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No. 60

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Chaplain Judy Malana, Captain, U.S. Navy, from Washington, DC. Welcome.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, You are the Ancient of Days. The God who was, who is, and who is to come. You will be exalted among the nations and in all the Earth. Because of this, we humbly invoke now Your presence here among us now on the floor of the United States Senate.

May Your Grace fill this honorable Chamber. And in Your presence, may our lawmakers be refreshed in spirit. Renew their hearts with the noble purpose entrusted to them, illuminate their minds with Your divine wisdom, and guide their actions so they may collectively together pursue a more perfect Union.

Most Merciful Lord, uphold our Senators, their families, their loved ones in your most strong, loving arms. Keep them from danger. Bless the Senate staff, Capitol Police, and all those who work behind the scenes tirelessly to support our government. May they be strengthened to endure the challenges before them and instill in them the assurance that their efforts and sacrifices are not unseen, but they are known to You, Lord, for they contribute to the enduring blessings of liberty to all of us, to we the people, a most grateful nation.

And, God, may we ever be sheltered beneath the shadow of Your wings as we humbly seek to do Your will. Let Your peace, which surpasses all understanding, continue to guard our hearts and minds with Your steadfast and eternal love.

And we ask all these things in Your most Holy and precious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MULLIN). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RELATING TO "ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM: ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR WALK-IN COOLERS AND WALK-IN FREEZERS"—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.J. Res. 24, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 24) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Walk-In Coolers and Walk-In Freezers".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today, Senator SHAHEEN of New Hampshire and I are introducing a resolution. That resolution recognizes April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

Far too many Americans have suffered as a result of this terrible crime. Sexual violence doesn't discriminate. Statistics show that two in five women and one in four men will experience sexual assault sometime throughout their life, and yet those numbers can't capture the pain, the fear, and the life-long impact that survivors endure.

We must ensure that these brave survivors know that they are not alone. That means expanding resources for survivors, holding criminals accountable, and fostering a culture where no one suffers in silence or shame.

So Senator SHAHEEN and I urge our colleagues to recommit to this cause, not just for this 1 month out of 12 but every day of the year. To survivors of sexual assault, we see you, we stand with you, and we will not stop fighting for you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

(The remarks of Ms. CANTWELL pertaining to the introduction of S. 1272 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. CANTWELL. I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

BUDGET RESOLUTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, as early as today, we expect to take up a budget resolution that will lay the groundwork for delivering on the Republican agenda. This resolution is the first step toward a final bill to make permanent the tax relief we implemented in 2017

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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and deliver a transformational investment in our border, national and energy security—all accompanied by substantial savings measures and commonsense reforms to our government.

And at the prospect of this, Democrats are losing their minds. Their opposition to the 2017 tax relief, of course, is well known. Since the day the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was passed, and before, Democrats have attempted to mischaracterize—and some would say flatout lie—about this legislation.

In fact, the Washington Post Fact Checker has repeatedly issued three- and four-Pinocchio responses to Democrats' claims, which center around the falsehood that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was about handouts to corporations and billionaires.

The truth, of course, is not only did the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act cut taxes for every income group, but it was working families—working families—not the wealthy, who received the greatest proportional benefit.

Let me just repeat that: The truth is that not only did the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act cut tax rates for every income group, but it was working families, and not the wealthy, who received the greatest proportional benefit. Those are the facts.

But, of course, the facts have not gotten in the way of Democrats continuing to claim that extending this tax relief is about handouts to billionaires.

The Democrats' latest hysteria is centered around the application of budget rules we will use for this week's budget resolution. They claim that using current policy baseline is somehow destroying Senate rules, even though the 1974 Congressional Budget Act, which governs this budget resolution, clearly states that it is the chairman of the Senate Budget Committee who determines the budget baseline used for budget resolutions.

The senior Senator from Vermont, who caucuses with the Democrats, confirmed that it is the chairman's role in a 2022 report when he was chairman of the Senate Budget Committee. And, of course, Democrats themselves have previously advocated for the use of a current policy baseline. They basically invented it back in 1977, shortly after the Budget Act was enacted.

Chairman Muskie, a Democrat from Maine and chairman of the Budget Committee, used a current policy baseline in his budget resolution because he thought it represented a more realistic benchmark.

More recently, President Obama's fiscal year 2013 budget assumed \$4.5 trillion of expiring tax cuts would be extended in the Democrat's baseline, matching current policy at the time.

Jump forward to the Biden administration's most recent budget, in which Democrats explained that:

Adjustments to the . . . baseline are needed to better represent the deficit outlook under current policy and to serve as a more appropriate benchmark against which to measure policy changes.

So using the current policy baseline is not some bizarre new gimmick.

I should also note, of course, that the Senate Parliamentarian has deemed the Senate budget resolution, which uses the current policy baseline, in order and ready for floor consideration.

Democrats' sudden concern for saving money and protecting the character of the Senate is touching. Who would have guessed that the party that was so eager to tear down a fundamental Senate institution, mere months ago, by killing the Senate filibuster would suddenly develop such a passionate interest in defending the character of the Senate?

But their hysteria is misplaced.

I do understand that Democrats are uncomfortable with the idea of tax relief. When you think that government knows best and when your enthusiasm for new government programs is virtually unlimited, it is no surprise you would prefer to maximize the flow of taxpayer dollars to the government.

But Republicans believe, fundamentally, that Americans know best what to do with their money.

And so no matter how many times Democrats attempt to distort or outright lie about what we are trying to do here, Republicans intend to deliver a permanent extension of the tax relief that we passed in 2017.

Failing to extend this tax relief would result in a \$2.6 trillion tax increase on those making less than \$400,000 a year, as well as a \$600 billion tax increase on small businesses.

A typical family of four making \$80,000 a year would end up sending an additional \$1,700 to the government next year—\$1,700. I am quite sure they have better uses for that money than sending it to Uncle Sam.

I said "make this tax relief permanent," and I do mean permanent. Senate Republicans are united with the President in viewing a temporary extension as unacceptable. Americans should not have to live in fear of a tax hike every few years. And small businesses, including family farms and ranches, like those in my home State of South Dakota, need certainty about the tax outlook so they can plan for the future. Making the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act permanent will ensure that Americans' take-home pay does not go down, and it will have significant economic benefits.

The National Federation of Independent Business reports that making the small business section 199A deduction permanent would result in the creation of an additional 1.2 million jobs annually, with that number climbing as the law goes on.

And the Tax Foundation reports that long-run gross domestic product would increase by a substantial 1.1 percent. That means more jobs and more opportunities for American workers and, interestingly enough, increasing Federal revenues, to the tune of about \$3 trillion, which is the right way—the right way—by growing the economy.

When the economy is growing and expanding, people are working, they are making money, they are taking realizations, they are paying taxes. And do you know what? Government revenue goes up, not down, which is exactly what we experienced when we passed the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, 8 years ago now.

As I said earlier, it was working families, not the wealthy, who received the greatest proportional benefit from that Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, and it is working families, not the wealthy, who will see the greatest proportional benefit for making this tax relief permanent.

We are here to make sure that hard-working Americans have more breathing room, to make sure that our economy is providing them with jobs and opportunities and that they are not facing lower paychecks next year.

I was proud to help draft the 2017 tax relief and put more money in American families' pockets, and I look forward to permanently extending it in the near future.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

TARIFFS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, Donald Trump made one of the dumbest decisions he has ever made as President, and that is saying something. The tariffs Donald Trump approved yesterday are far, far worse than we thought. It is the largest tax hike on families since World War II.

Yesterday was not "Liberation Day"; it was tax day. "Middle class, pay more taxes," Donald Trump is telling you. That is what the day is all about.

This morning, naturally, the markets are plunging. The Dow is down 800 points, and the S&P is already on track for its worst day in years. Donald Trump has singlehandedly created a financial forest fire.

Trump called yesterday "Liberation Day." Nobody was feeling even close to liberated—quite the opposite. American families are learning the hard way that Donald Trump has them right in the middle of a pincer and is squeezing them on both sides.

On the one side, Donald Trump is pushing tariffs that will cost working families an extra \$5,000 a year, and by his own admission, he "could not care less." On the other side, Donald Trump is working with Republicans to gut vital programs working families rely on, like Medicaid, Social Security, veterans programs.

So there is a pincer: Trump's tariffs raise costs and pick people's pockets on one side, and Trump's budget and his

budget cuts are taking away healthcare and benefits and veterans' care on the other side.

Now, there are smart ways to use tariffs, and there are dumb ways to use tariffs. Donald Trump is using tariffs in the dumbest way imaginable. In fact, Donald Trump slapped tariffs on penguins and not on Putin. Trump sanctioned the Heard and McDonald Islands, only inhabited by penguins. That is what happens when you don't have a clue as to what you are doing. You fire air traffic controllers, dismantle disease-outbreak monitoring, sabotage Social Security and VA operations, censor climate data, defund public schools, and declare a trade war on penguins.

What is going on? Prices on groceries, prices on electronics, appliances, metal, beer, furniture, fertilizer, and so much more will go up. People's retirements are in peril as markets are in turmoil across the globe. And Donald Trump says, "I couldn't care less." That is his quote, America. You are getting squeezed on both sides by his tariffs and his budget, and he says, "I couldn't care less."

The American people are learning quickly that Donald Trump is breaking all the promises he made in the campaign and he is not on their side. He couldn't care less. It is truly unbelievable to watch the sheer destruction Republicans are inflicting on Americans.

We aren't even 100 days into President Trump's second term, and the Republicans this week will plow ahead to take away people's Medicaid. They are letting Elon Musk sabotage Social Security. He says it is a Ponzi scheme. He says he is OK if it is eliminated. What do these rich people know about how middle-class people struggle? It is a little coterie of billionaires that is running policy.

As I said, the middle class is getting squeezed by the pincers on both sides.

What are they doing firing tens of thousands of epidemic responders, healthcare workers, food inspectors, abandoning veterans? And now, on top of all of that—it has been bad enough before "Liberation Day," which is tax day—Americans are going to pay \$5,000 a year through his tariffs. For what? Why are they doing all this? Why would they do all this? Why would they hurt people, so many people in so many ways? Why would they have that pincer squeeze them? I will tell you why. One thing. One reason. Tax breaks for the billionaires. As I said, this is a coterie of billionaires running the government—Trump and Musk and Lutnick and so many others. You heard the net worth of his Cabinet; it is incredible. Cutting taxes for billionaires makes them squeeze the American people. It is utterly disgusting.

President Trump should reverse course on his disastrous tariffs immediately—immediately—or else he risks plunging America into a recession. Some of the leading banks, the leading financial analysts with no ax to grind,

have greatly increased the odds that we will have a recession because of what Trump is doing.

What President walks mindlessly into a recession, which means it is harder to get a job, harder to keep a job, harder to pay the bills? What President does that?

So I am calling on the House and Speaker JOHNSON, given how bad Trump's tariffs are—they now know it—to come back into session and vote on the Senate's bipartisan bill undoing the tariffs on Canada, the bill we passed yesterday with bipartisan support because a few Republicans had the courage of their convictions and voted against the President and for Senator Kaine's very, very timely and needed bill. If the Speaker really cares about the American people and the costs they would bear by these tariffs, he should call back the House and take up the Senate bill immediately.

The American people care about one thing above all—and they care about a lot of things, but at the top of the list is inflation. That is the No. 1 thing on people's minds. We heard that over and over again on last November's election day and ever since. And Donald Trump said in his campaign that he would reduce prices on day one when he got elected. He is doing just the opposite. He is not reducing prices; he is dramatically raising them \$5,000 a year on the average American family. And by his own omission, Donald Trump said "I couldn't care less."

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, on the budget, this week, Donald Trump and the Republican Party are hitting Americans with a brutal one-two punch.

On one side, Trump has hit Americans with a massive tax hike through his extremely dumb tariffs. On the other side—they are unfocused, just unfocused. On the other side, Senate Republicans are getting ready to take away vital programs, throw people off Medicaid—all so they can give massive tax breaks to billionaires. It is a brutal Republican pincer move, with American families trapped in the middle.

Trump's tariffs raise costs and pick people's pockets on one side, and Trump's budget cuts are taking away healthcare and benefits and veterans' care on the other side.

If Republicans pass their agenda, 80 million Americans will be at risk of losing coverage. Rural hospitals, community health centers, and nursing homes will be at the risk of closure.

If Republicans proceed this week, Senate Democrats will expose their agenda for the American people to see. We will pick their bill apart. We will put them on record. We will force Republicans to explain in multiple ways again and again and again why they want to cut taxes for the rich at the expense of working people.

Senate Republicans are so hell-bent on cutting taxes for billionaires, they seem ready to detonate the rules of the Senate and break their word to get it

done. Republicans spent years preaching about preserving Senate rules and protecting regular order, but now that their billionaire tax cuts are on the line, the rules don't seem to matter for them.

We all know what is going on here. We know. Senate Republicans don't want to admit that their plan to make these tax cuts permanent will add \$37 trillion to the debt—\$37 trillion. That more than doubles the totality of our national debt today—more than doubles it. It is reckless, and it is dangerous.

So Republicans in essence want to pretend like their trillion-dollar tax cuts are free, like magic, or, as CHIP ROY, one of the most conservative Republicans around here, said, like "fairy dust." A middle school math student could tell you this is ridiculous.

House Republicans must tread carefully. I say that to them over there, particularly the ones on the hard right. If they go along with this dangerous gimmick hatched by Senate Republicans, they will pave the way to add \$37 trillion to the debt. Republicans will forever incinerate any credibility they have to complain about debt and deficits.

When you go home, Senate Republicans, don't tell your constituents that you want to cut the debt—\$37 trillion. And far worse than that, these billionaire tax breaks and the gargantuan deficit that they will create will haunt our children and our grandchildren with sky-high interest rates, a hobbled economy, and rampant inequality. It is not the world I want my grandchildren to grow up in.

House Republicans must not go along with this dangerous plan by Senate Republicans.

I yield the floor.

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

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

MEDICAID

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, we are in the process of reaching a conclusion in debating at least the first step—maybe now the second step—of reconciliation. It is an opportunity for us to make the Tax Code more permanent, an opportunity for us to reduce spending and to hopefully get the budget better in balance to bring our debt under control.

But, today, I just want to highlight a small portion of what this debate ultimately will consider, and that is the issue of Medicaid.

As does the Presiding Officer, I come from a very rural State. Medicaid is a component of how we provide healthcare to low-income individuals and how we care for and provide medical treatment for those with disabilities. I want to highlight from my own

personal point of view how valuable that is, the necessity of our finding ways for low-income individuals and individuals with disabilities to be able to access healthcare.

As this conversation and debate continue, I want to make certain that my colleagues know, in my view, the value of making certain we do no harm to those in desperate need of healthcare in Kansas and across the country. I am certain—perhaps without a doubt—there are flaws in the system and that abuse occurs, and our focus should be on eliminating those flaws and that abuse.

I want to also talk about another aspect of Medicaid funding. A lot of what I have worked on as a U.S. Senator and before that as a Member of the House of Representatives is trying to make certain that rural America—rural Kansas in particular—has a future and that the community that I grew up in—now with a population of less than 2,000—has a future and an opportunity for people to come there, live there, raise their families there, educate their children there, and to retire there. Rural America is hugely important to me and, in my view, is hugely important to the country.

One of the challenges we face in rural Kansas and in Kansas generally is having access to healthcare. Our community hospitals are hugely important. Our ability to maintain those hospitals and keep their doors open is a major priority for me. During COVID, we took extraordinary steps to make sure we didn't lose a healthcare provider and that the citizens of Kansas and the country could access healthcare.

One of the components that pays for that healthcare is Medicaid. It is not the hugest component. Medicare, private insurance, other sources, and private pay are utilized for the hospitals to generate the revenue to be able to keep their doors open. This keeping of hospital doors open matters.

As I stated, my goal is making sure that rural communities have a future, but that future disappears in the absence of having access to healthcare. So a significant portion of that effort of mine to preserve, protect, and defend rural Kansas—and our State generally is rural—is to make sure the hospitals have the capability and the revenues necessary to provide the services the community needs. Medicaid is a component of that. Nine percent of hospital revenues come from Medicaid. It is also true that Medicaid only covers 65 percent of the costs of the healthcare provided to someone who receives Medicaid benefits.

The average operating margin for a Kansas hospital is a negative 7 percent, meaning that the revenues don't cover the costs, and there is \$1.1 billion in uncompensated care. In other words, the hospitals of Kansas, our healthcare providers, have a shortfall. They take in a certain amount of revenue, but that revenue is \$1.1 billion for uncompensated care. That revenue doesn't exist.

Eight hospitals have closed in our State since 2015. I have visited every hospital in Kansas—most of them numerous times. I have talked to hospital administrators and patients and board members and the CFO.

I know one of my standard questions is often: So, are you in the red or the black?

The most common answer to that question is: Well, it depends on what day you ask.

My point in making these statements is that as we debate reconciliation and as we debate the instructions—in the case of the House, instructions to the Energy and Commerce Committee, and in the Senate, instructions to the Finance Committee—those instructions in the bill that we are considering right now are significantly different. The instructions to the House Energy and Commerce Committee are to cut \$888 billion from Medicaid. The instructions to the Senate Finance Committee are to cut \$1 billion. Now, in both of these circumstances, these are minimum amounts.

But I wanted my constituents to know that, in my view, before this product is concluded, before this legislative endeavor is concluded and we have sent the instructions to the committees and the bills come back from the committees, I want to make sure that we take into account the importance—the importance—of people who are low-income and have disabilities and the importance of Medicaid to them but also the broader issue of what it means to a community to lose its hospital. Often, that hospital is the largest employer in communities across Kansas. That is a component.

The reality is that our citizens move away. If you are a young family and you are looking for a place to live or you are a young family who has grown up in a community in the absence of access to healthcare—and it is broader than just hospitals. It is the hospital; it is the nursing home; it is the community pharmacist; it is the physician; it is the nurse practitioner; it is the chiropractor; it is the optometrist. All of those individuals and their professions matter as to whether or not communities across my State will be around for time to come.

I want to highlight this issue today because the process is beginning that will set the stage for whether or not the future is bright for individuals and the communities in which they live in Kansas and across the country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I just listened to my colleague from Kansas. It is just commendable, the example he has set of going and visiting absolutely every single one of the hospitals in the State of Kansas. It is an example for all of us to get out and talk to our constituents and listen to what they have to say. The senior Senator from Kansas has, I think, set an example for all of

us. He visits every county in his State repeatedly, yearly, and it is a model for all. So I am happy to hear him address these issues in this body this morning.

CURRENT POLICY BASELINE

Mr. President, I also heard speak the Senator from New York, Senator SCHUMER, and what I heard him do is something different. What he did is he mischaracterized a budget term called the “current policy baseline.”

First and foremost, the Budget Committee has consulted with the Senate Parliamentarian on the substitute amendment that we are bringing to the Senate today. The Parliamentarian has deemed it appropriate for consideration under the Congressional Budget Act. The Budget Act is also clear. The Budget Committee chairman decides the baseline.

I served in this body when it was the Democrats who were arguing in favor of the current policy baseline. That was in 2013 when President Barack Obama was in the White House. The Obama administration and the Senate Democrat majority at the time argued that a current policy baseline was the “appropriate reference point” when it extended existing tax policy. Senate Republicans are simply following the law and the standard that the Obama administration wanted followed in 2013.

The current policy baseline is how we make the tax cuts permanent. It is how we stop a \$4 trillion tax increase—a tax increase supported unanimously by today's Senate Democrats because, for the Senate Democrats, their favorite day is coming soon: tax day, April 15.

Millions of Americans today are filling out their tax forms, and people are going to spend time this weekend trying to get it right. As they do, I ask myself and wonder if these people who are working so hard at home—hard-working people, earning money, and having to fill out their tax forms—if they realize that Democrats right here in the U.S. Senate want to raise those taxes by a cumulative number of \$4 trillion.

Look, a \$4 trillion tax increase on American families would be devastating. Senate Republicans are fighting against it. Republicans want to make the 2017 tax cuts permanent. We want to reverse the Democrat failures of the past 4 years. We are focusing on getting America back on track.

Let's look at the tax cuts that occurred a number of years ago. Tax reform restored fairness and simplicity to the Tax Code. Americans are better off because of it. It is one of the things that resulted in the best economic times of my life.

Within 2 years of passing the tax cuts, the United States added millions and millions of new jobs. Unemployment fell dramatically to its lowest point in 50 years. Many businesses grew and invested. Most importantly—most importantly—hard-working Americans had more money in their pockets to spend.

In Wyoming, I heard of one local business owner who used the tax cuts

to give his employees a raise. He also expanded his business—more jobs, more economic opportunities for people in his part of the State of Wyoming. This is what happens when Washington taxes less and taxpayers get to keep more of their hard-earned money. It is good for families, and it is good for businesses. It is good for our Nation. In Wyoming and across the country, millions and millions of workers are benefiting from the higher pay, the bigger bonuses, and the best opportunities that come from lower taxes. By making these tax cuts permanent, businesses and families will get the stability and the certainty they need in order to thrive.

Ninety percent of Americans saw their taxes go down because of tax reform. It would be disastrous if the tax-and-spend Senate Democrats—those who brought us the highest inflation in our lifetime—were to choke off the chance for Americans to keep more of their hard-earned money. American families would see their taxes go up if the Democrats get their way. Twenty million businesses would see their taxes go up if Democrats get their way. Six million jobs and \$540 billion in wages could be erased if Democrats get their way. In all, families, workers, and job creators are facing a \$4 trillion tax increase.

When Republicans passed this Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Speaker NANCY PELOSI—she was Speaker of the House of Representatives at the time, from California—famously dismissed the savings and the bonuses and the benefits. She said that these wins for workers—she described them as “crumbs.” Democrats continue to dismiss the burden of higher taxes.

Listen to what Senator ELIZABETH WARREN of Massachusetts said. She said that cutting taxes was nothing more than “tossing a few crumbs” at the American people.

Listen to what Senator CORY BOOKER of New Jersey said. He blamed workers who received bonuses from tax reform for “driving up the debt.” I don’t recall him saying that in his last 25 hours on the floor of the Senate. He didn’t repeat it again.

Democrats are out of touch with America’s families. That is what is happening here. It has been proven by the results of the November election, and their condescending liberal attitude is a threat to the American dream. They just think they know better than everybody else.

It is wrong for Democrats to force hard-working taxpayers to pay for wasteful Washington spending. Fortunately for the hard-working taxpayers of this country, President Trump is in the White House, Senate Republicans are in the majority, and common sense is coming to Washington. Senate Republicans are going to continue to put an end to this wasteful Washington spending because we stand with the American workers, with the job creators, and with the small businesses of

this country. Hard-working taxpayers are soon going to see where each and every Senator stands.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

NOMINATION OF MEHMET OZ

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today, I rise to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the motion to invoke cloture on Dr. Mehmet Oz, who is nominated to serve as Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or CMS.

The CMS Administrator is responsible for overseeing healthcare programs that cover tens of millions of Americans, including Medicare, Medicaid, and the Children’s Health Insurance Program, or CHIP.

At his hearing, Dr. Oz spoke strongly about his desire to modernize the CMS and encourage a healthy lifestyle for all Americans. His vision for treating the underlying causes of chronic disease and equipping providers with innovative technologies to serve patients will also be a much needed sea change at CMS.

I am confident that his years spent as a leading physician and public health advocate make him duly qualified to accomplish these goals, and I look forward to working with him, if confirmed.

Dr. Oz clearly met the standard of the Finance Committee’s arduous nomination process, and I thank him for the diligence and accessibility he displayed during the extensive meetings he had with committee members and staff, in addition to responding to hundreds of questions for the record.

I strongly encourage my colleagues to join me in advancing his nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The clerk will read the title of the joint resolution for the third time.

The joint resolution was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

VOTE ON H.J. RES. 24

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

Mr. CRAPO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from

Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 162 Leg.]

YEAS—53

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—42

Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kelly	Schiff
Booker	Kim	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Duckworth	Lujan	Smith
Durbin	Markey	Van Hollen
Fetterman	Murphy	Warner
Galleo	Osoff	Warnock
Gillibrand	Padilla	Warren
Hassan	Peters	Welch
Heinrich	Reed	Whitehouse
Hickenlooper	Rosen	Wyden

NOT VOTING—5

Alsobrooks	Coons	Murray
Bennet	Merkley	

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 24) was passed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Dean Sauer, of Missouri, to be Solicitor General of the United States.

NOMINATIONS OF DEAN SAUER AND HARMEET DHILLON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Senate will soon vote on the nominations of Dean John Sauer and Harmeet Dhillon, President Trump’s nominees for Solicitor General and Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department.

The Solicitor General represents the United States in the highest Court of the land, the Supreme Court. Mr. Sauer’s failure to comply with court orders and his refusal to recuse himself from pending Trump matters render him unfit for this role.

The Civil Rights Division—often called the “crown jewel” of the Justice Department—enforces landmark laws that prohibit discrimination and protect the right to vote. Ms. Dhillon’s record makes it all too clear that she is not the right person to lead this division.