

Now, Washington Democrats have taken pains to ignore that. Remember, their party has become jaw-droppingly extreme on this issue. More than 60 percent of Americans support restrictions after 15 weeks. Only 19 percent of Americans want abortion on demand until the moment of birth, but 97 percent of Washington Democrats support precisely that; 97 percent of Washington Democrats are with less than one-fifth of the country on this issue. So Democrats are desperate to change the subject. Many are not even trying to argue with the decision but have pivoted to claims about all kinds of unrelated issues, but this is nonsense.

Here again is Professor Amar, the arch-liberal from Yale Law, writing, again, back in May:

Does Justice Alito's draft, as many are now claiming, inflict collateral damage on other areas of constitutional case law, such as the Warren Court's precedents on contraception and interracial marriage? It does not. In fact, the Dobbs draft reinforces these iconic opinions by explaining why they were [actually] right.

From top to bottom, this ruling was a gigantic step forward for human dignity and for the rule of law. The Justices tuned out the mobs and attempted violence, tuned out the threats from politicians, and simply followed the law where it clearly led.

This historic achievement was just one part of the most consequential Supreme Court term in seven decades. I will have more to say on this subject this week.

#### INFLATION

Now, Madam President, on an entirely different matter, "people have literally become poorer, by any concept, over the last year . . . It should not be a mystery why people are worried."

That was top liberal economist Jason Furman last month, and he was right on both counts.

Democrats' reckless inflationary spending has already slapped what amounts to a gigantic tax hike on working American families. One recent poll found more than 90 percent of Americans said they are concerned about inflation; 70 percent said they are very concerned. Consumer confidence was at a near decade low, and fewer than one in three Americans approves of what President Biden is doing about it.

But, apparently, when Washington Democrats survey this dismal scene, they see a mandate for yet another massive trillion-dollar tax hike. I am not making this up. Democrats created a runaway inflationary tax hike with their reckless spending last year, 2021, and now they want to come after the American people a second time with a huge, new tax hike.

In other words, Democrats have already picked the American people's pockets once, and now their solution is to pick your pockets a second time—first with inflation and now with tax hikes.

The policies that are being floated are ruinous—the worst possible mix to thrust onto a country that is already teetering on the brink of recession. We are hearing proposals for a gigantic tax hike on small businesses, so-called passthroughs. Well, one think tank has found that about 95 percent of all American businesses are passthroughs. About three-quarters of all of the small-scale employers in the Nation are categorized this way: 95 percent of American businesses are passthroughs.

This would hammer all kinds of States. Just to pick one, for example, nearly half of all of the employment in the entire State of West Virginia is at passthrough firms. Half of the people working in West Virginia work for passthrough firms—half of all of the jobs in the State of West Virginia. And these are the firms that Democrats want to hammer with gigantic tax hikes?

But the bad ideas don't stop there. Exactly as the war in Europe is re-teaching Americans and our allies about energy independence, Democrats are floating a giant, new tax specifically on natural gas, which they call a methane fee. One analysis has found this one policy would bleed between \$40 and \$66 billion out of our country every year, and you had better believe that these artificially higher energy costs will get passed right along to consumers.

This is what Democrats want to do in States like West Virginia—giant tax hikes on small businesses and fossil fuels? It is like they are not content watching the recessionary warning signs and are trying to make absolutely sure that we get a recession—a recession—on their watch.

Now, it is not as though there is any shortage of real, important work Congress could and should be tackling on a bipartisan basis instead of these awful ideas, but this party-line scheming is going to crowd that out.

For example, Democrats moving ahead and trying to jam the Senate and the country with a party-line tax hike through reconciliation will certainly crowd out our ability to process the bipartisan USICA bill aimed at competing with China. Our side cannot agree to frantically steamroll through delicate bipartisan talks in order to meet an artificial timeline so our Democratic colleagues can clear the decks to ram through a party-line tax hike.

A business owner couldn't bargain in good faith with a customer who had already announced he plans to rob the store. We can't negotiate the finer points of a nuanced economic policy in a bipartisan way only for Democrats to immediately turn around and redesign the entire economy along pure party lines. Of course, that can't work. And what about the other governing priorities that Democrats are neglecting?

What about the National Defense Authorization Act? The House is advancing their version of this important leg-

islation this week. Will Senate Democrats neglect the NDAA like they did last year? That would say a lot about their actual resolve to compete with China.

Now is a terrible, terrible time to paralyze the Senate by trying to tax us into recession on a partisan basis.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

#### U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, it is little wonder that the Senator from Kentucky is praising the Supreme Court. More than any other Member of the U.S. Senate, he has been instrumental in choosing the members of this Court and has gone to lengths unseen in the history of the U.S. Senate to reach that goal.

Remember Merrick Garland, the nominee of President Barack Obama, whom this Senate leader, the Senator from Kentucky, refused to meet with or even consider for his nomination for almost a year? That is right—he kept a vacancy on the Supreme Court for more than 8 months so that he could perhaps see his prayers answered and a Republican President be elected.

Well, it happened. Donald Trump won. Merrick Garland had no chance to even be considered. Barack Obama was denied the authority given to him as President during his last year of his term, and the Senator from Kentucky waited patiently until he could bring to the Court Justice Gorsuch, a conservative to his liking.

That wasn't the end of his effort to make the Supreme Court what he wanted it to be. At the end of the Trump term, there was another vacancy on the Court with the death of Ruth Bader Ginsburg, and at that point, the Senator from Kentucky decided to break the rules in the opposite direction. It wasn't a slowdown this time in filling the vacancy; it was an acceleration, a speedup. In that instance, they broke most of the precedents in the Senate in terms of considering Supreme Court nominees for Amy Coney Barrett. So President Trump was able, thanks to the complicity of the Senator from Kentucky, to appoint three members of the Supreme Court.

The rulings in the last several weeks are just what the Senator from Kentucky and others have prayed for: a reversal of the rights of American families across the board. Basically, the right to access to reproductive freedom for women in this country was attacked in a way that few thought would ever happen, and now we are living with the consequences.

The Senator from Kentucky just said Democrats are trying to change the subject. I am not changing the subject. There will be a hearing before the Senate Judiciary Committee tomorrow on this decision by the Supreme Court on overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

I want to say it is interesting that when the Senator from Kentucky is

looking for moral and academic support, he turns to an unheard-of professor from Yale to quote. He uses that professor as a source to say: Don't worry. Just because we took away the freedom of women when it comes to their reproductive health, we are not going to go so far as to address any decisions on contraception, family planning, and the like.

Well, I might recommend to the Senator from Kentucky that he read the decision in *Dobbs* overturning *Roe v. Wade* and the concurring opinion from Justice Clarence Thomas, which said specifically that very thing. Now, he said, that we have done *Roe v. Wade*, it is time to look at cases that address the issue of privacy, the issue of same-sex marriage, and the issues of contraception, explicitly using those words.

So to suggest that some Yale professor should be trusted more than this Justice on the Court who has given us fair warning is hard to understand.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Madam President, there is also this talk about the Democrats in favor of a tax hike. Let me put this in perspective. The Democrats are trying to achieve something that the vast majority of the American people want desperately: Find a way to control the spiraling cost of prescription drugs.

I can't think of a single issue more popular with the American people—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—and so the Senators have been working on it. Senator SHAHEEN, Senator SCHUMER, Senator MANCHIN, and others have been discussing ways to reduce the cost of insulin to no more than \$35 a month. Wouldn't that be a break for the millions of diabetic Americans who many times have to cut the amount of insulin that they use because they can't afford it, to have affordable, lifesaving medicine? Isn't that something we all should applaud? And doesn't it reduce costs overall for us to bring down the spiraling cost of prescription drugs?

The Senator from Kentucky talks a lot about the cost American families are facing. We know that is a fact. One of the first things they will identify is the cost of prescription drugs. We want to do something about it. The Senator from Kentucky has said no, he won't support this effort to corral in these costs of prescription drugs as long as there is an increase in taxes.

It turns out the increase in taxes were the Trump tax cuts for the wealthiest people in America. Yes, I think they ought to pay more in taxes, and if their paying more in taxes means that families pay less for prescription drugs, sign me up for it, and sign most Americans up for it. The notion of tax hikes on the wealthiest people in this country does not strike me as inflationary; it strikes me as common sense if it is then turning into lower prescription drug prices for American families.

#### HIGHLAND PARK SHOOTING

Madam President, on June 8, 15 days after their 10-year-old daughter Lexi

was murdered—murdered—at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, TX, Kimberly and Felix Rubio testified before the House Committee on Oversight and Reform.

In their testimony, Kimberly and Felix recalled the last time they ever saw their daughter. There was a school assembly. Lexi had received a Good Citizen Award and had been recognized for receiving straight A's. The family said: We are going to celebrate tonight. We are going to take the whole family out for ice cream, her parents told her. She was overjoyed. Then they said goodbye and sent her off to the classroom.

Less than an hour later, in Uvalde, TX, an 18-year-old man armed with a military-style assault rifle stormed into Lexi's fourth grade classroom and shot and killed her and 18 of her classmates, along with 2 teachers who tried their best to protect the kids. It was the deadliest school shooting in America in the decade since Sandy Hook in Connecticut.

In her remarks to Congress, Lexi's mom Kimberly issued a prophetic warning. She said:

There's a mom listening to our testimony thinking, "I can't even imagine [the pain of this family]"—not knowing that our pain will one day be [her pain], unless we [do something] now.

That happened before our Fourth of July break, and I will have to tell you that there was an occurrence during that break, which I will never forget.

If I had to choose one town to take one of my kids or grandkids to for a Fourth of July parade, it would be Highland Park, IL. What a great little town it is. People really care in that town, and they care for one another. It is a beautiful little suburban community in Chicago. I happen to know the mayor, Nancy Rotering, personally, and I know how hard she works to make that a great town to live in.

Fourth of July was the day for their parade, and, as usual, thousands came out, carrying little American flags, proud of their country, wanting to celebrate not just America but Highland Park, that great community. Unfortunately, 1 week ago today, a young man armed with a military-style assault rifle climbed onto the roof of a building in Highland Park, IL, and, from his sniper's perch, opened fire on families gathered to watch the Fourth of July parade. Listen closely. He fired more than 80 rounds in less than a minute—80 rounds in less than a minute. He killed seven people and injured dozens more.

I called the mayor of Highland Park a couple hours after this happened. I was in Michigan on a family vacation and was on my way as quickly as I could drive back to Highland Park in my home State.

I reached Mayor Nancy Rotering and said: Can you tell me anything?

She said: It is horrible. It is terrible. We are still looking to find the shooter.

Can you imagine, she said they found a 2-year-old toddler wandering about,

covered in blood. Fortunately, that toddler, the little boy, hadn't been shot, but they were circulating photos of his face in the hopes that they could identify family members. They figured the worse—that little boy would be out alone because he had lost his parents.

Kevin and Irina McCarthy were among those victims on the Fourth of July. They went to the parade with that 2-year-old boy, whose name is Aiden. When the shooting started, Kevin placed his body over Aiden to protect him. He died protecting his son. His son's mother died right next to him.

Another parade-goer saw Aiden, his little legs smeared with his father's blood, and carried him to safety. The poor little boy could not even say his full name. They started searching for relatives and family. Aiden is now with his grandparents. He lost both his mom and dad at that parade.

Jacki Sundheim was a beloved preschool teacher at North Shore Congregation Israel. You should see the outpouring of letters talking about these people whose names I have mentioned here, how beloved they were in their community. Jacki was one of them.

Katie Goldstein went to the parade with her daughter Cassie. When the shooting started, Katie and her daughter starting running, but Katie was shot in the chest and fell. Cassie said she leaned over her dying mother and told her she loved her, but she couldn't stop running because the gunman was still shooting.

Stephen Strauss, what a story—a financial adviser who still worked full time at the age of 88 because he loved his work, and he loved life. He used to take the train in from Highland Park to downtown Chicago every single day. He and his wife Linda were 2 months shy of their 60th wedding anniversary.

Nicolas Toledo-Zaragosa came to Highland Park 2 years ago from Mexico to visit his family. He was in a wheelchair following a recent accident. He was shot in the chest and killed in that same wheelchair.

Eduardo Uvaldo was a father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He and his wife had just celebrated their 50th anniversary. The Fourth of July was Eduardo's favorite holiday. He couldn't wait to go to the parade. He was shot in the back of the head and died 2 days later in the hospital.

Now there is an additional story I want you to hear. It is about this little boy. Cooper Roberts was among the 46 parade-goers who were injured. He went to the parade with his twin brother Luke and his mom and dad. He is 8 years old. He loves playing baseball and soccer. His brother Luke suffered shrapnel wounds in his arm, and his mom Keely was shot in her leg and in her foot.

I want to read from an article in the Chicago Sun-Times that was printed just within the last 2 days to tell you what has happened to this little boy.