

Our farmers are also greatly affected by daylight saving time, as additional sunshine during working hours means more time to work in the fields, which could translate into a more profitable bottom line for anybody who raises crops. As you know, I am all about helping our great farmers.

More daylight in the evening could also decrease expensive energy consumption on farms by reducing the need for artificial lighting and heating. Back in the 1970s, we had an energy crisis. We kept daylight saving time because it saved millions and millions of gallons of fuel.

Experts believe that the time changed twice a year costs the U.S. economy more than \$434 million in lost productivity annually.

It is clear the evidence points to one conclusion: Make daylight saving time permanent. Nineteen States, including my State of Alabama, have already voted and passed legislation to make daylight saving time permanent. They just need Congress—which means us—to vote for it. If we vote for it, it changes, and we would never have to move the clock again.

President Trump has also expressed support for locking the clock. Congress should listen to the people and pass the Sunshine Protection Act to make daylight saving time permanent.

The change would improve our health, strengthen our economy, and benefit our farmers. This is a no-brainer. It is time for America to move forward and stop falling back.

I am looking forward to working with my Senate colleagues to get it completely across the finish line to lock the clock once and for all.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak out against the harmful actions taken by the Trump administration and Elon Musk.

What they are doing isn't about government efficiency. They are mass firing the men and women who help provide vital services that countless Nevadans rely on, from Medicaid to food assistance.

This is being felt in nearly every corner of our country. It is impacting our veterans who rely on the VA, our seniors who rely on Social Security and Medicare, our families who rely on Medicaid and CHIP for their children's healthcare, and so many others.

The actions taken by the Trump administration and Elon Musk, an unelected billionaire, are tearing at the fabric of American society. This is no way to run a country, and the people in my State are being hurt in the process.

So, today, I want to focus on a specific aspect of the Trump firings: how

it is impacting veterans, not just veterans across the country but particularly those veterans in Nevada.

Just yesterday, it was reported that Elon Musk and his DOGE tech bros are planning to cut 80,000 employees from the Department of Veterans Affairs—80,000. This is in addition to the 1,000 VA employees they have already laid off, which included people who staffed the Veterans Crisis Hotline.

So maybe Mr. Musk and his team—his team of, as I said, teenybopper tech bros—they don't understand the magnitude of their actions. So let me explain to them what the VA does, what the VA means.

The Department of Veterans Affairs provides critical healthcare to the men and women who were willing to sacrifice their very lives for our Nation and for their families. It provides them with the benefits that they have earned and that they, frankly, deserve. It is quite literally the least that we can, as a nation, do for our veterans.

Firing those employees who work at the VA will hurt our veterans, plain and simple. It will hurt veterans not only because they rely on the VA staff but because many of those who work at the VA are themselves veterans. The VA is the largest employer of veterans in this Nation.

I have heard from so many Nevadans who are feeling the direct impact of these layoffs, and, today, I want to share a couple of stories with you.

Mark Wagstaff, a Marine Corps veteran—a proud Marine Corps veteran—currently lives in Las Vegas. He served our country honorably for 10 years. Even after his service in our military, Mark wanted to still help others, and he transitioned into civilian public service. That is why he recently started working as a lead supply technician at the VA in Las Vegas.

He was proud of his work. He was dedicated to his mission, ensuring that all medical supplies were delivered to the veterans clinics throughout Southern Nevada.

And, Mark, so proud of his job, so happy to be there, did such a great job that he was promoted. When a position in administrative services in North Las Vegas opened up recently, he applied, and he got the job. He was so happy. He was doing meaningful work as a veteran for the veterans. It meant everything to him.

Sadly, this all changed after Donald Trump and Elon Musk started messing with the VA. On February 14, the Valentine's Day present that Mark received from Elon Musk and President Trump was an email informing him that he no longer had a job. Despite receiving an "outstanding" performance review, despite his recent promotion, Mark was being told he was let go due to "poor performance."

By firing him in that way, they also immediately locked him out of all of his work accounts. That means he can't access his termination paperwork. It means he might not even receive his last paycheck.

I want everybody to think about that. Here is a veteran who put his life on the line, proudly served our Nation, was willing to risk everything for all of us, and was fired in the most despicable of ways.

This is beyond shameful. Donald Trump and Elon Musk, who actually don't know a damn thing about service to our Nation, should be ashamed—should be ashamed—on Valentine's Day, no less.

But Mark is not the only one.

Lili Stevenson, a devoted wife of a disabled veteran, who lives in Las Vegas, was also impacted by these unjust layoffs at the VA. She worked at the Henderson Vet Center and recently received feedback in a performance review that indicated she was doing an outstanding job.

For her, this job was more than just a paycheck. She could be working anywhere else and making more money, but she felt a calling to serve her veteran community—our veteran community—a calling that, like Mark, she had answered with passion and commitment.

Despite this, again, on Valentine's Day, she received a termination notice, just like Mark. This firing also falsely claims "poor performance," which does not line up with the facts as Lili knows them.

Lili and her husband—her veteran husband—rely on her income from her job at the VA as their source of income. But now, without a paycheck, she worries about her ability to continue to pay her bills and make ends meet.

Many veterans already face significant challenges in accessing the care and the services that they need. Long wait times for medical appointments, overwhelmed but dedicated staff, and a system already stretched thin have created barriers that delay essential care. But these layoffs—the Trump layoffs—will only worsen an already difficult situation.

The loss of dedicated staff like Mark and Lili and so many others harms the ability of the VA to serve our veterans in a timely, effective, and, I would say, caring and compassionate manner. With these positions being eliminated, there will be fewer hands to process claims, handle scheduling, and make sure that our veterans are getting the care and attention that they deserve. This is going to lead to even longer wait times for veterans and further delays in access to care, resulting in potentially worse health outcomes for our veterans.

It is simply unconscionable that, after years of sacrifice and service, our veterans will suffer due to cuts being made by people like Elon Musk who were never elected by the American people.

So I urge this administration to take immediate action to halt and reverse these unnecessary and, frankly, unjust layoffs.

We must always stand up for our veterans. We must always stand up for the workers who serve them.

God bless our veterans. God bless our troops.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGERTY). The Senator from Missouri.

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise to bring attention to the cost-cutting efforts of President Trump and DOGE. A lot has been said about DOGE's work in the media in the last month. The truth is, DOGE is working tirelessly to cancel grants and funding that taxpayers absolutely should not be footing the bill for. I want the American people to know exactly what some of these ridiculous funding items are so here are a few examples from the last couple of weeks.

At NIH, DOGE identified these grants for cancellation this week and last: \$532,000 to "use a mouse model to investigate the effects of cross-sex testosterone treatment"; \$33,000 to test feminizing hormone therapy in the male rat; \$120,000 for personalized 3D avatar tool development focused on gender identities; \$160,000 for researching radicalized sexual discrimination among "young sexual minority men of color"; \$241,000 for an intervention to promote healthy relationships among transgender and gender expansive youth; \$1.3 million for transforming health for gender-diverse young adults.

DOGE also canceled grants at the Inter-American Foundation that included \$903,811 for alpaca farming in Peru; \$364,500 to reduce social discrimination of recyclers in Bolivia; \$813,210 for vegetable gardens in El Salvador; \$323,633 to promote cultural understanding of Venezuelan migrants in Brazil; \$731,105 to improve marketability of mushrooms and peas in Guatemala; \$677,342 to expand fruit and jam sales in Honduras; \$483,345 to improve artisanal salt production in Ecuador; and \$39,250 for beekeeping in Brazil.

DOGE and EPA are cutting ridiculous grants funding at EPA, which includes the Vermont-based Institute for Sustainable Communities, which has yet to receive \$12.4 million of the \$16 million it was promised under two separate Biden-era grants to serve as the National Environmental Justice Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Center.

Another group losing funding was the San Diego State University Foundation, which was tapped to help bring "environmental justice" to "underserved Tribal, Indigenous, and Pacific island communities" and has yet to receive \$4.2 million of its \$5.1 million in grants.

DOGE is also looking to cut ridiculous DEI programs in the Department of Education. One grant was reportedly funding the training for teachers to "engage in ongoing learning and self-reflection to confront their own biases and racism and develop asset-based anti-racist mindsets."

Additionally, according to DOGE, 4.6 million government credit cards resulted in \$40 billion in spending last year alone.

President Trump and DOGE are saving your taxpayer dollars. Tune back next week for more updates.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

#### DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, President Trump and Elon Musk and Secretary of Education Linda McMahon have declared war on public education in the United States, plain and simple. They outlined their anti-student, anti-family, anti-educator agenda in Project 2025. Trump vowed to dismantle the Department of Education last month from the Oval Office.

So instead of nominating a Secretary of Education, he picked and Senate Republicans confirmed an executioner of public education. This administration is attempting to dismantle public education in the United States piece by piece.

Well, Trump and Musk and McMahon are about to learn just how important Federal educational funding is to every community in our country. The Department of Education guards the promise of opportunity for future generations. The Department provides \$18 billion a year in funding so that the poorest children in our country can receive the high-quality education to which they are entitled. The Department provides \$15 billion a year in funds and oversight to ensure that students with disabilities across our Nation have meaningful access to quality education. It ensures that teachers are trained, that first-generation students have a chance to go to college, that English learners and rural students receive additional support.

Trump and Musk and McMahon might talk about "efficiency" and "dismantling" the Department of Education, but we know that that is just code for cuts to educational funding for poor children, for disabled children all across our Nation. They don't want to educate; they want to eliminate. They want to loot our country's future which our students depend upon. Children are only 25 percent of our country, but they are 100 percent of our future, and we have to invest in that future, invest in those children.

Ultimately, they want to loot the Department of Education for tens of billions of dollars in order to pay for tax breaks for billionaires and millionaires like Elon Musk. That is what it is all about.

Just last year, the Department of Education provided more than \$720 million to support K through 12 education in Massachusetts alone. And every community across our country receives that funding from the Department of Education.

So who do Trump and Musk and McMahon think will pick up the bill for their cruel and callous cuts? Who do they think is going to pick up the tab? We know who is going to pick up the tab. It is going to be poor communities. It is going to be families with

disabled children. That is who is going to pick up the tab.

And why are they doing it? To get the money from those poor families and to get the money from those families with kids with disabilities to fund tax breaks for billionaires and millionaires. That is what it is all about. It is cruel. It is callous. But it is all about those cuts to education.

And I am hearing from communities who have no idea how they will keep the lights on if this Federal funding disappears. I am hearing from teachers and educators and families who are terrified that if the teachers are laid off, their students will not receive the services they need. I am hearing from parents of those who need this educational funding. They need to ensure that those programs are there.

But at the end of the day, we know what it is all about. It is to get that funding so that they can then voucherize the public school system, take the money from the public schools and put it over in vouchers. And private companies will begin to benefit from all of that funding, and the remainder will just go to the billionaires for the tax breaks.

And Trump and Musk and McMahon's evil plan to lock the promise of education behind an ivory tower, accessible only to those born into the right circumstances, it is just wrong. It is just plain wrong.

Massachusetts is the birthplace of public education. We are the top performer in the country in math and reading because we invest in students, educators, schools, and communities. We do not believe in draconian cuts or in fueling discrimination in schools. Over the Boston Public Library, the inscription reads:

The Commonwealth requires the education of the people as the safeguard of order and liberty.

While Trump tries to destroy order and liberty in this country, we will fight to protect the education of the people.

You want a fight, President Trump? You want a fight, Secretary McMahon? You have got a fight. You are not going to be allowed to dismantle the Department of Education because, with that, you would be dismantling the hope that every family has that their child may fully realize the American dream.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

#### UKRAINE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I was glad to see President Zelenskyy clearly express his gratitude to President Trump and the American taxpayer for our support for the country of Ukraine over the last 3 years.

There has been much discussion in international communities and here at home on the war between Russia and Ukraine, which has now been going on for 3 long years. It has cost hundreds of thousands of lives on both sides, with millions of people displaced as a result