

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM FOR WOMEN ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, a few moments ago, I took the first procedural step to place on the legislative calendar the Reproductive Freedom for Women Act, sponsored by Senator MURRAY and myself and cosponsored by all the women Senators on our side. This measure affirms a woman's fundamental right to choose and calls for enshrining the protections of *Roe v. Wade* into law, as most Americans say they want.

I thank Senator MURRAY and all of my colleagues who cosponsored the Reproductive Freedom for Women Act, and I will work to bring it to the floor.

We are only halfway through June, but it has already been a dismal month for MAGA Republicans and their attacks on reproductive freedoms. In the last 2 weeks, Senate Republicans have shown that, for all their attempts to sound moderate on reproductive freedom, when it comes time to vote, they are falling in line with MAGA extremists.

This month, Senate Republicans have already blocked legislation protecting commonsense reproductive care, like contraception and IVF, as the Acting President pro tempore knows well. House Republicans, meanwhile, voted overwhelmingly on Friday to pass the Defense funding bill, with hard-right poison pills restricting access to reproductive care for our servicemembers.

And Donald Trump, while speaking to Republicans on Capitol Hill last week, once again attacked the decision of *Roe* and said abortion should be left to the States, even if States pass terrible restrictions on women's freedoms, as is happening all over the country.

Republicans cannot escape a simple reality: Their record on women's healthcare is dangerously out of step with the views of most Americans. Poll after poll affirms that a majority of Americans disapproved of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe*.

So I will say it again: So many Senate Republicans and so many House Republicans will try to talk like moderates on reproductive freedoms, but their own record is irrefutably against them. And when it comes time to vote, they vote against women and reproductive freedoms over and over again. The American people know that when it comes to protecting their fundamental freedoms, actions speak louder than words.

Republicans can't claim to be pro-contraception but then block Federal protections for contraception. But that is just what they did a few weeks ago.

Republicans can't also claim to be pro-family but then block Federal protections for IVF. But, once again, that is just what they did a few days ago.

Remember, Donald Trump, to this day, continues to brag about his role in eliminating *Roe*, aided by Republicans in this Chamber who voted to confirm not one, not two, but three hard-right Supreme Court Justices with the goal of overturning *Roe*.

Make no mistake. The MAGA extremists aren't done. If they get the chance, they will push for their ultimate goal of a national abortion ban.

Many Republicans say a national abortion ban is plain old fearmongering. But, remember, these same Republicans weren't even able to stand up to the MAGA right long enough to support a simple IVF bill. Do we really trust them to resist the MAGA right when it pushes a national abortion ban? Of course, not.

With November fast approaching, Republicans continue to show the American people where they really are: with MAGA extremists and not with the majority of America. That is what Republican Senators and House Members are doing.

BUMP STOCKS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now on bump stocks, last Friday, the MAGA Supreme Court struck once again, saying the Federal Government cannot prohibit the use of bump stocks—the accessory responsible for the deadliest shooting in American history.

Nearly 7 years ago, a lone shooter fired over 1,000 rounds in just 10 minutes upon a crowd of concertgoers in Las Vegas. Sixty innocent people were murdered; another 850 were injured. This was all possible because the shooter modified his rifles to function, essentially, as machine guns. The ATF under the Trump administration—under the Trump administration—banned the use of these accessories shortly after the Las Vegas shooting.

Yet on Friday, the MAGA Court reached the incredible conclusion that weapons modified to act like machine guns, to fire bullets at almost the same rate as machine guns, and in which, in Judge Alito's own admission, do not show "any material difference" with machine guns are somehow not machine guns, which have been banned for a very long time, since the 1930s.

Friday's ruling is yet another warning that this MAGA Court is going off the deep end, aligning itself more and more with the most extreme elements of the hard right. They have struck down freedom of choice, environmental protections, affirmative action, fair redistricting, gun safety, and more. The MAGA Supreme Court is now even further to the right of Donald Trump, who is very hard right himself.

So this week, the Senate will step in to try and fix the chaos the MAGA Court just unleashed. As soon as tomorrow, Democrats will seek passage of a Federal ban on bump stocks. I urge my Republican colleagues not to block Senator HEINRICH when he comes to the floor. He is the author of the bill banning bump stocks and leading the charge to get it passed quickly.

Passing a bill banning bump stocks should be the work of 5 minutes. Most Americans support this step. Poll after poll show that a majority of people, in-

cluding Independents, support restrictions on AR-15-style rifles, which is what bump stocks are designed to emulate.

I understand that the issue of gun safety provokes intense disagreement in Congress, but shouldn't we all agree that preventing another tragedy like Las Vegas is just plain common sense and a good thing? Banning bump stocks would go a long way to making it harder for murderers to carry out large shootings. So I hope our Republican colleagues join us.

Two years ago this month, Democrats and Republicans showed America that even something as controversial as gun safety can get passed when both sides are willing to work in good faith. I was very proud, as majority leader, and so proud of Members like Senator MURPHY and Senator SINEMA who worked hard on passing this legislation.

Democrats are ready to pass gun safety once again, as soon as tomorrow. The question is, Will Republicans join us? Will Republicans join us to prevent another tragedy like Las Vegas and vote to ban deadly bump stocks?

Republicans were supportive of banning bump stocks when the Trump administration took this step, so they should support it tomorrow.

Will Republicans stand up to the gun lobby and side with parents and teachers and law enforcement who worry about violence striking their communities without warning?

Will Senate Republicans resist the pull of MAGA extremism and embrace bipartisanship so once again we can keep people safe?

I hope the answer is yes. I hope we can repeat the success of 2 years ago when we passed the first major gun safety bill in 30 years since I led the passage of the Brady bill in Congress. I was a Congressman then.

We have a long way to go to cure America's disease of gun violence. Today, you don't need to show people the statistics. Americans know violence is disgustingly unacceptable. They can feel it in their bones. They are worried about where they go. They go into public spaces and instinctively look for exits. Sometimes just a loud noise can frighten people in public.

And now this MAGA Court has undone the ban on bump stocks that will make it easier for deranged individuals to turn their weapons into near machine guns.

If my Republican colleagues want to do the right thing for the country, the answer is very simple: Join us—every one of you—to ban bump stocks so that we never see the kind of carnage we saw in Las Vegas NV, ever, ever again.

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 executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

NATIONAL DEFENSE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, last week, the Armed Services Committee voted to recommend a \$25 billion increase to topline defense spending.

In overwhelming bipartisan fashion, our colleagues rejected a fourth straight budget request from the Biden administration that failed to keep pace with inflation, much less the threat of China.

If this major investment is actually appropriated, it will be an overdue step toward equipping America's Armed Forces to meet an increasingly dangerous world.

But shortly after the committee's action, senior Senate Democrats shattered any expectation that they were ready to start taking the requirements of national defense seriously. They began with myths about the past.

The Democratic leader suggested in a statement that "Democrats have led the way in ensuring our military is the best trained and best equipped fighting force in the world."

Really? Guess again. Every year, Republicans have led efforts to secure defense spending beyond President Biden's meager requests.

When the administration initially wanted the Pentagon to pay for increasing operational costs in Europe out of hide, without backfill, it took Republicans demanding additional appropriations to buy new weapons to replace the older ones we were providing Ukraine.

For his part, our colleague from New York blocked an amendment to the infrastructure bill in 2021 that would have made an historic investment in the defense industrial base, and this was actually before the Russian escalation. And then Senate Democrats voted in lockstep to block a similar one during budget reconciliation.

All around the world, America's adversaries are offering clear and alarming reminders of how rapidly modern warfare is changing. The battlefields of Ukraine have become a laboratory for fast-evolving concepts like unmanned aerial vehicles, electronic warfare, and air defenses. Iran's war on Israel, America, and international shipping highlights the growing importance of long-range weapons and air and missile defense. And China's military modernization, from its strategic rocket force to its navy, underscores the stakes of neglecting our own defense in bold, red ink.

These threats offer us essential lessons about the deficiencies of our own

capabilities; that is, if we choose to act on them. America is literally years behind in building the sort of production capacity we need to sustain effective deterrence or win decisively if war actually comes.

The administration deserves credit for taking production of 155-millimeter artillery shells seriously, but they haven't directed the same urgency to critical air and missile defense interceptors or long-range weapons. Republicans fought to include hundreds of millions of dollars for these priorities in the supplemental, but it is long past time to put critical requirements like these in our base budget.

If the administration doesn't prioritize this procurement in its budgeting and contracting, we shouldn't be surprised when producers hesitate to invest in new production lines or new workers. We have to take the requirements of our national defense more seriously. What on Earth should the rest of the world conclude if we don't?

Next month, dozens of America's allies will arrive here in Washington for a summit of the most successful military alliance in world history. In the face of growing threats, they will have much to celebrate: the addition of two new allies in Finland and Sweden; greater cooperation with allies and partners in the Indo-Pacific, several of whom will be in attendance; and the more than 20 NATO member states who now meet or exceed the alliance's 2 percent spending target.

It is encouraging that so many of America's friends have taken long overdue steps toward stronger defense in response to Russia's aggression. But America cannot afford to be reactive. Threats to our interests are too great to wait for our adversaries to actually strike.

What example will we set? I know the one I would like to set. I know the message Ranking Member WICKER and the overwhelming majority of colleagues on the Armed Services Committee would like to send to the world. But it will take a great deal more seriousness from leading Senate Democrats for the promise of American strength and leadership to carry any weight. They could start by bringing the NDAA to the floor without delay.

NOMINATION OF MUSTAFA TAHER KASUBHAI

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, unfortunately, the Democratic leader has decided that instead of taking up the critical annual Defense authorization, the Senate will dedicate floor time this week to the latest in the Biden administration's parade of unfit nominations to the Federal bench.

The latest example is a judge nominated to the Federal district court in Oregon named Mustafa Kasubhai. Judge Kasubhai's record and judicial philosophy put him well outside the mainstream.

This nominee has bragged about his lack of commitment to standard juris-

prudential practices. During his time as a magistrate judge, he said we have to "set aside conventional ideas of proof"—of proof—"when we are dealing with the . . . interpersonal work of equity, diversity and inclusion."

Now, if by "conventional ideas of proof," he is referring to things like clear evidence or sworn witnesses and their testimony, then I think I tend to prefer conventional ideas.

Unfortunately, this only scratches the surface. This judge also sounds like a committed Marxist. He has authored an article promoting the integration of Marxist theory into property law and claimed that the notion of scarcity of natural resources was a myth promoted by a privileged elite.

He has heaped high praise on the disgraced racist prophet known for insisting that "the only remedy to past discrimination is present discrimination. The only remedy to present discrimination is future discrimination."

As many of our colleagues know, I was fortunate to be here in Washington when Martin Luther King, Jr., delivered his famous "I Have a Dream" speech, and I don't recall Dr. King calling for retribution. In fact, his name has become nearly synonymous with the exact opposite.

But apparently this is just one more subject on which this judge would prefer to leave "conventional ideas" behind. Well, when it comes to judicial nominations, I subscribe to conventional wisdom: A judge's job is to follow the law, not the passing fads of woke politics.

So I urge my colleagues to join me in rejecting this nomination.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam 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.

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 executive clerk read the nomination of Katherine E. Oler, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.