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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Sovereign God, our lawmakers face complex issues that challenge the best of human faults and actions. As You gave insights to King Solomon, impart wisdom to Your servants in the Senate. Lord, help them to believe that You are real and relevant and a ready help for all of their challenges. May they recognize their need for divine intervention and develop the necessary humility to seek it. Shower them with wisdom and strength far beyond their own to face these critical days. In their worries and cares, give them the joy of knowing You are with them.

We pray in Your strong 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, June 12, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Sen-

ator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WELCH 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 David Rosner, of Massachusetts, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2027.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

#### RIGHT TO IVF ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, just a few years ago, it would have been unthinkable—unimaginable, even—that access to a safe and widely used reproductive service like IVF would be put at risk. But, sadly, after frightening decisions like the one from Alabama, not even IVF is safe in the aftermath of Roe.

Today, women and families across America are rightfully worried that

this basic service could be jeopardized, leaving them without an avenue to start a family. So, this week, the Senate will act to put these worries to rest and to protect the reproductive freedoms of Americans through legislation.

Tomorrow, the Senate will vote on the Right to IVF Act, led by Senators DUCKWORTH, MURRAY, and BOOKER. This legislation is simple. It establishes a nationwide right to IVF and eliminates barriers for the millions of families looking to use IVF to start and grow a family.

Protecting IVF should be the definition of an easy vote for Senators on both sides of the aisle. Nearly everyone knows someone who used IVF to start a family.

I have seen it with my own family. One of my grandkids was conceived with the help of IVF, and we are grateful we have had access to this service to grow our family.

My family's story is not unique at all. Millions and millions of Americans across the country have the joy of children, thanks to IVF.

I will be meeting today with a few families and advocates from New York who have benefited from IVF. That is why the vast majority of Americans—86 percent—support IVF, and only 14 percent oppose it.

So despite some claims from my colleagues on the other side, protecting IVF is not a show vote at all; it is a “show us who you are” vote.

This will be a chance for Senators on both sides to show their support for strengthening treatments for people to start families. Surely—surely—the opportunity to start a family is something that all Senators can and should agree on.

#### REPUBLICAN PARTY PLATFORMS

Mr. President, now on the meeting with Speaker JOHNSON, later today, Senate Republicans will meet with Speaker MIKE JOHNSON to lay out, as has been described, the “large-scale” and “far-reaching” agenda Republicans

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



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plan for America, should they regain control of government. I will spoil the ending right now. If there is one thing Republicans absolutely love to do in Congress, it is passing tax giveaways for the very wealthy. That is what they plan on talking about today, using reconciliation to gut as much of the Democrats' middle-class agenda as possible, while passing another round of costly tax breaks that cater to wealthy elites.

I understand that, nowadays, it is tempting to think about elections just in terms of personalities, but that is a grave mistake. Look at the agendas. Look at what Republicans say they want to do. Republicans say their biggest priority, their North Star, is undoing all the things that President Biden and we Democrats have passed these past few years, while recycling the same Trump tax cuts that proved to be a dud 7 years ago.

Remember 2018? They couldn't even run on these things because Democrats had made a strong message that these weren't tax cuts for the middle class; these were tax cuts to help benefit the very, very wealthy.

So they are not going to be able to sustain this argument, but their right-wing ideologues pushed them in a direction that many of them probably know is wrong.

It also means, if they want to repeal everything the Democrats did, it means repealing \$35-a-month insulin for people on Medicare. That is what Republicans want.

It means stopping Medicare from negotiating the price of prescription drugs. That is what Republicans want too. It is also, by the way, what Big Pharma wants.

It means cutting programs that feed kids during summer breaks; that feed seniors, like Meals on Wheels; that fight congestion on our streets and pollution in our air. To Republicans, these things are like their version of "greatest hits."

It means cutting all the clean energy investments we have passed that create good-paying jobs and protect our environments. Republicans are in the pocket of Big Oil, which will always oppose efforts to grow clean energy.

And remember what Donald Trump said to oil executives recently at Mar-a-Largo: If they back him, he will do as much as possible to repeal our climate agenda, starting on day one. So anyone who cares about the climate and sees the changing weather and the tornadoes and the hurricanes and all the bad weather—the cold waves and the heat waves—well, our Republican friends want to undo the great progress we have made in the IRA and will try to do it in reconciliation. That is a real threat.

Finally, it also means—as much as Republicans try to avoid saying it—putting vital programs like Social Security and Medicare on the chopping block and telling seniors that the Social Security retirement age is going to go up.

I know Republicans writhe in pain whenever people bring this up. But look at the platform released by the Republican Study Committee, which covers over 180 House members. And let's not forget, if they keep control of the House—which I think they won't, don't believe they won't—they are going to set the agenda, and then Senate Republicans, even those who know better, will just blindly follow. And they, in the Republican Study Committee—180 of the 220-some-odd Republicans—endorsed not only a national abortion ban but cuts for Social Security and Medicare. So that is what they are going to do.

And who here remembers the campaign platform that our colleague from Florida released back in 2022? He is now running for leader over here. He thought it was a good idea for Republicans to run on tax hikes for the middle class, while putting programs like Social Security and Medicare at risk.

What a shock that this message didn't work with the American people. I don't think they are working with the voters of Florida either.

And speaking of tax cuts, let me add this: According to the Washington Post, Republicans not only plan to do another round of Trump's tax cuts for the very rich, they want to go even further. They want even lower rates for corporations. They want even lower rates for those making over a billion dollars a year, while making it easier for tax cheats to get away without paying their fair share.

Donald Trump's message to donors has reportedly been pretty simple: Support me. I will get you a sweet tax deal in return.

Republicans love to claim that they are the party of fiscal responsibility, but that goes out the window whenever they start salivating over the thought of deep tax cuts for the high-end people in America.

The CBO has pointed out that extending the Trump tax cut alone would add a whopping \$4½ trillion to the deficit.

So you want to cut spending when it comes to feeding kids or educating kids or helping kids pay for college? You want to cut the deficit, rather, and that is your way of cutting the deficit, by cutting money to feed kids or educate kids or to avoid the high cost of college? But the deficit doesn't matter when it means tax cuts for the very, very wealthy.

It is utterly callous. When it comes to funding things like nutrition or healthcare for kids, they scream and holler that we can't add to the deficit. But when it comes to sweeping tax cuts for the ultrarich, suddenly, the deficit doesn't matter.

The old cliché says that "the more things change, the more they stay the same." Republicans today have been totally transformed by the cult personality of Donald Trump, but if they are given control of the government, they will continue to give middle-class

Americans the same raw deal Republicans have pushed for years: tax giveaways for the ultrarich and crumbs for everyone else.

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.

#### INFLATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, since President Biden took office, consumer prices have risen more than 20 percent. The Nation hasn't seen this sort of persistent drain on our economy since the Carter administration, and the Biden administration is desperate to avoid the obvious comparison to the stagflation back in the 1970s.

The White House recently asserted that "President Biden's top priority is beating inflation, which is why he has taken historic action . . ."

Well, that begs the question: Which historic action are we talking about here? Is the administration referring to the time it invited historic inflation over the warnings of top liberal economists like Larry Summers but ignored that and went ahead with the so-called American Rescue Plan or the time they did the same thing again but called it the Inflation Reduction Act?

The Biden administration is still looking for a safe landing spot, and liberal commentators are literally tying themselves in knots. One liberal editorial board recently suggested that since employment and consumption levels are steady, "people will . . . start to notice and the 'vibes' will also return to more normal levels"; that "[i]t's possible that Americans are experiencing the economic equivalent of a hangover."

But, Mr. President, that is just utter nonsense and is not fooling anyone who actually has to balance a family budget. A recent survey reported that nearly two-thirds of middle-class Americans say they are facing economic hardship.

Numbers don't lie; neither do consumers. The high prices they are facing aren't a matter of "bad vibes." They are the predictable and avoidable consequences of Bidenomics.

#### GUANTANAMO BAY

Mr. President, on another matter, I have spoken before about the Biden administration's political obsession with closing the terrorist detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, even if it means letting terrorist butchers plead out of their just desserts and actually return to the fight.

Last month, new reports indicated just how close the President was to