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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m., and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

God of grace and glory, in the darkness of our limited knowledge, we turn to You whose dwelling place is light.

Today, send our lawmakers forth with Your light to do the right as You give them the ability to see it.

Lord, help them to keep their minds on You so that Your peace will provide the foundation for their confidence.

In their dealings with each other, keep them from unkind words and unkind silences. Kindle on the altar of their hearts a devotion to freedom's cause in all the world, as You bring their thoughts and actions into conformity to Your will.

Lord, lift their hearts in gratitude to You for our heritage in this land of rich resources, high privilege, and durable freedom.

We pray in Your sovereign 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, June 18, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK 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. 4554

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

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

### BUMP STOCK LEGISLATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it should never take a tragedy of a mass shooting for the Senate to pass commonsense gun safety legislation.

Thankfully, today, we have a chance to make our community safer if Republicans don't stand in the way.

This afternoon, my colleague Senator HEINRICH will come to the floor and seek passage of a Federal ban on bump stocks. I applaud this effort. I applaud his bill. I am proud to support and speak on behalf of it.

We must act because a few days ago, the MAGA Supreme Court struck once again saying the Federal Government has no power to ban the sale of bump stocks.

The MAGA Court's decision is an utter disgrace that will endanger our communities, endanger law enforcement, and make it easier for mass shooters to unleash carnage.

Last week's decision is another warning sign that this MAGA Court is going off the deep end, aligning with the most extreme elements of the hard right.

Bump stocks are truly dangerous devices. They allow people to use rifles essentially as machine guns, which the national Firearms Act banned in the 1930s. Even Donald Trump banned bump stocks shortly after the deadliest shooting in U.S. history, when a shooter in Vegas used bump stocks to fire over 1,000 rounds in 10 minutes. And we know the tragic results of 60 people dead and hundreds and hundreds injured. Donald Trump is no friend of gun safety, but there was such huge pressure after we saw the carnage that bump stocks created that even he introduced a resolution to ban them.

What today's bill does is return things to the status quo set by Donald Trump, saying bump stocks are dangerous and should be prohibited. Senate Republicans, by and large, supported Trump's ban on bump stocks back then, so they should support this bill today.

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



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But, sadly, some of our colleagues on the other side are making it clear they will ignore the immense worry most Americans have about gun violence, and they will block today's bill.

Some on the other side say this bill is political theater; that it does nothing; that it is a stunt. Go tell the families of those who lost loved ones that this is a stunt. Go tell the many who have recovered from injuries that this is a stunt.

Are my Republican colleagues serious? Do they really think banning bump stocks is some kind of stunt? Again, they should tell that to the people of Nevada who have dead relatives because of bump stocks.

Whenever Republicans use the cliché "show vote" argument, that is their way of saying they don't want to engage the issue on the merits.

Remember what happened 2 years ago on the Senate floor: Democrats and Republicans worked together to pass bipartisan gun safety legislation—something almost nobody thought possible. I am very proud that both sides persevered because we passed that bill, and it has done a lot of good for this country already.

Today, we have a chance to add to the success of 2 years ago by passing a simple measure that restores the Trump-era prohibition on bump stocks.

I implore—I implore—my Republican colleagues not to stand in the way of today's bill because if we can pass it today, we will be one step closer to ensuring that a tragedy like what happened in Las Vegas never happens again. But if Republicans get in the way today, if they decide to side with the gun lobby instead of parents and teachers and law enforcement, they are asking for another tragedy to strike sooner or later.

#### REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on MAGA extremism in terms of abortion, yesterday, 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 every woman Senator on our side of the aisle.

This measure affirms a woman's fundamental right to choose and calls for enshrining the protections of Roe into law, as most Americans say they want. I will work with my colleagues to bring it to the floor as soon as possible.

As we approach the 2-year anniversary of Roe v. Wade being overturned, this month could have been a month when the Senate came together to protect Americans' reproductive freedoms. This could have been a month when both sides came together to pass commonsense legislation protecting reproductive care like contraception and IVF. This could have been a month when we put to rest the worries of the millions of women across America enduring attacks on their reproductive

freedoms in the aftermath of Roe. But instead, June has been a dismal month for MAGA Republicans and their attacks on women, families, and reproductive rights.

In the last 2 weeks, Senate Republicans have shown that, for all their attempts to sound moderate on reproductive care, when it comes time to vote, they choose MAGA extremism over the wishes and desires of the American people. When Republicans blocked Federal protections for contraception a few weeks ago, they chose MAGA extremism over the American people. When Republicans blocked Federal protections for IVF a few days ago, they chose MAGA extremism over the American people.

And when Donald Trump continues, to this day, to brag about working with Senate Republicans to confirm three hard-right Supreme Court Justices to eliminate Roe, that is choosing MAGA extremism over the American people.

Republicans cannot run away from a basic truth. That is why, when we return, our bill to make sure that Congress ensures the right to choose, the right to an abortion, will be before the Senate for a vote. Republicans cannot run away from a basic truth: Their record on women's healthcare is outright abysmal; it is shameful; and it is dangerously out of step with the views of most Americans.

#### FIRE GRANTS AND SAFETY ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on the fire bill, on a happier note, I am proud to say the Senate will send to the President's desk bipartisan legislation to support our brave firefighters in New York, on Long Island, and across the country. Our firefighters are heroes, whether it is New York's bravest at the FDNY or the smaller volunteer departments protecting suburban communities in Long Island and in Westchester or protecting rural communities throughout Upstate New York. Our firefighters represent the best of our community. They rush to danger every day to protect us, putting all else aside to help those in need.

Now it is time for the Senate to be there for our firefighters. The Fire Grants and Safety Act reauthorizes a series of important grants that help keep our fire departments up to speed with Federal dollars. I was proud to help create these grants years back, and I have long supported this legislation to protect our firefighters so they have the support they need.

The Federal funding in these grants goes directly to making sure that they have the lifesaving equipment and personnel they need to do their jobs safely and effectively. When it comes to protecting firefighters, we should spare no expense, and this legislation shows our firefighters that we have their backs as they rush to danger, as they risk their lives for our safety. This is especially true in smaller, more rural areas and in more suburban areas where there is

often not enough revenue to afford more resources. Our volunteer firefighters are brave. They volunteer. They don't get paid. But they need the best equipment just like all the other firefighters, and this grant makes sure that that happens in many places.

So this bipartisan legislation will ensure that our firefighters can continue working to keep their communities safe—in the larger cities where there are paid fire departments and in suburban and rural America where there are volunteer fire departments. It unites both of them in this legislation.

I look forward to voting yes and sending this bill to the President's desk today.

#### IMMIGRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on immigration, 12 years ago this week, President Obama announced the creation of DACA, one of the most important programs in our country's history on immigration. It changed the lives of hundreds of thousands of young people for the better, people who came to this country when they were very little and who, for all intents and purposes, knew America as their only home.

Today, President Biden is announcing the most significant relief program for immigrants since DACA, expanding protection for hundreds of thousands of undocumented spouses of U.S. citizens. They are not documented, but they are married to a U.S. citizen.

I applaud President Biden for today's truly significant announcement. It is going to help keep hundreds of thousands of families together. That is what it does: bring families together, keep them together. And it will provide peace of mind and dignity and, most of all, opportunity to contribute so that these people can contribute to this country even more.

The announcement will help make our economy stronger, as these spouses will be eligible for work permits at a time when there is a shortage of workers in so many different professions and give them a long-term path to stability.

The announcement is an affirmation of what America is truly about at its core: a land built by immigrants; a land of opportunity for people who want to contribute to this country, who know that our way of life is the best way if you work hard to get ahead and provide a better life for your children. The vast majority of those who will benefit from today's announcement have been in this country for decades—an average of 23 years they have been here—but in a state of limbo, according to the White House. To them, America is home. America is where they have built families. America is where they gained skills, worked hard, contributed to our economy, earned a living, and had children who will often go on and do better things than they.

That is the American dream. That is the American story. And that has been