

terrorists' flimsy cover as doctors and journalists and daring to bring its people home.

One major national newspaper's initial coverage of the raid made no mention of the fact that Hamas had chosen to hide its hostages in private homes. Just days after publishing its own analysis of the bogus casualty reporting of the Hamas-run Gaza Ministry of Health, another outlet reverted to breathlessly parroting the terrorist group's own death toll propaganda in the headlines of its coverage on the hostage rescue. And to the surprise of absolutely no one, the U.N.'s so-called Special Rapporteur on Palestinian human rights shamelessly accused Israel of using hostages to legitimize killing innocent civilians.

If this—if this—is the media diet the American people have to consume, then what came next should surprise no one.

In New York, masked protesters waving Hezbollah flags jeered at visitors to an exhibit honoring the victims of the October 7 attack on the music festival from which the hostages freed this weekend were abducted. Predictably, news broadcasts characterized the protesters, who chanted "Long live the intifada" and "Israel, go to hell," were merely pro-Palestinian, not anti-Israel.

Meanwhile, unhinged throngs of Hamas apologists occupied Lafayette Square, outside the White House, defacing statues, attacking law enforcement, and chanting disgusting anti-Semitic slurs—a generation of useful idiots and fifth columnists adrift on a sea of performative sympathy for terrorists and beyond the reach of fact or reality. Lest anyone doubt, this contagion is not confined to so-called elite universities.

Americans who are rightly worried about crime and violence may wonder why on Earth the President would permit this lawlessness on Federal property, let alone the park outside the White House, or why no arrests were made. They especially ought to wonder why the Biden administration chose this moment, as the people of Israel celebrated a small but precious victory in securing the freedom of four of its citizens, to try to box Israel in with a stunt—a stunt—vote at the U.N. and why the White House so desperately wants to constrain our ally's freedom of movement and to micromanage its military.

This weekend's developments may feel like a significant inflection point, but the fundamental realities of this situation have not changed. Israel has a right to defend itself. Terrorists have no right to take innocent hostages, and they alone—they alone—bear responsibility for the consequences of their actions.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, on another matter, I haven't spared any breath calling attention to the parade of unfit nominees that the Biden administration would like to see confirmed to lifetime seats on the Federal bench.

I have urged my colleagues to consider Adeel Mangi's alarming connections to terrorist sympathizers and Nancy Maldonado's record of staggering unproductivity in the lower court. So it is only fitting that I call attention to another nominee whose affiliations bear all the hallmarks of the dark money influence that so animates some of our senior-most colleagues on the Judiciary Committee.

The Senate hears a great deal from our colleague the junior Senator from Rhode Island on the subject of dark money, but so far, I haven't heard him express any concern that Sparkle Sooknanan, nominated to the DC Circuit Court, has secured the support of Robert Raben.

Mr. Raben, of course, is a notorious shepherd of liberal nominees whose client list reads like a who's-who of liberal dark money, with groups backed by everyone from George Soros to Arabella Advisors.

Apparently, this nominee engaged in a discussion with Mr. Raben and his associates after—after—her nomination was announced. This sort of contact between liberal nominees and liberal handlers doesn't fit with the Senate Democrats' idea of dark money influence as simply a conservative pastime.

So it is hardly surprising that senior members of the Judiciary Committee's majority haven't found time to scrutinize Ms. Sooknanan with the sort of vigor they devote to tarring organizers for conservative causes.

Of course, maybe Senate Democrats actually support Ms. Sooknanan's legal defense of so-called vulture funds as they cut to the front of the line of Puerto Rico's creditors.

One Democratic House Member from New York says the success makes her nomination "an insult to the people of Puerto Rico." Ah, but what does she know?

Or maybe they agree with Ms. Sooknanan's supposedly conservative former law firm that she didn't disparage the former President's election-litigation efforts on a conference call and that the New York Times is simply lying when they say that she did.

It just doesn't add up, unless the real ledger being used is the one with liberal dark money from Robert Raben and Arabella Advisors.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

NOVA MUSIC FESTIVAL EXHIBITION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last Friday, I had the opportunity to visit the Nova exhibit in New York City, downtown on Wall Street.

The exhibit documents what happened on October 7. Thousands of beautiful young people gathered, as the Sun was setting, at a music festival. When you go into the exhibit, the first thing you see is thousands of young people dancing, embracing each other, and as happy as can be—young people, beautiful, in the prime of their lives, the

Sun shining on them as it was setting—only to realize what had happened.

The rest of the exhibit documents the brutal murder of these young people—innocent, happy, young people with so much of their lives in front of them. We see vicious Hamas terrorists machine-gunning, brutalizing, and we hear interviews that are done by the families and those who were there.

So it was a wrenching experience, the contrast—this exhibit was so well done—of those beautiful young people, happily enjoying life and then knowing that hundreds of them would be slain brutally and scores of them would be kidnapped by terrorists, running away in fear.

What was even worse—or at least adding salt into the wound—was that just a day or two after I visited the exhibit, protesters gathered outside the exhibit, chanting repugnant anti-Semitic phrases, donning banners that read: "Long Live October 7th," and "The Zionists are not Jews and not humans." How low can you go?

Having visited the exhibit and seeing those young people, then knowing and seeing on film what happened to them at the vicious hands of Hamas, and then having people come outside and protest and say "Long Live October 7th"; "The Zionists are not Jews and not humans"—how repugnant, how despicable, how terribly unnerving that humanity could sink that low.

It is the lowest of low for anyone to protest an exhibit dedicated to honoring the memory of precious lives that were brutally murdered by Hamas. It is sick that anyone should show up at an exhibit like this to protest.

The protest and the vitriolic rhetoric outside the Nova exhibit were nothing short of despicable, inhumane, and anti-Semitic. Anti-Semitism, like what occurred outside the Nova Music Festival Exhibition, has no place in our city, in our State, or in America.

RIGHT TO IVF ACT

Now, Mr. President, it has been 2 years since Donald Trump and the MAGA Republicans succeeded in eliminating Roe, ripping away the right to choose and jeopardizing reproductive care for millions upon millions of women.

Today, women and families across America are worried about more than Roe's demise. They are worried about what comes next, including the erosion of reproductive freedoms nobody thought were at risk. This includes access to services like IVF.

Eighty-six percent of Americans support IVF. But in the aftermath of Roe and after frightening decisions like the one from Alabama, many families fear that this basic service cannot be taken for granted.

That is not theoretical. Here in Congress, some on the hard right are already trying to restrict IVF access. The Senate can ease people's worries and protect their freedoms through legislation.

This week, the Senate will vote on the Right to IVF Act, led by my colleagues Senators DUCKWORTH, MURRAY, and BOOKER. The Right to IVF Act establishes a nationwide right to IVF and eliminates barriers for millions of families looking to use IVF to start and grow a family.

Protecting IVF should be one of the easiest votes the Senate has taken all year. The vast majority of Senators should agree that strengthening treatments that help people start a family is a good thing.

In fact, I have seen personally the immense good IVF can do. I have seen it in my own family. One of my grandkids was conceived with the help of IVF treatment, and we are immensely grateful we had access to this service. I can't imagine what we would have done if they had told us: Sorry, we are no longer offering this treatment. Thank God we never had to deal with that.

My family's story can be repeated over and over and over again in the country, millions of times. Millions of Americans have the joy of children, thanks to IVF.

So in no way, shape, or form is protecting IVF a show vote. It is a "show us who you are" vote. Remember what some Senators said when we first pushed marriage equality 2 years ago. They called that a "show vote," "gimmicky," and a "waste." And, lo and behold, after a lot of hard work, enough Senators on both sides worked together, and marriage equality became a law. That bill certainly wasn't a show vote, and neither is this one.

So let me say this again: 86 percent of Americans support protecting IVF, and just 14 percent of Americans say it shouldn't be legal.

Supporting this bill should be a no-brainer here in the Senate, and it is all the more urgent, given what House Republican extremists are doing right now to attack women's healthcare through the appropriations process.

Just last week, the hard right stuffed the VA funding bill with poison pills that would rip away reproductive care for our veterans.

And let's not forget, 3 months ago, the Republicans Study Committee, which includes 80 percent of House Republicans—an overwhelming majority of them—pushed a radical new agenda that would endanger IVF treatment, along with a national abortion ban with zero exceptions for rape and incest—80 percent of House Republicans, an abortion ban with no exceptions for rape or incest. That is how far right that group has become on this issue. What a nasty and awful and out-of-touch message to send to the American people.

Instead of pushing policies that the vast majority of Americans support, House Republicans continue to focus only on their most extreme constituencies.

Here in the Senate, we should choose a different path, one where we show the

American people that we protect the rights they care about. And this IVF bill would be a good way to do that.

FERC NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, on the FERC nominations, this week, the Senate has several important nominees to confirm to one of the most important Agencies, with a daunting-sounding name: Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

FERC, as it is usually called, rarely shows up on people's radar screens, but its mission is essential. Every time you turn on the light or touch the thermostat or see new powerlines go up, the rules and regulations and policies of FERC are at work. FERC ensures the rates of electricity remain just and reasonable. That is their job, to do that. It regulates the transmission of power across State lines. It ensures our power grid is safe and reliable.

But if the Senate does not act soon, FERC could soon lose its quorum, and much of its work could come to a halt. If these vacancies go on for too long, it would create serious backlog and delay, potentially slowing down new projects that power people's homes and cities.

So I am glad to move forward on three new FERC nominations here on the Senate floor. I hope we can confirm all three by the end of the week so FERC can keep its quorum and continue its mission of providing Americans with affordable, reliable, and safe energy.

I thank Chairman MANCHIN and Ranking Member BARRASSO for working together in a bipartisan way and in good faith to bring these nominees through.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Rosner cloture motion be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss an issue that I have been working on for quite some time.

It was over 20 years ago that I introduced the DREAM Act. I introduced it with Republican Senator Orrin Hatch, who was then chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee. In fact, there was a little competition, at the start, as to who would be the first named on the bill. Senator Hatch insisted that he had the idea before me. I deferred to him, as being in the majority and as chairman of the committee.

This bipartisan legislation would provide a pathway to citizenship for young immigrants brought to the United States as children and allow them to remain in this country—in fact, the only country they have ever called home.

These young people grew up alongside our own children, with the same

hopes of getting their first job, applying to college, getting a driver's license, having a bright future. And many have gone on to serve as doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers, and first responders.

Yet, without congressional action for more than two decades, every day is spent in fear of their lives being uprooted, facing fear of deportation.

I am amazed when I think about the issue of immigration. When you really come to understand America and its place in the history of the world, you realize that we are first and foremost a nation of immigrants—people who have come from every corner of the world to be part of the American dream, who, despite the odds, have overcome hardship and really built a future for themselves and made this great Nation what it is today. And yet every successive generation seems to go through the debate as to whether or not immigration is a good thing.

I think we all agree that we need an orderly process at our borders and otherwise when it comes to immigration. I think we all agree that we cannot absorb every person in the world who wants to be part of the United States today.

We have a priority to first look at those who live in this country and to measure our needs economically with the reality of immigration. We also have an obligation to only allow those to come to this country who are going to be safe and not cause any danger to those of us who live here. These are the basics.

But having said that, we are in desperate need of immigrants coming to this country for so many reasons.

Just yesterday, I was in Chicago taking a look at a new, innovative research project that is going on with our Department of Defense. The gentleman who was showing me the project is named Ben Hernandez. It is called Numat, N-U-M-A-T. It is a new material that will keep our troops safe from biological and chemical warfare.

It is amazing. His partner in this effort is Dr. Farha. Dr. Farha is Palestinian. He came to this country and used his skill to engage in this effort to keep our men and women in uniform safer—another immigrant, another immigrant story, another success story for America.

This week marks the 12th anniversary of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program, known as DACA. President Obama created DACA in response to a request that I made with Senator Richard Lugar, Republican of Indiana. When we couldn't pass the DREAM Act, I appealed to the President to use his Executive authority to create a program that would protect these young people as long as possible. He came up with DACA.

Under this program, 830,000 individuals were able to be protected. Now, they had to go through a background check, every 2 years they had to renew their application, and they had to pay