

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

today. It is an undocumented worker who is taking care of your little granddaughter or daughter at that daycare facility. They are also the people who are taking care of your mothers and grandmothers in nursing homes. They made sure that Mom got down to breakfast this morning and didn't slip and fall in the hallway. They stood next to her. Do you want to deport that woman who helped her to breakfast this morning? I don't. If she is not breaking the law and she is a positive part of America's economy, let's make her part of our future and find a way to do it.

We had a comprehensive immigration bill not that long ago that passed with an overwhelming majority here in the U.S. Senate. There was a process there which I was part of writing that makes a difference in the way we approach immigration. We should be doing something positive on a bipartisan basis to deal with this issue and not be swearing at the people who are talking about change as being somehow un-American.

Fighting for our Nation's immigrants in the right way will continue to be one of my highest priorities.

GUN VIOLENCE

Finally, tomorrow, the committee will hold a hearing on conversion devices used to increase the lethality of firearms, such as Glock switches, auto sears, bump stocks, and pistol braces. Some of these devices can be used to convert a semiautomatic firearm, designed to fire one shot per trigger pull, into a fully automatic firearm. This makes it easier for a gunman to commit mass murders, such as the deadliest mass shooting in modern history when a shooter killed 60 people and wounded hundreds more in Las Vegas in 2017. These modified machine guns are weapons of war, and we need to get them off the streets of America and away from innocent American families.

While my time as chair of this committee will end in January, my belief in the promise of this country never will end. I promise to work each day in the Senate to look out for the most vulnerable among us, to ensure liberty and equality for every person, and to uphold the rule of law, which is truly the bedrock of democracy.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. 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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 704.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Embry J. Kidd, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 704, Embry J. Kidd, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Peter Welch, Cory A. Booker, John W. Hickenlooper, Martin Heinrich, Laphonza R. Butler, Elizabeth Warren, Jack Reed, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tammy Baldwin, Debbie Stabenow, Gary C. Peters, Brian Schatz.

Mr. SCHUMER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. 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.

VETERANS DAY

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, yesterday, we celebrated Veterans Day. On this day, we honor the brave men and women who have valiantly served and sacrificed to protect us and secure our liberties, both in times of war and in times of peace.

We are especially thankful to those veterans who were permanently injured as a result of their service. They sacrificed their safety to protect America. We are deeply grateful to these veterans.

It is difficult for words alone to express how appreciative we are of America's veterans and their families.

To the Gold Star families, your service to our country does not go unnoticed. America will never forget the

sacrifices your families have made in service to this great Nation. I want to acknowledge your dedication to honoring the memory of your fallen family members, who paid the ultimate price.

We are forever indebted to those who have worn the uniform in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and Space Force. I hope all Americans can commit to serving our veterans with the same amount of devotion they had when fighting for our great Nation.

This national holiday began 105 years ago when President Woodrow Wilson declared November 11 as "Armistice Day." This marked the 1-year anniversary of the conclusion of World War I. In 1947, a World War II veteran named Raymond Weeks, of Birmingham, AL—my State—led a movement asking the Army Chief of Staff, then a general named Dwight D. Eisenhower, to expand Armistice Day to include all veterans, not just the ones from World War I. Seven years later, after becoming President, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed national Veterans Day into law, reflecting the wishes of that great Alabamian named Raymond Weeks. Alabama is proud of Mr. Weeks for that great donation.

Alabama is also proud to be home to 400,000 veterans. We are thankful for these brave Alabamians and the more than 19 million U.S. veterans living across the world.

We thank you for your dedication, the sacrifices you made, and the courage you displayed to ensure that America remains, as Abraham Lincoln said, the last, best hope on Earth.

Today, I will recognize three Alabama veterans who honorably served in our Nation's military. With each of them, you will hear how their service to America did not end when their time in the military came to an end. They have continued to contribute to their communities long after taking off their uniforms. They continue to uplift and inspire others around them, including myself. I would like to honor their commitment by thanking them today.

Sgt. Ricardo Jaramillo is one of these great veterans, from Harvest, AL. Ricardo joined the U.S. Marine Corps in 1976 at the age of 18. He deployed around the world, where he helped maintain American drones and surface-to-air missiles. He later became an instructor at the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, AL, preparing the next generation to protect our national security.

Ricardo retired from the military in 1999 after 23 years of service, but his commitment to what America stands for doesn't end there. Ricardo wanted to continue serving his fellow man. After committing his life to Christ, Ricardo became a missionary so that he could spread hope to those in need all around the world.

Now Ricardo takes multiple trips a year to the mountain villages in Guatemala with his two granddaughters, Gloria and Judiana. He credits the training he received as a marine for