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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Holy One, uncreated Creator, light of light, we praise Your Holy Name.

Lord, You are the joy and strength of our lives. You can remove all pain, misery, and strife.

Be for our lawmakers a source of truth. May they view pressing issues in the light of Your precepts, embracing Your wisdom, power, and patience. Lord, give them a passion for compassion and joy as they remember Your desire that they live abundantly.

Continue to shine in all our hearts so that neither the precipice of unbelief nor the shadow of death separates us from the light of Your great love.

We pray in Your Sacred Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ARMSTRONG). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will pro-

ceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant bill clerk read the nomination of John Thomas Shepherd, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

### IRAN

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to make some remarks about Iran. I do it in light of the fact that diplomacy ought to be used before war, and I am well aware of the hard work of our Vice President and other people on his team in Pakistan last week—working almost 24 hours—to reach an agreement. It was not reached. Some reports late last night and early this morning indicate that maybe Iran is willing to sit down and talk again, so in light of that and what we know and what we hope happens, I make these remarks.

On February 28, 2026, the United States began combat operations in Iran—action taken to protect U.S. Americans by preventing Iran from ever having a nuclear weapon. That is not only to protect the United States, but that weapon could be used anywhere on this globe, and we don't want that to happen. But the most important thing is the President, as Commander in Chief, is exercising his responsibilities, and the No. 1 responsibility that he has and our Nation has is to protect the American people.

Now, these operations have demonstrated the unmatched strength, precision, and professionalism of the U.S. military. America is very fortunate to have the strongest military in the world, capable of not only projecting power but of doing so with discipline, coordination, and a clear sense of mission.

I want to express my gratitude and pride in the men and women in uniform who are carrying out this mission and to let the families of SGT Declan Coady, a young man from West Des

Moines, and MAJ Jeffrey O'Brien, a man from Indianola, IA—who both paid the ultimate price to protect us—know that we think about their families at this time. But it also is a reminder—these men who lost their lives as well as people who are still fighting—that the courage, skill, and commitment to protecting our Nation reflect the very best of our men and women in uniform.

What we have known for a long period of time is that Iran has used their money to finance terrorism around the world and even in the United States, as has been demonstrated by three or four actions since the war happened. They are the No. 1 supporter of terrorism financially, and they use their missiles to blackmail that part of the globe. But what we have learned is they have more capability than just effecting blackmail in the Middle East because we have learned that they have longer range missiles that could reach Berlin, Paris, and London. And when is the next step that those missiles could reach the United States?

So under the leadership of President Trump, the United States is taking decisive action to provide safety and certainty for the American people. More than 85 percent of Iran's defense industrial base has been destroyed, 150 warships have been destroyed, and 70 percent of Iran's facilities and ground control stations have been destroyed or degraded. In total, over 13,000 targets have been struck, and over 1,000 attack drones and 700 ballistic missiles have been intercepted.

Preventing war through diplomacy is very important, but when diplomacy doesn't work, we have seen in this instance that, in total, over 13,000 targets have been struck and over 1,000 attack drones and 700 ballistic missiles have been intercepted.

Preventing Iran from ever acquiring a nuclear weapon isn't just a policy objective; it is a national security priority. I am encouraged that military

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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operations have been successful in advancing this goal and that Iran has now agreed to a cease-fire as this administration continues to negotiate a broader peace agreement.

This success sends a clear signal: The United States will act when its security is at stake, and we will do so with strength and with resolve. The progress made so far underscores both the capability of our military and the importance of sustained leadership by President Trump as our Commander in Chief. I stand firmly behind our servicemembers and remain committed to ensuring that Iran never poses a nuclear threat to the United States.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. 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 MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

#### SAVE AMERICA ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, we spent the weeks before Easter debating the SAVE America Act here in the Senate. And since the debate began, we have seen Democrats contort themselves every which way to justify opposing the commonsense policies in this bill.

On no issue is that more evident than voter ID. Polls show that 80 percent of Americans support voter ID. Majorities of Americans in both parties support this commonsense requirement, but among Democrats here in the Senate, it is a different story.

Sure, Democrats have spent the last few weeks claiming that they support voter ID, but when it came time to vote on a reasonable, stand-alone voter ID proposal, every Democrat opposed it.

That is right. Senate Democrats have been trying to rebrand themselves as supporters of voter ID, but when Republicans offered a straightforward voter ID proposal, every single Democrat in the Senate voted against it.

I want to be clear about what Republicans put forward and what Democrats opposed. Senator HUSTED—someone who knows quite a bit about administering elections as the former two-term chief election official in the State of Ohio—offered a very simple voter ID amendment. The only—only—thing it did requires a photo ID at the polls: A driver's license, Tribal ID, military ID, veteran ID, passport, the types of IDs that are sitting in wallets right now and that the American people use on a regular basis. That is it.

Supporting this amendment would not have obliged Democrats to support the underlying SAVE America Act. Democrats would have been free to vote for voter ID and then vote against the other commonsense policies in the SAVE America Act.

But Democrats couldn't bring themselves to vote even for stand-alone voter ID legislation. And it turns out that when Democrats say they support voter ID, they don't mean actual IDs.

When Republicans—and Americans, I would argue—talk about ID, we all mean the same thing: something with a picture, an expiration date, something issued by a government.

And to hear Democrats talk in the lead-up to the voter ID vote, you would have thought that is exactly what they were talking about too.

The senior Senator from New Jersey went on CNN and said:

[W]e all want people who go to vote, to show a valid ID.

The Democrat whip said:

I'm not opposed to that. They ask you for an ID at the airport, don't they? That's reasonable.

Yes, it is reasonable.

The junior Democrat from New York said this:

The IDs that we have in our wallets should be good enough to vote.

Well, that is exactly what we offered: licenses, State ID cards, Tribal IDs were all acceptable forms of ID in our proposal, the same kinds of IDs that we have in our wallets right now.

Multiple Democrat Senators even acknowledged that their own States have voter ID requirements and that they work.

The junior Senator from Georgia came to the floor and said this:

I think you should have to prove that you are who you say you are before you vote. I support voter ID. We have voter ID laws in my State. You should have to prove that you are who you say you are before you vote.

I couldn't have said it better myself. And the Democrat leader said:

[O]ur objection, as Democrats, is not to a photo ID.

Except as Democrats' recent vote demonstrates, that is not actually true. Before the vote, the Democrat leader spoke on the floor and made it clear that when he says he supports voter ID, he means that he supports voter ID as long as the ID requirements in question are essentially meaningless. And he is not the only one.

To quote a recent news story, the junior Senator from Colorado said he "supports voter ID but signaled he will vote no when informed that the bill does not allow voters to use a utility bill to prove identity."

He voted no because you can't show a utility bill as a form of ID. You can't make this stuff up.

The Senator from Colorado used to own a brewery in Denver, and I have to wonder whether you could show a utility bill to buy a beer there. I doubt it.

But this is what Democrats think is good enough for our elections. The Democrat leader has said that voter ID requirements need to be "inclusive" and "flexible," and he referenced a bill Democrats put forward a few years ago that included the sort of ID requirements that he says Democrats support.

Well, let me read a few of the so-called IDs that that bill would have found acceptable for voters: a debit card, a utility bill, an expired fishing license, any document containing an individual's name—just their name—from any government, and of course, a photocopy of any of those would have been fine too.

If this ID list were any more inclusive, my Jones County High School basketball jersey would have counted.

In any other circumstance, requiring an ID means requiring an actual—actual—ID. You can't board a plane by showing a photocopy of your debit card. You can't do an early pickup at your daughter's school by showing a copy of your electric bill.

Republicans believe that we should apply the same standard to voting. The American people are presenting their photo IDs on a regular basis and having a pretty easy go of it. We don't think it is too much to ask for the same when they go to vote.

Ask anyone on the street for their ID, chances are they are going to pull out their driver's license, not their water bill. The American people know what an ID is. I guess we are still waiting for Democrats here in the Senate to figure it out.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill 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.

#### IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, just days ago, Donald Trump declared his war in Iran a "total and complete victory. 100 percent. No question about it."

Again, Donald Trump saying about his war:

A total and complete victory. 100 percent. No question about it.

But for the American people, for our troops, for our allies, for our economy, there is nothing but questions about it. In fact, to a majority of Americans, it is a total disaster.

In just about every way, things are worse today than they were before Trump started his war of choice.

The Strait of Hormuz? Worse, closed and unstable. The Iranian regime? Worse, more entrenched and more radical.

Gas prices? Worse, over \$4 a gallon.

Iran's nuclear ambitions? Worse. They are still intact.

And America's standing in the world? Worse, as the Europeans and our Asian and Middle Eastern allies and so many others are very exasperated with Donald Trump and this country right now.

So Strait of Hormuz? Worse. Iranian regime change? Worse. Gas prices?