

out this persecution and so ought to be condemned.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

WORKING FAMILIES TAX CUT ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I spoke on the floor yesterday about the landmark bill Republicans passed last year, the Working Families Tax Cut bill, and I talked about how this bill fits into Republicans' efforts to turn things around in our country, turn things around by putting more money in Americans' pockets, helping small businesses grow, strengthening the agriculture sector, and giving a lifeline to rural healthcare.

Any one of those things alone would have been a significant achievement, but the Working Families Tax Cut addressed all of them, all of them and more, much more, and this morning I want to talk about how this bill helps to make America more secure.

That, too, is, unfortunately, a turnaround story. And I say "unfortunately" because the previous administration allowed our Nation's security to fall into a sorry state. Images of the chaos at the southern border during the Biden administration come to mind, so does the state of our military readiness.

In recent years, our military readiness has not been where it needs to be to deter and counter threats. We had ships in need of maintenance, planes that can't fly. Meanwhile, China was investing in key military technologies. Yet the Biden administration showed little interest in making the type of investment needed to get our military back to where it needed to be.

And so when Republicans took control last year, we didn't waste any time. As part of the Working Families Tax Cut, Republicans made a generational investment in America's military. It was a major investment to help get our readiness to where it needs to be quickly.

It invested in shipbuilding, missile defense, defense manufacturing capacity, critical munitions, drones and counter-drone technology, an expanded Air Force fighter fleet, nuclear modernization, U.S. infrastructure in the Pacific and more.

And alongside robust funding in the annual defense bill, these investments will help restore America's military

strength and make our adversaries think twice before crossing us.

As I mentioned, we also needed to address border security. When President Trump took office, he wasted no time implementing policies that restored order at America's southern border and put criminal illegal immigrants living in our country on notice, and we saw the results.

Illegal crossings dropped precipitously. Border agents weren't being stretched so thin anymore and could spend more time stopping cartels and other criminals. That is how things should be at the border, and Republicans are making sure that it stays that way.

As part of the Working Families Tax Cut, we made a generational investment in border security. We provided the resources necessary to finish the border wall and deploy additional barriers and technology to secure the border. There was funding to support the hiring of new agents and to bring on more immigration judges to address the massive backlog in immigration cases, and those resources are making a difference.

Thanks to President Trump and the Working Families Tax Cut, as of the end of last month, apprehensions at the southern border are more than 90 percent lower than they were under the Biden administration. Border Patrol is seeing a few hundred border crossings on a typical day compared to as many as 10,000 in a single day, at times, under President Biden, and not a single illegal immigrant has been released from the border in more than a year.

The American people support border security, and keeping America safe should be something that cuts across party lines. Unfortunately, our Democratic colleagues have repeatedly demonstrated zero interest in border security, and they consistently reaffirm their belief in open borders.

First, there was their complicit silence as the Biden administration opened our borders to a flood of illegal immigrants. Then, every Democrat opposed our border security measures in the Working Families Tax Cut. And then this year—this year—Democrats took their radical open border beliefs to a new level and tried to defund Border Patrol and ICE.

That is right. Democrats not only opposed giving these Agencies adequate resources to do their jobs, they opposed giving them any resources.

Fortunately, Democrats' radical proposal did not carry the day, and Republicans were, once again, able to fund border security and immigration enforcement, unfortunately, without Democrats' assistance.

The security of our country is one of our greatest responsibilities. Without it, nothing else matters. It is a responsibility that Republicans are taking seriously. The Working Families Tax Cut is a big step toward a more secure America. It invests in safer streets with funding for State and local law

enforcement, safer skies by supporting air traffic control modernization, a secure border, and a strong military.

We all watch the news and can see that the world is a dangerous place. There will always be bad actors and other dangers threatening the safety and security of the American people, but Republicans are working to ensure there are individuals standing ready to protect us and that they have everything they need to keep America safe.

A stronger America is a safer America, and that is what Republicans are delivering.

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. 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.

The Democratic whip.

VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week, I joined my colleague from California Senator ALEX PADILLA for a spotlight forum on the Trump administration's ongoing effort to undermine free and fair elections, particularly the upcoming midterm election, a few weeks away. I want to thank Senator PADILLA for hosting that forum and his leadership.

During the forum, we heard from a person who was a 15-year veteran in efforts to counter foreign malign influence across various government Agencies, most recently at the Department of Homeland Security. She warned us: There are bad actors out there who will take advantage of the diminished Federal effort to prevent foreign influence in our elections.

She was specific. Particularly under this administration, the Trump administration, and DOGE—you will remember that exercise by the richest man on Earth, Elon Musk—they attempted to and did gut the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, known as CISA, and dismantled the FBI's Foreign Influence Task Force.

Unfortunately, instead of taking serious steps to counter real threats to our elections, the President's cherry-picked so-called solutions to problems are nothing more than attempts to rig midterm elections and cling to power.

For example, Republicans tried to sneak the SAVE America Act into the President's ICE and CBP funding bill as an amendment, but Democrats defeated it.

Now, the President is back at it. Last week, in one of his many social media posts, the President said: I will not approve a FISA extension without the SAVE America Act going along with it.

Republicans are blaming Democrats for holding up FISA. It turns out the President is holding it up to get his—

what I consider to be—unconstitutional measure adopted by Congress.

The bill, the SAVE America Act, sounds like something you want to salute. You shouldn't. The bill would require all States to obtain proof of citizenship in person from people registering to vote. Most driver's licenses—the most common form of identification of most Americans—including most REAL IDs, would not be sufficient to register to vote. Instead, people would need to provide birth certificates or passports or similar documentation that denotes one's citizenship.

So how many of us know where you are going to find your original birth certificate?

I think it is upstairs in a box in a closet, in my case, but I haven't seen it in a long time.

And what about passports? Well, just show your passport.

It turns out half of the people in America don't have a passport.

Well, OK, get a passport before the next election in November.

Oops, there is a filing fee—a \$165 filing fee. So you have to pay a filing fee for a passport in order to get the right to vote under the SAVE America Act that the President wants?

Do you want to expedite it? You are afraid the passport won't show up in time for the next election. Add another \$60 to the cost.

A \$225 filing fee for an expedited passport—think about that as a poll tax.

The bill would also unfairly impact married women who have taken their spouse's name, because their current legal name may not match the name on that birth certificate that you found upstairs in the attic. These women would have to jump through additional hoops to amend their original proof of citizenship documents or provide supplemental materials or affidavits to register to vote. How much more complicated can we make it?

Well, you say: Wait a minute. If it means we are going to have an honest and fair election, Senator, face up to it. It is a reality.

Well, it is a legitimate question. How many aliens—noncitizens—try to vote in the United States? Well, they did a survey over a span of 30 years. Millions and millions of people registered to vote, and they checked how many times they found out those people were ineligible because of their citizenship.

Out of the millions and millions of people who voted, how many times do you think this happened in America? Well, the survey that was done found that it happened—well, let's take a guess. Seven hundred thousand times out of millions? No. Seventy thousand? No. Seven hundred? No. Seventy-seven times out of the millions of registrations to vote, they found someone who was ineligible because of citizenship—77 out of millions.

And because of that, the Republicans are suggesting we need to change the way we register to vote in America,

with a filing fee for passports of \$225 or some other form of identification.

And the bottom line is this: It is a solution looking for a problem. It is not a problem. It is against the law for anyone who is not a citizen to vote, and they know it; and they pay a price if they are caught.

If passed, this legislation would apply to this year's election—think about that—in a matter of 4½ months. It would wreak havoc in communities across the country, as voters are kicked off voter rolls and States scramble to implement drastic change.

Republicans, with a historically unpopular President—let me repeat that: a historically unpopular President—don't think they can win this election without a boost. That boost will mean keeping people from voting that they think will vote the other way. So they have resorted to voter suppression to create a fighting chance in November.

Don't believe me? Just ask President Trump, who claimed on social media: "The Republican Party will never win another election" without the SAVE America Act.

He is pretty blunt, isn't he? He doesn't beat around the bush. He says what he is thinking, whatever that may be, and that is clear. He believes the SAVE America Act is the only way to win in November. That means reducing registration to vote, reducing the number of voters, requiring identification that has never been required in the past.

The SAVE America Act is just one piece of the puzzle in this larger scheme. The truth is the President has been laying the groundwork to sow doubt and distrust in our electoral process and disenfranchise voters for some time now.

Remember, just a few months ago, when FBI agents raided an election office in Fulton County, GA, to seize the ballots in a past election? Why? Because Donald Trump just can't shake the Big Lie and admit he lost to Joe Biden in the 2020 Presidential election.

You ought to see these lawyers, many of them judges who want lifetime appointments to the Federal bench, appear before the Senate Judiciary Committee. We asked them really stump questions, really hard questions, difficult questions.

Here is one of them: Who won the 2020 election, in the United States of America, running for President?

Boy, that is a tough one. Only every eighth grader you ever met knows the answer to that question. But these nominees cannot say those words for fear that Donald Trump will hear them say he actually lost that election to Joe Biden—and he did. And so they squirm, and they wiggle. And they fret, and they perspire. And they want to get out of the place as fast as possible because they don't want to say the truth: Donald Trump lost an election.

They are afraid, if they do, he will yank their nomination. So they talk about what the Constitution really

means and all sorts of other topics. That is the reality.

President Trump wants to justify interfering in this year's election. In fact, his weaponized Justice Department is seeking confidential voter roll data from States around the country to purge eligible voters. There is a ruling by a local court this week on that subject, saying they can't do it.

And then there is the Supreme Court, which recently cleared the way for Alabama Republicans to eliminate one of the State's two majority-Black districts as part of a plan to give Republicans an additional House seat in the State. It is not the only State that is going through this exercise to eliminate minority representation.

Last Thursday, it was my privilege to be invited for the opening of the Barack Obama Presidential Center in Chicago. I had been through it a few weeks ago. It is amazing. It restores your confidence in the Presidency and your belief that you can have a President who is admired and respected and follows the law. The feeling, of course, was multiplied by the fact that Barack Obama, who is a personal friend, who was a colleague of mine in the Senate and the first African-American President—to represent Springfield, IL, the home of Abraham Lincoln, and to stand on the inauguration platform with Barack Obama and watch him put his hand on Abraham Lincoln's Bible and become the first African-American President in our history was something I will never forget as long as I live. That was an amazing achievement. We moved forward toward equality in America, as it should be.

Sadly, we have to say the obvious: Under President Trump, we are headed in the wrong direction. Some of the things that are being done by members of his administration are impossible to explain other than their being the product of racial bigotry. For instance, some of the promotions that have been denied in the Department of Defense just don't make any sense other than using that as a basis. That is the reality of where we are today.

I believe that all Americans who are eligible should have access to vote. I have trusted the outcomes of our Federal elections year in and year out. Even when I lost, I believed it was a fair election. I have said as much publicly.

Today, we are now facing a new challenge: Will this election in November deny Americans who are legally eligible to vote the opportunity to do so? If so, it will be one of the worst days in our constitutional history.

We need to make sure that we guarantee people's right to vote. That is why I am cosponsoring legislation entitled the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act. I am proud to lead it with my colleague Senator WARNOCK of Georgia. Our bill would restore and strengthen the landmark Voting Rights Act that has been under attack by the Supreme Court.

As we celebrate our country's 250th year of independence, we must join together in support of free and fair elections and condemn any attempts by this President or otherwise to undermine our democracy before it is too late.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, everywhere you look, Republicans are one big, hot mess. The reason is simple: Donald Trump is pursuing policies that are terrible for America and despised by the American people.

The Republicans know just how unpopular Trump's agenda is, but they fall into line out of fear or blind loyalty or some of each. Republicans better smarten up and press Trump to back off his radical proposals during their lunch tomorrow or they will pay a price for ignoring the American people.

IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on Iran, with his failed and reckless war in Iran, Trump has turned "the art of the deal" into "the art of the blunder." Donald Trump, Marco Rubio, and JD VANCE are too afraid to come in front of the American people and the whole Senate to defend their war and so-called understanding, so now Trump will talk only to Senate Republicans behind closed doors. Senate Republicans need to grill Donald Trump for answers—for answers on where negotiations stand—when he meets with them at the Capitol tomorrow.

Trump and VANCE hadn't even finished their phony victory lap yesterday when Iran announced that it did not make any commitments to allow nuclear inspections—no commitments to allow nuclear inspections—even though that was supposed to be one of the mainstays of what Trump was pursuing. Trump also claimed that the Strait of Hormuz was fully open even though shipping through the waterway remains a small fraction of what it was before the war. In more than a week after announcing side deals and so-called understandings with Iran, the administration still hasn't briefed Congress or the American people on what has actually been agreed to.

Wishful thinking won't end this war, and certainly Senate Republicans' calls to pump hundreds of billions of dollars more into Trump's fiasco will make matters even worse.

Republicans can complain about Trump's war, his secrecy, and his disastrous deal with Iran all they want behind closed doors, but the only way to

ensure this war ends once and for all is for Republicans to act.

Later today, Democrats will once again put Republicans on the record as to whether they want Trump's disastrous war to continue by forcing a vote on a House-passed Iran War Powers Resolution for the first time. We have held nine other votes on our War Powers Resolutions to end the war, and Senate Republicans have left the American people disappointed each time. We have forced this fight on the floor again and again for more than 100 days: Only Congress has the power to take our Nation to war, not Donald Trump alone.

Republicans need to support our War Powers Resolution to end the war, and they need to hold Trump's feet to the fire in their meeting tomorrow.

SAVE AMERICA ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the SAVE database, yesterday's court decision bodes very poorly for the SAVE Act's survival.

Free and fair elections in America got a big boost in court yesterday when a judge, a Federal judge, blocked Donald Trump's effort to set up a massive voter purge database. The absolute last person Americans want combing through their personal data is Donald Trump. Letting Trump scrape through Americans' private data to purge them from the voter rolls isn't just unpopular, it is illegal.

Donald Trump, Elon Musk, and Russel Vought wanted to plug Americans' sensitive, personal information, including Social Security information, into their shoddy database and have DOGE's algorithm decide who gets to vote. It is sci-fi voter suppression—authoritarianism by algorithm.

Trump cares so little about Americans' freedom that he is trampling on their right to privacy just so he can take away their right to vote.

For months, I have been saying this database was one of Trump's most sinister strategies for subverting our elections in November. That is why Senate Democrats have blocked the SAVE Act—Trump's extreme anti-election legislation—over and over and over again. Democrats will keep fighting Trump's plan to rig the rules in November because in our country, Americans decide elections, not algorithms installed by Musk, DOGE, and Trump.

WILLIAM PULTE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on Tulsi Gabbard and the Pulte purge, there are reports that Tulsi Gabbard was receiving instructions from a so-called guru and repeating them word for word. That ought to concern all of us if it is true. No one knows who this guru really is, what his connections are, and where the instructions came from. Maybe it was completely innocent or maybe not, but we need answers.

In appointing Bill Pulte to act as Acting DNI after Tulsi Gabbard, Donald Trump is replacing a guru with a grifter. Bill Pulte doesn't have an ounce of national security experience or an ounce of integrity, and he has already started to purge the intelligence experts who have that integrity. God only knows what Pulte plans to do next. Will Pulte interfere in our elections? expose intelligence sources? abuse Americans' private data? go after Trump's political enemies like he has done so many times before?

With his insistence on installing Pulte, Trump has embarrassed his own party, weakened our national security, and endangered the American people—all to serve his personal political interests.

When it comes to protecting Americans' national security, we need an adult in the room, and Pulte is removing them left and right.

DOBBS V. JACKSON WOMEN'S HEALTH ORGANIZATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, Mr. President, on our spotlight forum on the Dobbs decision, later today, we will join Senator MURRAY and other Senate Democrats for a spotlight forum on Republicans' extreme war on women's reproductive freedom ahead of the fourth anniversary of the Dobbs decision.

Donald Trump may want to brush his extreme effort to curtail women's reproductive rights under the rug, but we won't let him.

On the campaign trail in 2024, Donald Trump said that women "won't be thinking about abortion" if he got elected, but the truth is that they have to think about it more than ever before because of this awful decision.

Ever since the Dobbs decision 4 years ago, Republicans have been working around the clock to restrict access to abortion care. So today, we are going to hear from people who have been forced to live with the consequences of Republicans' radical assault on women's reproductive freedom, and we will discuss how we are fighting back. We are going to remind Donald Trump that women haven't stopped thinking about his efforts to take away their rights; they are mad as hell.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The majority whip.

ENERGY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, 1 year ago, Republicans passed the Working Families Tax Cut law. It is landmark legislation. It helped put more money in people's pockets, and just about every American working family has benefited.

Today, I want to talk about the impact of the Working Families Tax Cut law on American energy. This new law marks a dramatic shift in America's energy policy. America has now stopped apologizing for producing the energy that our Nation needs.