age Donald Trump promised. Instead, I heard worry; I heard frustration from Republicans; I heard a lot of buyer's remorse.

Republican Members from those districts I visited are nervous, worried, and scared as could be. They know their voters don't agree with Trump, but they are too scared to buck him. In the upcoming reconciliation, we will see what they do. Will they side with Trump against what Americans need and want or will they have a little courage? We are very, very worried about the future of this country with so much at stake.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, so let's talk about what is going to happen in the Senate in this period, in this work period.

Now, we convene at the start of this pivotal work period. This week, Republicans are expected to begin marking up the text of their reconciliation bill.

With so many problems facing our country, with a threat of recession on the horizon, with tariffs driving costs up, and Elon Musk taking a meat cleaver to Social Security, to veterans' care, and to cancer research, what are Republicans in Congress spending their time on? They want to cut taxes for billionaires and make working people pay for it. They want to add over $52 trillion—trillion dollars—to the national debt. I think of my grandson when I think of that. They want to make the biggest cuts to Medicaid ever. This is the Republican agenda: Billionaires win. American families lose.

Republicans have gotten by so far with a bunch of empty and deceptive promises that none of the outrageous cuts they propose will come back to harm ordinary Americans. But their rhetorical runway is quickly going to run out. Soon, they will have to show everyone the real details of their legislation, and it is not going to be pretty.

Even if Republicans pass a fraction of the cuts they are proposing to Medicaid, it would devastate communities—urban, suburban, and particularly rural. The cost of healthcare will come up for those least able to afford it. Healthcare workers would lose their jobs. Millions could lose coverage. And for what? So billionaires can pay less in taxes. It is a revolting—thoroughly revolting—agenda.

Democrats will vehemently oppose this bill and all the harmful elements of the Republican agenda at every opportunity.

Tomorrow, as I said a moment ago, Senate Democrats will take to the floor to highlight the disaster of Trump's first 100 days.

On Wednesday, we will take to the Senate steps and join in one voice with our House counterparts to decry the ways this President has already—already—only 100 days in, failed our country.

In the coming weeks, we will continue to oppose deeply unqualified nominees who have no business serving in government. We have seen that already, for instance, with the antics of Mr. Hegseth.

We will also fight Donald Trump's disastrous trade war. Soon, the Senate will vote on bipartisan legislation I cosponsored with Senators WYDEN, KAINE, and PAUL that nullifies Donald Trump's trade war. To nobody's surprise, the President has already threatened to veto this bill.

Senate Republicans who know how bad tariffs are for their States should join us to nullify Donald Trump's trade war and ignore his veto threat, and, if necessary, we should override the President's veto. These tariffs are so bad and are already pushing America into recession.

''Recession'' is an economic word for shrinking growth. But what does it mean to American families? More likely to lose a job, harder to find a new job, more likely to have prices go up and not be able to afford those price increases.

Finally, Senate Democrats will do what Senate Republicans refuse to do: conduct oversight on this administration. We will do it on our own. That means pushing for investigations into the leadership failures at the Pentagon. What Hegseth did there was horrible. It means pushing back against attacks on Social Security. It means resisting the defunding of public resources like PBS. It means exposing the chilling arrests of Americans without due process.

Day after day after day, we will hammer home the Republican agenda, and Americans will see the difference between Democratic unity and Republican disarray.

It is no wonder Republicans are in such disarray—House Republicans fighting with one another, Senate Republicans fighting with one another, and Senate and House Republican leadership not even on the same page. That is incredible. Why? Because their programs are so unpopular with the American people.

Democrats are united in our mission to lower costs for families, protect healthcare, defend American democracy. Meanwhile, Republicans are at loggerheads with each other.

As I said, House Republicans are fighting among themselves. Senate Republicans are fighting among themselves. Leadership in both Chambers are at odds. And why do Republicans face this situation where they are so at odds with one another? The simple answer is, again: because their agenda is so unpopular with the American people, and neither House—and no Republican Senator—wants to be left holding this hot potato.

The backlash Republicans are getting from the public—whether it is town halls, in the streets, or through dismal polling data—should serve as a warning to our colleagues on the other side: If they proceed with their agenda, the political outcry will be enormous, just enormous.

So as long as Donald Trump pushes America down the dangerous road we are already on, he will face resistance from Democrats, from the courts, and, most importantly, from the American people themselves.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

REMEMBERING POPE FRANCIS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, my grandparents and my mother and her two siblings immigrated to the United States from Lithuania in the year 1911. They came over on a ship from Germany to Baltimore and found their way to the city of my birth, East St. Louis, IL.

There are very few things left from that voyage experience so long ago. My grandmother had brought with her a Lithuanian Catholic prayer book that was considered, at the time, to be contraband in Czarist Russia. It is a family treasure. I still have it. I keep it in my office as a reminder of her faith and mine.

Today, I join people across the world and mourn the passing of Pope Francis. He was forgiving, hopeful, and committed to the notion of peace.

Francis taught us that there is no one ''right'' way to be a Catholic; that the church can shape you, and you can shape the church, and in the process, he made the church stronger.

Ten years ago, Pope Francis became the first Pope to deliver a joint address to Congress. I was honored to be present for that historic speech and to shake his hand.

The Holy Father spoke in that speech about one of my political heroes, Abraham Lincoln. And Pope Francis reminded Members of Congress that:

> You are called to defend and preserve the dignity of your fellow citizens in the tireless and demanding pursuit of the common good, for this is the chief aim of all politics.

Pope Francis used his platform to highlight the plight of immigrants and refugees, to ask compassion for those in the LGBTQ community whom the church had historically shunned, to advocate for peace in distant waters, and to protect our environments.

Like myself, Pope Francis was the child of immigrants, and he often reminded us of our responsibility to welcome the stranger.

In a recent letter to American Catholic bishops, Pope Francis affirmed our Nation's right to ''defend itself and keep communities safe.'' But he raised serious concerns about mass deportation, which ''damages the dignity of many men and women, and of entire families, and places them in a state of particular vulnerability and defenselessness.''

His message is so timely as our government ignores due process and, through an administrative error, sends

a person to a hell-hole prison in El Salvador and deports a 2-year-old to Honduras.

In one of his final public acts, Pope Francis offered remarks for Easter Sunday. He was so ill he was unable to deliver the speech himself, so it was read by one of his assistants. It was a speech of peace. It was a speech of hope. It was a speech of a truly good man. In it, he pled:

> On this day, I would like all of us to hope anew and to revive our trust in others, including those who are different than ourselves, or who come from distant lands, bringing unfamiliar customs, ways of life and ideas.

Over the weekend, it was my honor to join Senator SUSAN COLLINS and three of our colleagues as part of a delegation of five Senators who represented the U.S. Senate at Pope Francis' funeral at Vatican City.

The crowd was overwhelming. Estimated in the hundreds of thousands, they came from every corner of the Earth. Just in our small section was a delegation in business suits from Lesotho in Africa. There were Buddhists in bright orange robes, members of the Italian Parliament, a turbaned Sikh delegation from India, and our bipartisan House delegation, led by NANCY PELOSI and Republican Leader STEVE SCALISE.

Thousands of Catholic clergy on the altar and in the audience wore vestments representing every shade of the colors of scarlet and red. But the vast crowds of mourners and celebrants were simply admirers of Francis, who, in his humble way, touched so many lives. At the front of the alter was his simple wooden casket.

The funeral ceremony was in Latin—the language of the Catholic Church when I was a young altar boy at St. Elizabeth's Church in East St. Louis, IL, in the 1950s.

As I witnessed this solemn mass and read from the text, I could hear in my mind the rusty hinges of an opening door taking me back to the Latin mass and Gregorian chant of my childhood. It is all still there, ''deo gratias.''

How did this mass differ from the funeral of John Paul decades ago? I remember the crowds of Polish mourners who were there with their red and white flags for John Paul II. But with Francis, what struck me were the many waves of spontaneous cheering from the vast crowd when reference was made to his simple message for immigrants, for peace, and for understanding.

Who could forget his five words:

> Who am I to judge?

They defined his humility and his humanity for so many of us.

After the ceremony, I went back to my hotel room and turned on my television. There was a recurring segment every few minutes. It showed a simple photograph of Francis and the Italian words, which I will probably mispronounce. They were: ''Grazie Francesco. Il papa della gente.'' Translated to English: ''Thank you, Francis, the Pope of the people.''

We must continue to hold fast to the message of Pope Francis to love and respect one another. In a world of hate and fear, his message of peace and understanding is needed now more than ever.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). The Senator from Arkansas.

TRIBUTE TO PEYTON BOLLING

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize and congratulate an exceptional Arkansan, Peyton Bolling, as we celebrate her making history as the first Miss Arkansas' Teen to be crowned as Miss America's Teen. Our State is home to many talented, intelligent, and service-oriented young people, achieving tremendous accomplishments, and Peyton is truly a wonderful example of that.

She is a Rogers native and a senior at Bentonville High School and grew up in a military family. Her parents, Colonel Ryan and Patrice Bolling, have supported and nurtured her interest in community betterment and service from a young age. That passion led her to serve as a U.S. Senate page, which only deepened her appreciation for our system of government that invites all Americans to play their part in shaping the future.

I was pleased to meet her while she was in the Page Program and then reconnect after she claimed the Miss Arkansas' Teen title, last summer. It is encouraging to see her pursuing her new, larger platform to inspire positive change and promote civic engagement to America's next generation of leaders, and I am thankful she can now take this effort nationwide and give back in such a meaningful way.

What makes this all the more impressive is that Peyton's success in the pageant world came not after years of practice and experience but on her first try. The poise and maturity she has demonstrated in competition, but also in so many other facets of life, are serving her incredibly well as she represents our community, the State of Arkansas, and our Nation.

So, today, I am pleased to celebrate how far Peyton has come and recognize her special place in Natural State history. I look forward to all she will accomplish as Miss America's Teen and beyond.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

TRIBUTE TO AMANDA LINCOLN

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, oh my gosh, I wish I didn't have to rise today because I rise to say goodbye but also to honor someone who has been an incredibly important member of our Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee team and, before that, in my personal office team. Amanda Lincoln is leaving Capitol Hill after 15 years of service to the Congress and to our country.

Amanda joined my personal office after she had served as staff director and legislative director for the late Senator Mike Enzi. In my personal office, she was integral to advancing policies to improve the lives of all Americans, spearheading laws that increase access to generic drugs, boost domestic manufacturing of medical products, and enhance forecasting of epidemics. She also was a partner in brainstorming solutions to emerging and vexing policy challenges, like how to finance gene therapies and protect patient privacy.

Now, it was interesting. When we began to work on the bipartisan infrastructure bill, I had a group of six, and there was no one of them that had been tapped as a leader. And there were just alpha males in there, and there was this and there was that. And just organically, Amanda emerged as the leader among that group.

One of the young men who was on that project, with strong personality and strong intellect—and I just kind of wasn't quite sure how that would manage—and he goes: I just got to tell you, Amanda is doing a great job.

I am thinking: Well, how in the heck did that happen that she emerged as the leader among all of these strong possibilities, and there was never any sort of jostling?

It was just her talent, her ability to understand process and direct negotiations that, once more, organically made her the leader.

She never worked before on transportation and energy, and yet transportation and energy became something in which she is expert at.

So although she left my office after that—my personal office—when I became the ranking member on the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, I was asked: Well, who is going to be your staff director?

And I remembered her ability to lead so well that I said: Let's ask Amanda Lincoln.

Fortunately, she took the job. Since then, I have learned to trust her for consequential decisions that helped us on that committee chart a successful path.

Now, first in the Republican minority and now as Republican chair, we have been able to pass laws enhancing research into childhood cancer and making sure students receive financial aid packages on time to choose the best affordable college option for them. We have passed legislation to address hazing incidents on college campuses, to reform Federal programs that better address Alzheimer's and autism, and to promote access to healthcare in rural areas.

We passed legislation through the committee to strengthen services for American seniors, to improve public health readiness toward the next pandemic, to make sure that healthcare workers could access mental health