

any to come—will succeed in eliminating the prospect of a nuclear-armed Iran and, ultimately, help bring peace to a region that has for far too long been at war.

While the U.S. military is not involved in offensive operations against Iran, U.S. forces on land, at sea, and in the air have helped defend Israel from indiscriminate missile attacks launched by Iran.

President Trump and our country remain steadfast in our defense of Israel and committed to working towards peace in the Middle East and, first and foremost, for the safety of American personnel stationed in the region.

And should Iran have any designs on Americans, I urge the mullahs to think long and hard about the consequences.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION—MEDICAID PROVISION

Well, Mr. President, Democrats continue to melt down over the reconciliation bill that Republicans are getting ready to consider, and their statements continue to be heavy on the hysteria and short on facts, and nowhere is this more true than on the subject of the bill's Medicaid provisions. To hear Democrats talk, you would think Republicans were getting ready to rip Medicaid from the hands of needy children and pregnant women, and nothing—nothing—could be further from the truth.

Today, I would like to take a few minutes to set the record straight and highlight the facts on Republicans' efforts to root out waste, fraud, and abuse from Medicaid and ensure the focus of this program is on the people it was designed to help.

Like other Federal entitlement programs, Medicaid is not on the soundest footing. Between ObamaCare's expansion of Medicaid to able-bodied adults at or about 138 percent of the Federal poverty line and the Biden administration's rules and waivers, Democrats have been growing Medicaid beyond its original scope for quite a while now. And Federal Medicaid spending has soared. Between 2019 and 2023, Medicaid spending grew by more than 50 percent, and that kind of unsustainable growth has consequences, not just for taxpayers who are on the hook for huge, new amounts of money but for the people most in need who have to compete with a lot of new individuals for available resources.

Republicans are committed to preserving and strengthening Medicaid for the people Medicaid was intended to serve, like vulnerable children, pregnant moms, and elderly Americans, and to that end, we are making some commonsense reforms to Medicaid to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse and protect the program for the people who need it the most. That starts with removing people who should not be on the rolls. That means illegal immigrants and other noncitizens, able-bodied adults who can work but refuse to work, and individuals who don't qualify for the program.

We are going to rein in Federal spending to States that choose to di-

rect scarce State dollars to illegal immigrants. We will be instituting basic, commonsense work requirements for able-bodied, working-aged adults who should not be relying on taxpayers for their healthcare unless they are doing their best to find and maintain a job or contribute to their communities, and we will be overturning Biden-era regulations that made it difficult to remove individuals who do not qualify for the program. Are Democrats seriously going to tell us they have a problem with that? Removing these individuals is just basic, good governance. It is fulfilling our barest obligation to ensure that Medicaid is working well for its intended recipients.

I would note that, while Democrat Senators may be melting down over these basic good-governance requirements, some of their States are actually taking similar measures. No less a Democrat State than California is looking to freeze the enrollment of illegal immigrants in its Medicaid Program and charge premiums for illegal immigrants already enrolled. Why? Because the State can no longer afford to cover these individuals and maintain its other obligations. Yet the Democrat Senators here in Washington are melting down because Republicans are daring to focus limited Medicaid dollars on American citizens and those most in need.

In addition to ensuring that the individuals on Medicaid rolls are the ones who should be there, Republicans are making several other commonsense reforms.

Notably, we are taking aim at the rampant abuse of the provider tax loophole. Use of this loophole, which sees States inflate Medicaid service prices in order to garner a larger reimbursement from the Federal Government, was already a problem even before the Biden administration. In fact, President Obama, released multiple budgets featuring measures to rein in abuse of the provider tax, but thanks to waivers the Biden administration issued to California and other blue States last year allowing them to further exploit this loophole, taxpayers are now on the hook for tens of billions of dollars in new spending. Neither the Medicaid Program nor taxpayers can afford that burden, and so we are going to rein things in.

Our bill makes a handful of other modest reforms to restrain waste, fraud, and abuse, but those I just mentioned are the big ones: commonsense reforms to protect and strengthen Medicaid for those who need it the most.

And I would love to know which of these reforms my colleagues object to. We have heard a lot of bluster from Democrats about how this bill will cost enrollment and cost lives, but we have heard very little from them on the actual measures included in the bill.

So I would like to ask them:

Do they believe the Federal Government should still be giving States an enhanced Medicaid match if they cover illegal immigrants?

Do they think individuals who don't qualify for Medicaid should remain on the rolls?

Are they against work requirements for able-bodied, working-aged adults?

Do they think there should be any limits on States' exploiting the provider tax loophole?

Exactly which of our commonsense reforms do Democrats disagree with?

Democrats used to support rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse in Medicaid and getting Americans back to work. So what has changed?

While I can't guarantee the source of Democrats' hysteria, I suspect one or more of the following things is going on here:

One, Democrats are still smarting from their election loss last November and are desperate to regain ground with voters, and I suspect that Democrats think that, if they can successfully—even if inaccurately—paint Republicans as targeting vulnerable Americans, they might be able to claw back some electoral support.

Two, I think Democrats tend to reflexively oppose anything supported by President Trump no matter how sensible that policy might be.

And, three, I think that, with Democrats' increasing embrace of the far left, there are Democrats out there who really do believe that government programs can continually expand without consequences and that there is no limit to the amount of taxpayer dollars available for them to play with.

Still, it is incredible that we can't agree on these commonsense reforms, but we are going to move full speed ahead in protecting and preserving Medicaid for the Americans this program was intended to serve.

I want to thank Chairman CRAPO and members of the Finance Committee for their work on the Medicaid provisions of our bill, and I look forward to taking up these provisions in the very near future as part of our final legislation.

WAIVING QUORUM CALLS

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum calls with respect to Executive Calendar Nos. 98 and 99, Olivia Trusty.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

SENATE SAFETY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, about safety and the Capitol and our meeting today that Senator THUNE and I called.

First, I would like to say that the Capitol Police have always been the silent heroes behind the scenes, keeping Members safe. That is no secret. The country saw that for themselves on January 6 and in the footage after, and they are doing a good job. We had a very good meeting where Members

brought up their concerns, and efforts—strong efforts—are going to be made to answer those concerns with expanded—expanded—activity by the Capitol Police. But after the awful situation this weekend, there is real concern, not just here in the Capitol but with folks across the country, about the safety of elected officials.

These violent acts are an attack not just on the individuals who were targeted but on our democracy itself. Public servants should never have to fear for their lives simply for doing their jobs. There should not be an attempt to intimidate public servants not do their jobs or not to take their jobs. So we need to take immediate steps to ensure the safety of Members. That includes sending additional funding and resources to the Capitol Police. There was agreement today in the Senate, among Democrats and Republicans, that we ought to be spending some more dollars here to protect the Capitol, the Senators, and their staffs.

But it is amazing. Instead, the Trump administration is doing the exact opposite. USA Today reported that, as lone actor attacks are on the rise, Donald Trump had cut the program called AIMED at spotting them. This program is aimed to spot lone-actor, violent, domestic extremists—exactly what happened in Minnesota.

The day before a violent political attack in Minnesota [occurred], the last top officials at a program that aims to spot so-called “lone actor” violent domestic extremists were reassigned to other roles.

And that is USA Today’s reporting.

In the 4 months since Trump took office, his administration has shrunk the Department of Homeland Security’s Center for Prevention Programs and Partnerships, known as CP3, from dozens of analysts and supervisors. Now it has fewer than 10 people, and it is led by a 22-year-old recent graduate with no law enforcement experience. Here we have more violent attacks, and at the same time, the Trump administration is cutting the very unit in law enforcement that is supposed to go after these lone-wolf, violent attacks and prevent them. Right now, we need to give law enforcement more resources to prevent these horrific attacks, not less. A program in charge of doing these things shouldn’t have fewer than 10 people and be led by a 22-year-old with no experience.

What I am saying here, that this program has been cut dramatically—the AIMED Program—will reverberate among everybody who wants a safer America and should reverberate among all elected officials, Democrat and Republican, about the need to keep this program.

So we need to give more resources to law enforcement, but let me be clear: This dangerous environment isn’t spontaneous. It is being stoked, often deliberately, by the reckless rhetoric coming from some of the most powerful voices in the country.

When political opponents are treated like enemies, danger follows. And that

is what Trump has done. He has weaponized the Justice Department and law enforcement. It is going after his political enemies instead of going after criminals.

It is the responsibility of all leaders, especially the President of the United States, to not just unequivocally condemn hatred but to stop violent and aggressive language against political opponents.

Trump has to see that his words have real impact and consequences, and here is one way he could start right now: He could demand of Senator LEE that he take down his inflammatory, despicable posts about the deaths of the two people in Minnesota. They are gross. They are disgusting. They are the kind of thing that just riles people up.

Let Trump call LEE up and say: Take them down. Take those posts down.

That will be a start. But in general, he has to stop treating his political opponents as enemies because danger will always follow.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. President, on reconciliation, last night, on the Senate Finance Committee, the Republicans released their portion of Donald Trump’s “Big Ugly Bill,” his big ugly betrayal, and—it is hard to believe—it is even worse than expected.

After Senate Republicans spent weeks promising they were going to moderate the House bill, they did just the opposite. They turned an ugly House bill into an outright travesty.

Senate Republicans should reject the proposals of the Finance Committee and start over, because if they proceed, they will harm tens of millions of Americans, kill millions of good-paying jobs, raise prices up on the average American, and help China.

Let’s go over these lowlights, starting with healthcare.

The House bill already had the biggest cuts to Medicaid in American history. They are regarded as devastating. But the Senate version is even worse than the House version. It is the House bill on steroids. The Medicaid cuts are deeper, reach further, and the redtape is even longer than what House Republicans came up with.

Under the Senate bill, tens of millions of Americans will lose health insurance, including working moms and dads. More hospitals will close, especially rural hospitals.

And I tell my colleagues: That is mainly in red States.

These rural hospitals are often the only way people get healthcare in the rural communities, and they are often the largest employer in the States as well.

Under their bill, doctors will lose their jobs. Nurses will lose their jobs. States will carry more and more of the burden, with fewer and fewer resources, which means cutbacks.

Premiums will go up. What the average American pays for healthcare will inevitably go up, even if you don’t have Medicare or Medicaid.

I know there are a number of Senate Republicans who were worried about the Medicaid cuts passed by the House, but because the Senate package is even worse, I urge these Republicans to forcefully reject this proposal quickly. We know that if only three or four Republicans went to Leader THUNE and said, “We can’t vote for this bill with these Medicaid cuts,” some of the cuts, at least, would be eliminated.

If they go along with this package—anyone who goes along with this package—they will be responsible for stealing healthcare from millions of their own constituents. That is true of Democrats and Republicans.

Now, what about clean energy jobs? Remember how the Senate Republicans spent weeks promising they would ease clean energy cuts passed by the House?

Well, the Senate Republican clean energy package is a total head fake. That is all it is. They are trying to act like they got better, but they didn’t. No matter what the Senate Republicans try to say about improving the House bill, the underlying substance did not change.

The Senate clean energy bill cuts are every bit as destructive as the House Republicans’. It phases out tax credits for wind and solar projects within 6 months.

These phaseouts are a death sentence for clean energy. Wind and solar represent more than 90 percent of the new electric power in the United States. It is the quickest, cheapest way to bring power.

What do Republicans think will happen when they raise taxes on 90 percent of our new electricity?

They are going to send electric bills soaring. They are going to kill good-paying clean energy jobs, and an estimated 850,000 people in the clean energy industry will lose their jobs. And they are going to surrender U.S. energy independence to China, which will leap ahead of us in wind and solar and dominate the world markets. American consumers will be at the behest of the Chinese Communist Party leaders, in terms of what they pay for electricity.

And these cuts will choke America’s energy output, right as we need to expand our capacity. We all know AI is going to demand huge amounts of electricity, and yet we cut off the quickest, cheapest way to add energy.

Many on the other side say: all of the above.

This is not all of the above. This is just taking the most polluting, most expensive, most time-consuming way of producing energy. That is what it allows. It takes away the rest.

Eighty percent of the clean energy investments, we know, have been in Republican districts. But Senate Republicans are going to shift those jobs overseas. For anyone who votes for this bill and has clean energy facilities in their States, they are going to close those factories, limit those factories, and send the jobs to China—just the opposite of what Trump says he wants to do.