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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, yesterday, millions witnessed a full solar eclipse. Many resonated with the sentiments of the Psalms that the heavens declare Your glory and the skies show forth Your handiwork. Your hand guides through the boundless skies the flight of water fowl. Let that same hand take us away from the self-sufficiency that ignores our need for You. Lord, make our hearts receptive to Your plans.

Today, bestow upon our lawmakers special gifts of wisdom and understanding that they may uphold what is right and follow what is true. Increase their faith, strengthen their judgment, and quicken their zeal for integrity and honor.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 9, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Susan M. Bazis, of Nebraska, to be United States District Judge for the District of Nebraska.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

ABORTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, former President Trump reminded the entire country that, if there is anyone to blame for the annihilation of Roe v. Wade and the gro-

tesque reversal of women's personal freedoms, it is Donald Trump and the Republican Party.

On Truth Social, yesterday, the former President said he was "proudly the person responsible" for putting radical jurists on the Supreme Court for the explicit purpose of overturning Roe.

Let me repeat that so all of America knows the real truth.

Former President Trump said, yesterday, he was "proudly the person responsible" for putting radical jurists on the Supreme Court for the explicit purpose of overturning Roe.

Does anyone think that, should Trump become President again, he won't try again to add even more extreme jurists to the bench so he can continue his assault on women's reproductive freedoms?

To this day, Donald Trump continues to boast of his extreme views on the right to choose, and we all remember his support for a national abortion ban. No matter how much he might want people to forget, people won't.

The president of the Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, a major anti-abortion rights group, reminded everyone, yesterday, that they will still support Donald Trump because, when push comes to shove, they know, should former President Trump return to office, he will continue supporting a Federal abortion ban and continue to erode women's rights. After all, this is the Donald Trump who, when he was President in the past, said women who seek reproductive care deserve to be punished. That is what he said: They deserve to be punished.

And that is the bottom line. If Republicans get into power, they will not hesitate to push for a national abortion ban. Many Republicans in both Chambers have been on record supporting a national abortion ban for years. A national abortion ban, for instance, was included in the Republican Study Committee budget released just 2 weeks

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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ago—an organization that counts the majority of House Republicans, including their leadership, as members. So Republicans cannot hide from this.

Republicans know that their views are dangerously out of step with the public. Here in Congress, Republicans have claimed to support access to IVF and paid lip service to supporting women's access to reproductive services. But Americans know actions speak louder than words. Not 1 month ago, Senate Republicans blocked legislation to preserve IVF, and Speaker JOHNSON has publicly opposed Federal action protecting it.

So Republicans and Donald Trump can try to hide their anti-abortion records all they want, but the American people will see right through it today, tomorrow, and in November.

UKRAINE

Now, Mr. President, on Ukraine, 775 days since Vladimir Putin began his illegal invasion, the war in Ukraine now stands at a bitter and decisive stalemate. Russian forces today control about 20 percent of Ukrainian territory. As one recent headline from the Washington Post put it, "With no way out of a worsening war, Zelensky's options look bad or worse."

Now, let's be very clear about one thing: The tide of the war is shifting against Ukrainians not because they are giving up, not because they aren't brave enough, or because they are somehow inferior to Russian soldiers. They are not; they are superior. No. Ukraine is losing ground on the war because it is running out of the tools it needs to wage war to begin with. Ukrainians are low on ammo, on soldiers, on weapons, on anti-aircraft defenses.

And let's be blunt: The biggest reason Ukraine is losing the war is because, here in the U.S. Congress, the hard right has paralyzed the U.S. House of Representatives from taking necessary action. That is it, plain and simple—no ifs, ands, or buts.

It has now been 56 days since the Senate passed a national security supplemental package with robust military aid to help Ukraine. It passed with just about every Democrat and close to a majority of Republicans voting for it. This package could mean the difference between victory and defeat for Ukrainian fighters. In fact, President Zelenskyy himself said as much when he spoke to the Senate in December.

But sadly, alarmingly, tragically, Speaker JOHNSON has sat on his hands for nearly 2 months now as the supplemental package collects dust in the House.

House Republicans have refused to move because an increasingly vocal pro-Russian, pro-Putin minority seems to be running the show within their ranks—a contingent that takes its marching orders directly from Donald Trump. As one former House GOP Member called them, they are like the "Putin wing" of the Republican Party.

The Republican chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee re-

cently said in an interview that Russian propaganda has now "infected a good chunk of my party's base." That is a Republican talking about what has happened to the base—the hard-right base of his party.

Even the Republican chairman of the House Intelligence Committee admits that some within his own party are becoming evangelists of Russian propaganda. As he said just a few days ago, "We see directly coming from Russia attempts to mask communications that are anti-Ukraine and pro-Russia messages, some of which we even hear being uttered on the House floor."

That is what the Republican chair of the House Intelligence Committee said: We are hearing pro-Russian messages being uttered on the House floor.

Ronald Reagan is rolling in his grave. Speaker JOHNSON has to decide for himself whether or not he will do the right thing for Ukraine and for America or if he will allow MAGA Republicans and the Putin wing of the Republican Party to hand Vladimir Putin the victory he seeks.

History, Speaker JOHNSON, is watching. History is looking right over your shoulder. Do the right thing.

STUDENT LOAN DEBT

Mr. President, on student debt, this week, President Biden announced a new executive action to relieve the burden of student debt for another 30 million Americans—30 million Americans—a little less than 1 out of 10 of our population. When you count their families and spouses, it is even more. The President's new student debt plan is great news for everyone, particularly for borrowers in communities of color, who are disproportionately impacted by the student debt crisis.

For too long—far too long—the burden of student debt has held borrowers of color back from reaching the middle class and beyond. President Biden's plan will deliver much needed relief for these borrowers and many more and give them all the chance at achieving the American dream.

Democrats will continue to do everything in our power to lower costs and make college more affordable for everybody.

CHIPS AND SCIENCE ACT

Now, Mr. President, on CHIPS—the chip program—last week, Americans learned that the economy added a whopping 300,000 jobs in the month of March, blowing past most expectations and proving, yet again, that under Biden and Democrats, the economy is on the right track. Our economy has now added a record 15 million new jobs—15 million new jobs since President Biden took office—the greatest turnaround of any President in all of our history. Last year alone, the economy created more jobs than in any year of the Trump administration.

Across the country, manufacturing and job creation is surging. Just yesterday, the President and Secretary Raimondo announced a preliminary deal with the TSMC Arizona company

to provide billions in Chips and Science incentives that will support over \$65 billion in private investment to build three leading-edge chip fabs in Arizona.

So let the good news ring from coast to coast: The Chips and Science Act, which I worked hard on to pass here in the Senate, along with Senator YOUNG—bipartisan—is delivering on its promise to create jobs, increase innovation, bring manufacturing back to America, and revive forgotten corners of the country.

Just like the announcements of GlobalFoundries, Intel, and others, this week's announcement means new jobs and new economic activity are on their way. And there is yet more to come with further investments in projects like Micron's proposed \$100 billion project in Upstate New York.

With the Chips and Science Act—along with the infrastructure law, the Inflation Reduction Act, and the American Rescue Plan—we Democrats made historic investments in American manufacturing and workers, and it is now clear—very clear—that these investments are paying off even more largely than most people thought.

So while House Republicans spend a lot of energy attacking women's choice, calling for cuts to Social Security, and raising the retirement age, Democrats are proud of what we have done. We have created jobs; we have lowered costs, and we are bringing manufacturing—good manufacturing, good-paying jobs—back to our shores.

So thank you to my colleagues who worked with me on Chips and Science, including Senators KELLY, BROWN, CANTWELL, WYDEN, WARNER, and many more. There is a lot of work to do. The economy still needs help, and we can't let up. But America is certainly headed in the right direction.

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.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. 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 MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

ISRAEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, while the Senate was away from Washington, we received some sobering reminders about the challenges facing America and our friends in a dangerous world and about how to meet them.

In Gaza, innocent people continue to suffer with the cowardice and hateful violence of Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad.

Just last week, as Israel continued the difficult, necessary, and existential work of eliminating the terrorist threat, the tragic consequences of this war were brought once again into focus. The misidentification that led to