

strikes to go after Iran's nuclear program, consistent with this long-held national security imperative. I am grateful for the professionalism of all of our servicemembers in carrying out this important mission.

Just a few hours ago, Iran launched an attack against our servicemembers in Qatar and Iraq. President Trump has been clear that he is not afraid to hold Iran accountable for any retaliation, and Iran risks going down a dangerous road with these attacks.

Nevertheless, I am glad that the initial reports indicate that no Americans were killed in these strikes. If Iran is considering any further attacks against U.S. forces or interests, it should think long and hard about the consequences.

I look forward to hearing from the administration during tomorrow's all-Senators briefing.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, we are getting closer to passing a bill that will help make America stronger and more prosperous—a bill that will ensure that working families can keep more of their hard-earned money; that will help small businesses grow and create jobs, strengthen America's farms and ranches, rebuild our military, secure our border, and, of course, unleash American energy. This bill is great news for our entire country, for Americans from every place and walk of life.

But, today, I want to talk about how this bill will help make my home State of South Dakota stronger and more prosperous. That starts with making tax relief permanent.

In 2017, the Republican-led Tax Cuts and Jobs Act meant lower tax bills for South Dakotans. That bill lowered tax rates for every income bracket, doubled the child tax credit, and nearly doubled the standard deduction. But those tax policies are set to expire this year, if Congress doesn't act, which would mean an average South Dakotan would see a \$2,500 tax hike next year.

We are not going to let that happen. 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; make them permanent so that no hard-working American has to worry about a looming tax hike again, a few years down the road.

I said we are going to make the \$2,000 child tax credit permanent, but we are actually going to go further by increasing the tax credit by another \$200. Under the Republicans' bill, the child tax credit will now be \$2,200 per child, permanently.

We are also delivering on a number of the President's campaign promises that will provide further relief to hard-working Americans. Under our bill, seniors will be able to reduce their

taxes further with a \$6,000 boost to their standard deduction. Police officers, firefighters, and hourly workers won't have to pay tax on their overtime pay. Waitresses and busboys will benefit with no tax on tips. And the next generation will be able to access new investment accounts, as adults, that they can use for their education, to buy their first home, to start a business—in short, to get a running start on their American dream.

I could go on, but the bottom line is this: a bigger bottom line for hard-working Americans for the long term, more money in their paychecks, more opportunity, and a brighter future ahead.

Madam President, the 2017 tax reform also helped grow our economy by lifting the tax burden on American businesses. Small businesses, farms, and ranches all benefited from lower tax rates and investment incentives. Tax reform freed up cash that business owners could use to invest in their operations and their workers. And South Dakotans saw those benefits on Main Street and on the farms and ranches that are the lifeblood of our State.

Now Republicans are poised to make many of those reforms permanent. That includes investment incentives, like full expensing for new equipment and for domestic research and development.

It includes the job-creating 199A small business deduction.

It includes raising the death tax exemption to \$15 million and linking it to inflation, meaning countless family farms, ranches, and small businesses will be spared the threat of this fundamentally flawed tax and the headaches that come with trying to plan for it.

And, speaking of farms and ranches, in addition to providing farmers and ranchers with tax relief, our bill updates the farm safety net to address some of the challenges farmers and ranchers have been facing.

It increases reference prices for every covered commodity, and it makes these prices more responsive to market conditions in the coming years. It increases crop insurance coverage and affordability, including for farmers just starting out. It supports livestock producers by making existing programs more responsive to drought and by funding the prevention of animal diseases that can devastate livestock. It invests in critical conservation programs, including programs that support South Dakota's wild bird populations, and it supports a bright future for agriculture by funding grants for research at agriculture research institutions and promoting trade for commodities in foreign markets.

America's farmers and ranchers have faced some serious challenges in recent years—some of the toughest, in fact, in recent memory. I am proud that we are addressing their needs in this bill, and I can assure America's ag producers that their priorities will continue to be a priority here in Washington.

There is a lot more I could say about this bill and how it will help South Dakota and our entire country, but before I close, I want to focus on how it will make America more secure.

It makes a downpayment on strengthening our military by investing in the equipment our men and women in uniform need to keep America safe amid today's threats and tomorrow's. That includes expediting the production of the new B-21 long-range strategic bomber, the future backbone of the Air Force's bomber fleet. In the coming years, the B-21 will operate from several locations, including South Dakota's Ellsworth Air Force Base, and it is emblematic of the type of investments this bill is making in our military's future.

This bill also makes a significant investment in our border security, including finishing the border wall.

And, last but not least, it unleashes American energy. It reverses course from the Biden administration's hostility to responsible conventional energy production, and it will help guarantee a secure, stable, and affordable energy supply for American families and businesses and for our national security.

A safer, stronger, and more prosperous America is within reach. We have made a lot of progress on this bill, and it is almost time to vote. I am looking forward to finishing our work and getting these policies in place for the benefit of South Dakota and of our entire 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. SCHUMER. Madam 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, earlier today, we received reports that Iran has targeted U.S. military bases and U.S. servicemembers in the Middle East, putting the lives of thousands of Americans at immediate risk. I join Americans in praying for their safety.

This afternoon, I asked the Trump administration to immediately provide a classified briefing, laying out the full threat picture, the intelligence behind Iran's retaliation, and the detailed scope and timeline of any U.S. response. More importantly, I demanded they lay out exactly what measures they are taking right now to keep our servicemembers safe.

As I said Saturday night, Congress and the American people are owed answers. No President should be allowed

to unilaterally march this Nation into war with erratic threats, no strategy, and no explanation. That is why I have called on Leader THUNE to hold a vote immediately to enforce the War Powers Resolution. The law requires the Trump administration to consult with Congress; the Constitution demands it; and the American people, especially the families of those in harm's way, deserve nothing less. Confronting the Iranian regime's nuclear ambitions—and stopping their campaign of terror—demands strength, resolve, and strategic clarity.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on reconciliation, we have arrived at a pivotal week in the U.S. Senate, a week where Senate Republicans have to make a choice: either stand up for your constituents, stand up to defend Medicaid, stand up to protect millions of good-paying jobs or stand with Donald Trump and his billionaire friends. That is the fundamental choice Republicans face with their so-called Big Beautiful Bill.

Before the week is out, we expect Republicans will bring their bill to the floor for debate. That means, very soon, the Senate is going to have a long night of vote-arama. When vote-arama begins, Democrats will be ready. We will pick the Republicans' bill apart. We will put Republicans on record. We will force Republicans to explain in multiple ways, again and again and again, why they want to cut taxes for the rich at the expense of working people.

Even now, many Senate Republicans know their own bill is poison. One reason is that their bill will decimate rural hospitals even more than the House bill would, as bad as that was. It will do that by curtailing the provider tax that many States use to fund Medicaid. Now, they know it is terrible so it sounds like Senate Republicans are trying to sweeten this bitter deal by adding a rural hospital fund in the hopes of easing the worries of some Members among their rank.

But make no mistake about it—and the rural hospitals and the American Hospital Association know it—this won't work. Whatever funding Republicans would offer in a rural hospital fund would easily be overwhelmed by cuts the States would still face and by the difficulty rural hospitals would still be in. A rural hospital fund would be like putting a bandaid over an amputation. Again, it is not going to work.

Even before we get to vote-arama, Democrats have already successfully pushed back against some of the nastiest provisions in the Republicans' bill. This work is certainly not done—it will continue to be an ongoing process—but Democrats will continue to use every tool available in the Senate to fight back against the Republicans' bill. Today, I want to mention one important example.

Yesterday, I announced that Senate Democrats successfully challenged a provision Republicans tried to sneak into their bill that would have stripped Federal judges of their ability to enforce their own rulings. Now, we all know Federal judges have ruled against the Trump administration in the vast majority of cases that are currently in court. Many of the administration's most harmful Executive orders have been temporarily halted through preliminary injunctions, restraining orders, and other emergency rulings by the courts.

So what did Senate Republicans try to do?

They tried to write a workaround into their reconciliation bill by preventing judges from being able to even issue preliminary injunctions or restraining orders unless plaintiffs pay for the bond upfront. It goes even further than what the House Republicans tried to do. That meant, if someone wanted courts to put a stop to Donald Trump's freezing of Federal funds or to stop DOGE from rummaging through people's private data or any number of abuses—there are so many—they first had to pay up before the courts could even issue a court order. That is not justice, my Republican friends. That is pay-to-play. It is antithetical to our system of checks and balances. Once again, the wealthy are favored. They will be able to afford these bonds, but middle-class people, poor people, many groups will not.

I am pleased—very pleased—that we Democrats have successfully pushed back against this lawless provision. Now, to be sure, not every decision has gone our way. But we will keep fighting until the last possible moment to strip the worst parts of the “Big Ugly Bill” that have flown under the radar.

None of this has been easy to do. I want to thank all the ranking members and their staffs involved in this long, technical process. My staff has done a great job—I salute them—so has Senator MERKLEY's staff. He is our ranking member on the Budget Committee. The hours have been long. The issues they have worked through have been immensely complicated so I thank them for their continued good work.

Let me close by looking forward for a moment. The debate that will take place here on the floor in the coming days will be one of the most consequential the Senate has seen in years.

At stake is the healthcare of tens of millions of Americans. At stake is over 2 million jobs in red States and blue States alike, which could throw our country into a recession—there are so many job cuts—all for tax cuts for the wealthy.

But today, I want to leave my Republican colleagues with this: If they proceed with their “Big Ugly Bill,” they will push our Nation's debt to a point of no return. If Senate Republicans try to make Donald Trump's tax cuts permanent, as they are trying to do, they will add tens of trillions to the na-

tional debt in the coming decade—not a few trillion, tens of trillions in the coming decades.

Senate Republicans know this. So what do they do? They try to use a budgetary gimmick called current policy baseline to pretend as if these Trump taxes won't cost anything. This has never been done before in this way, but they are sort of desperate.

Look, Republicans can use whatever budgetary gimmicks they want to try to make the math work on paper, but you can't paper over the real-life economic consequences of adding tens of trillions to the debt. They are adding the money to the debt, that is for sure. They just try to do a paper trick so that it doesn't look like it, but it does, and interest rates will go sky-high, no matter what parliamentary gimmick they try to use.

There will be higher borrowing costs for all Americans for cars, for homes, and for credit cards. Americans are going to feel these higher costs because interest rates will go up because they are making the debt so deep. Americans are going to feel this everywhere they look. American household wealth will permanently be hobbled. Our economy will fail to reach its full potential. That is what will happen if Republicans proceed. Again, there aren't enough budgetary gimmicks in the world to change that fact.

And for what? For what? Why are Republicans doing all of this? So billionaires can pay less in taxes while tens of millions lose their healthcare benefits and pay more for everyday expenses.

I urge the Republicans not to move forward. It is abundantly clear the bill is deeply flawed. If they do, Senate Democrats will continue to expose the Republicans' bill for the debt-busting mess that it truly is.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

IRAN

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, I would like to be recognized to make some comments about the conflict we are watching unfold on our television between Iran, Israel, and now the United States.

Someone asked me: What is this talk all about?

I think a good title would be: “What is this all about?”

To the American people, what is this all about? Let me tell you what it is all about. It is all about religion.

A fanatical string of Shi'ism is now in charge of Iran, and they have three goals: to purify Islam—about 80 percent of Islam is Sunni; Saudi Arabia is the center of that part of the religion—to purify Islam in the image of the Ayatollah, to destroy the Jewish State, to drive us out of the Mideast because we are infidels.

This is not a democracy. It is a theocracy. If you have got any time on your hands, go on the internet and