

passage of the 19th Amendment. It continues to this day, as we strive to give our daughters the same opportunities as our sons.

The confirmation of Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson to the Supreme Court honored the history that came before it. It honored the struggles of the past and the men and women who fought for a future where skin color and gender are no longer a barrier to full participation in American society, voting, or seeking the highest positions in our government.

America's history is defined by our enduring effort to bridge the gap between that ideal and our slow march toward progress. But with each generation, we edge closer to making that ideal a reality. In 1965, we ensured that the Federal Government could rigorously protect the right to vote—a right that protects all other rights, for that matter—with the passage of the Voting Rights Act.

Two years later, after passing that civil rights bill, we confirmed the first Black American to ever serve on the Supreme Court, Justice Thurgood Marshall. And more than 50 years later—50 years—we took another step forward by confirming Justice Jackson, the first Black woman to serve on the Court.

I want to give credit where it is due. This was the initiative of President Joe Biden, who made it clear when he was elected President this was his highest priority when it came to the Supreme Court. President Biden kept his word.

With Justice Jackson's confirmation to the highest Court in the land, we not only made history, but we also carried on the great American tradition, elevating our Nation's best and brightest legal minds to a sacred position of service, a seat she now occupies for life. There is no one more deserving of this high honor and profound responsibility than Justice Jackson. She is one of the best.

She has devoted her life to serving our country, and she has done so at every level of the Federal Judiciary. At every turn, she has upheld the Constitution and faithfully followed the rule of law. She is impartial, thoughtful, and even-handed, evaluating every case from, in her words, a "neutral posture."

Since her confirmation, Justice Jackson made her mark on the Court, establishing her status as a sharp and inquisitive questioner of the parties before her. And whether she authors majority opinions or dissents, she always demonstrates a brilliant legal mind.

Just a year into her tenure on the Court, Justice Jackson's first major opinion reaffirmed that Medicaid patients unlawfully denied care or abused by healthcare providers can sue under section 1983. Section 1983 is a law enacted following the Civil War, as part of the Ku Klux Klan Act, which allows lawsuits by individuals whose civil rights have been violated. It is a powerful tool for Americans to seek account-

ability from local, State, and Federal Government officials. At a time when President Trump and unelected "co-President" Elon Musk have vowed to cut Medicaid, it is more crucial than ever that we give those who need this program the legal recourse they need if they are denied care or otherwise abused by a provider.

In instances where Justice Jackson has dissented from the majority, she makes a clear case for why she reached that conclusion. Nearly 2 years ago, the Supreme Court ended the use of affirmative action in college and university admissions. Justice Jackson issued a strong compelling dissent, and she wrote:

[D]eeming race irrelevant in law does not make it so in life.

She continued:

And having so detached itself from this country's actual past and present experiences, the Court has now been lured into interfering with the crucial work that . . . institutions of higher learning are doing to solve America's real-world problems.

Mr. President, it is one of the great honors of my life to preside over the confirmation hearing of Justice Jackson during my time as chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee. Justice Jackson's story is one of breaking barriers and paving the way for future women of color to follow in her footsteps.

At a time when the President and his administration are challenging the rule of law in our country as never before, Justice Jackson's presence on the highest Court in the land could not be more important.

I am incredibly proud of all she has accomplished so far during her time on the Supreme Court. I know that Justice Jackson will continue to honor all those who came before her and sat on the bench.

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. 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

TARIFFS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, make no mistake about it, Donald Trump is teeing up a nationwide recession.

Less than a week after Donald Trump started the largest, dumbest trade war in American history, all the signs say America is heading toward calamity.

A report by JPMorgan entitled "There Will Be Blood," warned these policies, if sustained, would likely push

the United States and possibly the global economy into a recession this year. An update of our probability scenario tree makes this point, raising the risk of a recession this year to 60 percent. That is the conservative, cautious JPMorgan—60-percent chance of a recession.

Barclays, meanwhile, said Donald Trump's tariffs will cause inflation to nearly double as America enters a recession.

HSBC, Deutsche Bank, and Bank of America all said the same thing—the tariffs have made a recession more likely. And now, today, Goldman Sachs is the one saying "danger."

Some analysts say the damage is already done; \$6 trillion of value has been wiped out. Any community in America that relies on trade or tourism or farming or energy or any wide range of industries is at risk of a recession.

My State of New York, my city of New York, certainly, are at that risk and heading right in that direction, unfortunately.

Consumer activity is going to go down. Demand is going to suffer. Unemployment is going up.

And maybe worst of all, Donald Trump's tariff tax is the largest tax hike since before the Vietnam war. Families will pay \$5,000 extra a year for groceries, appliances, for drugs, for clothes, for cars, for gasoline, and so, so much more. Everywhere they look, Americans are going to see prices going up, going up.

Donald Trump campaigned on the fact there was too much inflation, and yet he is going to cause—he is causing already—a ton of it. So let me say it again: Donald Trump is teeing up a nationwide recession. If a recession does happen, it will be known as the Trump recession.

I urge the President to back off from his disastrous tariffs immediately. He should put down the golf clubs and pick up the papers because the disaster he has created is anything but great.

On the contrary, "Liberation Day" is quickly turning into Donald Trump's infamous "Mission Accomplished" moment. Congress must immediately take back power from Donald Trump before he causes more damage to the economy.

Leader Thune has a responsibility to listen to American families worried about the price of groceries, worried about their retirement, worried about keeping their jobs, and worried about the future. The Republican leader should make passing tariff legislation the top priority of the Senate this week.

At his press conference a few minutes ago, Donald Trump just said he is not looking at a pause. Now the only hope the American people have to avoid calamity rests on Senator THUNE's shoulders. So Senator THUNE has a decision to make: Side with Donald Trump or his destructive policies or side with the American people.

I was deeply disappointed last Friday night when Senate Republicans rejected my measure last week to halt

any tariffs since January 20 if prices for groceries, medicines, and other essential goods went up.

I hope Republicans reconsider their opposition the next time we vote in reconciliation or else they will continue to get an earful from their constituents back home.

Talk about canceled townhall meetings that Republicans had to do in the House, they are going to have to cancel a whole lot more unless they start listening to the American people.

This shouldn't be a partisan issue. Most Senators know deep down these tariffs are a disaster for the country.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on Social Security, while markets plunge and retirement accounts reel from Donald Trump's tariffs, Elon Musk and DOGE are taking a blowtorch to Social Security.

This morning, the Washington Post reported that the Social Security website is facing widespread and repeated outages. People can't log on and see their benefits. Millions of low-income Americans even received messages saying they are "not receiving payments" at all, causing widespread panic.

First, DOGE shut down local Social Security offices. Then it shut down phone services. Now seniors can't even go online. What the hell are they supposed to do?

Anyone who thinks Elon Musk isn't trying to destroy Social Security should look at how they are crashing the website, how they are shutting down offices, how they are closing phone lines. Now they are even proposing another round of massive layoffs.

Make no mistake—no mistake; it is clear as a bell—Elon Musk is cutting Social Security benefits. When he said that it was a Ponzi scheme—so ridiculous, so false, and so mean—he really meant it. He believes it. When offices close down, when websites crash, when phone lines shut off, that is no different than cutting benefits. So when Elon Musk says that Social Security should be eliminated, he is finding ways to make that happen. It is horrible, horrible for our seniors and for all Americans, including the millions who have been putting money in week after week, month after month so they might have a decent retirement.

Last week, Senate Republicans voted against three amendments by Democrats to protect Social Security from DOGE, including an amendment by Senator OSSOFF reversing the mass layoffs and office closures. What did Republicans do? They said no. Shameful.

Social Security is the greatest crisis ever. Senate Republicans are now complicit. The longer Republicans allow Elon Musk to threaten people's benefits, the greater the political blowback is going to be.

And with these issues—the tariffs, the Trump tariff tax—destroying so much of Social Security, the American people are learning that Donald Trump is betraying them. Everything he said in the campaign—so much he said in the campaign, he is just doing the opposite. It helps the billionaires and hurts the American people.

TAXES

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, that is the third thing I want to talk about, the Republican billionaire tax breaks.

In less than 3 months, Donald Trump has unleashed more chaos upon the American people than any previous President. His tariffs have hit families with the largest tax hike in half a century.

Elon Musk and DOGE are sabotaging Social Security and Medicaid and Medicare from within with massive layoffs, funding cuts, and crashing websites. The market is having its worst day since the COVID crisis, sending 401(k)s reeling.

And what are Republicans in Congress doing? They are cutting taxes for billionaires and paying for it by cutting Medicaid.

Now the billionaire tax breaks will add \$37 trillion to the debt. Adding \$37 trillion to the debt was bad enough without having to take into account President Trump's tariffs. But now that these tariffs are making a recession more likely, it would be malpractice—malpractice—for Republicans to move forward.

The ball is in the House Republicans' court. They can see for themselves just how fiscally reckless and ill-conceived the Senate bill is. They should reject it. Republicans' obedience to Donald Trump's increasingly unpopular agenda will cost them dearly in the future.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. 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 MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). The majority leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, on Saturday morning, we took a major step forward on the Republican agenda by passing a budget resolution to lay the groundwork for a permanent extension of tax relief for American families and a transformational investment in our border, energy, and national security.

And while I think Republicans' goals are obvious, for the sake of my Democratic colleagues who still seem to be operating under the delusion that we are here to hand out tax cuts to billionaires, let me review what we are doing and why we are here.

First, we are here to ensure that hard-working Americans don't see their tax bills rise next year. In 2017, Republicans delivered tax relief to the American people, but that relief is expiring this year. If we don't act, American families making less than \$400,000 a year will see a \$2.6 trillion tax hike next year. Tax rates will rise. The standard deduction will shrink. And the child tax credit will—will—be cut in half. That is not acceptable, so we are here to prevent tax hikes on American families and permanently extend the 2017 tax relief.

Second, we are here to address the remains of the Biden border crisis, bolster our military readiness, and unleash American energy production. After 4 years of chaos at our southern border under President Biden, President Trump has taken action to secure the border and take criminal illegal immigrants off America's streets. But the administration needs additional resources from Congress if this progress is going to continue, and we need a serious investment in our military to restore readiness and ensure that our men and women in uniform are equipped to deter and to defeat threats.

We also need to take action to unleash American energy production. The Biden administration put us on a dangerous trajectory by seeking to stifle domestic conventional energy production, and we need to recommit to domestic production to protect our Nation and ensure that the American people have a reliable and affordable energy supply both now and in the future.

And finally, we are here to take a hard look at how taxpayer dollars are being spent. We saw an incredible growth in government spending under the Biden administration. Federal spending in 2024 was 54 percent higher than in 2019—54 percent. So Republicans are going to take a good, hard look at how taxpayer dollars are being spent and work to return us to a more sustainable spending and fiscal trajectory.

As I said, the resolution we passed this weekend—I might say, over the objections of my Democratic colleagues, who are apparently perfectly OK with allowing taxes to rise for working families—was a major step forward on delivering on our agenda, and I am looking forward to arriving at a final bill. Discussions on that will continue off the floor. Meanwhile, on the floor, we will continue to deliver on other priorities, including building out the President's administration and lifting burdensome Biden regulations through Congressional Review Act resolutions.

We have kept up a very brisk pace on confirming nominees, and that will continue. By the end of this week, I expect to have added several more to our