

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

total, and I also expect to consider a resolution this week to roll back a heavyhanded Department of Energy rule.

Democrats will continue to distract. Republicans will continue to act.

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. DAINES. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

TRIBUTE TO DR. WADED CRUZADO

Mr. DAINES. Madam President, I rise today to honor an esteemed great Montana leader: Dr. Waded Cruzado.

Dr. Cruzado has served as the beloved president of Montana State University, my alma mater, since 2010. In fact, three of our four children graduated from Montana State during her tenure as president.

For over 15 years, she has been a tireless leader, pushing MSU to new heights both academically and in athletics. Her passion for the success of her students has transformed not only the MSU campus but our great State of Montana as well. The impact of Dr. Cruzado's leadership is felt and seen by students, faculty, and community members all across Montana. Frankly, the results speak for themselves.

MSU is now one of the top public universities in the entire country. As a fellow Bobcat myself from 1984, I couldn't be more proud. In fact, under her leadership, we saw recordbreaking accomplishments at Montana State University.

Student enrollment increased by 26 percent to over 17,000 students, making MSU the largest university in Montana. Importantly, the student retention rate grew to 75 percent. That is the highest it has been in 30 years. Graduation rates increased to the highest they have been in more than 20 years.

When you look at the annual research expenditures, Montana State's has increased by 162 percent, making MSU the leading research institution in our great State. The school was recognized by the Carnegie Classification of Institutions of Higher Education and the American Council on Education as one of the most productive research institutions in the United States.

Dr. Cruzado has also been instrumental in transforming the Bobcat athletic department. As president—truly, I have watched the Bobcats since I was a little boy in Bozeman—the Bobcats have soared to new heights.

Our football team has made it to two NCAA FCS championships, and they have won five Big Sky Conference championships.

The men's and women's basketball teams both earned multiple trips to

NCAA tournaments and together have won five Big Sky Conference championships.

Let's talk about women's rodeo. MSU has won 3 national team titles, and they have made 12 consecutive top-10 finishes in the NCAA skiing championships.

Clearly, Dr. Cruzado has helped lead MSU into a truly new era of academic, cultural, and athletic excellence—in fact, even to the Moon—with their program there on campus.

Now after more than a decade of service to our State, it is my honor to recognize her hard work and her dedication as she begins the next chapter of her career as president of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities. Her work and her bold leadership will be forever remembered, and she truly has left a lasting legacy on MSU—its students, its staff, all the Bobcat fans, and myself.

Waded, I wish you well, and I look forward to rooting for your continued success.

As she knows and I know, once a Bobcat, always a Bobcat.

So on behalf of Montana, Dr. Cruzado, thank you, and as you always say and I always say, "Go Cats."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, as the Presiding Officer will recall, it was 2:30 in the morning on Saturday—just a few short hours ago, it seems like—that the Senate voted to pass a budget resolution amending the House budget resolution, the next important step to passing President Trump's "America First" agenda.

The budget will go back—and has gone back—to the House, and then it will be time for the committees to do really the hard work. This was the easy part, passing the framework, but now we have to write the bills to implement not only the continuation of the current tax provisions but also the spending cuts that are so important and to help the President keep his other promises that he made on the campaign trail. And we are on our way to what President Trump likes to call "one, big, beautiful bill."

Well, a lot of important conversations have been taking place, on both sides of the Capitol, about what the result will be. But while these questions and some differences are natural, the critical matter at hand in this budget resolution is to make sure that we don't impose a multitrillion-dollar tax increase on the American people.

Now, there have been a lot of crazy allegations made about what the budget actually did or did not do, while some of our colleagues have said that the American people don't want to see their tax cuts extended, which is false, and I don't know who they are talking to. And then they claim that the extension would benefit the wealthy few at

the expense of the middle class. That is also another false statement.

As I said, if the President's tax cuts are not extended, we will see a multitrillion-dollar tax hike, the largest in history, and 62 percent of American taxpayers will see a tax increase in 2026. Working parents will see the child tax credit cut in half, and the average family of four that earns \$80,000 a year will face a \$1,700 tax increase. Back home in Texas, my constituents would see their taxes increase by \$3,000 on average next year.

Now, imagine this. If we failed to follow through on President Trump's campaign promises and on our campaign promises, if we agreed with the Democrats who were demagoguing this issue, can you imagine what that would do to the standard of living of hard-working American families? And that would be on top of 4-year high inflation—actually the highest in 40 years. So that would be, to me, insult added to injury, to add a huge tax increase on top of all of the inflation that Americans experienced during the last 4 years—roughly, on average, about a 21-percent increase in the cost of living.

But not just families would be affected. Small businesses would see their Federal tax rates increase by almost 50 percent. One recent survey found that 61 percent of small business owners said they would have to increase prices as a result of the tax increase on them. Can you imagine what that would do to already high prices as a result of inflation?

Nearly half of these small businesses reported that they would have to postpone or cancel capital investments; in other words, they couldn't grow their business, hire more employees, or improve their equipment.

Now, these are not massive corporations, as we hear from folks on that side of the aisle. They talk about businesses as if they were all Fortune 500 companies. Most businesses in America are small businesses, the owners of which pay business income on an individual tax return—so-called pass-through entities. And these are the folks—these local entrepreneurs are the ones—that create jobs and help employ hard-working Americans who are pursuing their American dream.

Republicans, it is good to announce or report or reassure that we are united against these defenseless claims coming from the other side. That doesn't mean they will stop. They are depending on low-information voters, people who just read the headlines or read certain propaganda to carry the day on their false allegations about this just helping the rich people. Or one of my favorite is they were arguing during the budget vote—arama, as it was called, that this was going to affect Social Security.

They know and we know that the law prevents Social Security from being even included in these discussions. So how could it possibly be true? It can't be true.