

stronger. Irreversible damage from gender reassignment surgery should not be conducted on kids. This bill would put an end to this reckless practice on American children. The SAVE America Act would make this policy the law of the land this very week.

On another issue in the bill, America is in the thick of March Madness. Filling out brackets, watching buzzer-beaters, and cheering on Cinderella contenders is a rite of passage during the month of March. I am thrilled to cheer on our Iowa teams in the NCAA Tournament, including two women's teams—the Iowa Hawkeyes and the Iowa State Cyclones—as well as three men's teams—the Hawkeyes, the Cyclones, and my alma mater, the University of Northern Iowa Panthers.

Earlier this month, the Iowa high school basketball tournament brought the best of 32 girls teams and 32 boys teams from across the State to compete in 4 divisions. These young athletes deserve to compete on a level playing field—girls against girls, boys against boys. This is a matter of fairness.

Our bill would guarantee a level playing field for young athletes. Title IX was enacted a few years before I became a Member of Congress. It has been a game changer for women's sports.

Just think of Iowa University's Caitlin Clark. She has blazed a trail for women's sports for generations to come.

The SAVE America Act delivers commonsense government to the American people. As a student of history, I would prophesize that Americans looking back at this debate, 250 years from now, will scratch their heads, because protecting election integrity and protecting women's sports are as American as motherhood and apple pie.

In fact, 80 percent of Americans are able to see eye to eye on these issues. When it comes to elections, 80 percent of the American people support voter ID. I have even seen polls that say that 71 percent of the Democrats support voter ID.

I encourage my colleagues across the aisle to join us and pass the SAVE America Act without delay.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

SAVE AMERICA ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this afternoon, Republicans will move to bring a pernicious, radical bill before the Senate, the so-called SAVE America Act. At a moment when war is consuming the Middle East, when costs are

rising, when ICE agents are terrorizing our communities, and when job growth in America is weakening, MAGA Republicans have chosen to focus on voter suppression.

We all know why Donald Trump wants this bill. He is afraid Republicans will lose in November. Trump says: Pass the SAVE Act, and it will "guarantee the midterms." Imagine manipulating the electoral process to try to make himself the winner when he thinks he is going to lose—not surprising, I suppose, from Donald Trump. The senior Senator from Utah says:

Republicans will lose power—likely for a long time—if we don't get SAVE America passed.

It is funny. I don't remember MAGA Republicans screaming about stolen elections and voter fraud after the 2024 election that they won. Well, the same rules that governed the 2024 election are going to be the ones that govern the 2026 election. The only difference is that this time, MAGA Republicans know they are in trouble politically, so now they are suddenly saying that the system is compromised and broken and that it needs to be changed.

It is all lies—all lies. And they want to drag down the entire Senate for who knows how long in a vain attempt to pass this bill.

Let's be clear. Senate Democrats will never allow the SAVE Act to pass this Chamber. If a small band of MAGA Senators wants to drag this out on the Senate floor, keep us here through the night, through days, or longer, while stalling all other important business, they can try. It will not work.

MAGA Republicans, Senate Democrats will hold the line as long as necessary because with this bill, democracy is at stake.

I want to be very clear. The SAVE Act is not about voter identification; it is about voter suppression. Under the SAVE Act, every single State would be required to share its voter rolls with the Department of Homeland Security—something even many Republican States do not want to do.

Those rolls would be reviewed by a system designed by none other than Elon Musk and his DOGE, using an algorithm that has already been shown to be deeply flawed.

Millions would be kicked off the rolls for no reason. This means American citizens—many, millions—would be booted off the rolls wrongly. If you are kicked off the rolls, you may never be told. There is no requirement to let you know. Then when you show up on election day ready to vote and a poll worker tells you "Sorry, you are not registered; you are not in the system," what do you do? You can't reregister that day, especially with the onerous requirements for registration in the SAVE Act.

As I said, it is not just as simple as reregistering. Under the bill, Americans would have to run through an obstacle course of redtape unlike anything we have ever seen in voter reg-

istration. A driver's license would no longer be enough. A military ID would no longer be enough. You would need something like a passport, which most Americans do not have, or a birth certificate, which many Americans cannot easily find. If you cannot produce these documents, you could be out of luck, even if you are an American citizen with every right to vote. That is almost certainly the majority—the vast majority—of who would be thrown off the rolls.

Meanwhile, say goodbye to some of the safest, most convenient, and most effective ways to register to vote. No more registering online. No more registering in churches. No more registering at college campuses. No more registering at the DMV. No more registering by mail. No more vote-by-mail. Many red States love vote-by-mail. Yet MAGA radicals want to eliminate it almost entirely.

I ask my Republican colleagues: How does it protect our elections to stop people from registering at church or at the DMV? How does it make our democracy safer to tell seniors, people with disabilities, or working Americans they cannot register online and must find their way to an election office, which is something only a fraction of Americans do today—5.9 percent, to be more precise. How does getting rid of vote-by-mail—something red States do, something blue States do—strengthen democracy? The answer is, it does not.

The SAVE Act is not about election integrity; it is about voter suppression, plain and simple. MAGA Republicans would rather take democracy down than back away from their own right-wing, extreme policies that have killed jobs, started wars, and exploited working people to benefit the ultrarich. Senate Democrats will not let them succeed.

I tell my Republican colleagues: Hear me—we will hold the line for as long as it takes.

IRAN

Mr. President, on Iran, each day brings more evidence that Donald Trump has no idea what he is doing in Iran. Yesterday, the President effectively admitted his administration badly miscalculated Iran's responses to his attacks.

As he put it:

They hit Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE, and Kuwait. Nobody expected it. We were shocked. They fought back.

Comments like that show that Donald Trump is in over his head.

The old saying goes: If you break it, you buy it.

Well, Donald Trump, you broke it badly, and now you are trying to get out of paying the price.

The Strait of Hormuz is effectively shut down. Oil prices continue to rise. Yesterday, we learned that about 200 American troops have now been injured in this conflict. Thirteen servicemembers have made the ultimate sacrifice. We pray for them, their families, and for everyone in harm's way.

But, again, I repeat to Donald Trump: If you break it, you buy it.

Donald Trump broke it badly, and now he is trying to get out of paying the price.

Donald Trump promised this would be over in a matter of days or weeks. Well, we are now in week 3. There is still no sign this war is close to ending. In fact, despite severe blows, most reporting suggests Iran's regime remains intact and has hardened rather than collapsed.

This war needs to come to an end. In the meantime, I repeat what I said last week: Donald Trump's Cabinet must come before the Senate. We need public hearings. We need to hear from Secretary Rubio, Secretary Hegseth, and others under oath, and answer tough questions. They need to answer some very basic questions: Why are we at war? What is the objective? Will there be American boots on the ground? How exactly do they plan to reopen the Strait of Hormuz? What is the exit strategy?

Right now, we do not have answers to questions that should be easy for any competent administration to answer, and that should alarm every one of us.

#### ENERGY COSTS

Mr. President, finally, on energy costs, later today, Senators HEINRICH, WHITEHOUSE, and I will release the most comprehensive Senate report to date on Donald Trump's broken promise to lower energy costs. This is the third major pillar in Democrats' year-long effort to present a lower cost agenda to the American people. Lowering costs will remain our North Star all year long.

Donald Trump might think affordability is a hoax. He might be fixated on foreign wars. But Democrats understand that the cost of living is the No. 1 issue on people's minds.

When it comes to energy prices, the story is very simple: Donald Trump promised he would cut the price of energy in half in his first year. Well, 14 months have passed, and not only are energy prices up, they are rising roughly three times the rate of inflation, and that is not sustainable.

Our report explains in detail why this is happening. Donald Trump chose to help his friends in Big Oil out instead of helping American families lower their energy bills. He has waged war on clean energy—the cheapest and fastest source to build and get electrons on the grid—and now Americans are paying the price.

He cut clean energy because many contributors—Harold Hamm—hate clean energy because they know it is the future, not the oil and gas that they claim should be the only route to go. When he was running for office, Donald Trump promised oil executives at Mar-a-Lago—Harold Hamm among them—that if they gave him \$1 billion for his election, he would give them a great deal in return. Now he is making good on that bargain.

His so-called Big Beautiful Bill has destroyed clean energy jobs across the

country and raised taxes on clean energy. He has weaponized the Federal Government to undermine 35 clean energy projects that could have powered 14 million homes and supported 170,000 jobs. At the same time, Trump's war with Iran has pushed up the cost of gasoline and diesel. His tariffs have raised the cost of material needed to produce energy here at home.

So after more than a year, the pattern is very clear: Donald Trump has systemically destroyed investments in energy production, favored Big Oil over working families, and raised costs on households by killing the cheapest and fastest sources of new energy—solar, wind, and battery storage.

The American people are paying the price for Trump's broken promises.

I thank Senators HEINRICH and WHITEHOUSE for their tremendous work on this report. We will have more to say later today and in the weeks ahead. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 minutes prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

#### WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the St. John nomination.

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

#### NEBRASKA WILDFIRES

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, my home State of Nebraska is currently experiencing a natural disaster of unprecedented proportions for our State. We are experiencing the largest wildfires since Nebraska became a State. It started last week. We have a number of fires burning across the State that have burned up to 750,000 acres of Nebraska. That is over 1 percent, approaching 2 percent of the total land area of my State.

We have had one fatality. Rose Mary White, a grandmother of 12, died at her ranch near Arthur, NE. We have also had hundreds, if not thousands, of people impacted by these fires.

I ask all Nebraskans and all Americans to pray for the victims of these terrible fires.

I had the opportunity, with Governor Pillen and Congressman SMITH, to tour the areas that were burning on Saturday.

Thank you to all of the firefighters, our volunteer firefighters who are first responders on the scene, who worked tirelessly to be able to control this fire.

By the time we arrived on Saturday, they had had little sleep over the past several days and were exhausted. At 6 o'clock that night, a Federal firefighter team came in to provide relief, and I thank those firefighters as well.

Thank you to our Nebraska National Guardsmen. We have two Black Hawk helicopters with Bambi baskets that

are on site helping to control the fire by dumping water on it from the air. I thank Iowa as well because they have also loaned us two helicopters to be able to help out. The Governor was calling the fire departments of Omaha and Lincoln and Columbus, seeking to get additional firefighter help to be able to relieve the volunteers that are working so hard around the clock.

Nebraska is a great place. We have great community spirit. We saw it on full display as people pitched in to be able to help combat these fires. But we have a lot of work to be able to do.

The Morrill fire has burned over 572,000 acres and is only 18 percent contained. The Cottonwood fire has burned over 131,000 acres, and it is only 40 percent contained. The Road 203 fire has burned 35,000 acres, and it is 36 percent contained. And the Anderson Bridge fire has burned 17,000 acres and is only 60 percent contained.

I know that Nebraskans will continue to work hard to preserve life and property and take care of their neighbors during this time. We are no stranger to disasters. Nebraskans always pitch in to be able to help.

I do want to say to my fellow Nebraskans that if you get the evacuation order, be prepared because this fire has moved fast. We got some relief from the winds on Sunday, but they kicked up again on Monday. Those winds can drive that fire very, very fast. So be prepared to evacuate. Please don't stay. If you stay too long, you are putting yourself and the firefighters at risk who are trying to put out this fire and protect you. And when it is safe, please make sure you are documenting the damage that you have incurred.

The USDA Farm Service Agency has Disaster Assistance Programs. After you are safe and you have had a chance to document your damage, you can go to them to see what sort of programs are out there. The Nebraska Cattlemen, nebrascacattlemen.org, has the ability for people to donate to be able to help out those impacted by this fire, so do the Red Cross and Salvation Army.

In talking with our ag director Sherry Vinton, over 30,000 cattle may be displaced because of this fire. And certainly, there will be cattle losses because of it. We just don't know the magnitude yet. It has been very dry this winter in Nebraska, and this fire has burned out of control. But we have many brave Nebraskans—volunteers, firefighters, the National Guard—who are working to be able to get this fire under control.

As a Federal delegation, we will continue to support the local efforts and the State's efforts to control this fire and to help those impacted recover. And again, I ask for the prayers of Nebraskans and all Americans to be able to help us out in this terrible tragedy.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the