

costs. They also rightly worry that power outages could hit the Commonwealth in the coming months.

Washington Democrats pursued environmental goals crafted by activists with no sense of how the real economy functions. They sidelined powerplants that use cheap, reliable energy sources without acknowledging that shortages would occur when the wind doesn't blow or the Sun doesn't shine. Independent electricity reliability experts have been sounding the alarm that two-thirds—two-thirds—of the United States could endure electricity blackouts this summer.

Then, Kentucky's ongoing labor shortage hit home during a meeting with bourbon distillers in our famous Bluegrass region. As the distillers explained to me, the programs implemented by Washington Democrats in their \$2 trillion spending package last year encouraged workers to exit the workforce and stay on the sidelines. The Commonwealth still has 20,000 fewer workers—20,000 fewer workers—than we did before the pandemic. So hamstrung by a lack of employees, these Kentucky businessowners are watching apprehensively as Washington Democrats debate another dose of bad policies.

This time, our colleagues are reportedly cooking up a trillion dollars in massive tax hikes on things like small businesses and domestic energy. When you tax something, you get less of it. That is the way it works. I don't know many Kentuckians who think America needs fewer small business jobs or less American energy. I am not certain about the good people of West Virginia either.

One estimate has found that almost half of all the jobs in all of West Virginia are tied to small businesses, the vast majority of which are passthroughs. Half of all the jobs in the entire State are provided by passthroughs.

I can't imagine the people of Pennsylvania or Ohio or a number of other States are especially keen to have fewer small business jobs, higher prices passed on to consumers or less American energy either. Yet each of these States and many others have a Senator apparently keen—to champion these bad ideas.

The nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation has proven that the policies that Democrats are floating would completely break President Biden's promise not to raise taxes on the middle class below \$400,000. The JCT says their bad ideas would create a tax hike for more than a quarter of all Americans who earn between \$75,000 and \$100,000 and more than half of the people earning between \$100,000 and \$200,000. They are taking President Biden's promise not to raise taxes on anybody below \$400,000 and putting it through the shredder—putting it through the shredder.

This all-Democratic government has already spent America into runaway

inflation, and now—now—they want to tax us into a recession.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. President, now on a different matter, yesterday, I discussed the Supreme Court's historic, courageous, and correct decision in *Dobbs*, but that landmark case was only part of the most consequential Supreme Court term in almost 70 years, since *Brown* overturned *Plessy* in 1954.

For example, in the space of 1 week, the Court took two huge leaps forward for religious liberty. Two big steps to restore and strengthen Americans' First Amendment right to pray and worship how they choose and raise their kids accordingly.

Time and again, we have seen opponents of religious diversity argue that government ought to discriminate against faith-based undertakings and organizations. These efforts have spanned from the anti-Catholic Blaine amendments of the 1800s to today's efforts by the secular left to chase religion out of the public square. We have had Democratic politicians try to force nuns to pay for birth control against their will. Forty-nine of fifty Democrats just voted for a radical bill that would have forced faith-based hospitals—listen to this—forced faith-based hospitals to perform abortions against their principles.

Last year, Washington Democrats tried to pass a sweeping toddler takeover that was written to squeeze out faith-based childcare providers and secularize early childhood care in this country. For goodness' sake—for goodness' sake—5 years ago, a Lutheran preschool in Missouri had to argue all the way to the Supreme Court that it deserved equal access to widely available funding for updating an outdoor playground. Textbook anti-religious discrimination. Fortunately, they won easily 7 to 2. This is indeed a new Supreme Court.

Last month, the Court took another landmark step. The case of *Carson v. Makin* arose because the State of Maine had established a school voucher program that tried to uniquely discriminate against faith-based schools. In effect, the government was using taxpayer money to nudge families away from faith-based education and toward secular private schools instead.

The Court rightly struck down that law. Chief Justice Roberts explained that Maine could not exclude accredited and otherwise eligible schools purely because they are religious. That is not the government's choice to make. It is up to the parents.

A few days later, the Court issued another important and commonsense ruling. Joseph Kennedy, a high school football coach from Washington State, was fired—listen to this—simply because he quickly and quietly offered a simple prayer on the field after the game. He got fired for that. The man was fired by government bureaucrats for praying in our country.

The Court ruled for Coach Kennedy under both the free speech and free ex-

ercise clauses of the First Amendment. Thank goodness. In the process, Justice Gorsuch and his colleagues cleared away many years of phony, made-up legal tests that made our laws needlessly hostile to religion and turned back to what the Constitution actually says.

So the Court's term was an exciting one for Americans of faith who simply want to be allowed to live out their faiths and raise their kids. But this was a win for the entire country. Americans of any faith and no faith at all can celebrate that we have a brilliant majority of originalist, textualist Justices who will defend all of our constitutionally guaranteed freedoms and apply what the Bill of Rights actually says.

In a better world, neither of these commonsense rulings would have been close calls or breaking news, but since they were, they were very good news indeed.

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. Mr. 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.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, on June 24, the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, returning the question of abortion to the States and to the people and their elected representatives.

The Supreme Court's decision was an affirmation of democracy, which had been set aside by *Roe* in favor of a national abortion regime imposed upon the entire country by a handful of activist Justices. *Roe* took legislative power out of the hands of the people and put it in the hands of unelected Justices on nonexistent constitutional grounds. The Supreme Court's decision puts the question of abortion back in the hands of the States and the people and their elected representatives, where it should always have been.

I am profoundly grateful for this decision, most especially because of what is at stake here, because the *Roe* decision was not a failure of constitutional jurisprudence on some arcane point; it was a failure that infringed on our most fundamental rights as human beings—in fact, on the fundamental right: the right to life.

Roe not only allowed for but imposed a regime that forced States to legalize the killing of unborn human beings. So the decision to overturn *Roe* not only affirms democracy and repairs a constitutional wrong, it allows for the righting of a profound moral wrong: the legal killing of unborn Americans.

The Supreme Court's decision does not, of course, make abortion illegal, but it will finally—finally—allow those States to choose to put in place protections for unborn children.

Since *Roe v. Wade* legalized abortion through all 9 months of pregnancy, more than 63 million children have been killed in this country by abortion—63 million. It is an unfathomable number and, frankly, a heartbreaking number. To put it into some kind of perspective, that is more than twice the population of the State of Texas and more than 70 times the population of my home State of South Dakota. Sixty-three million. Sixty-three million unique, unrepeatable human beings—future doctors and nurses and farmers and teachers and busdrivers and plumbers and scientists. That is a lot of innocent lives lost.

And, yes, when we talk about unborn babies, we are talking about human lives. Members of the pro-abortion left would like to obscure this fact, but science and medical technology and plain old common sense, I would add, all clearly demonstrate the humanity of the unborn child. Every mom who has ever felt her unborn baby kick is well aware that she isn't just carrying around a clump of cells, and ultrasound technology and medical advancements have made the humanity of the unborn child even more undeniable. It is impossible to hear the heartbeat of an unborn child at 6 weeks and say that he or she is not alive. It is impossible to look at an unborn baby on an ultrasound kicking her feet and moving her hands and sucking her thumb and to pretend that she is anything but a human being. And human beings deserve to be protected.

Democrats' response to the Dobbs decision has been predictably hysterical. We have heard cries to pack the Supreme Court because apparently the only legitimate Supreme Court is a Supreme Court that rules in line with Democrats' policy preferences. We have heard cries to abolish the filibuster and to eliminate protections for the minority party in the Senate and the Americans whom it represents. We have heard a proposal to establish abortion facilities in national parks.

I am struggling to think of any family who wants an abortion facility to be part of the itinerary offered on their trip to Yellowstone or the Badlands of South Dakota; but, apparently, some Democrats think our national parks should become abortion factories.

Then, of course, there is the flood of misinformation out there falsely suggesting that pro-life laws would prevent women from getting essential medical care for miscarriages and ectopic pregnancies. And on top of all this, multiple Democrats have started a crusade against pregnancy resource centers. That is right. Pregnancy resource centers—which were established to provide moms in need with things like diapers and baby clothes, prenatal and parenting classes, help connecting with State and local resources, emotional support, and agency referrals for moms who want to choose adoption—are now under attack by members of the Democratic Party.

Apparently, the pro-choice party can't stand the idea that women might be offered a choice other than abortion.

When the Dobbs decision was handed down, the President called it a sad day for our country—a sad day. To the President and his party, apparently it is a sad day when the doors open to greater protection for human life and human rights. I would say that it is a sad day when the right to kill unborn human beings has become the signature issue of the Democratic Party, when the party that portrays itself as the defender of the little guy has become the party that wants to deny even the smallest protection to the littlest guys and girls among us.

The Democrats' vision of America is not my vision of America. I believe that America is big enough to take care of both moms and their babies. We don't have to pit moms and babies against each other. We can take care of them both. It is something the pro-life movement has been focused on for years and something that a number of States have worked to do with their Alternatives to Abortion programs. And I know that commitment will only grow in the wake of the Dobbs decision.

Those who seek to deny human rights to some human beings are never found to be on the right side of history, as our Nation knows, to its sorrow. Our country was founded to protect human rights—the right to life, to liberty, and to the pursuit of happiness; but for almost 50 years now, our country has failed to protect the human rights of unborn human beings.

Today, thanks to the Dobbs decision, we have a chance to change that. We have a chance to build a society where the life of every American is valued and where being small and vulnerable does not mean that your human rights are any less respected. At our best, we are a country that defends human rights, not denies them. We stand up for the innocent. We protect them. We fight for them. It is time to live up to that.

The Dobbs decision gives us a chance to protect the human rights of the smallest and most innocent humans among us, but the Dobbs decision would never have happened without the tireless work of so many since the day *Roe v. Wade* was decided. It would never have happened without those who prayed, who offered help to moms in need, who fought for the rights of unborn Americans in elections, in courts, and in State legislatures.

"Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves," it says in the book of Proverbs, and for 50 years that is what members of the pro-life movement have done. And it is their work that has brought us to this day when we finally, once again, have a chance to protect innocent unborn Americans in law. May the Lord reward their work and their wages be full from the Lord.

I know that sometimes it seemed like the day when *Roe v. Wade* would be

overturned would never come, but it is here. And while there is still much work to be done to ensure that the human rights of unborn Americans are respected and that moms and their babies have the support they need, it is, nevertheless, a moment for joy and for gratitude. I am profoundly grateful for this decision, profoundly grateful that we now have the opportunity to move closer to the day when we fully live up to our founding principles and ensure that every American—born or unborn—has the opportunity for life, for liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

INFLATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, month after month, week after week, day after day, family budgets are being battered by inflation—inflation made worse by the reckless spending habits of the Federal Government and particularly of the Biden administration.

Gas prices are up nearly 50 percent from a year ago, and grocery bills—as any of us can see when we go to the grocery store—have soared. From eggs to milk to meat to produce, everyday essentials cost more today than they did last year.

The pain of inflation is having a dramatic impact on the American people. This quote from the *New York Times* yesterday sums it up pretty well:

Widespread concerns about the economy and inflation have helped turn the national mood decidedly dark, both on Mr. Biden and the trajectory of our nation.

It is a sentiment I have heard over and over again in my conversations with my constituents in Texas, and it is one that is increasingly visible in public surveys. A recent poll from the *New York Times* and Siena College found that more than three-quarters of voters think that the United States is headed in the wrong direction—three-quarters of the country. Only 13 percent said the country was on the right track.

With voter confidence at a concerning low, our Democratic colleagues have made an interesting calculation. They are trying to resurrect their "Build Back Broke" agenda. Now, you may remember this bill, which was called Build Back Better, but I think it can more accurately be described as "Build Back Broke" or "Build Back Bankrupt." This bill went out with a whimper last year because our Democratic colleagues didn't even have the support among their Members to pass it in an evenly divided Senate where the Vice President breaks the tie.

So they have now chosen this moment, for some reason, to bring it back. To have a shot at passing this proposal, our Democratic colleagues have slimmed and trimmed the bill, but it still packs a painful punch, especially where it has to do with energy prices.

Last month, the national average of gasoline exceeded \$5 a gallon for the