

Israelis are designed to shut down the regime's nuclear capability. But the targets are changing. They are now going after the police force that keeps the Ayatollah in power, the intelligence services that scare people into submission, the prisons that house dissidents.

Israel has made a fateful decision to go to the heart of this regime, to take these religious Nazis down one way or the other—reject Nazism and the former religion or get new people.

And I am with them. I am with them to the bitter end. I am with them because being with them is in your own interest if you are an American. Being with them is in your own interest if you believe in religious tolerance. Being with Israel means you reject a regime that would take a 16-year-old girl off a bus and beat her to death because she didn't have a head cover. This is evil we are fighting. They are as evil as the Nazis.

Now, 80 years later, we are having a debate about what the Jewish people should do to a group that wants to kill them all? Really? We are debating among ourselves what is too much against a regime trying to build dozens of nuclear weapons to blow people off the planet they don't like or agree with? What kind of world are we living in? To all those who want to hold Israel back, what would you do if it were our country? Would you hold us back? If you tried to, we would run you over. We are not going to live this way as Americans.

So what is this all about? I am going to end where I began. It is about a fanatical regime that took over the country by force, that started out imprisoning Americans, has been trying to build nuclear bombs—multiple nuclear bombs—has been the largest state sponsor of terrorism since 1984, has American blood on its hands, has attacked Israel over and over and over again, has suppressed its own people. It is about a religious agenda.

Why do they do what they do? Religious, fanatical beliefs; a master religion for the world. And if you don't believe that, you have missed a lot. That is what they want, and the only way they are not going to get there is for somebody to stop them.

What did Hitler want? To take over the entire world and create a master race—anybody that didn't fit his definition of the right kind of person was in prison or killed.

The Ayatollah and his henchmen have that same view, but it is religiously driven.

So what happens in the next few days is going to determine the course of history for the State of Israel and the region for decades to come.

To our friends in Israel: Finish the job. Do what you have to do to bring about the regime change that will allow your children to sleep through the night.

To the American people: Wake up. Understand what we are fighting. The

Ayatollah is not normal. These are not normal people. Stand with Israel. Standing with Israel, you are standing by your—you are helping your own self; you are helping your own families.

I will make a prediction. Israel is going to win, and this regime is going to fall. This regime is going to fall of its own weight. The people in Iran are going to have their chance, as the regime gets weakened, to rise up and take back their own lives.

I don't know when that day is coming, but it is coming soon. I believe that. I believe that the day of reckoning is here for the religious Nazis running Iran; that their terrorism is coming to an end; that it is going to be replaced by a region that moves together, where Sunnis and Shias and Israelis and all different groups—Christians—work together to build economies for all those rights.

We live in a time of choosing. I choose to stand up to evil.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam 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. GRAHAM. I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Zimmerman nomination.

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 senior assistant executive 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. 138, Daniel Zimmerman, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

John Thune, Thom Tillis, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, John R. Curtis, Joni Ernst, Deb Fischer, Pete Ricketts, Roger Marshall, Chuck Grassley, Tommy Tuberville, Bill Cassidy, Jon A. Husted, Mike Rounds, John Kennedy, Katie Boyd Britt, Roger F. Wicker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Daniel Zimmerman, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE), the Senator from Arkansas (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 58, nays 33, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 322 Leg.]

YEAS—58

Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hassan	Reed
Britt	Hawley	Ricketts
Budd	Hoeven	Rosen
Capito	Husted	Rounds
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Kelly	Sheehy
Cramer	Kennedy	Slotkin
Crapo	King	Sullivan
Cruz	Lankford	Thune
Curtis	Lummis	Tillis
Daines	Marshall	Tuberville
Ernst	McConnell	Warnock
Fetterman	McCormick	Wicker
Fischer	Moody	Young
Gallego	Moran	
Graham	Moreno	

NAYS—33

Alsobrooks	Heinrich	Sanders
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Bennet	Hirono	Schiff
Blumenthal	Kim	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Klobuchar	Smith
Booker	Lujan	Van Hollen
Cantwell	Markey	Warner
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warren
Duckworth	Murray	Welch
Durbin	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—9

Banks	Lee	Ossoff
Coons	Murkowski	Risch
Johnson	Murphy	Shaheen

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 58, the nays are 33.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Daniel Zimmerman, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, more than 16 million people are going to lose their healthcare, and tens of millions of Americans are going to pay more for healthcare every month. Hundreds of rural hospitals are going to be forced to close, and we are going to plunge the

country into trillions of dollars of new debt.

Now, what is this all for? Is it to improve our schools and roads? Is it to make housing and childcare more affordable? Is it because we are in the middle of a crisis that just has to be paid for or we are going to pay down the national debt? No. It is none of those things. It is because they want to cut taxes for the richest people to ever exist. And if that means you can't see your doctor or you have to pay hundreds of dollars more every month to pay for your healthcare, tough luck.

Now, here is the thing: Republicans actually know what they are walking into because people in their own States are telling them what is about to happen.

"We can't sustain serving our community the way we are with these cuts," one hospital leader in Kansas said.

A health executive in Texas wrote:

Cutting billions of dollars from [Medicaid] would have widespread and devastating consequences for Texans. Beyond the obvious impacts to people enrolled in the program, the collateral damage of program cuts will be felt across the board. Hospitals will do everything they can to weather the storm, but some may not survive. Others will have to increase their reliance on state or local support or reduce services. Access to care will decrease, especially for high-cost service lines like maternal [health] care and behavioral health. Jobs will be lost. The impact on communities—which rely on their hospitals for employment and growth—will be profound.

A Utah father who credited Medicaid with saving his own son's life said:

Without Medicaid, these life-saving treatments would have been financially impossible. There is absolutely no way we would have covered the cost on our own. . . . And in this way, our story is not unique. So many families insured by Medicaid could have to make difficult, life-altering decisions if Congress slashes funding.

A former Republican elected official in Georgia warned:

Cuts to Medicaid are not only fiscally irresponsible, but they could threaten the livelihoods of our fellow Georgians and the economic opportunities that consistently make our great state a top state for business.

So the stakes are clear: It is people's health. It is people's hard-earned money. It is people's lives. And whether you are in a red or a blue State, you will absolutely feel the weight of this terrible piece of legislation.

More than a quarter of nursing homes may close. Hundreds of rural hospitals will shutter. And for what? To pay down the debt because we are a nation at war, because we want to invest in infrastructure or schools or healthcare? No. The reason they are making these cuts to food assistance, the reason they are making these cuts to rural hospitals, the reason they are making these cuts so that people are going to have to pay several hundred dollars more per month for their own healthcare is to create enough revenue for the biggest tax cut, the biggest wealth transfer from working people to

wealthy people in the history of the United States of America.

Even if you are not on Medicaid yourself, you likely know someone who is—a friend, a neighbor, a relative, a coworker. And, more than that, kicking tons of people in your community off of healthcare will drive up costs for everybody else and make high-quality care hard to find. You are going to pay more for less care—all for the biggest tax cut in American history for the people who need it the least.

I have no problem with the people who need it the least. But the truth is, they need it the least. If you are financially successful and you make \$4 million a year, God bless. That is the American dream. It does not mean you need a tax cut, and it does not mean you need a tax cut paid for by reducing services, especially in rural communities.

The good news is this: We actually don't have to do this. There is no rush to do this. There is no clamoring among constituents in red or blue States to do this. This is an add-on.

What they want to do is extend the original tax cuts. I opposed those tax cuts, but I can understand that Republicans, as an article of faith, want to extend the tax cuts that their President enacted two terms ago—fair enough—good, solid, old-fashioned policy disagreements.

But then they just larded it up with stuff—giveaways to special interests, and cuts and cuts and cuts to things that people care about—left, right, and center.

We don't actually have to do it this way. You are going to pay more for less care, all so that billionaires have a little more money sitting in their accounts.

It is going to require four Republicans saying: Enough is enough.

I have heard a number of my Republican colleagues talk about how essential Medicaid is to their rural communities.

And it is not just the people who are on Medicaid. Obviously, those are the people you have to be primarily concerned with. But a lot of us go home and visit both urban and rural hospitals, and they all say the same thing, which is that, if you blow out 30 percent of your revenue, you can't function as an institution.

So it is not just a question of whether you personally are on Medicaid or you personally care about Medicaid. It is about: Does your rural hospital even survive after this bill is enacted?

Nobody wants this, and there is still time to kill this bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, there is time to kill this bill, and I hope we do.

You know, as my colleague from Hawaii just said, what is happening in this bill is the infliction of bipartisan suffering, whether it is in the State of Vermont or the State of West Virginia

or the State of Tennessee. Folks who are depending on Medicaid are going to lose it.

Let me just give a couple of examples.

When I was in the House, my good friend David McKinley, a Republican, invited me to West Virginia, and we went to the Harrison coal mine. I was very deeply moved because the only people I know who work as hard as coal miners are dairy farmers. So we have a lot in common—hard-working folks in Vermont, hard-working folks in West Virginia.

But what this bill is going to do is threaten the access to healthcare that those West Virginia folks need, just like those folks in Vermont need, just like those folks in Tennessee need. It is not about whether you are a Republican or a Democrat. It is not about whether you are from a red or blue State. It is actually about real people who work in coal mines, who work on dairy farms, who work in factories, and seniors who need the help of nursing homes.

Two out of three nursing home beds are paid for by Medicaid. Parents of disabled children so depend on healthcare, especially through Medicaid. And that is true in West Virginia. It is true in Nebraska. It is true in Tennessee. It is just as it is in Vermont.

Let me just give a few numbers. In Vermont, 32,000 people—32,000 people—are going to lose healthcare if this bill is passed. In West Virginia, 76,000 people will lose their healthcare coverage. In Tennessee, it is going to be 290,000 people who are going to lose their healthcare.

It is not just those individuals who are going to lose healthcare. This budget reconciliation bill, the Big Beautiful Bill—the big bad betrayal—there are real consequences to this that are going to be devastating to rural America. And we have a lot in common in Vermont with so many other parts of rural America, like West Virginia and like Tennessee.

Rural hospitals will close, and people will be forced to travel for their care so far that they oftentimes won't be able to get it. And the sad reality is, if you take away people's healthcare, they are going to get sick and stay sick. You take away people's healthcare, and people are—people are—going to die.

You know, the American Hospital Association showed that this bill will likely close 338 hospitals in rural communities across the entire country, in your State and in mine. In Vermont, the fear is that 3 out of 14 hospitals are at risk of closure with the passage of this bill. In West Virginia, seven hospitals are at the risk of closure. In Tennessee, nine hospitals will be immediately at the risk of closure.

Do you know what happens too? It is like we don't even debate this; we don't even discuss it, when this reality is about to strike a hammerblow to folks in rural America. If people lose their

healthcare, it doesn't mean they don't need healthcare. It just means they can't pay for healthcare.

So folks in Vermont who were depending on Medicaid are going to show up at our rural hospitals. Our hospitals are under a legal requirement to provide care.

By the way, they would provide care even without a legal requirement because that is what we do in rural America: We help folks who need help.

But those hospitals already on a thin margin are not going to be able to afford it. That is what threatens to have them go out of business.

And then, we know the spiral. This bill, in Vermont, is going to result in over \$200 million in uncompensated care in the next 10 years. In West Virginia, it is \$1.4 billion. In Tennessee, it is over \$3.5 billion.

These rural hospitals provide critical care to people in need. We have to protect the people first. If we take away their hospitals, they have no protection. We have to protect the struggles that communities in rural America have to keep a strong community sense against the enormous pressures that they face.

There is a cruelty in this bill. There is an irresponsibility in the Senate if we don't acknowledge explicitly what the impact of this bill will be on the people we represent, on the hospitals that are dependent on us, and on the future of community strength in all of our rural communities. Let's kill this bill.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

TRIBUTE TO ELENA BURGWARD

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Elena Burgward, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Elena is a graduate of O'Gorman High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, she is attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in Lincoln, NE,

where she is pursuing a degree in criminal justice. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Elena for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MADDIE CROSS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Maddie Cross, an intern in my Rapid City, SD, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Maddie is a graduate of Spearfish High School in Spearfish, SD. Currently, she is attending the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD, where she is majoring in political science and minoring in business administration. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Maddie for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO ELLIOT HENDRIX

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Elliot Hendrix, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Elliot is a graduate of Stevens High School in Rapid City, SD. Currently, he is attending Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, where he is pursuing a degree in agricultural science. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Elliot for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO TAYLOR QUINN

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Taylor Quinn, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Taylor is a graduate of Lincoln High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, he is attending Augustana University in Sioux Falls, SD, where he is pursuing degrees in government and economics. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Taylor for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO KADEN SCHMIDT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Kaden Schmidt, an intern in

my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work he has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Kaden is a graduate of Washington High School in Sioux Falls, SD. Currently, he is attending Iowa State University in Ames, IA, where he is pursuing a degree in aerospace engineering. He is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of his internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Kaden for all of the fine work he has done and wish him continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO MACY STEEN

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Macy Steen, an intern in my Washington, DC, office, for all of the hard work she has done for me, my staff, and the State of South Dakota over the past several weeks.

Macy is a recent graduate of the University of South Dakota in Vermillion, SD, having earned a degree in legal studies. This fall, she plans to attend the University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law. She is a hard worker who has been dedicated to getting the most out of her internship experience.

I extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to Macy for all of the fine work she has done and wish her continued success in the years to come.

TRIBUTE TO SCOTT FITZWILLIAMS

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise to recognize Scott Fitzwilliams who recently retired after 15 years as forest supervisor of the White River National Forest and 34 years of service to the U.S. Forest Service.

Scott led the most visited national forest in the country, covering more than 2 million acres. While supervising the White River, Scott balanced enormous visitor demand with thoughtful stewardship, earning the trust of communities across Colorado's mountains.

Scott brought steady leadership to some of Colorado's most complex land management challenges. He managed the visitors at Hanging Lake and the Maroon Bells, navigated the first-ever partnership between the Forest Service and Colorado Parks and Wildlife at Sweetwater Lake, and helped communities recover from the Grizzly Creek and Lake Christine Fires.

Scott was a critical source of guidance and expertise for my work. He helped ensure the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument was established with the care and coordination it deserved. On the Thompson Divide, he helped navigate intricate land-use and community concerns and oversaw the implementation of the 20-year mineral withdrawal.

He also helped shape practical solutions for the housing crisis affecting mountain towns. His work identifying Forest Service sites suitable for workforce housing informed legislation that