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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m., and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN FETTERMAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal Father, we thank You for another day with its fresh promises, opportunities, and duties. As our bodies are renewed, so give strength to our minds and hearts to glorify You with our lives.

Be near our Senators as they labor. For their added burdens, give them greater strength. For their difficult problems, give them greater wisdom. For their moments of despair, give them greater faith.

Lord, to all who serve in the government, provide a full measure of Your mercy, grace, and might, that all things may be ordered according to Your will.

We pray in Your merciful 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, May 15, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable JOHN FETTERMAN, a Senator from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. FETTERMAN 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 resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Courtney Diesel O'Donnell, of California, to be United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, with the rank of Ambassador.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

AI

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last year, Congress faced a momentous choice: either watch from the sidelines as artificial intelligence reshaped our world or make a novel, bipartisan effort to enhance, but also regulate, this technology before it was too late. So, as majority leader, I convened a bipar-

tisan working group of Senators last year—Senators ROUNDS, HEINRICH, and YOUNG—to chart the path forward on AI in the Senate.

Today, after months of discussion, after hundreds of meetings, and after nine first-of-their-kind AI Insight Forums, our bipartisan Senate working group released the first ever roadmap for AI policy in the Senate. Our policy roadmap for AI is the first, most comprehensive, most bipartisan, and most forward-thinking report on AI regulation produced by Congress. Our roadmap lays out a panoply of policy priorities and guardrails that our group believes merit bipartisan consideration in this Congress and beyond.

Three words govern what we do: urgency, humility, and bipartisanship. Urgency because AI is so complex, so rapidly evolving, and so broad in its impact—it covers almost every aspect of society. The longer we wait, the bigger the gap becomes. Just this week, ChatGPT released a new model that can read facial expressions and translate spoken language in realtime.

Humility, this is hard to do because AI is nothing like Congress has ever dealt with before. It is rapidly changing. As we mentioned, every week, something new happens. It is all encompassing, and Congress has never really dealt with it before. In areas like health or defense, we have a long track record, lots of expertise, but not so in AI because it is so new.

And, finally, bipartisanship, because the changes that AI brings won't discriminate between left, right, and center, and we all know the only way to get things done here is bipartisanship. That means compromise by Democrats and Republicans. But, certainly, getting nothing done is a worse alternative.

As I have always said, innovation must be our North Star—innovation. America must take the lead in the world, continue to innovate, use the great nutrient agar of entrepreneurship

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



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and doing new things and reaching out in new directions. We have been the most innovative country in the world. We should keep that.

But innovation has two senses, two parts. Both are very important to realize. One I call transformational innovation, and one I call sustainable innovation.

Transformational innovation is reaching the stars. It is the great stuff that AI could do. What if AI cures cancer? We have got to make sure we don't stand in the way of that happening.

What if AI dealt with climate change in a really strong new way or fed the hungry of the world or gave each person on Earth a teacher? Senator YOUNG mentioned this yesterday—a teacher that could just talk to them. These are great opportunities that we can't afford to miss.

But we also need sustainable innovation. That means we need innovation to produce guardrails that minimize the damage that AI could bring. How do you deal with workers who might be displaced? We don't want to repeat the mistake of globalization, where globalization did a lot of good things—it took a billion people, probably, out of poverty in the world—but no one paid attention to those who were hurt by globalization. We have to pay attention to bias because many of these big systems have bias built into them, and we can't repeat that error.

We have to deal with the creative community and intellectual property. So we need innovation in these areas as well to make sure that the liabilities of AI are dealt with.

So we need both—transformational innovation and sustainable innovation—in a sense, to maximize the benefits of AI and minimize the liabilities.

It is no easy task. It is no easy task. But our insight forums were designed to be balanced, with the input of leaders from the industry. They operate these AI complexes. We needed to hear from them, but also leaders from civil rights and labor and the creative community, sitting right next to them. And our AI forums were amazing.

There were back-and-forths. People really didn't just make speeches but tried to come up with questions we needed to answer and solutions to those questions. It is a difficult job, but I believe we achieved that balance in our AI forums and certainly in the roadmap. Balance is important.

Now, to help move forward on both forms of innovation—innovation, of course, being our North Star, transformational and sustainable innovation—we recommend a \$32 billion surge in emergency funding to secure America's dominance in AI. And let me underscore: This is a bipartisan recommendation. Senators HEINRICH and I, of course, care about it, but so do Senators YOUNG and ROUNDS, and they were quite eloquent yesterday about how we needed to spend this money or the United States would fall way behind.

Now, where do we go from here? Our policy roadmap is intended to be used by our committee chairs and ranking members as a foundation to move on good, bipartisan AI legislation. It is the committees that do the legislating. That is what has always happened around here. We need our committees to continue the bipartisan momentum of the AI gang to achieve the hope of passing legislation by the end of the year.

We don't expect every piece of AI to be addressed, every problem that is in our roadmap to be addressed. Some will lend themselves to move more quickly than others, and we are not going to hold back on some that are ready because others are not yet ready. This is a very, as I said, difficult process that we have to approach with humility.

Let me just say this: Our AI committee chairs and ranking members are ready and eager to engage in AI. Our roadmap includes many areas of bipartisan agreement that the committees can use, and, already, we are making progress in the Rules Committee, which is marking up legislation today. The Commerce Committee is looking at legislation regarding AI innovation. The Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee is considering how to leverage AI in the Federal workforce. The Armed Services Committee is leading the way on AI in the military. And the list goes on. So our committees are getting actively involved, which is what we want.

Our policy roadmap also embraces action to protect our elections from the potential risk of AI. First, the 2024 elections will be the first elections ever held in the age of AI. If we are not careful, AI could jaundice, even totally discredit, our entire system of elections as we know it. So, today, I am joining the Rules Committee, which is marking up three bills—all three with bipartisan support—to address AI's impact on our elections. I strongly support these bills, and I commend Senator KLOBUCHAR and her sponsors for their bipartisan work.

And that is just happening today, but we expect there will be other committees putting forth legislation in the near future.

Our policy roadmap also advocates for a host of regulatory recommendations that help maximize AI's potential and minimize its risks—risks like bias and job displacement and privacy invasion. These are all difficult issues to deal with, but move forward we must.

So our policy roadmap is an important step in AI regulation, and getting the committees here in the Congress to start figuring out the bipartisan legislation that they can move forward on is a good step. But I also plan to meet with Speaker JOHNSON in the near future to see how we can make Congress's effort on AI not just bipartisan but also bicameral.

So today is immensely satisfying for our bipartisan AI gang. It has been a long, long time and a culmination of

months of listening and thinking and working on this issue. So with great sincerity and humility, I want to thank my colleagues in the bipartisan working group—ROUNDS, HEINRICH, and YOUNG. I thank my Senate colleagues who attended our insight forums. Over 70 Senators attended at least 1 forum, and many attended multiple forums. And they are beginning their work on AI through the committee process. And I thank all the staff who have put a lot of effort and a lot of hours into this policy roadmap. I have a great staff, and they have been so instrumental in getting us to the point we are at now.

Congress can't and won't solve every challenge AI presents today, but with this policy roadmap, we now have a foundation necessary to propel America into the age of AI.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. President, now on the border, three things are true about the southern border: One, the status quo cannot continue. Two, Democrats want Congress to take action. Three, the only way we will solve this issue is with real bipartisan action, not partisan talk.

Instead of just making a lot of speeches, pointing a lot of fingers—blame, blame, blame—we Democrats want to get something done to secure our border. Democrats showed we are serious about border security when we worked with Republicans to write the strongest border security bill in a generation, to hire more border agents and asylum officers, enhance drug enforcement, and fix asylum. We had the strongest border security bill in decades ready to go here in the Senate, with a lot of support from Republicans who, when they saw it, they liked it—they said, “Wow, this is tough stuff”—until Donald Trump killed it to keep the issue alive on the campaign trail. He said it. He wanted chaos because it might help his election. Then he said: Blame it on me.

I remember when he said, “Blame the shutdown on me,” when Speaker PELOSI and I went to his office. I don't think that is a very successful strategy, and it is certainly not what is good for America.

So this bill is such a strong bill. It is a bill that would add more than 1,500 new Customs and Border Protection personnel, 4,300 asylum officers—a bill Democrats and Republicans spent months negotiating and fine-tuning and revising.

Unlike the vast majority of bills in Congress that are dubbed as “border security,” this wasn't a messaging bill. This was a product of months of bipartisan negotiation, written with the goal of reaching the President's desk—a bill supported by the people who know, perhaps better than anyone else, what it takes to address border security, the National Border Patrol Council, a very conservative group. Their president called our bill “a step in the right direction” and “far better than the status quo.”

Donald Trump's sabotage of the strongest border bill in decades makes