

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.

Energy is called the master resource, and we are unleashing it once again. Today, America has become the largest energy producer in the world. We produce more oil than the next two biggest producers combined. We produce as much natural gas as the next three largest countries combined. And we have more clean coal than any other nation in the world. We are also living in a time of cutting-edge nuclear technology. America is blessed with boundless gifts when it comes to energy, and when we use all of our energy resources wisely, as we do, America wins.

The Biden administration got energy completely wrong. Joe Biden told his Cabinet to prioritize climate over energy that was available, affordable, and reliable.

Democrats closed Federal lands to new energy production. Democrats raised taxes on energy producers. Democrats force-fed Americans electric vehicles that people didn't want and couldn't afford. Democrats handed out billions of dollars in subsidies to green energy companies, and these are companies that would never survive without government handouts.

So what were the results? Under Joe Biden, families and businesses paid more for energy. Energy workers in Wyoming and across the country lost good-paying jobs. America grew more dependent on foreign nations for energy—energy that we could and should be producing ourselves.

The Working Families Tax Cut law cleared the way for American energy dominance. The Working Families Tax Cut law opens more energy production onshore, offshore, and in Alaska. That includes oil and gas, as well as clean coal.

This is a major change from the Biden administration. Joe Biden presided over the fewest energy lease sales since President Harry Truman.

Republicans are strengthening U.S. energy production. We are streamlining burdensome regulations. At the same time, we are protecting Federal lands.

The Working Families Tax Cut law repealed the Biden-era tax on natural gas. This saves American families money when they try to cool their home this summer.

The new law also lowered the tax rate for coal production on Federal land. This matters enormously in my home State of Wyoming. Our Powder River Basin produces nearly half of the coal in America.

Coal means good-paying jobs in our State. It means revenue for our schools. It means affordable, available, reliable power for millions upon millions of Americans.

Now, producing clean coal is more competitive.

Republicans promised to unleash American energy and lower costs, and we have done it. That is what the Working Families Tax Cut law did when we passed it, a year ago, and it continues to do it today.

Every single Democrat in this Chamber voted against the Working Families Tax Cut law. They voted to raise taxes by \$4 trillion.

Every Democrat voted to keep high taxes on natural gas. They voted to keep American energy trapped in the ground.

If the Democrats had their way, American families would be paying more for everything.

We need to protect the energy progress that we have made with the Working Families Tax Cut law. Democrats want to go backward. They have said it.

We must not impose new government mandates that raise costs for American families.

America's small refineries are the unsung heroes of affordable American energy. Washington, DC, often overlooks them. Working families depend upon them. And I represent several of those small refineries that are in Wyoming.

The refineries employ thousands of people. They make gasoline prices more affordable. They strengthen our Nation's energy security. And proposed new mandates on small refineries would harm them and harm the people who work there.

Republicans spent the last year cutting taxes and removing barriers to energy production. We should not spend the next few months imposing costly new mandates on American refineries.

Americans want, need, and deserve energy that is affordable, available, and reliable. It is good for our workers, it is good for our economy, and it is good for the safety and security of our Nation.

We, as this Nation, are an energy superpower, and with the Working Families Tax Cut law, we are actually acting like it again.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

VOTING RIGHTS

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, the attack on vote by mail and other efforts to disenfranchise Americans, whether it is the SAVE Act or redistricting to take away representation from minority-majority districts as the result of the Supreme Court decision in *Louisiana v. Chavis*—all of these are actions to take away the right to vote.

Voting in America is a right. It is your right to vote. And for too long, that precious right has been denied to too many. Americans have been beaten, they have been bloodied, and some have given their lives just to secure this right to vote. Women had to fight for it in 1920. It is amazing that I stand here today, just a little over 100 years later, but 100 years ago, I would not even have been allowed to vote.

Wars have been fought to preserve it. My father and uncle both fought in World War II, and I guarantee you they were fighting for our right to vote. And

even in this Chamber, we had to fight to preserve and certify the 2020 election. So when we are talking about voting rights, we are not talking about an abstract idea.

In Pennsylvania, in 1871, a man named Octavius Catto walked towards a polling place in the city of Philadelphia. He was a Black educator, a Civil War militia officer, and a respected civic leader.

He believed that the promise written into our Constitution after the Civil War, the promise that Black Americans would be citizens and voters ought to mean something—that in the streets of his own city, he could cast a vote. On election day, he thought that is what citizens were supposed to do.

So he went to vote. He never came home. He was gunned down in broad daylight by a White assailant amid a storm of racially charged violence designed to drive Black voters away from the polling place.

His killing was not random. It was part of a campaign of terror, a message to every Black citizen: If you dare to exercise your political power, if you dare to walk to that ballot box, you will pay with your life.

Nearly a century later, in Mississippi, in 1966, the tactics had changed, but the target was the same: Black Americans who insisted on their right to vote. Vernon Dahmer, Sr., was a Black farmer and businessman. If he dared to exercise his rights, what would happen?

Black Americans insisted on their vote, and Dahmer was a Black farmer who led his local NAACP branch and understood that a poll tax, a fee that poor people could not afford, was being used as a weapon to keep Black people off the voting rolls.

So he made a simple, courageous pledge: No one would be denied the chance to register because they could not afford to pay the tax. He went on radio and told the people of Mississippi that he would personally help pay their poll tax at his store.

The response was not a policy debate; it was terror. In January of that year, the Ku Klux Klan firebombed his home while his family slept inside. Vernon Dahmer fought back long enough to get his wife and children to safety, but he did not survive.

He died from the burns and smoke inhalation because he had taken a public stand that poor Black citizens should be allowed to be registered and vote. And while bombs and bullets are no longer used today, the intent to silence certain voters has not disappeared; it has just changed form.

Disenfranchisement today is more bureaucratic, it is more technical, but the results for ordinary citizens can be the same. Their voices are shunned out of a democracy. In Texas in 2021, a new law, SB 1, rewrote the rules for voting by mail. It required voters to provide specific ID numbers on applications and ballot envelopes.

The rules were confusing, the process was unforgiving, and in the next primary, thousands of longtime voters,