

jobs, and individuals will be able to determine how best to spend their hard-earned money, further stimulating economic growth.” The chamber also pointed out that this effort is expected to grow jobs in our State by roughly 5,000 new jobs. To some States, 5,000 might not sound like a lot, but in a State such as ours, 5,000 jobs would be welcomed and welcomed heartily. They also highlighted that West Virginians are expected to see an average reduction of nearly \$2,000 in their Federal taxes that they pay. That is a significant amount of money for hard-working families across our State, to be able to determine how they want to spend their money.

Additionally, the State director of the West Virginia chapter of Americans for Prosperity recently said:

This is a huge step for taxpayers. This is going to make American businesses competitive again. It’s going to put more money in the pockets of West Virginians.

Finally, our West Virginia manufacturers—we have a great manufacturing sector—weighed in by saying:

Manufacturers large and small know this reform will mean more jobs in America, more investment in America, and more men and women making things in America. . . . Our elected leaders now need to seize this opportunity, get tax reform across the finish line, and send it to President Donald Trump’s desk.

I couldn’t agree more.

Many of the folks I have quoted represent numerous businesses and numerous people who work in and for those businesses.

To get this economy growing is incredibly important, and that is what we are going to do. It is time to seize this once-in-a-generation opportunity. It is time to get tax reform across the finish line. It is time to send this pro-growth legislation to President Trump’s desk. Families, workers, and small businesses in West Virginia and across this country are counting on us. They are counting on us to do the right thing, to be big and bold, to get this economy moving. That will result in more jobs, higher wages, more investment, and more opportunity and optimism about the future of our country.

I thank the Presiding Officer, and I look forward to voting for this bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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

DACA

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I want to cover two topics. There is so much to cover between now and the end of the year, but I want to focus today on two issues. One is the Children’s Health Insurance Program, and the second is the so-called Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, the so-called DACA Program, and in particular the individuals affected by this policy, the Dreamers. I will start with that issue.

The Dreamers, of course, are something on the order of 800,000 young people who were promised that if they came forward and made disclosures, their government would protect them. That is the basic promise that our government made. This is a significant moment in their lives and in the life of the Nation as to whether we are going to keep what I would argue is a sacred promise to 800,000 young people and in my home State of Pennsylvania, at last count, thousands, as many as 5,900, approximately.

In this case, we are talking about this issue because a promise was made, and then in the transition from one administration to the other, a different approach was taken. In September, President Trump decided to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals Program. This announcement required those whose DACA waivers would expire within 6 months to submit a renewal application in just 1 month—not a lot of time to get that done.

Unfortunately, many DACA recipients were unable to meet this short deadline, and others who managed to get their applications in time were still rejected due to postal delays—not because of something that young person did but due to postal delays. While the administration has said these individuals may be able to resubmit, many are immediately at risk of deportation.

Just imagine that. In fact, it is impossible for me to imagine it, and maybe it is impossible for anyone in this building to imagine that you are an individual who came forward because of this program, because of a promise your government made to you that you would be protected if you came forward. You came forward after years of living in this country—many years wouldn’t add up to a long life because these individuals are obviously very young. Some of them came when they were just a couple years old or a couple of months old, and they know no other country. In fact, one individual whom I met with around a big conference table of about 15 to 20 DACA recipients said to me in this meeting a couple of months ago, she said: The only country that I know, doesn’t want us. That was her assessment of what the ending of this program should mean to her.

So that is what they are at risk of. They are not just at risk of some theoretical consequence. They are literally at risk of deportation after living here all these years and not knowing any other country because of their circumstances.

It is estimated that 12,000 DACA recipients have already lost their protection—12,000 young people—and that number will grow to some 20,000 by March. Why would our country break a promise to 12,000 individuals and then 20,000 and then potentially much, much higher numbers? So we can’t wait one more day, in my judgment, to help these Dreamers.

Dreamers across Pennsylvania and the Nation already are living in fear

and feeling the consequences of this horrific decision.

ICE, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, has already picked up a young Dreamer during a routine traffic stop whose DACA waiver had expired. This Dreamer had been waiting to reapply for protection after his initial application was rejected due to—I will say it again—postal delays. While the administration has said they would allow these applications that were rejected due to postal delays the chance to reapply, the administration has been silent on what these individuals should do in the interim. For many Dreamers, this means they must choose between risking deportation and continuing to work and provide for their children and their families, depending on the circumstance.

These Dreamers have done everything right, and their applications were rejected, not due to any action they did not take, but they were rejected for other reasons—due to a failure of our government. Yet, now, they are paying the price.

Risking ICE detention and deportation to countries within which they have never lived as adults is totally contrary to our values. Dreamers are young people who have lived in this country since they were children. They are law-abiding residents who have learned English, paid taxes, gone to school, secured jobs that support themselves and their families.

This program has enabled almost 800,000 young people to grow and thrive in America. These impressive young people provide enormous contributions to our society, including paying an estimated \$2 billion every year in State and local taxes. The economic loss to Pennsylvania is estimated to be in the hundreds of millions. To be exact, by one estimate, it is a \$357.1 million loss to the State’s GDP. How about the Nation overall? By one estimate, if this were to go forward and these young people were to be deported in the numbers some are talking about, it is a national number that is in the hundreds of billions of dollars—by one estimate, north of \$400 billion. That is the impact.

So we have to get this done one way or the other. It would be a terrible failure of our government; worse than that, it would be an insult to our country, and it would be breaking a sacred promise.

CHILDREN’S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

Madam President, just a few remarks rather quickly about a major program we are also debating; that is, the Children’s Health Insurance Program. We know CHIP expired on September 30. It is a total failure of the government to allow that to happen. It is hard to comprehend that even as some are debating about the size of a corporate tax break, which will be permanent, there is uncertainty, and any uncertainty about the Children’s Health Insurance Program is also an insult to the country. Nine million children and their

healthcare and the security of their families is on the line. So we need to get the Children's Health Insurance Program passed.

The tragic irony is, the Finance Committee, of which I am a member, passed a bipartisan bill: The Keep Kids' Insurance Dependable and Secure Act, the so-called KIDS Act of 2017, reauthorizes the CHIP program for 5 years. There is no reason why—no reason whatsoever—that KIDS Act could not be voted on and passed on the floor of the Senate this afternoon or tomorrow or Monday without any impediment to getting that done, but it is being held up, I guess, as a negotiation tactic or as a way to get a deal on something else.

Children's healthcare should not be subject to any deal or any leverage or any engagement on other issues. We should get it done. If people can spend hours and hours and days and now weeks giving big corporations a permanent tax cut that exceeds \$1 trillion, we ought to make sure an existing, effective, bipartisan program for children gets reauthorized.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. STRANGE). The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to speak for a few minutes on two subjects. I don't have prepared remarks so I am going to speak from the heart.

Let me talk first about the CHIP program. One of my favorite people in the U.S. Senate is my colleague from Pennsylvania, Senator CASEY, and he just spoke very eloquently about a program called the Children's Health Insurance Program, which is part of our Medicaid Program. It provides health insurance for the children of America who are too poor to be sick.

That bill will pass. The Children's Health Insurance Program will be renewed. I want to look the American people in the eye right now and tell them: Do not worry. Do not worry.

This is an extraordinarily able program that has served the people of this country and our country well, and I don't want anybody to be unnecessarily frightened at Christmas. If you are a mom or a dad or a child or concerned citizen out there today and you hear that CHIP is in danger, with all the respect I can muster, I want to say it is not. Don't believe it. The CHIP program will be renewed.

TAX REFORM BILL

Mr. President, now, let me just talk a second about taxes. In a few days, we are going to vote on a tax system, and that vote will be a vote, as much as anything, on people's opinion about the current tax system. No reasonable person can look at America's current tax system and be impressed. For one thing, it is enormously complicated. It is 10 million words. You can stand on it and paint this ceiling.

I don't want to just talk about technicalities here because most Americans don't have time to worry about section 106(a) or section 807(b). They are too busy getting up every day and going to

work and obeying the law and paying their taxes. They just want to know what the bottom line is.

So let me tell them what the bottom line is. We are going to pass a tax bill that is going to cut about \$1.4 billion in taxes for the American people and the American businesswomen and the American businessmen over 10 years.

Let me talk, first, about the impact on people—ordinary people, Mr. President, like you and I. We are going to double the standard deduction. Why is that important? Right now, about 70 percent of Americans take the standard deduction. After we double it, probably about 90 percent will. The President is right. You will be able to file your taxes on a postcard if you want to. For Americans who have children, we are going to double the children's tax credit. We are going to lower every marginal tax rate. I know you have been told we are only going to help the wealthy. That is just not true. We are lowering every single tax rate. I am very proud of the fact that this bill starts—it doesn't end, but it starts with helping our middle class.

In my State, a mom and dad working hard, making \$75,000 a year—mom makes 30-plus thousand and dad makes 30-plus thousand, and they have two children—right now, they pay about \$3,500, \$3,700 in Federal income taxes. Now, of course, that is not all they pay. They pay payroll taxes, they pay State taxes, and they pay local taxes. In fact, government taxes everything now at all levels. Government now taxes the food we eat, the clothes we wear, the cars we drive, the homes we live in. Government started thinking it owns all our money. Government taxes us when we work. Government taxes us when we play. Government taxes us when we die. So when I tell you that a couple making \$73,000, \$75,000 in my State is paying \$3,750, roughly, in Federal income tax, I don't want you to think that is all.

The point I am trying to make is, after we pass this bill, that couple is going to pay about \$1,500, \$1,700, \$1,400 in Federal income taxes. That mom and dad who, as I said before, get up every day and go to work and obey the law and try to do the right thing by their kids and try to save a little money for retirement and try to teach their children values is going to have an extra couple thousand dollars in their paycheck, and that is a lot of money. It is to me, and I know it is to you, and it is going to be a lot of money for that mom and dad.

This bill is also going to help every businesswoman and businessman in America. Yes, it is going to help our large corporations. Right now, we tax them at a rate of 35 percent. This bill is going to reduce that to 21 percent, but it is not just going to help large businesses, it is going to help small businesses as well. I am talking about the subchapter S corporations and the LLCs and the LLPs and the sole proprietorships. I am talking about the fam-

ily farms. I am talking about the American who decided to take a risk to create some jobs, start a small business, went and took a second mortgage on her home, maybe employs four or five people. If she fails in her business, government is not going to be there to bail her out. She is going to lose her home, but she wants to take a risk, to be her own boss, to create jobs in America. We are going to cut her taxes too.

The passthrough rate, the top marginal tax rate, by my calculations after this bill is passed, is going to be about 29.6 percent. Right now, the top marginal tax rate for that businesswoman would be about 43 percent. And you say: Well, the small businesses get a 26-percent rate. Why do the big corporations get 21 percent?

Because the big corporations pay taxes twice. Saying they are going to pay 21 percent in our bill isn't the only part of it. When they declare dividends, they have to pay taxes again. So that is the reason for the disparity.

Let me tell you why this is important. So many of my colleagues—in fact, every one of my colleagues in the Senate says that they are for jobs. We are all for jobs, but you can't be for jobs if you are against business. You can't.

Businessmen and businesswomen need four things from government. They need reasonable regulation—not no regulation, reasonable regulation; they need a decent infrastructure; they need a skilled workforce; and they need low taxes. That is what government is supposed to provide. And then, in a free enterprise system like ours, government needs to get out of its way and let the free enterprise system work, which has lifted more people out of poverty than all the social programs put together.

Our bill is going to provide lower taxes. We have a lot of differences of opinion in this body. Some of my colleagues—most of whom happen to be Democrats—believe that it is possible to tax this country into prosperity. Once again, I say this with all the respect I can muster: They are in good faith in believing that. This is America. You can believe what you want. But if they believe that, then they were in the quad throwing a frisbee during economics 101. And that is just a fact.

Some of the opponents of this bill have suggested that tax policy has absolutely nothing to do with our economy, with economic growth. Once again, with all the respect I can muster, I would ask them very respectfully: What planet did you just parachute in from? Average Americans understand, ordinary Americans understand, people who work for a living understand that when you tax something, you get less of it, and when you tax it less, you get more of it.

This is a solid bill. It is not perfect. If I were king for a day—I am not, and I don't want to be—I would make some