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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 11 a.m.

## Senate

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2024

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, whose compassion encompasses humanity and whose mercy never fails, empower our Senators to be partners with You in Your redeeming purposes for this Earth. Remind them that the only greatness they will ever know is linked to Your transforming might. As they strive to please You, make them seekers after peace, justice, and freedom.

Lord, transform this storied Chamber of our legislative branch into a place of vision, a lighthouse of hope, and a source of solace for those battered by the raging floods of human disaster and distress. May the Members of this body become architects of a new order of hope, peace, and justice for the people of our Nation and world.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant executive clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, June 17, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. DUCKWORTH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 4541

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4541) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make certain provisions with respect to qualified ABLE programs permanent.

Mr. SCHUMER. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

### MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 4554

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4554) to express support for protecting access to reproductive health care after the Dobbs v. Jackson decision on June 24, 2022.

Mr. SCHUMER. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

The majority leader.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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# REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM FOR WOMEN ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, a few moments ago, I took the first procedural step to place on the legislative calendar the Reproductive Freedom for Women Act, sponsored by Senator MURRAY and myself and cosponsored by all the women Senators on our side. This measure affirms a woman's fundamental right to choose and calls for enshrining the protections of *Roe v. Wade* into law, as most Americans say they want.

I thank Senator MURRAY and all of my colleagues who cosponsored the Reproductive Freedom for Women Act, and I will work to bring it to the floor.

We are only halfway through June, but it has already been a dismal month for MAGA Republicans and their attacks on reproductive freedoms. In the last 2 weeks, Senate Republicans have shown that, for all their attempts to sound moderate on reproductive freedom, when it comes time to vote, they are falling in line with MAGA extremists.

This month, Senate Republicans have already blocked legislation protecting commonsense reproductive care, like contraception and IVF, as the Acting President pro tempore knows well. House Republicans, meanwhile, voted overwhelmingly on Friday to pass the Defense funding bill, with hard-right poison pills restricting access to reproductive care for our servicemembers.

And Donald Trump, while speaking to Republicans on Capitol Hill last week, once again attacked the decision of *Roe* and said abortion should be left to the States, even if States pass terrible restrictions on women's freedoms, as is happening all over the country.

Republicans cannot escape a simple reality: Their record on women's healthcare is dangerously out of step with the views of most Americans. Poll after poll affirms that a majority of Americans disapproved of the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe*.

So I will say it again: So many Senate Republicans and so many House Republicans will try to talk like moderates on reproductive freedoms, but their own record is irrefutably against them. And when it comes time to vote, they vote against women and reproductive freedoms over and over again. The American people know that when it comes to protecting their fundamental freedoms, actions speak louder than words.

Republicans can't claim to be pro-contraception but then block Federal protections for contraception. But that is just what they did a few weeks ago.

Republicans can't also claim to be pro-family but then block Federal protections for IVF. But, once again, that is just what they did a few days ago.

Remember, Donald Trump, to this day, continues to brag about his role in eliminating *Roe*, aided by Republicans in this Chamber who voted to confirm not one, not two, but three hard-right Supreme Court Justices with the goal of overturning *Roe*.

Make no mistake. The MAGA extremists aren't done. If they get the chance, they will push for their ultimate goal of a national abortion ban.

Many Republicans say a national abortion ban is plain old fearmongering. But, remember, these same Republicans weren't even able to stand up to the MAGA right long enough to support a simple IVF bill. Do we really trust them to resist the MAGA right when it pushes a national abortion ban? Of course, not.

With November fast approaching, Republicans continue to show the American people where they really are: with MAGA extremists and not with the majority of America. That is what Republican Senators and House Members are doing.

## BUMP STOCKS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now on bump stocks, last Friday, the MAGA Supreme Court struck once again, saying the Federal Government cannot prohibit the use of bump stocks—the accessory responsible for the deadliest shooting in American history.

Nearly 7 years ago, a lone shooter fired over 1,000 rounds in just 10 minutes upon a crowd of concertgoers in Las Vegas. Sixty innocent people were murdered; another 850 were injured. This was all possible because the shooter modified his rifles to function, essentially, as machine guns. The ATF under the Trump administration—under the Trump administration—banned the use of these accessories shortly after the Las Vegas shooting.

Yet on Friday, the MAGA Court reached the incredible conclusion that weapons modified to act like machine guns, to fire bullets at almost the same rate as machine guns, and in which, in Judge Alito's own admission, do not show "any material difference" with machine guns are somehow not machine guns, which have been banned for a very long time, since the 1930s.

Friday's ruling is yet another warning that this MAGA Court is going off the deep end, aligning itself more and more with the most extreme elements of the hard right. They have struck down freedom of choice, environmental protections, affirmative action, fair redistricting, gun safety, and more. The MAGA Supreme Court is now even further to the right of Donald Trump, who is very hard right himself.

So this week, the Senate will step in to try and fix the chaos the MAGA Court just unleashed. As soon as tomorrow, Democrats will seek passage of a Federal ban on bump stocks. I urge my Republican colleagues not to block Senator HEINRICH when he comes to the floor. He is the author of the bill banning bump stocks and leading the charge to get it passed quickly.

Passing a bill banning bump stocks should be the work of 5 minutes. Most Americans support this step. Poll after poll show that a majority of people, in-

cluding Independents, support restrictions on AR-15-style rifles, which is what bump stocks are designed to emulate.

I understand that the issue of gun safety provokes intense disagreement in Congress, but shouldn't we all agree that preventing another tragedy like Las Vegas is just plain common sense and a good thing? Banning bump stocks would go a long way to making it harder for murderers to carry out large shootings. So I hope our Republican colleagues join us.

Two years ago this month, Democrats and Republicans showed America that even something as controversial as gun safety can get passed when both sides are willing to work in good faith. I was very proud, as majority leader, and so proud of Members like Senator MURPHY and Senator SINEMA who worked hard on passing this legislation.

Democrats are ready to pass gun safety once again, as soon as tomorrow. The question is, Will Republicans join us? Will Republicans join us to prevent another tragedy like Las Vegas and vote to ban deadly bump stocks?

Republicans were supportive of banning bump stocks when the Trump administration took this step, so they should support it tomorrow.

Will Republicans stand up to the gun lobby and side with parents and teachers and law enforcement who worry about violence striking their communities without warning?

Will Senate Republicans resist the pull of MAGA extremism and embrace bipartisanship so once again we can keep people safe?

I hope the answer is yes. I hope we can repeat the success of 2 years ago when we passed the first major gun safety bill in 30 years since I led the passage of the Brady bill in Congress. I was a Congressman then.

We have a long way to go to cure America's disease of gun violence. Today, you don't need to show people the statistics. Americans know violence is disgustingly unacceptable. They can feel it in their bones. They are worried about where they go. They go into public spaces and instinctively look for exits. Sometimes just a loud noise can frighten people in public.

And now this MAGA Court has undone the ban on bump stocks that will make it easier for deranged individuals to turn their weapons into near machine guns.

If my Republican colleagues want to do the right thing for the country, the answer is very simple: Join us—every one of you—to ban bump stocks so that we never see the kind of carnage we saw in Las Vegas NV, ever, ever again.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.