

Giardina. I will have more to speak on that matter later.

Whistleblowers have told me that Special Agent Giardina openly stated his desire to investigate Trump, even if it meant false predication.

I have been able to make all these records publicly available because of brave, patriotic whistleblowers. They are patriots to the highest order. And a lot of this information that I received from whistleblowers wouldn't have been made available or even known that it existed without the help of these whistleblowers.

And because of those whistleblowers, it is now an absolute fact that these cases against President Trump and his associates were politically motivated. My investigative work won't rest. There will be much more coming from this Senator.

#### U.S. REGULATORY PROCESS

Mr. President, now on another matter, if I can continue for another minute or 2. The U.S. regulatory process for approving farmers' tools like pesticides is the benchmark for all global regulatory standards. In other words, the U.S. Agencies that deal with approving the safety of pesticides stands as a measure of how other global regulatory agencies will approve or disapprove of pesticides.

Now I am going to speak about the MAHA commission. And I don't know whether that acronym means much to people, but it stands for "Make America Healthy Again." Last month, the MAHA commission released a report taking aim at that regulatory process of deciding the safety or not-so-safe safety of pesticides.

If you undermine our already strict and effective regulatory process, you undermine our global competitiveness. The result would be losing out to our competitors on business in the form of exports and direct investment in the United States.

It would also pull other countries away from our standard in favor of others, creating nontariff barriers to trade.

The U.S. regulatory system for food and agriculture rose up alongside these important industries created by pioneers that changed the world through technology. This progress led humanity to the most prosperous time in history.

As conservatives, it is important to remember that often, it is not the lack of regulation but the overregulation of our industry that hinders our prosperity.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

#### ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, on Monday afternoon, the Senate Finance Committee released the text of the centerpiece of our reconciliation bill, making the tax relief we passed in 2017 permanent.

The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act reduced tax rates for every income bracket, doubled the child tax credit, and nearly doubled the standard deduction. That, of course, meant more money in Americans' pockets.

But those lower tax rates and the larger standard deduction and the child tax credit are set to expire at the end of this year, and if we don't take action, American families will be facing a massive tax hike starting in 2026. Americans making less than \$400,000 a year would face a \$2.6 trillion tax hike. A typical family of four making \$80,000 would need to send an additional \$1,700 to Uncle Sam—\$1,700.

Republicans promised the American people that we won't let that happen. With the release of the Finance Committee text, we are one step closer to delivering on that promise. Our bill will extend the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act's lower tax rates. It will extend the doubled child tax credit. It will extend the nearly doubled standard deduction—but not just extend them, Mr. President, make them permanent.

Extending the lower tax rates or the standard deduction was never going to be enough for Republicans. We are making the lower tax rates and the doubled child tax credit and the increased standard deduction permanent so that American families do not have to worry about another looming tax hike a few years down the road. And we are actually going even further by increasing the child tax credit by another \$200—again, on a permanent basis.

Mr. President, that is not all we are doing. We are always going to make life better for the American people by growing our economy. In addition to cutting tax rates for hard-working Americans, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act also implemented historic reform of the business side of the Tax Code. We lowered tax rates for owners of small and medium-sized businesses, farms, and ranches and made it easier for them to recover the cost of investing in their businesses, which in turn freed up cash for them to invest in their operations and their workers.

We lowered our Nation's massive corporate tax rate—which, prior to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, was the highest corporate tax rate in the developed world—to make American businesses more competitive in the global economy and empower them to invest in wages and benefits for their workers. And we brought our international tax system into the 21st century so that American businesses would no longer be operating at a disadvantage next to their foreign counterparts.

Mr. President, it worked. In the wake of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, our econ-

omy grew at a substantially better rate than projected. Real wages increased, unemployment fell to a 50-year low, the poverty rate fell to the lowest level ever recorded, and business investment increased. Everywhere you looked, there was positive economic news.

When we passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, we were able to make some of that business tax relief permanent. But like the individual tax relief, other provisions have either already expired, are expiring at the end of this year, or are in the process of phasing out. That includes lower tax rates for small and medium-sized businesses, the section 199A small business tax deduction, and full expensing for new capital investment and domestic research and development. Our legislation will permanently extend these key provisions.

In between these and other new pro-growth policies, like a provision to boost domestic manufacturing by implementing full expensing for new factories and factory improvements, we can expect to see further economic growth and more jobs and opportunities for American workers.

The Council of Economic Advisers, which accurately predicted the economic and wage growth that we achieved in the wake of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, is forecasting 2.9 percent to 3.5 percent long-run GDP as a result of our legislation. That means more jobs, better wages—as much as a \$13,327 increase for a typical family—and more opportunities for American workers. It also means more revenue for the Federal Government—but revenue created the right way, through economic growth, not through higher taxes.

And I should mention that, yesterday, the Congressional Budget Office released a new H.R. 1 analysis, which characteristically underestimates the economic growth—and hence the revenue—this bill will provide. CBO, the Congressional Budget Office, did the same thing with the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, when it estimated revenues would be \$1.5 trillion lower than what they have actually been.

The Council of Economic Advisers, by contrast—which was most accurate in its modeling of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act's effects, including its effect on revenue—tells us that passage of our legislation will increase Federal revenues by \$4.1 trillion, more than enough to offset the CBO's deficit estimate.

Mr. President, in addition to promising to make the 2017 tax relief permanent, President Trump outlined multiple other tax proposals on the campaign trail—proposals which were endorsed by the American people with his strong win in November. And with this bill, we are delivering on those promises.

We are suspending taxes on tips for millions of tip workers. We are suspending taxes on overtime for millions of hourly workers. We are suspending taxes on auto loan interest when you buy a new car manufactured in the

United States. And we are increasing the standard deduction for millions of low- and middle-income seniors, making their retirement a little easier and more prosperous.

We are also implementing a program to create savings accounts for newborns, with an initial deposit of \$1,000 to help parents save and invest for their children's future needs.

Mr. President, everything we are doing in this bill is for the sake of making America stronger and more prosperous. And nowhere is that more true than when it comes to the tax portion—the centerpiece—of our bill. The tax provisions in our bill—from the permanent extension of the lower tax rates to the increased child tax credit, to the permanent tax relief for small and medium-sized businesses—will help bring security to American families and prosperity to our country. Working Americans—working Americans—are going to have a better life because of this legislation.

I am proud to be a part of permanently extending and upgrading the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. With that, I want to thank Chairman CRAPO and his members on the Senate Finance Committee for their incredible work on the tax portion of our upcoming bill. I look forward to delivering permanent tax relief for hard-working Americans and American businesses in the very near future.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### DETENTION OF AFGHAN INTERPRETER

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I have come to the floor, briefly, to talk about two subjects.

One relates to a situation that I have been updated on of a gentleman who has been detained by ICE out in California, and I want to talk a little bit about it. We have to go back to “Retrograde.”

When we were leaving Afghanistan several years ago, my office spent a lot of time working with various non-profits and veterans’ advocacy organizations to do our very best to get people out of Afghanistan who had served alongside U.S. servicemembers, and we met with a lot of success. Thank God for former special operators and others who were outside of the boundary. We were literally in a network of coordinating the positioning of families to get to the Kabul Airport—HKIA they call it. It was to get them to a specific gate and get them out, them and their families.

Why were we doing that?

It was because the people who helped special operators and forces in Afghanistan had marks on them. They would

be murdered if they were found by the Taliban for supporting and working alongside American citizens, which they did, and many of them lost their lives.

OK. I just became informed over the past day about the detention of a gentleman who had worked for the military as an interpreter, I think, for 3 years directly and then had worked with a contractor. Unfortunately, he was not one of the ones who got out. He was in northern Afghanistan at the time. He was not one of the ones who was fortunate enough to get out before the Taliban was allowed to overrun Kabul and subsequently murder and kill a number of people who had worked alongside Americans for many years.

Well, it turns out this gentleman was in Afghanistan, as was his brother, and they had become targets because they knew that they were working alongside American servicemembers. They murdered his brother, so he decided to flee from Afghanistan to Iran, which was not a particularly friendly territory. Think about that. He was willing to go to Iran because it was a safer place to be than in Afghanistan, and then he subsequently got a humanitarian visa in Brazil.

He did find his way to the United States. Unfortunately, he did so illegally. Instead of being in a safe third country, he did come here. He did violate our immigration laws, but he also stood alongside American servicemembers and was getting out of a horrible situation where, I think, anyone—everyone—would agree that he needed to get out of Afghanistan. I believe he used the CBP One app to try to apply for asylum, and he was paroled here under the Biden administration—and he did abuse the parole system while he was in office. At the end of the day, we have got a guy who served alongside American soldiers, who, undoubtedly, saved American lives in the process, and who was in this country illegally but who is now in a detention center in California.

All I am trying to say, folks, is I want you to obey our laws. The majority of the time, if you come to this country illegally, then I want you to potentially be deported, but you can’t cast everybody in that same light. He was also trying to apply for a special immigrant visa under the interpreter program.

So all I am saying is things are moving quickly. It just disturbs me that we have got somebody in detention who served, by all accounts, admirably alongside American servicemen, and he probably saved their lives because those interpreters were embedded in the community. I think we owe it to this person to get him out of detention and into some status to determine what country he should go to. I am not necessarily arguing that he should stay in the United States, but I am arguing that he shouldn’t be in detention in California after his service, indirectly and directly, to our country.

That is all I have to say on that matter, but we are going to be tracking it very closely, and I thought it was important to say that on the floor.

ALEX PADILLA

Mr. President, the last thing I am going to leave you with is, I sat on this floor yesterday while Senator PADILLA was speaking, and I have to tell you that the events that occurred—and I am saying this because now I hear about a dustup in New York. Folks, ALEX PADILLA I consider a friend, and I believe that he was very, very—his emotions were on—at a 10—because of some of the things that he has seen occurring in terms of ICE detentions and ICE raids. I agree and disagree with him on some of the policy.

But, folks, we have got to get to a point where elected officials have to take some responsibility for their actions. We have press conferences here all the time. We have a weekly press conference out here with leadership. We have got a press room on the third floor. I wonder if we are actually saying it is OK for me to run out here and interrupt Senator SCHUMER, while he is giving his opening statements, to a presser to ask him a question. I think that that is inappropriate. I think it would be inappropriate to do it to my Democratic colleagues up in the press room on the third floor. I think it would be inappropriate for me to go out and do that out in the field.

So I guess what I am trying to say here is, why don’t both sides own up to the fact that they both own some responsibility for what happened there. Senator PADILLA should have found a better way to elevate his concerns to the Secretary of Homeland Security rather than going in there and having that dustup. Having said that, there were clearly people in that building who knew he was a U.S. Senator. So the minute he was removed from that situation in the briefing room, they should have treated him with respect and allowed him to disperse. It was disgusting to me to see somebody wrestled to the floor—anybody but particularly a U.S. Senator who is in a Federal building.

So I would just say to those who are tempted now to think that they can act like they are off the hinge and that they should interrupt a press conference or threaten police officials to arrest them: Think twice. Step up and be leaders. If you have got a point, don’t go trying to trend on social media by getting in somebody’s face. If you want to make a point, that is what you do. If you want to make a difference, then come to the Senate floor and try to figure out how to get your policies through. That is how this place should work.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the MAGA Supreme Court majority seems