

Trump's trade war will cause price hikes on nearly all basic goods. A new mother buying formula for her baby, parents buying groceries, a young person saving up for a car—every American is going to feel it. This tariff policy of President Trump's is going to be painful for American families.

The impact on farmers, workers, consumers, and businesses across my State of Illinois, sadly, is going to be devastating. Canada is Illinois's largest export market. Illinois exports to Canada totaled \$20 billion in 2023. Illinois ranks fifth among 50 U.S. States in exports to Canada and first in imports. States across the Nation are going to feel a similar impact.

So it is no surprise that the vast majority of Americans cannot understand what the President is trying to do when it comes to our relationship with a good friend, a trusted ally, and historic partner, Canada.

President Trump recently said he "couldn't care less" if carmakers hike prices in response to tariffs—"couldn't care less." He is pushing forward with his plan that economists, experts, and even the White House itself admits is going to be painful for American families.

The last election was all about the cost of living. This is going to raise the cost of living for families across the United States, this tariff war. How does unnecessarily tanking our economy, alienating our allies, and taking money out of the wallets of Americans make us great again?

Right now, we should be focused on commonsense ways to lower prices and fight inflation. We should be taking genuine steps to slow the flow of fentanyl across our borders, which Canada has made it clear they want to cooperate with us in achieving. We should be working with and not fighting against our closest allies like Canada. These tariffs do none of that.

That is why I am supporting Senator TIM KAINE's resolution to block the President's abuse of emergency powers. I know Senate Democrats will stand up for American consumers. Can a few Republican colleagues join us or will they continue to let Donald Trump and Elon Musk enrich billionaires at the expense of hard-working American families?

NOMINATION OF EDWARD MARTIN

Mr. President, one of the most important appointments of the President of the United States is a U.S. attorney. All across the United States, some 90 U.S. attorneys represent the Department of Justice. They do critical work, work that is essential for the safety and security of America.

The announcement by this administration of Edward Robert Martin, Jr., to serve as U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia raises so many questions that I have come to the floor today.

Prior to his appointment as an interim U.S. attorney, Mr. Edward Robert Martin, Jr., made stunning attacks on Federal prosecutors and associated

himself with individuals who present a threat to our Nation.

Mr. Martin was the leader of the so-called "Stop the Steal" movement, which, illegally and from a ridiculous point of view, pushed that the 2020 election was not determinative of who was elected President.

Mr. Martin himself was on the grounds of the U.S. Capitol on January 6 and has repeatedly downplayed the violence perpetrated against law enforcement that day. That happens to be a crime scene which I am familiar with as a Member of the Senate because we were exposed to the crowd storming into the Capitol and storming onto the floor of the Senate Chamber.

Mr. Martin posted the following on social media:

Like Mardi Gras in DC today: love, faith and joy. Ignore #FakeNews.

That is Mr. Martin's description of what was happening in this Capitol Building as 140 law enforcement officers were being attacked.

Mr. Martin once labeled federal prosecutors in D.C.—employees of the very office he now seeks to lead—[as] "terrorists" for pursuing stiff sentences against violent January 6 rioters.

Mr. Martin said, and get this:

"Oath Keepers are all of us" in response to the Justice Department's prosecution of the leaders of the domestic violent extremist organization for seditious experience. Mr. Martin called prosecutors' treatment of insurrectionist Christopher Worrell "outrageous."

This is a man seeking a full-time position as U.S. attorney, saying that the prosecution of Christopher Worrell was outrageous.

He falsely claimed Mr. Worrell was only "in the fray a bit—not much but a bit." In fact, Mr. Worrell, a member of the Proud Boys, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for assaulting a group of police officers [here in the Capitol] with a deadly and dangerous weapon. The very day that Mr. Martin called Mr. Worrell's treatment by prosecutors "outrageous," Mr. Worrell was a fugitive from the law. He had cut off his GPS ankle monitor four days before his scheduled sentencing on August 14, 2023, and was not apprehended until six weeks later.

Mr. Martin also has extensive ties to this man. His name is Timothy Hale-Cusanelli. He was "a January 6 rioter who prosecutors described as a subscriber of 'White Supremacist and Nazi-Sympathizer ideologies that drive his enthusiasm for another civil war.'"

At Mr. Hale-Cusanelli's sentencing hearing, Judge Trevor McFadden, who was appointed by President Trump, said of Mr. Hale-Cusanelli before him, "Statements and actions like yours make [Jewish people] less safe and less confident they can participate as equal members of our society." Beyond inaccurately portraying Mr. Hale-Cusanelli as a victim of an unjust conviction, Mr. Martin has inexplicably praised Mr. Hale-Cusanelli's character and intellect, despite Mr. Hale-Cusanelli's extensive well-known personal history of antisemitism, misogyny, and racism."

According to one of his co-workers, Mr. Hale-Cusanelli once said, "Hitler should

have finished the job." Further, Mr. Hale-Cusanelli reportedly claimed that he "would kill all Jews and eat them for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, and he wouldn't need to season them because the salt from their tears would make it flavorful enough."

Can you imagine this statement being made by a man who is a close friend of the President's suggestion for U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia?

One co-worker recalled Mr. Hale-Cusanelli saying that "babies born with . . . deformities or disabilities should be shot in the forehead." Another told authorities Mr. Hale-Cusanelli referred to Black people—

I can't use the words. I can't repeat them on the floor of the Senate, but they are terrible.

According to videos Mr. Hale-Cusanelli himself recorded while storming the Capitol on January 6, he berated an officer guarding the West Front of the Capitol, stating, "Fuck you! The revolution will be televised." Days after the riot, a confidential human source recorded Mr. Hale-Cusanelli saying he wished for there to be another civil war—

So he could also say—

he would give Jewish people "24 hours to leave the country."

Sickening. Outrageous, but stay tuned for what I am about to report.

In September 2024, Mr. Martin—

The nominee for U.S. attorney—

presented Mr. Hale-Cusanelli with an award at the Trump Bedminster Club in New Jersey. Mr. Martin called Mr. Hale-Cusanelli "an extraordinary man"—

An extraordinary man he is—

"an extraordinary leader." After Mr. Hale-Cusanelli concluded his remarks, he hugged Mr. Martin, who then returned to the podium to say, "It's one of the goals of many of us to make sure the world—especially America—hears more from Tim . . . because he's [so] extraordinary." This shocking conduct necessitates sworn testimony from Mr. Martin.

He needs to be brought before the Senate Judiciary Committee and answer for his relationship with this individual. How could anyone be taken seriously as a U.S. attorney with this in his background? He deserves his day under oath to explain it.

That is why Democratic members of the Senate Judiciary Committee have asked Senator GRASSLEY to hold a special hearing for Mr. Martin to explain this and any other things he has done. The list is long. The list is also very troubling.

Mr. Martin has regularly threatened to prosecute various government employees, members of Congress, and press outlets in an apparent attempt to chill their lawful speech. On February 3, 2025, [Mr. Martin] informed Elon Musk that "we will pursue any and all legal action against anyone who impedes your work." Four days later, he followed up with Mr. Musk and stated, "if people are discovered to have broken the law or even acted unethically, we will investigate them and we will chase them to the end of the Earth to hold them accountable." On February 24, Mr. Martin specifically targeted the Associated Press, writing, "As President Trump's [sic] lawyers, we are proud to fight to protect his leadership as President and we are vigilant in standing against entities like the AP that refuse to put America first."

Finally, since his nomination to serve as U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia, Mr. Martin appears to have attempted to scrub much of his public commentary from the internet. For example, nearly 1,000 hours of his podcasts have been removed from online platforms, such as Spotify and Apple Podcasts, interfering with the Committee's ability to thoroughly examine his record.

He is trying to cleanse his past so he doesn't have to explain it. The fact is, his relationship with this man, presenting him an award at the President's personal club in New Jersey and that then his being praised on it afterward, is a clear indication to me that he should never be seriously considered for this job of U.S. Attorney.

But let him come before us. Under oath, let him explain it. Let him try to tell us why this man is such an "extraordinary leader, an extraordinary person," and why this brand of anti-Semitism that he peddles should be tolerated by anyone, let alone the President of the United States.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

FENTANYL

Mrs. MOODY. Mr. President, good afternoon. I rise today in the Senate Chamber for the very first time as a U.S. Senator to address a topic that unfortunately has become important to so many States, so many communities, so many families across this great Nation.

Before I became a U.S. Senator and one of your colleagues, I was the Florida attorney general. For the past 6 years in that position, I made it my mission every day to fight against the opioid crisis and put poison peddlers that sought to do harm to our families behind bars.

As many of you know, fentanyl now kills more Americans than any other drug by far, and it is the leading cause of death for working-age and fighting-age men and women. It is also a cause of death of infants and children that are exposed to the substance, and that number is increasing exponentially.

Florida is no stranger to the opioid epidemic. We suffered from a pill mill crisis, and we had to address that by tightening our laws and making sure people had access to help. Following that, we saw a surge of fentanyl pouring into our country and people overdosing from that drug.

Fentanyl now claims 70,000 lives a year. It is the deadliest drug our Nation has ever encountered. That is why it is vital that we continue to not lose focus that this is the deadliest thing facing our men and women right now. This is our challenge. We cannot be distracted, and we have to stop this drug from coming across our borders and into our communities.

That is why we have to continue to provide law enforcement the tools they need to get this drug off our streets and make sure we are providing life-saving medications like Naloxone to first responders and that people who are struggling with addiction know where to get help.

After 4 years of a wide-open border and free range given to drug cartels to smuggle illicit substances into our country, it is no surprise that our Nation was flooded with fentanyl.

In Florida, we fought back despite the surge. Our law enforcement officers were up for the task. Our leaders gave us additional resources. Florida led the Nation in fentanyl seizures.

I, back in 2023, called for the cartels to be labeled "foreign terrorist organizations." President Biden ignored our call. I called for the border to be closed and the then-head of DHS to be fired for allowing drug smugglers and countless amounts of fentanyl to flood our country. Those calls were also ignored.

So Florida took Biden to court. First, when he stopped deporting those here illegally, committing serious felonies against our citizens, we took him to court. Then, when he started welcoming in and paroling everyone into the Nation that was barely vetted, we took him to court, and we won.

We also sent Florida law enforcement to the border to slow down the flow of drugs. We ramped up interdiction efforts with Florida Highway Patrol and Florida Department of Law Enforcement. We fought back with everything that we had.

The death and destruction caused by illicit fentanyl started to decline. We started to see hope. Before I left the Attorney General's Office, Florida reported 2 straight years of reductions in the number of drug-related deaths. According to a recent FDLE Drugs Identified in Deceased Persons by Medical Examiners annual report, fentanyl deaths in our State of Florida dropped 10 percent. This rate of decline is well ahead of the national average, which declined by about 2 percent during the same time.

Still, thousands across our Nation are dying—tens of thousands—and we cannot take our eyes off the ball. While we have had success in Florida, we must push forward across the rest of the Nation to deliver accountability and protection for the American people.

Florida has always been a leader in law and order, and we have understood the danger presented by fentanyl. We understand that many Americans take this deadly drug not even knowing that it is in something else they are ingesting within counterfeit pills.

We classified fentanyl as a schedule I controlled substance back in 2017. This allows easier prosecutions for these types of cases.

It is time that the Federal Government follow the request and the pleas of national law enforcement organizations, including the DEA, which is calling for fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances to be scheduled permanently as a schedule I controlled substance.

When I got to Washington, one of my first actions was to join the HALT Fentanyl Act as a cosponsor. As attorney general, I led other States in call-

ing on Congress to pass this bill. Now as Florida's newest U.S. Senator, I will work tirelessly to make sure this gets done.

I am so proud of my Senate colleagues. Last month, we passed the HALT Fentanyl Act through the Senate, and now it is in the hands of the U.S. House. This bill will ensure Federal agents and prosecutors have the tools they need to send a strong message to drug traffickers: If they continue to bring poison into our country, they will be held accountable. That has always been the case in Florida, and I am so proud of my friend and predecessor, former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi, who is taking this fight directly to the cartels.

The American people gave our great President, President Trump, a mandate last November. That was to restore law and order, make sure people were held accountable for their crimes. We believe that as a Floridian—the first Floridian President in our Nation's history—he is going to take that approach we have had in Florida to the rest of the Nation.

While my calls for a closed border and a declaration of drug cartels as "foreign terrorist organizations" fell on Biden's deaf ears, it is no surprise that President Trump immediately got to work on this. On day one, he closed the border. We have seen a 93-percent drop in illegal crossings since then. Turns out we didn't need a new law; we needed a new President. As one of his first acts, he declared cartels as "foreign terrorist organizations."

I am incredibly excited to work alongside my new U.S. Senate colleagues and President Trump as we begin to make America safe again, and this includes voting based on priorities that will make our communities and families safe.

We have a great opportunity in Washington right now to fight this crisis instead of fueling it through unlawful immigration policies. Now we need to do our part. We need to urge the U.S. House to pass the HALT Fentanyl Act and get it to the President's desk as soon as possible.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in talking about the fentanyl crisis that Joe Biden created in our country.

Joe Biden had 4 years of open border policies. Millions of people crossed illegally into our country. But on top of that, we saw a surge of fentanyl coming into our country—fentanyl that is killing our young people.

My colleague from Florida just referenced 70,000 people dying from fentanyl. Fentanyl is the leading cause of death among our young people age 18 to 45.

That fentanyl starts in communist China, where the precursors are made. It then gets shipped to Mexico. The cartels turn it into that final product and bring it across the border.