

This is just a small sample of the thousands of stories that TikTok users are posting about the app's importance in their lives.

If my colleagues remain unmoved by these personal accounts, they should consider the political implications of the TikTok ban. The 170 million Americans that use TikTok each month will be furious when their favorite platform goes dark. That is 170 million Americans—170 million reasons to think very carefully about their position on the TikTok ban.

Make no mistake, these communities cannot be replicated on another app. Creators and small businesses cannot rebuild their audiences overnight. Many have stated that thanks to TikTok's unique culture, it is impossible to develop a similar following on another platform. Users cannot transfer their followers and communities to a new platform.

A ban would dismantle a one-of-a-kind informational and cultural ecosystem, silencing millions in the process.

The stakes are very high over the next week, and that is why I will soon introduce the Extend the TikTok Deadline Act to extend the deadline by which ByteDance must sell TikTok or face a ban, and it should be extended by an additional 270 days.

Now that my colleagues understand that the TikTok ban is real, we need time to have a deeper conversation about how to address the national security risk caused by ByteDance's ownership of TikTok. We need time to understand the ban's implication on TikTok's creators and users. We need time to consider alternative ideas.

This legislation does not repeal the original legislation; it merely allows for more time.

Let me be clear. TikTok has its problems. Like every social media platform, TikTok poses a serious risk to the privacy and mental health of our young people in our country. In fact, TikTok paid a fine for violating my law, the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act, just a few years ago. I am proud of my law, and I am proud that the Federal Trade Commission took action under my law. But they have also done the same kind of action against American companies and fined them for doing the very same thing to children in our country online. So it is not just a TikTok issue; it is American companies that actually set the example for how young people in our country get abused.

Last year, I sent a letter to the Department of Justice urging it to quickly review the allegations that TikTok had violated COPPA yet again. I will continue to hold TikTok accountable for such behavior, but I will hold every American company, from Instagram to Facebook, all the way down the line, that is doing the very same thing to the children in our country.

A ban on TikTok does not solve the problem because young people in our

country are still going to be going to American sites that will abuse them. And the Surgeon General tells us that there is a mental health crisis amongst young people in our country. This doesn't solve the problem. If we are going to deal with it, let's deal with it, but let's step back and understand that it is not just a TikTok issue; it is social media in general.

A TikTok ban would impose serious consequences on millions of Americans who depend upon the app for social connections and for their economic livelihood. We cannot allow this to happen.

I will urge the U.S. Senate to adopt my legislation to give the whole process an additional 270 days for us to debate it in a way in which we did not debate it last year on the Senate floor.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask that the vote begin at this moment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON MOTION TO PROCEED

The question occurs on the motion to proceed.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (MR. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Oklahoma (MR. MULLIN).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from South Carolina (MR. GRAHAM) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (MR. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), the Senator from California (MR. PADILLA), and the Senator from California (MR. SCHIFF) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 82, nays 10, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 2 Leg.]

YEAS—82

Alsobrooks	Cruz	King
Baldwin	Curtis	Klobuchar
Banks	Daines	Lankford
Barrasso	Duckworth	Lee
Bennet	Durbin	Lummis
Blackburn	Ernst	Marshall
Blumenthal	Fischer	McCconnell
Blunt Rochester	Gallego	McCormick
Boozman	Gillibrand	Moran
Britt	Grassley	Moreno
Budd	Hagerty	Murkowski
Cantwell	Hassan	Murphy
Capito	Hawley	Ossoff
Cassidy	Heinrich	Paul
Collins	Hickenlooper	Peters
Coons	Hoeven	Reed
Cornyn	Hyde-Smith	Ricketts
Cortez Masto	Johnson	Risch
Cotton	Kaine	Rosen
Cramer	Kelly	Rounds
Crapo	Kennedy	Rubio

Schmitt	Sullivan	Welch
Schumer	Thune	Whitehouse
Scott (FL)	Tillis	Wicker
Scott (SC)	Tuberville	Wyden
Shaheen	Van Hollen	Young
Sheehy	Warner	
Slotkin	Warnock	

NAYS—10

Booker	Markey	Smith
Hirono	Merkley	Warren
Kim	Sanders	
Lujan	Schatz	

NOT VOTING—6

Fetterman	Mullin	Padilla
Graham	Murray	Schiff

The motion was agreed to.

LAKEN RILEY ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 5) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

AMENDMENT NO. 8

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I call up Ernst amendment No. 8.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. Thune], for Ms. Ernst, proposes an amendment numbered 8.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask that the reading be dispensed with.

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

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To include crimes resulting in death or serious bodily injury to the list of offenses that, if committed by an inadmissible alien, require mandatory detention)

Beginning on page 2, strike line 15 and all that follows through page 3, line 2, and insert the following:

"(ii) is charged with, is arrested for, is convicted of, admits having committed, or admits committing acts which constitute the essential elements of any burglary, theft, larceny, or shoplifting offense, or any crime that results in death or serious bodily injury to another person,";

(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (4); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

"(2) DEFINITION.—For purposes of paragraph (1)(E), the terms 'burglary', 'theft', 'larceny', 'shoplifting', and 'serious bodily injury' have the meanings given such terms in the jurisdiction in which the acts occurred.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT TOGETHER WITH THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS, RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT OF THE SENATE ON JANUARY 10, 2025—PM 2

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Joint Economic Committee:

To the Congress of the United States:

In the last four years, America has overcome some of the most challenging economic conditions in our history. When I took office, our economy was in the grips of worst pandemic in a century, and decades of trickle-down policies had left us especially vulnerable to its shocks. Hundreds of thousands of businesses had closed, and millions of Americans risked losing their homes. Unemployment was high and the risk of long-term damage was real.

My Administration responded with a new economic playbook to rebuild our economy from the middle out and bottom up, not the top down. Since then, we've made historic investments in our nation and in the industries of the future. We've stood by unions and helped to create a record 16 million jobs. We've fought to lower costs for consumers, and to give small businesses a fair chance to compete. Today, our economy has not only recovered, it has emerged stronger, laying the foundation for a promising new chapter in the American comeback story.

My Council of Economic Advisers has prepared this report examining actions taken to both ease the pandemic's immediate impact and strengthen our economy over the long-term, to help ensure we learn the right lessons as a nation and to build on the historic progress we've made.

Our work began right away with the American Rescue Plan, one of the most consequential recovery packages in history. To reopen our economy, we knew we had to defeat COVID-19, so we launched unprecedented vaccination efforts. We got immediate economic relief out to tens of millions of families who needed it most. We expanded the Child Tax Credit, cutting child poverty in half to its lowest rate in history. And we sent funding directly to every state, city, and town in the nation, keeping police on the beat and teachers in the classroom, families in their homes and small businesses on their feet, preventing a wave of scarring bankruptcies, defaults, and evictions.

At the same time, the pandemic had snarled supply chains and set off wide-

spread labor shortages, driving up costs worldwide. In response, my Administration immediately convened businesses and labor to unplug our ports and get goods flowing. Russia's unprovoked and unjustified invasion of Ukraine further increased food and gas prices. In response, I directed the largest release of fuel from our strategic reserve in history to ensure that our energy markets were well supplied, and we challenged oil and gas companies to reinvest record profits in domestic production, which has reached an all-time high under my Administration. And we took steps to promote competition across industries, boosting transparency and lowering costs for consumers.

Our approach worked. Inflation is down significantly from its peak and is now close to pre-pandemic levels. Together, we've achieved the elusive "soft landing" of lower inflation, steady employment, strong economic growth, and rising real wages—which most observers said was impossible.

But ending the economic crisis alone was never enough. I ran for President to set the American economy on a stronger long-term course, by breaking from the trickle-down orthodoxy that has failed our nation for decades. That theory holds that by cutting taxes for the very wealthy, benefits will trickle down to everyone else. But in truth, not a lot has ever trickled down onto most folks' kitchen tables. Instead, inequality grew and America slid deeper into debt.

I have a different approach. I believe the best way to build America is to invest in America, in American products and American people. And the best way to grow our economy is to grow the backbone of our nation: the middle class. That's what my Investing in America agenda has done, through landmark laws that shore up our infrastructure, our manufacturing base, and our people. Together, these are some of the most significant investments in America since the New Deal.

For decades, American infrastructure has been neglected. But our Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is finally modernizing the nation's roads, bridges, ports, airports, transit systems, and more; removing every lead pipe in America, so every child can drink clean water; and providing affordable high-speed internet for every American, no matter where they live. And it's making sure these projects are done with American products and American workers, creating hundreds of thousands of good-paying new jobs, many of them union jobs.

For too long, American factories have moved overseas, taking vital industries with them. Now, our CHIPS and Science Act is bringing manufacturing home, already attracting nearly \$450 billion in manufacturing investments to build massive new semiconductor factories, equipping America to lead the industries of future. At the same time, our Inflation Reduction Act

is making the most significant investment in fighting climate change in history, not only putting America on track to halve carbon emissions by 2030 and promoting our energy abundance and security, but also creating hundreds of thousands of good-paying clean-energy jobs.

I know all too well, Americans still too often struggle to afford lifesaving prescription drugs, and sometimes are even forced to choose between medicine and rent. It's wrong. The Inflation Reduction Act also takes historic steps to change that, capping total out-of-pocket costs for seniors on Medicare at \$2,000 a year; slashing insulin for seniors to \$35 a month, down from as much as \$400; and finally giving Medicare the power to negotiate lower drug prices across the board. And it has expanded health insurance through the Affordable Care Act, bringing the share of uninsured Americans to record lows.

The impact of these efforts is just starting—and the full effects will be felt over the next decade—but there is no question that our nation today is the best-positioned on earth to win the competition for the 21st century. We've laid a foundation of possibilities that will make life a little easier for millions of Americans and can propel America for decades.

Today, we hand the incoming Administration the world's largest economy. The next four years will determine if America builds on that strength, or slides back into the old trickle-down approach that only benefits those at the very top. I believe that the transformative investments we've made are already deeply rooted in our nation, and therefore too costly, politically and economically, to reverse. At this inflection point, I hope that our playbook serves as a model for how to fight for the middle class and give working families a fair shot, forging a stronger, more secure and prosperous America for generations to come.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 23. An act to impose sanctions with respect to the International Criminal Court engaged in any effort to investigate, arrest, detain, or prosecute any protected person of the United States and its allies.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Mr. COTTON, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 70. A bill to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to Ansarallah and its officials, agents, or affiliates for acts of