

demand. As the Washington Post noted last March, “vast swaths of the United States are at risk of running short of power as electricity-hungry data centers and clean-technology factories proliferate around the country, leaving utilities and regulators grasping for credible plans to expand the nation’s creaking power grid.”

Meanwhile, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation warned of “mounting resource adequacy challenges” in the next decade.

That is a pretty serious situation, but, fortunately, we can do something about it. We have an abundance of natural resources, from the Gulf of America to the North Slope of Alaska.

The Biden administration seemed to view those resources as a liability, but Republicans recognize these resources as the assets that they are, and our reconciliation bill will help unleash these resources to promote a stable, secure, and affordable energy supply.

It will open up leases on America’s lands and waters for responsible conventional energy development. It will expand production opportunities for essential energy resources that the Biden administration tried to put on the sidelines.

As I indicated earlier, leveraging our natural resources through the reconciliation bill is just one part of the Republicans’ energy agenda. For the last several months, we have been hard at work eliminating burdensome regulations that threatened to stifle energy development in our country.

We blocked implementation of the Biden natural gas tax, which would have driven up energy prices and destroyed jobs in the energy sector. And we intend to do away with this misguided tax in the reconciliation bill that we will be considering soon.

We have also repealed Biden-era energy regulations for household appliances and business equipment—regulations that would have driven up costs and reduced choice, with little environmental benefit.

And the House and Senate moved to prevent California from imposing a de facto electric vehicle mandate on the whole country.

The Biden administration sought to tie up American energy, but under the Trump administration and a Republican Congress, that era is over. Instead of a Green New Deal, we are giving a green light to energy producers. We are allowing Americans to benefit from our country’s resources, and we are working to ensure a secure, reliable, and affordable energy supply for the long term.

Mr. President, our reconciliation bill will help put us on the path to that secure energy future. I look forward to taking it up later this month.

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.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, over the past few days, Donald Trump has bent over backwards to try to sell his so-called Big Beautiful Bill with a new lie. He said no one will lose healthcare coverage. He says no benefits will be slashed. He says the bill won’t harm a single recipient. He is lying. This is all total nonsense, and Senate Republicans need to reject Donald Trump’s snake oil sales pitch.

I implore my Senate colleagues, tread carefully with your Big Beautiful Bill. If you pass this bill, it won’t be Donald Trump’s soothing words that will be enacted in your States but, rather, deep and devastating harm to your constituents. And your constituents, Senate Republicans, will hold you responsible for going along with Donald Trump’s ruse.

If you go down this road, he will take away coverage from kids, from seniors, from parents, from moms. You will put doctors and nurses out of work. You will put rural hospitals in particular jeopardy since they depend on Medicaid, Medicare, and government help to stay going. They are often the biggest employer in your rural counties, Senate Republicans. They are often the only source of healthcare.

When Americans see this is all to make the ultrarich even richer, they will know that it was this nasty bill that made it happen.

Donald Trump’s Big Beautiful Bill is repeal and replace by another name. Here are the facts:

Under the bill, over 14 million would lose healthcare coverage. As bad as this bill is, we just got news that it will get even worse. CBO today will announce that it is not 14 million people kicked off but more—estimates as high as 15 million.

The Republican bill will kick even more people off healthcare than we originally thought—not only by attacking Medicaid but by destabilizing the ACA, private insurance, and now even Medicare—even Medicare.

So this bad bill is getting worse. The estimates of how many people will lose their healthcare coverage goes up and up and up each time we read the fine print. The closer and closer people look at the bill, the worse and worse it gets.

Tens of millions of Americans who otherwise qualify for healthcare would be mummified in new redtape, shortened enrollment periods, higher premiums, and weaker coverage. People would fall through the cracks and get phased out of coverage altogether in the coming years. It is death by a thousand paper cuts, and that is no accident; that is the intention of the Republican bill.

And let’s talk about fraud. Donald Trump says, well, it is just knocking

out fraud. Democrats would love to work with Republicans to eliminate fraud and waste in healthcare, but the bill Republicans have right now does not accomplish that. It is aimed at real people—real people who need healthcare, taking that away. This Big Beautiful Bill uses the fraud boogeyman as an excuse to kick people out of healthcare who would otherwise qualify, including people with jobs, including people with kids.

The only fraud happening right now is the fraudulent sales pitch coming from Donald Trump and his statement that he won’t boot anyone from coverage. That is the fraud here. The fraud is the lies Donald Trump is telling Republicans about this bill, that people won’t lose coverage. That is a lie. That is the fraud. Republicans should know that and reject this awful Big Beautiful Bill before it is too late.

CLEAN ENERGY

Mr. President, on clean energy, one of Donald Trump’s core promises on the campaign trail was that he would lower energy costs, he said, by 50 percent, but the opposite is happening. Energy costs are soaring across the country. People are paying more on their monthly electricity bills. Small businesses are struggling just to keep the lights on. And Donald Trump and the Republicans’ “Big, Ugly, Energy-Killing Bill” is about to make energy costs go even higher.

Under the Republicans’ bill, the average national electricity price will go up about 10 percent. American families will pay \$32 billion more in household energy costs. Clean energy projects that would lower costs would face massive new taxes, and that is not to mention the hundreds of thousands of jobs—hundreds of thousands—it is estimated that as many as 800,000 would be lost, and they would occur especially in red States.

Republicans, did you hear that? You are throwing hundreds of thousands of people working in your States in good-paying jobs out of work, all to embrace the ideology of the extremists in the fossil fuel community.

The bottom line is simple: The oil and gas magnates, the fossil fuel community hates clean energy because they know it is the future, because they know it is cheaper, and they know it is the quickest way to get more energy.

Are Republicans so truly beholden to the fossil fuel industry, which harbors blind hatred of clean energy because they know it is the future? Are they so beholden?

If we need more energy for AI and everything else, why are we cutting off one of the main ways we can get new energy in terms of wind and solar, hydro, and things like that?

Are Republicans really willing to send energy costs for families skyrocketing just to satisfy the ideological hatred the fossil fuel industry has for clean energy? The fossil fuel industry knows its days are numbered and

wants to cut off an alternative, and that is going to make prices go up and let China become the leader in clean energy, which our children and grandchildren will pay a dear price for.

So Senate Democrats are going to fight this bill with everything we have got so families don't have to foot the bill for Donald Trump's disastrous energy policies.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, and on judges, today Senate Republicans are holding their first hearing on judicial nominees under Donald Trump's second term. The last time Donald Trump was in the White House and Republicans held the Senate majority, this Chamber mutated into a conveyor belt for hard-right judges who sided with special interests and not the American people. Most were radically out of step with mainstream America; others were barely out of law school; and many were handpicked from the ranks of the Federalist Society not for their fairness but their ideological fealty to a hard-right philosophy that hurts average Americans every day.

When it comes to judges, Donald Trump cares about one thing only: Will they bow before the King? Will they break precedent and overturn rule of law just to appease Donald Trump? That is what he wants.

Senate Republicans must reject nominees like this. But, unfortunately, Senate Republicans are off to a dismal start. Among the five nominees testifying today is Joshua Divine of Missouri. Divine is a political operative with no judicial experience who has made a career of attacking everything from voting rights, to commonsense gun safety, to defending government overreach into people's private lives. He hasn't been out of law school for 10 years and spent less than half of that time practicing as an attorney.

Senators were not sent here to rubberstamp Donald Trump loyalists and put Donald Trump loyalists in black robes. Our duty, our sacred duty, is to the Constitution and to provide advice and consent, not blind obedience. You would think this would be obvious, but Republicans spent their last majority packing our courts with people who had no business being judges. At least 10 nominees were rated "not qualified" by the American Bar Association, an unprecedented number. One nominee had never even tried a case.

Of course, none of this—none of this—matters to Donald Trump. He is not in the business of creating an independent judiciary. He is not in the business of following what the Founding Fathers constructed as the third branch of government. He is cooking up a loyalist bench who will do what he wants instead of what the law says.

Recent reports detail how Donald Trump has been fuming lately over judges who haven't been, in his eyes, loyal enough to him. This kind of thinking should frighten anyone who cares about judicial independence.

Confirming judges is one of the most consequential things the Senate ever does. It shapes the future of our democracy. Getting it wrong has disastrous consequences. When hard-right judges take over, *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, voting rights are gutted, and now the Supreme Court has gone so far as to declare Donald Trump immune from prosecution, as if he wears a crown and sits as a King above the law.

This is not democracy. This is not balance. This is not justice.

So as Republicans begin marching more nominees through the Chamber, they face the choice: They can be the stewards of the Constitution and protect our democracy, or they can be foot soldiers in Trump's crusade to remake the judiciary into his MAGA loyalist bench.

They must reject MAGA loyalists dressed up as jurists, because once the robes go on, the damage lasts for generations.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today having just listened to the minority leader in the Senate talk about his view of the world and the economy and what the American people are seeing. Well, it is a misguided view, misunderstood, because he is clearly not seeing what so many Americans are seeing today in their lives.

So I rise to share some outstanding economic news with the Nation because people back home are seeing that America is getting back on track.

Americans want, need, and voted for affordable prices. Today, inflation is at a 4-year low. Inflation has fallen every month since President Trump and Republicans took office.

Americans want, need, and voted for higher wages. Income has risen nearly every month—actually, every month—since President Trump and Republicans took office.

Americans want, need, and voted for affordable groceries. Egg prices have dropped 61 percent under Republican leadership.

Today, Americans are feeling upbeat about the economy. Last month brought the largest boost in consumer confidence in 4 years. Americans are confident about their future. A majority of Americans now say the country is finally heading in the right direction. This is after 4 years of high prices.

CNN's own poll this weekend—this is CNN—they found that Republicans have a better economic plan than the Democrats. Not by 1 point—no, no, CNN didn't say by 1 point or by 2 points, but by 12 points—double digits. In the CNN poll, Republicans have a better economic plan than the Democrats. When it comes to the economy, Americans trust Republicans over Democrats. CNN on-air reporters appeared shocked and stunned—the video is astonishing.

Look, Americans trust us because they are seeing real results. They are seeing Senate Republicans here fighting for them. Republicans have used the Congressional Review Act to reverse 18 punishing regulations and rules out of the previous administration. The most recent was when we ended California's leftwing electric vehicle mandate. You remember that? That is the one that said you had to buy an electric car. They were going to ban gas-powered cars by the year 2035. We got rid of that, and the American people are grateful.

Now we are working on a comprehensive economic plan to deliver safety and prosperity for all Americans. Here are the facts: Republicans are committed to stopping a \$4 trillion Democrat tax increase. It would be the biggest tax increase in American history. We cannot let it happen, in spite of the fact that the Democrats want it to happen. We also cut taxes on tips and overtime. Hard-working Americans will keep more of the hard-earned money and put it in their pockets, not in the government till. Seniors will be able to keep more of their social security. They have earned it.

Republicans will also strengthen Medicaid for Americans who need it. Medicaid is a vital service. But let's talk about those who need it, because it is a trillion-dollar program, and what we see is that billions of dollars are being lost year after year to not just waste, fraud, abuse, but also to corruption. And that is taking the resources away from the people who need it.

Remember, it is the Democrats who put millions upon millions of healthy, working-age adults onto Medicaid. Many of them absolutely refuse to work. Democrats want them to stay on Medicaid forever; Republicans want them to find a job.

So the American Enterprise Institute, an organization that everyone in the Senate is familiar with, they came out with a report last week and said how nondisabled Medicaid recipients without children spend their time. So let's take a look at how folks who are working-age individuals who choose not to work who are taking Medicaid benefits—interfering with sometimes other people who need the Medicaid much more than they do. But how is it working? How do they spend their time?

Well, for Medicaid recipients who are not working, they say that, after sleeping, watching television and playing video games is how they spend their time. How much time? An average of 4.2 hours per day watching television and playing video games, rather than looking for work or working or volunteering or in school or education or preparing themselves to work. Apparently, they spend about 22 minutes looking for work. It is quite a disproportionate effort that shows where their priorities are. They are not looking for jobs. They are not looking to