

addict. They have been through a lot—a lot of trauma—and they need the help, but the good news is they are getting the help, and there is hope.

At my visit to the safe house, I met these incredibly courageous women who have taken these steps voluntarily to get their lives back together, using faith and using, in some cases, treatment programs. The funding they are getting is coming through the Montgomery County ADAMHS Board, the alcohol and drug board, and that funding comes from the CARA legislation and the Cures legislation. Again, seeing in action what is actually happening on the ground gives me hope that we are beginning to make progress.

I met with the safe house “Mom.” She is the resident mother, as she calls herself, of this house. She is there to take care of concerns that women have. She is a recovering addict herself. She is a domestic violence survivor. Oasis House saved her life, and now she is giving back by helping current Oasis clients to be able to help save their lives. I want to congratulate Cheryl Oliver, their executive director, for all of the great work they are doing. The bravery of these young women was inspiring and, again, it is great to see firsthand how this is making a difference in their lives.

We have recently seen this issue of trafficking arise in connection with a sex trafficking ring in Florida. We are told that illicit spas—like those in Florida that you have probably heard about in the media in the last week or so—can sometimes be hubs of human trafficking, where women, often imported from foreign countries, are brought in to America. They are often induced through fraud, fear, or some other type of coercion to perform sex acts for money, and that is what investigators believe happened here. They believe that the women in these spas were from foreign countries, and that they were induced into this through coercion. There is more information coming out. They don’t have all of the details yet. The investigation continues, but they suspect the managers at these day spas were trafficking these women, and, therefore, they arrested the owners at several of these day spas. It is another disturbing reminder that human trafficking continues to exist right here in this country in this century, and we must stay vigilant in our efforts to combat this horrific crime.

In my last 8 years here in the Senate, it has been one of our top priorities to pass legislation to combat human trafficking. We have passed bills into law to get better data on sex trafficking here in the United States, to ensure that victims are treated as victims and not as criminals, to increase Federal penalties on johns, and to enact a zero-tolerance policy on human trafficking and government contracts.

I am proud to say that, with Senator BLUMENTHAL, we cofounded and co-chaired the human trafficking caucus here. We started off with a couple

Members, and now we have a couple dozen Members of this body who work day in and day out to say: How can we do more to help?

One thing we found through our research was that online sex trafficking is growing dramatically and is one reason you see the increase in sex trafficking here in this country and around the world.

After 18 months of investigation—particularly into backpage, which was the commercial site that had probably three-quarters of the trafficking on it—we passed a law called the SESTA legislation, which ensures that these websites that knowingly engage, facilitate, or promote trafficking are held accountable for what happens on their platforms. It is about time. We should have done it a long time ago.

Having passed that legislation, backpage is now shut down, and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children reported to us that probably about two-thirds of these online websites that sell women and children online have now been discontinued. Again, we haven’t solved the problem. It is still very much out there. Other websites will crop up on the dark web as well, but we have made progress by focusing on the issue in a bipartisan way. Numerous websites have been shut down, as we have been told by the experts. I will quote the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children: “Since the enactment of SESTA and the government’s seizure of Backpage, there has been a major disruption in the online marketplace.”

As we talked earlier—whether it is the SESTA legislation that is now working, whether it is the CARA legislation and the Cures legislation on the opioid crisis—that we are making a difference. The funding that has been provided by this body and by the House—after careful research to figure out what works and what doesn’t work and sending it to evidence-based programs—is working. We cannot take our eye off the ball. We cannot stop now. If we do, we will just see this problem crop up in different ways.

I mentioned that as we are making progress on opioids, law enforcement and those who are in the trenches—treatment providers—are talking about the fact that other drugs are beginning to rise, particularly crystal meth. So we can’t stop. We have to continue.

These programs are making a difference, helping people to get their lives back on track and helping to save their lives. The Federal Government continues to have a role here to be better partners in this effort with States, local governments, and nonprofits that are out there doing their best and, ultimately, with our families. That is what this is all about, giving people hope and saving lives.

I yield back my time.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I thank my friend from Cincinnati for

his work on both the issues he spoke about—both, on sex trafficking, which is a terrible affliction in our country and especially in Ohio, and on the issue of opioid deaths. We lose almost 100 people a week in Ohio to overdoses, and more than 11 a day on opioid overdoses. So I thank my colleague from Cincinnati for that.

GM CLOSURES

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, this week, General Motors is set to lay off thousands of workers in Lordstown, OH, and around the country. Tomorrow is the day that most of the first shift lose their jobs. Several months ago, the second shift lost their jobs. A couple years ago, the third shift lost their jobs. That totals about 4,500 human beings with families.

What is the President’s response? He boasts nonsense and rubs salt in these workers’ wounds. Last week, as if he didn’t know about Lordstown and other places, he said: We have car companies opening up in Michigan and Ohio and Pennsylvania and so many other places.

I don’t know where those mystery factories are in Ohio that the President brags about. They aren’t in Lordstown, where people are about to lose those jobs. President Trump’s remarks, his uncaring feelings, and his ignorance of even knowing what has happened in Ohio—the State he seems to boast about and credit for his victory—are a slap in the face to the workers, and there is the fact that he has done nothing to help.

Think about the workers who are out of a job at the end of the week. Think about their families. Think about the other families in Lordstown who are about to lose customers.

Senator PORTMAN and I spent a lot of time working with General Motors, visiting a restaurant near the plant and talking to the workers there who know their jobs are affected as fewer Lordstown workers come to that restaurant. Multiply that with hardware stores, police and fire jobs and teacher jobs and all that afflicts the Mahoning Valley when GM does what it does.

Remember what Donald Trump promised people in communities like Youngstown. He said that he would fight for them, that he would fight for their jobs. Last year, he told the people of Mahoning Valley—Mahoning Valley is Youngstown, Warren, Lordstown, and that area: “Don’t move.”

These are the President’s words:

Don’t move, don’t sell your house. We’re going to fill up those factories or rip them down and build new ones.

He said:

We never again will sacrifice Ohio jobs and those in other states to enrich other countries.

Think about that. The President of the United States comes in, in the midst of these GM layoffs, and says: Don’t sell your house. Don’t move. We are going to fill those factories up. If

we don't fill them up, we are going to rip them down and build new ones.

He went on to say: Workers will come back. Jobs will come back from these countries.

Then, even when I called and talked to him about the second-shift layoff, he didn't even know about it. I am not sure what his staff is telling him. Maybe FOX doesn't cover these stories, but the mainstream media does. These are real stories. These aren't political opinions. Some 4,500 people lost their jobs, and the President doesn't seem to know or care.

Those weren't the only promises he made. Over and over, Candidate Trump and then-President Trump promised American autoworkers that he would fight for their jobs.

In Warren, just a few miles from Lordstown, in 2016, he said: "If I'm elected, you won't lose one plant, I promise you that." "If I'm elected, you won't lose one plant, I promise you that."

In Michigan in the fall of 2016—another State with a lot of auto jobs—he said: "We will bring back your auto manufacturing business like you have never seen it before."

In February 2017, he promised again: "A lot of jobs are going to be coming back into Ohio and Michigan and Pennsylvania and all the places that have been hurt so badly."

In March 2017, he said: "The assault on the American auto industry, believe me, is over."

Last year, after GM announced the layoffs, he said: "Ohio is going to replace those jobs like in two minutes." "Ohio is going to replace those jobs like in two minutes."

First of all, why would he say this stuff? Second, does he not ever follow the news? Does his staff not tell him what has happened in the seventh largest State in the country and the State that he in part credits for his election? He lost the popular vote by 3 million votes. He won the electoral college because of Ohio and because of two or three other States. But wouldn't he know that a valley of 450,000 people, just during the time since the election, has lost 4,500 jobs just in that plant alone, and another 5,000 manufacturing jobs that make the components that go into the Chevy Cruze, and another 5,000 to 6,000 to 8,000 to 10,000 jobs? Nobody knows for sure how many they will lose in restaurants, hardware stores, and car dealerships and cuts in public dollars because the local governments have lost tax revenue so there are fewer police and fire and street cleaners and people who work in the cities, the counties, and the school districts.

The workers who are going to be out of a job by this week are still waiting. These people trusted him. President Trump did really well in the election in this valley of 450,000 people. He did really well.

He did really well. He did better than Republicans ever do, but what did he do for them after he made those prom-

ises? I am going to make a statement that is provably true but almost doesn't even make sense that it could be true. His tax bill says: If you do your production in Lordstown, OH, you pay a 21-percent tax rate, but if you move your production to Mexico, you pay a 10.5-percent tax rate.

In other words, because of Trump's tax law that, frankly, was written down the hall in Senator MCCONNELL's office but with the President's signature on it, these companies get a 50-percent-off coupon for moving overseas. Think about that. If these companies move overseas, they get a 50-percent-off coupon on their taxes.

I talked to the President about that. I asked him to reconsider that law, and he said: "Where did that law come from?"

I said: "Well, Mr. President, it was in your tax bill, and you signed it."

Then I talked to him about the American Cars, American Jobs Act and how he can fix this. Here is what the bill does. Customers who buy cars made in the United States get a \$3,500 discount at the dealership. If the American car is electric or a plug-in hybrid, they get an even bigger discount. These are the cars GM said it was going to start making instead of the Cruze. There is no reason they can't make them in Lordstown instead of Mexico.

Second, companies that cut the number of American jobs they had on the day the GOP tax bill passed, if they move those jobs overseas, they lose their tax breaks. Under my bill, the American Cars, American Jobs Act, they lose their tax breaks, they lose that 50-percent-off coupon, and then that money they have to pay because they lose their tax break goes to car consumers at the dealerships, meaning they will buy more American cars. So what will happen is it will actually do what Candidate Trump said he wanted to do and promised that he would do, and that is to bring American jobs back.

This President who says: "I am the workers' best friend, and I fight for these jobs," that is phony populism. Do you know something? Populism is never racist. Populism is never anti-Semitic. Populism doesn't divide people. Populism doesn't push people down to lift people up. Populism doesn't give tax cuts to rich people and then turn around and cut Medicare and Head Start. Populism fights for people and fights to lift up all workers. That is what we are not seeing here now.

I am calling on the President, again, to try keeping his promises and actually fight for autoworkers, fight for these communities like Lordstown, and help us pass the American Cars, American Jobs Act, end the tax cut for corporations to shut down American plants and move jobs overseas, and take this 50-percent-off coupon away that some of the richest people and biggest corporations in this country enjoy when they send jobs overseas because if you love your country, you fight for the people who make it work.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, the last vote we took today was about Americans' healthcare. It was about consumer protections for preexisting conditions that are at risk because of partisan judges.

The Presiding Officer was running for the Senate at the time and wasn't in this body, but I assume she knows, and all of us remember the day when the repeal of the Affordable Care Act failed.

The people on that side of the aisle, the Republicans, were all voting to take away consumer protections for preexisting conditions. That was part of the vote for the repeal. Among other things, it was to cut people off Medicaid, many of whom were getting treatment for opioid addiction, and it was to take away the consumer protections for preexisting conditions. That is when people can't get insurance because they are sick or they get their insurance canceled because they are too expensive. They are sick, their insurance is too expensive, and the insurance companies come down on them.

So the stage was set. The Republican Members who said they wanted to preserve preexisting conditions, many of them ran their campaigns on—because they knew the voters were very upset with Republicans for trying to take away the consumer protections on preexisting conditions, they ran their campaigns on that issue. So the Republicans quickly flipped and said: Well, we are going to protect you too.

Well, tomorrow is the day we have a chance to really protect the consumers with preexisting conditions and to keep the protections for consumers with preexisting conditions. The problem is, they can't do it in Congress. They can't take it away because voters don't like it if they take away the protections so they do it through the Federal judiciary. That is how they work around here.

These partisan judges who are voted out of here—maybe the worst one yet is from Columbus, OH, named Chad Readler. Last summer, Readler did what three career attorneys with the Department of Justice refused to do—he filed a brief challenging the law protecting Americans with preexisting conditions.

He was the person in the Trump administration who was the point person for taking away the consumer protections protecting Americans against losing their insurance because of a preexisting condition.

Do you know what? After he filed that brief, the very next day the lights went on. The very next day, Chad Readler was nominated for a lifetime appointment to the Sixth Circuit Court—the next day.

He did his work for the insurance companies. He did his work for the Trump White House. He did his work for the Republican majority who is going to take away any consumer protections. What is his reward? I guess