

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 362, S. 4132.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 362, S. 4132, a bill to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 362, S. 4132, a bill to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard Blumenthal, John W. Hickenlooper, Jacky Rosen, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Alex Padilla, Margaret Wood Hassan, Ben Ray Lujan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Patty Murray, Elizabeth Warren, Benjamin L. Cardin, Debbie Stabenow, Tammy Duckworth, Richard J. Durbin.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 865.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination Julia Ruth Gordon, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 865, Julia Ruth Gordon, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Charles E. Schumer, Jacky Rosen, Cory A. Booker, Elizabeth Warren, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patty Murray, Brian Schatz, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Alex Padilla, Amy Klobuchar, Tina Smith, Jeff Merkley, Jack Reed, Angus S. King, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, John W. Hickenlooper, Richard J. Durbin.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, May 9, be waived.

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

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Madam President, I have just filed cloture on the Women's Health Protection Act. This week, the Senate will be confronted with a simple but urgent question: Do women in this country have a basic right to make their own choices when it comes to seeking an abortion, yes or no? It will be one of the most important questions this Chamber confronts in decades because, for the first time in 50 years, women in America face the real possibility of living in a world where the protections of *Roe v. Wade* are a thing of the past. It will set up a situation where our children, female children, have less rights than their grandparents—something that is so un-American, taking away rights, stepping backward from rights in such a dramatic way.

So, tonight, I will set up a vote for Wednesday on legislation that will codify the fundamental right to an abortion into Federal law. Every American is going to see where every Senator stands on protecting one of the most important rights a woman has regarding her own body.

I want to be clear. This week's vote is not an abstract exercise; this is as real and as high stakes as it gets. And Senate Republicans will no longer be able to hide from the horror they have unleashed upon women in America. After spending years packing our courts with rightwing judges and Justices, after changing the rules of the Senate to push three rigidly conservative Justices, after stealing the nomination of Merrick Garland, the time has come for Republicans, this new MAGA Republican Party, to answer for their actions.

If Senate Republicans allow the Supreme Court's decision to stand, it will be open season—open season—on women's rights in America.

A few days ago, Leader McCONNELL himself acknowledged that a Federal ban on abortions is now possible should the Supreme Court overturn *Roe* and Republicans take control of the Senate.

Let me say that again because it is so dreadful. In light of the Supreme Court's decision—upcoming decision—Leader McCONNELL acknowledged that a national ban on abortion is now possible without *Roe* if Republicans reclaim the majority.

Hear that, America? A total ban—a total national ban on abortion, stated

by not any Republican but by the Republican leader. Every single American needs to hear what Leader McCONNELL said.

For years—for decades—Republicans have tried to disguise their hostility to abortion by claiming that all they really want is to let the States decide for themselves how they will treat the issue. It is an old claim from the right: This is about States' rights. This argument has always been hypocritical, and Leader McCONNELL's comments make it perfectly clear why.

The game here is not about States' rights; the goal has always been a national ban on abortions altogether. States' rights is a smokescreen, nothing more than a distraction, a ruse to hide from the true claims of the hard right, of the MAGA Republicans: a national ban on abortion.

A Federal restriction on abortion would be among the most extreme ideas ever pushed by Senate Republicans, but in light of *Roe's* repeal, it seems that is the road the MAGA Republicans want to take our country down. And as scary as that is, I feel it is just the start. Ideas that have long been relegated to the fringes will return to the forefront with a vengeance—forced pregnancies, bans that make zero exceptions for rape and incest, even imprisonment for abortion providers and women who seek them—imprisonment for women who seek them, which is already happening with some State laws.

Republicans are trying in vain to obscure this reality. Last week, the chair of the Senate Republican campaign arm went as far as releasing an absurd collection of talking points trying to convince Americans that, no, Republicans don't want to throw doctors and women in jail for carrying out abortions.

The Republicans should know their position is truly extreme when that has to be one of their talking points. Oh, no, we don't want to throw women in jail. But regardless of what Republicans or the head of the Senate Republican campaign committee might try and claim, the laws being passed at the State level tell a different, much darker story that totally contradicts what he says.

In Arizona, for example, there is a law on the books that states that anyone who performs an abortion could be sentenced to anywhere from 2 to 5 years in prison. The new law in Arizona provides zero exceptions for rape and for incest.

In Oklahoma, a new law just came into effect banning abortion as early as 6 weeks and, like the law in Texas, empowers citizens to police each other's conduct and sue women simply trying to access an abortion and, again, zero exceptions for rape, zero exceptions for incest. If, God forbid, a woman is raped and doesn't want to have that child, the Republicans want to allow some of them to go to jail and some of them to be sued by their fellow citizens. Is that

a disgrace? Is that scary? Does that say we all must fight this tooth and nail?

Now Republicans in Louisiana are even pushing a bill that could throw women and their healthcare providers in prison for life—for life.

This is the America that Senate Republicans have made possible—an America where women in many States could be forced to follow through on their pregnancies against their will; an America where abortions can be all but eliminated in more than half the States in the country; an America where many States provide zero exceptions for something as evil as rape or incest. These laws could put women and girls in serious danger. And none of this is theoretical anymore; it is written into the veracity of the laws that have been passed by the hard right at the State level. And we know more are coming.

All of this I bring to the feet of my Senate colleagues as we prepare to vote later this week. No more running. No more hiding. No more diversions. Leader MCCONNELL can't talk about the actual effects of the law except when he made that one statement. Always diversions. Always about "Oh, look what they are doing" because they don't want the American people to know how hard right, how fiercely anti-women, how vicious some of their laws are.

I ask my colleagues to think carefully about their choice later this week. No more running. No more hiding. The vote will shine light on every single one of us. It will be like a floodlight, and we will each have to make our positions clear.

Again, I ask my colleagues to think carefully about their choice later this week because the consequences of this vote will stay with us for the rest of our time in office. The Nation will be watching. The rights of millions of American women are at stake, and they will be watching. And there will be no hiding from where each of us stands on this most precious, most private, most personal decision that women ever have had to make when it comes to their own lives.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

INTERNET

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, it has been a wonderful weekend in Tennessee. We had the annual West Tennessee Strawberry Festival out in Humboldt, TN. Quite honestly, I think the strawberries were better and sweeter this year than ever before. There was wonderful strawberry shortcake and deserts. It was a wonderful weekend. It provided such a great opportunity to talk with parents and to hear from Tennesseans, from moms and dads about things that were of concern to them.

I had a mom make a comment to me that I think each of us should listen to and take to heart. I know the Presiding Officer knows how hard a parent's job is because she is a mom.

I look at my children and my grandchildren, and I thought about this lady's comment. She said, you know, when she was growing up, she felt like that when she came home, that was the safe harbor; that is where she knew she was going to be safe. But today, she said she feels like many times, the enemy is within those four walls because of what children are exposed to online.

Like many parents, she began to pay more attention during COVID, and what she has found out has just astounded her. Like many parents, she feels the hardest part of her job is keeping her children safe and providing them with the environment that helps them grow into the very best person they could possibly be.

I really related to that. My husband often would say: We need to teach our children how to love and how to laugh and how to work and how to pray. That is something that we have done. We have raised our children so that they would love one another and their fellow man and love this country and appreciate the opportunities that we are given. We have raised them to believe in their faith and to exercise that faith every single day. We have also taught them and reared them to believe in a very purposeful life—always giving more than you take and leaving things in better shape than you found them.

Now, as Chuck and I reared our family, what we didn't want to do was hand down a bunch of mandates to the kids and not give them explanations. What we tried to do was to teach them and give them the knowledge that they would be able to function without us and would develop that discernment and make those wise decisions. I know that that is something that most parents do: teach those children so that they can make wise decisions on their own and leave the door open so when they feel threatened or vulnerable, they know they can come to you and talk about it.

On this point, Big Tech and the radical left have one thing in common. Their interests are best served if parents are not spending time parenting, because what Big Tech and many of the radicals are doing is using social media platforms to take children who are vulnerable and then push them into actions on social media platforms. It is, indeed, a toxic environment for our children on these platforms. That online element is at the top of a long list of things that have parents really worried about what is going on in this country. Summer is coming on, and parents are paying attention to this.

They are looking at other concerns. Inflation has absolutely decimated their savings accounts. When I talk to Tennesseans, sometimes they will talk about how much money they could save during the Trump years, and they are glad they did because inflation is now eating away at those savings that they had banked. Crime in the streets and drugs in our communities have

turned the nightly news into a horror show. People cannot believe the way crime has grown. Much of it is driven by that open southern border.

Parents are telling me that they are a little bit unsettled that they can't trust what their kids are learning in school in that those lessons are going to be in line with history, with civics, with reality, and this bothers them. It is why we are seeing school board races as the hot races of this year. It is why we have—whether it is Virginia Beach or San Francisco—people being tossed off of school boards. It is because what they were teaching was not in line with our Nation's history.

But, when it comes to the influence of tech, that is where parents feel like they are surrounded. As I said, there is a mom who said she once thought, inside those four walls, there was safety; but now she feels that it is not because of what they are seeing.

It is difficult for parents to understand how all this screen time is affecting their children because Big Tech keeps changing the rules to fit their business strategies. Mind you, that business strategy is, How many eyeballs can they capture, and how long can they hold them? because that means they make more money on the ads that they sell. Indeed, Instagram admits they are an ad company. They are an ad company. They make money by getting you to watch them. The longer you watch or the more deeply you run through a thread, they are making more money.

I would remind my colleagues that many of today's parents grew up alongside the tech companies, and now they are watching these tech companies have a stranglehold on their children's lives. They are the Facebook early adopters, many of today's parents of young children. This means that they learned a long time ago that online interactions bring out the worst in people. They know that "once it is on the internet, it is there forever" is true, and they probably wish their digital footprints were a little bit smaller now that they have children and are looking at it as parents.

The point is these parents are not anti-tech; they are pro-tech, but now their kids are falling into the same traps that they did. They are overwhelmed because Big Tech is actively sabotaging their attempts to pull their children to safety and away from so much screen time. They know that the people who run these social media companies have zero desire or incentive to control the flow of toxic content into the timeline of underaged users. It is just too lucrative an operation for them to give up. As I said, they need those eyeballs; they need them glued to the screen.

Now, when I and other members of the Consumer Protection Subcommittee presented executives from Instagram with evidence that they were actively enabling predatory content, they claimed our evidence was