

at its fastest pace in more than 10 years. Thanks to tax reform, when many working families and small businesses file under the new Tax Code, they will see less of their money has been sent off to the IRS.

So there are more jobs to choose from, more wage growth, and higher take-home pay following tax cuts, but it is also worth looking at where this new prosperity is going.

The last administration's leftwing policies disproportionately benefited the Nation's largest metropolitan areas. It turns out, policies dreamt up in places like New York and San Francisco worked pretty well in places like New York and San Francisco, but the rest of the country decided we could do better.

Today businesses on Main Street and family farms are dusting off their "Help Wanted" signs. Smaller cities and States like Indiana, Nebraska, and Ohio have so many job openings that some of these communities are offering sizeable cash bonuses to move there. Smaller communities and rural America recently outpaced the rest of the country in relative job creation. So it is an all-American comeback, and the kinds of places liberal policies left behind are now at the front of the pack.

I have focused this morning on our robust economy. It is helping American families lift themselves higher, but it is just one part of the success story the President will be able to tell tonight.

The last 2 years have seen the White House and the Congress work together to identify pressing national challenges and to develop big bipartisan compromise solutions to attack them head-on. Working together, both parties collaborated on more than a dozen targeted measures to improve access to quality care for our Nation's veterans and passed landmark legislation to help local communities heal the wounds created by opioid addiction.

I am delighted to have one of these local champions as my guest tonight. Lisa Minton is leading on the frontlines of Kentucky's battle against opioid abuse. She runs the Chrysalis House, a treatment facility for pregnant and new mothers fighting addiction in Lexington.

In 2017, I worked with Lisa to secure a \$2.6 million grant to expand their services for low-income women and their children. I am glad she will be in the House Chamber this evening, and I am proud to highlight her amazing work this morning.

Working together, a bipartisan majority ended the harmful spending caps that hampered military readiness and made major progress restoring regular order appropriations on behalf of the American taxpayer. A bipartisan majority delivered commonsense relief for local lenders on Main Street from the burden of regulations designed for Wall Street.

These are just a few examples, and it is a good thing we know we can tap into that bipartisan spirit because the

American people did not hire us to spend the next 2 years in total gridlock. That is not what they did. When the American people elect divided government, they are saying: We know you disagree on a lot of things, but look to the things you agree on and do those.

If the past few weeks have shown anything, it is that we need to work together across the aisle in order to do our work, and make no mistake, there are significant challenges ahead, such as addressing the ongoing security and humanitarian crisis at our southern border, lowering the cost of healthcare and prescription drugs, and taking further steps to rebuild America's infrastructure.

Tonight I expect the President will offer a serious vision to deal with challenges like these. I look forward to hearing from him and then, throughout the coming year, I look forward to the Senate working closely with him and working closely with each other across the aisle to do just that.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

STATE OF THE UNION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, later this evening, in front of a joint session of Congress, President Trump will report on the state of our Union. As is tradition, the President will that say the state of our Union is strong, but the American people know the truth. Unfortunately, it is not.

The American people know that the Trump economy is failing the middle class and those struggling to get there. In Trump's economy, multinational corporations and the already-wealthy were given a tax cut, while American workers were left behind. The Federal Reserve reports that over 40 percent of Americans would have trouble covering an emergency of just \$400. Forty percent of working Americans, middle-class Americans, are just one medical bill, one unexpected car accident, one missed paycheck away from financial uncertainty. The state of the Trump economy—failing the middle class.

The President will say that the state of our Union is strong, but the American people know that the state of the Trump healthcare system is failing American families. After 2 years of relentless sabotage by the Trump administration and congressional Republicans, premiums are higher than they

should be, copays are higher than they should be, and for the first time in 8 years, fewer Americans have health insurance than the year before. The state of the Trump healthcare system—failing the middle class.

The President will say that the state of our Union is strong, but the American people know that the state of the Trump administration is in chaos. No administration has had as much Cabinet turnover as the Trump administration in over a century. Key positions are unfilled or uncovered or covered by individuals in an acting capacity—the Chief of Staff, the Attorney General, the Defense Secretary, the Interior Secretary, the OMB Director, and the EPA Director. Of the 705 top positions in the government, in close to one-fifth, the President hasn't even nominated somebody. The state of the Trump administration—chaos.

The President will say that the state of our Union is strong, but the state of the Trump foreign policy is woefully backward. It is inside out. Our allies are alienated and criticized. Our adversaries are emboldened and praised. Dictators and strongmen are given license by this administration, while our NATO allies receive harsh words. American values—free speech, free elections, freedom of the press, humanitarian rights, civil rights—go undefended in the dark corners of the world. The state of the Trump foreign policy—woefully backward.

The state of the Union is not strong. The state of the Trump economy—failing America's middle class. The state of the Trump healthcare—failing American families. The state of the Trump administration—chaos. The state of the Trump foreign policy—woefully backward, inside out.

These are not the total extent of our Nation's challenges, but even on these four metrics—the economy, healthcare, governance, and foreign policy—the state of our Union is in need of drastic repair. Still, knowing this President and his penchant for hyperbole, he will probably say that the state of our Union is stronger than it has ever been before in our Nation's long history, thanks to him. Knowing this President, he will rely on distortions and made-up facts to mislead the American people. The only question about the President's State of the Union is, How often will he distort? How often will he make up facts? How often will he resort to fear and divisiveness? And if past States of the Union are prologue, he will do that far too many times.

Knowing this President, he will then make some bold new promises and not even make an attempt to fulfill them. The man has so little integrity that a promise he makes at the State of the Union means nothing the next morning. Allow me to mention just a few of the things the President said in previous State of the Union Addresses.

Do you remember this one? In his first address to a joint session, President Trump said: "Education is the

civil rights issue of our time.” It has been 2 years, and we have heard almost nothing from the President about an education bill.

In the last State of the Union, just 1 year ago, the President said: “One of my greatest priorities is to reduce the price of prescription drugs. . . . Prices will come down.” But over the course of the last month, nearly 30 drugmakers have taken steps to raise the prices of their medicines.

In the last State of the Union, the President promised that “[manufacturing] plants will be opening up all over the country.” I don’t know about you, Mr. President, but I haven’t seen a remanufacturing policy from the White House. Meanwhile, Nissan has announced hundreds of layoffs in Mississippi, and GM has announced the closure of 5 factories and the loss of 15,000 jobs.

In the last State of the Union, the President said: “We will protect American workers and American intellectual property through strong enforcement of our trade rules.” That is something I strongly agree with. Six months after the President said that, he decided to let a Chinese telecom giant, ZTE—a company that violated multiple trade sanctions and put our Nation’s security at risk—off the hook and begin operating in the United States. Now, while some in the administration are pushing him to be tough on China, there are some who just want to sell out for a decrease in the trade deficit. That will not do the job the President always promised he would.

In the last State of the Union, the President said: “No regime has oppressed its own citizens more totally or brutally than the cruel dictatorship in North Korea. . . . We are waging a campaign of maximum pressure to prevent that from happening.” After that, what happened? The President hosted a largely symbolic summit with Kim Jong Un and is already planning a second summit. North Korea has failed to dismantle its nuclear program—some reports say it is growing—and the United States is not engaging in a pressure campaign, maximum or otherwise.

President Trump called for a compromise immigration bill that dealt with Dreamers and border security. Congress produced one along the lines he proposed, and then he threatened to veto it.

In the last State of the Union, the President said “It is time to rebuild our crumbling infrastructure” and called for new legislation to spur investment. He said: “Let’s support working families by supporting paid family leave.” He said: “We will continue our fight until ISIS is defeated.” What are the facts? There has been no infrastructure bill, although he promised one in the previous State of the Union; no paid family leave proposal, although he promised one in the previous State of the Union; and he is withdrawing from Syria even though he promised we would continue the

fight until ISIS is defeated. And by all reports, including our own intelligence, it is not.

I could go on. The list of broken or empty promises is long. The gap between the President’s rhetoric and reality is cavernous. Every President uses the State of the Union to set goals, but few have done it so cheaply and indifferently. Many of those promises were discarded mere weeks after they were uttered.

Forgive me, but if we Democrats and the American people have real doubt about any promise the President makes, real doubt about his following through or really meaning it, how can we not? In previous State of the Union Addresses, he has thrown around promises and not fulfilled them more than any other President I know.

Perhaps even emptier than his policy promises are President Trump’s calls for unity each year. It seems that every year the President wakes up and discovers the desire for unity on the morning of the State of the Union. Then the President spends the other 364 days of the year dividing us and sowing a state of disunion, whether that is using public servants as political pawns, the President’s false equivalence after Charlottesville, his attacks on the Federal judiciary, the free press, and the rule of law, or his near-daily twitter provocations. The blatant hypocrisy of this President calling for unity is that he is one of the chief reasons Americans feel so divided now.

So it is logical to believe, based on his past speeches, that the President’s speech tonight will ignore the reality of his administration, the reality of our economy, the reality of our world, and instead weave a web of fiction. If past speeches are an indication, the President will be in his own bubble.

Democrats are not focused on the President’s rhetoric; we are focused on fighting for workers in this unequal economy, fighting for American families struggling to afford healthcare, fighting to bring a measure of accountability to this government, and fighting for a foreign policy that reflects both our interests and our values.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

STRENGTHENING AMERICA’S SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST ACT OF 2019—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 1, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1) to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Risch amendment No. 97, to clarify the deadline for the reporting requirement relating to the establishment of a Jordan Enterprise Fund.

Menendez (for Risch) amendment No. 98 (to amendment No. 97), to provide for a classified annex to be submitted with the report on the cooperation of the United States and Israel with respect to countering unmanned aerial systems.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

S. 130

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, last night, our colleague from Nebraska, Senator BEN SASSE, brought a bill to the floor to protect infants who are born alive during abortions.

The legislation is simple. In the words of the bill, it finds:

If an abortion results in the live birth of an infant, the infant is a legal person for all purposes under the laws of the United States, and entitled to all the protections of such laws. Any infant born alive after an abortion . . . has the same claim to the protection of the law that would arise for any newborn.

In other words, any living, breathing baby outside of its mother’s body should be protected. That is a pretty basic standard of decency. One would assume that there is no human being alive who would object to such a bill—that even my colleagues across the aisle who don’t think that living, breathing unborn babies should be protected could get behind this bill—but you would be wrong because, last night, Senate Democrats objected to the consideration of this bill. They objected to the consideration of legislation to protect babies who are born alive.

Let’s take a step back and remember why Senator SASSE brought this bill up in the first place.

Last week, the Democratic Governor of Virginia was asked about an extreme proposal from a Virginia Democrat to remove restrictions on late-term abortions. In his comments on the bill, the Virginia Governor had this to say:

If a mother is in labor, I can tell you exactly what would happen. The infant would be delivered. The infant would be kept comfortable. The infant would be resuscitated if that’s what the mother and the family desired, and then a discussion would ensue between the physicians and the mother.

In other words, the Democratic Governor of Virginia not only endorsed