

Yesterday, he threatened that any of them who voted against the full rescissions package that we have before us would face his wrath. What is going on here? Does anyone stand up to these horrible, horrible cuts that hurt the American people?

Republicans, in realtime, are cutting healthcare. They are cutting education. They are cutting aid for our veterans.

Veterans are not getting—ask them. The veterans know they are not getting the healthcare they used to.

And making things even worse, Donald Trump's tariffs are coming in at the worst possible time, and in a few short months, they are going to raise the cost of groceries. They are going to hurt small businesses and do untold damage to our economy.

And, now, this package suffocates public broadcast. Well, did they even know when they said they wanted to cut it—you know, Donald Trump doesn't seem to like it—how much it helps our rural communities? It is the only place they can rely on for local news, for weather reports. And farmers across rural America depend on public broadcast to get weather reports because there is no other way. Did they know that it guts international aid that ensures America's national security? Did they even think of the consequences, just because Donald Trump says he wants it cut? And everyone knows he doesn't know the details of any of this stuff.

The rescissions package is certainly troubling, but the pattern behind it is even worse. It sets the stage for even more party line devastating cuts in the future to healthcare, to education, anything Republicans decide they don't like, all on a party-line vote, all because of obeisance and fear of Donald Trump, not a conviction that he is doing the right thing. This is a dark omen moving forward.

Our Republican friends say they fight for the middle class. They say they fight for working people. Then they turn around and take investments away from middle class and rural America.

I urge them—urge them—not to proceed with this bill as written.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on healthcare costs, Republicans' "Big Ugly Betrayal" will devastate American healthcare this year. Not many years down the line, not a few years down the line. It is going to hurt now.

There is a growing idea among Republican Members of Congress and then the lobbyists who talk to the press all the time that hospitals don't need to worry about the "Big Ugly Bill" because there is time to stave off or change the horrible Medicaid cuts Republicans passed and are now running away from. That is garbage.

Donald Trump and Republican leaders forced their Members to walk the

plank and cut Medicaid to the bone. So now they are in damage-control mode. They know how bad it is. They want to make their "Big Ugly Bill" seem less destructive and seem more palatable when, in reality, it is, quite literally, a death sentence for rural hospitals and vulnerable Americans. And that death sentence for so many of them is not 2 years away; it is now.

Here are the facts that show Republicans' "Big Ugly Betrayal" is having an impact right now, not later: At least 300 rural hospitals are at immediate risk of closing because of this bill already—already. Not 2 years from now. Now, this week, 2 weeks after the bill passed. Hospitals in Iowa, Nebraska, North Carolina, and Maine have announced they are closing or are in serious danger of closing. Not in 2027, not in 2028. Now. Now.

Governors in at least eight States—eight States—have called special sessions this summer. Not in 2028, not in 2027. They have called special sessions this summer or are pushing stopgap subsidies to shield doctors and hospitals from the immediate harm. States don't see the "Big Ugly Bill" as a problem for years from now. To them, to the workers, and, most of all, to the people who get healthcare in a lot of these rural hospitals, it is a problem right now.

And this fall, more problems. Not in 2028, folks. This fall, people will get notices that their insurance premiums for the Affordable Care Act will go up 75 percent on average because Republicans chose not to extend tax credits for the ACA.

This will also impact people on private insurance. If you don't have ACA, Medicaid, Medicare, you are still going to get increases in your insurance. Everyone is affected by these cuts—just about everyone—unless you are one of those billionaires who self-insures. You don't have to have insurance because you have got all the money in the world to pay any medical bill. That is not true of the vast majority of Americans.

And what they are doing is just the start. Republicans have made it clear they want even deeper cuts to Medicaid. Many in the House Freedom Caucus—those rightwingers—have said they weren't satisfied with their "Big Ugly Bill." So who is to say that Donald Trump and Russell Vought won't use rescissions or another reconciliation bill to cut healthcare even deeper? And what are our Republican colleagues going to do when the handful of rightwing Freedom Caucus people in this body and the other body say they demand cuts or they won't vote for any bill? Are they going to cave once again? Say: OK?

Let me say it again: All this talk from Republicans that many of their own cuts won't materialize is utter nonsense. Hospitals are closing now. States are reacting now. Insurance companies are adjusting now. And the harm to the American people will happen now, not later.

NOMINATION OF WHITNEY D. HERMANDORFER

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on judicial confirmation, the first judge confirmation, later today, Senate Republicans will confirm Donald Trump's first judicial nominee of his second term, Whitney Hermandorfer, to be a circuit judge on the Sixth Circuit.

We all know when it comes to judges Donald Trump cares only about one thing: total unyielding fealty to Donald Trump—not experience, not judicial independence, not knowledge or desire to pursue the law, but brazen, uncomplicated fealty to Donald Trump. That is how he chooses judges. That is how the people under him choose judges.

We have never seen this in America. You could have been a conservative like Ronald Reagan, someone like George Bush or H.W. Bush or Clinton or Obama. They all looked. You know, they wanted someone to have some philosophical kinship with them. But they said: Will they follow the law? Do they know this law?

Not this administration. It is so different than all the others in a very bad way. Donald Trump doesn't care about the law or what the Constitution says. He says that himself. He only wants his foot soldiers in black robes defending him when he tries to do whatever he wants.

Ms. Hermandorfer has failed to show that she can be an independent jurist committed to upholding the law. She has less than 10 years of legal experience. She has never served as the sole or chief counsel on a single case. She has made a career out of going after people's reproductive rights, transgender rights, and antidiscrimination policies.

When nominees like Ms. Hermandorfer are the standard, our courts are weakened; the judiciary runs amok; the American people are worse off.

I strongly—strongly—oppose her nomination.

NATIONAL SEMICONDUCTOR TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, and finally, a very good day. I just got in from Albany in New York State. It was a very good day for Upstate New York. This morning, I was up in Albany to make a very exciting announcement years in the making. America's first ever national semiconductor technology center is now officially open for business in Albany, NY, in Upstate New York.

Today is the day I have been dreaming about since the time I wrote the Chips and Science law and when I was writing the NSTC program into the bill. I had always been thinking of Albany and of Upstate New York.

This center will be a leading hub for semiconductor innovation, not just in America but the whole world. This is a

great message for all Americans. Whether you live in Albany, New York State, or any other part of this great country, there is a bold, vital message that comes from Albany: The future of chips and the most advanced semiconductor chips is here in America—not overseas, not China.

These chips are vital to so many parts of our lives—our phones and computers and our cars and our national security and even to the AI systems that are already changing the world. Albany NanoTech will specifically focus on what is called EUV, extreme ultraviolet lithography research. It will be one of only two public facilities on Earth to be home to this EUV tool and the only one in America.

So what does this announcement mean? It is not just an abstract thing. It means major chip companies from around the world will have the ability to collaborate in New York in R&D for new chips. It means startups and other innovators will have access to the most advanced machinery to experiment and discover new innovations in semiconducting. It will even mean more good paying jobs—J-O-B-S—at Albany NanoTech and the local economy.

We all worried that China would gain the lead on this chip production. Well, now we have the answer, and that is the Albany NanoTech Center. No. 1 place in the United States and in the world for the new high-end research into semiconductor chips.

At the end of the day, this announcement, which I have worked so long and hard for since 2017—at the end of the day, this announcement will help make chips and science a reality, boosting American innovation, creating American jobs, making the United States the world leader in chipmaking.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill 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.

NOMINATION OF WHITNEY D. HERMANDORFER

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Senate will soon vote on the nomination of Whitney Hermandorfer, President Trump's nominee to serve as judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit.

In May, the President announced Ms. Hermandorfer was the very first judicial nominee of his second term. And now she is the President's first judicial nominee to come to the floor of the Senate.

The President has been clear that his primary concern is not about his judicial nominee's experience, competence, or integrity. This President is not fo-

cused on temperament, independence, or respect for the rule of law. He is focused on a nominee's perceived loyalty to him and his agenda and a willingness to rule in favor of him and his administration.

When we consider the President's priorities and Ms. Hermandorfer's record, it is easy to understand why the President nominated her to serve on the Sixth Circuit. At the Office of Tennessee Attorney General, Ms. Hermandorfer leads the Strategic Litigation Unit. Why is that significant? She is not just defending State laws in Tennessee. She has turned the Attorney General's Office to an advocacy arm for the Trump agenda.

She has argued in support of President Trump's unconstitutional Executive order that purports to end birth-right citizenship. This Executive order has been blocked by every judge who has considered it. One judge—appointed by President Ronald Reagan, I might add—said:

I've been on the bench for over four decades. I can't remember another case where the question presented was as clear as this one . . . This is a blatantly unconstitutional order.

And yet Ms. Hermandorfer signed amicus briefs in support of the President's unlawful efforts to fire inspectors general and heads of independent Agencies.

Her record makes it clear that, if confirmed, she would continue to enable, rather than check, an administration that has repeatedly exceeded its authority.

Ms. Hermandorfer also refuses to acknowledge that President Trump lost the 2020 election. Let me repeat that: This nominee who seeks a lifetime appointment to the Federal bench, when asked the basic question as to whether Donald Trump won or lost the 2020 election, gave the stock answer. She refuses to acknowledge that Donald Trump lost. In response to this simple question: Did President Trump lose the 2020 election? All she could say was:

President Biden was certified as the winner of the 2020 presidential election and served as the 46th President of the United States.

This is the standard response from this administration's nominees seeking positions on the Federal bench. It is an embarrassing genuflection before the Big Lie. The question of who won the 2020 election is not a matter of political opinion; it is a matter of historical fact. The overwhelming majority of my Republican colleagues have correctly recognized that reality, and we have a right to expect nominees to acknowledge such historic realities as well.

Both President Trump's nominees, including Ms. Hermandorfer, have been afraid to admit he lost the 2020 election. Why are they afraid of it? It is a fact. They are afraid because it will make him angry. He may dump their nominations because of the answer to that question.

The fact that she is willing to con-

done President Trump's false claims further demonstrates a level of partisanship and deference to this President that is unacceptable for someone seeking a lifetime position on the Federal bench.

And just in case her political leanings aren't clear enough for the record, Ms. Hermandorfer has strong ties to a range of rightwing organizations. They include the fabled Federalist Society and Teneo Network. Teneo Network is a new conservative group funded by Leonard Leo and his affiliated organizations. You may have heard the name Leonard Leo recently when President Trump called Mr. Leo a "sleazebag."

Membership in such organizations has been a litmus test for years for Republican nominees. It is the secret handshake, my friends. If you belong to the Federalist Society or now this Teneo Network, you are in. It means a nominee will use the Republican playbook for deciding important Federal cases. How does it work? You claim to be neutral, but, in fact, you contort history and overturn precedents to reach the Republicans' preferred outcome.

Ms. Hermandorfer followed this playbook to a tee in the Tennessee Attorney General's Office. She opposed LGBTQ rights and reproductive rights as well as environmental and anti-discrimination policies to protect the most vulnerable in America.

I believe we need judges on the bench who follow the law and the Constitution, not politicians in robes who rule in favor of the President and wealthy special interests.

Finally, I would like to note that Ms. Hermandorfer's academic record, although impressive, and legal record, although extreme, is short. She graduated from law school in 2015—has fewer than 10 years of legal experience. Outside of clerkships, she has only practiced law for 6 years, and she is seeking a lifetime appointment to the circuit court—one of the highest in the land. She has never served as sole or chief counsel in any case—any case—tried to verdict, judgment, or final decision.

That is a shocking lack of experience for someone nominated for a lifetime position. She will be watching trials for the first time as a judge. But, unfortunately, this kind of inexperience is common with President Trump's judicial nominees.

Make no mistake, experience is still important. Robust litigation experience ensures judicial nominees will be equipped to fulfill their duties. As an appellate judge, she is going to be standing in judgment of many trial courts. She has limited experience in that field.

Ms. Hermandorfer is the first judicial nominee we have considered this Congress. She won't be the last. In every instance, we must carefully examine the nominee's record as we consider them for a lifetime appointment. After carefully reviewing her record, I have