

Seeing is believing, we often say. But that is not really true anymore because, thanks to artificial intelligence, we are increasingly encountering fake images, doctored videos, and manipulated audio. Whether we are watching TV, answering the phone, or scrolling through our social media feeds, it has become harder and harder to trust our own eyes and our own ears. The boundaries of reality are becoming blurrier every day.

We have always consumed information under the assumption that what we are seeing and hearing is coming from the source that it says it is from and that a human has created it. It is such a basic notion that it is left unsaid and taken for granted. But right now, that assumption is under threat.

Deception is not new. Fraud is not new. Misinformation is not new. These are age-old problems, of course. What is new, though, is how quickly and easily someone can deceive or defraud and do it on a staggering scale. With powerful generative AI tools at their fingertips, all con artists need are just a few minutes to spin up a scam or a lie: doctored images falsely claiming that there was an explosion at the Pentagon, fake advertisements using the likenesses of celebrities like Tom Hanks to peddle products, phone calls that replicate the voices of family members purporting to be kidnapped and needing money, manipulated audio clips of elected officials saying things they did not say.

These are just some of the examples of misuse we have already seen. It is not a parade of horrors about the future of AI; these are things that already happened.

We are only scratching the surface of what is possible with AI, and because the possibilities are so vast—much of it yet to be discovered—it is easy to feel overwhelmed by it all, to think it is so complex, you don't even know where to start. But we do know where to start.

This issue of distinguishing whether content is made by a human or made by a machine actually has a very straightforward solution. Content made by AI should be clearly labeled as such so that people know what they are looking at. That is exactly what the bipartisan AI Labeling Act that Senator KENNEDY and I introduced calls for. It puts the onus where it belongs: on the companies and not the consumers—very straightforward—because people shouldn't have to double- and triple-check or parse through thick lines of code to find out whether something was made by AI. It should be right there in the open, clearly marked with a label.

Labels will help people to be informed. They will also help companies using AI build trust in their content. We have a crisis of trust in our information sources, in large part due to polarization and misinformation. But if the current situation seems bad without guardrails, the coming onslaught of AI-generated content will make the

problem much, much worse. Misinformation will multiply. Scams will skyrocket. Labels are an important antidote to these problems in the age of AI.

Whether we are ready or not, AI is here, and in the not too distant future, it will reshape virtually every facet of our lives—how we work, how our kids learn in school, how we get healthcare, to name a few. So to wait to take action or, worse, to do nothing at all is not a good option. We have seen that movie before with foreign interference in our elections, with medical misinformation that claims so many lives, and with data breaches that left Americans exposed and vulnerable.

This moment requires us to get serious about legislating proactively, not belatedly reacting to the latest innovation. Yes, Congress has a lot more to learn about AI, both its opportunities and threats. Yes, there is no simple answer or single solution for a very, very complex challenge and set of opportunities. But there is one thing we know to be true right now: People deserve to know if the content they are encountering was made by a human or not. This isn't a radical, new idea; it is common sense.

There is a long road ahead for regulating AI in the policymaking space, but that should not prevent us from doing this good and sensible thing as soon as we can.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 198, H.R. 4366; that during the consideration of Calendar No. 198, H.R. 4366, Murray-Collins substitute amendment No. 1092 be considered an Appropriations Committee amendment for the purposes of rule XVI, with no other rule XVI points of order waived by this agreement; that H.R. 4366, H.R. 4368, as reported by the House of Representatives on June 27, 2023, and H.R. 4820, as reported in the House of Representatives on July 24, 2023, serve as the basis for defense of germaneness under rule XVI for any floor amendments and that it be in order for floor amendments to amend the substitute in more than one place; further, that the only amendments in order to the Murray-Collins substitute amendment No. 1092 be the following amendments, if offered, and that at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate vote on the

amendments: Moran, No. 1250; Daines, No. 1185; Sullivan, No. 1216; Sullivan, No. 1221; Peters-Cornyn, No. 1283; Rosen, No. 1117; Schatz, No. 1120; Booker-Tuberville, No. 1175; Tillis-Welch, No. 1264; Reed, No. 1202; Britt, No. 1270; Kelly-Tillis, No. 1116; Hirono-Moran, No. 1113; Warnock-Cornyn, No. 1351; Smith-Ricketts, No. 1134; Rosen-Crapo, No. 1220; Cardin, No. 1277; Padilla, No. 1140; Shaheen, No. 1131; Klobuchar-Moran, No. 1203; Kelly, No. 1133; Padilla, No. 1139; Ossoff-Braun, No. 1255; Merkley-Crapo, No. 1352; Ernst, No. 1177; Stabenow, No. 1115; Vance, No. 1210; Rubio, No. 1237; Kennedy, No. 1354; Braun, No. 1182; Hawley, No. 1200; Cruz, No. 1296; Blackburn, No. 1349; Budd, No. 1243; Cramer, No. 1241; Paul, No. 1217; Paul, No. 1347; Cruz, No. 1249; Lankford, No. 1232; and Lee, No. 1121; further, that 60 affirmative votes be required for the adoption of the following amendments: Cramer, No. 1241; Paul, No. 1217; Paul, No. 1347; Cruz, No. 1249; Lankford, No. 1232; and Lee, No. 1121; further, that upon disposition of the amendments listed above, the Senate vote on adoption of substitute amendment No. 1092, as amended, if amended, with a 60 affirmative vote threshold required for adoption; that the bill, as amended, if amended, be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, with a 60 vote affirmative threshold required for passage; finally, that upon disposition of the bill, the Committee on Appropriations be discharged from further consideration and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 662, the Scott-Rubio substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to, the bill, as amended, be read a third time, and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, with a 60 affirmative vote threshold required for passage, without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPROPRIATIONS

Madam President, we are now moving forward after many weeks delay on the omnibus—no, not the omnibus but the three appropriations bills—Agriculture, MILCON and T-HUD—as one package, as one minibus.

We have pledged as Democrats to try and go through regular order. It has been a long and arduous process. As you can see, there are 46 amendments here and, in fact, even though there was a pledge there would be no poison pills, there were many poison pills that were offered by the other side. However, instead of just saying, "Well, we didn't have an agreement; let the bill go down the drain," we want to get this bill done. It is important to move the appropriations bills. We worked long and hard. It took a while to work through the vagaries and negotiations on many poison pill amendments that, in my judgment, shouldn't have been offered to begin with. But here we are; we are moving forward.

I want to thank Appropriations Chair MURRAY. She has done an amazing,

amazing job here. I want to thank Leader COLLINS and thank all of our colleagues for working this out. Under the old days, regular order would have been a lot different than it is today. We are still moving forward, and I am glad for it.

I yield to the distinguished and hard-working chair of the Appropriations Committee, Senator MURRAY.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, after many discussions with Members on both sides of the aisle about ensuring a robust amendment process and a final vote on this strong bipartisan package of appropriations bills, I am pleased to say we have reached an agreement to finally get voting on the amendments and passage of this minibus.

I want to thank everyone who has worked with me and the senior Senator from Maine so we can get this process moving again to show the American people this place can actually work.

This is so important, especially right now because over the last few weeks, the American people have seen a lot of chaos and dysfunction in Congress. It has come at a time when the world needs to see U.S. leadership is still strong because it is not just the American people who are watching Congress right now. Our allies are watching. Our adversaries are watching. We need to show them that we are still able to work together and solve problems and respond effectively to the pressing challenges of this moment. And this is an important opportunity to do just that.

By passing this package, we can continue moving on our appropriations process and we can show that, by working together in a bipartisan way, you can actually get things done in a divided Congress. And that is important because there is a lot we absolutely have to get done. There is this first package of appropriations bills. There is the rest of our appropriations bills and the pressing need to address all sorts of urgent priorities, including supplemental funding to support our allies in Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan; to deliver additional disaster relief; address the worsening childcare crisis; and more. Getting all of this done is going to require us to put aside our differences and work together.

By passing this minibus, we can show that Congress is still capable of doing that, because this spending package is a prime example of what it looks like when Democrats and Republicans come together and focus on solving problems and helping people. It follows the bipartisan debt limit deal. It includes input from members across the country and across the political spectrum. And the bills in this package passed the Appropriations Committee unanimously.

In other words, this is a serious bipartisan legislation that can be signed into law; and it provides crucial resources to care for our veterans, to

fund military construction, to keep our food supply safe, to support our farmers, keep our travelers safe, invest in infrastructure, and a lot more.

We should pass this bill, show we can still focus on solutions, find common ground, and help people, like we were all sent here to do. And we can get our appropriations process back on track and continue our return to regular order, which, I know, so many Senators across the aisle and on this side have asked for.

To every one of my colleagues who has said we need to move away from massive end-of-year omnibuses, I agree. This is your chance to avoid one. If we don't get this passed, we are giving up a crucial opportunity to make sure the Senate has its voice heard on our Nation's spending priorities and make sure we don't find ourselves at the end of the year, once again, staring down another omnibus.

Madam President, just a few weeks ago, we were on the brink of a completely unnecessary government shutdown before cooler heads prevailed. The lesson from the near-shutdown should be clear: Letting the loudest voices on the far right push for damaging cuts, extreme partisan policies, is a road to disaster. Bipartisanship is the only way to get the job done in a divided government.

Now, we need to remember the lessons as we continue working to pass our full appropriations bills; support our allies in Ukraine, Israel, and the Indo-Pacific region; shore up our disaster relief funds; and address the childcare crisis; and more. So let's send a message that Congress can actually work and that we can actually work together. Let's get things on track so we can avoid an omnibus and address the urgent challenges we face.

The American people are watching. The world is watching. And let's be clear: Our adversaries are cheering for dysfunction. Let's show them unity. Let's show them the strength of our democracy. Let's get this done and then let's work together and get absolutely vital aid to our allies.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, as we all know by now, last Friday, President Biden submitted an emergency funding request to Congress. As we all expected, it calls for funding to support Israel as it defends itself against the terrorist organization known as Hamas, a proxy for Iran. It also asks for funding for Ukraine, which continues its heroic defense against a Russian invasion. It requests funding to strengthen security in the Indo-Pacific to help our friends and allies combat increasingly aggressive threats from China.

And, notably, President Biden has also called for emergency funding to help address the crisis at the southern border. At face value, this shouldn't be

surprising. After all, the Biden border crisis has been raging for nearly 3 years; and, somehow, it continues to get worse every day.

Last month, Customs and Border Protection logged nearly 270,000—270,000—migrant crossings at the southern border, making it the busiest month on record. In total, nearly 2.5 million migrants have entered the United States since last fiscal year—or during the last fiscal year. That is another record.

We don't have the resources or the personnel to deal with this influx in what we all should hope would be an efficient, fair, and humane way. And that needs to change.

First of all, we need to wrest immigration out of the hands of the cartels who care nothing about the people who smuggle individuals into the United States for money—a lot of money. It is a very profitable business. And, also, there are affiliated cartels that are smuggling the drugs into the United States that killed 108,000 Americans last year alone. That is also the source of a lot of money for these criminal organizations, again, who care nothing about the life or welfare of individuals, either the migrants or people in the United States. That is what happens when you outsource immigration controls to criminal organizations as the Biden administration has done.

The President's funding request does include a few items that are definitely needed, starting with additional Border Patrol agents. Personnel shortages have impacted all of our missions at the border, including those that have nothing to do with migration. More Border Patrol agents would help fill the gaps and alleviate the strain on frontline law enforcement; but this change is meaningless unless we address the polygraph examination, which is a major barrier for hiring.

Just to be clear, the policy on passing a polygraph varies so much from Agency to Agency. But currently, the policy employed by the Border Patrol has basically made it impossible to fill the quota of Border Patrol agents that we seek to hire.

The administration has also asked for 375 new immigration judge teams. There is no doubt that our immigration courts are drowning under a rapidly growing case backlog. In 2020, before President Biden took office, there were just under 1.3 million cases pending in the immigration courts. But thanks to the administration's current policies, the backlog has now doubled to 2.6 million cases. Simply adding more judges will be an exercise in futility unless we also address the pull factors or the policies that are causing the backlog to grow at such an alarming pace.

I am reminded of something the former Chief of the Border Patrol said amidst another migration surge. In the summer of 2019, border crossings were on the rise; although, they pale in comparison to what we are seeing now.