

If you live anywhere in the Southeast, the odds are now that you need to drive as far as Virginia or farther just to get reproductive care, a burden most people can't realistically take on. It is utter cruelty.

Sadly, abortion bans like the ones in Florida didn't happen in a vacuum. Today is yet another consequence of the hard-right MAGA Supreme Court's disastrous decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*. It is the consequence of decades of the hard right trying to pack our courts with radical jurists.

In case people forgot, President Donald Trump proudly reminded us a month ago that he and MAGA Republicans are to blame for the annihilation of *Roe*. To this day, the former President and MAGA Republicans continue to boast of their radical views on abortion, despite those views being widely out of step with the American people.

Let us not forget that the majority of Floridians—the vast majority—don't agree with Florida's new abortion ban, much less the vast majority of Americans.

Make no mistake, Republicans will have to answer for their anti-abortion records today, tomorrow, and at the ballot box in November.

FARM BILL

Mr. President, now, on the farm bill that Senator STABENOW is introducing today, I want to applaud the efforts of my good friend and colleague Chairwoman STABENOW of the Senate Agriculture Committee, who, today, is releasing the substance of our farm bill.

Senate Democrats want to get a farm bill done. It is an essential bill that does so much good across the country, and I thank Chair STABENOW for her tough leadership on the issue.

Particularly, this bill is a strong bill and includes some very important provisions. It protects the interests of small farmers. It protects crucial climate funding to help farmers from things like natural disasters. And it provides robust nutrition assistance that directly helps millions of kids across the country.

I salute Senator STABENOW for her hard, good work on this bill. Again, Democrats want to get a farm bill done, and Senator STABENOW has done outstanding work leading this effort.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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 PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

ISRAEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I spoke yesterday about the failures of America's so-called elite universities

to maintain academic rigor, student safety, and basic order as their faculty and students become more radicalized.

The most alarming aspect of this chaos on campuses is the brazen expressions of anti-Semitism, but the world's oldest form of hate isn't just driving self-appointed student commissars to intimidate Jewish students and grind campus life to a halt. Half a world away, deep and virulent hatred of the Jewish people and a refusal to even acknowledge the Jewish State of Israel's right to exist is what animates the world's most active state sponsor of terrorism and motivates its network of proxies to carry out barbaric violence like the attacks of October 7.

We are not talking about imagined sins of some postmodern, anti-colonial theory. We are talking about the intentional—torture, hostage-taking, rape, and murder of civilians. And these same forces also loathe Israel's closest ally, the United States—the “Great Satan.” They attack American personnel. They threaten American interests and global commerce.

But just as college administrators fail to restore order amid anti-Semitic chaos on campus, the Biden administration is failing to compel a murderous adversary to stop spilling Israeli and American blood alike. Rather than helping Israel destroy the terrorists or impose consequences on Tehran sufficient to abandon its strategy of terror, the Commander in Chief seems to be most concerned with restraining our closest ally in the Middle East from doing everything necessary to restore its security.

At nearly every step, the Biden administration has tried to prevent, slow, or micromanage Israel's efforts to pursue Hamas terrorists. It is as if the President wants the appearance of calm and a respite from inconvenient headlines rather than a decisive victory over terrorists that can lead to a just and lasting peace.

The micromanagement is accompanied by flights of pure fantasy. It is all well and good for administration officials to express hope for the prospects of a future two-state solution, but it is about time they started dealing in the present day, where the dominant power on the Palestinian side doesn't even want one. Hamas makes no secret of its aspirations to destroy Israel “from the river to the sea.” And, remember, geographically, that means the entirety of the Jewish State.

Neither, sadly, do the thousands of American college students who have taken up this genocidal refrain. Whether these campus agitators even grasp its implication is really beside the point. Hamas and its backers in Tehran know the score.

Let's deal in the real world, where successive, corrupt Palestinian leaders have rejected reasonable proposals for peaceful coexistence and where cease-fire was the nominal state of affairs be-

fore savage terrorists exploited it on October 7.

To the extent that a Palestinian state is achievable or even merited, it will not be as a reward for terror. If Palestinian leaders want a state for their people, they should first demonstrate that they care more about their own people than lining their own pockets. They must rid themselves of terrorists who care more about killing Jews than building a tolerant society.

Bottom line: If the Biden administration wants to put Israelis and Palestinians back on a path toward peaceful coexistence, they ought to help Israel destroy Hamas and curb Iran's influence in the region. That would require—for one thing—the United States getting serious about the operational challenges our ally faces. Instead, the administration seems focused on virtue signaling and political theatre to appease the leftist agitators of their base.

How else should we interpret the President's decision to build a massively expensive floating pier off the coast of Gaza or his willingness to staff it with American military personnel within cruise missile and UAV range of terrorists who have specifically—specifically—threatened to target any forces affiliated with the pier?

This isn't just an idle threat. Terrorists have already conducted mortar attacks against the marshaling area for the humanitarian pier. This isn't a cost-free State of the Union talking point; it is an avoidable catastrophe. The President's decision places American servicemembers at unnecessary risk. It is exorbitantly more expensive and inefficient than existing land crossings into Gaza. And besides, the problem isn't getting humanitarian assistance to Gaza; it is getting the assistance distributed to Palestinian civilians before Hamas fighters commandeer it.

What more evidence do we need that Hamas can play no part—no part—in the future of the Palestinian people? What other signs do we need that Israel's fight to eliminate the terrorists deserves America's support? Let's be clear: We cannot aim for the status quo ante. October 7 was only the most recent bloody manifestation of the reach of Iran's proxy network.

America's focus—our primary objective—in support of our ally Israel and our interests in the region has to be imposing real costs on the chaos agents in Tehran, forcing them to change their violent calculus, ending their support for terror, and making it harder for them to support other violent aggression further afield, like Russia's war in Ukraine.

Of course, all of that starts with making serious investments in our own defense. U.S. operations in defense of Israel and the freedom of navigation have made the steep costs of preserving peace and prosperity abundantly clear. The past several months have illustrated the undeniable urgency of expanding production of missile defense

capabilities, long-range strike capabilities, and the full range of hard power necessary to change our adversaries' behavior.

It is time for the administration and Congress to step up and put our money where our mouth is.

NET NEUTRALITY

Mr. President, on another matter, 6 years ago, the junior Senator from Massachusetts warned that "There will be a political price to pay for those on the wrong side of history" in the Republican efforts to repeal Obama-era net neutrality rules. Then-Senator Harris warned that the end of net neutrality would "imperil our economy while reducing innovation, entrepreneurship, and creativity."

Senate Democrats claimed such a repeal would mean that "you'll get the internet one word at a time." In the assessment of one leftwing House Member, it was "a threat to our democracy." Others said the result would be "the end of the internet as we know it." Well, the last time I checked, the internet is still here, working just fine, and I am still receiving emails without issue. In fact, the year net neutrality was repealed, internet speed increased nearly 40 percent—so much for imperiling the economy and stifling innovation as more and more Americans do business online.

But Washington Democrats have yet to learn from their mistakes. Apparently, they just can't help trying to tie up every corner of our economy with more and more redtape. Last week, President Biden's FCC voted to reinstate the Obama-era rule to reclassify broadband from an information service to a public utility. Effectively, this would mean a return to the outdated Obama-era policy. It would enable Washington to impose new taxes, regulations, and tariffs on broadband providers and drown innovation in even more redtape—more government control of a core means of communication.

Of course, when Congress passed the Telecommunications Act of 1996, we made it crystal clear that the internet is an information service and not a public utility. The law never gave the FCC authority to reclassify it as such.

Well, that didn't stop the Obama administration regulators from trying. But back in 2016, I was happy to co-sponsor legislation that would reverse their misguided net neutrality regulations. In 2017, I commended FCC Chairman Pai for reversing these regulations and allowing the internet to flourish. Chairman Pai's approach was in keeping with the longtime bipartisan consensus of a light regulatory touch. This is the approach that allowed for the rapid growth of the internet and the adoption of groundbreaking technologies it drove.

I am proud to join several of our Republican colleagues in urging the FCC to preserve this particular approach and turn back the egregious missteps from the Biden administration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

ISRAEL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, adults are suffering and children are starving to death in Gaza. That is a fact. It has been that way for weeks, if not months. Part of the problem, obviously, is it is a war zone. Because of that, many of the people, innocent civilians, have been caught up in the throes of conflict and have died as a result of it.

In an ordinary time, there are approximately 500 truckloads a day shipped into Gaza—500. In this time of war, an attack by Israel on Hamas in Gaza, the number has been reduced to 200—200—because the ports of entry have been closed by the Israelis for security purposes. Closing them means less food, medicine, and water is available for the people living in Gaza. They suffer and they die, particularly the children.

There has been an effort underway for months to persuade the Israelis to allow more of the basics of human life to enter Gaza, but the Israelis have resisted that suggestion for the most part. What have we done in response? Well, we have decided, through President Biden, to have an extraordinary effort—a landing area where trucks can be brought into Gaza from the sea, from an oceangoing vessel, and make things available to the people who live there. It is a life-and-death mission, and for us to walk away from it at this point would be not only foolhardy but cruel—cruel.

The notion, the argument that was just stated on the floor that Hamas is infiltrating these supplies and taking them for their own purpose has no evidence in fact—none. Over and over again, in phone calls which I have been part of to United Nations personnel on the ground, they assure us there is no evidence of that whatsoever.

So this humanitarian effort by the United States, by President Biden, is not only appropriate, but it is absolutely necessary. It is an emergency situation. I commend the administration for their actions in trying to feed these people in Gaza as they sit in a war zone and watch their children die, hospitals close, and the homes they had totally destroyed.

Let's do this and show them we as Americans really do care. We are not supplying terrorists; we are trying to supply children—children who are starving to death in Gaza. I thank President Biden for his leadership.

FOR-PROFIT COLLEGES

Mr. President, today is May 1. For many students, this is college decision day—about the time when they have to commit for next year's school year, pave a pathway for a better future.

For Chicagoan LaKesha Howard-Williams, a straight-A student who dreamed of attending college to pursue art, this was certainly the case. LaKesha was accepted to a nonprofit college outside of Chicago, but she decided to move back home and transfer to a community college near her home.

Sadly, her parents lost their home during the 2008 recession, and shortly after she moved back, her father passed away. LaKesha's family was struggling, and she eventually left community college to go to work.

After some time in a low-paying job without a college degree, LaKesha decided to go back to school to finish her education. However, her family could not afford to send her to a prestigious arts college. As she began researching scholarships, LaKesha was flooded with brochures for a for-profit college, the Illinois Institute of Art.

Mr. President, I don't have to tell you that is a name that is close to the actual Illinois Art Institute, which is a well-known and respected institution, but this Illinois Institute of Art was a lot different.

After being heavily pursued by the Illinois Institute of Art, LaKesha applied to it. They accepted her within days of her application and immediately encouraged her to take out student loans. This was the first sign of foul play. Her family was hesitant to see their daughter assume this kind of debt, but the school assured her it would be "well worth it," so she took out loans so she could enroll in this phony Illinois Institute of Art.

Although disappointed by the quality of her instructors and coursework, she was determined she was going to finish and get her degree, but as the weeks went by, more and more red flags appeared.

In 2017, an organization called Dream Center bought the school and promised an even better education, but things didn't improve for LaKesha. Then the school's President left suddenly and the staff disappeared. The final red flag was when the school lost its accreditation—something that it hid from the students for 6 months. Then it suddenly announced it was going to close at the end of the year.

LaKesha was able to transfer, but before moving to a better quality school, she estimated she would have more than \$70,000 in student loans from the Illinois Institute of Art.

Unfortunately, LaKesha is far from the only student who has been duped and deceived by the predatory for-profit college industry. For years, for-profit colleges have lined their pockets at the expense of students and taxpayers. These organizations mislead students into enrolling in programs that offer low-quality instruction, substandard job prospects, nontransferable course credits, and a worthless degree. Even more sickening, they deliberately target the most vulnerable—low-income students, first-generation students, veterans, students of color. They go after them with aggressive marketing tactics and promises of well-paying jobs.

Mr. President, I am going to give you two numbers. I warn you in advance that these two numbers are both going to be on the final, so listen carefully. Although for-profit colleges enroll only