

they will agree to a cease-fire. Mr. Putin and his negotiators have never proclaimed that. The Ukrainians, who have been ruthlessly attacked, have extended the hand of peace. Russia still has not even though it demands so much. Putin says he is willing to work toward peace, but his demands show that he is lying. His demands make it clear he intends to use the sanctions relief to rearm.

It would be a mistake to grant sanctions relief to Russia without reciprocal support for Ukraine. Doing so would devastate the prospect of a lasting peace. Let me repeat. Mr. Putin has never agreed to a cease-fire, to a treaty that resulted in a lasting peace. As we negotiate in Saudi Arabia, the United States must remember that Russia is barely managing to sustain this war.

The economic and battlefield price is very costly for Mr. Putin. Undoing these sanctions would instantly lower Putin's cost. It would evaporate the leverage his financial penalties have given to the United States and the free world.

As I close, let me reiterate, many have tried to negotiate with Vladimir Putin on his terms. I think President Trump is beginning to understand that peace comes through American and Ukrainian strength; that dictators respond to power because it is the only thing they respect. We need to see this Russian dictator and war criminal for what he is: a murderous dictator who hopes he can back us into a corner during the peace process and thus pursue another invasion.

If Vladimir Putin lives up to a cease-fire or peace treaty with Ukraine, it will be the first time ever. Vladimir Putin has a long track record, and it is filled with lies, violence, and treachery. That is whom we are dealing with. We have to deal with him, but that is whom we are dealing with. Getting a deal with him will be a challenge. We must bear history in mind if we are to reach a settlement that benefits the free countries of the world.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, before I go to my remarks, I wanted to thank the Senator from Mississippi for that fabulous statement. I really do appreciate his leadership.

I am pretty sure your father served in World War II, as did my father. I think that we continue to echo the lessons that we learned from that conflict.

I thank you for that tremendous statement in support of Ukraine.

TARIFFS

Mr. President, I come to speak about the Trump tariffs and today's announcement about auto tariffs, but before I get to that point, I just want to say I have been visited by many farmers this week, many businesses who feel like they are impacted.

I think we are on day 67 of the Trump administration, in which we thought

the focus was going to be on lowering inflation and lowering costs—day one. And now, we are seeing that not only is that not happening, that these proposals are actually increasing costs.

Now, I hope this administration will go focus on cost issues like more affordable housing. I am a big advocate for building housing, and it is probably one of the biggest inflationary costs that we haven't addressed, so we could be working on housing. We could be working on cutting prices on pharmaceuticals, and I hope our colleagues will do something to help us.

My colleague Senator GRASSLEY, on PBMs, and I have legislation that are trying to crack down on the middlemen who are pocketing huge profits—it is literally costing us pharmacies. I mean, we are having pharmacy deserts in the State because these people claw back so much of the money, the pharmacist can't even exist. So this is not good, and I hope that our colleagues will join us.

But today, on April 2, the President is saying he will levy a 25 percent tax on imported sedans, SUV crossovers, minivans, cargo vans, and light trucks, and that it will hit some auto parts, too—is going to cost the American people. Now, this is not something that I believe that we can afford, these tariff costs that are somewhere between \$5,000 and \$15,000 to the American consumer. That is thousands of dollars that basically, all of a sudden, is getting added to the cost of an automobile.

We saw during COVID that the lack of supply chains, the lack of product, cost even a used car \$2,000 more, and we saw how much that did to families that were at a point where they really just needed to buy a car to get to work, to travel, to do the things that helped grow the economic opportunities for their family. And that was horrific just during COVID.

So now, we see the same kind of thing, a supply chain of product that we already know is cross-border with the United States and Canada, and we also know is already a big issue, that we are going to see the price of cars go up, and the fact that the American public can't afford grocery costs, healthcare costs, or housing costs—we certainly don't need to add in auto costs.

Americans are already facing these skyrocketing prices and the President's economic policies, particularly here, with tariffs, I think are going to drive up more costs. What American consumers want—and businesses—is more predictability. They want rules-based trade. They do not want trade chaos.

If rules are not working, you build consensus and you work together to make sure that those alliances are formed and that we get fairer trade. We build more in our trade infrastructure, as I have tried to do through various bills that we have passed through the Finance Committee and through the

Senate, to make sure that we are and have the capacity to fight unfair trade practices in other countries.

Because 95 percent of consumers live outside the United States, the big economic opportunities are going to be outside the United States. So yes, you should have more lawyers at USTR to go fight trade violations and correct the violations of those countries. I actually got that passed and got that into law to have more capacity.

But it only makes sense, the United States of America is not just going to sell product to the United States of America. We are going to sell it to 95 percent of consumers who live outside the United States. And innovation is going to matter more than these tariffs. The United States being able to innovate faster and continue to be successful with our strategy is going to matter more. And guess what matters even more than just the innovation? Guess what matters more? The supply chains. The supply chains because, if you have the supply chains in the United States of America, chances are that ecosystem that is so unique to your country and the innovation that goes with it is going to make you successful.

Well, now, we have supply chains that exist within the Midwest region and across the border with Canada that we are throwing caution into the wind and, now, we are going to say we are going to make it all 25 percent more expensive. I am pretty sure it is a good deal for Elon Musk and Tesla. Don't know that it is such a good deal for everybody else.

Consumer confidence is now at its lowest point in 12 years, and there is talk of a recession, or stagflation—persistent inflation—and we have countries that are allies in helping to fight China, countries like Canada and Japan and Europe, who are already making plans to retaliate against us. So the trade wars are going to make it more expensive for U.S. manufacturers, it is going to disrupt supply chains, and it is going to make it more expensive on consumers. Almost half of U.S. imports are inputs and supplies for the U.S. manufacturing supply chain, so driving up those input costs, driving up the manufacturing costs. And driving up those costs is a challenge. It makes the supply line costly to operate.

And the trade wars limit our ability then to get our exports into those markets. Now, maybe automobiles are a little bit different than apples or lentils or some of the other products that we sell. But I can tell you this, if you lose the shelf space and they give it to other countries, you don't readily get that back when the trade war is over. And the trade war doesn't just last a few days or even a year. Some of the Trump administration tariffs are still in place and still affecting much of my State when it comes to getting access to important markets. The thing that has changed, though, is the rate of innovation, the rate of information, the

rate of a country to go and make up for us not being there to compete.

I am hearing it from my potato growers who are saying that now India is basically producing French fries and selling them into various parts of the world. So if we think that we can take a year, 2 years, 3 years, and think that this is not going to have an impact on our manufacturing base—whether it is agriculture or heavy-duty manufacturing like cars or aerospace—we are wrong. We are wrong.

Now is the time to open up alliances in more markets, counter the Chinese in places like South America and Africa, and work to our advantages on alliances so that we have more markets to sell into at cheaper rates and continue the innovation that has been the hallmark of this Nation.

Next week, President Trump plans to impose what he calls reciprocal tariffs. He has talked about even more tariffs in the future on timber, dairy, pharmaceuticals, copper, and semiconductors. So where does it end?

I can tell you, on solar, it didn't end. It didn't end. And we are many years later in, manufacturing facilities that were in my State now are no longer there. So the point is, the United States builds alliances to enter these markets. We build alliances to counter unfair trade practices. We build alliances to stop the Chinese from doing the things that they do.

And right now, I would have a technology NATO. I would say, take the five biggest democracies and sophisticated technology countries and say, "No one in the world should buy from countries who don't meet our standards." Why? Because no one really should be buying from a country that has a government backdoor.

No, we shouldn't be spending taxpayer dollars pulling out Huawei when, in reality, we should have been on a campaign to say it never should have been there to begin with because no one in the information age should be buying technology with a government backdoor that has them and their ability to manipulate information at a critical time when data and information is so important.

So next week will be even more important to Americans and all of us. It is time for us collectively to work together on tariff issues, to say that this is the domain of the U.S. Senate. This is what our Founding Fathers had in article I, the first debates about tariffs. The Framers of the Constitution gave Congress this power to set duties and to regulate foreign commerce. Article I, section 8 could not be clearer. It is time for Congress to reassert that authority. We need checks and balances now more than ever. We need to invest in innovation. We need to invest in skilling and training a workforce. We need to invest in modernizing infrastructure and equipment at our factories, and we need to open foreign markets for exports of U.S. autos and aircraft.

American business does not need an endless trade war that creates chaos and raises prices on our consumers at a time when inflation has been too high. We need the President to address these inflationary costs instead of perpetrating tariffs.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

REMEMBERING KEVIN CRONIN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, some people come to Congress to check a box, collect a credential, and then head to where the big bucks are: lobbying firms. For others, working as a Capitol Hill staffer is part of a lifetime of public service.

Kevin Cronin was one of the latter types. He believed in public service, and I consider myself lucky that Kevin chose to work for me. It was during my years in the House of Representatives. Kevin was my lead staffer on the House Budget Committee. He was hard-working, clever, and smart as a whip.

Sadly, Kevin passed away earlier this month in Cleveland, OH, the place where he grew up and where he first learned about politics and public service.

Kevin was the middle son in a family of proud Irish American Democrats. Both of his parents were involved in the civil rights movement during the 1960s and 70s. His mom also was quite active in the women's movement.

John Glenn, the astronaut hero turned U.S. Senator, was a family friend. So was "Battling Bella" Abzug. Kevin's father worked for Carl Stokes, the first Black mayor of Cleveland. His mother worked on campaigns for Jane Campbell, Cleveland's first woman mayor, and Mary Boyle, the first woman commissioner for Cuyahoga County.

Kevin received his own introduction to shoe-leather politics when he was in middle school. He and his two brothers would knock on doors seeking to turn out the vote in elections.

Kevin was also an avid tennis player in the National Junior Tennis League, a program founded by Arthur Ashe that used tennis to teach city kids important life skills.

He graduated from Columbia University with a double major in political science and fine arts and earned a law degree from the University of Wisconsin. After that, he came to Wash-

ington. He served as a congressional aide for a decade and worked for some giants, including John Conyers, chair of the House Budget Committee, and the late Senator Dianne Feinstein of California.

He was a whiz with budget details and parliamentary rules. He understood how to turn good ideas into good laws. Somehow, he always found time to encourage and teach younger staffers, including a Capitol Hill newbie named Pat Souders, who is now my chief of staff.

But Kevin's real passion was grassroots organizing, so he moved back to Cleveland and poured himself into civic campaigns and causes. He worked as a pro bono attorney for a group called Bike Cleveland that pushed successfully for new bike lanes to connect Cleveland and its suburbs. He also offered legal guidance to environmental groups working to expand the use of renewable energy sources, including harnessing the great wind power potential of Lake Erie.

He helped to preserve Cleveland's history, especially the city's links to the abolitionist and civil rights movements. He worked to raise awareness for the Cozad-Bates House, a stop on the Underground Railroad. He also was working to raise support to save Jesse Owens' childhood home and turn it into a museum.

His main job for 15 years was working as an ad litem attorney in the Cleveland City Courts, representing children who had been removed from their family homes and, very often, had suffered neglect and trauma. It was difficult, heart-rending work, but he did it because he believed the children needed someone on their side.

Kevin was diagnosed with severe aplastic anemia 15 years ago. It is a condition, similar to leukemia, in which one's body cannot produce enough white blood cells to protect against infection. He was able to lead a full life for years, thanks in part to an NIH clinical trial for a drug that kept his illness in check. But a few months ago, the drug stopped working. Kevin was 61 years old.

I want to offer my condolences to his brothers Kiely and Rob and their families, to Kevin's friends, and to the countless people whose lives he touched and enriched, from Capitol Hill to Cleveland and far beyond. He was a good man, and he will be missed.

NATIONAL AHEC WEEK

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize this week as National AHEC—Area Health Education Centers—Week.

The AHEC program, originally authorized in 1971, began by working in conjunction with other Health Resources and Services Administration programs to develop health professionals to staff brick-and-mortar community health centers across the country. Today, AHECs offer hands-on and