

private contributions illegally. It was practically administration policy during the Obama-Biden IRS.

And for those keeping score, Washington Democrats never seemed as eager to publicize the donor rolls of groups whose political views they happen to share. Somehow, donor privacy for organizations pursuing liberal causes is sacrosanct, but donor privacy for groups with conservative beliefs is a threat to democracy.

Somehow working for outside groups is practically a prerequisite for a West Wing job under a Democratic President, but association with groups Democrats don't like is a one-way ticket to picketing and harassment. Sixty-four years ago, the Supreme Court said the link between freedom of association and the freedom of speech was "beyond debate." But today's Democratic Party wants to make sure the threat to associational privacy is every bit as real—as real—as it was in 1958.

The stakes are so clear; even liberal groups like the ACLU have joined the NAACP and Senate Republicans in continuing to sound the alarm—ACLU, NAACP, and Senate Republicans aligned, sounding the alarm. They have been working together to fight State-level public disclosure laws all the way to the Supreme Court.

Last year, the Court sided with those advocates to strike down predatory disclosure practices out in California. Earlier this month, the Ninth Circuit did the same to an unconstitutionally vague disclosure law out in Montana.

Meanwhile, the Federal judiciary itself is contending with particularly outrageous threats from the radical left to the privacy and security of the judges themselves and their families.

The same liberal groups stoking mob intimidation outside the homes of Supreme Court Justices are the ones most eager to put out private citizens' political speech records.

The same Democrats who refused to condemn naked threats against public officials earlier this summer once again want to expand the Federal Government's power to threaten private citizens. That is not a trade the American people or their Constitution can afford to make.

ENERGY AND FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. President, now on another matter, right now, Washington Democrats are frustrated by the pace of the radical green transformation they envision for our country. They are having trouble getting enough Senators to agree to make the most reliable and abundant forms of American energy more expensive for working Americans.

Energy prices are rising faster than at any point since 1980. Gasoline is nearly 60 percent more expensive than it was last summer. Natural gas is up nearly 40 percent in the same time-frame.

Washington Democrats have surveyed this scene and decided it is the perfect time—perfect time—to hike taxes on American energy, reviving a

failed tax from the 1980s on American oil refineries and exporters and—listen to this—increasing it by nearly 60 percent, new sky-high fees on American natural gas producers and more pain at the pump for working families. It is an insane proposition.

But there does appear to be an exception. If you are not among the 75 percent of Americans who say inflation has caused you financial hardship, and you happen to have a spare \$80,000 lying around, Washington Democrats want to give you a green energy tax credit if you buy an electric vehicle made with Chinese supply chains. This is what Washington Democrats are trying to do with their one-party control of government, and they are hoping President Biden will declare a national emergency to help them do it faster.

Well, unfortunately for the far left, the President is occupied with a climate conundrum of his own. On the campaign trail, Candidate Biden left no room for doubt that he had bought his party's radical climate dogma, whole hog. This is what he said back then:

I guarantee you we are going to end fossil fuel.

"End fossil fuel." Sure enough, his first year in office was an all-out assault on American energy, just like green activists drew it up—day 1 bans on energy exploration; canceling a safe, efficient pipeline that was set to create American jobs; and ghoulish, reanimated regulations from the War on Coal.

But unlike the radical base that is frustrated their ideas aren't moving faster, the Biden administration now appears to be concerned that their assault on American energy has actually worked too quickly.

Americans have seen gas prices double on this President's watch. Sky-high diesel is driving other prices up all across the country, and big majorities of Americans don't like what Democrats are doing about it. But rather than call off the onslaught and clear the way for a return to domestic energy dominance, the Biden administration has dispatched officials to beg other countries to take over America's share of the market for reliable energy that the President has purposely abandoned. They have literally chosen places like Venezuela over States like Pennsylvania or Texas or Alaska.

Then, on a trip to oil-rich Saudi Arabia, President Biden announced that "I'm doing all I can to increase [oil] supply for the United States of America."

The President who promised he would "end fossil fuels" thinks that finding more energy for American families means flying to the Middle East and asking politely instead of unleashing our own production right here at home.

And for the record, U.S. producers extract oil and gas in a far, far more environmentally friendly manner than many of their competitors overseas. So if the priority is reducing our environ-

mental impact, outsourcing seems more than a little bit shortsighted.

So, Mr. President, if the Biden administration really is serious about helping American consumers, then they will stop waging war on American producers. If they are serious, they will call off Democrats' plan to tax reliable American energy into extinction.

For the sake of working families who are struggling to fill their gas tanks and keep the lights on, I hope they get serious sometime soon.

NATO

Mr. President, on yet another matter, yesterday, a day after the House overwhelmingly passed a resolution welcoming Finland and Sweden's application to join NATO, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee discharged the treaty protocols required to ratify their accession, without objection. I am grateful to Ranking Member RISCCH, Chairman MENENDEZ, and our colleagues on the committee for taking this swift, bipartisan action. The Senate is now one step closer to fulfilling its role in a historic process that will further strengthen the most successful military alliance the world has ever seen.

Bringing these strong, modern countries into NATO will not just strengthen the alliance; it will make America more secure. I hope the Democratic leader will waste no time—none—in bringing these protocols before the full Senate.

I have been a strong advocate for American global leadership and our transatlantic partnerships throughout my career. They have made possible the unprecedented era of peace and prosperity Americans have experienced in my lifetime.

NATO is at its best when allies share the burden of our collective security, when we all have skin in the game. NATO allies recognized in 2014, after prodding by American Presidents from both parties, that they needed to invest more in capabilities to keep pace with growing threats.

During the previous administration, current member states made progress toward the 2-percent pledge. Finland, for its part, already spends 2 percent of its GDP on defense, and Sweden has the same target in its sights. For years, both countries have participated actively in NATO exercises. They have cultivated professional fighting forces, invested in cutting-edge interoperable technologies, and built robust military-industrial bases with strong connections to our own.

I know from my own conversation with the leaders of Finland and Sweden that they are sober about the threats we face, committed to building their own defense capabilities, and serious about their responsibilities to contribute to our collective security. Together, they have set an example that many current treaty allies would do well to follow.

With Finland and Sweden at the table, I look forward to important deliberations about the capabilities we need as an alliance and the steps we must urgently take to defend ourselves against growing threats from Russia, China, and other adversaries.

Mr. President, I know from my visits with our Swedish and Finnish friends that they hope for rapid accession to NATO. They are ready to get to work alongside us as allies. With war raging on the European continent, I share their sense of urgency, and I urge the Democratic leader to call up the necessary Senate votes without further delay.

But that can't be the Senate's last word on how America and our allies face down a dangerous world. We also need to take urgent action on the National Defense Authorization Act. Russia is laying siege to a sovereign neighbor. China is flexing a rapidly modernizing military. Reckless pariah states like Iran and North Korea are doubling down on developing dangerous weapons. It is past time—past time—to take America's own defense requirements more seriously.

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. SCHUMER. 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.

RESPECT FOR MARRIAGE ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to say something about the House-passed Respect for Marriage Act, which would enshrine marriage equality into Federal law, which I fully and strongly support.

This legislation is so important. I was really impressed by how much bipartisan support it got in the House. It passed 267 to 157. Forty-seven Republicans—about a quarter, a little less than a quarter of their caucus; maybe a fifth—voted for the bill. The legislation is so important.

I spoke to Senator BALDWIN, who is one of the leaders of this legislation in the Senate, this morning, and she is talking to Republicans to see where the support is. I want to bring this bill to the floor, and we are working to get the necessary Senate Republican support to ensure it would pass.

CHIPS ACT

Madam President, now on the chips bill, last night, the Senate passed a critical threshold on our way to passing major legislation to lower costs, increase manufacturing, strengthen supply chains, and preserve American competitiveness in the 21st century.

I want everyone to note the final margin of last night's vote: 64 to 34. That is a clear signal that after a lot of hard work and after a lot of compromise from both sides, the path is clear for this chips-plus bill to reach

final passage. This has been bipartisan work in the Senate at its best, just as we saw previously with bills ranging from gun safety to hate crimes, to infrastructure, to VAWA and so much more.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for voting in favor of moving forward on this critical bill.

For the information of all, today I plan to file cloture on this legislation, which after last night's vote includes incentives for domestic microchip production, including ITC; support for our wireless communication supply chain, ORAN; and the science package, which includes many of the provisions I authored in the Endless Frontier Act in partnership with Senator YOUNG 2 years ago. It has been a long struggle to get these vital pieces of legislation moving forward, and now they are.

I hope we can get this legislation approved as soon as possible because now it is clear it has enough support to pass this Chamber.

For all the many good things the bill does, the most important is that this legislation will help our country fight inflation in the long run. People are asking about inflation, as they should. This bill will help. America's chip shortage, exacerbated by the pandemic, has sent tremors across the entire economy and caused prices for all sorts of electronic goods to go up and up and up, and not only for electronic goods—cars, appliances, phones. But with this bill, we can make America a major chip producer once again, which will help ease pressures on our supply chains, strengthen our national security, and generate another wave of American economic activity for years to come.

Thanks to last night's robust vote, we will also move forward on the science provisions that many of us have worked on very hard to pass into law. We will increase funding for the National Science Foundation and invest billions to develop new tech hubs around the country in areas that haven't had the benefit of new tech employment. This will all help America lead the way in developing technologies of tomorrow. Many more dollars than ever before are going into the cutting-edge technologies—AI, advanced manufacturing, renewable energy, quantum computing, cyber security, 5G, and so much more. When we invest in the science here, we create millions of new, good-paying jobs and ensure that America will be the leader in these cutting-edge issues, which will dominate the 21st-century economy.

For the sake of lowering costs, for the sake of American jobs, and for the sake of our national security interests, let's pass this bill as soon as we can. And that is my intention.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Madam President, now on prescription drugs and healthcare, from one corner to the other, another issue of inflation is the high cost of drugs. At every pharmacy counter and doctor's

office, grocery store, and kitchen table, the issue that remains front of mind for American families is the cost of living. While finally we are beginning to see relief as some gas prices are falling, inflation undeniably continues to strain families not just in America but around the world.

In one crucial area of life, high costs are simply unsustainable: the cost of healthcare and prescription drugs. The nexus of the high cost and the necessity of these drugs to keep us healthy and keep us living is a pincer that pinches so many Americans in a very harmful way.

But this week, the Senate will formally present our case to the Parliamentarian on a number of long-sought reforms to our Nation's healthcare system that will lower costs for tens of millions of Americans.

Under our proposals, for the first time ever, we will empower Medicare to negotiate the prices of prescription drugs in Parts B and D. We will cap out-of-pocket expenses for Part D precision drugs at \$2,000 a year, giving millions of Americans—many of whom have serious health problems and need these drugs—the support they desperately need so they can afford these drugs. Two thousand a year—that is it. The days of seniors paying tens of thousands of dollars per year or forgoing medicine altogether will soon be over. And we will prevent healthcare premiums from spiking for tens of millions of people.

In addition, there is an inflation rider, so that once the company announces the price of a new drug, they can't just double it and double it and double it year after year, even after they have recouped their investment in the bill.

Lowering costs of prescription drugs, capping out-of-pocket expenses, keeping premiums low—these are the top priorities for the American people. Ask any American on the street, and it is a near guarantee they will agree that rising drug costs is a serious problem. So we have to address the issue head-on.

Now, of course, Democrats will keep working on other major challenges that face our Nation. Our work on climate change is not done. We are going to work with President Biden's administration to fight climate change and protect our planet for the next generation. This is an existential threat to the globe, and we are going to keep fighting.

So, in the coming weeks, our caucus is going to be exceedingly busy as we finalize a reconciliation bill that can pass with the full support of our caucus. We still have a lot of work to do. Nobody says it is going to be simple or easy, but lowering the costs of healthcare and prescription drugs will make an enormous difference in the lives of the American people. Let's get it done and give Americans a much needed and long-awaited break.

TUCKER CARLSON

Mr. President, finally, on Tucker Carlson, FOX News. Last night, FOX