

last minute and deprived Senators of their right to know what is happening.

So I ask again, What is the administration hiding? It is time for answers.

I thank my colleague from Delaware for her courtesy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

ABORTION

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. President, there are moments in our lives when everything changes, when the world shifts underneath you and a new reality forms. These are moments when you remember exactly where you were, what you were doing, and who you were with.

June 24, 2022, was one of those days. Three years ago, I marched with my House colleagues to the Supreme Court. I stood in solidarity with Democrats and Republicans alike. We felt shock, disbelief, anger, and sadness at the loss of one of our fundamental rights. On that day, *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, and for many, their lives were turned upside down.

Since then, extreme Republicans and President Trump have said that abortion is a States' rights issue—States' rights. Yet, over the last 3 years, we have watched as quietly and purposefully they have chipped away at our rights, chipped away at our bodily autonomy, because the goal has always been a national abortion ban.

Three Trump-appointed Supreme Court Justices and the Dobbs decision later and we are still watching this unfold. Anti-abortion extremists have been piecing together a puzzle that, when it is completed, will create a national abortion ban, and they add a new piece each and every day.

Over the next hour, my colleagues and I will lay out what the Republican national abortion ban looks like, what it means for everyday Americans, and what we can do about it because these efforts will hurt all of us—especially young women, women of low income, women in rural areas, and women of color.

For me, this is personal. I could have lost my daughter-in-law because she did not get the care she needed. And I remember getting a call on Christmas morning. I was in the kitchen, I was cooking, and I heard my daughter-in-law on the other end of the phone say: Mom, my water just broke. It is too soon.

She went to the hospital, but, again, the hospital we went to could not provide the care that she needed for the miscarriage that she was having, and they sent her home. I remember thinking about all the committee hearings that I had on the Health Subcommittee in—the Health Committee in the House and how the data was clear that we in this country have a maternal mortality crisis, that Black women die three times the rate of our White counterparts, and all I could think was, we have to get you somewhere. And we did.

Fortunately, Ebony is here alive today. Fortunately, Ebony was able to have my beautiful granddaughter—because of IVF, I might add.

But stories like these are all too common. It disproportionately affects Black and Brown women. We face reproductive challenges. We have a higher mortality rate. We have higher rates of reproductive cancers. We have higher rates of preterm births.

Like I said, this is personal.

We are here today to show the American people that we did not forget about the Dobbs decision, especially because the majority of Americans—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—believe that we should have legal and safe abortions.

We are here today to tell the Republican Party: You can't have it both ways. You can't claim to be the party of personal freedom while telling us what to do with our bodies.

President Trump, you can't claim to be the fertilization President while making it more dangerous for women to give birth.

You can't claim to be the party of strong economic growth while cutting Medicaid, food assistance, and childcare for many women who need it to participate in the workforce—and all to give tax breaks to people who already have all of these resources.

We are here today to show extreme Republicans across the Nation that we see what you are doing—quietly assembling the pieces of the puzzle. And when it is completed, it will strip Americans of their access to abortion care in red States and blue States.

We are here to show just how important it is that we fight this reconciliation bill. Whether you call it a "Big Bad Bill" or whether you call it a "Big Ugly Bill," whatever you call it, this is the moment for people to speak up because it is just another piece of the puzzle, and we are here to shine a light on the ultimate goal of a national abortion ban.

I stand here, and I think about the young women I saw as I came to this floor. I think about my niece. I think about my daughter and I think about my granddaughter and the fact that they now have less rights than I did, than my mother did, and than my grandmother did and that today it is important for us to not forget and to make sure that we recognize what this is all about and that we want the best for our young people in this country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I want to make sure that the country and this institution knows that the leadership of our new colleague from the State of Delaware is making a difference already. She has been doing yeoman's work on this for quite some time.

In fact, in the other body, as it is called, the House of Representatives, she stood for the values that have been expressed here today and we so appre-

ciate her leadership and I thank her, personally, for including me.

We are on the floor to mark an anniversary of what was essentially the end of women having power over healthcare decisions. Before *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, many of my Democratic colleagues and I warned that it would be deadly for women. We were labeled liars and gaslighters and fearmongers. And, unfortunately, for the women of America, you don't have to take our word for it. Since the Dobbs ruling was handed down 3 years ago, 22 States have passed restrictive, near- or total abortion bans, and countless women have died as a direct result of those laws.

In Georgia, Amber Nicole Thurman died after she developed an infection during pregnancy and was denied lifesaving reproductive care under her State's new abortion law.

In Texas, Porsha Ngumezi, a mom of two, was expecting her third child when she suddenly developed complications and began miscarrying. She died after going to the ER where she was denied the care she needed, and she was left to bleed out all because her doctors were too scared to perform the necessary medical care under Texas's abortion law.

Josseli Barnica of Texas was pregnant, hoping to give her daughter another sibling, when she developed complications with her pregnancy. She rushed to the hospital where doctors left her to suffer for 40 hours without giving her the healthcare she needed. That was because it was illegal under Texas law. She died 3 days later after developing a preventable infection because she had been denied care.

Despite Federal law that requires providers to give women reproductive care in emergency medical situations, these States are letting women die anyway. Every single one of these deaths was preventable if Republican lawmakers hadn't put abortion bans in place that threaten doctors and hospitals with jail time and other legal actions if they provide necessary reproductive care.

Many of the women hurt by these abortion bans are already mothers or women hoping to start a family, but because they are being denied necessary care, those that don't die are often being left with complications that take away their ability to have kids in the future.

In Tennessee, Breanna Cecil had to travel out of State, all the way to Chicago, to get an abortion after a complication with her pregnancy. But before returning to Tennessee, she developed a recurring infection that resulted in invasive surgery that left her infertile. Breanna says that her State's strict abortion law "took away her fertility."

So I am going to end very briefly by fast forwarding to 2025. Republicans don't seem to have learned any lessons. They don't seem phased by the pain and suffering their laws are causing

women and mothers across the land. Instead, they are doubling down on their efforts to restrict access to reproductive care for even more women; this time, through a backdoor abortion ban in the reconciliation budget bill. This legislation contains a provision that would strip funding from Planned Parenthood clinics that perform abortion services.

Mr. President, Planned Parenthood does not receive a single dime—not a dime—of Federal funding for abortion care. These clinics do receive funding to provide essential care, like STD and cancer screenings and annual exams—often, for women of color or women living in low-income communities to have access to this care.

All of this will be ripped away under the Republicans' "Big Bad Budget Bill," alongside the 16 million people they plan on kicking off their health insurance with their Medicaid and affordable care cuts.

Before Roe was overturned, I warned repeatedly that the loss of privacy—the loss of the right to make your most private decisions free of government intrusion—would have a domino effect. Unfortunately, that has become the reality. The overturn of Roe has not stopped an abortion.

Since the Dobbs ruling, Republican lawmakers and conservative judges have also taken aim at the use of IVF and contraception. A headline out of Ohio, less than 1 week ago, reads:

Republican lawmakers in Ohio to propose total abortion and IVF ban.

The endgame for Republicans here is a politician in every single exam room and bedroom in America; a politician between you and your doctor, between you and your spouse.

The overturn of Roe has stripped women in America of the right to make their own healthcare decisions. It has stripped women of control over their own bodies and has stripped women of their basic constitutional rights.

Mr. President, ever since I chaired the first-ever congressional hearing on access to abortion medication, back in 1990, I felt that this was a fundamental right that women were entitled to. I am just as committed today to battling against these draconian laws as long as it takes to secure women the ability to make their own healthcare decisions.

I see a number of my colleagues on the floor who have been eloquent speakers for women's healthcare. I want to close by thanking my colleague from Delaware, again, for championing all of us to be here at this time to make sure that we made a difference and spoke out. We very much appreciate your leadership.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to mark 3 years since half of America was stripped of their reproductive freedom. That is 3 years of women having fewer constitutional rights and freedoms in this country

than their mothers and grandmothers; 3 years of women being forced to travel hours out of State to access basic care; and 3 years of Americans unable to make their own choices about their own bodies, their own health, their own families, their own future.

In Wisconsin, women don't have to imagine what the consequences of Roe v. Wade being overturned would be like. We lived it. For 15 months, in my State, women were sent back to live under a law that was passed before the Civil War. Yes, you heard me correctly—a law that was passed in 1849, 70 years before women would get the right to vote and only 1 year after the State of Wisconsin became a State.

Women who wanted to control their bodies had to drive hours. They had to arrange childcare, take time off of work, and pay for lodging just to access healthcare. Other pregnant women in our State bled in hospital parking lots for hours until they were on the verge of death before they were legally allowed to receive care.

Others, like Meagan, one of my constituents, found out that she and her husband were expecting. They found that out in April of 2023. She told me:

That day rivaled our wedding day for the happiest we'd ever been.

But that joy didn't last. At her 20-week ultrasound, Meagan discovered that her baby had severe abnormalities and likely would not survive. What is worse, every day that Meagan remained pregnant, her life was in danger too. But instead of grieving their loss in private and at home, Meagan and her husband were forced to travel to Minnesota to end her pregnancy.

She wrote to me last year:

The government claims that if my life is at risk, they would make exceptions, but how sick does one need to be? Do I need to be bleeding out before a doctor can intervene? Does someone need to go septic before a procedure would be performed?

The answers to those questions under Wisconsin's pre-Civil War abortion ban was, sadly, yes.

Thankfully, Wisconsin has restored access to abortion care in three counties. That still leaves women in 69 counties who face long drives and wait times to see a doctor for care.

I will be the first to say that we have some serious work to do to give women the full freedom to control their bodies. But instead of listening to the vast majority of Americans and working in good faith to restore Roe, my Republican colleagues are doing just the opposite.

The Republicans' "Big Beautiful Betrayal" is another step toward a backdoor national abortion ban. Their bill will defund Planned Parenthood, putting access to abortion care, once again, in jeopardy for Wisconsin women. And for many Americans, Planned Parenthood clinics are the only option they have for affordable healthcare, from basic reproductive care to lifesaving cancer screenings.

This "Big Beautiful Betrayal Bill" says that the mother of three, the

young woman trying to make ends meet, the veteran in need of care, and anyone else on Medicaid can't use their coverage at Planned Parenthood for things like annual checkups, cancer screenings, birth control—not abortion, just basic healthcare that everyone needs and that my Republican colleagues, by the way, say they support.

But by doing this, it will defund one of the only abortion providers in many places and take Republicans one step closer to their ultimate goal of banning abortion nationwide.

It is no secret that this has been their plan. Since the day Roe was decided, it has become the mission of so many Republicans to turn back the clock and take away this constitutional right, this freedom.

And it all came to a head when our current President was last in office. Our current President's litmus test when nominating Supreme Court Justices was, of course, if they would rule to take away a woman's right to abortion. I don't think I need to tell you what happened next.

But overturning Roe was not enough for President Trump. In just the past 5 months, he has worked to undermine a woman's right to lifesaving abortion care under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act, otherwise known as EMTALA. He has worked to freeze title X funding for family planning and reproductive health services like birth control. He has worked to remove medically sound, expert information on reproductive care from government websites. And he has worked to jeopardize protections for women who are harassed while accessing clinics.

While Republicans advance their plan that will further restrict a woman's right to choose, Democrats are fighting back. Today, alongside every one of my Democratic colleagues, I introduced the Women's Health Protection Act to do what most Americans want: restore reproductive freedom for women nationwide.

I want to give a shout-out to my colleague Senator BLUMENTHAL, with whom I worked so closely on the Women's Health Protection Act, over so many years.

This bill would tell Republicans to butt out of women's healthcare, ensuring that States can't impose medically unnecessary restrictions, like mandatory waiting periods or invasive ultrasounds, that infringe upon a woman's right to choose.

Today, we are not just marking 3 years since Roe v. Wade was overturned. We are marking 3 years of my Republican colleagues actively blocking any progress to restore the right to choose. We are marking 3 years of women's lives being in danger because Republicans are in our exam rooms, and lawyers across this country are truly playing doctors.

After 3 years of swearing abortion is an issue for the States, this President is chipping away even further at this freedom, and my Republican colleagues

are advancing a plan to further undercut access to affordable reproductive care nationwide.

We are not giving up. We are with the two-thirds of Americans who oppose the Dobbs decision and the fundamental rights that it stole from millions of women in this country. We are going to fight every day until those rights are restored.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am so honored to follow my colleague from Wisconsin, who has been such a steadfast and strong partner in this effort to advance the Women's Health Protection Act.

I will be honest in this Chamber. When we first introduced this measure, almost 15 years ago, the idea that Roe v. Wade could or would be tossed aside was unimaginable. It was firmly established law for decades, relied on by American women and men.

In a stroke of catastrophic, misguided ruling, the Supreme Court cast it aside, ignoring strong precedent and all the doctrines of law that normally would apply. So the Women's Health Protection Act now is more necessary than ever before, certainly than in the days when we first offered it.

My own involvement, actually, in this issue began when I was a law clerk to Justice Blackmun in the year after Roe v. Wade. There was still controversy about whether Roe would survive. But in decision after decision, the U.S. Supreme Court reaffirmed it. And, in fact, as a member of the Connecticut State Senate, I offered a bill, and it passed, to codify Roe v. Wade in our State laws in Connecticut.

Connecticut has led the Nation proudly in protecting reproductive rights, in safeguarding access to clinics where abortion services are provided, in fighting for Planned Parenthood funding, in protecting doctors who provide these critical services to women coming from other States that may actually criminalize that kind of care.

But we know now what the challenge is and what we must do. The Women's Health Protection Act should be the law of our land. But in the meantime, we have to fight the efforts to handicap and straitjacket women in their efforts simply to seek basic healthcare.

We are in the midst of an assault on women's healthcare. It is really an attack on women and families.

Men have a stake in this fight. You cannot escape this issue simply because you are a man. It affects you and your family as much as it does women.

The decision in Dobbs stripped millions of women of the freedom to make their own healthcare decisions. The idea that Dobbs would simply return the issue of reproductive rights to the State was always disingenuous. States across the country have created a full-blown healthcare crisis in the chaos and confusion that has ensued.

Since Dobbs, more than 31 million women live in States where abortion is

banned or under the threat of banning it, and nearly 9 million women live in the 12 States with bills proposing to bring homicide charges against them for having an abortion.

The effects of Dobbs don't have to be a matter of speculation anymore. I actually commissioned or requested a study from the GAO in 2022 about the economic effects of Dobbs. That report has just been released 3 years later. My first reaction was: Why did it take so long? My second reaction was: Thank goodness you took that long and you did an honest and accurate appraisal of what the effects are.

Here is the bottom line: Dobbs has been a death sentence—literally, a death sentence—for countless women, and it has been a condemnation to financial disaster for many more.

This study shows, inextricably, the link between denial of healthcare and the maternal mortality rate for women and their financial distress, even if they survive.

The Trump administration has aggravated this problem in, literally, just recent weeks. On June 19, 2025, a Trump-appointed Federal judge struck down a Biden administration rule that strengthened privacy protections for information related to productive healthcare, such as abortion and gender-affirming care.

On March 5, 2025, President Trump announced his administration would no longer enforce a Federal law that requires hospitals to provide women abortion care in an emergency when their lives are threatened. When, literally, they could die, no longer will emergency rooms be required to provide that care.

On April 1 of this year, the Trump administration began withholding tens of millions of dollars under title X in family grants for Planned Parenthood and other organizations in our country that support critical family planning efforts and preventive healthcare, including cancer screening, pregnancy testing, birth control, treatment of sexually transmitted infections, infertility services, and more. It is not just efforts to prevent abortion; it is a war on women's health, launched by this administration. And, unfortunately, this administration is just getting started.

The fact is that unsafe and unintended pregnancies have huge costs in lives and dollars, impacting all of us. That is why I am proud to live in Connecticut that has expanded abortion care and ensured that women in other States could access compassionate care if necessary.

But the attacks by Republicans continue, and they are attacks on reproductive freedom, on women's healthcare, seeking now to restrict access to abortion medication, refusing to recognize the right to use contraceptives, working to defund preventive healthcare through Medicaid in clinics like Planned Parenthood.

I am proud to continue this fight. It is a fight that we absolutely must win.

It may not be in the next days, but we will be fighting in the next days against the provisions of this "Big Ugly Betrayal" that so disgrace our Nation if passed.

I am grateful for all of the Members on our side who are joining us today on this third anniversary of Dobbs to say: Enough is enough. We need to protect reproductive freedoms from this onslaught against women.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, right now, this administration is causing so much chaos and confusion that it is sometimes hard to take stock of the damage being done.

But the anniversary of the day today, for Roe v. Wade when it was overturned, is a reminder that we can't let all of that chaos distract us from the work being done to roll back women's reproductive rights right under our noses.

I have to thank my colleague from Delaware LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER and all of my colleagues today for really bringing attention and focus to the important work we do as Senators but really highlighting the impact that decisions made by some of our colleagues, including those in the White House, are having a devastating impact across this country on women and women's healthcare rights.

One of the things that is happening right now is this Republican tax bill that they are trying to force through Congress right now. This tax bill essentially guts reproductive healthcare in this country. The Republicans' billionaire tax giveaway bill, as we know it, is a bill that will cut \$800 billion in Medicaid to pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans. But the legislation that passed the House would also decimate women's healthcare. Not only would it force cuts to critical services in this country, but it also cuts off Medicaid funding for Planned Parenthood.

That Medicaid funding wouldn't be going toward abortions. Planned Parenthood providers distribute birth control, conduct wellness exams, test for and treat STIs, and provide lifesaving cancer screenings.

For many Americans with Medicaid, especially in underserved areas, Planned Parenthood is the only accessible source of this care. Defunding it, which is what the Republicans want to do in this reconciliation bill, jeopardizes basic healthcare services that more than 1 million men and women rely on.

It is already outrageous that so many Planned Parenthood health centers in anti-choice States around the country have been forced to close over the last several years, but if they are prohibited from treating patients with Medicaid nationwide, many clinics—even in States where abortion remains legal, like my State in Nevada—may be forced to close their doors.

In States like mine, where women have access to essential reproductive care, Republicans are working to strip that access away, ignoring the will of States like Nevada that have chosen to protect these rights.

Republican legislators in States across the country are also quietly working to gut access to reproductive care. Last November, voters in seven different States approved ballot measures to protect or expand reproductive rights. But in the months since, extremist politicians in more than half of those States have tried to ignore the will of their voters and push new restrictions on abortion access.

And in several other States, anti-choice politicians are working to block similar ballot initiatives in the future. They are trying to ignore what people have clearly voted for, and then they are trying to make it so people can't actually vote on those issues at all—because let's be clear, for anti-choice politicians, this is about controlling women.

Let me give you an example. In Arizona, voters went to the polls last November and overwhelmingly chose to enshrine abortion protections in their State constitution. But since then, Republican politicians, in their State legislature, have been trying to pass bills that would limit the use of medication abortion and ban doctors from even informing women about abortion as a potential treatment option.

Or how about Missouri, where anti-choice politicians are trying to get a measure on the ballot that would overturn the abortion rights protections Missouri voters just approved last November?

These plots to subvert the will of voters and roll back women's rights in the States may not be capturing everyone's attention right now, but it is happening. We need to shed light on it because it is just as dangerous as some of the harmful policies coming out of this administration.

We can't forget that this administration is also taking steps to take away women's reproductive rights without any input from legislators at all.

The Food and Drug Administration has appointed commissioners who want to reexamine the safety of the abortion pill, mifepristone. And, no surprise, Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., is encouraging it. He has already asked the FDA to "review the latest data on mifepristone."

Secretary Kennedy is raising questions and injecting doubt about this medication that has already been proven to be safe and effective over the years. This is a man who, at one time, said he believed it was "always the woman's right to choose."

Mifepristone accounts for over 60 percent of abortions nationwide. Any attempts to restrict access to this medication would jeopardize the health and autonomy of women in Nevada and across the country. This is an overt

tactic by the administration to continue to take away access to the abortion pill nationwide.

In fact, the Trump administration made it more clear than ever that they are not concerned about women's safety when they eliminated guidance that hospitals have to provide abortions in emergency situations.

We have a law in this country that hospitals that receive Federal funding are required to provide medical care to stabilize a health emergency, including for pregnant patients. In cases where an abortion is necessary to stabilize a patient, hospitals are obligated to provide that care. It is called the Emergency Medical Treatment and Active Labor Act—or EMTALA, as many people know it.

I want to stress that EMTALA is the law of the land, and emergency abortion care is protected under EMTALA. But the problem is that this administration is telling women they are unwilling to enforce these protections. That is incredibly dangerous, and it ignores the laws.

It might not be front-page news every day, but when you take all of these actions together, it is clear that this administration and Republicans at every level of government are taking the steps they need to implement a nationwide abortion ban.

We have to remain vigilant and demand changes when these harmful policies emerge because we know that anti-choice politicians all across the country, including here in Washington, will continue to push them and take away women's access to healthcare.

It is happening at the Supreme Court, too, where the Justices who struck down *Roe v. Wade* are taking up multiple abortion rights cases.

So as we mark the anniversary of the decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, which took the constitutional right to an abortion away from every woman in this country, I want to thank my colleagues who are standing strong and standing with me today and every day in this fight.

We will never stop pushing back against this administration's—and any other anti-choice politician's—attempts to make women second-class citizens in America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following Senators be permitted to speak for up to 4 minutes each prior to the scheduled vote: HASSAN, KLOBUCHAR, BLUNT ROCHESTER, and now me.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague Senator LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER for holding this floor block to mark a grim—very grim—anniversary in America.

Three years ago today, as we know, MAGA Justices on the Court eliminated the protections of *Roe* in the dis-

astrous, terrible, nasty Dobbs decision. In one fell swoop, hard-right Justices overturned decades of precedent and ripped away the fundamental right to choose for millions of American women.

When the Dobbs decision was leaked, I stood here on the floor and said it would be "one of the worst and most damaging opinions the Court has handed down in modern history," and unfortunately, 3 years later, that much has proved to be true.

Today, 21 States have significantly restricted the right to choose. At least 14 States have passed what are practically total abortion bans. In a State like Texas, maternal mortality is spiking. One in five Americans today has to travel great distances, even cross State lines, and wait weeks or more to get the care they need. People are dying because of the Dobbs decision. And—listen to this—State-level restrictions on abortion, combined with the lack of Federal protections, are costing the U.S. economy \$133 billion nationally. Without reproductive healthcare protections, fewer women are participating in the workforce, stunting our economy. It is utterly regressive.

Around the Capitol today are women telling their stories, and they are amazing and they are heart-wrenching. I stood alongside several reproductive rights advocates, including two women whose lives have been upended because of Dobbs: Shanette Williams, the mother of Amber Thurman, the first woman recorded in Georgia to die because of lack of abortion care; and Ashley Ortiz, who couldn't get the care she needed because of Arizona's extreme abortion ban. Shanette and Ashley's stories are just two examples of the irreparable harm Dobbs has inflicted. There are countless more stories like theirs we will never hear about.

The anti-choice fanatics in the Republican Party spent decades campaigning to end *Roe*. Now that the damage is done, Republicans aren't backing down on this issue; they are doubling down. As I speak, Republicans are trying to jam through one of the most extreme, radical anti-choice provisions in their "Big Ugly Betrayal." Specifically, they have snuck two provisions into their bill—one defunding Planned Parenthood and one eliminating coverage for comprehensive reproductive care.

So Dobbs may have set us back, but today, with Senator BALDWIN as our lead, we will again introduce the Women's Health Protection Act to ensure that healthcare providers have the statutory right to provide patients abortion services free from bans and restrictions.

Republicans know to their core how deeply unpopular their abortion bans are, and that is why many Senate Republicans tried to run away from the Dobbs decision at first. But, unfortunately, they are back to their normal ways, trying to achieve a total, nationwide abortion ban. Senate Democrats

will continue to stand together and fight back against Republicans every step of the way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues to stand up for the freedom of American women as we mark the anniversary of the Supreme Court overturning *Roe v. Wade*, and I want to thank Senator BLUNT ROCHESTER and my colleagues for leading this effort on the floor this afternoon.

In New Hampshire, we proudly call ourselves the Live Free or Die State, and today, I would like to take a moment to reflect on what the Dobbs decision—a decision that represents the largest attack on freedom in modern American political history—means not only for the future of American women but, even more fundamentally, for freedom in our democracy itself.

It is difficult to keep up with the Trump administration's attacks on freedom, with attacks on our rights to due process, freedom of speech and expression, freedom to vote, and more. Perhaps the President hopes that with each cascading outrage, the American people will forget that he set in motion the events that led to the Supreme Court taking away freedom from half of our population—the fundamental freedom of a woman to make her own health decisions. But, of course, we haven't forgotten. We Americans have never been inclined to forget attacks on our liberties.

What did the Dobbs decision mean? It took away a woman's freedom to make deeply personal health decisions, the freedom to decide when and if to start a family, the freedom to get lifesaving care when a woman's health is imperiled while pregnant.

This is more than a freedom to get a specific medical procedure. In practice, we are talking about the freedom to chart one's own future—a freedom which should be enjoyed by all free and equal citizens in a democracy. But with the Dobbs decision, for the first time in our country's history, our daughters are now less free than their mothers were at their age. Since the Dobbs decision, we have become a country where a fundamental freedom can vanish once a woman crosses a State line. We have returned to a kind of sectionalism of bygone eras that history should have taught us to avoid where women who are pregnant and live in States with draconian laws banning abortion know that in the event of a dire medical emergency, they may have to make a long drive to cross State lines or run the risk of being thrown in jail for just trying to get lifesaving care.

This isn't hypothetical. Already, lives have been imperiled and even lost in experiences that we have heard from Georgia, Florida, Texas, and in States all across the country.

Indeed, at this very moment, Members of this body are seeking to pass

legislation—the Republican budget bill—which would, among other measures, make it impossible for many women to get the care they need and shut down women's healthcare clinics all across the country. Their legislation is effectively the final step in establishing a backdoor national abortion ban.

So, to my Republican colleagues: Please stop singing the same song to us that the women of America are being alarmist—a song that we heard before *Roe* was overturned and that we have continued to hear since. I want to know just when exactly in the process of having one's freedom stripped away are we allowed to become alarmed. Are we only allowed to be concerned about losing a fundamental freedom once that freedom has become nothing more than a memory?

Ultimately, behind all of this talk of laws and precedent, of State statutes and Federal, behind all the medical discussion about women's healthcare, the anniversary of the Supreme Court overturning *Roe* begs us to ask a question as simple and as fundamental as they come, a question that the opponents of reproductive freedom and the President himself ought to answer: When our Declaration of Independence declared that all are created equal, does that promise belong to American women or do we believe that truth is not self-evident after all?

When the suffragettes at Seneca Falls wrote that they “insist women have immediate admission to all the rights and privileges which belong to them as citizens of the United States,” do we still believe those words or were the suffragettes wrong?

Do we believe that we are better off when everyone gets to chart their own future? In the land of the free, do the full blessings of liberty belong to our daughters as well as our sons?

Can a democracy like ours persist when, divided by State lines, half its people live half-free? In the end, that is what this debate is really all about.

So what is it, on this anniversary, that America's women ask for? It is simple. They want what all Americans want. Their aspiration is to be free. And so long as we wish to call ourselves the world's greatest democracy, the President and this body would do well to remember our country's promise and heed their call.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today, on the third anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision to shred nearly five decades of precedent protecting a woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions, to say that now is the time to protect freedom.

I appreciated the words of Senator HASSAN from the State of New Hampshire, a State grounded in freedom, for her focus on freedom. I also thank Senator LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER for bringing us together today.

In the 3 years since the Supreme Court went against the 70 percent of Americans who believe that healthcare decisions should be made by a woman, with her family and her doctor, instead of by politicians, women have been at the mercy of a patchwork of State laws that are creating chaos when it comes to accessing reproductive healthcare.

Today, 20 States partially or fully ban abortion, affecting more than 31 million women across the country. I ask why women in Minnesota should have different rights—different fundamental rights—than women in Texas, why a woman in Oregon should have different rights than a woman in Georgia.

Women are also being forced away from emergency rooms and left to travel hundreds of miles for healthcare, and doctors are being threatened with prosecution for just doing their jobs.

In Texas, a pregnant teenager died after being denied care at three different hospitals. I will never forget the gut-wrenching testimony I heard from another woman, Amanda Zurawski, at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing. She nearly died from sepsis after being forced to carry her stillborn daughter Willow to term due to Texas's abortion ban. It was a heartbreaking story.

President Trump has made clear that he was and is, in his own words, proudly the person who ended *Roe v. Wade*, and his administration is continuing its assault on women's reproductive freedom. The Trump administration has rolled back policies that protect access to lifesaving abortion care during medical crises. It has announced it will be putting mifepristone under review despite the fact that the American Medical Association stated that “there is no evidence that people are harmed by having access to this safe and effective medication” that has been on the market, I would add, for more than two decades and is safely used in 90 countries.

But the Trump administration has decided: Well, we know better. We know better than the American Medical Association. We know better than the women of the country that have been using this medication safely. We know better than 90 other countries.

And the President is putting forward nominees to the Federal bench, including ones I have recently questioned, with a demonstrated hostility to reproductive freedom.

As if this wasn't enough, congressional Republicans are also seeking to pass a budget that would leave 1.1 million patients who rely on Planned Parenthood health centers for critical and lifesaving services like cancer screening, STI tests and treatment, and birth control, among other things, with nowhere to go.

We are at a pivotal moment for women's rights in this country. Are we going to continue to move forward or are we going to be sent further back in time? Enough is enough.

As my colleagues have made clear today, we refuse to back down. We

refuse to give up. We will not settle for a world in which our daughters and our granddaughters have fewer rights than their moms and fewer rights than their grandmas.

We need to codify the protections of *Roe v. Wade* into law once and for all and guarantee the right to access care. That is why we must pass the Women's Health Protection Act—the first step in addressing the devastating reproductive healthcare crisis that Dobbs unleashed—and keep fighting any effort to deprive women of the healthcare we need and deserve.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. President, as I close out this time, I had written prepared remarks for my closing, but a word keeps ringing over and over in my head, and that word is “freedom.” As I stand here, why today is so important is because it is again another chip chipping at our freedoms.

I stand here as a Black woman who has, in our history, knowledge of what it means for your bodily autonomy to be taken.

I stand here, today, looking at a picture of my granddaughter, who I want to have the same rights that I had growing up.

Today, we mark a 3-year anniversary, but we also have an opportunity to commit to what our future will look like.

This very week, we potentially will see a bill on this floor that will again chip away—chip away—at healthcare, when we know that 40 percent of the births in this country are through Medicaid; chip away at our rights.

So I thank my colleagues for their powerful words today. I thank all of the advocates who came and spoke to us today, all of the individuals who are still fighting the good fight to make sure that we have the rights that we deserve.

I will end with a story of an individual who I just met today. Her name is Nancy Davis, and she is a patient in Louisiana.

She said:

When I was 10 weeks pregnant, doctors informed me that my baby had acrania, a rare condition that was fatal for my baby, and dangerous for me.

Naturally, I was heartbroken and scared, but I trusted that I would receive the necessary medical treatment so that my family and I could begin healing.

Unfortunately, I was wrong.

Just a few weeks before I received my diagnosis, the Supreme Court issued the decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, overturning *Roe v. Wade* and eliminating the legal right to abortion.

The fallout from that decision was fast, with states across the country starting to enforce cruel and dangerous abortion bans.

My home state of Louisiana has some of the strictest abortion laws in the country, and even though I needed to terminate my pregnancy to protect my own health and safety, I was told I could not receive care at the hospital in Baton Rouge.

Instead of being able to process the diagnosis and grieve the loss of the pregnancy at

home with my family, I had to scramble to find a way out of Louisiana to access abortion care.

I found myself in a situation I never thought I would be in, forced to travel 1,500 miles to get the care that I needed and deserved.

I experienced not only a denial of necessary medical care, but a denial of compassion, and my right to make my own decisions about my own health.

I felt dehumanized and stripped of my most fundamental rights.

I knew what I needed to do to protect my health, and my doctors agreed. But local lawmakers who will never know me or understand my situation had the final say.

The system failed me, and I am just as outraged today as I was then.

Today, let's turn that outrage into action. Spread the word about what is coming to this floor. Make sure that people stand up, use their voices, use this moment.

Freedom. That is what this is about—freedom.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Dabbar nomination.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill 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. 140, Paul Dabbar, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

John Thune, Eric Schmitt, Bernie Moreno, John Boozman, Jim Justice, Dan Sullivan, Pete Ricketts, Mike Rounds, Chuck Grassley, Jon A. Husted, Ted Cruz, Rick Scott of Florida, John Hoeven, Mike Crapo, Ashley B. Moody, Marsha Blackburn, Katie Boyd Britt.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Paul Dabbar, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 324 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Banks	Graham	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Moreno
Blackburn	Hagerty	Mullin
Boozman	Hawley	Murkowski
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	King	Sheehy
Cotton	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Cramer	Lankford	Thune
Crapo	Lee	Tillis
Cruz	Lummis	Tuberville
Curtis	Marshall	Warner
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	McCormick	Young
Fischer	Moody	

NAYS—42

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Reed
Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Kaine	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schiff
Booker	Lujan	Schumer
Cortez Masto	Markey	Slotkin
Duckworth	Merkley	Smith
Durbin	Murphy	Van Hollen
Fetterman	Murray	Warnock
Gallago	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Hassan	Paul	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Coons
Shaheen

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 56, the nays are 42. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO AMBER MOYERMAN

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I want to take a few moments to recognize Amber Moyerman on her dedicated service to the U.S. Senate. After more than 25 years in the Senate, including 18 years in my office as deputy chief of staff and administrative director, she will be retiring at the end of the month.

Amber grew up in Indian Head, MD. She graduated from St. Mary's Ryken High School in Leonardtown, MD. She continued her education at the College of Southern Maryland where she earned an associate's degree.

In 2000, Amber began her career on Capitol Hill as a staff assistant on the Senate Committee on Finance under the leadership of Chairman William Roth. She quickly rose through the ranks on the committee and served for many years as the deputy clerk. In