

guarantee the midterms." He is saying: Fix the election so that we can win.

This isn't the first time he has tried to do that, albeit in a different way this time.

Think about that. The President of the United States is saying out loud that making it harder to vote will help his party win. That is how an autocrat talks. That is how a thug talks. That is how someone who knows they are about to lose talks.

Now, MAGA Republicans keep calling this voter ID, but the SAVE Act is not a voter ID bill; it is a voter suppression bill. The SAVE Act would make it easier to buy an AR-15 than to register to vote. Republicans won't tell Americans, for example, that under the SAVE Act, States would be required to hand over voter records to be screened through a DHS system rebuilt by Elon Musk's DOGE squad. Do you think that is on the level? No way.

This is not about protecting democracy; this is about giving Trump and his allies more power to decide who gets to vote and who does not. If, God forbid, this bill passed and your State turned over its election rolls and it went through the system that DOGE has imposed at DHS, you could be very easily purged from the rolls through no fault of your own and nothing you have done. But once you are purged, you may not even know that you were purged until you show up to cast your ballot on election day.

Republicans won't tell Americans that their bill would wipe out the most common ways Americans register to vote. No more registering by mail. No more voter registration drives at churches or on college campuses. No more registration when you get a driver's license.

Under the SAVE Act, Americans would be forced to register in person even though only 6 percent of Americans registered in person to vote in 2022, and Republicans want to make this the only option. They won't tell Americans that a driver's license or State-issued ID would no longer be enough to register.

Indeed, many Americans would need additional paperwork like a passport or a birth certificate. Fewer than half of Americans even have a passport. Millions of Americans do not have easy access to a birth certificate. If you changed your name after marriage, you could run into problems too.

And now, Donald Trump says he doesn't even want vote by mail. Tell that to seniors, tell that to disabled Americans, tell that to Americans who live in rural communities far from an election office. Put simply, the SAVE Act is designed to make it harder to vote and easier to steal an election.

Once again, let me just repeat: You can be purged from the rolls. There is no requirement that you be notified that you were purged. You did nothing wrong. You were the same person who voted that way 2 years earlier.

And guess what. You show up at the polling place, and they say: Sorry, Mr.

Jones, sorry Ms. Smith, you are not on the rolls anymore. You had no way of knowing, and then you can't vote because you are just finding out when you show up to the polls to vote on election day. It is outrageous. It is cynical. It is un-American. It is autocratic.

Donald Trump knows that if the election is fair, he could lose. So instead of changing his policies, he and the MAGA Republicans—now, all we see are so many Republicans, too many, seem to be going along, want to make it harder for Americans to vote.

That is who Donald Trump is. He is a bully. He does not know how to persuade. He threatens. He coerces. And now he is trying to do that to American democracy itself.

Senate Democrats will not let Donald Trump ram this bill through the Senate, not this week, not next week, not ever.

IRAN

Mr. President, the Senate's prayers are with the families of the six servicemembers killed in a plane crash late last week in Iraq. Thirteen U.S. servicemembers have now been killed.

We hold them in our hearts, as well as everyone killed and injured in the Middle East, as well as their families.

The war Donald Trump promised would be over quickly is now entering its third week, and no end is in sight. Iran is fully exerting its leverage over the Strait of Hormuz, sending oil prices surging across the globe. Brent crude is once again above \$100 a barrel. Right now, gas is \$3.70 at the pump. Oil executives told the White House last week: No matter what happens next, prices are likely to rise even higher in the weeks ahead.

So what is Donald Trump's plan to bring this economic pain to an end? Sadly, America, he doesn't have one. It is something different every day. No plan. No followthrough.

If you listen to his press conference earlier today, it was obvious: Donald Trump is flailing. Donald Trump claimed he predicted long ago that the Strait of Hormuz would be used as a weapon.

Well, if that is true, then he has done a terrible job planning in advance for how to stop it from being used as a weapon, and he continues to do a terrible job containing the damage that is now occurring.

Trump also claimed today:

They want to make a deal. They are talking to our people.

And then moments later he said:

All their leaders are dead. We don't even know who we are dealing with.

Which one is it? The leaders want to make a deal or we don't know who the leaders are? If you can say those two contradictory things within the same few minutes, something is dramatically wrong, and it is with Donald Trump.

Does Donald Trump know whom he is talking to or not? Are talks even hap-

pening? The Commander in Chief seems totally lost and in over his depth.

Donald Trump now claims that other countries are going to help the United States clear the Strait of Hormuz and bashed our own allies for voicing hesitation about putting troops in harm's way. And so far, no country has publicly said it would step up.

Now, Donald Trump even says his administration has been asking China to help us out in the Strait of Hormuz. China. Are you kidding me? China—relying on China to get us out of a mess that Donald Trump created. They are not going to do that. Fat chance they will do that.

Donald Trump created a mess in the Middle East, and he clearly has no plan for how to end it. That is a huge problem for our country. War—unnecessary, unnecessary, endless war.

ENERGY

Mr. President, lower costs and agenda on energy prices is the next thing I want to address. The war with Iran has only made the cost-of-living crisis worse for American families.

Does Donald Trump care? Of course not.

He says, if prices rise, he says, they rise. Republicans say that people paying more for gas is just a price they should be willing to pay. That is an outrageous thing to say as families struggle to keep their heads above water financially.

Instead of wasting billions on a foreign war, he should be working with Congress to lower energy costs here at home. That is exactly what Democrats are focused on—lowering costs for American families. And one of our focuses is energy costs.

So tomorrow, the Democrats will release a new report laying out Donald Trump's many broken promises on energy costs. Trump promised he would cut people's electricity bills in half by the end of his first year in office. But electricity bills have risen at almost triple—triple—the rate of inflation.

Even as his war with Iran sends gas prices higher, Donald Trump is simultaneously undermining any energy production here at home by killing hundreds of clean energy projects across the country.

Those projects would have provided enough energy to power 14 million homes. When you cut out clean energy—which he did in a vicious, nasty, vindictive way—you raise prices because the cheapest way to get new electrons on the grid is solar, and wind is not too far behind.

He cut them out. He cut them out because of a pet peeve. He didn't like clean energy because windmills were built off the coast near his golf course in Scotland.

Since then, there has been a war on clean energy, not to mention the corruption that the oil and gas industry, under the leadership of Harold Hamm—at least if you read the papers—promised him \$1 billion if he killed clean energy. Well, he has killed clean energy,

and the odds are pretty high he got a lot of that money.

I want to thank my colleagues MARTIN HEINRICH and SHELDON WHITEHOUSE, whom I am co-releasing this report with. This report helps lay the foundation for how the Democratic Senate majority would lower energy costs for the American people, and it is part of our broader, yearlong effort to lay out a Democratic vision to lower the cost of living across the board.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. 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.

The majority whip.

SAVE AMERICA ACT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor having just heard the minority leader address this body in talking about a fringe position. It has to do with voting in America in our elections.

And, essentially, what the minority leader said—he said it is fringe to have to prove that you are a citizen in order to vote. Apparently, the Democrats view that as a fringe position that you have to prove you are a citizen in order to vote in elections in the United States of America in a national election.

The minority leader additionally said it was basically fringe to have to show a photo ID when you cast a vote in an election. Those are mainstream, commonsense ideas.

The Democrats and Joe Biden let 10 million—if not more—illegal immigrants flood into this country over the 4 years of the Biden administration; and now, what do the Democrats want to do? They want to make it easier for illegal immigrants to go to the polls and to influence and have an impact on the elections in the United States of America.

To me, that is a fringe idea to allow illegal immigrants to vote, but that is what the Democrats are here promoting. I believe you should prove you are a citizen if you want to vote in the United States. I believe you need to show a photo ID when you need to vote.

That is what we have to do in my home State of Wyoming. Many States require it. But not the Democrat States that have been swamped with illegal immigrants and the sanctuary cities to allow anyone to come in, abuse the laws of the land, abuse the privileges of citizens.

That, to me, is a fringe idea, but that is what Democrats are going to stand for this week on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

You need to show an ID if you board a plane. You have got to show an ID if you go to a sporting event and buy a beer.

Why would you not have to show an ID to vote in an election in the United States? And then to hear the minority leader—I mean, it is astonishing. I wrote it down. He said: No more voter registration when you get a driver's license, as if there is something wrong with that.

Nineteen States give driver's licenses to people who are in this country illegally. So, of course, I don't want those people to be able to be registering to vote when they get a driver's license. I don't want them to even get a driver's license.

The minority leader thinks that is business as usual—give the illegal immigrants a driver's license and sign them up to vote, one step after another. We don't care if they are here legally or illegally. Sign them up. Maybe they will vote for us. That is the Democrat position in all of this.

The bill that we are going to be addressing this week on the floor, the SAVE America Act, that is the way we can have safe, secure elections that reflect the viewpoints of the American people.

So when I hear what is fringe, what I think is fringe is the Democrats in this body—and I think every one of them is going to stand with the extreme wing of their party—who want to allow illegal immigrants to vote and have an influence in the elections in this country. It is absolutely wrong.

This week, we are going to put every one of them on the record, and by the time this is over, every American is going to know that the Democrats are the party—that they are the party of illegal immigrants, open borders, and illegal voters.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. CAPITO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam 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.

NOTICE TO SUSPEND RULES

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, in accordance with rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby provide notice that I intend to move to suspend the operation of rule XXV, paragraph

(n)(1) to permit the Committee on Rules and Administration to consider the following motion with respect to the message to accompany S. 1383:

Motion to refer with instructions: That the Message to accompany S. 1383 be referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration with instruction that the Committee consider legislation that fully funds the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) through fiscal year 2026.

NOTICE TO SUSPEND RULES

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, in accordance with rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby provide notice that I intend to move to suspend the operation of rule XXV, paragraph (n)(1) to permit the Committee on Rules and Administration to consider the following motion with respect to the message to accompany S. 1383:

Motion to refer with instructions: That the Message to accompany S. 1383 be referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration with instruction that the Committee consider legislation that restricts a current President of the United States of America from receiving payments from the Department of Justice.

NOTICE TO SUSPEND RULES

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, in accordance with rule V of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby provide notice that I intend to move to suspend the operation of rule XXV, paragraph (n)(1) to permit the Committee on Rules and Administration to consider the following motion with respect to the message to accompany S. 1383:

Motion to refer with instructions: That the Message to accompany S. 1383 be referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration with instruction that the Committee review the compliance of the Department of Justice with the requirements of P.L. 119-38, the Epstein Files Transparency Act.

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 Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. REED, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 4097. A bill to establish that a State-based education loan program is excluded from certain requirements relating to a preferred lender arrangement; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. KIM):

S. 4098. A bill to establish standards and guidelines to make open Government data assets artificial intelligence-ready, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 4099. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to ensure that Federal employees are fully informed of their whistleblower rights; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. WYDEN):