

of Education Linda McMahon made some money on the professional wrestling business—at least, that is what I was told. If that is true, she clearly is ready to rumble when it comes to cutting money for American schools.

It appears that the formula for greatness, which the President is pushing, includes reducing Federal aid to education and cutting medical research. How can you build a greater nation by reducing investment in schools for kids and closing down laboratories that are developing cures for diseases? For my way of thinking, that is exactly the opposite of what we should be doing as a nation.

Of course, I want to stop waste, fraud, abuse, and inefficiency. We are all signed up for that. But eliminating the Department of Education? Press reports that people in this administration are jubilant with the idea of closing down a whole Federal Agency. What are the impacts of that closure? What about the money that is going to school districts in Illinois and across the Nation? If there is a cutback in Federal funds for our school districts—and that would be part of eliminating the Department of Education—that would put more pressure on local property taxpayers to pay more for the schools or to cut back on the salaries of teachers and increase the number of kids in the classroom.

How can that be good for the future of this country? How could you build greatness by closing down schools or increasing the number of kids in a classroom? Penny-wise, pound foolish. It is ridiculous.

It is not the only area. The National Institutes of Health now—I have talked to the researchers in Illinois and across this Nation—they are at their wits end to figure out what to do. This is the leading medical research Agency in the world. And 99 percent of all the new drugs—you know all the drugs you see on television, 99 percent of all these new drugs started at the National Institutes of Health, a Federally supported Agency of researchers who set the standard for the world in medical research. And now they are facing closure of many of their laboratories because of DOGE and Mr. Musk.

So they want to cut money to schools. They want to cut money to medical research. My way of thinking is that is shortsighted as can be. You can't build a great nation that way. That is not the only research.

I want to tell a story about a young lady whose name is Jeannie Klein-Gordon. Jeannie grew up on a dairy farm in Oregon. During her undergraduate years at Oregon State, she became interested in plant pathology or the study of plant diseases and spent time assisting with research at the USDA Agriculture Research Services.

"I really appreciated the environment there," Klein-Gordon said, of working at ARS during her undergrad years. "Everybody was super nice, very passionate about science and agriculture and helping growers."

Then it was on to 5 years of doctoral work at the University of Florida before moving to Michigan State University for two shorter postdoctoral stints. From there, she applied for a position as research plant pathologist at the National Center for Agricultural Utilization Research in Peoria, IL, commonly known as the Ag Lab.

Here is what she said:

I spent 11 and a half years [to get] this position, and I got the position of my dreams. This is my dream job.

Jeannie Klein-Gordon moved her family from Michigan to Peoria in December of 2023 and set out to work on research projects. She recently focused on red crown rot, a disease that appeared in Illinois in 2018 and presents a significant threat to the State's multi-billion-dollar soybean industry. The team's experiments looked to develop products for farmers to fight the disease.

That all ended on Thursday, February 13. Klein-Gordon's employment was terminated by email at 10:05 p.m. She was 15 months into a standard 3-year probationary period for government scientists, and she wasn't alone. Other Ag Labs across the United States lost their researchers as well.

You know what else—this is not unique to this young lady—they put on the termination notice that these employees were terminated for poor performance when exactly the opposite is true. They were receiving awards for achievements that they had witnessed and been part of in a short period of time. They were probationary employees, but they were on the track to become full-scale senior researchers.

And now they have been terminated, and it has been announced it was done for poor performance. Why would Elon Musk and the DOGE group want to put poor performance on this? So it disqualifies the employee from receiving unemployment insurance. Poor performance, when it is not true, is now going to be part of her resume record.

The good news is, the courts have stepped in and said, once again, that the Trump administration has overstepped in closing these jobs down. You know, this Ag Lab may sound—as I describe the projects, they sound so far-fetched you wonder, Would we really miss that? Can't the farmers take care of themselves? Well, the honest answer is they need help in research, good research, and the Ag Lab in Peoria is one of the best. Most people don't know it, but the Ag Lab in Peoria is responsible for one of the dramatic breakthroughs of the 20th century. They helped to develop penicillin during World War II.

Penicillin was known before, but it just wasn't developed to the point where it could be administered when a person needed it. It was the Ag Lab in Peoria that took up that challenge, and as a result of taking it up, penicillin was available for our troops in World War II and saved countless lives.

Is research worth it? I think it is. Whether it is ag research or medical re-

search at the NIH, it is fundamental to our future. And these researchers, they don't make a fortune. This young lady put 11 years-plus into her education so that she would have this opportunity to come to Peoria and the Ag Lab. And as far as DOGE is concerned, she is expendable—just another probationary employee, let her go. And, incidentally, on the way out the door, stamp poor performance on her resume so she has to answer for that for the rest of her applications. Why? To deny her unemployment insurance.

Well, I think that is cruel and I think it is shortsighted and I don't think that it builds greatness.

JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS

Mr. President, they cheered, everybody in the Chamber, Democrats and Republicans, cheered when the President said that the Mexican cartels responsible for fentanyl coming into the United States were now going to be characterized as terrorist organizations. I joined in that cheer because I know what fentanyl is doing to this country.

We have a bill coming before us this morning. It will extend the coverage of fentanyl analogs, which in chemical terms means somewhat related to fentanyl but not directly. They are going to be put in the category of dangerous category, as they should be. We have extended that over the years.

I don't think that is enough to end the Federal crisis. I think we need to do more, but it is a good start to continue this classification. I will support it. I think we should have considered some amendments to this bill in the Judiciary Committee, and that is why I voted against it in the committee. But I have consistently supported extending this definition of "fentanyl" to include analogs, and I will do it again when it comes to the floor.

But that isn't enough. We can't stop the fentanyl crisis simply by repeating what we have been doing for the last 6 years. We have got to be innovative and thoughtful. If you want to stop the cartels, there are lots of ways to do it. Sign me up if you are going after this terrorist organization, and it is a terrorist organization. But don't overlook the fact that we are complicit in arming these cartels with weaponry. Forty percent of the weapons recovered in the many raids in Mexico of the cartels, 40 percent of those weapons come from where? The United States of America.

We are selling deadly weapons to these cartels that they are using to kill police and soldiers in Mexico. If this is truly a terrorist organization, and I believe it is, it should be treated as such. Let us put an end, once and for all, to Americans who are selling these high-powered weapons into Mexico and arming these cartels so that they can fight law enforcement in that country. That is inconsistent with the goal of ending fentanyl in the United States.

It is a real test. The firearms industry is pretty powerful in Congress, but can we say, once and for all, when it

comes to fentanyl and Mexican cartels: We are not going to be the source of the arsenal for them to fight law enforcement around the world. We are going to stop that. We should do it and do it immediately.

The second thing we ought to consider is that 80 percent of the fentanyl is coming through the internet, it may be coming over the border initially, but it gets to our kids and young people through the internet. So what are we going to do with those social media sources when it comes to the sale of drugs and particularly drugs laced with fentanyl? Will they be held responsible? Not under current law.

Section 230 of our Federal law absolves them from any responsibility for this conduct of selling drugs over the internet, even fentanyl, and that has got to end. Section 230 may have made sense 10 or 20 years ago, but it doesn't make any sense any longer. They have to be part of the solution to the problem of fentanyl.

So it isn't just the analogs. It isn't just the support of Mexican cartels. We have got to get serious about social media as a source of selling drugs and particularly drugs laced with fentanyl. They have got to be part of the solution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. COTTON. I ask consent the mandatory quorum call be waived.

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

Mr. COTTON. I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled rollcall vote begin immediately.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 25, Troy Edgar, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security.

John Thune, Roger Marshall, Tommy Tuberville, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Tim Sheehy, Katie Boyd Britt, Pete Ricketts, Tom Cotton, Kevin Cramer, John Barrasso, James Lankford, Rick Scott of Florida, Jon Husted, Markwayne Mullin, John R. Curtis, Roger F. Wicker, Bernie Moreno.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Troy Edgar, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Homeland Security, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 107 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Banks	Graham	Mullin
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Peters
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Marshall	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Curtis	McCormick	Tuberville
Daines	Moody	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Moreno	

NAYS—43

Alsobrooks	Heinrich	Schatz
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Schiff
Bennet	Kaine	Schumer
Blumenthal	Kim	Shaheen
Blunt Rochester	King	Slotkin
Booker	Klobuchar	Smith
Cantwell	Luján	Van Hollen
Coons	Markey	Warner
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gallego	Reed	Wyden
Gillibrand	Rosen	
Hassan	Sanders	

NOT VOTING—4

Hirono	Lummis	
Kelly	Padilla	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Alabama.

SUNSHINE PROTECTION ACT

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, well, it is that time again. I think I have given this speech three or four times in the last few years.

This weekend, all of America and my constituents back in Alabama will spring forward to daylight saving time. I am working very hard to make this, hopefully, possibly, the last time that we move our clocks. I recently joined my colleague Senator RICK SCOTT to reintroduce for the third time the Sunshine Protection Act to make daylight saving time permanent at the Federal level.

Out of all the legislative efforts I have been part of in my 4 years here in Congress, the thing I hear about the most from my people in Alabama is their desire to lock the clock.

Daylight saving time should be a thing of the past because it literally is a thing of the past. First introduced as a temporary measure during World War I, daylight saving time was originally

called wartime, and it was a way to help conserve fuel during a very different time in this country.

Following the end of World War I, in 1918, the Standard Time Act was enacted to continue daylight saving time nationally, but individual States continued to spring forward and fall back. Then, during World War II, there was a renewed Federal push for full-time daylight saving time, which then was repealed in 1945.

Finally, in 1966, Congress passed legislation to establish national standards for daylight saving time.

All of this is to say that changes to our clock might have made sense when it first began many, many years ago. For one, the American work culture and lifestyle are vastly different than they were 100 years ago.

Plus, a disruptive time change can have serious consequences on human health. Studies have suggested that the disruption of sleep patterns due to the time changes increases the risk of cardiovascular diseases and physical injuries. Northwestern Medicine found that the fall back and the spring forward are connected to a 6-percent spike in fatal car accidents and a 24-percent higher risk of heart attacks as most people change their sleeping habits.

Additionally, the long-term health effects linked to daylight saving time include weight gain, cluster headaches, and depression. The time switch in the fall increases seasonal affective disorder every single year. A study published in 2017 found that the transition from daylight saving time to standard time increased a number of hospital visits for depression by 11 percent.

By making daylight saving time permanent, Americans would enjoy more sunshine in the evenings. This is so important for many Americans who may not get a chance to get outside during the day. It would allow hard-working Americans to go on a run after work or enable dads to play with their kids outdoors or neighbors to grill and do things together outside—what a thought.

Many studies have proven that extra sunlight in the evening can lead to improvements in mental health, physical fitness, economic growth, and well-being.

As a founding member of the Senate MAHA Caucus, I am very passionate about helping to make Americans healthy again. An important part of this is making sure people get enough sleep and more sunlight.

Did you know that vitamin D from the sun is linked to preventing many diseases, including cancer? It is true. And many Americans don't get nearly enough of vitamin D, especially those who work at desk jobs and are inside for most of the day. And that has increased since the invention of what we call the computer.

Locking the clock is an important first step to helping Americans live healthier lives. It is a simple way we could positively impact the day-to-day life of all Americans.