

someone to vote—no citizenship checks, no additional steps, no questions asked, no accountability—19 States.

And the minority leader on the floor the other day said that one of the things he didn't like about the SAVE America Act is that it would prevent automatic registration when people get their licenses in these places. Well, they are not supposed to get licenses if they are not citizens. Certainly, that is what I believe. And certainly, if they are not citizens, they shouldn't be registered to vote automatically. That is what the Democrats are fighting for: automatic enrollment on the voter rolls for people who are not citizens of the United States when they get a driver's license, in 19 States and the District, which allow illegal immigrants to obtain driver's licenses. Now, by the way, these 20 jurisdictions represent 240 votes in the electoral college.

I just want to take a second to look to the State of Oregon. Oregon hands out driver's licenses to illegal immigrants. When people get a driver's license in Oregon, automatically registered to vote. As a result, from 2021 all the way through 2024, hundreds of illegal immigrants were added onto Oregon's voter rolls. Today, we are in 2026. Oregon is still scrambling to try to clean up the disaster that they created with automatic voter registration when they gave illegal immigrants a driver's license.

This is the chaos that the Democrats continue to defend and are defending on this floor today. This is the problem that will be prevented by the SAVE America Act.

As Democrats come to this floor and they fight to let illegal immigrants vote, they are simultaneously—and this is so sad—they are actively defunding American security. That is right; they are defunding American security. Democrats would rather stand with illegal immigrants and illegal immigrant criminals than to vote to protect law-abiding citizens. That is a shame. It is astonishing to many, and it is business as usual for the Democrats in this body.

There have been four terror attacks on American soil in just the past 2 weeks. People have died. What have Senate Democrats done about it? Last week, Senate Democrats came to this floor and refused once again to fully fund the Department of Homeland Security. Blood is on their hands. They don't seem to care. Fully funding the Department of Homeland Security is the best way to keep our Nation safe.

Yet, for more than a month, Democrats have practiced the politics of pain. Democrats have defunded bomb prevention training class. I mean, can you imagine that? People are making bombs to bomb areas of our country, to bomb individuals—bombs were thrown at the mayor's house in New York City, at the residence there—and Democrats have defunded bomb prevention training classes.

This includes one location after another; and yet, because of this shutdown by the Democrats of the Department of Homeland Security, only a third of the instructors in the bombing prevention training are on the job. Training classes are canceled.

Democrats are also withholding paychecks from TSA agents. Many TSA agents live paycheck to paycheck. In communities around the country and in my State and the Presiding Officer's, community groups and service clubs are taking up food drives to take food to the airports to give to the TSA agents because they are not getting paid because the Democrats have shut down the Department of Homeland Security.

Under these circumstances, many TSA agents aren't showing up for work. Others are just quitting and getting a job where they know they will get paid. And the problem was made worse by the Democrats' shutdown last October because these TSA agents said: Been there, done that, not going to do it again.

Travelers across the country are waiting in security lines for hours. That is happening today. And Democrats keep voting to make the wait times even longer because they refuse to fund the Department of Homeland Security. Some of them come to the floor and say: We are going to peel it apart.

The Department of Homeland Security was set up after 2001 and the terror bombings of 9/11. It is a comprehensive program to protect the homeland and the people who live here. Democrats want to peel it apart and say: Well, we will fund this little corner but not that portion and not this portion, and OK over here. We need this comprehensive Department of Homeland Security on the job, working, being paid, doing the training that needs to be done.

It is astonishing that, time and time again, whether it comes to the safety of our citizens, the security of our elections, Democrats once again put illegal immigrants first and American citizens last. Republicans and most Americans reject this far-left extremism of the Democratic Party. It offends so many.

Republicans are going to continue to put American citizens first—at the border, in communities, and at the ballot box.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### UKRAINE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we recently passed a tragic milestone: the fourth anniversary of Russia's full-scale war against Ukraine. I remember the morning vividly, sitting with Sen-

ator COONS, the senior Senator from Delaware, on a dark, early morning at the airport in Vilnius, Lithuania, a country that knows all too well the threat posed by Russia throughout history.

The loss of life from Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine has been staggering, with nearly 2 million total casualties. Millions more Ukrainians have been displaced. Thousands of Ukrainian children have been abducted to Russia.

President Trump bragged more times than I can remember that he would end the Ukrainian war on day one if re-elected. To his credit, the United States has fostered a series of talks between Russia and Ukraine. While I strongly support American help to ensure that Ukraine can defend itself, and a diplomatic resolution is always preferable, it is devastatingly clear to everyone—except, it seems, the President—that Putin isn't serious about reaching a peace deal in Ukraine. Putin continues to play for time, calling and manipulating President Trump at key moments, including last week, to brazenly offer help in the Middle East while simultaneously, we know, Russia is giving intelligence to the Iranians to target American forces.

Time and again, President Trump has only pressed Ukraine to reach a deal—never pressed Putin. And last week, Trump defied common sense—defied common sense when he lifted sanctions on Russian oil because of what should have been foreseen chaos in the energy markets due to his invasion in Iran. And for reasons I simply cannot explain, this Chamber has refused to pass Russian sanctions legislation with more than 85 cosponsors.

Let me be clear, Putin only responds to strength. He is stringing along United States-led peace negotiations while relentlessly bombing Ukraine, while helping Iran target American servicemembers.

It is time for President Trump to finally learn this lesson and for the Senate to pass legislation increasing pressure on Putin to negotiate.

I yield the floor.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR EN BLOC

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand that there are four bills at the desk due for a second reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4124) to prohibit funds made available to the Department of Justice from being used to make a personal payment to the President in connection with a claim that is subject to the Federal Tort Claims Act, whether in the form of a settlement or any other payment from the Judgment Fund for the personal benefit of the President.

A bill (S. 4125) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a tax on damages received by certain officers of the United States on account of any civil action filed against the United States, and for other purposes.

A bill (S. 4126) to address the ineligibility of Ashli Babbitt for military funeral honors.

A bill (S. 4127) making continuing appropriations for essential Transportation Security Administration pay and operations during the lapse in appropriations beginning on February 14, 2026, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

#### SAFEGUARD AMERICAN VOTER ELIGIBILITY ACT—Continued

S. 1383

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, there are so many issues Senate Republicans could be working with us on this week that Americans actually care about. Republicans could focus on whether Americans can afford groceries or on lowering healthcare premiums or bringing down childcare costs or fixing our power grid.

But what have MAGA Republicans chosen to focus on this week? Voter suppression. That is what the Republican Senate is wasting our time on, pushing a voter suppression bill that most Americans do not support—a bill that appeals to only the most fringe element of the MAGA base.

If this is the path our Republican colleagues want to take, Democrats are ready. We will hold the line to ensure the forces of voter suppression do not win the day. We will debate this bill for as long as Republicans want because the more time we spend on this bill, the more Senate Democrats will expose it for what it really is.

I heard our Senator from Utah last night talk on the floor, and he talked—the times I heard him—about having an ID when you go to vote. This SAVE Act is not about voter ID. In fact, the original bill didn't even have a sentence about voter ID, and they had to put it in at the last minute so it could meet their subterfuge argument.

Democrats support commonsense voter ID, but this bill is not that—at all. So don't lie and make it seem like that is the purpose of this bill, because it isn't. It is just a sentence that was added at the last minute so they could engage in this subterfuge.

This is suppression, a MAGA power grab that could disenfranchise more than 20 million American citizens—because what is the core of the bill? The core of the bill is handing the voter rolls over to DHS, putting them through an algorithm designed by DOGE and Musk that supposedly knocks out illegal immigrants from voting.

But the evidence is almost no illegal immigrants vote, and on an experiment

in a county of Missouri, more than half the people knocked out were American citizens, using this algorithm.

Is that what the Senators from Missouri or any other State want—their legitimate citizens being knocked off the ballot, being purged, and then not knowing about it until you show up to vote on election day, and you say to the person at the election facility: Well, I voted at this booth for the last—I have voted at this place for 20 years. I have used the same ID.

Well, you were knocked off.

And to get back on is very onerous and very difficult. It is harder to reregister under this bill than it is to purchase a firearm. It is absolutely crazy.

And it is all based on one fact: that Donald Trump has lied that our elections are rife with voter fraud. We know that is bull. Even the Wall Street Journal—no friend of Democrats; certainly, no friend of mine—said in an editorial yesterday—the Wall Street Journal said the President's voter fraud claims “aren't backed by hard evidence.” And yet that is what this bill is supposedly all about.

I hope every single Republican, yesterday, read the editorial in the Wall Street Journal because they may not listen to us from this side of the aisle, but maybe they will listen to the Journal. The SAVE Act makes voting harder and makes registration much harder for U.S. citizens—for U.S. citizens.

The Journal notes: “Many driver's licenses wouldn't” comply—“wouldn't qualify.”

So I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: Do you want to tell your voters—your citizen voters—that if they move and have to reregister, it is much harder? I don't think so.

The Journal makes another important point. It says the SAVE Act “can't save Republicans from voter anger at unpopular policies.”

Let me say that again, the Wall Street Journal editorial page says: “It can't save Republicans from voter anger at unpopular policies.”

Even the Wall Street Journal seems to recognize why Donald Trump and MAGA radicals are so obsessed with this bill. They think it will save them from what otherwise looks like a bad November—a November where voters are fed up with Trump's policies. That is what is going on here.

If Donald Trump and MAGA Republicans are so worried about November, the answer shouldn't be to take away the vote. They should try to come up with policies that are popular, rethink their awful policies that have made life more expensive and painful for working people.

If Donald Trump and Republicans are worried about November, then maybe they should focus on lowering costs instead of kicking millions of people off healthcare. Maybe Donald Trump should not have started an unpopular war in the Middle East, with no plan on how to get out.

Maybe MAGA Republicans should stand up to Donald Trump's tariffs. A lot of them didn't like them.

A headline from AP reads:

Trump's tariffs are hurting American manufacturers instead of helping them.

Of course, Trump would say we should get rid of the AP when they don't agree with him. That is another issue.

Maybe Republicans should fight against Donald Trump's corruption, his lavish gifts, his pardoning of ultrarich fraudsters, his administration's crypto get-rich-quick schemes.

But instead of doing any of these things, instead of doing what Americans want Republicans to do, MAGA radicals, instead, are trying to tick away the vote. They want to short-circuit the mechanisms of accountability that underpin our democracy.

If MAGA Republicans want to waste this week and beyond on voter suppression, we are happy to have the debate. We are happy to show the American people how radical the SAVE Act is and how out of touch Republicans have become by wasting time on this bill, instead of lowering costs like people want; how they are going to, with this bill, disenfranchise millions of their own voters—Republican voters in red States—by doing this bill.

IRAN

Mr. President, on Iran, well, we are 3½ weeks into Donald Trump's Iran war, and, today, the price of Brent crude hit nearly \$110 a barrel. Experts say that even if the war ended tomorrow, it would take a long time for prices to come back down. We know oil prices are sticky for going down. When oil prices spike quickly, they tend to fall very slowly.

And now central banks are worried that Trump's war is driving up costs not just for energy but for transportation, for shipping, and other key goods that pass through the Middle East.

Mortgage rates, after inching down, are moving back up, and the worst part is there are no signs the war is going to end tomorrow, next week, or any time soon.

Donald Trump, the old saying is: If you break it, you buy it.

Donald Trump is breaking the Middle East, but now he is trying to dodge the cost and leave the American people with the bill.

So I will affirm again what Democrats have been saying for days. We need Cabinet officials to testify because the story from the administration does not add up.

This morning, before the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, Tulsi Gabbard insisted in her prepared remarks that Donald Trump's operation from last year, Midnight Hammer, did, in fact, obliterate Iran's nuclear enrichment program.

She noted that “there has been no efforts since then to try to rebuild their enrichment capability.”

So what gives now, Tulsi? Why did Donald Trump strike Iran again if you say that Midnight Hammer did, in fact, obliterate the nuclear enrichment program?