

and substance use care—if you will, those healthcare workers burned out, stressed out, sometimes to the point of suicide by things such as the COVID pandemic, they now have greater support—to help Americans caring for family members with disabilities and other challenging medical conditions.

Amanda also led oversight efforts, including the recapturing of \$375 million of taxpayer funds wrongfully paid.

As in my personal office, Amanda led efforts to develop policy solutions to some of the most pressing issues of our time—personally, I think it is important for our country to address the potential risks and benefits that artificial intelligence pose to society, and to make sure that it is designed, developed, and deployed responsibly—also, to modernize the National Institutes of Health, ensuring we sustain our advantage in biomedical research and that Americans get innovative treatments first; to ensure that gig workers have access to portable benefits, like retirement and healthcare; to modernize HIPAA or the medical privacy framework to ensure it keeps pace with new technologies and that Americans' private health data is properly protected.

Amanda has been on the ground floor of all of these ideas, helping to kick-start debate and to generate solutions that I hope to pass into law as chair of that committee. She also led the committee's efforts to swiftly confirm all of President Trump's Cabinet officials under our jurisdiction and to ensure rapid confirmation for key public health officials, like the FDA Commissioner and the NIH Director.

Occasionally, I would get some phone call: How come these appointees are not advancing?

I would say: That is because we have not received the paperwork.

But once we got the paperwork, we took care of it. And that was Amanda's husbanding of the process.

All that I have described would not have been possible without her leadership and guidance. I just thank her, and I am incredibly indebted for her loyalty, service, and steadfastness.

Now, as you know, Madam President, someone who works here on the Hill—particularly if it is a "madam," particularly if it is a she, particularly if it is a mom, a wife—has not only the responsibilities of being that staffer or that Senator or that Congresswoman, but she has the responsibility, as well, of being that mom and of being that spouse, that partner.

Everybody sacrifices weekends, nights, precious times with family in the service of our Nation. Amanda embraces that—perhaps embraced it too much.

I say, again, that this is bittersweet. Her departure is a loss for my office, but a loss for the institution of the Senate. She will be missed by all. But our loss is the gain of her husband JP and their beautiful girls, Caroline and Amelie.

It has been an incredible pleasure watching Amanda grow personally and

professionally. I am proud to call her not only a trusted adviser but a dear friend.

I wish her well. I look forward to seeing her start a new chapter in her professional journey.

Once more, I thank her for her service to this body, the Senate, and to the United States of America.

I yield the floor.

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

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

The Senator from Texas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S.J. RES. 49

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at a time to be determined by the majority leader following consultation with the Democratic leader, no later than Wednesday, April 30, S.J. Res. 49 be discharged from the Committee on Finance, and the Senate proceed to its consideration; further, that there be six hours of debate only, with the time equally divided between the leaders or their designees on the joint resolution and that following the use or yielding back of that time, the joint resolution be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution.

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

TEXAS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, on another matter, we have just arrived back in the Nation's Capital following a couple weeks back home, and I am glad to report that I was able to put that time to good use.

It is no secret that Texas is one of the best places in the country to do business, and that was certainly confirmed by my visit back home these last couple of weeks. I had the opportunity to visit with some of our most impressive businesses, from major manufacturing facilities to local, family-owned small businesses.

One such visit was to Daikin Texas Technology Park in Waller County, a suburb of Houston. There, I had the opportunity to tour their facility and attend a townhall with many of their employees. It is a truly impressive facility, employing more than 10,000 workers in our State and leading the world in the engineering and manufacturing of heating and air-conditioning products.

I also visited Alliance, TX, which is actually in Tarrant County or Fort Worth, which is now a massive, master-planned, mixed-use development in

North Texas. Alliance is home to a number of important businesses, residential neighborhoods, and a thriving island inland port that boosts our country's supply chains. Located along an interstate with rail and air access, at 27,000 acres, Alliance is nearly double the size of Manhattan. From its inception in 1990 until today, Alliance has had an incredible \$130 billion economic impact on our State.

Now, as you might imagine, one of the major themes of my discussion back home was the importance of our major task at hand here in the Senate, which is extending the expiring provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. While we made an important first step by passing the budget resolution in the House and the Senate, now the various committees of jurisdiction have their work cut out for them to pencil in the details of the precise policies that will then require the President's signature.

I spent a great deal of time back home hearing about the importance of these tax cuts and how they have benefited not just Texas families but small businesses throughout the State.

I know most of the time when we think about job creators, we think about Fortune 500 companies, but the fact is, in Texas and across the Nation, it is our small businesses that are the primary engine of job creation.

In the Dallas area, I met with Andy Ellard, the owner and general manager of Manda Machine Company, a third-generation, family-owned company in Dallas. Andy's grandparents founded the company in 1950, operating the business out of a back room in their house. Eventually, when the time came for them to retire, they sold the business to their daughter and her husband, who in turn sold it to their children. Now more than seven decades later, Andy and his siblings are the third-generation owners of Manda Machine Company. Now, if that is not the American dream, I don't know what is.

Andy told me how beneficial the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act was for his family business. He said that over the last 3 years, he has been able to invest \$80,000 in improving his business as a result of that legislation. So if the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is not extended at the end of this year, Andy and his employees in this small business will lose out on these benefits that have helped his business grow and thrive and provide employment for other families.

I visited another place in the Rio Grande Valley, this one called 5x5 Brewing Company. This is a veteran-owned, as it sounds, brewery which is dedicated to brotherhood, tradition, and, yes, you guessed it, great beer. This tradition is reflected on their menu as many of their signature beverages have names of military significance.

There at 5x5, we had a panel discussion of small business owners, including Luis Espindola, who is one of the coowners of 5x5 and a Marine Corps veteran. I met with other business

owners at that panel, like Sarah Hammond, who owns Atlas Electrical Air Conditioning, Refrigeration & Plumbing Services. Sarah is known as a pillar of her community, serving as chair of the Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and helping to oversee the management of Hummingbird Trailer Park. On top of this, she is involved with an organization dedicated to helping develop and empower other women business owners.

Then there was Jessica Delgado, who, having worked in the restaurant industry since age 16, now owns multiple restaurants, and she serves on the board of the Texas Restaurant Association and is a former chairwoman of the Texas Restaurant Foundation.

Another impressive woman small business owner was Hortencia Camargo, the owner of C4 Transport and Hacienda La Hortencia and a licensed Realtor in McAllen, TX, and she is also the founder of GRASP, which advocates for safe gun storage practices around children.

I also had the chance on this same panel to visit with representatives of the agricultural sector, including Dante Galeazzi—I am going to butcher Dante's name—Galeazzi, who is president and CEO of Texas International Produce Association, who emphasized to me how beneficial the Trump tax cuts were for Texas farmers and ranchers.

The message I heard from all of these impressive Texas entrepreneurs, job creators, and pillars of the community was simple: The Trump tax cuts helped their businesses grow and flourish, providing benefits not only to themselves and their families but to their employees and their broader communities.

Stories I heard from my fellow Texans like Andy, Luis, Sarah, Hortencia, Jessica, and others show how patently false the accusation is of our Democratic colleagues who somehow claim that this is just to benefit rich people. The fact of the matter is, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is not about helping the wealthy few at the expense of ordinary Americans, contrary to the Democratic talking points.

You know, I have been here working in Washington—or what I like to call the forward operating base in hostile territory—for some time now, and the truth is, you get these prevailing narratives that get repeated over and over and over again and written about by the press that simply have no basis in fact or reality.

The truth is, if we fail to extend the expiring provisions of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, 62 percent of American taxpayers will see their taxes go up. Obviously—on top of a 40-year high inflation, which has raised input costs across the board by about 20 percent or more as a result of the policies of the previous administration, that obviously would have a tremendously negative impact on our economy and the standard of living, like the folks I mentioned back home.

This is really about lifting up hard-working men and women across the country. The tax cuts are about helping every hard-working American achieve their dreams. If President Trump's tax cuts are not extended, as I say, virtually everybody or at least a significant supermajority of American working families will see a tax increase. Texans specifically will see taxes increase about \$3,000 on average. I am sure every single one of my constituents can think about somewhere better to spend that \$3,000 than to write a check to the IRS. Small business owners like many of the folks that I met with these last 2 weeks would see tax hikes of nearly 50 percent, and working families could see their child tax credit cut in half, along with the standard deduction, which was dramatically increased in 2017.

Despite these hard facts, our Democratic colleagues continue to peddle the myth that President Trump's tax cuts are just for rich folks. It couldn't be more clear that these claims are nothing more than just that—myths.

So I urge my fellow Republican colleagues to never mind the naysayers across the aisle. The American people, on November 5, gave us a job to do. We took the important first step by passing the budget resolution just before the Senate adjourned, and now that we are back in Washington, it is time that we finish the job.

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. SCHATZ. 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 RICHARD J. DURBIN

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, everyone enters public service hoping that they can make a difference, but few have the ability or the fortune to do as much good as Senator DICK DURBIN has over his long and storied career.

Since stepping into these Halls of Congress more than 40 years ago, Senator DURBIN has fought passionately for his constituents back home in his beloved Illinois and Americans all across the country. And while so many of us have already benefited from his extraordinary work, both knowingly and unknowingly, his legacy will continue to improve the lives of Americans for many years to come.

To know Senator DURBIN is to understand he is as decent and as principled as leaders come. He is dogged in his fight for fairness and justice but humble in sharing the credit for all of his successes. He is willing to work with everyone but will never compromise his values for anyone.

Over the years, he has picked some very difficult but worthy fights. And he

has won time after time, paving the way for cleaner air on airplane flights, leading the fight against torture, lifting up the voices that are too often left behind in Washington.

A trial attorney by training, Senator DURBIN can never look away from injustice, no matter how pervasive or how entrenched. No challenge was too daunting. He felt an obligation to try to fix it. Outraged by the conduct of the war on drugs that had imprisoned generations of Black and Brown men without a meaningful path to rehabilitation, he worked for years to pass the Fair Sentencing Act and the First Step Act. Those laws have since helped to reduce overcrowding in prisons, lower criminal recidivism, and revitalize communities across the country.

Shocked by the plight of Dreamers who spent their lives calling America home but without the papers to prove it, Senator DURBIN has been on the frontlines of the push to put them on a path to citizenship. It is a fight that still continues and one that I know Senator DURBIN will keep at for as long as it takes.

Anyone who has served in this body long enough knows that there are those votes that test your resolve and weigh heavily on your conscience. And for so long, Senator DURBIN has been a uniquely consistent voice of moral clarity and conscience, not just when it is easy or when it is obvious but especially when it is hard and even when it is lonely.

In 2002, he was among a small group of Senators who voted against the invasion of Iraq, cautioning against the dangers of acting hastily on fear rather than fact. Years later, in the throes of the war on terror, Senator DURBIN became an outspoken critic of the U.S. Government's use of torture in foreign prisons. In both instances, he was criticized and condemned at the time. In both instances, history has rendered his judgment as the right and patriotic one.

It has been one of the true privileges of my career to serve as his chief deputy whip and to watch him work his magic during floor debates and in the Judiciary Committee. He is a gentleman of the Senate through and through. I will never forget the time he took to talk about my dad's legacy on this very floor. I know that he has shown that kind of thoughtfulness and care to so many, even when facing his own loss.

I am lucky to call him a mentor and friend, someone who I have learned as much from and rely on for counsel and perspective over many years.

The good news for the country, for me, and for all of us colleagues is Senator DURBIN's work here in the Senate is far from over. We are lucky to be able to count on his leadership and example, as always, in the 2 years ahead. But for now, I want to thank Senator DURBIN, his family—especially his wife Loretta—and his excellent staff for their decades of extraordinary service