

comes with not just losing a loved one to gun violence but feeling powerless in that exercise.

Mr. BOOKER. Yes.

Mr. MURPHY. Feeling like there was nothing you could do and watching your elected leader stand by and allow for this reality to continue to occur in your neighborhood, where kids are being shot down in cold blood and your elected leaders—the adults in charge of your community—are standing idly by.

That is not fundamentally different than the reality that will be visited upon millions of families if this size of a cut in Medicaid funding goes into effect because families out there who rely on Medicaid to keep alive their son or daughter who has a complicated medical disease have no other quarter, have no other last resort besides Medicaid. Medicaid stands between life and death for their son or daughter. There is no other place for them to go.

So that same empty, hollow look that we have seen so many times in the eyes of a mother or father who lost a son or daughter to gun violence, that is the look that we are choosing to visit upon millions of families in this country who, when faced with the loss of their only health insurance option for their disabled child, will watch their child potentially face the same fate as those young men in your neighborhood and my neighborhood.

That is the reason why I pose this question to you that you are answering about the moral gravity of this moment because it is not fundamentally different than the one that brought us here in 2016.

Mr. BOOKER. In answering this question—again, I continue to yield the question to you while retaining the floor. I want to just compound this for people. I know these numbers—\$880 billion, 100 million Americans affected that would be affected directly by Med-

icaid cuts or the people that work in the hospitals will be affected by Medicaid cuts or nursing homes affected by Medicaid cuts—these are big, big numbers. But people, these are human beings.

I was in a community that had a horrible lead poisoning problem for their kids, that had horrible toxic sites. And children born around toxic Superfund sites, as you know they are called, have higher rates of autism, higher rates of birth defects.

Even coming up as a city council person, I saw that the environmental injustices surrounding my community were causing parents to have to deal with medical complications amongst their children at alarming rates and needed help, and Medicaid was the program—no fault of their own, environmental injustice.

Here is the double insult of the Trump administration. One is they gutted the Environmental Justice section at the DOJ. They are not investigating corporate polluters. They are not investigating the injustices environmentally that big, powerful, wealthy people do that often cause people—we all saw ‘Erin Brockovich’—that cause people to get seriously hurt.

And then the second part of that insult is, we are not only not going to hold people accountable and let them get away with that, the polluters, the folks causing the source of the disease, we are now not going to get healthcare to the families who often live in fragile communities that have these resources.

These are the people, when you sit with them in your offices, as you and I have and the other Senator from New Jersey on the floor tonight has—as you sit with them and they tell you their stories and you see that this is a lifeline, this Medicaid Program—and you are so good by telling people—I saw

this during the Affordable Care Act. Just the name alone, people were like, I don’t have ObamaCare. Yes, you have the ACA, and let me explain it to you. It is under many, many different names, including in my State that people don’t know this is a Medicaid-funded program. So they don’t know this is a sort of Damocles of their family’s well-being. But this is the larger issue, Senator MURPHY, is these are real people in every county, in every State.

It is why their representatives—it is why I read statements demanding there not to be cuts by the organizations that are bipartisan. I read the League of Cities—the largest mayoral association—Republican Governors, and others are all saying do not cut this program. They are not even saying, ‘Don’t do \$880 million, just do \$400 million.’ They are saying, ‘Do not cut this program.’

Many are saying we need to find ways to expand the program because there are still gaps that people are falling into. And it doesn’t make economic sense because if you get regular care, if your chronic disease is treated, it ultimately could be cheaper to the taxpayer as opposed to people ending up in hospitals. But those hospitals now, because of what is being threatened in this bill, rural hospitals and tier I trauma hospitals, are all being threatened in their care.

So tonight, it is not normal. I ask everybody to understand this is not a normal moment in America. This is a crossroads moment in America. It is one of those times where the values that we talk about in the Constitution are at stake. What is going to define us, our commitments to ideals of justice, fairness, of being there for each other.

NOTICE

***Incomplete record of Senate proceedings.
Today’s Senate proceedings will be continued in the next issue of the Record.***

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MARC ANDERSEN, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, VICE CARAL E. SPANGLER, RESIGNED.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

GREGORY AUTRY, OF FLORIDA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION, VICE MARGARET VO SCHAUS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

DONALD BERGIN III, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (CONGRESSIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS), VICE PATRICIA L. ROSS, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MARC BERKOWITZ, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE JOHN F. PLUMB.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JONATHAN BERRY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE SOLICITOR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, VICE SEEMA NANDA, RESIGNED.

DAVID BRIAN CASTILLO, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, VICE JAMES EDWIN WILLIAMS.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

BART MCKAY DAVIS, OF IDAHO, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF IDAHO FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JOSHUA D. HURWITZ.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

ANTHONY D’ESPOSITO, OF NEW YORK, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, VICE LARRY D. TURNER.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

WILLIAM GILLIS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, VICE RACHEL JACOBSON, RESIGNED.

JULES HURST III, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY, VICE AGNES SCHAEFFER, RESIGNED.

JOSEPH JEWELL, OF INDIANA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE APRILLE JOY ERICSSON, RESIGNED.

BENJAMIN KOHLMANN, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, VICE FRANKLIN R. PARKER.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

JOYCE MEYER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, VICE JED DAVID KOLKO, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

SUSAN MONAREZ, OF WISCONSIN, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION. (NEW POSITION)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

RONALD A. PARSONS, JR., OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE RONALD A. PARSONS, JR., TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

ANDREW ROGERS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, VICE JESSICA LOOMAN, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

BRENDAN ROGERS, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE NAVY, VICE MEREDITH BERGER, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

DAVID CHARLES WATERMAN, OF IOWA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF IOWA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE MARC KRICKBAUM, RESIGNED.

WITHDRAWALS

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on March

31, 2025 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

ELISE STEFANIK, OF NEW YORK, TO BE THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY, AND THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 20, 2025.

ELISE STEFANIK, OF NEW YORK, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SESSIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE AS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 20, 2025.

GREGORY AUTREY, OF FLORIDA, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION, VICE MARGARET VO SCHAUS, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON MARCH 24, 2025.