

to have forgotten one of its jobs is to protect Americans from discrimination.

The Republicans' cruel crusade against trans Americans infringes on the rights of parents and the rights of kids. Once again, Republicans use these issues to divide America and distract them from their plans to rip healthcare away from millions of people. We will keep fighting to protect the rights of all Americans.

#### CLASSIFIED BRIEFING

Now, Mr. President, on a classified briefing, as the conflict in the Middle East continues, all of us are concerned for the safety of U.S. troops and citizens and America's interests around the world.

For the information of my colleagues, I have requested a classified briefing on the situation in the Middle East, and I believe we will get one soon. I will keep my colleagues informed as more updates arise.

#### ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

Mr. President, on the CBO report of late yesterday, more and more, as people look at the Republicans' so-called Big Beautiful Bill, the uglier and uglier it actually gets. Yesterday, the CBO updated their projections on the impact of the House bill on our national debt and on our economy. The results are dismal. As the New York Times put in a headline, "House Policy Bill Would Add \$3.4 Trillion to Debt, Swamping Economic Gains."

This analysis is new and different because, unlike their last projection, the CBO studied how the Republicans' bill would interact with the economy.

How many times have we heard from Republicans that we shouldn't listen to groups like the CBO? It is because what they are doing so much stares in the face of truth. They don't want to hear the truth because, when people hear the truth, they don't like what Republicans are doing. So they shoot the messenger. The CBO doesn't have an ax to grind, no, and their scores have always been accepted by both parties until now.

So the bottom line is, our Republicans try to discredit the CBO because they don't like hearing the truth, but the truth must be told, and we are telling that truth to the American public day in and day out.

We are telling them that these analyses ignore the economic benefits that supposedly come from the outrageous billionaire tax cuts. Well, now we know that, even after you take into account any impact—any economic impact—of the so-called dynamic scoring created by the Republicans' bill, it is still a loser for working and middle-class families. Only the wealthy gain.

The Republican bill will send interest rates higher, particularly 10-year bonds. And do you know what that means? It means Americans will pay more and more for virtually everything. When interest rates go up, which the Republican bill will do because it makes the deficit even bigger, it will

be more expensive for a working family to buy a home, a car, to send kids to college, to run a business—everything.

The latest CBO report is a warning to Senate Republicans: Doubling down on the House's reckless spending will doom our kids and grandkids to a life of higher costs. They should scrap the Big Beautiful Bill entirely and start over.

Amazingly, Senate Republicans didn't moderate the House bill at all. No. If anything, they made it worse. It is hard to believe it could get worse than the House bill for working families, but, somehow, it is. Senate Republicans are supposed to not be as extreme as the House Republicans, but in this case, they are more so.

After weeks of hearing from one Republican Senator or another saying that they would fix the House bill, that they would moderate the most extreme elements, what Senate Republicans came up with is just as bad or even worse. The Senate Republican bill is, simply put, bigger cuts, bigger betrayal.

So, today, let's look at five ways—there are many, but let's look at five ways the Senate Republican bill is just as bad or even worse than the House version.

First, healthcare.

The House bill already proposes the biggest Medicaid cuts in U.S. history. Their bill would rip healthcare away now from 60 million Americans and make over \$1 trillion in healthcare cuts.

The Senate bill would add even more roadblocks for working Americans, even parents, preventing them from getting healthcare. This bill is just repeal and replace by another name.

The Senate bill squeezes hospitals even harder, particularly rural hospitals. It crushes health centers and decimates rural hospitals.

Are my Republican colleagues going to vote for a bill that is going to close a good chunk of their hospitals in rural areas? We have a lot of rural places in New York, and let me tell you, in many of those rural counties, the hospital is the biggest employer and the only provider of healthcare. So why take them away, especially to give tax cuts to billionaires? It makes no sense, and the American people know it makes no sense. It is vicious.

It means fewer resources for hospitals to stay open and pay their staffs.

And one other thing: Even if you don't have Medicaid or even ACA, your premiums are likely to go up because of all these changes in healthcare.

The second of five of the worst things in the Senate bill is clean energy jobs.

Senate Republicans spent weeks promising they would ease the clean energy cuts passed by the House, but the Senate Republican energy package is a total head fake. It is not real. The cuts in the Senate clean energy bill are every bit as destructive as the House proposal. It phases out tax credits for wind and solar projects within 6 months.

An estimated 850,000 people in the clean energy industry would lose their jobs. Add that to the million or more who will lose their jobs in healthcare and the hundreds of thousands who will lose jobs in other areas. Guess what. When you lose 2 million-plus jobs, you are heading towards a recession. Is that what our Republican colleagues want to do—all to help their billionaires? Billionaires won't mind if there is a recession. They have a big cushion. But what about working families? It will be harder to get a job, harder to keep a job, harder to pay for increased costs. It is amazing what they are doing.

And, to boot, these energy cuts are going to surrender U.S. energy independence to China. Solar is the quickest, cheapest way to put new electrons on the grid. You cut it out, China will dominate, and they will then dominate the world in terms of solar, and they will have the American consumer at their behest. And if you think they are going to charge the Chinese people the same they are going to charge American people, forget it.

Even worse, while the Republicans are gutting clean energy, they are giving special tax breaks to the oil and gas companies. Oil and gas will be the one industry that doesn't have to pay the alternative minimum tax. Is that incredible? So they don't like tax breaks for solar, but tax breaks for the oil companies are great? That is not an all-of-the-above strategy, which so many of my colleagues talk about.

Let's not forget that AI has huge energy demands. It is going to push up the costs for Americans. So why cut off the fastest growing, cheapest, and quickest to construct source of energy, which is solar? It is all ideological. It is beyond rational economics even by the Republicans who love fossil fuels.

It is simply that these rightwing billionaires from Texas and Oklahoma who made a fortune in the Permian Basin, the Anadarko Basin, et cetera, hate clean energy because they know it is the future, and Republicans, at the cost to hundreds of millions of Americans, are bowing down in obeisance to them.

Third—and this one is very important because it has not gotten the attention it deserves—the Senate bill somehow manages to cater even more to the radical gun lobby than the House.

For those who may have missed it, and many did, in the House bill, Republicans snuck a devious provision that reverses a century of safety rules on silencers. We know that silencers are used by people who don't want people to know they have a gun—not by police, not by average citizens, but by criminals. People who go shoot up, mass shootings—they don't want people to hear their shots. And in one case, it is known that they used a silencer to kill more people.

But Senate Republicans go even beyond that. Refusing to be outdone by

their House colleagues, they made it even worse in a dramatic way. They decided to drop regulation and background checks on not only silencers but shotguns and rifles. For 100 years, we have had these laws on the books for gun safety. This is stunning, terrifying, and just totally idiotic.

To the extreme Republicans who slipped these gun provisions into their bill, shame on you. Shame on you for putting the gun lobby over the lives of kids. Shame on you for endangering our families and law enforcement. Shame on you for adding fuel to America's gun epidemic.

As many of you know, I am the author of the Brady Law. I got it passed in the House in 1994, as well as the assault weapons ban. It was always a tradition—not shotguns, not rifles. That is broken by this extreme and dangerous provision that the Senate has added to the bill.

We are going to fight this provision and the provisions on silencers with everything we have got, including in the Byrd bath process, where we believe this provision has no right to be in a reconciliation bill. It is not a revenue raiser. It is policy. It should be knocked out.

Fourth, the Senate bill took House Republican attacks on our courts and dialed them up even more.

Right now, the Trump administration is losing in court about 95 percent of the time when its actions are challenged as unlawful. There are so many actions that the Trump administration is doing that are unlawful, and they are losing. And it is not just liberal or Democratic-chosen judges who are knocking these things out, a lot of them are Republican judges, and a good number are Trump-appointed judges. But they are doing their job. They are obeying the law. They are telling the Trump administration: You cannot break the law.

Right now, because Trump is losing 95 percent of the cases, even from his own appointed judges, he is defying the courts with more and more frequency. And Republicans in Congress want to codify the Trump administration's attacks on the courts.

The House bill, for those who remember, would have prevented courts from enforcing their injunctions if plaintiffs didn't put up massive security bonds. The Senate bill goes even further, remarkably and disgustingly enough. The Senate Republican bill wants to prevent courts from even issuing injunctions against the Federal Government in the first place if plaintiffs don't put up massive security bonds. In other words, Senate Republicans want to turn our justice system into pay to play. If you can't put up the money upfront, then no injunctive relief against the abuses of the Federal Government even though those abuses are at a record high. It is a naked attack on checks and balances, a disturbing escalation against judicial independence.

Finally, debt and taxes—a subject we are focusing on this week.

Senate Republicans, through their proposal, want to pass some of the largest cuts for the ultrarich in American history and then ruin our children's financial future by making these tax cuts permanent.

If Republicans make Trump's tax cuts permanent, our children and grandchildren will be condemned to a lifetime of higher interest rates, higher costs, and diminished potential.

Why are Republicans doing all of this? Well, we know what their North Star is—tax cuts for billionaires. They tie themselves in knots, they do terrible damage to their constituents in so many ways, all so they can give tax breaks to the wealthy.

This is the big difference between Republicans and Democrats: Democrats believe in lowering taxes for working families and the middle class—parents raising their kids, small business owners trying to grow. Republicans, meanwhile, believe in helping those at the very, very top, even at the cost of dooming our children and grandchildren to a lifetime of debt that Republicans only selectively care about. They believe that helping billionaires and big corporations is somehow going to make everyone better off. That has never worked.

When you put it all together, the Senate version of Donald Trump's "Big Ugly Bill" is even worse than the House's. It makes even deeper cuts to healthcare. It destroys American clean energy. It raises costs on working and middle-class families. And it rewards those at the very top at the expense of all the rest of us.

#### NOMINATION OF RODNEY SCOTT

Mr. President, finally, on the CPB nomination, today, Senate Republicans will confirm Rodney Scott as Commissioner of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, CPB.

It is hard to imagine a worse, more unqualified, more dangerous choice to lead the CPB in this moment than Mr. Scott. His lack of experience alone is enough to disqualify him from the position, but there is even more. During his time at the Border Patrol, Mr. Scott was directly implicated in the alleged coverup of the death of someone in Border Patrol custody. These are the people Donald Trump seems to like, people who break the law. Somehow, he likes that.

There is another one. When pressed by the committee about these allegations, Mr. Scott described his actions as "routine." To cover up the death of someone who is in custody—that is routine? This is sick. This is a person who may have covered up the death of someone in Border Patrol custody, and now Republicans want to put him in charge of border security?

No one who allegedly covered up a wrongful death at the hands of law enforcement should ever be named to a position of leadership.

The Senate should reject his nomination.

At a time when the Trump administration is snatching people off the

streets, conducting military-style raids across America, and demonizing immigrants, Mr. Scott would be nothing more than a rubberstamp for some of Donald Trump's nastiest, cruelest immigration policies.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the motion to invoke cloture on Mr. Rodney Scott, who is nominated to serve as the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or CBP.

CBP's mission priorities include countering terrorism and transnational crime, securing the border, facilitating lawful trade and travel, and protecting revenue.

Mr. Scott is well-positioned to lead CBP in fulfilling these important priorities. He has nearly three decades of relevant experience, including serving as a chief patrol agent in the U.S. Border Patrol and as the associate chief in CBP's Office of Anti-Terrorism. At his nomination hearing, Mr. Scott said he "would leverage [his] experience to empower the men and women of CBP to do what they were hired to do—safeguard every American by providing secure borders and keeping trade and travel moving." I know that if confirmed, he will do so.

I thank Mr. Scott for his commitment and for his responsiveness throughout this nomination process. I strongly encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me today in voting to advance Mr. Scott's nomination.

Mr. SCHUMER. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MULLIN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). The majority whip.

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.

#### WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Scott nomination.

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

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we move ahead with the vote that is scheduled for noon. It is just about that time now.

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

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 130, Rodney