

Cornyn	Husted	Mullin
Cotton	Hyde-Smith	Murkowski
Cramer	Johnson	Paul
Crapo	Kelly	Ricketts
Curtis	Kennedy	Risch
Daines	King	Rounds
Ernst	Lankford	Schmitt
Fetterman	Lee	Scott (FL)
Fischer	Lummis	Scott (SC)
Gallego	Marshall	Sheehy
Grassley	McConnell	Sullivan
Hagerty	McCormick	Thune
Hawley	Moody	Tillis
Heinrich	Moran	Wicker
Hoeven	Moreno	Young

## NAYS—40

Alsobrooks	Kaine	Schiff
Baldwin	Kim	Schumer
Bennet	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Blumenthal	Lujan	Slotkin
Booker	Markley	Smith
Cantwell	Merkley	Van Hollen
Coons	Murphy	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murray	Warnock
Duckworth	Ossoff	Warren
Durbin	Padilla	Welch
Gillibrand	Peters	Whitehouse
Hassan	Reed	Wyden
Hickenlooper	Rosen	
Hirono	Schatz	

## NOT VOTING—6

Blunt	Rochester	Graham	Sanders
Cruz		Justice	Tuberville

The nomination was confirmed.

(Mrs. BRITT assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

## CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The bill clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 42, Michael Rigas, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

John Thune, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Mike Crapo, Lindsey Graham, Tim Sheehy, John Kennedy, John Barrasso, Markwayne Mullin, Roger Marshall, Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Rounds, Tommy Tuberville, Steve Daines, Bernie Moreno, Eric Schmitt, Jon A. Husted, Roger F. Wicker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Michael Rigas, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 251 Ex.]

## YEAS—51

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

## NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Heinrich	Peters
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kelly	Schiff
Booker	Kim	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Slotkin
Coons	Klobuchar	Smith
Cortez Masto	Lujan	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Markley	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Fetterman	Murphy	Warren
Gallego	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden

## NOT VOTING—4

Cramer	Sanders
Graham	Tuberville

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 45. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Michael Rigas, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

## TRUMP FAMILY

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. President, today, I want to talk about "The Art of the Deal" because Donald Trump has been busy making deals. Not his promised trade deals. Those are heavy on promises but very light on actual deals. Not any deals in Congress to lower costs for the American people. That could make it easier to afford a home or to buy groceries. In fact, with fewer cargo ships arriving at our ports and our closest allies and neighbors boycotting American goods, the President has done nothing but make your life more difficult. Medicaid is under attack. Social Security offices are closing by the dozens. Food assistance, rental assistance, energy assistance—all on the chopping block. There is no end to the destruction.

The first 114 days of this administration have been one bad deal after another for American families, but if your last name is "Trump," these 114

days have been just about the greatest deal of all time: new airplanes from your friends in the Gulf, new hotel deals, new golf courses, new meme coins, new towers. New income is flowing into the Trump family. You name it—Donald Trump and his family are cashing in.

So, today, I want to highlight just a few of those deals for the Trump family, how he is lining his own pockets and fleecing the rest of us in the process, how his family is getting even richer while the rest of us are treated like suckers.

Today, I want to talk about the 10 best deals for Donald Trump and the worst deals for the American people, how the graft is on full display and how you, the American people, are being left holding the bag. You don't have to look far from the White House to find some of the most flagrant examples.

Entering in at No. 10 of the top 10 deals for Donald Trump and the worst deals for the American people, we only need to look at the south lawn. We all saw this happen on the White House grounds—Donald Trump and Elon Musk turning the place into a Tesla showroom. But what you might have missed is what happened before and after this photo was taken.

Just before Trump turned the White House grounds into a used car lot, Tesla stock had been in a historic and disastrous slump. With their market value cut in half since December, Musk needed a jolt to his ailing company, and he got it.

When the President was asked whether his symbolic purchase of a Tesla at the White House might help the company's stock, Trump said:

I hope it does.

But that wasn't all because the best part of the deal for Donald Trump took place after the Teslas had been driven away and the cameras had been packed up. Not long after the special livestream on X or Twitter had ended, something even more important happened. With Tesla's shares on the rebound, Elon Musk promised to pump \$100 million into Donald Trump's political operation. That is right. Donald Trump received one of the largest political contributions in American history, all for the price of one measly Tesla Model S and the use of the White House as a salesroom—a damn good deal for Donald Trump, if you ask me. For you, the American taxpayer, nothing at all. Zero. Zilch. Nada. All you got was being taken for a ride.

For No. 9 of the best deals for Donald Trump, we have to zoom down to Mar-a-Lago, where you can generally find the President golfing on your dime and lining his pockets in the process. We saw this during the first Trump administration, but at that time, he was still finishing the front nine.

During his first term, Donald Trump made an astounding 473 trips to his own golf courses while in office, but this term, he seems determined to go for the club record. In just his first 100

days, Donald Trump spent over a quarter of those days while in office—a quarter of those days while in office—golfing. Wouldn't you like a job like that, where you get to play golf every 4 days? Pretty sweet.

Through market collapses, Donald Trump was out on the golf course. Through national crises, Donald Trump was out on the golf course, enjoying the golden age in his golden golf cart, playing the back nine while you struggled to pay your rent or your mortgage.

That is bad in and of itself, that the President of the United States is spending so much time, when there are so many challenges facing American families, out on the golf course, but that is not even the worst of it, because guess who is paying for all that golf? You are. You are—the American people, the taxpayer. That is right. All those drives and those chip shots, all those slices and those hooks, all the missed putts—you are paying for every hole.

This term, reports suggest he spent well over \$30 million in taxpayer funds on these golfing trips. That is your tax dollars at work, ladies and gentlemen. And it is not just the use of these taxpayer funds that is a travesty; it is that these taxpayer dollars go to benefit him directly. His golf courses and his hotels charge the U.S. Government to pay for the Secret Service agents and other White House staff to play golf with him or to accompany him on his rounds—to rent golf carts, to have meals.

In other words, your tax dollars are going to the Trump Hotels and golf course organizations directly. If you are interested and wealthy enough, Mar-a-Lago memberships will cost you a cool million or more, where you can hobnob with the President and his family and see if you, too, can get any special deals from the Federal Government.

Don't spend all your money at the Trump golf courses because there is a movie that you are going to want to save some money to rent because, well, someone has to watch it. Coming in at No. 8 of the top 10 deals for the Trump family is Melania's new documentary. On January 6 of this year, Amazon announced a new documentary coming soon. An "unprecedented, behind-the-scenes look at First Lady Melania Trump." Get this, Amazon will be paying out \$40 million to the Trump family to license the documentary.

OK, so let me just say that again. Amazon is giving \$40 million in cash to his family—the Trump family—to license this documentary—direct cash into the pockets of the Trump family.

But, apparently, they are still looking for more. Melania's agent has been trying to sell sponsorships for the film, starting at \$10 million to prominent CEOs and billionaires who were at the inauguration. In return for your sponsorship of this Melania documentary, buyers will get thanked at the end of

the credits and be invited to the premiere.

Reportedly, Trump interests are also pitching Hollywood for a show about Don, Jr.'s time outdoors, a hunting show. Seriously, who wouldn't want to see it? Might be like watching Dick Cheney go hunting again.

If you are looking for a way to get in good with the Trump family that doesn't involve golf or TV shows or buying a Tesla at the White House, they are offering another great solution. At No. 7 of the top 10 deals for the Trump family during this Presidency, we have the Trump family's new private club. As part of their crusade to refill the swamp, the Trump family is opening a private club right here in Washington, DC. It will be called "The Executive Branch."

I wish I was kidding.

Much like the Trump Hotel in the first administration, it will serve as a gathering place in the Trump world and a way to directly pay homage to the President in the form of champagne and caviar and checks to his business endeavors and those of his kids. For a cool \$500,000 membership fee, you, too, can schmooze with people wheeling and dealing within the administration. There is, perhaps, no more appropriate image of the Trump Presidency than this. "The Executive Branch" club is an invite-only club for insiders or investors and billionaires who directly line the pockets of the first family, sending a message as clear as day to anyone who wants to do business in the United States: If you want to be with Trump, you have to pay the cover charge.

Now entering in at No. 6 of the top 10 deals for Donald Trump, of his Presidency, a brandnew Trump Hotel in Dubai. Right now, literally at this moment, Donald Trump is in the United Arab Emirates. You can imagine the scene: standing in some gold-plated hotel room looking out over Abu Dhabi; and just beyond the line of sight in the distance is the skyline of Dubai, a skyline that, as of a few weeks ago, is likely getting a new feature cutting through the night sky—the Trump International Hotel and Tower Dubai, an 80-floor behemoth.

Within it, luxury residences and exorbitantly expensive hotel rooms, apartments that start at a cool \$2 million, and penthouses that will cost tens of millions of dollars. Even better, if you can't make the Trump new club here in DC, there will be an exclusive members-only club right there in Dubai that's, in their words, "set to redefine the meaning of 'exclusive luxury.'" All benefiting—that is right—Donald Trump and his family.

Now, their ventures in the Middle East don't start or end in Dubai. Entering in at No. 5 of the best deals for Trump and the Trump family of his Presidency, they are cashing in, this time, in Qatar.

Coming soon to Doha, the Trump International Golf Course. This is

going to be an 18-hole course, a clubhouse and high-end villas with beach access. A \$5.5 billion deal—billion with a "b"—set to net the Trump family hundreds of millions of dollars. A deal that is reportedly in partnership with Qatari Diar, a company owned by, in this case, the Qatari Government itself.

I am sure Qatar's multibillion-dollar investment in the personal finances of the Trump family is entirely coincidental. I am sure it is not intended to influence U.S. policy towards the country, which also hosts al Jazeera, in any way.

I know it is easy in all the Trump corruption and schemes to miss the forest for the trees, but let's not fail to appreciate just how unprecedented this is, just how corrupt and dangerous this is. The President's namesake company is directly in business with a foreign government. And the money is going into his pocket—not the Treasury, not in your pocket as a taxpayer. It is going into Donald Trump and his family's pocket—his.

But that is not the only Gulf nation in business with the President and his family—not by a long stretch. There is also Saudi Arabia. Because entering in at No. 4 is the newly announced Trump Tower in Jeddah and their brandnew projects in Riyadh. These will net the Trump family millions as well.

This isn't the first time the Trump family has cashed in with the Saudis. Months after Trump left office the first time, Jared Kushner's investment firm received a \$2 billion investment from none other than the Saudi Crown Prince; a deal that was so shady, even the panel that screens investments for the Saudi wealth fund recommended against it. Imagine that. But they were overruled by higher-ups in the Saudi royal family, and the money went straight into the Trump family's enterprise—\$2 billion.

But it is not just Donald Trump and his family that are cashing in at your expense. The world's richest man is using his role, too, as a special government employee to cash in as well, because even when you are the world's richest man, as Elon Musk is, enough is never enough.

Entering at No. 3 are Elon Musk's shady Starlink deals. Elon Musk, when he is not tweeting or firing essential government workers, is turning his company Starlink into a global superpower. How? By using the sway of his position and his proximity to Trump to negotiate a whole raft of deals with foreign nations to purchase his Starlink satellite systems.

Just look at what happened with the nation of Lesotho located in South Africa. Donald Trump slapped crippling tariffs on the country. In hopes of a trade deal, they came to the table, and that meant coming to Elon Musk's table. To understand this best, I want to read verbatim from a leaked internal State Department memo:

As the Government of Lesotho negotiates a trade deal with United States, it hopes that

licensing Starlink demonstrates goodwill and the intent to welcome U.S. businesses.

As the Government of Lesotho negotiates a trade deal with the U.S., it hopes that licensing Starlink demonstrates good will and intent to welcome U.S. businesses.

This is from the State Department's own cable, in black and white. It is just pay to play. To get out from under the tariffs that Trump imposed on Lesotho, that country is going to buy Elon Musk's satellite system. Wow. Pay off Trump's machine, and maybe you will get a trade deal.

And, of course, it isn't just the poor country of Lesotho. In February, Elon Musk met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Blair House, a government building just steps from the White House. The meeting was private, but the results were very public. Shortly after the meeting, India announced two Starlink distribution deals—millions into Musk's pockets negotiated steps away from the White House.

Since then, since the imposition of these tariffs, since the need of other countries to come in and to negotiate tariffs away with the Trump administration, Elon Musk has reached deals with Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Vietnam.

And that is just what we know about so far. But I promise you, this will not be the end of it. It is among the most obvious, egregious, and dangerous acts of corruption in American history. Want out from under a tariff? Make a deal with Elon Musk and Starlink.

And they are barely trying to hide it, which brings us to No. 2 of the top 10 deals for Donald Trump as President and the top 10 ways the American people are ending up holding the bag, because Qatar isn't just investing in a new Trump Tower at home. The Qatari Government is also gifting the President a new Air Force One, an aircraft so opulent that they are calling it a "sky palace," a palace in the sky, a \$400 million gift for Donald Trump that taxpayers will have to pay to debug.

You can imagine all the national security implications of getting an airplane with all of its electronics and all of the venues you could hide eavesdropping equipment. You can imagine what would be necessary to debug an aircraft like that. It will need to be retrofitted and upgraded to meet the standards of an Air Force One. It will cost taxpayers a fortune.

And their plan—the Qatari's plan—is to give the plane to the Trump Presidential Library before Trump's term ends. That way, the President can keep using it as he pleases; that way, Donald Trump, in addition to his own private plane, in addition to Air Force One—which he is very upset with because it is a few decades old and, you know, it just doesn't have the amenities that Donald Trump has come to expect—he gets to keep this palace in the sky.

While American airports are in crisis—air traffic controller shortages,

radar blackouts, massive delays, and surging prices for you the passenger—this is what the President of the United States is focused on: not bringing down airfare for you, not dealing with those luggage fees and all the hidden costs when you buy airplane tickets.

No, that is not what the President of the United States cares about. This is what he cares about: He cares about getting a \$400 million gift from the Qataris, which he calls a nice gesture, giving a whole new meaning to the term "nice gesture." I kind of associate "nice gesture" with maybe someone picking up the tab at Chipotle or maybe giving me a ride instead of having to take an Uber somewhere. For Donald Trump, a nice gesture is a \$400 million palace in the sky that he gets to keep or make use of when he is no longer President.

Never mind that the gift violates the Constitution's prohibition on a President receiving gifts or emoluments. Never mind that it violates the Constitution that seems to be of little concern to the President.

But the fact is, the Qataris are not stupid. They are going to want something for that \$400 million plane. There is no such thing as a free lunch. There is no such thing as a free \$400 million plane. And that is something that the Qataris are going to want is favorable U.S. policies towards Qatar in the Middle East. They didn't want something for that plane. Maybe they would have given it to you or somebody else not named Trump. This is, in fact, why we have a clause in the Constitution that prohibits gifts like this, because we want to know that the President of the United States is acting on our behalf, on our country's behalf, on our national security behalf, our interests, not some foreign interest that gave them a \$400 million gift. And if you really believe that Trump won't return the favor when the time comes—when the Qataris want something that may or may not be in our national interest—if you really believe that Trump won't return the favor when that time comes, then I have got a 747 palace in the sky that I would like to sell you.

But that is not even the most corrupt deal of the 114-day-old Trump Presidency because, coming in at No. 1 of the top 10 best deals for Donald Trump and the worst deals for you, the taxpayer, is Donald Trump's crypto scheme.

You have heard about the meme coin by now. This is, I think, the logo of the meme coin—the President's most brazen cashing in, a corrupt effort that has already made him and his family billions of dollars between its soaring values and the trading fees. Now, this meme coin has gone up and down in value, but the thing is, every time it gets traded—every time it is bought or sold—this guy gets a cut. He gets the fees that are estimated already in the value of hundreds of millions of dollars. It is like posting his Venmo ac-

count online: inviting personal monetary tributes from foreign powers, foreign investors, or anyone else who is willing to pay up.

You have heard about the private dinner that they are offering associated with this meme coin. The top 220 meme coin owners—many of whom are foreign investors—are invited to a private dinner with the President of the United States. Businesses are buying and jockeying to be one of the favored few who will also get a private audience with him if they are willing to buy millions of meme coins, not to mention receiving a personal tour of the White House.

But beyond the meme coins and the dinner parties, there is something else also brewing behind the scenes. As I speak, Eric Trump and Don, Jr., are getting into the action—jetting around the world and building their own financial empire in the crypto business space. In Dubai, the Trump family's World Liberty Financial firm announced a joint venture capital firm, backed by the government of Abu Dhabi, that would invest \$2 billion using Trump digital currency.

Now, I know it is hard to keep all of these billions apart. You have got the \$2 billion investment in Jared Kushner by the Saudis. You have got a \$5.5 billion investment by other Gulf nations in Trump properties. When you have got \$2 billion here, \$5.5 billion there, and another \$2 billion here, pretty soon, you are talking about serious money for the Trump family. This deal alone will generate hundreds of millions of dollars of revenue and fees for the Trump family.

So that is "the art of the deal" with this President. Trump gets rich. You get screwed over and over and over again.

It is obvious to anyone who looks, but it bears repeating: He does not care about you. He does not care about making your life better. He does not care that prices are soaring or that homeownership seems impossible. He doesn't care if you have to choose between rent or groceries, let alone whether you will be able to take that family on a vacation that you have dreamed of. He doesn't care if the healthcare you rely on gets cut or your local Social Security office closes down. He doesn't care. If it helps pay for his billionaire tax cuts, it is all the same to him. He does not care.

Trump cares about one thing and one thing only. It is the same thing he cared about when he wrote this book, and it is the same thing he has focused on every day of his Presidency: deals to make himself richer, to make his family richer, to make his billionaire friends richer. And, my colleagues, he is succeeding. He is succeeding beyond his wildest imagination. He will likely make more money in the next 4 years than he did in his entire life up to that point. In fact, he probably already has with new, gold-plated skyscrapers around the world and a suite of new

golf courses to match a fancy, new plane; a speedy, new Tesla with the richest man in the world in the passenger's seat; a crypto empire; and projects around the world that will keep the gravy train going for generations.

No matter what wreckage he leaves behind here, he knows that he can head off to one of those gold-plated skyscrapers, look down on the rest of us, and chuckle at his good fortune: "the art of the deal," indeed—for Donald Trump, not for you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The Senator from Oklahoma.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I flew back to Washington, DC, from the glorious State of Oklahoma on Monday. It was a normal flight for me to be able to fly in on a Monday morning.

As I landed at DCA airport and squeezed out of my coach seat, where I had been for the last 4 hours, and walked off the plane and into the terminal, there was a line of police officers on both sides of the gate. They were honor guards from all over the country. As I walked off the plane, I realized there was a family member of the fallen on my same plane, and I didn't know it.

Many Americans may not know that this is Police Week. It is a week when the Nation stops to be able to pause to thank all those police officers who served around the country and who literally put their lives on the line every single week for our country—every week.

My colleague ASHLEY MOODY is helping to cohost this time as we have a conversation about Police Week and what it means to be in law enforcement in America now. She is not only a great Senator from Florida, but she is also the wife of the deputy police chief of the Plant City Police Department in Florida. She knows what it means to be able to hug a loved one, look them in the eye, and say: Stay safe out there. She knows exactly what that means.

As I stepped off the plane on Monday and walked through the middle of that honor guard, as they were looking for a family member to step off somewhere on that plane, what they were looking for this week was the family of a fallen police officer to step off that same plane, whom they were going to escort into Washington, DC, because, this week, their loved one's name is being added to the list of law enforcement who have died in the line of duty.

It is a painful reminder of the reality of what it means to be in law enforcement. You get up every day, and you take care of your neighbors. Some days, you are pulling over a reckless driver and trying to be able to protect the rest of the community from someone who has had too much alcohol, smoked too much marijuana. By the way, I think any is too much, but that is a different conversation for a dif-

ferent day. For that person, they are going to try to protect the rest of society from their dangerous acts.

It is that moment when we are in traffic, we are driving down the road, and a car whips around us at 90 miles an hour. We are used to traffic, and we think: I wish there was a police officer here to take care of that.

They are out there. Some of them are going to get up this morning very early and do a warrant service on someone who has violated the law, whom they are going to be able to actually get to their house maybe at 3 in the morning and to try to be able to arrest them before there is an incident.

There are some of them who, actually, when there is a shot being fired in an apartment complex somewhere, and as everybody else scatters, they turn on their lights and drive toward the sound.

They are law enforcement. That is what they do. They get up every day, and they put on a vest to be able to protect the center of their body because they know, at any point during the course of the day, they could be facing danger coming right at them. They serve their community.

It is always interesting to me when I often ask people their thoughts and beliefs about law enforcement. I say: The real test of what you think about police is when you are driving down the highway, you look in your rearview mirror, and you see an officer right behind you. That is always the test of what you actually think about police. It is that first emotion. Is that first emotion, "Oh, no"? Or is that first emotion, "I feel safer; there is a police officer right behind me"?

You see, those law enforcement officers literally spend every day protecting total strangers who live in their community. They work very long hours, a lot of times in isolation. They go into dangerous places—often, first by themselves—because they care about their community.

In the past decade, there seems to have been a shift in attitudes about law enforcement. For some reason, it has become trendy to be able to attack law enforcement, to belittle them, to demand we defund police departments entirely, to be able to criticize them for every sort of thing.

I will tell you, every police officer I talk to will say: Hey, we are all humans too. We make mistakes, as well, just like everyone else.

But for some reason, law enforcement doesn't seem to get the same grace everybody else gets.

When somebody gets pulled over and gets a warning, they are grateful for the grace. But when the news hits of a police officer doing something, it seems the community doesn't want to give them a warning. It wants them to always get consequences.

What I hear from most law enforcement whom I know is: Hey, we are just one of everybody else, but the difference is we have dedicated our lives

to protecting people who will cuss us out and will literally lie to us all day long. But we are still committed to protect them.

That is what they do. They literally get into a dangerous situation, as has happened recently in Oklahoma. There could have been shots coming at them or an attack coming at them, but, instead, that person turned the weapon on themselves. And law enforcement immediately moved from trying to protect the community and protecting themselves to jumping in immediately and trying to save the life of the person who just started attacking them.

How many people would do that? Law enforcement does it every day—every day.

There is an old adage in tax policy: If you tax something more, you get less of it. Raise the taxes on it enough, and people just stop buying it.

You know, it works exactly the same with criticism. If you criticize something more and more and more, you get less and less and less of it.

I remember a day, when I was growing up, that everybody wanted to be a police officer because everyone had respect for police officers. Now there is a generation growing up that all they have heard is criticism of law enforcement. And do you know what? It is hurting recruiting.

Why don't we look people in the eye and see them for who they are? They are folks who get up every day, defend their neighbors, do what they can to bring calm to a crazy, chaotic situation, and serve total strangers.

I have had the benefit of my dad being a smalltown cop for decades. I know what it is like to be in a family and to be able to think about: How is your family member doing today?

So when I talk about law enforcement, maybe, it is a little different for me. But I think it should be a little different for our whole community, actually, and I think it should be different for our Nation.

So on this Police Week, I have two things to say: Thank you to those who are serving all over the country right now, some right here in this Capitol. Thank you to those folks who are serving our Nation today. We are exceptionally grateful for you.

And for those of you who, this year, have lost a loved one in the line of duty, I want you to know that our Nation is grateful. We see their sacrifice, and we are of the tribe to be able to say: We want this to be different.

In 2020, Sergeant Johnson—Craig Johnson—I am going to say his whole name. Sergeant Craig Johnson in 2020 was shot during a traffic stop in Tulsa. He was 45 years old. He had a wife, Kristi, and two sons, Connor and Clinton.

When Sergeant Johnson's killer was sentenced in 2022, his wife Kristi just had one clear thing to say. She said:

My request at this time is that the silent majority that I have seen and heard from starts speaking up and changing the anti-police culture being created.