

to be—a Federal-State partnership to support the most vulnerable Americans.

There has been drift on both of those in the past few years. We have drifted from a Federal-State partnership to a situation where the Federal Government picks up more and more—sometimes close to all—of the tab. And we have drifted from a focus on the most vulnerable Americans.

Medicaid was created to serve the most vulnerable populations: the elderly poor, the disabled, pregnant women, and children in need. But in 2010, President Obama and Democrats allowed States to expand Medicaid to include able-bodied adults earning up to 138 percent of the Federal poverty level. They gave States an incentive to do so by promising that the Federal Government would pick up almost all of the tab.

Now combine that with the Biden administration's Medicaid rules and waivers, and both the Medicaid population and Federal spending on Medicaid have exploded.

Medicaid spending has grown by more than 50 percent since 2019—50 percent since 2019. That is utterly unsustainable, and it threatens the stability of the program for the most vulnerable populations.

So Republicans implemented several commonsense measures to slow the rate of Medicaid growth and refocus the program on Americans most in need. Know what I said—slow the rate of Medicaid growth.

We are not cutting Medicaid. We are simply slowing the rate of growth.

As Senate Finance Committee Chairman CRAPO noted, only in Washington—only in Washington—is a smaller increase in spending considered a cut.

So what did we do in our bill? We implemented measures to remove noncitizens from the Medicaid rolls. We implemented an extremely mild work requirement, just 20 hours per week for able-bodied, working-age adults without young children. We overturned Biden-era regulations that made it difficult to remove individuals who don't qualify for Medicaid, and we took aim at rampant abuse of the provider tax loophole.

Now, use of this loophole, which sees States inflate Medicaid service prices in order to garner a larger reimbursement from the Federal Government, has been a problem for quite a while now.

In fact, President Obama proposed multiple budgets featuring measures to rein in abuse of the provider tax. But States continued to take advantage of the gimmick; and thanks to waivers that the Biden administration issued to California and other blue States last year allowing them to further exploit a similar loophole, taxpayers were on the hook for tens of billions of dollars in new spending.

So we took action to rein things in. We are not eliminating States' ability

to use the provider tax loophole, but we are instituting limits—the identical limits, in fact, that President Obama proposed imposing.

We are making States take responsibility for their Medicaid decisions—States like California, which chooses to spend State funds to have its Medicaid program cover illegal immigrants. They should not be able to, in effect, have the Federal Government bail them out for their reckless spending decisions.

Resources are not unlimited, and States need to shoulder their share of the Federal-State Medicaid partnership rather than pushing off their costs onto Federal taxpayers.

The net effect of all of these measures—like removing ineligible individuals and individuals who refuse to work from the Medicaid rolls and restraining State abuse of the provider tax loophole—will be able to put Medicaid on a more sustainable fiscal footing going forward and put a renewed emphasis on the vulnerable individuals this program was actually created to serve.

Vulnerable individuals will also be helped by the major investment our bill makes in expanding home and community-based services for individuals with developmental disabilities. This will reduce multiyear waiting lists for services and allow individuals with disabilities to access the care that they need at home or in their communities.

The One Big Beautiful Bill Act was developed to make hard-working Americans safer, stronger, and more secure. And the Medicaid provisions of the bill fit right in with that mandate. By refocusing available Medicaid dollars on those this program was originally intended to serve, we will make vulnerable Americans more secure and ensure that this program will continue to be available to Americans in need long into the future.

Mr. President, that sounds like a good day's work.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

RESCISSIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last night, while Americans were asleep, Senate Republicans gutted critical funding for local TV and radio, for foreign aid that keeps America safe, all to keep paying for their billionaire tax cuts.

On the very same day that communities in Alaska turned to public radio and TV for tsunami warning updates, Republicans in Washington voted to

take that funding away. It is senseless, it is cruel, and just defies common sense. Republicans have become the party of "cut, cut, cut now, ask questions later; cut healthcare for 17 million Americans; cut food assistance for hungry kids; cut good-paying energy jobs, let Beijing get ahead of us." Never mind that kids will go hungry or that families will lose insurance or that people get sick and die.

Make no mistake—make no mistake—just like with the "Big Ugly Bill" the more Americans learn about what Republicans just did in this rescission package, the more they won't like it and the more Republicans will squirm. We saw a lot of squirming last night.

When parents see Republicans just axed educational programming, when people see Republicans just axed "Sesame Street" to pay for tax cuts for billionaires, when rural Americans see Republicans not just betrayed them and defunded public radio—sometimes the only source in rural areas so vital to natural disasters, it is the only news source there—the consequences will be severe. Americans will remember. Democrats will ensure that they don't forget.

We will make sure Americans don't forget what Republicans are doing, just like we are doing with the "Big Ugly Bill," just like these taxes for billionaires, just like these massive Medicaid cuts.

Last night's vote axing PBS, axing local TV will haunt Republicans as the damage sets in. Today, tomorrow, next month, next year, Americans will be talking about these cuts at their diners, at the grocery store, at dinner, at the park, because the cuts will be felt everywhere.

Here is what Americans don't want: They don't want Republicans to rubberstamp DOGE's awful and damaging cuts, no questions asked. Republicans never seem to challenge Donald Trump or DOGE—or both.

When you cut investments that actually make people's lives better, when you cut those investments like healthcare, local TV, and education, people get angry. So make no mistake, when Donald Trump and Republicans rammed the "Big Ugly Bill" through, Americans quickly saw how Donald Trump and Republicans betrayed them, and their popularity is already declining.

When families saw the consequences, when Americans saw the Medicaid cuts, when kids are getting food ripped from their mouths so billionaires can pay less in taxes, it is disastrous for Donald Trump and many Republicans, and we saw that on many faces across the aisle last night who didn't want to do what Trump wanted them to do but were forced into it because of threats or frailty or fear.

Well, the same thing has happened, as I speak. As I speak, Democrats are fighting in the Appropriations Committee to unwind the awful DOGE cuts

against veterans, and that is just what is happening to our veterans through these DOGE cuts. What is happening to them is terrible.

Our veterans—these are the people who volunteered, who risked their lives. Many of them came back with injuries and PTSD. And when they get to the veterans hospitals, because there have been such cuts, their care is inadequate. They risked their lives for us, and Republicans and Trump and DOGE cut veterans' health and veterans' care. It is outrageous—outrageous—and they are doing it.

We have heard a lot of verbiage: Oh, we love our veterans. And then they cut what our veterans need and want.

The meeting today in the Appropriations Committee shows that there is a way Republicans can undo these awful DOGE cuts. Reversing DOGE cuts through the MILCON appropriations bill today is a direct rebuke to Donald Trump. It is saying to Trump: We don't like what you did, but we will see if Republicans come along, if they will defy Trump and vote to undo the DOGE cuts.

It is simple. Republicans have a choice to make as we move forward. They can put their constituents over Trump and work with Democrats to continue funding the government in a responsible way, or they can continue to go it alone and continue to bow in obeisance to Donald Trump and rubberstamp his awful cuts that do such harm to our Americans in uniform.

And if they go it alone, without undoing the terrible things that DOGE did here and elsewhere, Democrats will make them pay a price, just as we have made them pay a price on reconciliation.

Republicans can continue to bow in obeisance to Trump and rubberstamp whatever cuts he tells them to make, but you can't just push these awful cuts farther and farther down people's throats and not expect them—the people—to respond.

Republicans, for their own good and for the good of the country, need to be careful about making so many devastating cuts so quickly and just on party-line vote in reconciliation and rescission and whatever else they might come up with to avoid the process.

And if Republicans keep going down this road, if they choose to ignore the bipartisan process, if they keep renegeing on funding agreements reached in committee, if they prefer to strike deals with Donald Trump and Russell Vought to use impoundment decisions and pocket rescissions to cut whatever they want on a party-line vote, the harms to the American people will be devastating.

It will be devastating in healthcare. It will be devastating to our farmers. It will be devastating to our veterans. It will be devastating to the millions of people who were promised jobs in healthcare and clean energy.

It will be Americans back home who will see even more cuts as they proceed on this road, if they do—more cuts to housing, more cuts to education, to research, to economic development.

It will be our farmers who see their costs go up. It will be our small businesses who get taken advantage of by special interests and by erratic tariff policies.

The consequences for this Chamber and our country will be stark—very stark, indeed.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

On judges, today, Republicans will spend the day ramming through more of Donald Trump's extreme judicial nominees.

When choosing his judges, only one thing matters to Donald Trump: unquestioned fealty to him—brazen, unquestioned fealty.

It doesn't matter what the law is. It doesn't matter about judicial independence or precedent or even the Constitution. The only thing that Trump cares about in a judge—we have seen this. We know it. Our Republican colleagues who just march in lockstep to vote for these awful judges know it. The only thing Trump cares about is unyielding fealty to him, and he says it brazenly.

We have never seen such a disturbing litmus test for judges in America. The judges before the Senate today are no different than the previous ones: radical, inexperienced, and chosen not for their fairness but for their ideological fealty to Donald Trump and the hard right.

The first nominee, Joshua Divine of Missouri, is a political operative—a political operative—with no judicial experience, who made a career attacking everything from voting rights to commonsense gun safety, to defending government overreach into people's private lives.

It is said that Donald Trump wants to make sure that no one in this Senate who gets nominated has ever shown any—any—independence. He looks through their campaign finance; he looks through who they have worked for—no independence.

Mr. Divine hasn't even been out of law school 10 years and spent less than half that time practicing as an attorney.

The next nominee, Cristian Stevens, is also of Missouri. He similarly made a name for himself by undermining racial justice efforts in our judicial system and siding almost relentlessly with corporations in cases of worker discrimination.

That is who Donald Trump puts in.

If the average American has the ability to go to court and fight their boss and anything else, Donald Trump wants nominees who will always side with the big shots, with the well-connected.

Nominees like Divine and Stevens should frighten anyone who cares about a strong, independent judiciary. They have failed to show the American people that they won't just be Donald

Trump's foot soldiers in black robes. The Senate should reject their nominations.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

RESCISSIONS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, this morning—in the early hours of this morning—Republicans voted to save the American taxpayers over \$9 billion.

Now, predictably, the Democratic leader came to the floor today in the U.S. Senate making false claims.

Let's be clear. Emergency alert infrastructure remains funded through the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA. None of that was touched.

But let me go through a list of some of the things that Republicans voted to not spend money on—things that have already previously been approved by the Democrats, and every one of the Democrats said: Nope, we want to spend all of that money on these things.

How about electric buses in Africa to the tune of \$500,000? How about teaching about environmental racism—\$7.4 million? How about vegan food programs in Africa? How about \$882,000 to fund social media mentorship in Serbia and Belarus? How about \$2.1 million for climate resilience in Southeast Asia, in Latin America, and in East Africa? How about \$3.3 million for civic engagement in Zimbabwe?

The Democrats wanted all of these things to continue to be spent, and the American taxpayers reject all of it.

How about \$4.4 million for a South Pacific youth climate corps?

Who comes up with this way to spend money? Only Democrats who want to spend and spend and spend.

And, of course, \$6.2 million to address the needs of Venezuelan migrants in Colombia.

I am proud of the votes of the Republicans to say these are taxpayer dollars that should not be spent. Every Democrat—every single Democrat—said: Keep sending the money to projects like that; keep spending that money.

Last night, for the first time since 1993—1993, and we are now 2025—the first time in all of that time that the Senate came and stripped out the spending by passing a bill on the U.S. Senate floor last night to finally say enough is enough of this kind of reckless Washington spending that the American people have rejected and that this Congress is now going to end.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. President, I come to the floor today on a different matter, and that is because, earlier this month, President Trump signed into law his historic economic plan—a historic economic plan for the future of our country, an economic plan that unleashes American energy and, with it, American prosperity.

It makes it easier to produce American energy—American oil, American natural gas, American coal—right here at home. It opens up energy production