

And no one knows that better than President Trump, who is the daily consumer of this information. Again, 60 percent of his daily intelligence brief is composed of section 702 intelligence. And, of course, the President is responsible for the protection of all of our citizens and U.S. interests, and that is why he has asked us to reauthorize this critical authority.

President Trump recently wrote on Truth Social to say:

With the ongoing successful military activities against the Terrorist Iranian Regime, it is more important than ever that we remain vigilant, PROTECT our Homeland, Troops, and Diplomats stationed abroad, and maintain our ability to quickly stop bad actors seeking to cause harm to our People and our Country.

After 4 years of weakness under President Biden, President Trump is showing the world that the United States is, once again, a power to be dealt with. It is imperative we equip the President and the entire administration, working with Congress in an oversight capacity, like on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence on which I serve. It is important that we equip the Trump administration with the tools and authorities they need to maintain deterrence and, hopefully, peace through strength.

We cannot allow this authority to expire. It would be foolhardy and reckless to do so.

So President Trump has asked us to reauthorize FISA section 702, and I hope all of our colleagues in both Chambers will not tie the President's hands behind his back while we have Americans in active combat overseas.

And we need this essential intelligence in order to protect our people and our homeland.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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 (Mr. BANKS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, earlier this morning, the conservative majority on the Supreme Court took another step toward resurrecting the Jim Crow South.

In a decision that for all practical purposes upends half a century of precedent, defies the spirit of the American Civil Rights Movement, and reverses generations of progress toward racial justice, the rightwing Court

today essentially declared it valid and appropriate for States to discriminate against racial minorities in drawing districts.

The Voting Rights Act—a law written in the blood, sweat, tears, and sacrifice of Americans who marched, who fought, and died for the right to vote and to prevent racial discrimination—has been diminished once again.

The consequence of this decision is as clear as it is dangerous: fewer protections for voters, more power for politicians to draw maps that silence them—particularly historically disenfranchised voters.

The conservative Court has tried to make it seem like its decision today was narrow and tailored. But let's be very clear. In the words of Justice Kagan, this decision is a "demolition"—a "demolition"—of section 2 of the Voting Rights Act. It opens the floodgates for States across the South to redraw their congressional districts and make voters of color essentially invisible in our democracy. By some estimates, this decision could lead conservative State legislatures to draw as many as 19 additional seats that favor Republicans in the House.

So, far from being a narrow decision, this MAGA Court is trying to give Republicans a leg up—an illegitimate leg up—in future elections.

Let me say it again: This case is the MAGA Court trying to give Republicans a leg up in future elections.

It is a knife to the heart of some of the most important civil rights legislation that past generations marched for, organized for, and bled for. It will bring back the old, sinister practices long discarded to the dustbin of history: State legislatures diluting, erasing, and overpowering voters of color.

Shame on the High Court. Shame on the MAGA Justices for rigging our elections.

This did not happen all at once. For years, this Court—beginning with the Roberts decision in the awful Shelby County decision—has chipped away at the Voting Rights Act, decision by decision. Chief Justice Roberts bears a lot of the blame for this awful decision.

The commitment of equal representation has been broken before, but every time, Americans have forced it back into the law. Senate Democrats will fight it, once again, to reverse this awful, awful decision.

Even before this wretched decision, we knew the MAGA far right was hell-bent in trying to undermine our democracy.

ELECTION TASK FORCE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we know that the MAGA right is trying to rig our democracy. We knew it long before this decision. Donald Trump knows and his party knows that they are going to lose this election in 2026, which is why they are working around the clock to tilt the scales unfairly in their favor.

Trump issued another Executive order, a month ago, to subvert our elections. Last week, they took aim at the Southern Poverty Law Center to chill speech and suppress actions from organizations that protect democracy. Trump continues to push for his SAVE Act to disenfranchise tens of millions of Americans, and he stacked his administration with election deniers.

So, today, I am launching the Democratic Party's most expansive effort, to date, to protect the 2026 midterm elections and to shield them from the direct threats posed by Trump and MAGA Republicans.

This afternoon, a group of Senators and I will meet with former Attorney General Eric Holder, Mark Elias, and some of the country's top election experts to talk about how we can be ready for any and all threats that might come against our elections this fall.

I want to thank my Senate Democratic colleagues for joining in today's meeting.

We know that some on the extreme right will try to rig the system. Donald Trump said it. He said he can't win the election except by rigging it. That is more or less what he said. Donald Trump's Justice Department sought to seize States' voter rolls. Rightwingers raided election offices in Georgia. They pressed election officials in Arizona to turn over documents. Online radicals are threatening poll workers and are spreading lies about voter fraud. And, here in Congress, hard-right Republicans are trying to pass Jim Crow 2.0 in the SAVE Act.

These threats are only going to intensify the closer we get to election day. So our election fraud task force represents the most aggressive and coordinated effort to date to make sure our elections this fall are protected. The goal of our task force is to ensure that every vote counts and every American can participate in our democracy without coercion, intimidation, or threats from Trump or anyone else.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, on DHS—a lot is happening today—last night, Donald Trump confirmed what I have been saying for weeks: Speaker JOHNSON and House Republicans are holding up funding for the Department of Homeland Security. They are holding it up—the Republicans, not Democrats. The White House said it, in effect. The White House put out a memo urging House Republicans to stop dithering and pass the DHS bill that every Democrat and every Republican in the Senate passed unanimously not once but twice.

For weeks, Republicans have tried to pin the blame for their shutdown on Democrats. The Trump administration just exposed how preposterous that lie is.

Republican dysfunction is endangering our national security. House Republicans have been so busy fighting one another in the House that FISA may expire.

Republicans, get your act together. Our national security depends on it.

While Democrats have been trying to fund the Secret Service, the TSA, the Coast Guard, CISA, FEMA, and other crucial Agencies, Republicans have been trying to jam through as much as another \$140 billion for Trump's rogue Agencies. And while Democrats have been working diligently and assiduously to try and lower Americans' costs, Republicans want to splurge on a \$400 million gold-plated ballroom for the President. The last thing Americans want us spending their tax dollars on is a gilded palace for Donald Trump.

What will Trump ask Americans to pay for next—a moat?

What else could \$400 million get Americans? A year of childcare for 30,000 families; skills for training 50,000 new electricians, plumbers, and welders; disaster loans for 10,000 households; and so much more.

Keep in mind that, just 1 month ago today, Donald Trump said:

There's not one dime of government money going into the ballroom.

Then put your money where your mouth is, President Trump. Stop trying to waste Americans' hard-earned tax dollars on this extravagance, and get your party to work with Democrats to keep the American people safe.

IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, Mr. President, on Iran and gas prices—as I said, there is a lot going on—just hours ago, Pentagon officials told Congress that Trump's disastrous war has cost taxpayers \$25 billion. Can you believe it? At least \$25 billion and we are less than 2 months into this war. And \$25 billion is just the sticker price.

Americans are also paying for this war at the pump. This morning, average gas prices in America hit \$4.23 a gallon. That is a record high since the start of the war.

Let me repeat: U.S. gas prices are at their highest level since the beginning of the war in Iran. It is now \$4.23—up 40 percent since Trump started his costly war with Iran.

The price of gas is the highest it has been in 4 years. There is only one person to blame—Donald J. Trump.

Trump says he is bleeding Iran economically. But he is draining the pockets of American families. And for what? The Strait of Hormuz is still closed. The Iranian regime is still radical. Our servicemembers are still in harm's way. Trump still has no idea how to end this blunder.

Instead, we hear reports that Trump is telling his aides to prepare for a protracted blockade. This morning, Trump warned that Iran better get smart soon.

Well, it is Donald Trump who had better get smart soon and end this war

unless he wants Americans to continue paying \$4.23 at the pump.

This week, Democrats will force a vote on our War Powers Resolution for the sixth time. We will continue to force votes every week as this war rages on.

I urge my Republican friends to help bail Donald Trump out of his mess. Vote with us to end this war, or you, Republican Senators, will continue to face the outrage of the American people.

This Friday marks 60 days since Trump officially notified Congress that he had launched this reckless war. Under the War Powers Act, Trump must seek authorization for his war to continue beyond 60 days. After that deadline, Republicans will have no place to hide and no more hollow excuses to let this fighting continue. Republicans know Trump's handling of this war has been a disaster. They see how much the American people are hurting right now.

How many War Powers Resolutions do Democrats need to put before Senate Republicans until they do what is right?

How many Americans will have to go bankrupt?

How many days do our service members have to spend apart from their families?

How many people will have to die before Trump realizes that this war must end?

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert Cekada, of Florida, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives.

VOTE ON CEKADA NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Cekada nomination?

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 39, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 109 Ex.]

YEAS—59

Armstrong	Graham	Moody
Banks	Grassley	Moran
Barrasso	Hagerty	Moreno
Blackburn	Hassan	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeben	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cramer	King	Sheehy
Crapo	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Cruz	Lankford	Thune
Curtis	Lee	Tillis
Daines	Lummis	Whitehouse
Ernst	Marshall	Wicker
Fetterman	McConnell	Young
Fischer	McCormick	

NAYS—39

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schiff
Booker	Lujan	Schumer
Cantwell	Markey	Slotkin
Coons	Merkley	Smith
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murray	Warner
Durbin	Ossoff	Warnock
Gallego	Padilla	Warren
Gillibrand	Peters	Welch
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Alsobrooks	Tuberville
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MOODY). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Kentucky.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PAUL. 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.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS

Mr. PAUL. Madam President, Paducah, KY, is a town of 26,000 people on the banks of the Ohio River, known for its barbecue, character, and community. At the heart of that community, for more than 70 years, is the Oscar Cross Boys & Girls Club. What began in the 1950s as a small group of men under the leadership of local parole officer Oscar Cross has since grown into a Paducah institution, serving boys and girls from ages 6 to 18.

Through financial responsibility lessons, health education, literacy programs, and community service projects, the club offers kids much more than just a safe place to go after school. It provides stability, mentorship, and life skills that shape their future.