

placed on this video; yet there was no disclaimer. And I am very afraid that if we are going to allow this stuff—believe me, some people see that and they need to be told it is generated by AI because when they only watch a few sentences of it and they actually think it is her saying these things—which, of course, it wasn't—because they piece together and scrape together her voice to say things that she didn't say, they are not going to know what it is.

And I talked to colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have seen these kind of things that are done with some humor so they don't make the cut for the deepfakes, but they believe that they should say that it is prepared by AI so that people at least realize it is not the real voice of the candidate they like or the candidate they don't like.

This bill, the bill with Senator MURKOWSKI, is about making sure that voters can make their own decisions about what they are seeing and hearing and how it is being used to influence their vote.

It is on solid Constitutional ground with the Supreme Court having repeatedly upheld disclosure laws. I just don't think, in the world, you are going to be able to say that this isn't Constitutional when the Supreme Court has held up these disclosure laws, and it simply gives our citizenry a way to evaluate whether or not that is a candidate's real voice or not.

There are days where—I cannot even believe I am saying this—when all of these conservative States like Mississippi have actually put these laws into place for their own State political advertising. But in this Chamber, when it comes to Federal candidates for the congressional seats and the Senate and the Presidency, we have just decided: Nope, we are just going to let this go. Let's see what happens. Let's not know if our citizens are going to understand if it is us or not. We are not even going to give them the courtesy of letting them know with a disclaimer that it is done with AI.

This bill incorporates feedback that we heard at a Rules Committee hearing by making clear that it does not apply when AI is used in minor ways, like for cosmetic adjustments, color editing, cropping.

Of the 18 States that have passed the laws to regulate AI in election, 8 States—across the political spectrum, as I noted, including Utah which passed this law unanimously—have enacted laws to require disclaimers for AI-generated political ads.

That would include the State of Florida. The State of Florida has put this in place. I never thought I would say that the State of Florida was more ahead of the Federal Government when it came to making sure that at least their citizens understood what they were seeing when they watched an ad.

Indiana, Idaho, New York, Oregon, Wisconsin, and Washington have all passed similar laws to this one.

So unless we are going to claim those laws, that DeSantis signed a law that

was unconstitutional—my colleagues, if they want to claim that, I don't believe for a minute it is unconstitutional.

And while some tech companies now have policies to require disclaimers on ads like this, with this year's election approaching, we need a consistent standard. That is why this bill was endorsed by the same group of over 40 national security experts and current and former senior government officials on both sides of the aisle.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bipartisan measure to increase transparency in our elections and ensure voters are informed as they cast their ballot later this year.

Senator FISCHER and I have worked together very well, chair and ranking member of this committee; and I am still hopeful that, at least for this bill, when we come back in the fall, that we will be able to work something out so at least disclaimers are required.

Madam President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 389, S. 3875; further, that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, reserving the right to object, the AI Transparency in Elections Act echoes the Honest Ads Act and the DISCLOSE Act.

Those bills failed to become law because they created new Federal burdens on the foundational right of Americans to free speech. Adding a new definition of AI to these partisan bills does not resolve these concerns.

I would welcome a thoughtful policy proposal to address the actual concerns posed by AI-generated deepfakes. Instead, my colleagues are attempting to recycle an already failed proposal, and, therefore, I object.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, with this year's election now in less than 100 days, we must put in place commonsense rules of the road to address the risk that AI poses for our democracy.

The risks are clear: We have heard repeatedly about the potential for AI to upend our elections. All of our witnesses, from both parties, agreed that this was a threat when we had our Rules Committee hearing.

And at the bipartisan AI forum, led by Leader SCHUMER, with Senators ROUNDS, HEINRICH, and YOUNG, we heard consensus that Federal legislation is necessary; that disclaimers are

necessary for certain ads. And for others, we simply must take them down when they are pretending to be a candidate and deliberately and intentionally misleading voters. I don't care what party does it. I don't care what super PAC does it. There is absolutely no way—and these State legislatures have agreed with me, nearly unanimously, that we shouldn't at least have a disclaimer on them, much less to ban them, which is what Senators HAWLEY and COLLINS and COONS and I are suggesting in the deepfake bill.

This is a hair-on-fire moment. AI has the potential to turbocharge the spread of disinformation and deceive voters. This is why we must take action. And I hope that when people see what is going on through August, when sometimes early voting has started, we will give at least the tools to the platforms to be able to point to a Federal law—most of these other State laws have just been adopted in the last few months—and say this is not OK; that they have a right to at least require a disclaimer on these ads, just like they do on TV for various things—and we have all seen it—so that we know what is going on.

Democracy dies in the darkness, as one newspaper has said. And we are literally putting a veil over people's faces if we are not allowing them to assess whether or not the person is really the person that they are looking at on their phone or hearing in a robocall.

I just think it is outrageous if we let this continue. And I appreciate that there are Republican Governors in States and Republican legislatures who have actually seen this as I see it and that there is bipartisan support for this in the U.S. Senate. And I hope that in the fall we will revisit this.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

ECONOMY

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, America has always been a place where, if you work hard, you can get ahead. But it is a lot more challenging in the Biden economy.

Inflation has dealt working families a series of setbacks that have made it harder to get ahead, and it is, in large part, due this administration's reckless spending.

Madam President, 3½ years ago, Vice President HARRIS cast her first tiebreaking votes in the Senate to advance a \$1.9 trillion spending bill under the guise of pandemic relief.

She and our Democratic colleagues had been warned that that level of spending risked setting off inflation unlike any we had seen in a generation, but they passed it anyway.

And inflation began to take off almost immediately. And 3 years later, prices have gone up more than 20 percent; groceries are up 21 percent; the cost of car repairs are up 31 percent; energy costs have gone up 40 percent.

Nearly every aspect of daily life is more expensive in the Biden-Harris economy, and Americans are struggling to make ends meet. More than

one-third of Americans are worried about paying their bills. They are pulling back on their spending and putting more on their credit cards. Some people are even taking on extra work just to get by, but sometimes it is still not enough.

As one new mom in Missouri put it:

It's just hard. I work full time. My husband works full time. I feel like at this point, we're moving more towards survival mode, rather than thriving.

Another mom in Virginia says of her sons and their wives:

[E]verybody is working as absolutely hard as they can. They are not farther ahead than my husband and I were 30 years ago.

Another woman, in Pennsylvania, who is working two jobs, says:

Prior to inflation, I didn't have any debt, I didn't have any credit cards, never applied for like a payday loan or any of those things. But since inflation I needed to do all those things. . . . I've had to downgrade my life completely.

They are not alone. For many Americans, life in the Biden-Harris economy feels like a downgrade. It now costs a typical family \$13,000 more per year just to maintain the same standard of living it enjoyed when President Biden took office—\$13,000 more per year just to tread water.

That is an incredible strain on families' budgets. And it is not just higher prices. Measures to tame inflation have also added to Americans' financial pain.

To fight inflation, the Federal Reserve has been forced to keep interest rates high, which affects Americans' finances in a variety of ways.

As I said, many Americans have turned to credit cards to cope with inflation. And higher interest rates, in part, the result of the Fed's actions, are making credit card bills harder to pay down. The same is true for car payments.

And Americans looking to own their own home are facing what one housing expert called "the most challenging home buying market we have ever seen."

The average monthly mortgage payment is a staggering \$2,600—the result of a combination of higher mortgage rates and higher home prices.

The White House has spent a lot of time trying to spin the economy as strong, but the American people aren't buying it. An economy where people are working harder and still struggling to get by isn't what most Americans consider a strong economy. And it can't be America's future.

I said inflation began accelerating as a result of Democrats' reckless spending. That is not a Republican talking point. It is a fact with which Democrat economists agree.

Yet the Biden-Harris administration and congressional Democrats show no signs of backing off their reckless tax-and-spending agenda. In fact, it is clear they envision a lot more of the same.

The administration's latest budget request is filled with burdensome new

taxes and trillions in new spending. They want to see the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act expire, which would mean more tax increases. And Democrats still have plenty of tax-and-spending ideas they would like to implement.

The American people have suffered enough. I don't want to think about what kind of economic pain we could see from another 4 years of Democrats' reckless spending. And I hope—I sincerely hope—that the American people will not have to experience it.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, which are at the desk: S. Res. 785, S. Res. 786, S. Res. 787, and S. Res. 788.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 20 minutes prior to the scheduled votes and that Senator CARDIN be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes prior to the scheduled votes.

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

TRIBUTE TO RON FORMAN

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I want to speak for a few minutes about a favorite son in Louisiana, but to do that, I have to give my remarks a little context.

I think, like most Americans and, I know, like the Presiding Officer, I love animals. I grew up in a rural area in Louisiana. And let's see. We had dogs—not all at the same time, but we had dogs. We had cats. We had hamsters. We had chipmunks. We had squirrels. We had alligators, baby alligators.

Now, the danger of a baby alligator is that they become a big alligator, and we used to keep our little, baby alligators—their names were Tim and Tubo—in a big washbasin in our backyard, and we put wire on the top. The alligators—they were about this long—were in the tub. Why would we keep wire on the top? Because the neighbor-

hood cats would try to get in there and eat them.

Well, Tim and Tubo grew, and they grew, and they grew, and, one day, we forgot to put the screen wire on the top of the washbasin with the water in which Tim and Tubo were residing. By this time, they were about this long. And one of our neighbor's favorite cats, all of a sudden, just had three legs. And we had to release Tim and Tubo at that point.

Dad said: No, Tim and Tubo are too big. We have got to release them back to the swamp.

Well, I remember we had a baby possum, and I am probably leaving some varmints out. But I love animals. I especially love dogs. I have two at home. I wouldn't ask Becky to choose between me and our pups. And I love when people bring their dogs to work.

I am not going to wade into this fierce debate about what kind of pet and what kind of animal is best, but I think we can all agree that there is a special bond between our species and our animal friends. Animals can teach us a lot. Animals teach us love. Animals teach us patience. Animals teach us compassion. Animals, especially dogs, teach us responsibility. Animals teach us to appreciate God's creation. Through our connection with animals, including but not limited to dogs, we all gain a deeper respect for the world around us.

Now, in Louisiana, we are blessed to have many animal havens. Some of our animals, of course, are wild. I can remember in my State when alligators were almost extinct. Now we have more alligators than people. By the way, the alligators are surprisingly well organized. So be careful.

But we also have a lot of zoos. We have aquariums, none better than those in New Orleans, and those of you who have been to New Orleans may know this. New Orleans is home to what we call the Audubon Nature Institute. That is a nonprofit that we set up in Louisiana. It operates the Audubon Zoo in Uptown New Orleans; the Audubon Aquarium on the riverfront, down near the French Quarter—the Audubon Aquarium and Insectarium we call it; the Audubon Louisiana Nature Center; the Audubon Center for Research of Endangered Species; and the Audubon Coastal Wildlife Network. It is sort of our group of institutions all under the umbrella of the Audubon Nature Institute, and they also do world-class research and work in conservation.

Every year, the Audubon Nature Institute and all of its institutions that make it up bring thousands of Louisianians and hundreds of thousands of visitors in our State closer to nature. It fuels our love for wildlife, and it fuels our love for the outdoors.

Audubon Park, where our zoo is located—our first institution before we added the aquarium and the other animal havens—wasn't always a prized institution. It wasn't. One man—one person—had a lot of help, but one person