

parts of the energy security and national defense sections of the final Senate bill.

As I said on the floor yesterday, energy is the critical resource. Without a reliable energy supply, our homes, schools, hospitals, businesses, factories—our entire country—will literally grind to a halt. That includes our national security and national defense capabilities as well. A secure, stable, abundant energy supply is essential for our national defense, it is essential for our economy, and it is essential for keeping energy affordable for hard-working Americans.

After 4 years of the Biden administration acting to constrain American energy production, our bill will help unleash American energy. It will suspend the Biden administration's natural gas tax, which threatened to both reduce supply and drive up energy prices for Americans. It will seek to end a key part of the Biden administration's electric vehicle mandate, which threatened to put a dangerous new burden on our already shaky electric grid. And more.

Meanwhile, the defense section of the bill released this week by Chairman WICKER will promote peace through strength by reversing the trend of underinvestment in our military. With China beginning to outpace the United States in key defense capabilities and manufacturing, it is especially critical that we act now to prevent the United States from falling behind on the national security front.

The defense title, while no substitute for robust yearly funding, will be a substantial step forward toward rebuilding our military to ensure that our service-members are equipped to deter or defeat any threat.

Our bill will provide \$29 billion for shipbuilding to build 13 new battle force ships, rapidly grow a fleet of unmanned vessels, and expand our maritime industrial base.

It will provide \$25 billion for the President's Golden Dome to defend the homeland from missiles, drones, and hypersonics, including accelerating capabilities for the Space Force and modernizing existing U.S. missile defense sensors and sites like those we have in Alaska.

Our bill will provide \$23 billion to expand advanced manufacturing capacity, restock critical munitions, and rebuild U.S. supply chains.

It will provide \$16 billion to develop and quickly field low-cost and next-generation weapons to arm our troops—weapons like drones, counter-drone capabilities, cheap munitions, AI capabilities, and a whole lot more, including expanding our Air Force fighter fleet and rebuilding our Pacific infrastructure.

Our Nation will be safer and stronger because of the bill. I am grateful to Chairman WICKER, Chairman CAPITO, and all the Members both on and off of these committees who have invested so much time to produce this energy and defense language.

It is exciting to see so many months of work coming to fruition. I look forward to the release of bill text coming from the Banking Committee and the Commerce Committee in the very near future and consideration of this bill on the floor in the coming weeks.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive 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.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, let me begin this morning with a sobering headline from the New York Times. Times headline: "Millions Would Lose Their Obamacare Coverage Under Trump's Bill." That is exactly what Democrats have been warning about for weeks.

What Republicans call their Big Beautiful Bill is really repeal and replace by another name. It is really repeal and replace by another name. It is a big beautiful betrayal, not a big beautiful bill.

Yesterday, we learned that the devastation potentially has only worsened. The nonpartisan CBO has now grown the number of impacted Americans to 16 million. Sixteen million will lose their Medicaid and ACA coverage.

So the more you look at this bill, things keep getting worse, because CBO now says that not 13.7 million would lose coverage but 16 million. The number of impacted people grows the more you look at this bill.

Things keep getting even worse. We learned yesterday the news that Republicans may want to even go after Medicare. Medicare is on the chopping block. That is right—at yesterday's lunch, Republicans raised the possibility of Medicare cuts to pay for their billionaire tax cuts.

The junior Senator from North Dakota reportedly said:

Why don't we go after that? I think we should.

For Republicans to even suggest Medicare be cut to bankroll billionaire tax breaks is frightening and revolting.

There is more. The junior Senator from Louisiana said:

I'm not worried about people losing their healthcare.

Do you know what happens when people lose their healthcare, when they can't afford it? People die. But what do Republicans have to say about that? Well, the junior Senator from Iowa said this:

Well, we're all going to die.

That quote tells you everything you need to know about this plan—callous, clueless, careless. That is right—this plan is callous, clueless, and careless. But that is the Republican Party for

you these days. They don't get it or, more likely, they don't care—just so long as billionaires can pay less in taxes.

Republicans should forget calling this gargoyle of a bill their Big Beautiful Bill. They might as well call it the We're all Going to Die Act after what the Senator from Iowa said. At least that name is more honest, the We're All Going to Die Act.

Donald Trump may claim this bill won't cut anyone from coverage, but he is lying. Sixteen million people will lose coverage, and 11 million people will lose affordable food. Costs will spike, hospitals will close, and people will die. And why? For a tax break for billionaires.

Now, let me finish with this on a separate note. In order to make the ultrarich even richer, their bill, according to CBO, would add over \$2.4 trillion to the debt. Even Elon Musk calls this thing an "abomination"—his word.

As the saying goes, a broken clock is right twice a day. The Republicans pride themselves as the supposed party of fiscal responsibility, but this bill they have belongs on the Mount Rushmore of fiscally irresponsible bills.

So I close with a warning to Republicans in the Senate: If you proceed with this "Big Ugly Bill," this big betrayal of the American people, it won't be Donald Trump's soothing words that will be enacted in your States but, rather, deep and devastating cuts, millions of job losses. You will rip healthcare from millions, you will explode the debt, and you will shower billionaires with tax breaks. That is what you will be doing no matter what Donald Trump tells you on the telephone, I say to our Republican Senate colleagues. Tread carefully. Tread carefully.

JUDICIAL POWER

We all know that Donald Trump sees himself as a King more than he does a President. He said it himself. Well, the Republicans' so-called Big Beautiful Bill will effectively place a crown on Donald Trump's head.

Buried deep in the Republicans' bill is a nasty provision that would restrict the power of judges to hold government officials in contempt for violating court orders. The goal of this provision is very obvious: Republicans want to codify Donald Trump's attacks on our judiciary into law.

When Senate Republicans include this lawless provision in their bill, Democrats will use every procedural hurdle in existence to kill it, including the Byrd bath process, because this type of draconian provision is a better fit for a dictatorship than for a democracy.

Republicans want to defang the power of the courts. They want to make it easier, in effect, for the Trump administration to defy court rulings. If judges can't hold intransigent public officials in contempt, the judges' rulings are basically meaningless. Why

bother having courts if you are just going to ignore them?

This is a naked attack on the separation of powers, a very serious and damaging one if it ever would be enacted. If Republicans think they can pull a fast one on our courts by slipping this devious provision into their bill, they are dead wrong. Democrats will fight with every tool we have to stop this provision from ever—ever—becoming law.

UKRAINE

Mr. President, and finally on Mr. Putin, yesterday, Donald Trump posted online that Vladimir Putin “very strongly” said “he will have to respond” to the recent attacks on Russian airfields by Ukraine.

Here is what President Trump should have said to Vladimir Putin. He should have said: Vladimir Putin, end this war now. Stop killing Ukrainian civilians. Stop your illegal invasion.

But, instead, Donald Trump is busy announcing Putin’s military plans like a press secretary. Why is he acting like a bystander? He is the President of the United States. Donald Trump should show some backbone. Here is what the President needs to do: His administration has the power to help Ukraine defend itself with air defense systems, specifically, ammunition for its Patriot systems that the United States or our European allies can provide.

Ukraine has said these air defense systems are the best tools for protecting civilian life from Russian military strikes. We ought to do all we can to get them these very needed air defense systems ASAP.

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

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

SECOND AMENDMENT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to continue Republicans’ fighting, as we are fighting tooth and nail to protect the rights of American citizens. And one of those rights, of course, is one that you and I know very well from our home States, the right to keep and bear arms.

The Second Amendment guarantees that every American—every American—has the right to own and use a firearm, and every day people across your State of Oklahoma, my State of Wyoming, use that right responsibly.

We also know that, for the last 4 years, Joe Biden, CHUCK SCHUMER, and the radical Democrats have waged a war against the Second Amendment rights of American citizens. They tried to ban firearms, tried to tax ammunition to the point where it couldn’t be afforded, directed the ATF to harass law-abiding gun owners, tried to make it impossible for citizens to buy, own, transport, or use a firearm.

So now Republicans are in control in the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the White House, and we are defending the Second Amendment from those who would try to take it away from us.

Senator CORNYN of Texas has introduced the Constitutional Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act. This bold legislation allows qualified citizens to exercise their Second Amendment rights in any State that respects concealed carry.

Senator ROGER MARSHALL of Kansas has introduced something called the SHORT Act. This legislation stops rogue bureaucrats—Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms—from harassing lawful gun owners. It shields citizens from unconstitutional gun registration schemes.

Senator BILL HAGERTY of Tennessee has introduced the Protecting Privacy in Purchasing Act. This legislation is a direct strike against Democrats’ alarming overreach on gun purchases. It will safeguard gun owners from the government’s invasive tracking and spying on lawful purchases.

So, look, I am proud to be a cosponsor of all three of these pieces of important pro-freedom legislation. This fight is one of the most important that we are ever going to conduct. It is Democrats across the country that are determined to take away the rights of law-abiding American citizens.

They are pushing their anti-gun agenda in the courts. It is another place this is being fought out. They are scheming right here in the U.S. Senate to come after our Second Amendment rights.

When Democrats held the majority, we know what we saw. They had the audacity to try to ram through an unconstitutional so-called assault weapons ban, and they tried to do it by unanimous consent, coming here onto the floor and just trying to sneak it through. Well, I was proud to stand here in this Chamber, face them down, and emphatically say no to your unanimous consent.

Now Democrats are in the minority. Have they changed in terms of their beliefs in the Second Amendment? No, not at all. They continue to be obsessed with banning semiautomatic firearms simply because of the way the firearms look. That is what they are after. Let me be clear. Democrats’ ban on so-called assault weapons—that is their phrase—is an assault on law-abiding gun owners, an assault against all of us. Every single page of their bill adds a new restriction, a new burden, and a new attack on citizens who follow the law. It dictates what you can buy and what you can’t buy, bans more than 205 popular rifles, shotguns, and pistols, and it bans them by name. That is how extreme they have gotten. They want to trample on the rights of law-abiding citizens.

And it is a fascinating thing because they—instead of tramping on the rights of law-abiding citizens, they are

out there trying to protect illegal immigrants’ rights, saying they have rights. They don’t.

That is the contrast of our party fighting for the rights of citizens, their party fighting for the rights of illegal immigrants.

Democrats are the party of defunding the police, the party of disarming the American people. Their actions have made our streets more dangerous, not safer. We are for safety and prosperity. They seem to be not for either.

So I oppose any of these policies that threaten the Second Amendment rights of the people of Wyoming, the people of your State of Oklahoma, and the people from States all across the country.

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.

RESCISSIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on Tuesday, President Trump sent Congress proposed rescissions. A rescissions bill is a cut to already enacted and funded programs. Looking closely at those cuts that have been proposed by the administration, I would like to speak to them this morning on the floor.

Where has the President suggested we cut a very miniscule percentage of the Federal budget to fund deficit-busting tax cuts for the ultrawealthy? From bipartisan programs—programs that both parties have supported for years: programs that help the poorest in the world survive, even lead a normal life, suffering from HIV and AIDS; that help countries become healthy democracies and trading partners, literally, for the United States; that support peacekeeping efforts to prevent the spread of war and migration; programs that counter Chinese influence and help stem the flow of illicit drugs; radio and TV stations that provide news for America. That is where the President turned to make the cuts that he wants the money for to pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest people in America.

For as long as I have been in Congress, there has always been a strong bipartisan support for foreign assistance programs. You ask the average person in the street, in Illinois or Oklahoma: What percentage of the Federal budget do you believe is spent on foreign aid?

The guesses are usually 10 to 20 percent. It is less than 1 percent.

There was an understanding that modest efforts like those, which cost just over 1 percent of the Federal budget, were the right thing to do by both political parties. You see, by helping stem pandemics and war and helping countries become healthy, free-market democracies, we are actually helping