

\$233 million, potentially eroding the intent of the bill that Senator GRASSLEY and I passed, along with Senator LEE, with overwhelming bipartisan support a little over a year ago.

Yesterday, Senator GRASSLEY and I, along with a bipartisan group that led the bill in the House, made clear that the bill's unambiguous intent was to allow the Antitrust Division to retain and use all fees generated from the new fee structure.

Just to clarify with my friend from the great State of New Hampshire, I ask her if she shares the understanding that it is the intent of the Merger Filing Fee Modernization Act to provide additional resources to the Antitrust Division by increasing merger filing fees.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. As someone who voted for that bill and who thinks it was a good bill, I certainly do agree with that; and I hope that, in fact, going forward, we will see the Antitrust Division produce more fees so that we can get over the amount in the future as we look at putting together the appropriations bill for 2025.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Well, thank you, Senator SHAHEEN.

I also understand that this year's appropriations bill, as I noted, was a product of negotiations in especially difficult circumstances. Given this situation, I thank you and Senator MURRAY for successfully fighting to secure an increase in funds compared to last year for the Antitrust Division.

But as we have noted, this year's compromise would restrict the Antitrust Division's access to merger filing fees in years when those filing fees exceed the appropriated amount should not and cannot set a precedent for future appropriations bills. This language is limited to this bill and this bill only. Moving forward, we must include language that allows the Antitrust Division to retain and use the additional fees it collects under our bill—the bill that was passed with 88 votes in this Chamber, signed into law by the President, and, of course, passed by the House, and was consistent with decades of precedent to empower the Antitrust Division to enforce our competition laws.

One last question of the Senator from New Hampshire, and that is: Will you commit to prioritizing and doing everything in your power to include language that will allow the Antitrust Division to retain and use all the fees it collects above the appropriated amount in future budgets consistent with the law's intent?

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Absolutely, and I hope in 2025, we are able to convince our Republican colleagues in the House that this is something that the original legislation that you and Senator GRASSLEY passed intended, and that they will support that. And if we start from now, hopefully, we can engage Senator GRASSLEY and Senator LEE to help us do that with the House Republicans.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Thank you very much, Senator SHAHEEN. And as we know, there are major, major investigations—some suits already have been filed. Actually, from the prior administration going forward into this administration, they have been bipartisan in that way, as well as ongoing investigations.

So I do thank you for your commitment and look forward to working closely with you and the Democratic and Republican Members of the Appropriations Committee on the fiscal year 2025 budget process to uphold this commitment.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Thank you, Senator KLOBUCHAR. As we know, we are about to start the 2025 appropriations process. So we will begin very soon, and I look forward to you and your staff working closely with us as we try to provide the desired outcome intended by the legislation.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Thank you, Senator SHAHEEN.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, later this evening, we are going to hear the President of the United States tout the successes of his administration over the last year. He will say that our country is in a better place because of his leadership.

Are you ready?

Are you looking forward to hearing how grocery costs, energy costs, and the gas prices have all gone down over the last year? Maybe you are eager to hear about Joe Biden's solution to the historic border crisis—one which he created, by the way—that has crushed our rural hospitals, our schools, and other public resources.

So let me save you some time. Here is how President Biden's speech is going to go. The economy has never, ever been better.

This is a lie. Grocery prices are up 21 percent; gas prices are up 32 percent; inflation is up 18 percent; credit card debt for the average American is at an all-time high. Do those numbers sound like the economy is better than ever?

Well, I don't think so.

He will say America has never been safer.

This is a lie. Cities across the country are experiencing surges of homicides, muggings, and carjackings. New York City just deployed the National Guard to combat subway crime.

Let me read that one more time. New York City just deployed the National Guard to combat subway crime.

I never thought I would see it. This is obviously a Democratic city.

Washington, DC—right here, our Nation's Capital—saw, last year, its deadliest year in almost two decades.

That doesn't sound like this administration and its Democratic allies have prioritized the safety and security of Americans, which, by the way, is any—any—administration's top responsibility.

Joe Biden will turn to Ukraine next and say that, by continuing to send billions of dollars to secure their border, we will protect our country—billions more dollars. Yet that is another lie. We have already spent and sent over to Ukraine \$120 billion, only to watch their war descend into a yearslong stalemate, with hundreds of thousands of people killed and no end in sight.

We are \$34 trillion in debt and borrowing an additional \$80,000 per second. You heard me right. We are borrowing \$80,000 per second. That is \$4.6 million a minute. We are increasing the debt at a rate of \$2.5 trillion per year.

Our munitions are depleted because the President has continued to give it away to other countries. We are defenseless; we are broke; and we have little to show for it. Our streets should be made of gold. We should have fast trains across the country. Our airports should be immaculate. We have nothing to show for a \$34 trillion debt.

President Biden will also say the border crisis should have been solved with the Biden-Schumer border deal and complain that Republicans blocked the bill from moving forward. I was looking forward to this bill, but, surprisingly, this is another lie.

The Biden-Schumer border deal was a border giveaway. The bill did not stop the administration from paroling thousands of people per day into our country. To me, that was what a border bill was supposed to be about.

The bill did not authorize funding to complete the border wall. It is simple: Put up a wall. We just put one outside the Capitol here today to keep the mean people from coming to this speech tonight.

The bill will not stop funding sanctuary cities where criminal aliens are protected from deportations.

The President will claim he has done everything he can do to secure the border but that Republicans have tied his hands. That is what he will say. To clarify, the President of the United States will claim, at the end of the night, he cannot secure the Nation's border. How embarrassing. What a shameless dereliction of duty and a bold-faced lie. He thinks that Americans are either too stupid to see what is going on here or he might think they just don't care, but I think they do. He is wrong on both counts. Tuesday's primary race results proved just how wrong he is.

When I last spoke on the floor 1 week ago, I said I would be back the next time an American was killed by an illegal alien. Well, here I am, and it is far too soon.

This past weekend, 27-year-old Washington State Patrol Trooper Christopher Gadd was killed by an illegal alien. This is he right here. Raul Benitez Santana—a Mexican citizen, drunk and high behind the wheel—crashed his car into Trooper Gadd and killed him. Trooper Gadd was a husband, a father, a brother, and a son. Benitez Santana has been arrested

multiple times before since he has been in the United States illegally—illegally—over the last 10 years, and this man lay dead today because of that. He has been charged several times for driving with a suspended license in addition to possession of marijuana and domestic abuse.

He should have been deported long ago, but he wasn't. Now Trooper Gadd is dead. Does anybody care other than his family?

Sadly, Marysville, WA, where the crash occurred, is a sanctuary jurisdiction. I still haven't figured that out. You know, I have spoken about sanctuary jurisdictions before. They are cities, counties, and States where locally elected officials prohibit police from cooperating with Federal law enforcement officers to get criminal aliens out of our communities and into removal proceedings to be deported, but if you are in one of these sanctuary cities, that doesn't happen.

This tragic event is but one in a pattern of occurrences happening across our country in which the lives of U.S. citizens are put at risk because of Joe Biden's refusal—absolute refusal—to secure the border.

So, earlier today, the House of Representatives voted on the Laken Riley Act. We talked about her a couple of weeks ago here, right on this floor—a young lady who was killed by an illegal alien at the University of Georgia.

The Laken Riley Act would mandate the detention of illegal aliens charged with crimes as small as shoplifting. That is exactly what Laken Riley's killer had been arrested for previously. By the way, he had also been arrested for endangering a minor before he was charged with Laken Riley's murder. This bill today that was voted on in the House—170 Democrats voted against this bill.

The blame for the state of this country rests solely with President Biden. He is the boss; he is the leader—period.

Does he care about you? Does he care about you as a taxpayer and a citizen of this country? He doesn't show it.

Does he care about your family? Does he care about keeping them safe or is it just by luck that nothing happens to you? I don't think he does.

Will he protect you? I don't think so. He hasn't shown that. He didn't protect Laken Riley or Trooper Gadd here. I am sure he won't talk about Laken or Trooper Gadd in his speech tonight, but he should. Their names should come up. Their families are grieving. It is just unfortunate that he doesn't take the leadership role and the blame. These two Americans don't support his narrative of a successful Presidency.

He is going to say he has had a successful first 3 years and his last year was successful, but we have lost a lot of people because of the decisions that he has made at the border, and there have been many, not just these two. One is too many.

I don't know how many people will support this talk tonight. I am anxious

to hear it. I am anxious to hear what his writers got together and said about our country and what has happened over the last year and what he foresees in the future. It had to be hard.

Unless drastic changes are made to our Nation's leadership in the very near future, I think the American citizens are going to be on their own. It is just going to be by luck whether you are going to make it or not make it. I am not talking about just financially. I am talking about life or death, because we are losing people almost daily.

So, on that, I am looking forward to hearing President Biden's speech tonight. I hope the American people will listen in—listen in hard—on what is going on, because this is our country, and our country is in trouble. I hope to God that we make the right decisions come this November. God bless.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The distinguished Senator from Hawaii.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, women and families across the country are confronting impossible choices because of Republican extremism on abortion.

Do you risk your own health with a high-risk pregnancy or do you risk being thrown in jail for trying to get an abortion? Do you stay in a State that forces you to carry for months a nonviable pregnancy to term? Do you travel hundreds of miles in secret to get access to a legal abortion in some other jurisdiction?

If these choices sound awful, it is because they are.

The chaos and the suffering created by Republicans is not just limited to red States. These attacks affect everyone.

Take Hawaii, which legalized abortion over 50 years ago and has some of the strongest protections in the country. Yet there is a case before the Supreme Court right now trying to prevent people from accessing medication abortion by telehealth. That means, if you live on an island like Kauai and rely on telehealth to get reproductive care, you would have to take off work and get on a plane to access services.

So, if you are in a blue State, thinking "I am safe," you are not. Republicans are coming after all of it, and no one and nothing is off limits. Attacks on abortion threaten the entire system of reproductive care, including things like contraception, family planning programs, and early miscarriage care. Hospitals and doctors are terrified of providing care that will cost them their licenses or land them in jail.

For instance, if you are an OB/GYN in a State like Texas, you might be forced to delay or deny treatment to a patient with an ectopic pregnancy because there is enough gray area that the State can arbitrarily decide that you broke the law and punish you for providing lifesaving care. Doctors are not lawyers, and many in these States are understandably either retiring early or quitting or moving to a State

that doesn't make criminals out of them simply for doing their jobs.

I am joined here in the Gallery today by an OB/GYN resident from Hawaii, Dr. Olivia Manayan. Born and raised in Honolulu, Dr. Manayan is currently a chief resident at the University of Hawaii, and next year, she will begin her specialization in complex family planning—focusing on abortion training, complex contraception, and reproductive justice. We need more people like Dr. Manayan, not fewer—people who are passionate about providing accessible and equitable care to their communities. We ought to be celebrating their contributions, but, instead, Republicans are hard at work criminalizing the whole profession.

Republicans are coming after all of it, and they are not going to stop. They have said what they are going to do, and now they are doing it. I think the challenge for those of us on this side of the aisle is that what they are doing is so bananas; it is so offensive; it is so cruel; it is so unpopular that, when we describe it accurately, it sounds like we are being hyperpartisan and freaking out for no reason. That is what it sounds like—I grant you that—but it is literally what is happening: IVF, banned. Contraception, not sure. Ectopic pregnancy, you have got to carry that to term. A nonviable pregnancy, you have to carry that to term and prove that it is nonviable even if your doctor says it is nonviable.

The cruelty knows no end. So, if you are a person who thinks, "Hey, you know, I am kind of uncomfortable with abortion, and so maybe I think I am pro-life," I want you to understand what it means to be pro-life in the context of this 50-year fight to eliminate women's control over their own bodies. They are not stopping at Roe. They are not stopping at IVF. They are not stopping at contraception. They are not stopping. They want to control people's bodies.

Stopping all of this means fighting with as much coordination and passion as the anti-abortion movement has been doing for decades. And that includes men too. This can't solely be a women's issue. We don't get to sit this one out. These extreme policies affect everybody and everyone wishing to start a family or caring for someone who is pregnant, and so we all need to get involved.

When and if we have the House and the Senate and the Presidency, we should enshrine all of these reproductive freedoms in Federal statutory law.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, the Senate will soon vote—how soon, unclear—but soon vote on an appropriations package which, among other bills, includes one from the Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Subcommittee, which I chair. I want to take a moment to talk about what is in it and why it matters so much.

The United States is experiencing an unprecedented housing shortage.