

Republicans will make our cities sanctuaries of safety, not sanctuary cities, not dens of crime and chaos, which is what Democrats have welcomed.

Republicans are also rebuilding our military might. Our bold legislation will make our military the strongest fighting force in the world. Our military will be lethal, intimidating, and ready to fight. We are also investing in the Golden Dome for America. This revolutionary missile shield is vital for our Nation's security. It is going to stop deadly threats from adversaries who want to threaten the American people and our Nation as a whole. That is deterrence. That is restoring peace through strength.

This is the bold Republican agenda that we are fighting for: cutting taxes on tips and overtime and Social Security, stopping the largest tax increase in history, strengthening and preserving Medicaid, ending taxpayer-funded benefits for illegal immigrants, securing our borders, creating safer communities, providing for a strong national defense, and once again making America energy dominant.

Democrats oppose all of these improvements to our Nation. Why are Democrats for open borders? I wish they would come down and explain it. Why are Democrats for a \$4 trillion tax increase? I am waiting for them to speak up. Why are Democrats for taxpayer-funded healthcare for 1.4 million illegal immigrants? I will tell you why. It is because they are absolutely out of touch with the American people.

Americans voted to get the country back on track. Senate Republicans are getting it done, and we are building a future of safety and prosperity for all Americans.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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 Democratic leader is recognized.

ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on anti-Semitism, the attack in Colorado, the shooting in Washington, and the arson in Pennsylvania have one thing in common: The assailants have cited anti-Israel sentiment as justification for their violence. They have, in other words, used the actions of the Israeli Government they don't like to justify violence against Jewish Americans here at home. This is unfortunately a growing trend since October 7.

As the highest ranking Jewish elected official in American history, I have watched with growing alarm as a poisonous ideology—ancient in its roots but modern in its mutations—has spread across our country. We are wit-

nessing in real time the resurgence of collective blame against the Jewish people. If we do not confront it clearly, unequivocally, and together, we risk opening the door to even darker days.

I have said that it is legitimate and not anti-Semitic to peacefully protest and criticize the actions of any government, including the Israeli Government, but there is a profound and dangerous difference between criticizing a government and condemning an entire people. The idea that Jews everywhere bear responsibility for the policies of the Israeli Government is not only false, it plays on one of the oldest forms of anti-Semitism out there: blaming the Jews collectively for the world's problems.

Whether it is blaming the Jews for the death of Christ, blaming Jews for bringing in immigrants as part of the conspiracy theory of great replacement, or blaming the Jews for actions of the Israeli Government that one may not like, it is all the same: a pretext for hate.

I have long warned that if we aren't careful, what starts as legitimate critiques against the Israeli Government can easily slip into something far more sinister. If disagreements are allowed to morph into intolerance, if intolerance is permitted to spread and linger, if bigoted voices are allowed to take over legitimate debates, history shows that the threat of violence is never too far away. I fear history is beginning to whisper its warnings once again.

Our Nation has been strongest when it has stood against bigotry in all forms. Let us summon that strength again. The way forward is very clear: All Americans of good will must stand together to condemn anti-Semitism and all forms of intolerance, no matter where it rears its ugly head. Let us remember what America is all about and who we are.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. President, on healthcare, Donald Trump and his so-called Big Beautiful Bill is ugly to its very core. Behind the smoke and mirrors lies a cruel and draconian truth: tax breaks for the ultrawealthy, paid for by gutting healthcare for millions of Americans.

Over the past few days, Donald Trump has tried to sell this bill to Republican Senators with a new lie. He has been telling Republican Senators and the American people that no one will lose coverage; that no benefits will be slashed; that the bill won't harm recipients. Let's call it what it is: a lie. People will lose coverage. Millions will. Donald Trump is lying to the American people when he says no one will lose coverage under this ugly bill. There is no way for Republicans to seek the cuts they want without removing millions of people off their healthcare in one way or another.

I warn my Republican colleagues: Do not buy Donald Trump's snake oil sales pitch.

Republicans want to cut out waste, fraud, and abuse. Good. We will help

them do it. This bill certainly isn't that.

Make no mistake, this Big Beautiful Bill is, in reality, repeal and replace by another name. This is a healthcare bill to its core.

To cut through their lies, let's talk facts. Fact: 20 million Americans will see their healthcare costs go up. Fact: 14 million Americans, including children and seniors, will lose their coverage entirely. Fact: Adult Medicaid recipients—the vast majority, the overwhelming majority—already work. Many of them will be thrown off coverage anyway. Fact: This bill has millions losing healthcare.

If Donald Trump wants to talk fraud, if Republicans want to talk fraud, fine. The fraud we actually see in Medicaid isn't coming from families making ends meet; it is coming from the top—from large providers, unscrupulous bigwigs. The reality is that most fraud in Medicaid happens not with individual enrollees but at the level of healthcare providers—not all of them, not most of them, but a handful who do fraud. It is more than a handful, but it is not all of them at all.

But Donald Trump is doing nothing to hold them accountable. Just the opposite. The other day, he pardoned a nursing home executive who skimmed \$10 million from the paychecks of nurses, doctors, and other employees. Hear that, folks? Donald Trump, who says he wants to reduce fraud, just pardoned a nursing home executive who skimmed \$10 million from the paychecks of his employees.

The reality is simple: There is not enough fraud in Medicaid and ACA to make Republicans' math work. They know it. Republicans may not want to admit it publicly, but they know that, under their current proposal, millions of Americans, including millions who are employed, who have families will lose their healthcare coverage.

Republicans want to shorten the enrollment period. They want to bury families in redtape. They want to drown States in new administrative hurdles. The Republicans' strategy, in large part, is to make it so difficult for people to sign up for healthcare and so easy to fall through the cracks that tens of millions of Americans will simply lose coverage, and it would be by design. Just ask Vought. Just look at 2025. Senate Republicans can make jokes all they want that we are going to die anyway, but for many working-class Americans, healthcare is the difference between life and death.

Let me be clear: Democrats are ready. When Republicans finally release the full text of their so-called Big Beautiful Bill, the American people will see the truth. They will see how ugly it is, and we will fight it with facts, with urgency, and with the voices of millions of Americans who deserve better than this cruel, cynical attack on their healthcare and on their dignity.

CLEAN ENERGY

Mr. President, on clean energy, Donald Trump's so-called Big Beautiful Bill should really be called one big, ugly energy killer. With this monstrosity of a bill, Donald Trump and Republicans seem ready to kill clean energy in its tracks and raise people's energy costs in the process. The only people celebrating the Republican bill's energy policies are the fossil fuel industry because it will be the fossil fuel industry whose pockets are lined. The fossil fuel industry simply has blind hatred of clean energy. Do you know why? They know it is the future. They know it is cheaper. They know it is where we are going, that America needs clean energy in order to meet our demands moving forward.

We all know America has a huge and growing demand for new energy. We are going to need 10 times as much electricity to continue powering breakthroughs in artificial intelligence, which isn't going away anytime soon; but with their bill, Republicans want to cut off one of the major ways—the newest, cheapest, and fastest growing way—to produce new energy because they want to tax new, clean electricity, stifling the supply of new energy and putting us at risk of falling behind in AI to countries like China.

And what would the Republicans' plan mean for an average American family or a small business? Simple: higher energy costs.

To the American people, I say: If this bill passes, your electricity costs are going up.

Look at the facts: The Republican plan will increase average national electricity prices by about 10 percent. The Republican plan will increase total household energy costs by \$32 billion. That means American families will pay \$32 billion more—all to please the ideological blindness of the fossil fuel industry. And that is not to mention that the Republican plan would cost America about 800,000 jobs by 2030, all across America in red States and in blue States. What a terrible price to pay just to lower taxes for the ultrarich, just to line the pockets of the fossil fuel industry, to satisfy the ideological hatred that the fossil fuel industry has for clean energy, and to lose out on American energy dominance.

IRAN

Mr. President, on Iran, yesterday, I called out President Trump for, on the one hand, telling the public his goal is to fully dismantle Iran's nuclear facilities but then, on the other hand, secretly negotiating a side deal that will allow the Iranian regime to keep enriching.

Well, it looks like we got his attention, because he followed up by denying this report in an all caps tweet storm. The old saying is trust but verify. In this case, Congress must verify. The administration must clarify what they might be hiding from the American people in this secret side deal. Steve Witkoff and those negotiating this deal

should testify before Congress and answer a simple question: Is there a secret side deal that will allow the Iranian regime to continue enriching uranium and that empowers the regime's nefarious activity or not? Any deal between the United States and Iran must be one Congress can fully and transparently evaluate.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

GENIUS ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last month, the Senate voted to proceed to the GENIUS Act, a bill that would regulate the type of cryptocurrency called stablecoins. Stablecoins are supposed to tie the value of crypto to the value of a dollar, but in 2023 alone, stablecoins differed from the value of the dollar more than 600 times.

Not only are stablecoins and cryptocurrencies volatile but the industry has a reputation for scams and fraud. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, the FBI, recently reported that last year, 2024, crypto-related crime was up 66 percent, and Americans lost—now get this—\$9.3 billion to crypto's scammers. Nearly 150,000 complaints were filed following crypto fraud, including more than 6,000 in my home State of Illinois.

How does it work?

Your mom's at home, and in comes a phone call, and the person on the phone call says: Mrs. D, I work for "so-and-so"—usually a government Agency—and I am calling you to alert you that you missed your jury duty this month. You were supposed to show up to the courthouse to serve on a jury, and you didn't show up.

Of course, your mom knows nothing about that, and says: I didn't see that I was supposed to be there.

Yes. The legal notice was sent to you, and now a fine is going to be imposed on you for your failure to show up for jury duty.

Oh, my. How much?

Five thousand dollars. You can pay that fine, and you don't have to go to trial.

Well, how am I going to pay that fine?

You are going to go to the local grocery store—at the exit—to an ATM, a crypto ATM machine.

How many of those do we have in the United States? We have 30,000 crypto ATM machines. You may not have noticed them in the store, but as you are checking out many times, there they sit. And what is your mom supposed to do when she goes to this grocery store, to the crypto ATM machine? She is supposed to deposit \$5,000—and sometimes much, much more—into this ma-

chine so that she is buying a stablecoin, but she doesn't get the stablecoin. She directs it to the wallet of the scammer. So she is out \$5,000 or more, thinking that she is paying a fine to avoid a trial and because she didn't show up for jury duty she didn't know anything about.

Does that sound preposterous? It is not. It happens over and over and over again. These crypto ATM machines are the vehicles that are used for defrauding people—primarily, senior citizens—to put in thousands and thousands of dollars, and you never get any pennies back because it is all phony; it is all a scam. More than a third of all filed complaints involving crypto fraud were filed by Americans over the age of 50. Many of these scams were facilitated using these crypto ATM machines.

You may be wondering what a crypto ATM is. You pass by them at the store, your place of business, and you may not have noticed them, but they are there. They are located at a local grocery store or a gas station and look like a normal ATM machine except they allow customers to deposit cash to purchase cryptocurrency, including stablecoins. They can ruin someone's life in an instant. Many times you don't hear about it because your mother, having been scammed over the phone and deposited thousands of dollars of her life savings, is too embarrassed to tell you.

In fact, seven of the largest crypto ATM operators sell these stablecoins. These crypto ATMs become a favorite tool of scammers because, once a victim purchases crypto and transfers it to the criminal's digital wallet, it can be virtually impossible to trace or to retrieve. These scammers follow the same playbook. They call up an unsuspecting victim, pretending to be from the victim's bank, tech support, or some government Agency. They impersonate government officials.

Just fair warning—and I say this because we receive a lot of calls in the office about scammers on the phone—major Agencies of the Federal Government are never going to call you on the phone—the IRS, Social Security, and such. They send written notices, and they should. So, if it is a fast-talking person on the telephone who says they are from a Federal Agency, be careful.

They may tell the victim they owe money for skipping jury duty or need to pay bail to get their child or grandchild out of jail. It happened in my family—exactly that scenario. Or they may tell the victim there is fraudulent activity on their bank account or computer. It happened to me one night. My cell phone starts ringing. I answer it, and this fellow says he is from my credit union. He wanted to question a transaction, and I am thinking: I have never had my credit union call me ever. What is that all about? Well, after a while, I was dubious, and he hung up on me. The victim, however, often doesn't realize fraudulent activity is even occurring. Meanwhile, they