

But, sadly, some of our colleagues on the other side are making it clear they will ignore the immense worry most Americans have about gun violence, and they will block today's bill.

Some on the other side say this bill is political theater; that it does nothing; that it is a stunt. Go tell the families of those who lost loved ones that this is a stunt. Go tell the many who have recovered from injuries that this is a stunt.

Are my Republican colleagues serious? Do they really think banning bump stocks is some kind of stunt? Again, they should tell that to the people of Nevada who have dead relatives because of bump stocks.

Whenever Republicans use the cliché "show vote" argument, that is their way of saying they don't want to engage the issue on the merits.

Remember what happened 2 years ago on the Senate floor: Democrats and Republicans worked together to pass bipartisan gun safety legislation—something almost nobody thought possible. I am very proud that both sides persevered because we passed that bill, and it has done a lot of good for this country already.

Today, we have a chance to add to the success of 2 years ago by passing a simple measure that restores the Trump-era prohibition on bump stocks.

I implore—I implore—my Republican colleagues not to stand in the way of today's bill because if we can pass it today, we will be one step closer to ensuring that a tragedy like what happened in Las Vegas never happens again. But if Republicans get in the way today, if they decide to side with the gun lobby instead of parents and teachers and law enforcement, they are asking for another tragedy to strike sooner or later.

#### REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on MAGA extremism in terms of abortion, yesterday, 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 every woman Senator on our side of the aisle.

This measure affirms a woman's fundamental right to choose and calls for enshrining the protections of Roe into law, as most Americans say they want. I will work with my colleagues to bring it to the floor as soon as possible.

As we approach the 2-year anniversary of Roe v. Wade being overturned, this month could have been a month when the Senate came together to protect Americans' reproductive freedoms. This could have been a month when both sides came together to pass commonsense legislation protecting reproductive care like contraception and IVF. This could have been a month when we put to rest the worries of the millions of women across America enduring attacks on their reproductive

freedoms in the aftermath of Roe. But instead, June has been a dismal month for MAGA Republicans and their attacks on women, families, and reproductive rights.

In the last 2 weeks, Senate Republicans have shown that, for all their attempts to sound moderate on reproductive care, when it comes time to vote, they choose MAGA extremism over the wishes and desires of the American people. When Republicans blocked Federal protections for contraception a few weeks ago, they chose MAGA extremism over the American people. When Republicans blocked Federal protections for IVF a few days ago, they chose MAGA extremism over the American people.

And when Donald Trump continues, to this day, to brag about working with Senate Republicans to confirm three hard-right Supreme Court Justices to eliminate Roe, that is choosing MAGA extremism over the American people.

Republicans cannot run away from a basic truth. That is why, when we return, our bill to make sure that Congress ensures the right to choose, the right to an abortion, will be before the Senate for a vote. Republicans cannot run away from a basic truth: Their record on women's healthcare is outright abysmal; it is shameful; and it is dangerously out of step with the views of most Americans.

#### FIRE GRANTS AND SAFETY ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on the fire bill, on a happier note, I am proud to say the Senate will send to the President's desk bipartisan legislation to support our brave firefighters in New York, on Long Island, and across the country. Our firefighters are heroes, whether it is New York's bravest at the FDNY or the smaller volunteer departments protecting suburban communities in Long Island and in Westchester or protecting rural communities throughout Upstate New York. Our firefighters represent the best of our community. They rush to danger every day to protect us, putting all else aside to help those in need.

Now it is time for the Senate to be there for our firefighters. The Fire Grants and Safety Act reauthorizes a series of important grants that help keep our fire departments up to speed with Federal dollars. I was proud to help create these grants years back, and I have long supported this legislation to protect our firefighters so they have the support they need.

The Federal funding in these grants goes directly to making sure that they have the lifesaving equipment and personnel they need to do their jobs safely and effectively. When it comes to protecting firefighters, we should spare no expense, and this legislation shows our firefighters that we have their backs as they rush to danger, as they risk their lives for our safety. This is especially true in smaller, more rural areas and in more suburban areas where there is

often not enough revenue to afford more resources. Our volunteer firefighters are brave. They volunteer. They don't get paid. But they need the best equipment just like all the other firefighters, and this grant makes sure that that happens in many places.

So this bipartisan legislation will ensure that our firefighters can continue working to keep their communities safe—in the larger cities where there are paid fire departments and in suburban and rural America where there are volunteer fire departments. It unites both of them in this legislation.

I look forward to voting yes and sending this bill to the President's desk today.

#### IMMIGRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on immigration, 12 years ago this week, President Obama announced the creation of DACA, one of the most important programs in our country's history on immigration. It changed the lives of hundreds of thousands of young people for the better, people who came to this country when they were very little and who, for all intents and purposes, knew America as their only home.

Today, President Biden is announcing the most significant relief program for immigrants since DACA, expanding protection for hundreds of thousands of undocumented spouses of U.S. citizens. They are not documented, but they are married to a U.S. citizen.

I applaud President Biden for today's truly significant announcement. It is going to help keep hundreds of thousands of families together. That is what it does: bring families together, keep them together. And it will provide peace of mind and dignity and, most of all, opportunity to contribute so that these people can contribute to this country even more.

The announcement will help make our economy stronger, as these spouses will be eligible for work permits at a time when there is a shortage of workers in so many different professions and give them a long-term path to stability.

The announcement is an affirmation of what America is truly about at its core: a land built by immigrants; a land of opportunity for people who want to contribute to this country, who know that our way of life is the best way if you work hard to get ahead and provide a better life for your children. The vast majority of those who will benefit from today's announcement have been in this country for decades—an average of 23 years they have been here—but in a state of limbo, according to the White House. To them, America is home. America is where they have built families. America is where they gained skills, worked hard, contributed to our economy, earned a living, and had children who will often go on and do better things than they.

That is the American dream. That is the American story. And that has been

true for generation after generation, until a MAGA group of Republicans decided that they were anti-immigrant.

Let's not forget, President Reagan, President H. W. Bush, and President George W. Bush were all pro-immigration until this 180-degree reversal by the Republican Party to be anti-immigrant, which hurts America.

Of course, we need to secure our borders—of course. No one denies that. But to just bash immigrants is bad for America, bad for America.

Fighting for Dreamers and pushing for comprehensive immigration reform is one of the issues that has burned strongest inside me since I joined the Senate. I was proud of leading the Gang of 8—bipartisan—with John McCain over 10 years ago to pass comprehensive immigration reform, which passed the House with strong bipartisan support. I think it got 68 or 69 votes before House Republicans killed the bill—House Republicans poisoned by the thinking of the MAGA Republicans in their midst.

I celebrate today's announcement. But Congress must do its part. Republicans must stop getting in the way of meaningful, comprehensive immigration reform and getting in the way of border security. They wouldn't even support our tough border bill, put together with bipartisan efforts.

We are going to keep working until we get the job done, both in securing the border and in making America welcome to many immigrants who will work hard and become American citizens eventually.

I yield the floor.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

#### ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, it has been a few weeks now since most of America's college students went home for the summer. The outbreak of organized hate that swept the campuses of the Nation's so-called elite universities has somewhat quieted down. Apparently, even the most zealous of Hamasnik tent-dwellers had summer plans to attend to. Some, no doubt, expect to join the radical road show for a reunion tour of Chicago during the Democratic National Convention in August—as if Chicago's own soft-on-crime politicians haven't done enough to damage what used to be a thriving city.

But even as places like Berkeley and George Washington University are cleaned and repaired after their occupation by Marxist vandals, the shameful events of this past spring have left deep and lasting scars. At Columbia, the task force responsible for investigating rampant anti-Semitism on campus in the wake of October 7 has

released a new report, and the findings are chilling. On top of well-documented outbursts by student radicals, members of Columbia's faculty turned classrooms into safe spaces to indulge the world's oldest form of hate. So I would like to share with our colleagues some of the initial coverage of the report.

One professor encountering a Jewish-sounding surname while reading names before an exam asked the student to explain their views on the Israeli government's actions in Gaza. Another told their class to avoid reading mainstream media, declaring that "it is owned by Jews." A third revealed a student's complaint about an offensive comment regarding Jews by publicly displaying their email to fellow students.

This isn't coming from the professional activists who swept in to occupy the academy. It is coming from the heart of the academy itself. The rot runs deep. It is impossible to ignore. The scourge of anti-Semitism is a blight on once-prestigious institutions across our country, and unfortunately it reaches from college campuses right here to the U.S. Capitol.

Next month, a growing list of elected Democrats will boycott a joint session of Congress welcoming the duly elected leader of the world's only Jewish State and the only democracy in that region.

Their plans, of course, are predictable. When Prime Minister Netanyahu last addressed Congress in 2015, nearly 60 Members refused to attend. In the years since, Washington Democrats have ceded more and more influence to despicable causes like the Boycott, Divest, and Sanction movement and to high-profile newcomers who traffic in unvarnished anti-Semitism.

I am proud to live in a country that, as our former colleague Ben Sasse has put it, protects people's rights to make abject idiots of themselves, and far too many powerful people have taken the horrific attacks of October 7 as an invitation to do exactly that. But I am also proud to live in a country that the world expects to stand with our allies, and the President's conduct towards America's closest ally is straining that expectation. Unfortunately, so is the conduct of other elected Democrats.

Grotesque attempts to interfere in Israel's politics by calling for the removal—the removal—of its Prime Minister have lowered the bar for outrageous behavior, and micromanagement and withholding assistance have repeatedly made Israel's task to restore its security and bring terrorists to justice even more difficult.

Next month's joint session ought to be an opportunity to demonstrate to the world that America's commitments to allies facing existential threats cannot be held hostage by the loudest fringes of our politics, that they are not at the mercy of our lapses in moral clarity.

The last thing a sovereign democracy under siege needs is a public tongue-lashing from the White House or a

scolding speech from the floor of the Senate. Israel needs the weapons the President has withheld. It needs the time and space to finish the job against terrorists trying to destroy it. It needs the freedom to operate on its own timetable based on tactical reality in the Middle East, not on the political whims in Washington. And Americans should be united in support.

#### NOMINATION OF NANCY L. MALDONADO

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, now on another matter, I need to return today to another of the Biden administration's unfit judicial nominees: Judge Nancy Maldonado.

Alongside a crop of nominees distinguished by their radical views and affiliations and ties to dark money groups, Judge Maldonado's claim to notoriety is the historic backlog of unfinished work she has accumulated in her time on the district court in Chicago.

Earlier this month, I pointed out that with 125 motions pending for more than 6 months, Judge Maldonado sits behind more than 99 percent of all district judges nationwide for her ability to clear casework in a timely manner. She is the worst in her circuit, and it is not even close.

Our Democratic colleagues on the Judiciary Committee don't seem all that concerned about the alarming aspect of her record. Perhaps they think there is more to being a judge than deciding cases, such as, perhaps, checking diversity boxes. In any case, they voted in lockstep to advance her nomination this spring.

But listening to some of our colleagues' comments from more recent committee meetings, you might wonder whether they made a terrible mistake. The senior Senator from Connecticut, a seasoned prosecutor familiar with the frustrations of the judicial process, recalled:

I can remember waiting literally years for a decision from a district court judge, and there is nothing anyone can do . . . other than seeking mandamus from the Circuit Court of Appeals, which is . . . close to a death sentence for any litigator.

Our colleague described such delays as "frustrating and . . . costly." In no uncertain terms, he said that ending those delays is essential to "achieving swifter, more expeditious justice."

But just a couple of months ago, he voted to advance the nomination of a judge with a demonstrated inability to deliver swifter or more expeditious justice. With every other Democrat on the committee, he voted to give Nancy Maldonado and her Biden backlog lifetime tenure on the court of appeals.

It is incredible how clear-eyed our colleague sounds when he is not burdened with the uncomfortable responsibility of rubberstamping a favorite of the left's dark money royalty. His fellow Democrats should take note.