

that you are an American citizen to vote for the Governor of Arizona, but you don't have to show that you are an American citizen to vote for the President of the United States.

If we can figure out how to do registration to be able to protect the rights of the individuals in Arizona to be able to vote for their Governor if they are an American citizen, surely, we can do this all over the country.

The SAVE America Act is simple. It just says: It is already the law that you have to be an American citizen to vote. Let's just verify.

The State of New Hampshire is not trying to limit the number of people voting. They are just following Federal law.

Then there is the second part, which is pretty simple: You have to show ID to vote.

There are 36 States that already have this requirement. Let me just run through what this means. There are already 36 States that say you have to show an ID. Now, some of them are very narrow. They say you have got to have a specific type of photo ID on that. That is Arkansas, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Ohio, Tennessee, Wisconsin. They all have in their State laws that you have got to have a certain type of photo ID to actually qualify you to be able to show up and be able to vote.

Multiple other States have some other limitation where a photo ID is, maybe, preferred, but they can also bring other IDs. That is Arizona, North Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, Alabama, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Washington State, West Virginia, Alaska, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Oklahoma, Virginia, and Pennsylvania.

This doesn't seem very controversial to me. If you are keeping count on fingers and toes, you ran out a while ago. There are 36 States that already have some kind of requirement for ID to be able to vote. This has got to be the most noncontroversial proposal sitting out there to say: How can we disagree when 36 States already do this?

But, for some reason, in this body, it is controversial for us as a nation to do what 36 States already do. So we bring this to the body, yet again, as we have now for days and days and days.

The American people are just not offended with pulling out an ID at an airport to be able to get on a plane. They are just not offended by showing an ID when they walk into a Federal building. They are just not offended by pulling out an ID in some places where they are going to write a check—for those who still know how to write a check in America. It is just not that offensive to have to pull out some sort of identification.

State after State after State has shown that this doesn't limit the number of people who can show up to vote.

It just limits the amount of fraud that can happen in that State when people vote.

You just can't walk up to a polling place and say, "My name is," and pick a name. You have got to show something with your name on it to vote. It is pretty straightforward, and 36 States already agree and have already put this into practice.

So all we are trying to say is, Can we continue this as Federal law? I think we can—and not just saying it is Federal law but actually verifying that it is actually applied. I am a big fan of the phrase "trust and verify." That is all that this does.

I would hope, at some point, we would have a breakthrough here, but, in the meantime, I am going to continue coming back and saying: Why can't we all agree to what most Americans nod their heads and say, "That is a pretty good idea," and just get it done?

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

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

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, I could not help but respond in realtime to my very able colleague from the great State of Oklahoma. I really wish things were as simple as my Republican friends would have us believe.

They want us to believe that this is simply a basic voter ID bill. Let me say the same thing I said several days ago. I believe that you should have to prove that you are who you say you are before you vote. But this is not a voter ID bill; this is a voter suppression bill. They really ought to call it what it actually is. They ought to rename this bill: "Your Driver's License is Not Enough to Register Bill."

Not only is your driver's license not good enough in most States, except those States where your citizenship is a part of your driver identification—and that is literally a handful of States—you will not be able to register to vote using your driver's license. You will not be able to register to vote using your student ID. You will not be able to register to vote using your military ID.

Let's be very clear: The Republicans know that their policies are failing; that they have kicked 15 million Americans off of their healthcare; that they have doubled healthcare premiums for some 22 million Americans. They have dragged us or they have enabled this President to drag us into a war—and he can't even explain why we are there—and they want to make it difficult for everyday Americans to hold them accountable. This will not stand. It will not succeed.

This bill especially disenfranchises women. There are many people right

now who are listening to me at home who are registered to vote right now, and you say: Well, I have never had to prove my citizenship in order to vote. If this bill is passed, you will. If you move, you will have to reregister. If you change your name if you get married, you will have to register to vote as we do, and all of a sudden your driver's license will not be good enough. Even though you have been voting for years—decades—that will not be good enough.

Imagine being a woman and your birth certificate does not match your current name, so you have got to go drag out documents you haven't seen for years in order to certify that you are a citizen.

And the question you ought to ask is, Why would they go through all of this? Why is this necessary when there is no evidence at all that we have some major problem of voter fraud through voter identification.

It is already illegal to vote if you are not a citizen. It is illegal. They will deport you. You will be prosecuted under law if you register to vote, and you are not a citizen. If you try to vote, and you are not a citizen, it is a crime. You can be deported.

And they are trying to convince us that there are droves of people in this country who are willing to risk deportation, risk being arrested, risk the abuse that we are seeing visited upon American citizens by ICE agents in realtime—that they are willing to risk all of that in droves in order to change the outcome of an election. It defies credulity, and it is simply not true.

Donald Trump wants to meddle with the outcome of the midterm elections because he knows that he is losing. And citizens who are watching this right now, not only ought you to reject this, as we are doing on your behalf, you ought to register in droves and put this nonsense to an end.

Democracy is the very house we live in. It is the place in which we get to fight for the things we say matter. And little by little, they are chipping away at the democracy itself.

Let the people speak. Let people cast their votes without having to jump over all kinds of unnecessary barriers. Why would you disenfranchise hundreds of thousands, millions of Americans, while chasing a problem that does not exist? Why are you so afraid of the voices of the people, I ask my friends on the other side of the aisle.

The most powerful words in a democracy are "the people have spoken." And we must ensure that no voter suppression bill prevents them from speaking.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mrs. MOODY. Mr. President, I, like you, I know, am incredibly frustrated at the lack of funding for one of our most important Agencies in the Nation—the Department of Homeland Security. Due to my Democratic defund

disorder colleagues, the political antics they have thrown up to block funding for this incredibly important Agency is being done at the expense of protecting Americans.

We are now in week 6 of an ongoing DHS shutdown. While our country is actively fighting an adversary in the Middle East, it leaves our homeland vulnerable to attacks. Thousands of DHS employees have now missed multiple paychecks because of the show. At the same time, security efforts around the Capitol are being increased, so Democrats get to hide here in Washington, in the Capitol, safe and sound, while blocking funding to individuals around the Nation who can help protect Americans and keep our country secure.

Let's not fool ourselves. Floridians and Americans alike know that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are pushing a shutdown of DHS funding because they don't want a secure border. They don't want to remove people that are here illegally and committing crimes. They have done everything they can to work against that.

This shutdown is about way more than what they profess it to be. This is about blasting apart the security structure President Trump has rebuilt after Biden destroyed the border. For 4 long years, we watched as the previous administration disregarded the law and sowed chaos and destruction at our southern border, allowing a historic surge—historic; some say up to 20 million people, many unvetted—to pour into this country.

The shutdown has been dragging on so long because my colleagues on the Democratic side of the aisle cannot stand that the border is now secure again and DHS is doing its job. They cannot stand that the border isn't wide open. They can't stand that unmitigated illegal immigration has been halted. Because of this, they are throwing a temper tantrum, disguising this shutdown as anything other than what it is, and that is a mission to defund police.

Under Biden's watch, approximately anywhere from 11 million to 20 million people flooded into this country. Narcoterrorist cartels were enabled to bring massive amounts of deadly substances like fentanyl into our neighborhoods. It killed hundreds of thousands of Americans.

As the attorney general in Florida, I was among the first to call attention to the disregard of law and fought in court against the massive security breaches and shed a spotlight on how Biden and his administration disregarded their duty and put us all at risk. I took legal action to force them to simply follow the law and stop releasing dangerous people and violent offenders into our country.

That once wide-open border was closed by Trump. It is closed. On day one, he took unprecedented action to close the border and started enforcing the law again. He took action against

the drug cartels and the flow of fentanyl and other dangerous drugs to keep our communities safe. Under President Trump, DHS provided the most secure border in American history.

It is such a stark difference in what the border looked like under the Biden years to what it looks like today. In fact, during the last month of the Biden administration, every single month saw more than 100,000 illegal immigrant encounters at the southwest border. At the peak of the disaster, they saw upwards of 300,000 encounters a month. And we know that approximately 85 percent of those immigrants apprehended at the border were released into our interior.

The judge who sided with Florida's lawsuit when I took Biden to court and stood up against the illegal actions of his radical administration—that judge who sided with Florida said it best: Biden “turned the Southwest Border into . . . little more than a speed bump.”

“[L]ittle more than a speed bump.”

Then the American people fought back and elected President Donald Trump. Speed bump met the wall. On day one, Trump ended catch-and-release, and we saw 10 straight months of zero releases—zero—compared to its peak in 1 month by Biden of 300,000. Total border apprehensions under the Trump administration's first year in office were lower than a single average month under the Biden administration.

In addition to the millions of unvetted illegal immigrants Biden let into our country, according to at least 1 recent report that, shockingly, the mainstream media isn't reporting, they allowed 18,000 known or suspected terrorists into the United States. This opens up our country to dangerous attacks from within.

The current DHS shutdown is affecting President Trump's effort to get the unprecedented number of undocumented immigrants that may be a threat to this Nation and to our people out.

Now with our country engaged in fighting in the Middle East and DHS hampered by my Democratic colleagues, we face unimaginable danger, and we have already seen violent attacks within our borders. In fact, DHS recently issued a memo warning Americans to be on guard against potential cyber or other violent attacks. Those attacks are already here.

It is going to take time to clean up the disaster of the last administration, but we are well on our way. We were making great strides, and the other side of the aisle hates that. We know that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement has been instrumental in preventing terror threats, removing more than 1,500 known or suspected terrorists.

One of the saddest things that I think we learned after the last administration, and certainly as a mother—not just as Florida's attorney general but

as a mother—we watched as hundreds of thousands of unaccompanied minors were trafficked across the border by cartels, and then the Biden administration took the last step—shipped them all over the country.

From a grand jury investigation, we know that some were put with people they didn't even know. One ended up at a strip club. One ended up in an empty lot. We know many went into trafficking. It is the saddest thing imaginable for a child. Too many of these children were exploited and abused before, during, and after they came across that border with cartel members. All told, it is estimated that the Biden administration lost more than 450,000 children.

Today, it is a different story. Under President Trump, DHS and the Department of Health and Human Services have located 145,000 of those unaccompanied children that the Biden Administration lost.

The American people expressed their will when they said: Trump is now our President. We want to secure our Nation.

They wanted to secure our border, and now my Democratic colleagues are obstructing the will of the American people by saying: Oh yeah? You have a President that is following the law? You have a President that is taking seriously his duty to protect this country and our communities? Well, watch what we do now. We are going to defund the police, we are going to defund those agents at the border, and we are going to defund those within that are protecting your communities and helping get those that are here right now—we saw this in Chicago last week; a murder by someone here, let in by the Biden administration—here illegally—of a young college student again. And they want to tie the hands of the law enforcement officials charged with getting them out. That is nothing more than defunding the police that have taken oaths to protect you and your family.

Someone needs to remind my colleagues across the aisle that the American people are our bosses. They want a safe border. They want safe communities.

The shutdown of DHS has gone on long enough. We are in our 38th day. People are going without paychecks, people that are doing very important jobs, like our TSA officers, like our law enforcement officers, like our personnel at the border, thousands that are charged with keeping this country safe.

Every day the Democrats on the other side of the aisle put politics above people, they show where their allegiances lie. I, for one, know who I am for. I am for the American people. I am for the people that wear a badge and keep us safe. I will always show up on this floor and make sure that the American people know who we are fighting for. The American people are our bosses.

It is time we stand up for this country and for its people and put it first.

Put simply, I implore my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to remember why they are here, to remember the country they profess to serve and the people they profess to serve. Put them first. And let's fund DHS.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

SAVE AMERICA ACT

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise today to defend the heartbeat of our democracy, and that is and always will be the right to vote.

From the first National Women's Rights Convention held in 1850 in Worcester, MA, to Selma to Montgomery marches in 1965, Americans have been mobilizing and marching and chanting and fighting for generations to protect the right to vote, which is the most cherished right. And it is now under relentless attack by the Trump administration and the MAGA Republicans who sit right across the aisle here on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

And that is why we are here today: because when you can't win by the rules, you have to sabotage. You have to manipulate the game. That is what this bill is all about. It is not the SAVE America Act. It is the "Save Your Ass Act" because the American public is rising up in revolution against higher healthcare costs, higher gasoline prices, higher home heating oil prices, higher prices for everything on Main Street because of the sales tax called a tariff, which is being imposed upon all those goods.

That is what they are afraid of because they know that the voters are coming with pitchforks toward them this November, and they have to do something about it. So they call it the SAVE Act.

But if there was a section 5 of the Federal Trade Commission of unfair and deceptive act provision here and it was applied properly, it would be called the "Steal Act," the "Steal the Election of 2026 Act."

That is what they are doing on the Republican side. That is what they are trying to perpetrate upon the American people, upon our elections. They have to manipulate our elections through voter suppression, disenfranchisement, unconstitutional tactics to win in 2026 and in 2028 and beyond.

As Trump says, they will win every election if they can pass the SAVE Act. They won't have to worry anymore. And why is that? Because it is a craven effort to turn back the clock, institute a new modern-day Jim Crow, and take away the one right central to our democracy, and that is the right to vote.

This legislation is dangerous. It is anti-democratic, and it is wrong. The SAVE America Act would impose unnecessary and overly restrictive voter ID requirements. It would require Americans to present a birth certificate or passport in person whenever they register to vote or whenever they need to update their registration.

There are tens of millions of Americans without passports. There are tens of millions of Americans who don't have a birth certificate on them at all times. That is the goal of the Republicans: No, you can't vote today. We are going to make it impossible for you to vote.

Now the goal in America should be more people are voting. It is already too low. No, that is not the Republican Party's goal here. Their goal right now is fewer votes, lesser participation in our democracy.

That is what they are trying to perpetrate upon our democracy right now because most Americans, right now, they register to vote online, through the mail, or at their Department of Motor Vehicles.

Only 6 percent of Americans register to vote in person at an election office, and the Republicans know this. And that is why they want to establish the new standard for everyone. It is like forcing everyone to use a fax machine to register to vote. It makes no sense, it is unnecessary, and it would only prevent people from participating in our democracy.

The new requirement to present a photo ID at the polling place is more stringent than laws already on the books in all but one State in the country. If the SAVE Act—if the "Steal Act"—passes, it would be easier to buy a gun in many States than to vote.

Can I say that again? The NRA does not want it to be difficult to buy a gun. Republicans go along with that. In red States, the standards are very low to buy a gun. But to vote, oh, now they are concerned. Now we need standards, which make it almost impossible for tens of millions of Americans to be able to comply.

So just let that sink in. It would be easier to buy a gun than to exercise the most fundamental right of citizenship in our Nation.

And who would bear the brunt of this law? The 146 million Americans who do not have a valid passport.

I had never been to Washington, DC, before I was elected to the U.S. Congress. My father drove a truck for the Hood milk company. I ran when I was 29 years old for the U.S. Congress, and I won.

And my first visit to Washington was to be sworn in as a Member of the U.S. Congress when I was 30 years old. I not only had not been to Washington, I had never been anyplace outside of our country. I didn't have a passport, and I was a U.S. Congressman.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, here is a bulletin for you: 146 million Americans do not have a valid passport. I know because I would have been one of them. That is nearly half of all American adults.

The 69 million women who have changed their names after marriage and lack an updated birth certificate, they are out. Sorry. Oh, you—that is not the same name. You must have gotten married. Sorry, can't vote

today. Just using your maiden name here? I am sorry. Can't vote.

Elderly voters who would be forced to navigate bureaucratic mazes to renew their voter registration in person; an 85-year-old who helped build this Nation and has voted in every election for 60 years could suddenly be told: The ID you have been using your whole life is no longer sufficient. Prove it again or you don't get to vote.

Do you know who else loses big time? Black and Brown communities who already face preceding, already existing high barriers to their being able to vote in too many States in our country; young people who could no longer rely on their student IDs to vote; disabled voters who may face challenges in getting to polling places; Native Americans whose Tribal IDs may be rejected for registration to vote and then for actually voting. That is their goal.

You can see which one of the groups in our country they are trying to dissuade. You can see which of all of these subgroups of Americans—they are going to create barriers to their ability to go into the polling places.

How about a working American who would be forced to miss more shifts to exercise their right to vote, rural voters who would have to travel for hours to satisfy the strict in-person registration requirements, and LGBTQ+ Americans who face hurdles in obtaining accurate IDs that match their gender identity?

So instead of free and fair elections, it is bought and paid-for elections. Instead of one person, one vote, it is one White person, one vote. And everyone else gets shown to the door. So sorry, you can't vote here today.

Take, for example, a constituent of mine, a woman who legally changed her name nearly 50 years ago. Her birth certificate no longer matches her legal identity.

But now the President of the United States and Republicans want to force her to dig through decades-old documents just to prove she has the right to cast a ballot.

So give us a break. We know what you are doing here. You are trying to disenfranchise that woman. You don't want her to show up. We know what you are trying to do.

Or take a servicemember who has been serving their country bravely. Under the SAVE Act, under the "Steal Elections Act," a military ID alone would not suffice to prove citizenship because noncitizens can also serve in the military.

Can you imagine that? Somebody has served for 2 years, 4 years, 6 years, 20 years, they show up to the polling place. They show their military ID. And they are told: Sorry, that doesn't count.

It counted to send them overseas. It counted to put their lives in danger. But it doesn't count to be able to vote.

Well, this is, without question, all part of a pattern which has been created by the Republicans. And we had a