

last few days, Senate Democrats have made the argument that the House Republican bill does not meet the requirements for privilege, and now Republicans have conceded that that is true. So the bill will have to be changed by House Republicans so it can meet privilege requirements.

This presents those Republicans who say they don't like parts of the bill with an unexpected opportunity. Now they have a chance to stand up and vote for their constituents. Speaker Johnson will try to rush a package of technical changes through the House to fix their mistakes. Every House Republican, though, now has a chance to reassert their leverage and force the bill back to the drawing board until they secure the changes they want. They say they don't like parts of the bill. Now is their opportunity to change it—no more ducking. They have their vote, and House Republicans, who claim loudly that they don't like parts of the bill, should use it to protect their constituents from the awful results of this horrible betrayal bill.

Now, Mr. President, let's talk about the costs of the so-called Big Beautiful Bill and why every American is going to pay a lot more. Trump ran by saying he was going to fight inflation. He is passing a bill that is going to increase American costs.

Last week, Senate Democrats zeroed in on the way Donald Trump's "Big Ugly Bill" will rip away healthcare from tens of millions of Americans, at least 16 million Americans in total—no healthcare.

This week, Senate Democrats will focus on how Donald Trump's bill will kill millions of jobs and send costs spiking for tens of millions of families. If Donald Trump's Big Beautiful Bill passes, Americans will pay thousands more out-of-pocket for everything from healthcare to energy to even their mortgages.

It is not just cutting Medicaid; Republicans are taking a meat cleaver at the ACA too. Under this bill, the average healthcare costs for people on the ACA will go up \$700 a year for over 20 million Americans. For New York families, it is much worse. New York couples covered through the ACA will pay \$2,700 more a year—that is about \$230 a month—\$2,700 extra for New Yorkers just to make life better for the billionaire class. And it is not just Americans who have ACA who will see costs go up. If you have private insurance—if you don't even have Federal insurance or ACA—you could be paying hundreds more a year too.

Just about everyone's healthcare costs are going to go up. People don't like paying that high cost to health insurance, but they are going to pay more because of Donald Trump and what he wants to do to help his billionaire buddies. All the while, while that is happening, hundreds of thousands of healthcare jobs will be lost, with some projections estimating 850,000 jobs will be lost in the healthcare economy while billionaires get more tax breaks.

Here is another fact: We are talking a lot about energy and clean energy and the cheapest way to produce new energy. Well, if the Big Beautiful Bill—so-called—becomes law, the average family's energy costs will go up \$400 in the upcoming years. Starting next year, average electricity prices will go up by 10 percent.

Hear that, America? You don't like it when your utility bill goes up? Well, Donald Trump and his rightwing ideologues are making it go up further because Donald Trump and the oil magnates he hangs around harbor a deranged hatred of clean energy, and they want to raise taxes on clean energy. Clean energy is the cheapest way to produce new energy. Solar is cheaper than any other way, and they are cutting it off, and that is going to raise your price on the cost of your energy bill, ladies and gentlemen, all Americans.

What is more, in addition to raising your energy prices, what they are doing is projected to cost our economy an additional 800,000 jobs. Between healthcare jobs and energy jobs—millions of good-paying jobs to be killed by the bill—some economists I have spoken to say the job losses could push us into a recession.

Even many Republicans know this would be destructive, but they need to speak up and use their leverage. Republicans who claim to fight for jobs and families back home should oppose any proposal that makes energy costs go up.

It is amazing. Here, even Trump and his people say we need a lot more new energy for AI, et cetera, and then they cut off the quickest, cheapest, easiest way to produce new energy. Why? Because the rightwing fossil fuel magnates in Trump's ear hate clean energy because they know it is the future. They know. They know that oil, gas, and coal are not the future, and, yet, they try to kill it.

Also, if the Republican bill becomes law, homeowners could see an extra \$600 to \$1,200 a year through higher interest rates on their home loans.

Last week, the CBO estimated that the Republican billionaire tax cuts would add \$2.4 trillion to the debt over the next decade. When you consider the cost of increased debt service, this rotten bill will add \$3 trillion to the debt over the next decade, and that is going to make it harder for Americans to buy a home, to buy a car, to start a business—dooming the middle class to a lifetime of higher rates.

And let's not forget the insurance prices as well. Insurance rates are going up for many people in many areas, particularly coastal areas, and now this Trump bill will make that worse because we are cutting off clean energy. It doesn't make much sense. Many people can't sell their houses or buy a house because flood and tornado insurance have raised the cost of insurance. And here we go again: cut off clean energy, make it worse, make people's insurance costs go up further.

So Elon Musk, as wrong as he is on so many things, says this bill is dangerous. Do you hear that, Republicans? Elon Musk, whom you guys are supposed to love, says the bill is dangerous.

So, when you step back and look at the big picture, there is nothing beautiful about the Republican bill. If Senate Republicans pass this heaping pile of legislative junk, it is not going to grow the economy; it is not going to help the middle class; it is not going to help working families climb the ladder. All it is going to do is make families pay more while billionaires pay less.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, on Social Security, Elon Musk might have been run out of town, but his handiwork lives on at the Social Security Administration.

Do you remember he called Social Security a big Ponzi scheme? Well, he is gone, but the Social Security Administrator, newly put in despite vehement opposition from Democrats because he is known as "Mr. Slash and Burn," Frank Bisignano said that, Musk or not, DOGE will remain king at SSA—DOGE. Do you remember that, folks—the chain saw? Well, it is going to be alive and well at Social Security with Mr. Bisignano in charge, "Mr. Slash and Burn," "Mr. Cut, Cut, Cut." It is alarming that, even after Elon Musk became persona non grata amongst Trump's circles, the Social Security Administrator still wants to keep using his failed playbook to oversee seniors' Social Security checks.

Social Security is sacred in America. Even after Musk's departure, which occurred in part because of DOGE's failure, this administration is talking about applying DOGE's strategies to Social Security—probably the most popular and sacrosanct program passed in the last 100 years. It shows how the billionaires like Elon Musk and Howard Lutnick—remember what he said. He said his mom could afford to miss a payment or two. It shows that these billionaires are running the show, and they are callous and cruel. They have no understanding of how average senior citizens depend on that Social Security check. It is a disgrace, and Donald Trump and his political cohort will pay a political price for endangering this popular program.

It is nice to talk about efficiency, but by now, we know there is nothing efficient about DOGE. It led to closures, longer wait times on the phone, glitches online, and an immense anxiety for seniors. Bisignano should send DOGE staffers packing before they cause more trouble with seniors' Social Security benefits.

HHS VACCINE ADVISORY PANEL

Finally, Mr. President, on RFK, Jr., and the vaccine, well, this morning, the American people are waking up fundamentally less safe from deadly diseases than they were yesterday because, yesterday, in one reckless move, HHS Secretary Robert Kennedy, Jr., purged every—every—expert from the CDC's vaccine advisory panel.

Kennedy's action will make America a lot sicker. By doing so, it is clear he lied to the Senate when he promised he would do no such thing without advance notice. The decision by RFK, Jr., to wipe out an entire panel of vaccine experts is rooted in conspiracy and paranoia, not science. Our kids will be in greater danger to preventable disease because of this move.

Secretary Kennedy should immediately reverse his decision before he causes more grave damage to our children.

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.

ENERGY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I just heard the minority leader of the U.S. Senate come here to the floor to talk about energy—the cost of energy, the impact of what we are doing here legislatively with regard to energy. The minority leader's comments, I would say, were laughable, but if I had to describe them in one word, that word would be "rubbish," and let me explain why. It is because this week, Senate Republicans are going to continue to point out the benefits of our comprehensive economic plan, and Americans are going to be able to see for themselves how our growth agenda delivers for them what they want, what they need, what they voted for. And they voted for safety and prosperity.

This is a 180-degree turn from the past 4 years of high prices and open borders. The Biden administration caused the worst economic disaster in our Nation since the 1970s. Democrats went on a tax-and-spend binge, and they piled job-killing regulations on the economy to the tune of over \$1.8 trillion. The reckless spending and the regulatory rampage fueled the worst inflation in 40 years.

So I hear him talk about energy. Prices were up across the board by 21 percent from the day Joe Biden came into office until the day he left. Energy bills climbed 31 percent as a result of the Democrat policies.

Families saw their savings evaporate, families saw their credit card debt skyrocket, and families struggled to keep up. Young families were locked out of homeownership because mortgage rates continued to climb.

Over 10 million illegal immigrants flooded into our Nation. Millions of these illegal immigrants were given free food, free housing, free phones, free travel, and free healthcare.

The American people have had enough, and they spoke up about it, and they elected Republicans to clean up the mess. We are delivering, and under Republican leadership, America is getting back on track.

Inflation is down. Grocery prices are down. Gas prices are down. Wages are up. Jobs are coming back. And consumer confidence is rising.

For the first time in the history of polling, a majority of Americans say our country is headed in the right direction. That is in the history of polling. That is what the American public is saying because the state of our economy is strong.

Friday's job numbers just showed more new jobs were created last month than they even expected—than the experts expected. Republicans' comprehensive plan is going to make it even stronger.

Our plan cuts taxes. It targets waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption. Our plan unleashes American energy, which will continue to bring down prices.

At the heart of our plan, of course, is tax relief. Republicans are going to stop a crushing \$4 trillion tax increase. This is a tax increase that every Democrat wants and has promised to vote for. That would be the biggest tax increase in American history.

Additionally, we are going to eliminate taxes on tips, on overtime, and on Social Security. Now, that is going to be a pay raise for hard-working Americans and for seniors.

The Republican plan puts more money in Americans' wallets, pockets, and purses. Families will have more money for gas, for groceries, and for emergencies. Families will have more money to pay the rent, to pay a mortgage, and to save for their kids' education.

Remember, it was Democrats who vowed to vote for a \$4 trillion tax increase. They actually said they are going to fight with everything they have to stop us from passing our bill. Our bill prevents that tax increase. How can they look at waiters, seniors, bartenders, police officers, and firefighters and admit that they voted to raise the taxes on all these hard-working Americans?

And let's not forget why Democrats want to raise taxes. They want to pay for healthcare for illegal immigrants. That is what they have been doing. Over a million illegal immigrants have had healthcare paid for because of what the Democrats have been doing.

Oh, and they want to subsidize electric vehicles that most people don't want, don't need, and can't afford.

The question is simple: Are you for stopping a \$4 trillion tax increase that will hit every working family in America—for the average middle-income family, \$3,000 of increased taxes—or are you not for stopping that and letting it go through?

While Republicans are standing with Americans families, Democrats are opposing them.

But, specifically, on what the minority leader addressed this morning, which was affordable energy, let's talk about that, because Americans want, need, and voted for affordable American energy, and Americans are starting to feel that relief.

Now, the Republicans are in the House, the Senate, and the White House. This Memorial Day, just a week or so ago, gas prices were 50 cents a gallon lower than they were a year ago. You know, you go fill up a vehicle in Wyoming, and you are going to save about 10 bucks.

Why? Why is it better? Because Joe Biden's war on American energy is over.

I will never forget when Joe Biden told members of his Cabinet to prioritize climate over energy that is affordable, available, and reliable—climate over affordable energy, the mantra of the Democrats.

President Trump has taken more than 50 bold actions to unleash and unlock American energy. He has done it onshore, offshore, and in Alaska. He overturned crushing regulations on available and affordable American energy. He took the handcuffs off of our energy workers and our energy producers.

I spent Friday in Laramie, WY, at the Wyoming Mining Association meeting. People from all around the State and country come together to that annual meeting. The hard-working men and women of Wyoming are celebrating the actions of President Trump.

The Republicans' comprehensive economic plan unleashes American energy like never before. It opens up new Federal land and Federal waters leases to all-of-the-above energy production. That means oil and natural gas, coal, geothermal, and critical mineral production. It also refills our Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Remember when Joe Biden drained the Strategic Petroleum Reserve? Why? Because gas prices were so high under his punitive administration. It was the era of massive Democrat inflation. He drained our Strategic Petroleum Reserve rather than allow us to produce more American energy here at home. He drained it to a dangerously low level. It was the lowest level in over 40 years. He actually sold some of our reserves to China. That is the Democrats' approach to energy.

Well, Republicans are reversing all of this. Congress is returning to fiscal sanity and energy reality. Both of those were sorely missed the last 4 years.

Joe Biden's energy policies were defined by waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption. I investigated Joe Biden's Department of Energy. It was a disgrace.

The Department of Energy's loan office funneled billions of dollars in taxpayer money to politically connected wind and solar projects. Specifically, one of them is a company known as Sunnova.

I describe them as a very shady solar company. Sunnova was called on the carpet for scamming seniors. They targeted seniors and pressured them into signing leases that were impossible to make. Joe Biden rewarded this malicious behavior by giving them a \$3 billion loan, guaranteed by the taxpayers