

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

of the war. Through it all, the Ukrainian people have demonstrated extraordinary courage and resilience.

But one thing is clear: It is time for the war in Ukraine to end. President Trump is right. But the more difficult question is, How?

Years ago, I recall GEN David Petraeus, the leader of our military and Central Command, heading up our efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, was asked the question: How does the war end?

He said: You tell me how the war ends. Wars are easy to start and hard to conclude.

This is the most difficult question of all—how does it end?

We should all be grateful to President Trump for taking on the difficult but essential task of brokering a peace agreement to end this devastating war. During the contentious meeting at the Oval Office last week, President Trump commented that he hoped to “be known and recognized as a peacemaker.” Well, this would be no small feat, but it is the right position to take.

It is not hard to look at this incredible devastation—the massive casualties, the human misery and suffering of the last 3 years—and understand that it is time for the bloodshed to end. But it will take both sides, Ukraine and Russia, to accomplish this goal. Ukraine cannot do it on its own.

President Trump was correct to point out to President Zelenskyy last week during this high-intensity meeting in the Oval Office—he said: I have to align myself with both of you in order to make a deal.

President Trump’s skill at making deals is famous, but this would be the crowning achievement of his life if he is able to make this happen.

But the point is, in order to achieve a lasting peace, both sides of the conflict must be willing to sit down and negotiate and make concessions no matter how hard that is.

I am glad to see that President Zelenskyy has indicated a willingness for Ukraine to do so in part through a critical minerals arrangement with the U.S. Government. Such a deal would compensate the United States and its taxpayers for our many years of military and economic support for Ukraine. It would actually be a vested interest that the United States would have every reason to want to protect in the future. Some have called that an implicit security arrangement.

Perhaps most importantly, though, in order to ensure a lasting peace, there must be some real and tangible and enforceable security assurances for Ukraine. To put this in the proper context, we have to consider history, the events that led us up to this point.

In 1994, the United States, Russia, and Britain signed something called the Budapest Memorandum. This was shortly after the fall of the Soviet Union. As the Soviet Union broke up, it turned out that Ukraine, which was

formerly part of the Soviet Union, had the third largest nuclear weapons stockpile in the world.

The Budapest Memorandum was an agreement between the United States, the United Kingdom, and Russia that if Ukraine would give up its nuclear weapons, its territorial integrity and independence would be preserved and respected.

This was a historic point in world history. It was an important step toward nuclear nonproliferation and prevented the rise of a major third nuclear power in Eastern Europe. But, unfortunately, Russia proceeded to violate that same agreement in 2014 with the annexation of the Crimean Peninsula, and then, as we know, the Russian Government, led by Mr. Putin, violated that agreement a second time in February of 2022 with its invasion of Ukraine.

If Russia was unwilling to honor the commitments it made in the Budapest Memorandum in 1994 by its invasion of Crimea in 2014 and its invasion of Ukraine as a nation in 2022, how can Ukraine be assured that Russia will honor a peace agreement brokered in 2025? That, perhaps, is the single most important question that we need to ask.

Given the history and pattern of behavior by Russia, if Zelenskyy does not receive adequate security assurances, will this incentivize him to do other things to protect and preserve his nation—for example, to reacquire a nuclear weapons program against an existential threat? We know that President Zelenskyy himself has floated this as a possibility, and more recently, the newly elected Chancellor of Germany had suggested that both Germany and the United Kingdom would share, perhaps, their nuclear weapons capabilities with Ukraine, which would be a dramatic and dangerous development.

But that is not all. We have to keep in mind that both President Zelenskyy and President Putin are not fighting this war in some sort of vacuum. Allies of the United States and adversaries alike around the world are watching.

Will our actions in Ukraine suggest to allies in South Korea, for example, that they should pursue their own nuclear weapon capability, especially in light of the North Korean nuclear program, which receives Russian assistance?

Will more citizens of Taiwan cast their vote for representatives pushing closer alignment with the People’s Republic of China as the most prudent way for their people to maintain a guarantee against a catastrophic war in the Indo-Pacific?

Seeing that unanswered aggression is awarded, would President Xi be emboldened to seize Taiwan, as he has made clear he intends to do one way or the other?

These are just a few of the unintended consequences that could play out depending on how these peace negotiations transpire and how they develop.

We, the duly-elected representatives of the American people, must ask ourselves: Will a world of unreliable security assurances, of greater prospects of nuclear proliferation, of insufficient deterrence in the face of unprovoked aggression, result in a safer world for our children and grandchildren?

Well, given these difficult but necessary questions, I would once again applaud President Trump for taking the initiative of embracing peace through strength. His approach is the correct one, and he is right that an important piece of this is that our NATO allies—who, in fact, live in Europe, where Ukraine is located—need to increase their contribution to our collective security under the North Atlantic Treaty alliance. It is through strength we can guarantee peace both in Europe and around the world.

The suffering resulting from the Russian invasion of Ukraine on two occasions—2014 and 2022—has been devastating not only for Ukrainians but also for Russians as well, who have lost hundreds of thousands of casualties in the process.

President Trump pointed out during the meeting with President Zelenskyy that both sides are losing “1,000, 2,000” soldiers a week. “As we sit here and talk, people are being shot and dying on the battlefield.”

What President Trump is doing to secure peace in this dangerous world is an act of moral leadership and I believe divinely inspired.

Jesus said in the Beatitudes:

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

If President Trump is successful in securing a lasting peace, I, for one, think he will have earned the Nobel Peace Prize.

As President Zelenskyy himself said in the Oval Office—he said:

If President Trump [can] bring peace to our country, I think he will be on this wall.

He was, of course, referring to the walls of the Oval Office. They have pictures of historic American Presidents who have done great and important things.

It is my sincere hope that President Zelenskyy and President Putin will both accept the olive branch offered by President Trump by coming to the table and by making the necessary, enforceable concessions to ensure a lasting peace.

I yield the floor.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, 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. CORNYN assumed the Chair.)

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

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

HALT FENTANYL ACT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last week, I led my colleagues in reporting