

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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, last November, the American people elected President Trump and a Republican Congress with a clear mandate, and since taking control in Washington this year, we have been working to deliver on our promise of a safer, stronger, and more prosperous America.

Now we have the opportunity to pass a bill that advances all of these priorities and sets our country up for better days ahead. We have worked hard on this, and now it is time to deliver.

The centerpiece of our bill is permanent tax relief for the American people. The 2017 Republican-led tax cuts lowered rates for every income bracket. We doubled the child tax credit and nearly doubled the standard deduction. But those policies will expire at the end of the year without action from Congress, which means a typical family would be hit with a \$1,700 tax hike next year. In my State of South Dakota, South Dakotans would see their taxes go up on average \$2,500. We are determined not to let that happen—not next year, not ever. Our bill makes the 2017 lower tax rates permanent. It raises the child tax credit to \$2,200 per child and links it to inflation permanently, and it maintains the higher standard deduction that 90 percent of taxpayers use.

And we are not stopping there. Seniors will have an even higher standard deduction. Millions of tipped workers will benefit from no tax on tips, and millions of hourly workers will be able to keep more of their overtime pay with no tax on overtime.

Passing this bill means smaller tax bills and bigger paychecks for the American people—permanently.

It will also help get our economy firing on all cylinders again. In 2017, we boosted our economy by lifting the tax burden on American businesses. We lowered tax rates for the owners of small and medium-sized businesses, farms, and ranches. We 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.

These and other major reforms helped kick-start our economy, and now we have the opportunity to make all of the pro-growth reforms from 2017 permanent and go even further.

Our bill makes the small business deduction permanent. Full expensing for new equipment and domestic R&D will be permanent. Full expensing for new factories and factory improvements will generate growth and job creation and encourage more goods to be made in America.

A higher death tax threshold that is linked to inflation will spare countless family farms, ranches, and small businesses from a potentially devastating tax and the cost of burdensome planning, and the next generation will be able to access new investment accounts when they reach adulthood to use for education, to start a business, to buy their first home—essentially, to get a running start on the American dream. All of this means more money in Americans' pockets, more opportunity, and greater prosperity.

A bill to make America stronger and more prosperous would be incomplete if it didn't make America's farmers and ranchers stronger. Agriculture producers will, of course, benefit from permanent tax relief, but this bill also directly addresses the challenges producers have faced these past few years. It increases reference prices for every covered commodity; it enhances crop insurance coverage and affordability, including for farmers just starting out; and it supports risk management, disaster assistance, and conservation programs that producers depend on.

The last few years have been some of the toughest in recent memory for American agriculture, and I am proud that this bill addresses these issues head-on. I can assure America's farmers and ranchers that their priorities will continue to be a priority here in Washington.

This bill is also about a stronger America, and it makes a generational investment in our national security—all of our national security. That starts with securing our borders. The Trump administration has already done incredible work in stemming the flow of illegal immigrants and deporting criminals who had taken up residence in our country, but there is more work to be done, and law enforcement needs more resources to do it. Our bill provides those resources: the technology and manpower to stop illegal immigrants and illegal drugs at the border; an increased capacity to deport dangerous individuals from our country; and, yes, finally finishing the wall. As I said, the administration has made great progress already, and I am eager to get these resources into the hands of the men and women on the frontlines to solidify those gains.

We are also making a major investment in strengthening our military. Recent events have only reinforced the imperative of military readiness. But in a number of instances, we have let our military strength slip, and adversaries like China have begun to outpace us in key capabilities. Our bill will help reverse that trend. It invests in shipbuilding, supports a new Golden

Dome for missile defense, revitalizes the defense manufacturing capacity in America, and invests in the warfighting technologies of tomorrow. With this bill, we can help ensure that our men and women in uniform have what they need to deter and defeat any threat.

We are safeguarding our national security from every angle, which means addressing energy security. Energy security might not get the same attention as border security or national defense, but it is a big part of keeping America strong and secure. Relying on energy from hostile nations or unstable parts of the world can be a dangerous proposition, and maintaining energy independence is key to keeping a country secure.

We are fortunate to have an abundance of natural resources in this country, and our bill makes sure that the American people benefit from those resources by freeing them up for responsible domestic production for a secure, stable, and affordable supply of energy.

There is a lot more I could say about this bill, but before I close, I just want to talk about how this bill delivers on Republicans' promise to rein in the size of government. It delivers savings to the American people by reining in waste, fraud, and abuse in Federal programs. It includes the largest spending cut in American history as well as commonsense, good-government reforms that haven't been attempted in Washington, DC, in decades. With more revenue—revenue we get by growing the economy, not by raising taxes—this bill will actually help reduce the deficit by as much as \$6 trillion.

This bill delivers on the mandate the American people gave Republicans last year: a stronger America, a safer America, and a more prosperous America. It is right around the corner.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

TRIBUTE TO MOLLY ROWLEY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the late Jack Valenti, the once Special Assistant to LBJ turned longtime President of the Motion Picture Association, once said:

Every good speech contains six words: Let me tell you a story.

I have taken Jack Valenti's advice to heart. I have often told stories that might otherwise have been ignored—stories of the most vulnerable members of our community, those who might not be able to obtain the services of communications agencies, white-shoe law firms, and high-profile lobbyists. For decades, I have been honored to

have one of the best storytellers on Capitol Hill helping me.

For more than 20 years, Molly Rowley, my director of speechwriting, has helped shaped some of my spoken words. Monday, June 30, will mark her final day on my staff.

Molly is not from Illinois. Her family hails from Missouri, and she is always happy to remind us and our colleagues that her Kansas City Chiefs are regular playoff contenders and repeat Super Bowl champions.

She began her career as a newspaper reporter, but she eventually found her way into public service, writing speeches from New Jersey Gov. Jim Florio, the late-Senator Harris Wofford of Pennsylvania, and Senator Tom Daschle of South Dakota.

In 2005—20 years ago—Molly came to my office after working for Senator Daschle when he was the Democratic leader of the Senate. Before leaving Senator Daschle's office, Molly had written a compelling floor speech that caught my attention. I went over to Senator Daschle and asked if he had a staffer who helped him write that speech, and he mentioned Molly.

Fast-forward to 2005, when I was the brandnew whip of the Democratic caucus looking for staffers with leadership office experience. Molly was the perfect person to bring on board.

Speechwriting is part art and part science but really not either one. It is translating complex policy issues into a compelling narrative. That is not always an easy thing to do.

For Molly, her process starts with a simple question: How would this affect the average family in Illinois? She has a knack for turning arcane legislative text into poetry, and she often did so with little time and even less background.

If you were to strike up a conversation with Molly, it would not take long for you to notice her passion for language, creativity, and a deep pride in her Irish roots, like so many in my home State of Illinois.

She was able to add some special Irish charm to many of my speech materials over the years, from immigration events to Chicago's notable St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

Molly's source material knew no bounds. She would artfully weave into my remarks quotes from our Nation's Founding Fathers; landmark speeches of Presidents like Illinois' very own Abraham Lincoln; civil rights icons like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the late-Congressman John Lewis; prose of the Irish literary giants James Joyce and William Butler Yeats; and even hit Broadway musicals like Lin-Manuel Miranda's "Hamilton."

She excelled at uncovering obscure facts about a small town or community and using it as a centerpiece to tie a speech together. Whether ribbon cuttings for local health clinics, naturalization ceremonies, commencement addresses, or Senate floor speeches, Molly did so much more than prepare

remarks; she found the heart of the story.

Molly's interest and commitment to social justice and civil rights has been evident not only in her work but in the way she participated in life on Capitol Hill.

A lot of history has been made in these hallways, and Molly has made herself a part of it, whether chronicling the lying in honor of Rosa Parks, State of the Union speeches by President Obama, or being seated in the middle of the room for the Judiciary hearings for the nomination of Ketanji Brown Jackson to be a Justice of the Supreme Court.

I am grateful to have had Molly as a member of my team for all of these years and to help me tell these stories. I am confident she will use her gift of words to raise awareness of current events, not just in her community and country but globally.

But, first, she will take a well-deserved break and explore Europe with her mom before returning to spend time with her beloved four-legged roommate Liam.

I will miss Molly's wisdom, skill, and rhetorical flourishes.

I would like to close my remarks with her own words about leaving Capitol Hill. Molly wrote recently:

My favorite part of the Capitol has long been the soft dips in the stairs where the hard marble has worn down by more than a century and a half of footsteps.

Those indentations always remind me that we are part of a great continuum.

We do our best while we are here to protect our beloved democracy and then we move on, hoping and trusting that those who come after us will also safeguard this priceless gift.

Molly, on your watch, you kept this gift safe. I am glad to be part of your career on Capitol Hill and a recipient of so much good work. I wish you the best.

HONORING OFFICER KRYSTAL RIVERA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, we know that our men and women in uniform are vital public servants. They shoulder an immense responsibility when protecting and safeguarding our communities. Each morning, when our officers put on that uniform and badge, they head into the line of duty not knowing what the day may bring. They may be called on to run toward danger. Or they may be put in harm's way. But despite the knowledge of this looming risk, our officers selflessly show up in service to others day in and day out, driven by a sense of mission larger than themselves.

So I am confident I speak for all of us in this Chamber when I say a how incredibly grateful we are to our police officers for their service. This is also why it is especially painful and tragic when one of our officers is lost in the line of duty. And it is with a heavy heart and profound sadness that I speak about the passing of one of Chi-

cago's own, Chicago Police Department Officer Krystal Rivera.

Officer Rivera was killed in the line of duty on Thursday, June 5 of this year. She was just 36 years old—her whole life still ahead of her—and leaves behind her 10-year-old daughter Bella. Officer Rivera was a 4-year veteran of the Chicago Police Department, but called the city "home" for much longer. The youngest of three sisters, she was raised in Humboldt Park by her loving and proud Puerto Rican parents Yolanda Rivera and Eduardo Miguel Rivera.

Those who were fortunate to know Officer Rivera described her as a passionately protective spirit who loved boldly—a trait she no doubt inherited from her beloved mother, with whom she credited as her greatest motivation and inspiration in life. Her father, too, shaped her immensely. A preacher, he imparted to Officer Rivera not just a deep love of God, but a profound sense of duty and devotion to family.

At 18, Officer Rivera initially planned to join the Army, but soon felt a strong calling to serve her community as a police officer—and serve she did. While she served and juggled the demands of motherhood, she also pursued a separate goal. Her dream was to become a forensic investigator, a dream she actively pursued. Because of the values she lived for, it should come as no surprise that, within the precinct, Officer Rivera earned the nickname "Mama 2"—one of two mother figures on the team. And for Officer Rivera, family was family—blood or not. She had a loving heart and touched countless lives.

Officer Rivera's funeral was held earlier this week, and hundreds of her fellow officers, friends, and family came out to pay their respects—because that is the kind of person she was. That was the impact she left.

And while she held many titles in life—daughter, officer, and "Mama 2"—none were more important to Officer Rivera than the one she cherished most: "Bella's mom." Her daughter Bella was her biggest priority in her life, and she poured all of herself into being her mom. In doing so, she gave Bella those same values her parents gifted her—values I am confident Bella will carry with her as she continues through life. And so I want to close with a story about Bella.

This story was originally shared at the service for Officer Rivera earlier this week where she was laid to rest; it is worth recounting.

On the night of her mother's tragic passing, Bella looked Chicago Police Superintendent Larry Snelling in the eye and asked him one simple question: "Was my mom a good police officer?" Officer Snelling responded, "Your mom was an exemplary police officer . . . She was magnificent because, what I've often said about being an exemplary police officer, you first have to be an exemplary human being."