

leave patients with less choice, fewer doctors, and worse healthcare.

Avik Roy wrote in Forbes that “if we do nothing [to address surprise medical bills], the problem will get far worse. If we do something that is too incremental, we’ll put ourselves on the back and then be forced to revisit the problem in a few years. Americans deserve market-based alternatives to single-payer health care. Without reform of exploitative hospital prices, we’ll never get there.”

Americans want to be mindful consumers of healthcare. When Todd, the Knoxville father, wrote me, he said: “If I’m expected to be a conscientious consumer of my own health care needs, I need a little more help.” In other words, he needs for Congress to end surprise medical bills.

It is unacceptable to say to patients that, even by paying their premiums every month, even by researching and choosing in-network hospitals and doctors, they may be on the hook for thousands of unexpected dollars because of a surprise bill over which they had no control.

At least 75 Senators and the President of the United States have made it clear that our intent is to end surprise billing and to reduce what Americans pay out of pocket for their healthcare. When Congress reconvenes in September, I would encourage all of my colleagues to support these efforts to reduce healthcare costs.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I am here on the Senate floor today with my friend and colleague, the senior Senator from the State of Maryland, Mr. CARDIN, and I think we both agree that we would rather not be here today to talk about this subject. But I feel compelled to come to the Senate floor today because, in my view, we have a duty to speak out when the President of the United States of America engages in conduct that brings dishonor and disgrace to the Office of the Presidency. That is what we witnessed, once again, over the weekend when President Trump unleashed a torrent of personal, nasty, and racist attacks on Congressman ELIJAH CUMMINGS and the city of Baltimore, and President Trump has continued his poisonous barrage for days.

Congressman CUMMINGS can defend himself. He grew up having to confront racist bullies. In the face of these attacks, he has shown great strength and great integrity—the same strength and integrity he has brought to his efforts to fight for his dear city of Baltimore, his entire congressional district, and his constituents over many years.

Baltimore is a great American city with great people, great spirit, and great heart. Yes, of course, Baltimore faces many challenges. It is facing those challenges with determination, with unity, and with grit. The Presi-

dent’s attacks on this great American city have only served to rally the people of Baltimore, the people of Maryland, and, in fact, the people of the United States of America to support the city and the people of Baltimore.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an op-ed that appeared in the Baltimore Sun today entitled “Baltimore leaders: ‘Proud not only to be in Baltimore, but of Baltimore.’”

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Baltimore Sun, July 30, 2019]  
BALTIMORE LEADERS: ‘PROUD NOT ONLY TO BE IN BALTIMORE, BUT OF BALTIMORE’

(By Ronald J. Daniels and Kevin Plank)

We are proud and privileged to call Baltimore home. Baltimore is a city of creativity, optimism, and determination. Home to leading public and private research universities, world-class medical institutions, and a diverse business community, Baltimore is a city where both artists and start-ups thrive. From creating one of the nation’s first racially integrated library systems to producing today’s modern medical and technological breakthroughs, our city has a proud legacy of leadership in improving lives and setting a national example for a stronger tomorrow. It’s no wonder we are often named as a place where millennials are moving and staying. This is a city where people not only want to live, but love to live.

That is why we, as leaders of 10 of Baltimore’s anchor institutions, reject the recent unfair and ungenerous characterizations of our great city and its region. Like so many cities across America, Baltimore is a place of paradox, at once vibrant and full of promise and yet also burdened by the weight of generations of racial and economic inequities, deindustrialization, and disinvestment. Like other cities of our size and history, we face urgent challenges with crime, housing equity and our education system. But like all Americans, Baltimoreans deserve respect, support and steadfast partnership from elected officials at every level.

Baltimore is not and will not be defined by our challenges. What defines us is that we continually meet those challenges with resilience and persistence, that we invest in innovation for Baltimore and for the nation, and that we harness the talent of so many exceptional individuals to create opportunity not for the few, but for the many.

Baltimore’s remarkable people include icons past and present like Supreme Court justice Thurgood Marshall; the longest serving woman in Congress, Sen. Barbara Mikulski; and Rep. Elijah Cummings, outspoken advocate for all his constituents, from west Baltimore to Catonsville and beyond. These leaders are known not only for their deep commitment to our city and communities, but for their stature and public service on the national stage.

We see the promise of Baltimore because we are fortunate to work, serve and live here, alongside our colleagues, employees, students and neighbors. Such promise is proven daily in our shared commitment to our city’s growth and the success of its residents. Baltimore fosters talent in its strong academic institutions and has seen rising venture capital investment in its businesses—a testament to the dynamism and innovative spirit of our businesses large and small. Our leading businesses and non-profits, called upon and supported by our vibrant faith community, launched BLocal, a targeted economic investment and community

development plan that over three years has invested more than \$280 million and hired more than 1,700 Baltimore residents in underserved neighborhoods. BLocal expresses to the fullest the deep and long-term investment of the city’s anchor institutions.

We never move forward as a community—or indeed, a nation—by denigrating each other. Nor does it serve any of us to demean a vibrant city and its citizens who exemplify those most American of qualities: can-do optimism, grit and creativity.

Justice Thurgood Marshall wisely counseled that “In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest tribute.” And as this city has shown, time and again, when we work together, we rise together. For this and so many reasons we are proud not only to be in Baltimore, but of Baltimore.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. This is signed by many of the leaders in our community, including the President of Johns Hopkins University; the head of Under Armour, a great American company; the head of a number of major companies in the city of Baltimore; the Casey Foundation; Morgan State University, a great HBCU; Eddie Brown, one of our great civic leaders; and many other leaders of Baltimore—diverse leaders who have come together to stand up with pride for the city of Baltimore.

I would like to read to the Senate what they say in the first paragraph:

We are proud and privileged to call Baltimore home. Baltimore is a city of creativity, optimism, and determination. Home to leading public and private research universities, world-class medical institutions, and a diverse business community, Baltimore is a city where both artists and start-ups thrive. From creating one of the nation’s first racially integrated library systems to producing today’s modern medical and technological breakthroughs, our city has a proud legacy of leadership in improving lives and setting a national example for a stronger tomorrow.

I want to pay particular attention to these next sentences:

It’s no wonder we are often named as a place where millennials are moving and staying. This is a city where people not only want to live, but love to live.

If you come to Baltimore today, you will, in fact, find lots of young people from other parts of the country coming to settle, work, and raise their families in this great American city. The President may say that nobody wants to live in Baltimore, but the facts show a very different story about young people—young people who understand that they have a great future in Baltimore and are moving to that great city.

Of course, it is true that Baltimore faces a series of problems. In Baltimore we have had a legacy of racial discrimination and segregation.

I would like to read from yesterday’s editorial in the Baltimore Sun.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the editorial from the Baltimore Sun, dated July 29, 2019.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Baltimore Sun, July 29, 2019]  
**CUMMINGS DIDN'T CAUSE BALTIMORE'S WOES; IT WAS PEOPLE WHO PROFITED FROM RACISM. SOUND FAMILIAR, MR. TRUMP?**

(By Baltimore Sun Editorial Board)

It's not our job to defend Rep. Elijah Cummings from President Donald Trump's Twitter rants. For one thing, he's quite capable of doing it on his own, and for another, our role isn't to offer blind loyalty to political leaders of any party but to hold them to account. Likewise, we're not in the business of defending Baltimore from any and all criticism. Our city has problems, big ones, and we don't shy away from them, nor do we give any politicians a pass for failing to do as much as humanly possible to fix them. But we are sticklers for facts and perspective, and in case anybody is still interested in those things, we have a few that are worth mentioning.

Mr. Cummings has not single-handedly solved Baltimore's racial and class inequities, its injustices, its blight, its epidemics of lead poisoning and asthma, its violence or, indeed, its problems with rats. And he has been in office for a long time, more than 30 years between Congress and the Maryland House of Delegates. But Baltimore's problems go back a lot farther than that.

President Trump, whose early career was marred by a federal housing discrimination suit, may be interested to know that Baltimore was something of a pioneer in that regard. It enacted the first housing segregation ordinances, which were soon invalidated by the Supreme Court, leading to subtler and more nefarious tactics. Racially restrictive covenants, privately enforced, prevented the sale of homes in certain neighborhoods to minorities. Redlining prevented minorities from getting financing to buy homes in white neighborhoods. And blockbusting made rich the unscrupulous men who capitalized on racism and fear to drive white flight. They profiteered on blacks who sought security and better opportunities but instead found themselves exploited and impoverished.

Those days aren't nearly so far in the past as we might like to think. Just seven years ago, Baltimore settled a landmark lending discrimination suit against Wells Fargo, which steered minority borrowers into subprime mortgages—the sort of abuse the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which Mr. Trump has eviscerated, might have prevented. Landlords in Baltimore continue to take advantage of rules stacked in their favor to evict low-income (and frequently minority) tenants; in a particularly egregious example, the Kushner Cos. (as in Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner) has aggressively sought to jail tenants who fall behind on their rent.

As whites moved to the suburbs, sped along the way by massive investments in new highways, water and sewer systems, schools and other public amenities, Baltimore City's infrastructure began to crumble. Neighborhoods like those in the East and West Baltimore portions of Mr. Cummings' district became increasingly isolated from economic and educational opportunities. (Mr. Cummings was among the Baltimore leaders who sought to address that problem through the development of a new light rail line connecting those neighborhoods to employment centers including the Social Security Administration and Johns Hopkins Bayview Medical Center, but Gov. Larry Hogan, who over the weekend responded to Mr. Trump's tweets by calling Baltimore "the very heart of the state" and on Monday by asking why politicians aren't "focused on solving the problems and getting to work," killed the project.)

Meanwhile, back in the '90s, Democrats and Republicans both discovered that espousing zero-tolerance policing was great politics, so long as it was enforced disproportionately against blacks and Hispanics in the nation's cities and not against whites in suburban and rural communities. Plenty of people share blame for that, including former Vice President Joe Biden and former Maryland Gov. (and former Baltimore mayor) Martin O'Malley. But not a lot of them continue to espouse the notion that locking more people up for minor offenses or stopping and frisking people on the streets are good ideas, as the Trump administration has done.

The Obama administration tried to do something about the pockets of concentrated poverty in American cities (and Baltimore specifically) by using federal housing policy to affirmatively foster desegregation, something the Fair Housing Act had called for 50 years before, but Mr. Trump's HUD secretary, Baltimore's own Ben Carson, has been working to dismantle those efforts.

We will agree with President Trump on one thing, though. We wish Mr. Cummings weren't so focused on investigating the Trump administration. We wish, for example, that immigrant children weren't being held in inhumane conditions at the border, that the White House complied with congressional subpoenas, that administration officials weren't conducting public business on private email accounts or that the president of the United States didn't look on the office as a giant profit center for himself and his family. If not for things like that, Mr. Cummings' role as chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Reform would probably take up much less of his time.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Here is what yesterday's Baltimore Sun editorial states:

President Trump, whose early career was marred by a federal housing discrimination suit, may be interested to know that Baltimore was something of a pioneer in that regard. It enacted the first housing segregation ordinances, which were soon invalidated by the Supreme Court, leading to subtler and more nefarious tactics. Racially restrictive covenants, privately enforced, prevented the sale of homes in certain neighborhoods to minorities. Redlining prevented minorities from getting financing to buy homes in white neighborhoods. And blockbusting made rich the unscrupulous men who capitalized on racism and fear to drive white flight. They profiteered on blacks who sought security and better opportunities but instead found themselves exploited and impoverished.

They go on to make the point:

Those days aren't nearly so far in the past as we might like to think. Just seven years ago, Baltimore settled a landmark lending discrimination suit against Wells Fargo, which steered minority borrowers into subprime mortgages—the sort of abuse the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which Mr. Trump has eviscerated, might have prevented. Landlords in Baltimore continue to take advantage of rules stacked in their favor to evict low-income (and frequently minority) tenants; in a particularly egregious example, the Kushner Cos. (as in Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner) has aggressively sought to jail tenants who fall behind on their rent.

We do have a legacy of discrimination in Baltimore City to overcome. The President, instead of challenging that legacy, has decided to pile on in the manner he did with his comments.

I know that Baltimore will rise above this. I know the city is resilient, and I know this great city's greatest days are still ahead as we tackle that legacy and move on to the future. But I think we as a body—both Republicans and Democrats alike—have an obligation to also stand up for our country. We cannot allow these kind of remarks out of the Oval Office to go unanswered. We cannot allow silence when the President of the United States challenges the very idea of what it means to be American, which is a place where people of all different backgrounds, all different races, and all different religions can come together: "E pluribus unum." The President wants to drive a stake in that idea. He wants to divide the country, and we cannot be silent while he soils the Oval Office.

I ask all of us to speak out, wherever we are, when we see this kind of attack by the President of the United States. It is wrong for our country. It is bad for our country. It is a disgrace to the Oval Office.

The one thing I can say is that, in the face of that disgrace, Baltimore has shown great dignity, incredible dignity, the dignity of a city of people who see a wonderful future ahead, and we should all work together to make that future as bright as possible.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article from today's Baltimore Sun editorial board.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[July 30, 2019]

BETTER TO HAVE A FEW RATS THAN TO BE ONE

(By Baltimore Sun Editorial Board)

In case anyone missed it, the president of the United States had some choice words to describe Maryland's 7th congressional district on Saturday morning. Here are the key phrases: "no human being would want to live there," it is a "very dangerous & filthy place," "Worst in the USA" and, our personal favorite: It is a "rat and rodent infested mess." He wasn't really speaking of the 7th as a whole. He failed to mention Ellicott City, for example, or Baldwin or Monkton or Prettyboy, all of which are contained in the sprawling yet oddly-shaped district that runs from western Howard County to southern Harford County. No, Donald Trump's wrath was directed at Baltimore and specifically at Rep. Elijah Cummings, the 68-year-old son of a former South Carolina sharecropper who has represented the district in the U.S. House of Representatives since 1996.

It's not hard to see what's going on here. The congressman has been a thorn in this president's side, and Mr. Trump sees attacking African American members of Congress as good politics, as it both warms the cockles of the white supremacists who love him and causes so many of the thoughtful people who don't to scream. President Trump bad-mouthed Baltimore in order to make a point that the border camps are "clean, efficient & well run," which, of course, they are not—unless you are fine with all the overcrowding, squalor, cages and deprivation to be found in what the Department of Homeland Security's own inspector-general recently called "a ticking time bomb."

In pointing to the 7th, the president wasn't hoping his supporters would recognize landmarks like Johns Hopkins Hospital, perhaps the nation's leading medical center. He wasn't conjuring images of the U.S. Social Security Administration, where they write the checks that so many retired and disabled Americans depend upon. It wasn't about the beauty of the Inner Harbor or the proud history of Fort McHenry. And it surely wasn't about the economic standing of a district where the median income is actually above the national average. No, he was returning to an old standby of attacking an African American lawmaker from a majority black district on the most emotional and bigoted of arguments. It was only surprising that there wasn't room for a few classic phrases like "you people" or "welfare queens" or "crime-ridden ghettos" or a suggestion that the congressman "go back" to where he came from.

This is a president who will happily debase himself at the slightest provocation. And given Mr. Cummings' criticisms of U.S. border policy, the various investigations he has launched as chairman of the House Oversight Committee, his willingness to call Mr. Trump a racist for his recent attacks on the freshmen congresswomen, and the fact that "Fox & Friends" had recently aired a segment critical of the city, slamming Baltimore must have been irresistible in a Pavlovian way. Fox News rang the bell, the president salivated and his thumbs moved across his cell phone into action.

As heartening as it has been to witness public figures rise to Charm City's defense on Saturday, from native daughter House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Mayor Bernard C. "Jack" Young, we would above all remind Mr. Trump that the 7th District, Baltimore included, is part of the United States that he is supposedly governing. The White House has far more power to effect change in this city, for good or ill, than any single member of Congress including Mr. Cummings. If there are problems here, rodents included, they are as much his responsibility as anyone's, perhaps more because he holds the most powerful office in the land.

Finally, while we would not sink to name-calling in the Trumpian manner—or ruefully point out that he failed to spell the congressman's name correctly (it's Cummings, not Cumming)—we would tell the most dishonest man to ever occupy the Oval Office, the mocker of war heroes, the gleeful grabber of women's private parts, the serial bankrupter of businesses, the useful idiot of Vladimir Putin and the guy who insisted there are "good people" among murderous neo-Nazis that he's still not fooling most Americans into believing he's even slightly competent in his current post. Or that he possesses a scintilla of integrity. Better to have some vermin living in your neighborhood than to be one.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. With that, I yield to the senior Senator from Maryland, my friend, BEN CARDIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, first, I thank Senator VAN HOLLEN, my seatmate and friend representing the State of Maryland in the U.S. Senate. His comments reflect the views, I hope, of the overwhelmingly majority of Americans. It is critically important that we speak out as to what the President has said.

I have lived my entire life in Baltimore. I love Baltimore. It is a great city. As Senator VAN HOLLEN has said,

it has an incredible history. It is a vibrant city. There are so many good things happening there. It has a great future, and it needs our help from the point of view of any major urban center in America.

On weekends, my wife and I will frequently walk areas of Baltimore City in order to get some exercise, to clear our heads from the workweek, and to see what is happening in Baltimore. I must tell you that it is so energizing to see the building cranes in downtown Baltimore building new housing for our young people coming into our city because they know the economic future of Baltimore. They are there because they want to live in an exciting place in Baltimore City.

We see the optimism on their faces as they are doing their exercise in the morning and walking the streets of Baltimore. We see a great city that is continuing to rebuild in a modern economy. So when the President of the United States insults the city of Baltimore and Congressman CUMMINGS, it is incumbent on all of us to speak out and tell the President: This is unacceptable.

We know the Office of the President is frequently referred to as a bully pulpit that he can use, but the President of the United States cannot be a bully. Yet that is exactly what he is doing, trying to bully minorities and others in this country. It will not work.

The bully is not ELIJAH CUMMINGS, as President Trump called him. The bully is President Trump. The person who is dividing our country is President Trump, and he should be the one bringing us together.

Why does he do this? I don't think any of us believe that he isn't doing it for political reasons. He wants to distract from what is happening in this country. In the Congress of the United States, Congressman CUMMINGS is leading a committee that has the responsibility of checks and balances of our system to act as a check on the President of the United States.

Does anybody in this Chamber believe there shouldn't be a check and balance in our system on this President? Look at how he has used his Executive powers and abused his Executive powers and the emergency declarations that he has used.

The Mueller report spells out how the President tried to interfere in the investigation. The way he talks about our judiciary, saying that he is not going to follow the orders of our court, and the way he trashes our free press—all of that cries out for an aggressive check and balance on the independent first branch of government, and that is what ELIJAH CUMMINGS is doing.

So why is the President using these personal attacks against ELIJAH CUMMINGS and the city he represents, Baltimore? To try to distract from the legitimate role Congress plays as a check and balance on the powers of President Trump.

It won't work. I can assure you that Congressman CUMMINGS is going to

continue to do his work. His committee is going to continue to do its work. I am going to continue to do my work as a U.S. Senator, and Senator VAN HOLLEN is going to continue to do what is right to make sure we carry out our constitutional responsibilities.

He also does this, quite frankly, for a political appeal against minority communities. That is inexcusable for any American, but for the President of the United States, it is totally outrageous.

As Senator VAN HOLLEN said, we don't have to defend ELIJAH CUMMINGS. He can defend himself.

I have known ELIJAH CUMMINGS now for about 40 years. When I was speaker of the house of delegates in Annapolis, there was a young, new legislator who came upon the scene—ELIJAH CUMMINGS. I recognized from the beginning that he was going to be a great leader, and he showed that in his very early years. He rose to become speaker pro tempore of our house of delegates, and he was a leading voice as a member of the house of delegates.

You see, we had something in common. Both ELIJAH CUMMINGS and I graduated from the same public high school in Baltimore City, Baltimore City College. By the way, so did DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER and three members of Congress—from the same public high school in Baltimore City. We both attended the same law school, the University of Maryland School of Law.

So I recognized from the beginning that there was a lot in common, and I wanted to help this young legislator. He then, of course, ran for Congress. He was elected to Congress, and he has done an incredible job. He is a gifted orator. He motivates people by his speech. He is a mentor for young people, and he has helped so many young people with their lives.

He lives in Baltimore City in a neighborhood where he is an inspiration to people who otherwise would not have much hope. He has used his own life experiences to lift the lives of others, and, yes, I can tell you the record of so many accomplishments that he has.

Just this past week, along with Senator VAN HOLLEN, we announced a \$125 million grant for the Howard Street tunnel for which Congressman CUMMINGS played a critical role in getting those funds. That is going to mean thousands of jobs for Baltimore and economic opportunity for our region. That is just one example.

In the revitalization of Penn Station, Amtrak is going to invest \$90 million in revitalizing that part of Baltimore. ELIJAH CUMMINGS was instrumental in getting that done.

In the Ellicott City flood—two floods within a 20-month period—it was part of his congressional district. President Trump doesn't quite understand how Congressman CUMMINGS' district is redistricted, but he represents Ellicott City. He was on the scene immediately and helped bring in all of the Federal partners so that Ellicott City could beat the odds.

When you have a major flood like that, most businesses don't return. In Ellicott City, they returned. Why? Because of the Federal partnership in which ELIJAH CUMMINGS played a critical role, as well as other members of our congressional delegation.

Affordable housing—Congressman CUMMINGS has brought affordable housing to Baltimore.

Public safety—after Freddie Gray, I will never forget the scene I was watching on the television screen. We saw the riots and the disruption that started in Baltimore. There was ELIJAH CUMMINGS on the streets, calming things down and saving lives. That is what he was doing to represent his community. That is the type of legislator he is.

He has provided support for public safety in Baltimore, for public education in Baltimore, and for STEM education in Baltimore City public schools.

So, President Trump, when you say this guy hasn't done his work to represent the people in the Seventh Congressional District, you are absolutely wrong. Come to Baltimore. Let us show you exactly what we have been able to accomplish and how you can help us, but don't defame our city. You are the President of the United States. Act as President. Bring us together. Recognize that you are responsible for this entire country, and help us with the reputation of Baltimore.

Again, I don't have to defend my city. My city is well known. It is one of the great cities in America, but I am going to do it anyway because I want my colleagues to understand how proud we are of our city, those of us who represent the State of Maryland and represent Baltimore City.

There is the Nation's first Washington Monument, the National Aquarium, Oriole Park, M&T Bank, Fort McHenry. Talk about Enoch Pratt library, one of the great libraries in America that gave free libraries to the people of our city. There is Eubie Blake National Jazz Institute and Cultural Center.

I could go through all the museums we have in Baltimore: the American Visionary Art Museum; the Baltimore Museum of Art; the Baltimore Museum of Industry; Walters Art Gallery; the Jewish Museum of Maryland; Babe Ruth's birthplace—born in Baltimore; the Reginald F. Lewis Museum; and the B&O Railroad Museum. How many of us have been there? The great history of the railroads in Baltimore started there. There is the Maryland Science Center.

There are great sports icons that have come out of Baltimore—from Johnny Unitas to Frank Robinson, to Brooks Robinson, Cal Ripken, and Ray Lewis.

We have great healthcare institutions—Johns Hopkins. I just got an email as I was sitting on the floor. I know the rules of the Senate prohibit me from looking at my electronic de-

vice, but U.S. News & World Report today ranked the Johns Hopkins department of neurology No. 1 in the Nation. It is located in Baltimore City, MD.

We can go over the other great institutions we have, such as the University of Maryland Medical Center, the Kennedy Krieger Institute, and the Lieber Institute for Brain Development.

We have great colleges, from Morgan State University to the University of Maryland School of Law, to Loyola University, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore Coppin State, Notre Dame of Maryland University.

The list goes on and on: farmers markets and public markets; trend-setting writers from John Waters to David Simon, Tom Clancy, and Barry Levinson; the unique neighborhoods from "Lil' Itlee" to Pigtown.

Baltimore is well known. The Taste of Baltimore—how many of you know that the only place you can get a really legitimate crab cake is in Baltimore City? We all know that. And there are Old Bay Seasoning, Berger Cookies, and Goetze's Candies.

There is the Port of Baltimore, the economic heart of our State; Domino Sugar; and Under Armour, which is investing hundreds of millions of dollars into Baltimore City because they know the future.

There are the NGOs that are centered in Baltimore—the Annie E. Casey Foundation, Abell Foundation, Center for Urban Families, Catholic Relief Services, and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services.

I do this in hopes that the President might be listening so that he can learn a little bit about why we are so proud of Baltimore City. What we do ask is very simple. To the President: Come and learn about our urban centers and how you can help us in meeting the problems that we have in Baltimore and many urban cities around the Nation. We need a Federal partner who will help us with our economic growth and help us meet the challenges of the future.

It is exciting to live in Baltimore, and it is exciting to see our city grow. I am proud to be a Baltimorean, and I am proud to represent Baltimore in the U.S. Senate.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I thank my colleague, Senator CARDIN, for talking about some of the highlights of Baltimore City and the storied history of Baltimore City. It is a history of much good but also a lot of challenges that I recounted earlier. It doesn't do Baltimore City or any city in this country any good when the person in the highest office in this country launches these nasty, personal, racial diatribes.

I know the President had a history of these kinds of comments before he came to the Oval Office. But now that he is in the Oval Office, all of us have

an obligation and responsibility to speak out when he fouls the office in that way.

If the President really wants to help cities like Baltimore, he can do some of the things Senator CARDIN talked about. On a bipartisan basis in the Appropriations Committee, we are working to make investments that will help that city and many other cities with things like the CDBG—community development block grants—things like economic development administration proposals, things like financing through CDFIs, and things like minority business enterprises. Those are four investments. They don't solve the problems, but they certainly help.

Here is the thing. In President Trump's budget, zero—he zeroed out every single one of those programs.

I propose a major additional investment in our schools throughout this country, including title I schools, which are schools in lower income areas. That would be a huge boost to education throughout the country and to the city of Baltimore.

As Senator CARDIN said, we need to make investments in our national infrastructure. We have a great, thriving port in Baltimore with good-paying jobs, so we need to expand it.

There are so many things we can and should be doing, but the President, apparently, according to many, has this political strategy where he doesn't want to talk about those things. It is a political strategy that seeks to divide this country, not to unite this country. If you think about that, that is a pretty sick political strategy. It is sick for the country, sick for Maryland, and sick for Baltimore.

So I hope all of us will work to focus on the things we can do to make Baltimore and Maryland and this country stronger and end this kind of divisive rhetoric. Part of ending it means speaking out against it when we see it. We need everybody in this body to join us in doing it.

Again, I think when it comes to the city of Baltimore, it is going to rise way above the President's comments. It understands it has challenges, but it also understands it has a great future. Let us—all together—be part of a great future for Baltimore and this country, and that means coming together to serve the interests of all of our constituents.

I thank the Senate for the time Senator CARDIN and I have had here.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

#### BUDGET PROPOSAL

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I rise to talk about the need to fix our broken budget and spending process.

Picking up efforts we began in the 114th Congress, the Senate Budget Committee has spent the last several months holding hearings and meetings with Members of Congress, State officials, the administration, and stakeholder groups to listen to their budget