

as a fundamental right the freedom of reproductive choice” and “prohibit public entities from interfering with or restricting the right of an individual to terminate the individual’s pregnancy.”

As far back as 1972, the Vermont Supreme Court became the fourth State in the Nation to legalize abortion. Vermont has a long history of protecting reproductive rights and standing up for the rights of women.

Also, contraception is supported by the American people. It is widely used by women. People who can get pregnant need it and use it. There are 9 out of 10 voters who “want it to be legal” and 3 out of 4 who want to have easier access. There are 78 percent who say “they see it as basic healthcare for women,” and 72 percent are “thankful it allows them to manage several health conditions.”

So it is absolutely essential, in the face of the U.S. Supreme Court and what it did to deprive women of their own right to choose by reversing the Roe v. Wade decision that was so enshrined in our law and part of our society for 50 years, that we in the Senate take all action possible to guarantee that women’s rights will be protected.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I am so glad to come to the floor today to support my colleagues—the Presiding Officer, who is Senator MARKEY, and Senator HIRONO—as you champion a great and necessary bill, the Right to Contraception Act. I am proud to stand with my colleagues, and I am so proud to support this bill.

You know, today should have been a day of celebration. It was the 105th anniversary of the Senate’s passing the 19th Amendment—one of the greatest amendments ever passed—granting women the right to vote under the U.S. Constitution. That was truly a proud moment for this Chamber and one of the greatest victories ever in the march toward women’s equality—a march that New York proudly advanced. Upstate New York was a hotbed for the women’s suffrage movement, including in places like Seneca Falls.

But, on this 105th anniversary of the 19th Amendment’s passage, we must confront the ugly truth that women, sadly, have fewer freedoms today than they did just a few years ago, because, a few weeks from now, America will observe a different anniversary, a much darker anniversary, that of the MAGA Supreme Court’s overturning of Roe v. Wade. Thanks to that decision and thanks to the hard right’s war on women, reproductive freedoms are at their lowest point in modern history, and who knows how far the hard right will go. Two years ago, the MAGA Court eliminated the protections of Roe. Tomorrow, it could be something else. Maybe, it could be the Griswold decision that protected the right to use birth control.

To those who think that is outlandish or impossible to happen, just remember Clarence Thomas himself opened the door to this possibility in his concurring opinion on the day Roe was overturned. We are kidding ourselves if we think the hard right is satisfied with simply overturning Roe. And, for all those who say it can never happen, remember people said that before Dobbs—that Roe would never be overturned. Of course, unfortunately, it was by the rightwing MAGA Court, appointed by Donald Trump and our Republican colleagues here in the Senate.

So, tomorrow, the Senate will act. We will vote to move forward on the Right to Contraception Act. Supporting Federal protections for contraceptives should be the definition of what is a simple, commonsense, and easy choice. The bill we will vote on tomorrow simply says: If you want access to birth control or if your healthcare provider wants to prescribe birth control, the government has no right to interfere.

Doesn’t that seem like common sense? After all, access to birth control is something that 90 percent of Americans support.

Of course, we are already hearing the same predictable, tired, and unpersuasive retorts from the other side: that this vote is somehow unnecessary; that birth control could never possibly be at risk; that this is much ado about nothing. That is simply not true.

To those who argue Federal protections for birth control are unnecessary, go ask the people of Virginia what they think after their Republican Governor vetoed a bill that would have protected contraceptives at the State level. Go ask the people of Nevada what they think after their Republican Governor also vetoed a bill to protect access to birth control. To those who say birth control will never fall at risk, go ask the people of Florida or Arizona or Idaho or Iowa or Missouri. In each of these States, Republican Governors or Republican State legislators are on record blocking protections for birth control access in some form or another.

It is unacceptable—simply unacceptable—for Americans to even question whether or not access to birth control should fall at risk, but that is precisely the worry one in five Americans has today. We can eliminate that worry in one fell swoop by passing the Right to Contraception Act.

I hope both sides join together to show strong support for this essential bill tomorrow when we vote on it.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the confirmation vote on the Pipe nomination be at 12 noon tomorrow, Wednesday, June 5, and that the cloture vote with respect to the Sullivan nomination occur upon disposition of the Pipe nomination; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Sullivan nomination, all time be consid-

ered expired and the confirmation vote occur at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican leader; further, that following the cloture vote on the Sullivan nomination, the Senate then resume legislative session and resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 400, S. 4381, and that the cloture vote with respect to the motion to proceed occur at 3:45 p.m.; finally, that if any of the nominations are confirmed during Wednesday’s session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s actions.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The senior Senator from Massachusetts.

RIGHT TO CONTRACEPTION ACT

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I rise today because reproductive freedom is under attack.

In 2022, Donald Trump’s far-right Supreme Court took away the constitutional right to an abortion, completing the Republican Party’s decades-long plan to overturn Roe.

In some States, the Court’s decision revived abortion bans that had lain dormant since the 1800s. In other States, the decision triggered new abortion restrictions prewritten to go into effect the very day that Roe v. Wade was overturned. The results have been horrific.

But here is the thing the Republican Party missed: From Kansas to Ohio, to California, reproductive rights are popular. Americans overwhelmingly support the right to an abortion, the right to IVF, and the right to contraception. In fact, these rights are so popular that Republicans want you to believe they support them, but their actions speak for themselves.

First, Republicans said they wouldn’t overturn Roe v. Wade. Donald Trump and his extremist Supreme Court did, and Trump is still bragging about it. Now, over 20 States have banned or severely restricted abortion access, passed laws criminalizing doctors who perform abortions, or threatened access to pregnancy care, miscarriage care, fertility assistance, and more.

Then Republicans claimed they wouldn’t go after IVF. Just this year, Alabama’s Supreme Court virtually outlawed IVF in the State, and just a few weeks later, my colleagues in the Republican Party blocked Federal legislation that would protect access to this care.

Now, the Republican Party is saying they won’t go after contraception. Well, that makes sense since 92 percent of Americans support birth control. But, guess what, Republicans now have contraception in their sights, and they are even trying to redefine what constitutes contraception. Sure, they support contraception—ah, but not an IUD; or they are all for contraception—hmm, but not Plan B.

Contraception is a must, except Republicans in Congress have a bill, the “Life at Conception Act,” that would give an embryo so-called personhood rights, which would outlaw abortion, outlaw IVF, and, yes, outlaw some forms of contraception. That bill has the majority support of the Republican caucus, including Speaker of the House MIKE JOHNSON. On top of that, Republicans blocked Democrats from passing this very same bill to protect the right to contraception last year. But tomorrow, every Senator will have to say where they stand, proving that no matter what Republicans say about wanting to support contraception, when it comes down to it, they won’t.

Tomorrow’s vote should be a turning point. It is time we take these Republican lawmakers at their word.

Millions of people across this country are already experiencing a new form of hell thanks to Donald Trump and the extremist Supreme Court that overturned Roe, and Black, Brown, and low-income communities are feeling a disproportionate impact.

So, now, as Donald Trump continues to push for a nationwide abortion ban and says he is “looking at” contraception, Democrats are standing up and fighting back. Already, President Biden and Vice President HARRIS have taken a series of steps to strengthen access to affordable, high-quality contraception and adequate access to reproductive healthcare more generally.

Tomorrow, I will be joining my Democratic colleagues, led by my partner Senator MARKEY and by Senator HIRONO and Senator DUCKWORTH, in voting for the Right to Contraception Act. Birth control is safe, effective, and an important part of reproductive healthcare.

It is time that we fight back against the Republican war against reproductive freedom. It is time we codify the right to contraception into law.

I am furious that millions of women have lost fundamental rights. I am furious that their freedom to make their own decisions has been taken away by a small number of extremists. I am alarmed by what the extremist Supreme Court and congressional Republicans are prepared to do to unravel a future of protection for women under a Republican Presidency.

This is about the right to make decisions about our own bodies and our own futures. It is all on the line, and we need these protections written into law. That is what tomorrow’s vote is about.

I don’t want to hear from Republicans who say they support contraception but can’t make it the law of the land. If they really support contraception, then they will vote yes on the bill that comes up tomorrow. If not, actions speak louder than words. They will demonstrate that it is not only going after abortion, it is not only going after IVF, it is also all about going after contraception.

These are the decisions women should make for themselves. They

should have the freedom to do that. These are not the decisions that should be made by extremist Republican lawmakers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

19TH AMENDMENT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, 105 years ago today, this Chamber did something truly historic: It passed the 19th Amendment to secure the right to vote for American women.

The amendment’s ratification by the States 1 year later marked the largest enfranchisement in U.S. history, extending the vote to 26 million Americans.

This incredible achievement fulfilled more than 70 years of tireless efforts by brave suffragists to make our country a more perfect Union, including many Tennessee women: Abbey Crawford Milton from Chattanooga, Ida B. Wells from Memphis, and Anne Dallas Dudley from Nashville.

On this anniversary, I am especially reminded of Febb Burn of Niota, TN. In the summer of 1920, the Tennessee General Assembly was in a heated debate about whether Tennessee would ratify the 19th Amendment. At the time, 35 States had already voted to ratify the amendment, so only 1 more was needed to make the 19th Amendment the law of the land.

On the day of the vote in Nashville, Febb Burn wrote a letter to her son, Harry Burn, the youngest member of the Tennessee State Legislature. She urged her son to support the amendment. She wrote:

Hurrah and vote for suffrage and don’t keep them in doubt.

At first, Harry pinned a red rose—the symbol of the anti-suffragist movement—to his shirt and voted to table the amendment in back-to-back deadlocked votes, but with his mother’s letter in his coat pocket, Harry ultimately listened to her advice, switched his vote, and switched to a yellow rose on that lapel, making Tennessee the 36th and final State to ratify the 19th Amendment.

As the first woman to represent Tennessee in the U.S. Senate, I have a special appreciation for the women who fought this fight, and I have worked to honor their legacy and advance their cause. But as we remember the suffragists on this anniversary, it is important to recognize that women are still fighting for a seat at the table and recognition for their achievements.

Look no further than the National Mall right here in our Nation’s Capital. This 2-mile stretch of land—America’s front yard, as it is known—honors our Nation’s history and ideals with monuments, memorials, and statues of incredible Americans who have made tremendous sacrifices to make our country a more perfect Union. Yet, among the 40 monuments, not 1 is dedicated to American women.

That is why, alongside Senator BALDWIN, I introduced the bipartisan Wom-

en’s Suffrage National Monument Location Act, which would finally secure a monument honoring women’s history on the National Mall. This monument will commemorate the women’s suffragist movement, the passage of the 19th Amendment, and the incredible women who fought to secure the vote for millions of Americans.

The House unanimously passed this legislation in November. Now the Senate should vote to make this memorial a reality and honor the giants who paved the way for generations of American women.

I urge every Member of this Chamber to join Senator BALDWIN and me in supporting the Women’s Suffrage National Monument Location Act.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RIGHT TO CONTRACEPTION ACT

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am honored to join my colleagues and the Presiding Officer, whom I thank for his leadership, in voicing my support for the Right to Contraception Act.

Truth be told, we shouldn’t be here debating this issue. We shouldn’t have to vote for legislation on it. Just 2 years ago, it would have been unimaginable that we would be turning the clock back not to the early 1970s, when Roe was decided, but to the 1960s, when the U.S. Supreme Court decided a case called *Griswold v. Connecticut*—yes, *Griswold v. Connecticut*—striking down the criminal prohibition against the use of contraception.

That decision had a profound impact on women and American families, and it was all to the good. It, in effect, struck down a prohibition that was disregarded widely but still followed, with consequences that were both tragic and detrimental to women’s health.

Now we are in an era that regards the unthinkable as perfectly realistic, when my Republican colleagues here and across the country are working to ban or restrict access to abortion care and attempting to limit the ability of families to have children through IVF. No one could have thought that was possible just a couple of years ago.

But in the post-Dobbs era, it is not only possible, it is common. *Griswold v. Connecticut* is still the law of the land, but it has been undercut deeply by Dobbs, and it has undermined the ability of families to decide when and whether to have children. We are talking here, not about abortion but about contraceptive care which gives women a chance to choose their own path in life and select their own timeline to pursue or continue an education or trade or advance further in the workforce. It gives them the freedom they