

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

#### RESPECT FOR MARRIAGE ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, on Respect for Marriage, the 117th Congress will go down, I believe, as one of the most successful Congresses we have seen in decades. We are all so proud of that fact. Over the last 2 years, this Chamber has passed historic and bipartisan bills that have covered everything from infrastructure to gun safety, to CHIPS and Science, to veterans' aid, and more. Again, a common theme for many of these bills was bipartisanship. Very soon, the Senate can add to our accomplishments when we vote to proceed on the Respect for Marriage Act.

For the information of all Senators, we will hold our first procedural vote on this bill tomorrow, and after that, I hope both sides can work quickly together to move this bill through the Senate and on to the President's desk.

I firmly believe that passing bipartisan marriage protections would be one of the more significant accomplishments in what has already been a significantly productive Congress. It will do so much good for so many people who want nothing more than to live their lives without the fear of discrimination.

And make no mistake that passing the Respect for Marriage Act is as personal as it gets for many of us in this Chamber—myself included—so we want to get this done as soon as we can.

A mere decade ago, marriage discrimination was legal in many places across the country. And just a few months ago, when the Supreme Court overturned *Roe*, Justice Thomas wrote in a concurring opinion that *Obergefell*, which recognized the constitutional right to same-sex marriage, could similarly be overturned. I hope that never happens, but the Senate can eliminate the risk of LGBTQ Americans having their rights curtailed if we act now to codify marriage protections into law.

The Respect for Marriage Act is precisely the kind of bill that Democrats and Republicans can rally around together and which Americans across the country want to see us work on. It already passed the House earlier this year with significant—47—Republican votes, and I am optimistic we can achieve a similar result in this Chamber. Senators BALDWIN, SINEMA, and a number of my Republican colleagues, including Senators COLLINS and

PORTMAN and TILLIS, have done excellent work building support for this bill, and I want to recognize all their efforts here on this floor.

I hope that, at minimum, 10 Republicans will be ready to throw their support behind this sound, commonsense bill. Millions of people will be better off if we are able to work together on this important and highly personal issue, and so I urge all of us to vote yes when the time comes to move forward tomorrow.

#### MIDTERM ELECTIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, on the midterm elections and MAGA Republicanism, over the past week, there has been a lot of discussion here in Washington and across the media about how the results of these midterms defied history and defied conventional wisdom.

I remember back in April and May: No way Democrats are going to keep the majority. They are going to lose a whole bunch of seats. People are asking what happened. Well, I think the answer, however, is rather simple. This year, Democrats ran strong candidates. We compiled an extremely strong legislative record, which the candidates could run on. And Republicans, on the other hand, ran with flawed candidates who spent more time talking about MAGA extremism than the things that truly mattered to the American people.

After the failures—Republican failures—in elections in 2018 and 2020 and now in 2022, I hope the message is sinking in. If Republicans continue to embrace MAGA radicalism, they are going to keep losing. So for their own sake, but more importantly for the sake of the country, I hope that very soon the GOP rejects the MAGA wing and makes a commitment to work with Democrats in the next Congress.

The worst thing Republicans can do right now is to double down on the MAGA platform and embrace gridlock. But, sadly, it seems that is the path that some on the other side still want to take.

In fact, Senator RICK SCOTT of Florida, who notoriously led the unsuccessful Republican Senate campaign efforts, recently suggested that one of the reasons Republicans lost on election day was because they actually worked too much with Democrats to pass bipartisan legislation; that they weren't MAGA enough. That defies all logic.

If Republicans want to follow RICK SCOTT's lead, make our day. Following Senator SCOTT is like following a blind man right over the cliff.

Remember, it was Senator SCOTT who released a platform calling for tax hikes on working and middle Americans, which our candidates reminded people of in the election over and over again. It was Senator SCOTT who threatened to put Medicare and Social Security on the chopping block, which, again, was one of the most powerful ar-

guments for why Republicans were wrong for the country. And it was Senator SCOTT who embraced Trump and believed that the MAGA wing was the road to success; that denying the elections and spreading the Big Lie, encouraging the MAGA extreme wing was the right thing to do. The American people knew better.

American voters ran in the opposite direction and voted for Democrats, including many Republicans, who said: I may be a Reagan Republican, I may be a Bush Republican, but this Republican Party ain't one for me.

After three failed elections—three in a row—it should be obvious that embracing MAGA is a total loser for the Republican Party. If anyone thinks otherwise, just look at what happened last night in purple Arizona. Katie Hobbs, the Democratic nominee for Governor, was declared the winner in her race against Kari Lake. Everyone thought Kari Lake would win because of her communication skills, but even she lost—proof positive that MAGA just doesn't work.

I earnestly hope that in the next couple of months, Republicans will realize it is better for the country—and even better for their party—to focus instead on working with Democrats over the next 2 years to get things done for the American people.

Now, I know this is not going to happen overnight or in the next week or two. Our immediate focus, of course, is the lameduck, where there is a lot of work to be done. But when the dust settles come January and Republicans have, hopefully, resolved some of their own internal fights, we hope that at least some of them will realize that the scorched-earth MAGA policy is a failure not only for America but for them.

The usual pundits and skeptics and critics are saying: Oh, this won't happen. But look at the major bills we did this summer, five of them major bills, bipartisan, and before that, the BIF bill, the Postal bill, all done bipartisan—significant legislation. We Democrats are going to work hard to replicate that effort.

Americans are tired of the chaos. They are tired of the MAGA insanity. They are tired of the MAGA attack on the very roots of our democracy. They want leaders who will take their problems seriously. Most Americans know that Donald Trump is out for himself and only himself, even if it hurts democracy, even if it hurts the Republican Party. Republicans should learn that lesson or risk even more failure in the future.

#### TRIBUTE TO JUSTIN GOODMAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, let me finish, Mr. President, on a truly bittersweet note.

Over the many years I have had the honor of serving in public service, I have learned that there are a handful of genuinely irrefutable truths, and one of them that certainly applied for me

my whole career is that no Senator can hope to succeed without the help of an amazing team of staffers who get you through the day, sometimes merely get you through the hour. Another truth I have learned is that there is never an easy way to say goodbye.

Today, both of those truths come together as I say goodbye to one of my most trusted staffers, my amazing communications director, Justin Goodman.

It is hard to remember the days before Justin was a part of my team. Like so many on my staff, he first joined the office as an intern back in the summer of 2009, where he quickly demonstrated his talent, his dedication, and his knack for communications, which was obviously totally an alien concept for me, shy as I might be.

A couple of years later, Justin returned to work at the DPCC as a full-time member of my staff, and I am sure even he had no idea what kind of roller coaster he was in for in the years to come.

Indeed, when he first joined my team as a full-time staffer, Congress was in the midst of a brutal government shutdown, and he had to wait 3 whole weeks before being able to come to the office or get paid. What a way to start. Well, that was his introduction to the Schumer operation. And every day since then has been an absolute joy—for me at least, maybe not always for him.

Over the years that Justin worked on my team, from his years leading the DPCC to working as my national press secretary, to serving as my communications director, he has become one of the people I lean on most to get through the day. To call him indispensable would be an understatement. One of the things I am going to miss is dialing 55 on my cell phone about 50 times a day.

To describe Justin as one of the most decent people I know doesn't even begin to touch it. So let the record show that Justin began his time on my team in the midst of a shutdown and now departs as we finish one of the most successful sessions in recent memory. It is a pretty great record, if you ask me.

So, Justin—I don't want to look at you because I will get a little weepy. So, Justin, thank you so much for your work over the many years. My best to you. My very best to your loved ones and your new little ones. And I don't think I need to tell you that you will always, always, always be part of the family here in "Schumerland."

I yield the floor.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

#### MIDTERM ELECTIONS AND NEW SENATORS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, last week, our narrowly divided country

went to the polls and elected a narrowly divided Congress, including a very narrowly divided U.S. Senate.

The next couple of months will see a number of long-serving Senate all-stars taking retirement, but today we are getting to welcome and meet our new soon-to-be colleagues on both sides of the aisle as the new Senators-elect arrive here in the Capitol for orientation. Among their ranks are an all-star lawyer and leader from Alabama, the attorney general from the great State of Missouri, the Lieutenant Governor of Pennsylvania, a businessman and best-selling author from Ohio, and three distinguished Members of the House of Representatives.

Exactly 25 years ago, in remarks welcoming the new Senate class of 1996, Senator Robert Byrd told them that service in this body is both "a supreme honor," "a serious responsibility," and "the highest political calling in the land." The famous student of the Senate's rules and history, our former colleague from West Virginia concluded that "as long as the Senate retains the power to amend and the power of unlimited debate, the liberties of the people will remain secure."

So, Mr. President, it is a high bar to earn the trust of one's neighbors to represent them and fight for their home State here in this Chamber. Each of our soon-to-be colleagues has cleared this high bar. I am proud to welcome members of what will be the 118th Congress freshman class. I hope sincerely that each of our incoming colleagues will embrace the honor of this immense responsibility. Of course, our half of the Chamber hopes that, even after this week, we will be not quite through with welcoming new Senators.

Democrats' unforced policy errors over the past several years have hit working families in the State of Georgia especially hard. Under one-party Democratic control in Washington and one-party representation here in the Senate, the Peach State has paid an especially painful price.

Since President Biden took the oath of office, Georgia families have watched prices rise nearly 15 percent. They have shelled out hundreds of extra dollars every month just to foot the bill for the massive, reckless spending binge their two Democratic Senators pushed through with deciding votes. Needless to say, this completely avoidable Democratic inflation tax put Georgia workers and small businesses in a heck of a bind.

"It's absolutely murderous," one man in Columbus, GA, told reporters. "Food, gas prices. Inflation is awful."

Of course, it didn't have to be this way. The people of Georgia's Senators didn't have to vote in lockstep with Washington Democrats to overheat our economy with reckless spending. Georgia's two Democratic Senators didn't have to vote for the \$2 trillion in inflationary spending. They didn't have to vote for hundreds of billions of dollars

in leftwing climate policies. But every single time that the hard-working people of Georgia have needed a check and balance, their Democratic Senators only gave them a rubberstamp. When Georgians needed their Senators to stand up with independence, they just fell in line.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the 2023 National Defense Authorization Act. I want to talk about essentially three big issues: the importance of the bill, what is in the bill, and the cost of the bill.

The first question is—and when I used to appear before the Maine Legislature, the first question always was: Why are you here? What is the problem?

Why is this bill so important? It is important because the essence of our defense policy since World War II has been deterrence, and deterrence means maintaining the capacity to inflict unacceptable costs on any potential adversary and the will to impose those costs if necessary.

What we are really talking about in the Defense Authorization Act is the capacity; that is, what is it that we have at our disposal that can impose costs on our potential adversaries such that they will refrain from aggression and initiating a conflict—a conflict which, in this day and age, would be catastrophic.

Why do we have a defense bill? Why do we have a defense establishment? Why do we have ships and airplanes and space capability? In order to deter possible aggression.

Why is this important?

I am just finishing a book by William L. Shirer called "The Collapse of the Third Republic." Everyone knows Shirer's great book "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich." This is a subsequent book that he wrote in the late sixties about the French Republic and the relationship between France and England to Germany in the early days leading up to World War II. The central message or rather one of the central messages of the book was that the failure of France and Germany to deter and meet the aggression of Hitler early in the period leading up to World War II, as early as 1936, led to the conflagration of World War II.

I would urge anyone who questions this assumption to Google: Rhineland, 1936; Sudetenland, 1938. Those were places where Hitler could have been stopped, and not with an enormous expenditure or investment of troops or materiel, but by an almost token resistance from the Western European powers, which they utterly failed to do. Then we had the rearmament of the Rhineland; the takeover of the Sudetenland, Czechoslovakia; and, of