

already being proposed by many legislatures and in some cases is already the law on the books. If, God forbid, you are the victim of rape or incest, in many States, you discover that the laws in place could force you to carry your pregnancy to term against your will.

This is a cruel, repressive, and dangerous vision for our country, but it is precisely the future that MAGA Republicans are working toward. It is precisely the outcome that extreme Republicans have planned for.

For years, Senate Republicans rubberstamped one extreme judge after another, plucked right out of the Federalist Society list, with the admitted goal to “pick away at *Roe v. Wade*,” as Leader McConnell stated. Without Senate Republicans skewing our courts to the hard right, *Roe* would not be on the brink of extinction.

At the State level, radical MAGA Republicans have pushed or enacted restrictions that ban abortions as early as 6 weeks, ban abortions with no exceptions for rape or incest, criminalize women and doctors, and prevent other States from offering reproductive care. The immensely cruel law in Texas could even punish doctors who prescribe certain drugs to women in cases of a miscarriage.

It gets worse. It gets worse. Leader McConnell says that under a Republican Senate, a national ban on abortion is “possible” without *Roe*. Let that sink in, America. A national ban on abortion is the extreme of extremes, and it is now possible in a Republican Senate, according to Leader McConnell. Americans should listen to that.

For the hard right, this has never been about States’ rights. This has never been about letting Texas choose its own path while California takes another. Those arguments have now been exposed for what they are: hypocrisy. For MAGA Republicans, this has always been about making abortion illegal everywhere, about making the bans in Texas apply equally to New York and California and Minnesota and everywhere in between.

For all the times we heard Republicans oppose expanding healthcare because “the American people want healthcare decisions left up to their family and doctors,” the same hard-right radicals are now telling American women: Healthcare decisions will now be made by politicians and judges, not doctors, not families. MAGA Republicans are telling American women: Your body, our choice.

These laws are far outside the mainstream of the country. According to a poll released this morning by POLITICO and Morning Consult, just 28 percent of voters support overturning *Roe v. Wade*. Nearly 75 percent of Americans, including a majority of Republicans, oppose the radical notion of imprisoning women who receive an abortion. Nearly 60 percent of Americans say they want political candidates to support access to abortion. That is why

this issue will be one of the most important issues facing the voters in November.

As Americans make their decisions in this year’s election, this question will not go away. Americans strongly oppose getting rid of *Roe*, and they will be paying close attention from now until November to Republicans who are responsible for its demise.

So to my Republican colleagues who have spent the last week trying to talk about anything other than *Roe*, it is time to go on record.

I ask my colleagues to think carefully about their vote and to reckon deeply about the consequences of a world where *Roe* is a thing of the past. Tens of millions of women are watching what will happen to the rights they have relied on for decades, and all of us will have to answer for this vote for the rest of our time in public office.

Before the day is over, every Member of this body will make a choice: Stand with women to protect their freedoms or stand with MAGA Republicans and take our country into a dark and repressive future.

#### UKRAINE

Madam President, now finally on a different note, yesterday, the House voted on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis to approve a \$40 billion emergency aid package to support the people of Ukraine in their fight against Putin’s aggression.

This package is large, it is very much needed, and I am going to work with my colleagues to make sure we can move forward on this package as soon as we can. The President has called on both Chambers of Congress to act quickly, so act quickly we must. The House vote was overwhelmingly bipartisan, and it should be no different in this Chamber.

Time is of the essence because President Biden has made clear that the aid provided by Congress a few months ago is now near its end. As we acted quickly and decisively a few months ago, we must do so again very, very soon, and I will make sure this is a priority for the Senate.

We have a moral obligation to stand with our friends in Ukraine. The fight they are in is a struggle between democracy and authoritarianism itself, and we dare not relent or delay swift action to help our friends in need.

I yield the floor.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

#### INFLATION

Mr. McConnell. Madam President, the country just received yet another terrible inflation report. Yet again, overall inflation came in higher than expected: 8.3 percent. Inflation continues to stick right around its worst level in 40 years.

The measure that the Bureau of Labor Statistics calls “core inflation” increased in April by twice as much as

it increased in March. Food costs are way up. Housing costs are way up once again.

President Biden has presided over one of the most expensive years for working families in modern American history. The national average gas price is the highest it has ever been in the history of our country. Americans are paying an average of \$4.33 per gallon for regular. Diesel has also hit a record high; it is now \$5.62 per gallon—a huge blow to Americans with trucks and tractors, to small businesses and family farms. And, of course, it forces up the price of practically everything that travels on a truck to reach the scene of a store or a supermarket. Inflation on top of inflation.

In my home State, Kentuckians are paying 34 percent more for propane and 112 percent more for home heating oil than they were paying when Democrats took control of the government.

Let me say that again. The price of home heating oil has more than doubled since President Biden took office, a crushing blow—a crushing blow—to rural America, especially in States like Pennsylvania, Vermont, and New Hampshire.

Democratic policies have fueled this runaway inflation. Their mistakes are why inflation has hit America much harder than other developed countries.

Expert calculations say Democrats’ \$2 trillion spending spree last March is directly responsible for as much as 3 percentage points of our current inflation. Even the prominent Democratic economist Jason Furman puts the number at 2.5 percent. If just one—Senate Democrat had the courage to vote with Republicans in March of 2021, inflation today would be closer to 5 percent instead of almost 8½ percent.

Steve Rattner was a top economic adviser to President Obama. He says the Democrats’ \$2 trillion disaster will “go down in history as an extraordinary policy mistake” that put us “way behind the curve on inflation.” That is Steve Rattner, top economic adviser to President Obama.

Everyone knows where this inflation came from, but President Biden just can’t seem to admit it. He just makes excuses that no one is buying.

Listen to a Democratic political adviser, David Axelrod. He said:

[Biden] was saying, you know, everything is Putin’s price hikes, inflation is Putin’s fault. People [simply] don’t believe that.

According to David Axelrod:

They know that we had inflation before this. They know that gas prices were high before this. . . . You can’t blame everything in the economy on Putin.

David Axelrod.

So it is this President and his all-Democratic government who have drained American families’ pocketbooks. And every poll—every poll—shows our citizens understand that sad reality all too well.

#### WOMEN’S HEALTH PROTECTION ACT

Madam President, now on another matter, today on the Senate floor,

Democrats will prove their party has been totally captured by the far-left branch.

My colleague, the Democratic leader, controls the schedule. He decides what we vote on. From inflation to the border crisis, to violent crime, there is no shortage of problems that deserve attention, but, alas, today Democrats have decided to line up behind an extreme and radical abortion policy. Our Democratic colleagues want to vote for abortion-on-demand through all 9 months, until the moment before the baby is born—a failed show vote that will only prove their own extremism.

The Democrats' radical bill is as extreme as extreme gets. It ignores modern science. It is tone-deaf to public opinion. Nothing about their bill merely codifies the current case law on this issue. Their extreme proposal goes way, way beyond codifying the status quo. It would roll back many existing laws.

Democrats' bill would functionally allow elective abortion through all 9 months, abortion until the moment of birth. We are currently one of only seven countries worldwide that allow elective abortion after 20 weeks. It puts us in a group with China and North Korea. This bill would take us to an even more extreme and darker place.

Only 19 percent of Americans believe that abortion should be legal in most or all cases into the third trimester—only 19 percent of the American people. But 97 percent of House and Senate Democrats have cosponsored this bill that would have exactly that effect. Ninety-seven percent of Washington Democrats stand with the most radical 19 percent of the country. Almost half the Senate is about to walk the plank for a position that fewer than one in five Americans actually support.

In addition to 9 months of functional abortion-on-demand, the Democrats' extreme bill would roll back basic health and safety regulations. It would roll back overwhelmingly popular safeguards such as waiting periods and informed consent laws. Parental notification would likely go out the window as well. Democrats would even rule out restrictions on sex-selective abortions. And their legislation takes direct aim at conscious protections and religious freedoms that protect Americans of faith who practice medicine.

So let's sum it up. This legislation would allow abortion to viable babies in the ninth month, with no waiting period or informed consent, at the hands of a nonphysician. Taxpayers could be forced to pay for it, and Catholic hospitals would be forced to perform it.

Democrats could not have written more extreme legislation. They have let fringe activists lead them far away from the American people. More than 60 percent of Americans support 24-hour waiting periods and requiring that doctors have admitting privileges. Even majorities of self-identified Democrats actually support those

things. But Washington Democrats want to roll them back. Only 19 percent of Americans want abortions to be entirely or mostly legal into the third trimester, but 97 percent of Washington Democrats back this bill.

Democrats are melting down because the Supreme Court may—may—uphold a Mississippi law that would limit abortion after 15 weeks. That law would still be more liberal than the abortion laws in Switzerland, Germany, or France. Today's Democratic Party is extreme on an international scale.

So, Madam President, it is chilling that anybody would write legislation like this in 2022. It is even more disturbing that 97 percent of Washington Democrats have put their names on it. But the American people need to see what the far left has become.

So I am glad—glad—the Senate will vote today. We will stand with the American people, stand with innocent life, and block the Democrats' extreme bill.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I have to disagree with the distinguished minority leader.

The bill that we are going to vote on this afternoon is legislation that would ensure that the decisions about whether or not to have a child are made by women. It would codify *Roe v. Wade* to ensure that women make those decisions—not the minority leader, not Justice Alito, not some politician someplace but women. And that is who should make those decisions.

I rise today to add my voice to the chorus of American women who are standing together, arm in arm, to loudly and clearly declare that we will not surrender our rights.

Like the majority of women in New Hampshire and across this country, I was outraged by the leaked draft Supreme Court decision by Justice Alito that said that the Supreme Court would overturn *Roe v. Wade*; that they would overturn almost 50 years of rights that have been guaranteed to women. So I rise today on behalf of the women of New Hampshire and the women across this country, including my daughters and granddaughters and the generations that will follow them.

I rise today that we must preserve a woman's fundamental right to make our own decisions about our own bodies, about our futures, and about our health.

Like millions of women across the country, I was shocked to see that opinion, written by Justice Alito, indicating that five Justices would vote in favor of overturning *Roe*. That decision, if it stands, would upend nearly 50 years of precedent that says a woman's healthcare decisions are ours and ours alone, in consultation with our families, with our physicians, with our clergy.

This Nation is built on the bedrock of liberty. Our founding declaration holds

that life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is among the most essential of unalienable rights that are guaranteed to all Americans. The fundamental right to make decisions about our own bodies touches on each of these.

The decision to have a child is one of the most personal and private that women and families make. And that is exactly who should make that decision, not some extreme politician in Washington or in State capitals across this Nation, not some Supreme Court Justice—people who know nothing about the circumstances that women and their families are facing.

How dare they presume to substitute their judgment? What does it say about the moral righteousness, the self-righteousness of a politician or an unelected jurist over individual women on a matter that is so ultimately personal, so pivotal to every single aspect of the lives of women and families?

We have already heard from the minority leader that Republicans, if they gain control of the Senate and the House, will seek a nationwide ban on abortion. It is a sad day when people at the highest levels of government, who are entrusted to defend our Constitution, to safeguard our citizens, can no longer be trusted to do either.

Unfortunately, we know today that nearly half of the States in this country have already pushed through what we are calling trigger laws that would automatically roll back the clocks by half a century if *Roe* is repealed. That would immediately jeopardize the fates of millions of women across this country. Seventeen of those States would outlaw abortions even in cases of rape and incest. This is the extreme position, the position that says that we should leave up to government, we should leave up to elected officials the decision about whether families should have children, the decision about whether a woman should have a child. That is who should make that decision, not a politician here, not a politician in my State capital of Concord, not a Supreme Court Justice but a woman—and her family—who understands her own circumstances, who knows what she and her family need.

We need to ensure that the freedom for women to make these decisions is guaranteed. That is what this vote is about this afternoon to codify *Roe v. Wade*.

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.

Mr. THUNE. 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.

#### WOMEN'S HEALTH PROTECTION ACT

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, let's get two things straight about the abortion legislation on the floor before us