

to carry their share of responsibilities of collective defense, and they are leading the pipeline of lethal assistance to Ukraine's war effort. This is encouraging, but it is not guaranteed forever. The West's leading power still has to behave like one and continue investing in our own strength.

Of course, on multiple fronts, our adversaries are not behaving like they have reason to fear American strength. China continues to back up its regional bullying with massive investments in hard power and long-range alliances with the enemies of America around the world. And Iran and its terrorist proxies demonstrate daily that the Biden administration's policy has left them fundamentally undeterred.

Undoubtedly, the terrorists enjoy watching the administration henpeck America's closest ally in the region and attempt to constrain Israel's response to their barbaric violence. They laugh at belated, half-hearted, unenforceable declarations of sanctions against tertiary characters on Iran's terrorist stage and at the President's half-measured strikes against low-value terrorist infrastructure.

So this isn't just a matter of vanity or optics. It is about a sober calculation of relative strength. The failure of American deterrence isn't just an embarrassment; it is a tragedy, and the price of which is now being measured in American lives. Today, the Pentagon confirmed the deaths of two Navy SEALs during operations to interdict Iranian weapons bound for Houthi terrorists on the high seas. They were young, exceptional warriors engaged in an enemy's brazen campaign to threaten America and their allies, and their comrades and loved ones are in our prayers.

Just this weekend, Iran's proxies attempted yet again to claim the lives of even more U.S. servicemembers. For at least the 150th time since October 7, terrorists used lethal force against Americans in Iraq and Syria. Several U.S. personnel are being treated for traumatic brain injuries resulting from these attacks, and frankly it is miraculous that this unchecked aggression hasn't exacted a higher price already.

Our adversaries are posing pretty fundamental questions about America's national security and the security of our allies and interests around the world. Will we act to secure America's sovereign borders and help our friends fighting for theirs?

Will we equip U.S. forces and our allies to meet aggression with overwhelming deterrent strength? Will we invest seriously in the cutting-edge capabilities and expanded capacity necessary to outpace our top strategic adversary?

Very soon, the responsibility to answer these questions will rest on the Senate, and we need to answer in the affirmative.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam 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.

ROE V. WADE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, 51 years ago today, our Nation's highest Court issued a ruling that protected a woman's right to make the most fundamental choice in her life. Roe v. Wade enshrined into law that in America, women would have legal autonomy over their own bodies.

As a result of the constitutional protections in Roe, America's women took a giant step forward toward gender equity: being afforded the right to choose whether, when, and how to start a family.

But after nearly 50 years of progress, in June 2022, this Supreme Court overruled Roe in its Dobbs v. Women's Health Organization ruling, taking women's rights back half a century.

The Dobbs decision was a win for extreme conservative activists who waged a relentless campaign to capture the Supreme Court and overturn Roe v. Wade, but it was a tragic loss for women in America.

Take the case of Kate Cox, a married woman, mother of two, from Texas. Kate was elated to learn that she was pregnant with her third child. However, tests revealed that her baby had trisomy 18, a genetic condition that is almost always fatal very soon after birth. The prognosis was grim. Moreover, carrying the child could damage Kate's future fertility for another child.

Kate and her husband made one of the hardest decisions. They made the decision to go forward with an abortion. But in Texas where they live, it is illegal in nearly all circumstances. The Cox family hoped that the exception in Texas law for the life and health of the mother would allow her to terminate this ill-fated pregnancy.

Shockingly, it did not. Although a State court judge initially ruled that Kate could obtain an emergency abortion, Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton immediately took legal steps to block Kate from receiving the care that she needed.

In addition to appealing the trial court's decision to the Texas Supreme Court, Attorney General Paxton sent a letter to hospitals and doctors, warning them that anyone involved in performing an abortion for Kate would face civil and criminal liability.

The Texas Supreme Court, controlled by Republicans, joined in the rule against Kate. She was forced to leave her home State and go across State lines to terminate the pregnancy.

Let's take the case of Brittany Watts, a 34-year-old from Ohio. Brittany was arrested after miscarrying in her bathroom. Thankfully, just 2 weeks ago, a grand jury with empathy, com-

mon sense, and reason declined to indict her, understanding that miscarriages are devastating and extremely common, a pregnancy outcome that women should not be punished for.

But in a post-Roe America, these are the horrific situations that women and the doctors who provide them care often face. Republican politicians in States like Texas and Ohio have made it clear they do not trust the judgment of women and their families in these matters.

But even amidst this devastation unleashed by Dobbs, Democrats continue to fight for women. In our home State of Illinois, we have become an oasis for women in an area that otherwise would be left without abortion options. New data shows the number of women traveling to our State of Illinois for abortions rose nearly 50 percent in 2022, and we experienced the largest increase of any State in the number of patients traveling out of State for abortions last year. Remember, in each and every case, there is the cost and burden of travel as a part of this calculation.

Our commitment to reproductive health has real-world impacts. In June of 2022, Margaret from Cook County, IL, lost her son. She was devastated. But one thing that made the experience less painful was living in a State that respected her right to make healthcare decisions privately with her doctor. Only a week after Margaret lost her son, Roe was overruled, throwing women's bodily autonomy and reproductive freedom in States across the country into real uncertainty but, fortunately, not in Illinois.

Margaret wrote to my office and said:

I cannot stress how awful it was to lose a child I loved so much, but how glad I was to be in Illinois when this devastating thing happened.

We are proud to be a State that fights for women. But there are consequences to blue States meeting increased demand for abortion care.

More than 28 million women of reproductive age live in States where abortion is banned, unavailable, or restricted—28 million American women living in those States. When thousands of women are forced to go out of State to get an abortion, it increases wait times for people in blue States, and it puts enormous stress on providers and clinics. Moreover, not every woman is able to afford the trip, find childcare, and take time off to travel to another State. This creates inequities for those who are trying to access safe and legal abortion.

One thing is clear: Dobbs does not stop abortion. In fact, the numbers show us quite the opposite has happened. The data shows that in the year following the Dobbs decision, abortions actually increased nationwide. Moreover, public opinion polls show that the majority of Americans still support abortion rights. And from the States of Kansas to Kentucky, in every State where it has been put on the ballot, abortion and the rights of women to

make these choices remains a winning issue.

Republicans may continue to attack women's rights and freedoms, but these unpopular, dangerous policies will catch up with them.

Let's not be naive. From trying to outlaw medication abortion—even in States where abortion is legal—to challenging a Federal law that requires access to reproductive care in emergencies is a reality.

Antiabortion activists continue trying to chip away at women's reproductive rights and healthcare, and they are not going to stop. That is why we must pass the Women's Health Protection Act, enshrining the woman's right to choose into Federal law. It is the right thing to do.

I urge my colleagues to swiftly stand up for women in this country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, over the weekend, Senate Democrats and Republicans and the White House continued negotiations on the national security supplemental. We have come a very long way since talks began 2 months ago, and Democrats remain committed to working in good faith on reaching an agreement. President Biden has also made clear he is willing to work with Republicans in a big way—in a big way—on border security.

All of us on the Democratic side are serious about getting something done. I remained in contact with the negotiators throughout the weekend. We remain hopeful, but it is certainly not a done deal yet. There are a handful of issues that have not yet been agreed to. On something as complicated as the border, it is not just what we do that matters; it is how we do it. So negotiations are not done yet. Nevertheless, Democrats remain serious about finishing the job.

Senators don't need to be reminded about what is at stake in this negotiation. The future of the war in Ukraine hangs in the balance. The security of our Western democracy hangs in the balance. The safety of our friends in Israel, our partners in the Indo-Pacific, and more humanitarian aid for innocent civilians in Gaza all hang in the balance.

Ukraine is already running low on armaments and munitions that were, in large part, provided by the United States. A mere month from now, the tide of the war could turn greatly in Russia's favor, to the detriment of the

West and, in all probability, for many years to come. If America comes up short, if we abandon Ukraine in their fight against Putin, the consequences will reverberate for years. Make no mistake. Putin will not be satisfied with merely taking Ukraine. His military influence in Europe will expand westward. The costs to NATO to hold Putin at bay will increase greatly.

And, if we fail, our adversaries in Iran, in North Korea, and in the Chinese Communist Party will conclude that America no longer has the resolve to defend democracy in its hour of need. They have always bet on the fact that we would lose resolve.

On our side, here on the Democratic side, we are not losing resolve. We want to get this done, and we know a good number of our Republican colleagues want to join us. We hope there will be enough. We cannot afford to go down a dark and ominous road where we abandon Ukraine and the consequences roll before us. The eyes of the world are watching closely what we do and how we respond.

Sadly, it is clear there are some in this Congress and beyond who wish to prevent bipartisan action on the border and on our national security challenges. Whether they are blinded by naked partisanship or cowed by political pressure, these minority voices are cynically working to stymie bipartisan cooperation. In the Senate, both sides must make sure these voices are in the minority.

For the sake of our national security, for the sake of our friends in Ukraine, for the sake of America's interests around the world, we must stay the course. Senate Democrats remain committed to finishing the job on the supplemental, and, if presented with the opportunity to pass a national security supplemental here on the floor, we intend to act as quickly as possible. We are not there yet, but we will keep going.

ROE V. WADE

Madam President, now, on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, today, January 22, 2024, should have marked 51 years of Roe v. Wade. The anniversary of Roe should be a joyous day for America, a day when the Supreme Court officially recognized a woman's right to make her own decisions about her body. But for decades, the hard right has made it their mission to overturn Roe and dismantle a woman's fundamental right to choose. And, in 2022, tragically, alarmingly, outrageously, the hard right succeeded when a 5-4 majority of extremist Justices on the Supreme Court overturned Roe, inflicting the greatest restriction of rights on Americans in over 50 years.

It has just been a year and a half since the disastrous Dobbs decision, but it has already proved to be one of the worst, most damaging decisions for Americans in modern history. Since the hard right's Roe reversal, one in three Americans has lost abortion access; 21 States have enacted draconian,

near-total bans. Republicans in Florida just introduced a ban on nearly all abortions, even—even—in the case of rape and incest. And, earlier this month, the Supreme Court allowed an extreme abortion ban denying women critical emergency care to go back into effect.

Make no mistake about it. The hard right won't stop there. They will keep going until a Federal abortion ban is the law of the land.

Let me say that again. The hard right will keep going until a Federal abortion ban is the law of the land.

Because of the hard right's policies, women and girls today are growing up in a world with fewer liberties than previous generations. My granddaughter will have fewer rights than her grandmother. These extreme bans have caused chaos and inflicted irreparable harm on thousands and thousands of women whose stories we will never hear.

Democrats will not accept this new MAGA status quo, and neither will the American people. Since the Dobbs decision, people in States like Ohio and Kentucky and Kansas and Michigan have defeated efforts at the ballot box to restrict abortion access and protect a woman's right to choose.

The message from the American people to MAGA extremists has been loud, clear, and unmistakable: Back off our fundamental rights. And make no mistake. A woman's right to choose will remain a defining issue for Americans as this year progresses.

So we still have a long way to go, but the Democrats will never stop fighting for a woman's right to choose.

I yield the floor.

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.

Ms. BUTLER. Madam 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.

REMEMBERING DEXTER SCOTT KING

Ms. BUTLER. Madam President, just last week, we honored the legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on what would have been his 95th birthday. Today, misfortune touches the King family again with the passing of Reverend King's youngest son, Dexter Scott King. America will forever be indebted to the sacrifices of the King family, and our prayers remain with them in this challenging time of loss.

ROE V. WADE

Madam President, I rise on this day that, 51 years ago, the Supreme Court issued its ruling in the landmark Roe v. Wade decision, a legal victory that granted millions of women in every corner of this Nation the right to make decisions about their own bodies—a decision that gave them the right to decide their own future. Today, this anniversary now serves as a reminder for