

to play women's sports. And that is not the only poll that has found that a huge majority of Americans believe that women's sports should be for actual women.

At the beginning of February, President Trump took action to protect the original meaning of title IX and ensure that Federal funding would not go to schools that allow men to compete as women. As the father of two former female athletes, I am grateful for his commitment to upholding fairness and common sense.

My dad, who was a division I athlete, came back to my hometown to coach women's sports—girls basketball, girls track. It would have been incomprehensible to him to think biological boys would be competing against his female athletes.

Mr. President, fortunately, there is no guarantee that the next President is going to uphold President Trump's measure. So today, we will consider legislation from my colleague Senator TUBERVILLE, a former high school girls basketball coach, to permanently reinstate the original intent of title IX and ensure that women—and women only—participate in women's sports in federally funded educational institutions.

Now, Mr. President, I would love to think that we would easily pass this legislation, that Democrats and Republicans would unite and stand with the vast majority of Americans to protect opportunities for women. Given that every single Democrat voted to block this bill last Congress, I have to say I am concerned about today's outcome.

So this will be a time of choosing for Democrats. They can stand with women or they can stand with a radical transgender ideology that would see women and their opportunities sacrificed to make way for biological males. Democrats can't have it both ways, Mr. President. It is either one or the other.

I had a finance professor in graduate school, and he used to say that some things are just intuitively obvious. Well this, Mr. President, is one of those things.

If the Democrats vote to oppose this legislation, they will have to answer to the women and girls they vote to disenfranchise. I hope Democrats will join Republicans to protect women and women's sports and vote to proceed to the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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 Democratic leader is recognized.

JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, tomorrow, President Trump will address

a joint meeting of Congress for the first time since taking the oath of office. It is my honor—my true honor—to welcome seven incredible New Yorkers tomorrow who will tell the story of what is under threat by Donald Trump's agenda, from Medicaid beneficiaries to disabled veterans fired from their jobs at the VA, to fired USDA workers, to home healthcare workers.

It will also be my profound honor to welcome Orna Neutra, mother of Omer Neutra, and Ruby Chen, father of Itay Chen, both who were tragically killed by vicious Hamas thugs on October 7.

Orna's son Omer was taken hostage by Hamas during the attacks on October 7. It wasn't until over a year later that Omer's family learned he was murdered by Hamas on October 7. Ruby's son Itay was also taken hostage and tragically murdered by Hamas on the border of Gaza on October 7.

After months of fighting for his return, Itay's family learned that he was also killed by Hamas on October 7. I spoke to Itay's dad and I spoke to Orna as well many times between October 7 and when they were notified that their children had been murdered.

It was vicious cruelty of Hamas for whom viciousness seems to be part of their way not to let the families know what had happened. Over and over again, especially Ruby Chen, whom I got to know well, and we had Brooklyn roots together, would wonder, Is he dead? Is he alive? Is he alive? Is he dead? And Hamas kept him dangling, as I said, viciously and cruelly.

What Omer and Itay's family have endured is beyond comprehension, but I am inspired by their perseverance, by their resolve to keep calling for the safe return of remaining hostages and for the return of the bodies of their loved ones. We must bring all the hostages home now. But it is an honor—a true honor—to welcome all of my guests, the Neutras, the Chens, and, of course, the others to the Capitol.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, now, tomorrow, Americans can expect Donald Trump to say many things that are false, including, perhaps, Russian misinformation. What we will not hear from Donald Trump, however, is the truth.

So today let us speak the truth about Donald Trump's agenda. In a little over a month, Donald Trump, Elon Musk, and Republicans have set in motion the greatest transfer of wealth in favor of billionaires we have seen in modern times.

On the one hand, you have Elon Musk calling Social Security the greatest Ponzi scheme of all time; you have DOGE firing 7,000 staffers from the Social Security Administration; you have Donald Trump threatening trade wars with our own allies; and you have Republicans cutting \$880 billion from Medicaid to pay for their billionaire tax cuts. Money that funds things like community health centers, money that funds people who desperately need healthcare, money that funds elderly

parents of middle-aged couples whose parents are in nursing homes, all of that is at great risk.

Together, these actions will mean diminished wealth for working and middle-class Americans and more money in the pockets of the billionaires because, after all, when the wealthiest man on Earth calls Social Security a scam and DOGE fires 7,000 Social Security staffers, that is a clear sign Social Security benefits are in danger.

Donald Trump just said a few minutes ago that he was going to keep the tariffs against Canada and Mexico. When Donald Trump starts a trade war with Canada and Mexico, it means rising costs for produce, for groceries, for cars, even for ordering takeout and happy hour.

It is unbelievable what they are doing with these tariffs. It could mean that restaurant owners in States like mine could be forced to close down as food prices go up. It means that building new homes will be more expensive, and those costs will be passed down to would-be home buyers.

The bottom line is very simple: One of the greatest things Americans complained about in the past election was the high costs of so many different kinds of goods and products, and now Donald Trump is making it worse because he just said that he would not continue the pause on Canada and Mexico's tariffs but will let them go into effect.

Please, Mr. Trump, rethink your plans to start a trade war or the average family will get slapped with an average \$2,000 extra in costs. Families will suffer. Businesses will suffer. You said you would bring down costs on day one, Donald Trump, yet here, 1 month in, you are doing something that would raise costs significantly for the American people.

And when Republicans cut Medicaid, it means healthcare costs will go soaring for tens of millions of kids, seniors, people with disabilities, rural communities. So why are the Republicans doing all this? Why are they creating all this havoc, this chaos, this cruelty, and this harm to the American people? Simple. To cut taxes for billionaires and have the American people pick up the tab.

Make no mistake about it, this is what a transfer of wealth looks like, away from working Americans and into the bank accounts of the billionaires club.

Meanwhile, it is not much better in terms of foreign policy and our own security. Our allies across the world will look at America and see a country in decline under Donald Trump. They will watch in horror as an American President continues to curry favors with war criminals like Vladimir Putin while publicly berating friends—brave, valiant people who risked their lives and have seen so many of their countrymen die in a valiant fight for freedom like President Zelenskyy. He gets berated. Putin gets praised. What is going on?

Rest assured that nobody on Earth was happier with what happened last Friday in the Oval Office than Vladimir Putin. Our allies will also watch in horror as Donald Trump and Pete Hegseth make America less safe, the world less safe. There is no other way you can look at it when they give Putin a free pass to launch cyber attacks against the United States while we disarm our own cyber operations against Russia. Can you believe that? Letting Putin attack us, and we are saying we won't attack him in terms of cyber warfare. What is going on? The world has turned inside out and upside down, all to the detriment of the safety and security of America and its people.

Tomorrow, as Donald Trump addresses our Nation, our Western allies will wonder about the future of NATO. So these are difficult and dangerous times, and Donald Trump is taking America, our democracy, and the world down a dark and deeply troubling path.

But, finally and most importantly, the American people will not take Donald Trump's agenda lying down. You can see frustration boil over in townhalls in Georgia and Kansas and Oregon and everywhere in-between. Republican leaders are telling their Members to cancel townhall meetings. They are running away from the people because they know how badly the people have been hurt by what they are doing.

Maybe they don't want to do it, but they are forced to because President Trump wants tax breaks for billionaires. You can see the frustration in the polls too. A majority of Americans believe that Donald Trump has ignored the No. 1 issue they care about: inflation, rising costs. You can see the frustration online. Last week, I joined a Zoom, over 3,000 New Yorkers got on the Zoom ready to mobilize against Republican attacks on Medicaid. And many of my colleagues had similar meetings with similar strong responses. People are ready. They are energized.

You can also see it in the courts. The American people can rest assured that whenever the administration breaks the law, we will take them to court. It will be one of our best tools for protecting our country and putting a stop to the worst abuses of Donald Trump's agenda. And for the most part, the courts are rejecting much of what Donald Trump has tried to do.

The more Donald Trump pushes our democracy to the limit, the more Americans will push back. Organizing is never easy, but it works. It works. That is what we will continue to do. We shall organize here in the Congress, organize in the public square, organize in court to protect the country we all know and love. Nothing that Donald Trump says tomorrow will change that fact.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, now on Social Security, something terrible is happening that Democrats have long warned about. American Social Security bene-

fits, one of the most sacred things people have, one of the most popular Federal programs that has ever been created, Social Security benefits are coming under attack.

Last Friday, Elon Musk claimed that Social Security is the biggest Ponzi scheme of all time, and now the Trump administration has announced massive cuts, more than 7,000 workers, to the Social Security Administration. These cuts could affect workers who process checks, answer customer service calls, work in field offices across the country. The cuts could very well delay Social Security benefits.

It means longer times on the phone to resolve issues. Everyone knows how frustrating it is, especially seniors who need their checks. When they haven't gotten it, they want to get on the phone and find out what happens and now have to wait for hours. It could mean local offices, like in my home State, close down.

It could mean more Americans get sicker, go hungry, get their checks far too late. You don't need to scratch your head and wonder what Donald Trump and DOGE are doing when they fire Social Security staffers and call Social Security a scam, they are getting ready to go after people's benefits, plain and simple.

Let's be clear. If Americans can't get their checks in time because staffers have been fired, that is a cut in benefits. If Americans can't get an issue resolved over the phone because there is nobody to take calls, that is a cut in benefits. If field offices are closed, if troubleshooting is halted, if checks come late in the mail, that, too, is a cut in benefits.

The only scam going on here is the one where the President of the United States would try to fleece Social Security from the American people to help pay for tax cuts for their billionaires club. Democrats will not let it happen.

#### NOMINATION OF LINDA MCMAHON

Mr. President, and finally, on Linda McMahon, the nominee for Secretary of Education. I am very proud that every single Democrat will vote against Mrs. McMahon. Mrs. McMahon's confirmation will be a slap in the face to students, parents, teachers who care about our public schools. Americans believe in public education. They don't want to see these cuts. They don't want to see the Department of Education abolished.

If the Trump administration follows through on cuts to education, schools will lose billions in funding, and what is going to happen, Mr. and Mrs. Average American Taxpayer? Your property taxes will go up. The least popular tax probably that there is.

The American people do not want to see cuts to education and the consequent rising property taxes, but that is the danger of confirming Mrs. McMahon. Before Republicans vote for Mrs. McMahon, you should remember, slashing funds for schools, students, parents, and teachers, all for the sake of

billionaire tax breaks, is a very bad idea. Senate Democrats know it is a horrible idea. The American people know it is a horrible idea.

Today, we will see where Senate Republicans stand.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN SPORTS ACT OF 2025

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, the price of everything is going up. Outbreaks of measles and bird flu are killing people. Airplanes are almost crashing or actually crashing and falling out of the sky. Tens of thousands of Federal workers, including veterans, are being laid off in Donald Trump's government purge. So obviously it is a Monday, and we have two votes tonight, and so we are going to address one of those critical issues. Oh, no. Actually, we are going to do something totally irrelevant to 99.9 percent of all people across the country.

Now, let's just start with the basics, which is that everyone has and deserves human dignity without stipulations or preconditions—not just the people you like, not just the people you understand, not just the people you agree with. Every human being is God's creature. Everyone—especially in the United States of America—has the right to be left alone. That is what freedom means, right? You have to be left alone to live your life however you want within the bounds of the law.

So what Republicans are doing today is inventing a problem to stir up a culture war and divide people against each other, and, worse, they are trying to distract people from what they are actually doing, which is, at a time when people are finding it harder and harder to afford the basic necessities, at a time when diseases we eradicated almost 20 years ago are making a comeback and killing kids, at a time when people are getting on flights and saying an extra prayer or breathing a little heavier, you have Donald Trump and the Republicans saying: You know what, let's cut taxes for billionaires. Let's take money from regular people and the things they rely on—Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, the Affordable Care Act. Let's take hundreds of billions of dollars from there and shovel it into the pockets of the richest people who have ever walked this earth because that is what we need and that is what people voted for.

Republicans are focusing on the wrong 1 percent. Trans people are not the reason people can't afford groceries or healthcare or housing. The other 1 percent, the top 1 percent economically, is responsible for a lot of that,