

abortion or helps to provide one to bans that even lack exceptions for rape and incest and the life and well-being of moms. Some States are even passing new bans to try and get around State courts that block their first ones or laws to get around the fact that their own constituents backed the right to abortion in a statewide vote last year.

Here in Congress, we saw Senate Republicans introduce a national abortion ban last year, and it was one of the first things the Republican House voted on this year. We are still seeing new, appalling proposals from extreme Republicans across the country.

While Republicans here in Congress blocked our bill to make sure doctors cannot be jailed for providing an abortion, Republican State legislators have drafted bills to make sure women can be prosecuted for getting an abortion.

While Republicans in Congress blocked our bill to protect the right to travel across State lines for an abortion, State lawmakers have bills to stop employers from helping employees travel for an abortion.

Right next door to my home State, there is a bill in Idaho that could lead to parents and grandparents being charged with human trafficking for helping minors travel out of State so they can get an abortion. That is appalling.

Republican politicians have investigated a doctor for providing care to a child who was raped. They have proposed funding to jail people for abortions. They have talked about using existing child endangerment laws to prosecute women who use abortion pills. They have made it harder for patients to get birth control and even the treatments they need for life-threatening illnesses, like cancer.

There are Republican attorneys general suing, right now, because the Biden administration told pharmacists they can't discriminate against pregnant patients and because the administration reminded care providers that, when a woman's life is at stake, they are required by Federal law to provide the necessary care, and that includes abortion.

Then there is the case I mentioned earlier, whereby a far-right group is trying, right now, to ban mifepristone, an important abortion medication, nationwide, and I mean all across the country, including in my home State of Washington and in every other State that has strong protections for abortion. There are 22 Republican attorneys general and 67 Republicans right here in Congress who have filed briefs in support of that outlandish lawsuit.

Now, let's be clear about what is going on here. In this lawsuit, these far-right extremists are asking one district judge to overrule the FDA's experts and rulemaking authority in order to undermine healthcare for patients nationwide by declaring a drug that was approved over 20 years ago as unsafe.

Let's set the record straight right now because there has been so much

misinformation on this, including from Republican Members of Congress.

Mifepristone is safe, and it is effective for ending a pregnancy during the first 10 weeks. The FDA determined that decades ago. The science is done. The results are in. They have been for over 20 years. Mifepristone is safe. This lawsuit is not about science; it is about ideology. It is not about protecting women; it is about controlling their bodies.

The reality of what extreme Republicans have already caused with their abhorrent bans is a nightmare. Because of Republican bans, women facing miscarriages have already been unable to get the care they need for days on end. They have already been left bleeding, getting sicker and sicker, and pleading for help. Doctors are already being forced to compromise medical care, leave patients in pain, and even forgo providing lifesaving care because they fear far-right politicians will jail them for doing their job. Abortion providers in States like mine are already overworked, overbooked, and overwhelmed with patients who have had to wait weeks and travel hundreds of miles to get an abortion because of Republican bans. This lawsuit will make things much worse.

Mifepristone is used in over half of the abortions. Taking that drug away would mean fewer options for women, longer waits for people who are seeking care, stress for patients and providers, and chaos for a healthcare system that Republicans have already put in crisis.

It is cruel and utterly unnecessary. There is no reason for this.

You don't have to take my word for this, by the way. Listen to doctors and patients, and listen to women, because that is exactly what I have been doing.

I am not going to stop. I am going to continue to make sure their stories are being heard, especially when they are hard stories to hear, because we will not be quiet. I am going to continue to be their voice and vote here in the Senate, and I am going to keep putting a spotlight on their concerns and on the threats to their health, like these extreme abortion bans and ideology abortion lawsuits. I am going to be here, raising the alarm, fighting to pass commonsense legislation to protect our rights, being a firewall against extreme Republican attacks against abortion, and working, meanwhile, to build the support we need to restore Roe once and for all.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, before I speak on what brings me to the floor, let me thank Chair MURRAY for her incredible advocacy on behalf of not just the women of her State and not just the women of my State but of women and their families all across the United States of America. I want to say how grateful I am.

Thank you.

SPACE COMMAND

Mr. President, we have had, over the last 10 days or so, or 2 weeks or so, in the Senate, briefing after briefing that our constituents never get the chance to see. These are briefings by the intelligence community, by the Department of Defense, about what the nature of the global threat is to the United States and the state of our national security—what they call the net effect between where we are as a strategic force and where our competitors are as strategic forces.

Without revealing anything that I have heard in any of those classified sessions, either in those sessions or as a member of the Intelligence Committee, I can tell you that I have found these briefings to be very sobering over the years. I would be surprised if there isn't a single Member of the Senate who doesn't feel the same way as I do. We have our work cut out for us. It is time for us to move from a 20th century mindset when it comes to our national defense and to our national security to a 21st century mindset. That is not going to be easy. We are going to have a lot of choices to make as a body to do that, but I am confident we will do it.

One of the places we have a lot of ground to cover is in space. My colleague from Colorado is on the floor this evening. I am very glad that he is here because he was the Governor of Colorado, and he knows this issue as well as anybody in this Chamber, and I have seen it from the Intelligence Committee.

You know, I deeply regret the fact that, for many years, among other things, we have enabled the Chinese—in particular, Beijing, and I should say it specifically—to steal a lot of our technology to be able to benefit their national security in the space race that we have. So I am really focused on this because we have had, based in Colorado for many years, something called a Space Command, which is the unified combatant control for space in the United States of America. The home has been in Colorado, and it has always been in Colorado.

I am not going to bore you with one of the saddest stories that I know about a process run completely awry that resulted in the top generals in the Air Force walking into the White House with a recommendation that said we ought to leave the Space Command in Colorado. By the way, the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force in the Trump administration was part of making that recommendation to the last White House. They walked into that White House with, as I said, the recommendation that it stay at the Peterson Air Force Base—now the Peterson Space Force Base—in Colorado.

There were three principal reasons they were arguing that it should stay there. One was that it would reach full operational capability in Colorado faster than if it were moved anywhere else,

between 4 and 6 years faster; that it would be cheaper to repurpose assets in Colorado for the Space Command than to move it across the country or to move it somewhere else; and that there would be massive attrition if the Space Command were moved. Of course, roughly 60 percent of the personnel who are part of the Space Command are civilians. They are not people who are in the Department of Defense, although 40 percent are people who are in the Department of Defense. That worries me a lot. All those things worry me a lot.

But nothing was of more concern to me—especially in the wake now of Putin's invasion of Ukraine, nothing is more important than making sure that we get to full operational capability and that we do it in a way that makes sense. That is where the generals were on this issue. That is where the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force was.

In fact, the people who went in to see President Trump said: If you are going to make a decision other than—other than—leaving Space Command in Colorado, you should delay the decision because nowhere else in America is ready to do the work that needs to be done. Instead, President Trump overturned their recommendation.

As Senator HICKENLOOPER would tell you, that has never happened before in the history of our country, that we can find the President of the United States overrule the recommendation of the generals who knew the subject best. He went on the radio, and he said to these radio hosts in Alabama—which is where Donald Trump preferred to send Space Command for reasons that I suppose only he could know—but he went on a radio show and bragged that he single-handedly had overruled everybody else who had looked at this and said it ought to stay in Colorado, to put it in Alabama instead. The GAO and DOD's own inspector general have confirmed the facts that I just related to you.

Instead of removing the stain of politics, I am sad to say that the Biden administration may be close to ratifying a decision that can't be ratified, a decision that was made in the face of the recommendations of the generals, a decision that was belied by all the relevant facts, and a decision that the GAO, the DOD's own inspector general, and Donald Trump on a radio program all confirmed, which is that politics played into the decision about moving Space Command to Alabama, not the national security interests of the United States.

I know it is easy to think—and I will just confess in front of the pages and everybody else—that it might seem like this is just a parochial interest on the part of the Senators from Colorado because Space Command happens to be in Colorado. I will admit that fact. We have been a great home to Space Command. But I will also say that the months and months and months that we have dedicated, the years that we

have dedicated to analyzing this decision, I think it is fair to say that we are here not representing the parochial interests of our State but representing the national security interests of the United States and the incredible importance of this Biden administration not ratifying a political decision that was made in the last few days of the Trump administration, because decisions of this importance shouldn't be made this way. It should be made in the interests of our national security.

The Biden administration has the opportunity to restore the integrity of this process, and I think if they do restore the integrity of this process, they will find that this Space Command belongs in Colorado, and it shouldn't be moved anywhere else.

I am on the floor today to remind people here of the importance of this issue, the urgency of this issue, not just for Colorado—not even for Colorado—but for the country as a whole and for our national security as a whole. This is a decision that should be made in the interest of the national security of the United States of America, and that decision will lead the Biden administration, I think, to reverse Donald Trump's political decision—a decision that he went on a radio show to advertise for the people of Alabama, demonstrating the political spoil that he was holding up in one hand instead of saying he had done the right thing for the people who work at Space Command and had done the right thing for the mission that we all care about so deeply.

That, in the end, is what the American people, of course, deserve here, because our opponents and our competitors in space are not waiting for us to get out of our own way. It is critically important for us to give the people who are serving in this capacity a sense of security and a sense of stability about what the choice is going to be.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF ADRIENNE C. NELSON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote on the nomination of Justice Adrienne Nelson, who has been nominated to the U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon.

If confirmed, she will be the first Black woman to serve on the District of Oregon. This will be just one in a history of firsts Justice Nelson has accomplished.

Born in Kansas City, MO, Justice Nelson was the first Black valedictorian at her Arkansas high school post-integration in 1985. She went on to earn her B.A. summa cum laude from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 1989 and her J.D. from the University of Texas at Austin in 1993.

Justice Nelson began her legal career at Multnomah Defenders, Inc., a public interest law firm in Portland, OR, representing indigent defendants charged with State crimes for 3 years. She then joined a Portland-area law firm as an associate, where she represented a wide-range of clients, from individuals

to private businesses and labor unions, for 5 years. In 2004, she became the coordinator and senior attorney for the student legal and mediation services at Portland State University. During her time in practice, she tried more than 40 cases, including 25 jury trials.

In 2006, Justice Nelson was appointed to serve as a circuit court judge for the Multnomah County Circuit Court. She presided over approximately 315 cases over 12 years of service on that court.

In 2018, Justice Nelson became the first Black justice to serve on Oregon's highest court. Since then, she has authored 33 majority opinions.

Senators WYDEN and MERKLEY strongly support Justice Nelson's nomination, and the American Bar Association has unanimously rated her "well qualified" to serve on the District of Oregon.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this highly-qualified nominee.

VOTE ON REYES NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Reyes nomination?

Mr. KAINE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 20 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Collins	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Welch
Graham	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Grassley	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeben	Rounds
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Budd	Johnson	Schmitt
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Cruz	Moran	Vance
Daines	Mullin	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—2

Casey	Fetterman
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