

actually deciding to effect change for hard-working families across this Nation.

We worked diligently, though, before that was even an option, building a coalition in a bipartisan way to address the affordability and accessibility of childcare.

I want to take a minute to thank Senator TIM KAINE. The Britt-Kaine proposal is what much of this was pulled from. We worked together to build that coalition to make sure that we were getting it right for the American people, in that we both had team members that worked diligently and around the clock.

I want to thank Rebecca Howard from his team for the work that she put in—tireless work. She happens to be an Alabamian from Alex City, AL, working hand in glove with Maggie McPherson from our team.

Maggie dedicated so much time and energy to getting this right. As a result of their hard work—along with Stephen Newton, Sean Ross, and Caroline Moore—Americans are going to have more opportunity, parents are going to be able to rely on childcare and have it accessible to them, businesses—large and small—are going to get to be a part of the solution.

I am so proud that the Republican conference came together and finally updated the Tax Code. It had not been updated since 1986 and 2001 to double what parents get moving forward. I want to thank the team that worked so diligently for weeks and months leading up to that to make that happen.

#### LULU'S LAW

Mr. President, I also rise today to recognize and celebrate an Alabama native Lulu Gribbon and her incredible journey that led us here today.

You see, just over a year ago—a year and a month—Lulu and her family did what many Alabamians and families across our Nation do every summer—they took a trip to the beach.

As a mom of two teenagers who is fortunate to live close to the Gulf of America, we have taken many beach trips ourselves. But what happened to Lulu last summer is not something I could have ever fathomed happening to one of my children, and it is not something I can fathom happening to anyone's child.

Lulu was on a sandbar in Walton County, FL, when she was viciously attacked by a shark. The attack was nearly fatal. She lost two-thirds of her blood in her body. And if it weren't for medical professionals who, by the grace of God, were close by, the end of this story could have been very different.

This marked the beginning of a grueling journey, multiple surgeries and countless hours of physical therapy. Lulu lost her left arm and her right leg but did not lose her will to fight, to be an inspiration, to be an example to all her knew her.

She embodies grit and grace and perseverance and has been an absolute force to all who had the opportunity to

know her or get a window into her story. In fact, Lulu has actually taken up some new hobbies.

She has mastered her golf swing. She is driving a car. She is shooting hoops on the basketball courts. She is surfing, now running. And if you go to her Instagram page—LuluG.strong, which I encourage all of you to do—you will see her actually slalom skiing at Lake Martin.

Like the power of resiliency, faith, and mental fortitude, Lulu's story is not only incredible, but has given us an opportunity to ensure that it doesn't happen to anyone ever again. And do you know what? That is exactly what Lulu wants.

She wanted to make sure very practical lessons of how we can work to avoid these attacks from happening in the future actually got put into law. Because, you see, 90 minutes before Lulu was attacked, a woman from Virginia was attacked just a few miles down the beach.

Elizabeth Foley of Virginia lost her hand while fighting off a shark. Again, this was less than 2 hours prior and just a few miles away. Had there been an alert system for sharks, Lulu likely would not have been in the water.

That is the nexus of Lulu's Law. The Senate has now unanimously passed Lulu's Law, legislation I was proud to lead and that Lulu has courageously advocated for for over a year now.

Lulu's Law empowers authorized local, State, Tribal, and Federal Government authorities to quickly deploy warnings via the Wireless Emergency Alert system. This will happen if a shark has attacked someone.

Preventing attacks like this is something we can all rally around, in honor of Lulu and to protect future beachgoers and families. While the Senate passage of this bill certainly calls for celebration, our work is not done. I am hopeful that our House colleagues will quickly take up this piece of legislation and begin to move it through the House and, ultimately, to the President's desk.

I will tell you God's hand is in all of this. Last night, I called Lulu's parents and talked to them about how incredible this is, and they immediately said that when they got the news, they were having their very first Lulu Foundation meeting, and the junior board was meeting, which are all of the young ladies that were in the water with Lulu when this happened.

Their resiliency, their grit, their willingness to make things better for those to come after them should absolutely be commended. But none of this would have happened without a bipartisan approach. I want to thank Majority Leader THUNE, I want to thank Minority Leader SCHUMER, I want to thank Committee Chair TED CRUZ, Ranking Member MARIA CANTWELL, and I want to thank BRIAN SCHATZ.

This is what the country sent us here to do, is to figure out where we have common ground; and where we have

that common ground, to make the lives better of the people we serve. That is exactly what we did today. This wouldn't have happened without people coming together. It is a big moment not only for Lulu but for the future safety of beachgoers from coast to coast.

#### CENTRAL TEXAS FLOODS

Mr. President, one more topic I would like to discuss today. I rise with a heavy heart in the aftermath of the flood that occurred in the heart of Texas Hill Country. Over 700 girls attended Camp Mystic this summer, excited about another year of making new friends and seeing old ones.

They looked forward to long days of swimming in the river, evenings laughing with their friends over dinner, and furthering relationships, not only with each other but with their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

As many parents know well, camp is a formative time in our children's lives. They learn independence while being away from their families, teamwork and sportsmanship as they compete in activities, and confidence in leadership as they look up to their counselors who guide them emotionally and spiritually. It is a special community to be a part of, and it is one that campers never leave.

These 700 girls had just completed their first week in a month-long term before this tragedy. I am devastated for those precious young lives that were lost and those that have been changed forever—for the parents, the grandparents, brothers, the sisters, the friends who face this unimaginable grief.

One of those girls at Camp Mystic was 8-year-old Sarah Marsh from Mountain Brook, AL. Sarah would have been a third grader in the fall at Cherokee Bend Elementary School. Her favorite color was blue. As a mother myself, reading the Marsh family's statement is heart-wrenching—losing a child is something no parent should have to endure.

In that statement, her parents said, in part:

This [is a] tragedy that no parent can prepare for, and it will never be right this side of Heaven.

Sarah's grandmother described her as a "beautiful spunky ray of light in our lives."

I join my colleagues, I join the people of Alabama, the people across this Nation in mourning today for the loss of her precious life and the lives of other fellow campers and counselors. I take comfort in the fact that I know she is with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Scripture tells us: For we know that if the tent that is our Earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 Corinthians 5:1.

As we mourn this tragedy, Sarah is in a permanent and perfect home. She is there where there is no sorrow, no sickness, and where death cannot enter.

My heart is also heavy when I consider the more than 100 individuals that are still missing, the toll that this has taken on their families.

The Santana family from Mobile was camping on the river for the 4th of July. Eddie and his wife Ileana and their granddaughter Mila Rose are still missing. Tragically, Camille, wife to Eddie Junior and mother to Mila Rose, was found yesterday and is now at peace with the Lord.

I continue to pray for this family from Mobile, their loved ones who wait and hope, and those who continue to search and rescue in Texas.

In fact, the devastating flash floods has triggered one of the largest search and rescue operations in Texas history. We have seen the better part of humanity through the more than 1,700 emergency responders and community and family members who are risking their own lives to evacuate campers and counselors and search for those who are missing.

To the heroic first responders who continue to conduct search and rescue, your country offers you the deepest gratitude for your bravery. As a country, we must surround those who are grieving with love and support. I continue to pray for the victims' loved ones, the survivors, and those who are still missing.

Mr. President, may their memories live on beyond just Camp Mystic and the Kerr County community, but across our Nation and our hearts forever.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, let me begin by joining the Senator from Alabama expressing my concern with her with what happened in Texas Hill Country, the flooding over the weekend. It was a sad chapter in our Nation's history and a tragic chapter in the history of these families. Our hearts and prayers are with them.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. President, on a different topic, July 4 was the signing of the Big Beautiful Bill. That is what President Trump called it. Congressional Republicans celebrated. I did not. I opposed this legislation because what it did, I think, is going to hurt a lot of families.

Taking health insurance away from 17 million Americans, taking food assistance away from millions, as well, is no way for the United States to act when it comes to needy families.

Have you ever been without health insurance? Ever been to a point you went to a hospital and you didn't have health insurance? I have. I was a law student here in Washington. In my second year, God sent my wife and myself a beautiful baby girl who had a serious health condition. I ended up at Children's Hospital in DC here in the waiting room, not knowing who was going to walk through that door, what doctor will come into that room and treat my child.

I didn't have anything to say about it. I had no health insurance. I was at their mercy. Good people responded, but it is a time in my life I will never, ever forget.

For the President to sign a bill on the 4th of July that takes health insurance away from 17 million people is just plain wrong. Obamacare—the medical program that was initiated under President Obama—extended health insurance coverage to more than 20 million families, giving peace of mind knowing they were covered if something serious occurred; a cancer diagnosis, a serious trauma—they were covered.

This President celebrates taking away health insurance from 17 million people. To cut Medicaid like that is to cause terrible personal consequences to a family, but it is more than that.

Make no mistake, a family without health insurance in a desperate situation is going to do two things: Postpone medical care that is needed because they can't afford it or show up in an emergency situation at a hospital and beg for coverage and care. That is going to happen. So what happens to the hospital that provides that care?

For most places in America, the hospital will do its best to help the family, but the net result is the hospital is not going to be paid because there is no health insurance plan. And if they are not paid, what do they do with the expenses of that treated patient? They pass them along to other families.

So this Big Beautiful Bill the President signed takes health insurance away from 17 million families in Medicaid and raises the cost of healthcare for the rest of us. How can that be a good idea? And why would we do such a thing?

Well, the reasoning was very simple and direct: The President wanted to renew tax cuts for the wealthiest people in America—the wealthiest people.

Oh, DURBIN, you are making that up. You are a Democrat. You are going to say that whether it is true or not.

Here is what it boils down to. Elon Musk got a \$346,000 tax break by President Trump signing this bill into law. Do you think he noticed, a man who is a multibillionaire? He probably didn't. It didn't change his life one bit. But to the family without health insurance, you changed their life a lot.

RESCISSION

This time, President Trump has come back with a new idea that I want to discuss here today. The President has come to Congress's doorstep with a bill called a rescission bill.

One of my colleagues, at lunch, said we need a new word. I know what "rescission" is. He knows what "rescission" is. But the American people may not. It sounds like a foreign word, he said. It does, in a way, but it is a legal term. And it is a request to cut funding already appropriated.

So money appropriated by Congress, signed by a President, sent to the administration, they decide they are not

going to spend; they are going to rescind it—a rescission bill.

So here comes President Trump's first rescission bill in his second term. And what does he come up with? This request would cut \$1.1 billion from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Do you listen to public radio, public TV? Are you aware of what it does for your community?

This would eliminate any Federal assistance for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

It includes \$700 million, which is eliminated, to provide critical funding for local, public media. This would devastate more than 1,500 public radio and TV stations across this country.

The bottom line: Do you think we are better off with less information as Americans or more?

The bottom line: Do you want a choice to pick your own source of information? Do you want that choice to include the Corporation for Public Broadcasting?

The President says: No, we are not going to provide the assistance for that to continue.

What it means for small towns in Downstate Illinois and all the way up to Chicago, in the classrooms there, is that public media stations provide essential, nonpartisan news coverage, lifesaving emergency and weather alerts, and educational programs for our kids.

I don't know the circumstances in Texas for this terrible flooding, and I don't want to presume anything. But as a general rule, more emergency information available to American families is better than worse. President Trump wants to eliminate the source, the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and that means in many communities in my State of Illinois and around the country, the radio will be silent, when it might be giving a warning—a warning that extreme weather is on the way.

For most rural communities, this local broadcasting is especially crucial. Rural public broadcasting stations are often the only source of local news—the only source of emergency alerts in the region.

These local stations, also, are truly independent. They reflect the needs of the community and the people that they serve. They go out of their way to be nonpartisan. I know because I have dealt with them for decades.

For example, let me tell you about one station, WTVP, the local PBS affiliate serving Central Illinois. They have a program called "A Shot of Ag," which shares stories and perspectives on farming, farm life, and the rural-urban divide in my State.

I am proud to be a Downstater. I am proud as well to represent the city of Chicago. Why would I want to cut off information for the Downstate farming community that is available through public broadcasting?

Right now, in my home State of Illinois, there are 5 counties out of the 102