

And the doctor might have to tell them: Xarelto has nothing to do with your current physical condition.

But, doctor, I have seen it on television so many times, and those people seem so happy. They are dancing once they take Xarelto.

Well, the doctors have to, many times, warn them about being lured into believing that it is something they need.

But there are people who definitely do need prescription drugs, and we know that story as well. But many people, despite their best efforts to comply with what the doctor wants, can't afford it.

Drugs cost a lot of money. In fact, they cost dramatically more money for exactly the same drugs in the United States as those for sale in Canada.

Why? Because the Canadian Government cares and the Canadian Government has laws that limit the prices that can be charged to Canadians in their health system for the same prescription drugs. Many times, we don't have that.

When he was campaigning for President in 2016, Donald Trump made it clear where he stood on this. I quote him: "When it comes time to negotiate the cost of drugs, we are going to negotiate like crazy," he said in 2016. Then he got elected, and he said: Fixing the injustice of high drug prices is one of the top Trump priorities. Prices will come down, he said. But they never did. Despite years of talk, Trump failed—no greatness there.

Thankfully, President Biden and Vice President HARRIS did more than just talk; they delivered. You see, for decades, the Medicare Program was blocked from bargaining with Big Pharma. Many of us kept arguing: Well, we let the Veterans Administration bargain to get lower prices for our veterans. Why wouldn't we do the same for elderly Americans?

But we changed that. We changed it in a bill called the Inflation Reduction Act.

Last month, President Biden and Vice President HARRIS succeeded in negotiating with pharmaceutical companies to lower prices for 10 of the most expensive drugs under Medicare. Some of the prices were lowered by up to 79 percent. As a result of this negotiation, 9 million seniors will save a total of \$1.5 billion each year in copays on these 10 drugs. That is real money, real savings for real people.

For example, 142,000 seniors in Illinois take Xarelto or Eliquis as a blood thinner, costing Medicare nearly \$25 billion last year. But thanks to the new law, Medicare was able to negotiate a price reduction of 60 percent, up to \$3,840 off the annual pricetag for seniors who were taking these two blood thinners.

Last week, I met with pharmacists from the University of Illinois in Chicago. They shared with me how many patients are forced to ration doses between paychecks. They said that should not be a reality in our Nation.

Well, we are just getting started. Next year, Medicare will negotiate lower prices for another 15 drugs, and another 20 the year after that.

We also capped the price of insulin to \$35, thanks to the Presiding Officer, saving 50,000 seniors in Illinois approximately \$500 next year.

We made vaccines under Medicare free. Vaccines can be expensive. The shingles vaccine cost up to \$385. Now they are free for seniors.

Starting in January, we will impose a \$2,000 annual cap on out-of-pocket costs for seniors, no matter how expensive their medications are.

But let me remind you—this is for a matter of record: Every single Republican Senator voted against these prescription drug savings. That bears repeating. Every single Republican Senator in this Chamber voted against this effort to lower prescription drug prices.

While Big Pharma has raked in many millions and billions of dollars, they have also worked to block this law. They have Republican allies in Congress plotting how to repeal these historic price savings.

How can the Republicans explain that? You have got seniors, many on fixed incomes, with expensive drugs that they need to stay alive, and they can't afford them.

We believe those prices ought to come down for those seniors, like insulin. That is a life-or-death drug for many people. The fact that we want to lower prices for seniors is just common sense.

So how do the Republicans explain it? You heard it earlier. Anyone who wants the government to step in and negotiate lower prices is a Marxist, a socialist, a communist. You hear this over and over again.

Well, if you are a student of history, this is nothing new. That is what they said about Social Security. That is what they said about Medicare and Medicaid. They believe that there is just way too much government for the government to step in and lower prescription drug prices. I don't. I think that is a reasonable role by government.

Remember, these same prescription drugs—virtually all of them—began with federally paid research, medical research by the National Institutes of Health, which taxpayers pay for. And the companies develop the drugs, and I thank God they do. But to say we should have nothing to say about the cost of those drugs and the burden they place on seniors is just unreasonable.

When it comes to critical medications, no one should have to choose between their wallet and their life.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. President, on one other topic of importance, for more than a year, story after story has broken about the ethical misconduct by sitting Supreme Court Justices. We are talking about the highest Court in the land, the nine men and women sitting on the Supreme Court who are not governed by

the same rules of conduct and ethical standards as every other Federal judge in America. They warrant special treatment.

Justice Clarence Thomas has been at the center of many of these stories. For decades—decades—he has accepted lavish gifts and luxury trips from a gaggle of fawning billionaires. The total dollar value we estimated for these gifts accepted by Clarence Thomas, by and large never disclosed, is \$4 million. Get that: A Supreme Court Justice in the highest Court in the land, life-and-death decisions every day, and he is receiving \$4 million in gifts that he doesn't disclose.

Justice Thomas has failed to disclose a vast majority of these gifts, in clear violation of financial disclosure requirements under Federal law.

Late last week, another story broke. I am hesitant to raise this story because it involves Justice Thomas's spouse, but I can no longer avoid the obvious. She is a political activist, and her activism raises serious ethical questions.

According to public reporting, Justice Thomas's wife Ginni sent an email to Kelly Shackelford, who runs the First Liberty Institute. This rightwing organization, which is on the advisory board of Project 2025, which we are learning more about, frequently litigates before the Supreme Court and strongly opposes Supreme Court ethics reform.

In her email, Clarence Thomas's wife Ginni thanked the organization for its opposition to court reform—ethical reform—writing, all in caps:

YOU GUYS HAVE FILLED THE SAILS OF MANY JUDGES. CAN I JUST TELL YOU, THANK YOU SO, SO, SO MUCH.

When asked about her efforts to overturn the 2020 election, Ginni Thomas told Congress that she and Justice Thomas just don't discuss each other's work. That is a little hard to believe, isn't it, when you see the missive that she sent to this organization.

Her comments on behalf of judges create a clear appearance of impropriety for Justice Clarence Thomas. Accordingly, I have called for Justice Thomas to recuse himself from any future case involving First Liberty Institute.

This is not the first time that Ginni Thomas's actions have raised serious questions about her husband, Justice Clarence Thomas's ability to fairly hear cases before the Supreme Court.

Ginni Thomas is a political operative who regularly works with rightwing groups on issues being litigated before the Court, and it isn't volunteer work in many instances. She is a political operative who works with these groups that litigate issues before the Supreme Court, before her husband Clarence Thomas.

Federal law requires the disqualification of a Supreme Court Justice in any proceeding in which the Justice's impartiality might reasonably be questioned, and the Supreme Court's own

code of conduct reiterates that Supreme Court Justices should disqualify themselves in cases when there is reasonable doubt about impartiality.

Despite serious questions about Justice Thomas's impartiality in numerous cases, he refuses to recuse himself. During the Court's most recent term, he continued to hear cases related to the January 6 insurrection despite Ginni Thomas's—his wife—personal involvement with efforts to overturn the 2020 election.

Justice Thomas's failure to recuse is not his only ethical failure related to his wife's activities. For years, Justice Thomas omitted his wife's income from the rightwing Heritage Foundation from his annual financial disclosures despite having disclosed her income in some previous years. In other words, he wasn't even consistent.

As I mentioned earlier, Justice Thomas's ethical issues extend far beyond his wife's employment and advocacy. He has repeatedly violated Federal law by failing to report gifts and income from a wide range of sources in his financial disclosures. How do we know this about Justice Clarence Thomas? Because the Senate Judiciary Committee voted to authorize subpoenas, and the subpoena authorization resulted in cooperation from some of the people who gave him these gifts. They gave us the details of what they provided in the past and he failed to disclose over and over again. He has compounded that failure by repeatedly failing to recuse himself in cases involving the same individuals and groups lavishing these gifts upon him. I get it. They are sending these gifts to Clarence Thomas, who is sitting as a judge in cases that mean a lot to them monetarily.

More than 12 years ago—12 years ago—I called on Chief Justice Roberts to adopt a binding code of conduct for all Supreme Court Justices—12 years ago. Since then, repeated ethical misconduct by Supreme Court Justices has proven that an unenforceable code of conduct is absolutely worthless and an enforceable one is essential to restoring the public confidence. However, Chief Justice Roberts refuses to use his power to do so. What is he waiting for?

I call on each and every Supreme Court Justice: If you agree with Clarence Thomas, declare it, that you have no responsibility to disclose your gifts or to recuse yourself from cases where there is a conflict, but if you think you are fed up with the reputation of the Court that lacks integrity and you want to do something about it, speak up publicly on behalf of the Court and on behalf of the Nation.

We will continue, in Congress, to do our part, but some leadership from Chief Justice Roberts and members of the Court could sure make a difference.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes and Senator HOEVEN be permitted to speak up to 5 minutes.

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

Mr. HOEVEN. I ask unanimous consent to use a prop during my remarks.

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

SOLHEIM CUP

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to applaud the American women competing for the Solheim Cup at the Robert Trent Jones Golf Club in Gainesville, VA, this week. The Solheim Cup is the world's leading match play competition for women professional golfers and pits Team U.S.A. against Team Europe.

Today, here in the Senate, we are excited to display the coveted prize these teams are playing for as we gear up to cheer on America's premier female golfers.

This tradition is held every 2 years and features some of the best athletes among the Ladies Professional Golf Association and the Ladies European Tour. It serves as a platform to highlight women's golf and helps inspire future generations to take up the sport.

As a golf fan, I appreciate the immense talent and skill that it showcases. I am looking forward to supporting Team U.S.A. in its pursuit of another Solheim Cup victory.

As an Arkansan, I am proud to recognize Team U.S.A.'s captain, Stacy Lewis, a former four-time All-American at the University of Arkansas and four-time Solheim Cup player. She is serving as the captain for the second time and will bring the knowledge and experience she gained helming that team to help Americans come out on top this year.

While the United States leads Europe in the overall Solheim Cup matchups, Lewis is hopeful this team will "settle the score" after the last competition ended in a tie that allowed the Europeans to retain the title and the trophy.

I know I join so many of my colleagues in congratulating Team U.S.A.'s members for representing our country, and we wish them the best of luck as they seek a dominant performance this week to reclaim the cup and the bragging rights for America.

I yield to my colleague, Senator HOEVEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. I rise to support my colleague, the senior Senator from Arkansas, and golf enthusiasts everywhere in cheering on Team U.S.A. in the Solheim Cup.

North Dakotans love their sports, and when it comes to golf, that is cer-

tainly no exception. You may be surprised to know that in North Dakota, we have many golf courses and actually rank very high in number of golf courses per capita. And for competitive golfers in the State, we have many different tournament opportunities for both men and women alike and, of course, people young and old. That is the great thing about golf. It is a game you can play all your life. Senator BOOZMAN, even when you are old like you and me, you can get out there on the links and hit it and have a great time.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Most of the time.

Mr. HOEVEN. Most of the time, right.

But even if you are not playing well, it is a great place to take a walk. There is nothing better. North Dakota has produced top-notch golfers, including, right now, PGA tour winner Tom Hoge from Fargo, and although she just retired, a tremendous women's golfer, Amy Anderson, from Oxbow, and many others as well. Even growing up, a fellow by the name of Mike Morley, who is a fellow I knew—I always looked up to him. He was a little older when I was out there caddying on the golf course. He went on to become a touring pro as well.

We have great golfers, and obviously they are world-class athletes. In the case of Amy Anderson, she retired from professional golf this year, but when she was at North Dakota State University, she won 20 collegiate events, an NCAA record for Division 1 wins.

Again, for those traveling to the great State of North Dakota, I certainly encourage you to bring your clubs—Senator BOOZMAN—particularly in the summertime.

The Solheim Cup was actually created by PING founder, Karsten Solheim, in 1990. Like the Ryder Cup for men, it meets every 2 years to put the top women golfers in the United States against the top golfers in Europe. I have got to tell you, Karsten Solheim—he and his family—he had his sons in the business with him, too, which was primarily based out of Phoenix. But we have this incredible Norwegian festival in North Dakota every year. It is the largest Norwegian festival outside the country of Norway. The Solheim family used to come up to that great celebration celebrating their Norwegian heritage. He is the founder of this great tournament and, of course, pits the U.S. top women golfers in the United States against the top women golfers in all of Europe. So we are taking on all of Europe, right? It is pretty cool.

This competition reflects the best in sports, with players not playing for money but playing for their country, playing for their teammates, and for so many young women who watch and of course are hoping one day to be in their shoes.

I have to tell one quick story because I know the senior Senator from Arkansas will enjoy it very much. I actually