

also established pre-enrollment verification requirements with flexibilities for special enrollment periods.

This will save over \$40 billion. This is good news for the taxpayers but, particularly, fairness in this program.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

The Democratic leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, so this morning, we got more worrying news showing how Donald Trump's administration is raising costs, sowing chaos in the economy. The New York Times headline put it succinctly: "U.S. Economy Slowed in First Half of 2025 as Tariffs Scrambled Data."

And while the Trump administration will try to wave rosy headlines about the Q2 numbers, today's GDP number is, in fact, a mirage because some ominous numbers lurk under the hood. Business investment plunged in the second quarter by 3.1 percent.

The fact that business investment plunged so starkly is very troubling. It shows that, already, businesses are worried about growing their operations, worried about hiring more workers, worried about trading with their international partners, and worried in general about the future.

And this number is another data point in a larger pattern. Donald Trump's tariffs are weighing down the U.S. economy, spiking costs for small businesses and families alike. And if Donald Trump keeps up the chaos, the dangers for the economy will continue to get worse.

JEFFREY EPSTEIN

Mr. President, now, I come to the floor this morning with some news. Today, Senate Democrats take additional action to try and uncover the truth about the Epstein files. This morning, I join all of my Democratic colleagues on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee in invoking a century-old law known as the "rule of 5" to compel the Department of Justice to release the full and complete Epstein files, which, to date, of course, they have refused to be transparent about.

Under Federal law when any five Senators on the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee call on the Executive branch to release investigative documents, they must comply. Our request covers all documents, files, evidence, or other materials in the possession of the Department of Justice or the FBI related to the case of United States v. Jeffrey Epstein. This includes records and documents related to Epstein and his clients while ensuring that the private in-

formation of any victims is protected. We expect the Trump administration to provide these documents by August 15.

The situation with the Epstein files is very simple. Donald Trump promised transparency, and he has broken that promise. As a candidate, Trump said on many occasions he would release the Epstein files if elected, and yet he has refused to do so.

Over the past few months, FBI Director Kash Patel and Attorney General Pam Bondi said they would ensure transparency and release the documents, but they have not done so. And 5 months later, we have zero answers, only a slew of denials.

Donald Trump was asked earlier this month if he ever had been informed whether or not he was mentioned in the Epstein files, and now we know he lied. He said no, but, in fact, he was told by the Attorney General in May that he was mentioned.

And when the House of Representatives had an opportunity this month to take a vote on the Epstein files, Speaker JOHNSON sent everyone scrambling home on an "Epstein recess," adjourning the House early.

The pattern is undeniable. Every single time Donald Trump or his administration or Republican leaders have had a chance to be transparent about the Epstein files, they have chosen to hide. The President's refusal to be straight with the American people is very disturbing. His rather desperate-sounding evasions are, frankly, odd. He will release the Martin Luther King files, which no one asked for; he will accuse President Obama of treason; he will say one wild thing after another, but he won't touch the Epstein topic with a 10-foot pole. It begs the question: If there is nothing to hide, why all of the evasiveness?

So, today, Senate Democrats take action. We are invoking Federal law and using our authority as a check on the Executive to compel transparency.

I urge Republicans to stand up for the oversight powers of Congress and join us in calling for more transparency on the Epstein files because once there is transparency, we can have the truth and so can the American people.

Donald Trump should stop hiding from the truth. He should stop hiding from the American people.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. President, now on healthcare, 60 years ago today, Lyndon Johnson signed into law two of the most popular, successful, and lifesaving programs in the history of America: Medicare and Medicaid. These programs provide healthcare and dignity for 134 million Americans. They are a lifeline. They are sacrosanct. But, today, Medicare and Medicaid are facing their greatest threat because Donald Trump and congressional Republicans want to decimate these programs.

The Republicans' "Big Ugly Betrayal" or so-called BBB bill codified

the largest cut to Medicaid in history. Imagine calling a bill beautiful that cuts Medicaid more than any other bill has in the past. How cruel. How heartless. How much in a bubble are our Republican friends not knowing what people go through to try and get decent healthcare? With over a trillion dollars in healthcare cuts, that will rip away healthcare for more than 15 million Americans, all to pay tax breaks to billionaires.

So later this morning, I will join my Democratic colleagues at a press conference to introduce legislation to reverse the devastating healthcare cuts in the "Big Ugly Betrayal." Our bill is straightforward. It repeals the entire healthcare subtitle of the Republicans' bill and permanently extends the ACA premium tax credits that Republicans are letting expire.

These tax credits will save Americans on the ACA hundreds, if not thousands, a year. If it is not passed as early as October, people are going to be paying a lot more for their healthcare. Why are Republicans allowing that to happen?

This is real money, life-changing money, and Americans will have to pay. And the money that they would have, if it weren't taken away, will mean greater dignity for working people so they can stay healthy and stay covered. And when Republicans cut people's healthcare, what they are really doing is assaulting working people's dignity just to help the ultrarich.

Now, we know Republicans want to make their "Big Ugly Betrayal" seem less destructive, claiming it won't affect anyone until a few years down the line. That is just false. The Republican bill is already having an impact. From one end of the country to the other, hospitals and clinics are at the risk of closing, and some already shut their doors in Maine, Nebraska, and other States. People in rural communities are worried they will have to travel even farther to get healthcare. Healthcare premiums are going to start spiking as soon as next year.

For many Americans, this legislation is quite literally a matter of life and death. Seniors, kids, people with disability—these are people who have relied on Medicare and Medicaid for several generations. It isn't too late for Republicans to reverse course, stop these disastrous cuts from taking effect, and save healthcare for millions of Americans.

Democrats, meanwhile, will never—never—stop fighting to fix our broken healthcare system and make healthcare easier to access, easier to navigate, easier to afford.

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. 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 majority leader is recognized.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, we are coming up on the 1-month anniversary of Senate passage of the One Big Beautiful Bill, and there is a lot to celebrate: sorely needed funding to restore our military readiness and ensure that our men and women in uniform are fully equipped to defend our country; funding to continue the work of securing the border, ending the illegal immigration crisis that President Biden created; \$1½ trillion in Byrd-compliant savings to trim waste, fraud, and abuse, and put our government on a more secure financial footing going forward; measures to unleash American energy production to ensure a stable, reliable, and affordable energy supply for the American people; support for local law enforcement—all this and a whole lot more.

And I could talk about each of these things for a good long while, but the biggest reason for the One Big Beautiful Bill, of course, was about making life better for hard-working Americans, and that is what I want to talk about today. Without congressional action, Americans were facing a massive \$4 trillion tax hike next year. For a typical family in my State of South Dakota, that would have looked like a \$2,500 tax increase—\$2,500. That is a lot of money.

And the first thing Republicans were determined to do, if we got elected last November, was to make sure that Americans were not hit with this tax hike. And so months before last year's elections, we started laying the groundwork for an extension of the 2017 tax relief to prevent tax hikes on hard-working Americans.

But not just an extension.

My Senate Republican colleagues and I were determined to ensure that this tax relief was permanent so that Americans wouldn't have to worry about their taxes going up down the road, and that is what we did. The One Big Beautiful Bill makes the 2017 tax relief permanent, and it prevents a massive \$4 trillion tax hike on the American people.

But we didn't stop there. We didn't just make the 2017 tax relief permanent. We added to it with new measures to provide relief for hard-working Americans.

We increased the child tax credit to \$2,200 and indexed it to inflation so its value will never go down. We increased the standard deduction, exempting additional money from Americans' taxable income, and we added a new \$6,000 bonus deduction for seniors, allowing Americans on Social Security to keep more of their money.

And that is still not all.

We eliminated taxes on tips for millions of tip workers: Uber and Lyft drivers, hairstylists, delivery drivers, and servers at restaurants. We elimi-

nated taxes on overtime pay for millions of hourly workers. That includes individuals like nurses and police officers, firefighters and paramedics—people who put in extra time away from their families to keep Americans safe.

And the list goes on.

Americans can now deduct the interest costs of a new car that is made here in America. Parents can save for their children's futures with new investment accounts funded by an initial \$1,000 deposit from the government. Then there is the small business tax relief and the other measures to unleash economic growth to create new opportunities for workers.

This bill is going to make life better for hard-working Americans, and now it is time to make sure they know the details. As I indicated, this bill is the product of more than a year of work and of incredibly intense work in the last few months. Now that we have passed it, it would be easy to feel like our work is done, but that is not the case. A lot of time went into putting together this bill, and an equal amount of time or more needs to be spent ensuring that hard-working Americans are aware of the opportunities this bill offers. That means not just talking about the bill here in Washington but going back to our States and talking about it with our constituents face-to-face.

We are extremely familiar with the details of our legislation—we have been working on it for a long time—but that doesn't mean that all of those details have made their way out of Washington, and our job now is to make sure that they do, to make sure that our constituents have the chance to learn about everything that is in the One Big Beautiful Bill in face-to-face conversations with all of us—the people who know this bill best.

Communicating about this bill should be a priority when we are in Washington but especially when we are in cities and towns across America. It has been a tough few years for the American people. Let's make sure they know that a brighter future is on the way.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 90.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Brian Nesvik, of Wyoming, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative 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. 90, Brian Nesvik, of Wyoming, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service.

John Thune, Tommy Tuberville, Bernie Moreno, Tim Sheehy, John Barrasso, John R. Curtis, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Katie Boyd Britt, Roger Marshall, Pete Ricketts, John Boozman, David McCormick, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Rick Scott of Florida, Eric Schmitt, Lindsey Graham.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 192.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Luigi Rinaldi, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative 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. 192, Luigi Rinaldi, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay.

John Thune, Tommy Tuberville, Bernie Moreno, Tim Sheehy, John Barrasso,