives in service to our country. And we salute all of our veterans who are still with us. It is only because of their sacrifice that our democracy endures.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING EDWARD LEONARD MARCUS

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I rise today with a heavy heart to pay tribute to Edward Leonard Marcus,

an extraordinary public servant who passed away on May 5, 2022, at the age of 94.

Born in Brooklyn, NY, Ed was a shining star from an early age in the classroom and on the sports field. He attended Yale University as an undergraduate, where he also played football, baseball, and basketball, as well as managed the wrestling team. In 1950, he obtained his LLB and LLD from Yale Law School. Inspired by the community involvement he enjoyed while at law school, Ed successfully ran for the board of alders, and, demonstrating his tremendous leadership skills, he quickly was elected majority leader. At the same time, Ed established the Marcus Law Firm, which would gain recognition for legal excellence throughout New England.

Following his initial city political success, Ed was elected to the Connecticut Senate, where, again, his leadership acumen and political prowess resulted in him serving as the majority leader of the Connecticut State Senate for an impressive six terms. In 1992, he became the Democratic State chairman.

Throughout his time in public service, Ed thrived most when given the opportunity to debate with his peers and learn from those around him. He had a reputation as an obstinate, tough leader, a credit to his well-earned confidence and determination to help the people of Connecticut. Outside of work, Ed was a caring and compassionate man who valued his family above all else.

Ed's wife and three daughters exemplify the same generous spirit he embodied. His wife, Jill, was elected chair of the Branford Police Commission in 2015; his daughter, Shelley, is a judge on the Connecticut Superior Court; his daughter, Susan, enthusiastically supports the work of Ed's law firm; and his daughter, Nicole, is a dedicated teacher. I have had the privilege of knowing the Marcus family and witnessing firsthand their unstinting work to better Connecticut and the Nation. Ed's tireless efforts will be an enduring legacy, and his wife and daughters continue this remarkable lifetime of service.

My wife Cynthia and I extend our deepest sympathies to Jill, Shelley, Susan, Nicole, and all of Ed's loved ones during this difficult time. May their many wonderful memories of Ed provide them solace and comfort in the days ahead. I hope my colleagues will join me in remembering Edward L. Marcus.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages