

as they apply to other branches of government.

It is no wonder the Court's positive ratings are at an alltime low. If they can't straighten it out themselves, Congress should.

#### REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Madam President, now on the Iowa abortion ban and Project 2025, this morning over 1.5 million women across Iowa woke up with fewer rights than they had just last night. Today, a draconian new law went into effect in Iowa banning abortion after 6 weeks of pregnancy, before many women even know they are pregnant.

Iowa's new abortion law is radical; it is dangerous; and, sadly, it is another example of the hard right taking America back in time through the courts.

By now, it is beyond debate that attacking reproductive freedoms is a fundamental tenet of the GOP. Not 3 days ago, Donald Trump gave a speech where he bragged yet again about overturning Roe. He said:

We did something that nobody thought was possible. I want to thank the six Supreme Court Justices . . . for the wisdom and courage they showed.

Can you believe that? Can you believe that? Donald Trump wants to thank the six Supreme Court Justices for the courage of overturning Roe. What a callous message to send to women in States like Iowa and States like Florida and States like Arizona and Texas and others where freedom of choice is under assault.

Of course, Donald Trump brags about overturning Roe all the time. A few months ago, Donald Trump said he was also "proud" to have been the one to clear the way for overturning Roe. And he said:

Nobody else was going to get that done but me.

America, when Republicans try to sound moderate on choice—they know where the public is; they know where women are—remember the words of Donald Trump who said he was proud to eliminate Roe. Remember the votes of the Republican Senators, knowingly voting for Justice nominees who, in their hearings, said they would overturn Roe or very much alluded to that fact.

Now, of course, Donald Trump didn't reverse Roe alone. As I said, he had plenty of help from Senate Republicans, who confirmed three MAGA extremists to the Bench, all of whom ruled in favor of reversing Roe. And just a few weeks ago when Republicans were given a chance to do the right thing on reproductive freedoms, they doubled down on their anti-women views by blocking a bill expressing support for a woman's right to choose.

Last month, Senate Republicans even opposed protections for IVF and contraceptives. Can you imagine? They voted against protections for IVF and contraception.

The Republican credo might as well be: "Your body, our choice."

And let's not kid ourselves. This is just the beginning as far as Repub-

licans are concerned. Republicans like the junior Senator from Ohio are on the record saying:

I certainly would like abortion to be illegal nationally.

That is the Republican nominee for Vice President:

I certainly would like abortion to be illegal nationally.

Let me repeat it again.

I certainly would like abortion to be illegal nationally.

And this isn't a view that was dug up from way in the past. This was a statement in 2022.

Again, let me say to Americans: When Republicans try to sound moderate on choice, remember the words of Donald Trump, remember the words of the junior Republican Senator from Ohio, now the Vice Presidential nominee for the Republican Party, who said he supports a national ban on abortion.

Consider also Trump's plan for a second term as detailed in Project 2025. The document makes clear that if Republicans reclaim power, they will lay the groundwork for a national abortion ban.

Under Project 2025, Republicans could also allow employers to deny access to birth control, continue attacks against in vitro fertilization, and could even keep track of the State of residency of every woman who seeks abortion anywhere.

Can you imagine? This is heinous. It is unhinged. But it is precisely what MAGA extremism proposes for the country.

Americans do not want to take our country backwards, as Project 2025 promises to do. Americans want an agenda that promises a brighter future. They want leaders who will focus on creating more jobs, lowering costs, and expanding people's freedoms—not the oppressive nastiness that Project 2025 promises. The more the American people learn the details about Project 2025, the more trouble Donald Trump is going to have.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, it is clear that the November 5 election is prominent on the mind of the majority leader, who has used the floor of the U.S. Senate to make what should be a paid political announcement for the "Harris for President" campaign.

#### U.S. SUPREME COURT

Madam President, but let me focus primarily on his remarks about the Supreme Court.

It is clear that the majority leader and that our Democratic colleagues don't like the Constitution. They don't like the separation of powers. They don't like the independence of the judiciary, which is really the gold standard for courts worldwide based on the rule of law. What they want is a political branch of government—not one that calls balls and strikes and one that decides cases based on the law and the facts.

He talks about how the Supreme Court's reputation has been tarnished. Well, one reason why the Supreme Court's reputation has, perhaps, been tarnished in the media is because the majority leader stood in front of the Supreme Court and called out two Justices by name and threatened them if they made a decision that he didn't like. He said they won't know what hit them.

Well, that kind of irresponsible rhetoric by the majority leader and others is perhaps responsible for people wondering: Is the Court an impartial institution?

I would point out that when the Court was maybe constituted a little differently, that our Democratic friends didn't say a peep as long as the Court was making decisions that they liked and they agreed with from a political perspective. But it is fundamentally irresponsible for the majority leader to come here—I guess he is caught up in the fervor of the November 5 election. Having established a political coup in replacing the sitting President with the Vice President without going through the democratic process of actually holding elections, he is feeling his oats and perhaps cannot restrain himself.

But it is clear that our Democratic colleagues don't like the Constitution and they want to change it. But they know they can't do that because there is not the support across the country or in Congress to do that. So he uses this as a political cudgel in the runup to the election. It is irresponsible, and, unfortunately, I think it reflects the desperation with which the majority leader views this upcoming election on November 5.

#### SOUTHERN BORDER

Madam President, America's southern border has been in a state of crisis for the last 3½ years, and our country is desperate for a change in direction. They know of the millions of people coming across, the drugs that have taken the lives of 108,000 Americans last year alone, the crime, the potential vulnerability to terrorist attacks. They are not happy with the status quo, which is what the Biden and Harris administration have provided us for the last 3½ years.

Throughout his time in office, President Biden has shown zero interest in stopping the flood of illegal immigration across our border. He has only visited the border once, and I doubt he will make another trip to the border during the remainder of his term in office. But, of course, I don't think he actually talked to the people who could have best informed him of what the problem was, created by his very policies. His policies have made it worse, not better—certainly, worse than it was under the Trump administration.

President Biden is in Texas today. He is in Austin, TX, and then he will go to Houston. But I doubt he will bother to make a quick trip to the border because the message he has sent loud and

clear for the last 3½ years is that he does not care. He doesn't care about the migrants that are swarming into our major cities like New York; Washington, DC; Chicago, and the burdens those have placed on local taxpayers, about the crime that is associated with the fact that, uncontrolled, you don't know who is coming across the border.

Admittedly, most migrants are coming here for work, for a better life, but the criminal cartels who continue to get rich smuggling people to the border from all around the world also are the ones that smuggle the drugs to the border, only to be distributed to kill our sons and daughters who inadvertently take fentanyl, presuming it to be some innocuous drug like a Percocet or a Xanax, only to find out it is a counterfeit pill contaminated by a powerful opioid—fentanyl.

What does a potential HARRIS administration look like? Does it mean more of the same when it comes to the border and immigration policies? Would it signal a new direction? If so, what would that direction be?

Well, the truth is, we already know the answers to those questions. We don't have to wonder about Vice President HARRIS's policies because she has played a starring role in the current Biden border crisis. These are, after all, Biden-Harris policies.

Just a couple of months into President Biden's Presidency, illegal border crossings surged as a direct result of the policies that he and Vice President HARRIS implemented, starting the first day in office, mainly by dismantling, piece by piece, the effective policies of the Trump administration.

But it became clear that the situation at the border was veering in a dangerous direction, at least in terms of the politics with President Biden. So he tapped the Vice President as the administration's border czar. That is what the headline from Axios, a political publication heralded at the time. It says: "Biden puts Harris in charge of the border crisis."

But, curiously, it took 3 months before she made her first and, to my knowledge, only trip to the southern border as the individual with the administration in charge of the border crisis. She steered clear of the Rio Grande Valley, which is ground zero to the crisis, but instead did, I guess, what can most accurately and fairly be called a driveby in El Paso in Far West Texas, a very different environment than the Rio Grande Valley. This was Vice President HARRIS's first and only trip to the border, and it provided an early signal about how little she cared.

The Vice President was in Texas last week and will be there again later this week and, once again, no trip to the border is scheduled. You know, if she cared, don't you think she would show up? Don't you think that is maybe what someone would do to learn about what is not working, what we could do to make it better? But the reality is, over the last 3½ years, Vice President

HARRIS has proven she has no interest—zero interest—in stopping the alarming number of people streaming across the border. And the results speak for themselves. We have seen a record-shattering number of people flowing across the border because all of the signals being sent by the Biden administration are: Come by any means you can. Come to the border, and we will release you into the interior of the United States.

For the last 3½ years, we logged more than 8.1 million border crossings, which is unprecedented. During the entire 12 years—12 years—of the Obama and Trump administrations, the United States encountered about half of that—excuse me, about 6.1 million migrants at the southern border. So that is 12 years we have experienced less than what we have experienced in 3½ years under the Biden administration. In those 3½ years, President Biden and Vice President HARRIS have hit not only that previous total but significantly exceeded it.

The number of illegal crossings at the border, though, only tells part of the story. It is only one data point. Every day, Border Patrol spots migrants on cameras or sensors, but they are unable to get there to them in time to apprehend them. These are known as "got-aways." Since President Biden took office, the Agency has recorded more than 1.8 million "got-aways."

We don't know who these individuals are, where they are now, what their intentions were in coming to the border, and what kind of dangers that they may pose to the American people. Are they terrorists? Are they drug traffickers, convicted rapists, sexual predators? We have no idea and neither does President Biden and Vice President HARRIS and they simply don't care.

On top of that, the administration stood up a number of new programs to hoodwink the American people into thinking that the problem isn't as bad as it really is while, unbelievably, incentivizing even more illegal immigration.

One example is the CBP app. That is an app for your phone. Customs and Border Protection app is what it stands for. This was sold to the American people as a safe and orderly way to manage the border crisis. Instead, this system is being exploited by cartels and criminal organizations. And, basically, all you have to do is schedule your appearance at the border, and then the Border Patrol and Customs and Border Protection will allow you to come into the country and release you. This app requires users located in Central or Northern Mexico to schedule an appointment, but the cartels have found a way to circumvent that requirement by using a virtual private network or VPN. This has allowed them to boost their sales pitch and sell CBP One appointments to migrants around the world. They are using it to market their services. It has encouraged more

illegal immigration, enriched these criminal organizations more.

Another separate Biden-Harris program allows up to 30,000 migrants from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela to enter the United States every month. That is 360,000 a year—no claim of asylum, no claim of credible fear of persecution. Just show up, and you are allowed to stay. That is up to 360,000 a year. That is another magnet for people to come.

Record number of illegal crossings, grave humanitarian conditions, dishonest accounting—this has been the reality of the Biden-Harris administration. And there can be no serious doubt that, if elected, President HARRIS would keep these disastrous policies in place. She has already told us as much.

Before serving as Vice President or even as a U.S. Senator, Vice President HARRIS was attorney general of California. In 2015, then-Attorney General Harris claimed in an interview that an undocumented immigrant is really not a criminal. Well, she knows better. Our immigration statutes explicitly establish that illegally entering the United States can be a crime. Even though she served as the top law enforcement officer for a border State, she refused to acknowledge even this basic fact.

When campaigning for President in 2019, then-Senator HARRIS affirmed that she still held that belief. The moderator of a debate asked the candidates to raise a hand if they supported decriminalizing illegal border crossings. Of course, her hand shot up into the air. It is hard to decriminalize something that you don't think is a crime, but we get her drift.

Of course, that is only the beginning of Vice President HARRIS's views concerning the border and immigration. Back in 2018, then-Senator HARRIS was asked if she supported the "abolish ICE" movement. You may recall this was back when our colleagues on the left, the Democratic Party, supported "defund the police." She went even further and said we ought to abolish ICE. That is Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Those are the folks who enforce our immigration laws. She said we need to start thinking about that from scratch. I guess that means, when you start from scratch, eliminating all the laws that currently exist and replacing them with something new. But she was certainly willing to abolish ICE while she created something unspecified different.

That same year in a Senate hearing, she compared U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to the Ku Klux Klan. How outrageous and irresponsible is that? These are law enforcement officers who serve the Nation, put themselves in peril, in harm's way, and she said they are like the Ku Klux Klan. That says everything you need to know about how a potential HARRIS administration would approach illegal immigration and border security, including dismantling the very enforcement Agency responsible for enforcing

our immigration laws. Beyond that, Vice President HARRIS has advocated for a pathway to citizenship for the 11 million or so people in the country illegally.

I also heard this weekend, one of our colleagues, the Senator from Massachusetts, say one of the things she would anticipate from a future HARRIS administration would be establishing a pathway to citizenship for people here illegally in the United States.

We also know she supports Federal health coverage for undocumented immigrants. In other words, she wants all of us as taxpayers to pay for the healthcare of people who won't even respect our laws and who entered the country illegally.

And she has demonstrated that she is all too quick to judge and vilify law enforcement. Three years ago, border agents were trying to control a crowd of 3,000 migrants in Del Rio, TX. Del Rio, TX, is about 35,000 people. Can you imagine the chaos and the challenge associated with 15,000 migrants from Haiti showing up in this town of 35,000 people? One photographer captured an image that went viral for all of the wrong reasons. The image showed an agent grabbing the back of a man's shirt while on horseback while the horse's reins dangled on the side. At first glance, people like then-Vice President HARRIS assumed the worst and accused the agent of whipping the man to the ground.

But before the Agency could even investigate the matter, she had attacked, disparaging the very law enforcement officials that are responsible for enforcing security at the border. She said these images evoked those of slavery and described the agent's behavior as "horrible and deeply troubling." Had she waited to actually investigate the incident, she would have learned the facts that there was no whip, and there was no whipping. If she bothered to speak to the head of Border Patrol, she would have been told the same thing. But as reports indicate, the Vice President of the United States, who was appointed the border czar by President Biden, has never spoken to the head of the Border Patrol, neither the current one nor his predecessor.

Think about that for a minute. If your job is to be the border czar, wouldn't that be the first person you would talk to—the head of Border Patrol—maybe to learn what you could do to help fix it? But she hasn't even bothered to talk to either the current or the previous Border Patrol Chief.

The fact is that Vice President HARRIS has played a key role in fueling the largest immigration crisis our country has ever seen. If she was able to accomplish that much as the Vice President and border czar, I hate to know what kind of damage she could inflict from the Oval Office.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Hawaii.

#### ELIMINATE USELESS REPORTS ACT OF 2024

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, after a long time of talking over the ways social media is harming kids and debating what to do about it, this week, the Senate is taking some action.

For years, kids have been swimming in a toxic stew of bullying and harassment, glorified violence, and constant false comparisons, and the results have been absolutely catastrophic—record rates of anxiety and depression, unimaginable levels of suicidal ideation and self-harm, an alarming epidemic of loneliness and low self-esteem.

These things are not a given. They did not just happen overnight. The fact that young children as young as 8 or 9 or 10 can feel so sad and so helpless that they think they would be better off not living at all—that is a uniquely modern malady inflicted by social media.

Sadness in kids is not new, but a pandemic of youth depression is new. The fact that it is a relatively recent phenomenon is also cause for us to have some hope. It does mean that this is fixable. This is not the way it is supposed to be. This is not the way it has always been. It means that if we choose to take some pretty commonsense steps, we can finally get kids the help they need, and commonsense steps are exactly what the Kids Online Safety Act and the Children and Teens' Online Privacy Protection Act are.

I am proud to cosponsor both bills, which will provide important tools to protect the safety and privacy of kids online. I want to thank Senators BLUMENTHAL and MERKLEY for their early leadership on both these bills.

For the first time in the age of social media, Congress is taking meaningful action to confront the very worst of the internet's ills. It has been a long and difficult journey to get to this moment, not least because some in Big Tech have done everything in their power to protect profits over kids. So it is to the credit of everyone involved in these bills that we are here, overcoming stiff opposition and inertia, to finally enact something.

It is a good step, but we have to do a lot more because we have yet to address the fundamental question of, when is it appropriate for a child to be on social media?

We have more than enough data, more than enough lived experience, more than enough scientific expertise to know that social media is harming kids' brains, pushing them down rabbit holes, plunging them into deep and dark places. We know that even adults aren't equipped to process the dizzying amount of information available online at all times, and that is to say nothing

of the hate and the vitriol and the abuse served up on an endless loop by coercive algorithms.

That begs the question—why is a 7-year-old or an 8-year-old on TikTok to begin with? Why are young boys and girls, instead of playing with their friends outside or learning an instrument, getting radicalized or starving themselves because of something they saw on Instagram?

The fact is, we need to delay the onset of social media use. There is no safe cigarette. There are no settings that are going to solve this problem.

My bipartisan bill, the Kids Off Social Media Act, which I introduced earlier this year with several of my colleagues, will finally set the legal minimum age for social media use to 13. It will also ban platforms from targeting kids under 17 with powerful black box algorithms designed to keep them scrolling for hours on end. These are reasonable proposals. These are proposals that can be implemented. These are proposals that will pass constitutional muster.

So the question in front of us is, Why in the world is a 9-year-old allowed on TikTok when we know that the stubborn facts operate like this: The longer people spend time on your platform, the more money you make in ad revenue. OK. That stands to reason. The more people that use your site, the more money you get to make. Here is the stubborn fact that Meta and Twitter and TikTok and everybody else actually stumbled upon. They weren't searching for it, but they stumbled upon it. How do you get people to stay on your website? How do you get people to stay on your social media platform? The most reliable way to get any user to stay on a social media platform is to upset them. So you have these publicly traded companies, some privately held, but they all have an obligation to try to maximize profit. To maximize profit, you have to maximize eyeballs. In order to maximize eyeballs, you have to systematically upset, alienate, anger, make sick a whole generation of children.

We don't have to do this to ourselves. It is not impermissible for us to set a minimum age for a product for children. There is a compelling government interest and there is a compelling moral interest for us to take this action.

The bottom line is, our kids need help, and after a series of fits and starts, we are starting to deliver it. Progress, however overdue and however incremental, ought to be recognized and celebrated, but let's also remember that our work here is just beginning. The scale of the ongoing crisis and the needs of kids who are thoroughly overwhelmed online demand that we do more, and we must do more in the months and years ahead.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.