

I think we should understand that I don't think a woman getting contraception has a thing to do with shutting down the power grids in America or the financial services in America or our water systems or our sewer systems. That is what cyber security is all about, not whether a woman can have contraception or whether she can have a wellness check to find out if she has cancer from not having had a mammogram.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, will the majority leader yield for a question?

Mr. REID. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. DURBIN. I would like to ask the majority leader, do I remember correctly that the very first amendment on the Transportation bill was offered by Senator BLUNT of Missouri on family planning? So is there a family planning amendment available on every bill now that will be offered by the Republican side?

I know the House Republicans have had 30 or 33 votes to repeal ObamaCare. Are we going to try to match them with similar efforts in the Senate?

Mr. REID. My response to my friend is this: I try to be very calm about things in life generally, especially things here on the floor, but I can't remain very calm about this. I have, as do a lot of people I know, 16 grandchildren. They are evenly divided between boys and girls. I want my granddaughters to be treated so that if they want to go get some contraception, have some contraceptive device while in school at New York University or Berkeley—I am bragging that they got into those schools—they should have the ability to do that.

I just can't imagine what we are talking about here on the Senate floor. Cyber security is one of the most important—it is the most important issue, as I have already said. If my colleagues want to talk to General Petraeus, he will tell us about what it is, or General Dempsey will tell us what the important issue is. The No. 1 issue today is whether we are going to have bad people attack our country and shut it down. Now we are here being asked if we are going to have a vote, on cyber security, as to when my grandchildren can have contraception.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I guess the answer is no.

My friends are going to spend the week lauding the advantages as they see them of an immensely unpopular bill that was passed a couple of years ago on a straight party-line vote—ObamaCare. Yet, in a week in which, apparently, they are going to laud the various positions of it, they are not willing to have a vote in support of it. So I gather that is a vote we will not have. I will request the opportunity to do that again. After listening to my good friend the majority leader, I anticipate such a request would likely be blocked.

On another matter—

Mr. REID. Mr. President, my friend asked me a question.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I believe I have the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader has the floor.

Mr. REID. OK. I won't answer the question then.

DEFENSE SEQUESTER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 4 years after the great recession began, millions of Americans are still looking for work, millions more have literally dropped out of the workforce altogether, and uncertainty about our Nation's future continues to spread. The stories of disappointment and of loss haven't diminished; they have, in fact, multiplied.

What is worse, a President who was elected on a pledge that he would turn all those things around is still pointing the finger at his predecessor. Three and a half years after he took office, he is acting as though he just showed up. I think most Americans are smart enough to know he has made things worse. He has hammered small businesses with a barrage of new regulations, with dozens more in the pipeline. He expects them to plan for the future without even knowing what their tax and health care liabilities will be. Last week he even spearheaded a legislative effort to take even more of what nearly 1 million of these small businesses earn, and then he told Republicans that if we don't go along with it, he will raise taxes on everybody else.

That was the message last week: Either give me what I want—raise taxes on 1 million of our most successful small businesses—or we will let everybody's taxes go up, is what he said at the end of the week. In other words, he used small businesses as little more than a bargaining chip. The week before that he told business owners that they are not really responsible for what they have built. Listen to that. To business owners, the President said: You are not really responsible for what you have built. No amount of White House spin or manufactured outrage can change what the President said in Roanoke, and no amount of finger-pointing can change the fact that his policies have actually made things worse.

But what is most upsetting to a lot of us is the fact that the administration pretends its policies would help the economy or create jobs when it knows they won't. It knows these policies are not going to create any jobs. What is most upsetting is the deception that lies at the heart of so many of the sales jobs, from health care to the stimulus.

Americans wanted the President to focus on jobs, and he focused on a health care bill that we now learn not only includes a tax on the middle class but will lead to hundreds of thousands of fewer jobs. Now the President claims he is fighting for the middle class, but

3½ years into his Presidency their wages are still stagnant while their dependency on government assistance actually continues to rise. Wages are stagnant, and dependence on government assistance continues to rise.

In some cases the President doesn't even bother with the sales jobs; he just keeps his plans a secret. That is what we are now seeing with the defense cuts he demanded during last year's budget negotiations. Literally for weeks, Republicans asked the President to tell the American people how he planned to carry out these cuts. He refused.

Mr. President, the Senate is not in order.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will be in order.

The Republican leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. As I was saying, for weeks Republicans asked the President to tell the American people how he plans to carry out these cuts. He simply refused to do so. So last week Congress passed legislation requiring him to do so. In fact, it cleared the Senate, I believe, unanimously.

Then yesterday there was this: An Assistant Secretary down at the Department of Labor is now telling people they are under no legal obligation to let employees know if they will lose their jobs as a result of these cuts. Let me say that again. We have an Assistant Secretary of Labor who just yesterday said that employers are under no legal obligation to tell their employees they may lose their jobs as a result of these cuts. In other words, the President is trying to keep those folks in the dark about whether they can expect to lose their jobs. Why? Well, I think it is pretty obvious: to insulate himself from the political fallout that will result. The President doesn't want people reading about pink slips in the weeks before his election, so the White House is telling people to keep the effects of these cuts a secret—don't tell anybody, he says, keep it a secret—until, of course, after the election. Once again, a President who holds himself out as a great defender of the middle class and the goals of organized labor is putting his own political goals ahead of the hard-working Americans who will be affected by these policies. Rather than let those who will be affected by the cuts know about them, he will make everybody nervous.

For 3½ years—3½ long years—this President has pushed an ideological agenda without regard for the consequences it would have on the very middle-class Americans he purports to defend.

The President may not want to admit it, but the economic mess we are in is his legacy—his legacy. After 3½ years of finger-pointing—3½ years of finger-pointing—he owes it to the American people to be straight about it.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

CYBERSECURITY ACT OF 2012

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the pending business.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3414) to enhance the security and resiliency of the cyber and communications infrastructure of the United States.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, every Senator has to decide what they are going to do every day when they wake up in the morning. For some in this Chamber, they wake up every day thinking about how they are going to stop President Obama, how they are going to stop his agenda, and how they are going to do everything they can to stop him from having a second term. Some spend their time waking up every day thinking about how they want to stop America from moving forward.

That is not how I spend my day. I try to look at two things every day: the needs of my people—their day-to-day needs for a job, for an opportunity, for health care—and how that translates into national policy; then I try to look at the long range needs of our country. That is why I am excited about being on the Intelligence Committee, where I am working on protecting America from the cyber attacks that are happening every day to our country, including the stealing of identity and the stealing of trade secrets. I want to move America forward. I have worked very hard to do that.

One of the areas I am most proud of that I have worked on with the men and women in this Chamber from both sides of the aisle is the whole area of women's health care. Many want to talk about repealing Obama health care. Well, I don't want to repeal it. They talk about replacing it. They never have an idea. So let me tell my colleagues one of the areas we fought for.

One of the things we knew as we embarked upon the health care debate was that we wanted to save lives and we wanted to save money. One of the areas where we wanted to do both was to look at how to utilize the new scientific breakthroughs in prevention, particularly early detection and screening. We could identify those diseases with early intervention and save lives as well as money and counteract escalating disease that ultimately costs more and can even cost a life.

Nowhere was it more glaring than with the issue of women's health care. My hearings revealed that women were charged more for their health care and got less than men of equal age and health care status. We found that we had barriers to health care because everything about being a woman was treated as a preexisting condition. If a woman had a C-section for the delivery of her baby, that was counted. In eight States, they even counted domestic violence as a preexisting condition. Then what we saw during this debate was the fact that they even wanted to take our

mammograms away from us. Well, that just went too far.

So during the health care debate, while everybody was being a bean counter, I wanted American women to know they could count on the Senate and the women and men of the Senate to stand up for them. So we came to the floor. We suited up, and we fought for a preventive health care amendment that not only passed but goes into effect tomorrow, on August 1. It will be a new day for women of all ages, who will be able to get health care coverage for preventive health care at no additional cost, no copays, no deductibles, and no discrimination where they are charged more and get less. That is what ObamaCare is. If somebody wants to repeal that, then bring it on. We are ready to fight. We want to fight for that annual health care checkup that will involve mammograms, Pap testing, and pelvic exams. We want to be able to do the screening for that dread "C" word, for colorectal cancer and lung cancer. We want to make sure that if a person thinks they are possibly a victim—a doctor suspects domestic violence—we can screen and counsel. We want women to be able to have that access, to be able to know early on what are those illnesses they are facing.

August 1 means our long-fought battle will actually go into effect. Where does it go into effect? Well, it is already in effect on the Federal law books. Now it will go into effect in doctors' offices. Women will have access to the health care their doctor says they need, not what an insurance company says they need or what some right-winger wants to take away from them.

We are pretty mad about this. We were mad 2 years ago when they wanted to take our mammograms away from us, and we are going to be pretty mad if they try to take our health care away from us. But what we are happy about—what we are happy about—is that for over more than 50 million American women tomorrow it will be a new day. They will be able to walk into their doctor's office. In the doctor's office they will say: Good morning. Can I help you? And when they say: When was the last time you had a mammogram, and the patient says: Well, I never had one because I could not afford it, they will say: Oh, we can sign you right up for that. Tell me about your family history. Is it true that your father had colon cancer? Well, listen, we worry about that for you. You could be at high risk. We are going to take a look at that and make sure you are OK.

For young women, we are going to make sure you have other kinds of counseling and services you need in order to have a productive family life. This is what this health care bill is all about. It is about people. It is about access. It is about preventing dread diseases.

People will come to this floor and they will pound their chest and com-

plain about the President. We want to pound the table and make sure women have gotten the health care they need.

Tomorrow, we are going to be very excited when we keep the doors of doctors' offices open to the women of America.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, I wish to give two thank-yous: first, to my colleague from California for letting me go ahead of her—I have a Finance Committee meeting—and second, to both my colleague from Maryland and my colleague from California, whose voices are so clear and clarion. I love to listen to the Senator from Maryland. She speaks right to the people. She has it. She gets it. And do you know what. If we could get every American in a giant football stadium and they could listen to Senators MIKULSKI and BOXER on health care, 80 percent would be for it. So I want to salute them and salute particularly Senator MIKULSKI for putting both the event earlier today and these speeches together.

I heard the minority leader speak, and it meant two things. First, it meant the Republican party does not want to do cyber security. It means the greatest threat to our Nation—probably even greater than terrorism, if you speak to some of our intelligence and military experts—will not be dealt with because we know what he is doing. He is asking for an unreasonable demand, unrelated to cyber security, to go on the floor, knowing that will stop us from moving forward.

It is a sad day. We have some of our colleagues from the other side of the aisle talking about that we must not abandon defense. Well, one of the strongest things the defense of our Nation needs is a strong cyber security bill. Because special interests—the Chamber of Commerce and others—do not want it, even though every military and intelligence leader has said how vital it is, it seems the other party's tea leaves show that the other party is going to block us from going forward. It is unfortunate and it is sad.

Then, second, the way he chose to block cyber security could not be worse in terms of substance and in terms of timing. Today, July 31, the minority leader wants to put on the floor the repeal of so many things that are going to happen tomorrow to women and to men across America that benefit them. So his timing could not be worse. The very day before we are going to see huge benefits for the American people, he wants us to debate repeal. Why don't we let the American people see the good parts of health care before we repeal it. And we are not going to repeal it.

I want to talk about this day—or tomorrow, actually—where so many portions of the Affordable Care Act go into effect.

Three million women in my home State of New York will benefit. From