

despite facing strong headwinds. I will say more about that in a moment.

Second, we have to understand the things we did wrong and how we must change.

And, third, we have to look at what we didn't do but should have done.

We will have these important and necessary conversations in due course, and everyone must have a seat at the table. We must be honest. We must be practical. And we must never abandon the roots that have defined the Democratic Party for generations.

To Democrats who were back around in 2004, remember the grief we felt back then? It was a tough election, for sure. But what happened afterward? We got back to work to regain the trust of the American people. I was proud to be part of that process as chair of the DSCC. And just 2 years later, the tide turned in a dramatic way.

Finally, before I turn to the Senate, let me say this: I hope that, after last week, we can put to rest the fantasy of stolen elections and rigged outcomes.

Four years ago, the losing side refused to accept the will of the people, and it led to a violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. This year, we will not go down that dark and violent path.

Now, let me go on to the Senate. Last Tuesday brought a mix of success and disappointment for Senate Democrats. In the final analysis, we hoped for a better result. As happens from time to time, control of this Chamber will change from one party to the other.

To Senator BROWN and Senator TESTER, we could not be prouder of the races you ran. More importantly, we could not be prouder of the legacy you have built here in the U.S. Senate. You are some of the finest people I have ever worked with in this Chamber. To both of you, I say: Thank you. Job well done. Job well done.

I have spoken to both Senators TESTER and BROWN a couple of times this past week. They are not ones to get down on themselves. They are going to be just fine, and they will continue to do great things for their home States and for our country. But I feel for the people of Montana and Ohio, who will now lose two incredible leaders.

To Senators ROSEN and BALDWIN, we are thrilled that you are coming back for another term, despite all the headwinds and obstacles you faced back home.

In fact, despite a difficult year for Democrats, four of our most contested seats will remain in the hands of Democrats. In one other State, the votes are still being counted.

Let me repeat that. Despite a difficult year for Democrats, which everyone predicted would be a place where we lost all of our seats, almost—despite that—four of the most contested seats will remain in Democratic hands: Nevada, Michigan, Arizona, and Wisconsin.

As I said, in one more State, the votes are still being counted.

Donald Trump won all of those States, but so did all our Democratic colleagues and colleagues to be.

Winning four Senate seats from the Nation's tightest swing States does not happen on its own. It is a testament to the incredible work Senate Democrats have done in this Chamber to benefit the American people.

With Democrats in the majority, the United States had its most successful and productive years in decades. Under our watch, this Chamber became a place where we got things done—amazing things done.

We passed bold legislation that lifted America out of crisis, rebuilt our economy, and invested in good-paying jobs. We passed the American Rescue Plan, the bipartisan infrastructure bill, the Chips and Science Act. We took care of our veterans. We defended Ukraine. We protected marriage equality. We passed the Inflation Reduction Act, which has done more to improve the environment than any other act and also lowered the cost of prescription drugs. And we did so much more. These accomplishments will continue to pay off for years and decades to come.

I am proud that the vast majority of our accomplishments were done in a bipartisan fashion. As a result, many of our incumbents are coming back, despite a tough year, and multiple swing seats will remain with Democrats.

Now, to my newly elected Democratic colleagues from across the country, I extend a welcoming hand. I met with these new Members just now in my office. We are excited to get to work. We are excited you are joining our caucus.

Now, let me turn to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. Another closely contested election now comes to an end. To my Republican colleagues, I offer a word of caution in good faith. Take care not to misread the will of the people, and do not abandon the need for bipartisanship.

After winning an election, the temptation may be to go to the extreme. We have seen that happen over the decades, and it has consistently backfired on the party in power. So instead of going to the extremes, I remind my colleagues that this body is most effective when it is bipartisan.

If we want, in the next 4 years, the Senate to be as productive as the last 4, the only way that will happen is through bipartisan cooperation.

Democrats will be ready to do what we have consistently done: work with both sides when the opportunity arises. Democrats will never abandon our values, but neither will we reject an opportunity to move the ball forward to make people's lives better when we can. The question is, now, whether or not Republicans are willing to do the same.

To my colleagues on the other side, once again, do not abandon bipartisanship. It is the best and most effective way to get things done. It was true in the last 4 years, and it will be true in the years to come.

Finally, let me end with this. For millions of Americans, particularly those on this side of the aisle, this is a difficult moment. But as John F. Kennedy once said, "Let us not despair but act."

Let us not despair but act. Let us not give up on the dream that is America. Instead, let us do what those who came before us have always done. Let us persevere. Let us persist. Let us get to work.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

#### 2024 ELECTION RESULTS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, a week ago today, the American people stood to be counted. They lined up to make their voices heard, and the message they sent was resoundingly clear.

Four years ago, they watched Washington Democrats take an economy that was primed for recovery and douse it in reckless taxing and inflationary spending. Over 4 years, they watched consumer prices rise more than 20 percent. As they made tough choices at the grocery store and felt the pain at the gas pump, they watched Washington Democrats deflect blame for the worst inflation in four decades. And last Tuesday, they said enough was enough.

And 4 years ago, they watched Washington Democrats campaign on slashing ICE and halting construction of physical barriers along the southern border. Month by month, they watched as this unseriousness and willful neglect turned into the worst humanitarian and security crisis at the border on record. And last Tuesday, they said enough was enough.

Also 4 years ago, they watched Washington Democrats campaign on defunding the police and going soft on crime. In cities across America, their fears of unchecked violent crime were proven justified. And last Tuesday, they said enough was enough.

Last week, American voters were desperate for leaders who could deliver safe streets, secure borders, stable prices, and strength abroad. So they chose to hire Republicans. They maintained a Republican majority in the House; they created a decisive Republican majority in the Senate; and by a wide margin, they put the White House in Republican hands once again.

The Nation surveyed its problems and decided that Republicans were equipped to put the ship of state back on the right track. Thus far, I have been encouraged by the lack of baseless

speculation that Tuesday's decisive result was influenced in any way by foreign interference. Washington Democrats appear to recognize that they are on the losing side of a legitimate, crystal-clear mandate.

Here in the Senate, I hope they will work with the new Senate Republican majority as we begin to clean up the messes left over from the past 4 years. The first opportunities to work together are already upon us. The Senate has a great deal of outstanding business that we have to tackle in the coming weeks. We certainly need to pass the long overdue National Defense Authorization Act. Every year, the NDAA gives Congress an indispensable opportunity to set national security priorities. This year, it is a chance to show we appreciate the gravity of an especially dangerous moment. After months of needless dithering, I would urge the Democratic leader to get this must-pass legislation moving without further delay.

We also need to work swiftly to deliver urgent supplemental assistance to the States and communities hit hard by natural disasters in recent months. Kentucky knows the power and pain of severe storms and flooding. This year, communities across the southeast recovering from major hurricane and flood damage deserve the Senate's attention and support.

And before anyone gets home for the holidays, we will need to extend Federal government funding. As I have said before, there is never a political advantage to be gained from allowing core government functions to go dark. The 119th Congress and the 47th President must not inherit a Federal Government in the middle of a funding crisis. The work ahead of us will require all parties to operate quickly and in good faith. The American people deserve nothing less.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I am honored to serve as chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, where the committee members work hard to protect freedom, advance justice, protect equality, and bring balance to our Federal authorities.

Over the past 4 years, we have advanced well-qualified nominees to the Federal bench who reflect the reality of America. We have made significant progress on issues important to our Nation. For many of us, the outcome of last week's election was not what we wanted, what we fought for, or what we voted for. But my priorities for the committee have not changed because of the election. I will continue to work

on issues that are important to all Americans: judicial confirmations, reproductive rights for women, fixing our broken immigration system, and gun violence protection.

I am especially proud of the committee's contributions to one of the most important accomplishments of the Biden-Harris administration: confirming highly qualified, independent, evenhanded judges to the Federal bench. During the Biden administration, the Senate has confirmed 213 well-qualified judges to lifetime appointments on the Federal bench. One-fourth of all the Federal judgeships have been filled in the last 4 years, and counting.

Aside from their exceptional qualifications and respect for the rule of law, these judges represent historic demographic and professional diversity. Under President Biden's leadership, the Senate has confirmed more Black women to the Federal circuit courts than all Presidents combined, including—and I am proud to say this—the first ever Black woman to serve on the Supreme Court, Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. She is exceptional.

We have confirmed a historic number of Asian-American, Latino, and LGBTQ+ judges. We have also confirmed more circuit judges with experience as public defenders than all other Presidents combined.

The American people deserve a Federal judiciary which looks like America and reflects our reality. Until the end of my tenure as chair, I will continue to urge my colleagues to support the confirmation of these well-qualified and diverse judicial nominees.

#### REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Mr. President, 2 years ago, six right-wing judicial activists sent us back in time. And I am referring, of course, to the Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. I guess it was a crowning achievement for the Republican-led, decades-long campaign to overrule *Roe v. Wade* and eliminate fundamental reproductive rights in America.

The *Dobbs* ruling has turned out to be one of the most dangerous decisions ever handed down by the Supreme Court. It overruled nearly 50 years of court decisions and, for the first time, stripped away a constitutional right from Americans. Overruling *Roe v. Wade* has unleashed a healthcare crisis unimaginable. Following the decision, nearly two dozen States have either banned or restricted access to abortion or are in the process of doing so. Many of these bans provide no exceptions for victims of rape and incest, and many utterly fail to protect the health and lives of mothers. Some of these bans are written in a way that can limit access even to contraception.

During my time as chairman of the Judiciary Committee, we have held multiple hearings on the impact of the *Dobbs* decision and the need to safeguard reproductive rights. I share the concerns of many Americans about

what a second Trump administration could mean for women's reproductive rights and healthcare.

The majority of Americans support a woman's right to choose, and whatever further turmoil President-elect Trump may unleash on access to reproductive health care, we will not stop fighting for our Nation's women and families.

#### IMMIGRATION

Mr. President, on another issue, our Nation needs immigrants now more than ever. They are a vital part of the American history and the American success story of the future.

I am deeply concerned that the incoming President has campaigned on deporting children and families who have lived in this country for years. Mr. President, you have met these people. I have, too. We count on them every day in so many different ways. When we look at what the incoming President has proposed, I worry about what is going to happen when these children and their families are deported from this country. It could be devastating to our economy.

If the DACA Program alone is struck down, experts predict our economy will lose \$11 billion-plus yearly in lost wages. Without continued immigration, the U.S. working-age population will shrink by 6 million by the year 2040. As Americans retire, this could lead to a 23-percent reduction in money being paid into the Social Security fund for our retirees.

If we genuinely want to boost the American economy and resolve labor shortages, we need to provide a path to citizenship for those who have long contributed to our economy and society.

I have worked for years to pass bipartisan legislation to fix our broken immigration system. Such legislation is needed to secure the border and protect American workers from outsourcing companies that exploit temporary workers. We need immigration reform to protect the children of temporary workers who age out of legal status when they turn 21, as well as Dreamers, recipients of TPS, farmworkers, and other essential workers.

There are Members of this U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives who sincerely, positively believe that we should not let one more immigrant into this country. That is an unrealistic and a mean-spirited approach to the challenge we face.

I believe we all agree—I certainly do—that we need to make certain that everyone coming into this country has the potential of making this a better nation. We should not be opening our doors to anyone who is dangerous to America, period. We can say that on a bipartisan basis, I am sure.

Secondly, we cannot absorb every person in the world who has the ambition to live in this country. We have to have an orderly system.

But let's be honest about who these people are. Somewhere across America—maybe in the city of Chicago—parents dropped off their kids at daycare