

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.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to resume Executive Calendar No. 182.

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

The senior Senator from Wyoming.

#### MEDICAID

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I just heard the minority leader, once again, come to the U.S. Senate Chamber and cry wolf. This time, it is about Medicaid reform.

Let's be very clear: We need to strengthen Medicaid, and we did that in the bill that we just passed and was signed into law. The minority leader, once again, puts fear above the facts. He is upset. He is upset because Republicans are asking able-bodied adults to work if they want to receive taxpayer-funded healthcare benefits.

He also is upset because Republicans believe that illegal immigrants should not receive Medicaid benefits. Let me set the record straight. Medicaid is for the vulnerable. It was never meant to cover able-bodied, working-aged adults who refuse to work nor was it meant to cover illegal immigrants whom the Democrats continue to embrace. Today, there are over 1.2 million illegal immigrants receiving Medicaid benefits. Today, there are 4.8 million able-bodied, working-aged adults who refuse to work who are on Medicaid. That doesn't strengthen Medicaid. It strains it. It weakens it. It makes it harder for the people who need Medicaid whom Medicaid was designed for. It also wastes taxpayer dollars.

Work requirements are common sense. You know, they used to be bipartisan. Bill Clinton, from the Presiding Officer's home State, signed that into law in the 1990s. President Obama defended it in 2008. President Obama said: Work must be the centerpiece of any social policy. Democrats today don't believe that. They think Clinton was wrong, and they think Obama was wrong. They are for laziness, and they are for illegal immigrants.

The Democrats, today, are defending dependency rather than independency. That is what they are doing today. That is what CHUCK SCHUMER did on the floor of the U.S. Senate this morning.

Republicans believe in a safety net—a safety net to help people reach their full potential, to get back up on their feet. We believe in hard work. We believe in work as part of somebody's identity, their dignity, their self-worth, how they view themselves as role models for their children. If you are healthy and you refuse to work, it is a choice you may want to make, but don't expect the taxpayers to pay for

it. No child, no pregnant woman, or disabled person will lose coverage.

What the Democrats want to do is remove work requirements and continue to fund healthcare—Medicaid—for illegal immigrants. That is just not fair to everyone else.

Mr. President, I came to the floor to talk about a different topic, but in listening to the minority leader, I couldn't help myself but to talk about just how far to the left the Democrats have gone, and, oh, it is no surprise that they are at their lowest level ever in the polls. The front page of the Wall Street Journal this weekend shows Democrats at an alltime low in the history of polling in terms of the people who identify with the Democratic Party and who reject the Democratic Party. Only one in three accepts what the Democrats are preaching while 63 percent of the American people do not identify with that at all.

This is no surprise given the Democrats' goal of raising taxes and making illegal immigration easier and continuing to recruit more illegal immigrants to this Nation by offering a lot of free things, which is what the Democrats want to continue to do, but that is not the reason I came to the floor today.

#### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. President, I came to the floor to talk about another critical issue facing our Nation, and that is to speak about an arms race—an arms race that America is currently engaged in. It is an arms race regarding artificial intelligence, and energy is the ammunition in that arms race. Whoever powers the AI revolution will win the AI arms race.

As we unleash affordable, reliable American energy, America will lead the world when it comes to artificial intelligence. The fact is, artificial intelligence takes power—brainpower, computing power. Above all else, it takes literal power—energy, electricity—to power these powerful computers. Artificial intelligence is groundbreaking technology. It is more than just chat bots and search engines. It is next-generation defense systems. It is lifesaving medical breakthroughs. It is revitalized manufacturing and real-time data.

These are huge advantages of artificial intelligence, but to harness the potential of artificial intelligence, we need computer servers, and to power those servers, we need energy and lots of it. Because of AI, we are seeing the biggest surge of energy demand in decades.

The New York Times put it this way, in a story that was on the front page, that said: In the next 5 years, new demand for energy, including the demand to power AI, will be like adding another California to the electric grid.

That is how much energy we need.

So the question for this body is simple: Where is the energy going to come from?

Now, my Democrat colleagues are going to hate what I am going to say

because adequate energy is not going to come from windmills and wishful thinking. It is not going to come from climate mandates or from Chinese solar panels. Democrats tried that during the Biden administration. Remember, Joe Biden told the Environmental Protection Agency to prioritize climate over energy that was affordable, available, and reliable.

How did that turn out?

Well, as the Presiding Officer remembers, as a result, energy prices rose 31 percent in the 4 years of the Biden administration. Today, our energy grids, because of what the Biden administration did, are stressed, stretched, and strained. One informed adviser said this week that the largest grid in America simply has no new capacity to meet the new demand.

America is going to lose the AI race unless we break our dependence on foreign minerals and foreign energy. The energy we need is not going to come from Democrat green-deal fantasies. It is going to come from America's energy breadbasket.

My home State of Wyoming is at the heart of America's energy breadbasket. It is where America's energy future begins. Wyoming has powered America for more than a century, and now, once again, Wyoming is answering the call. We are drilling; we are mining; we are producing; and we are building.

Earlier this month, I visited the Brook Mine. It is located just outside of Sheridan, WY. The Brook Mine is the first new coal mine in Wyoming in 50 years. It is also the first rare earth mineral mine in America in 70 years. This mine holds over billion tons of coal and nearly 2 million tons of critical rare earth minerals.

This is how Republicans are bringing jobs, energy, and security back to America. We are doing so at a time when the world needs American energy more than ever.

President Trump, just this weekend, announced a historic energy trade deal with the European Union. President Trump secured an agreement for the EU to buy \$750 billion of American energy. The deal also brings \$600 billion in new investments right here at home, into the United States. President Trump is a master dealmaker, and he has proved so once again this week.

Wyoming energy workers are ready to power the world.

It is not just with our allies abroad; private companies are announcing historic investments in America because of our pro-growth Republican policies. Just look at what Senator Dave McCormick was able to do with his successful summit in Pennsylvania this month. We have seen the story, we have seen the headlines, and we have seen the reports in terms of what Dave McCormick was able to do in Pennsylvania with energy. He brought members of industry together to focus on energy innovation. They made commitments to invest more than \$90 billion right here in America. That is good for

our grid, it is good for our economy, and it is good for American workers.

This moment goes beyond technology or trade; this is about the future of our freedom.

While America invests in innovation, China continues to pursue censorship, surveillance, and state control. This week in Shanghai, China released plans for a so-called World AI Cooperation Organization. Let's be realistic here. China's vision of AI is not about cooperation; it is about domination and control. Their AI policy is built on oppression. Ours is built on freedom, privacy, and innovation.

America must lead the AI revolution, and President Trump recently announced an AI action plan. The plan releases American innovators from the painful, punishing regulations they have been living under. It tears down barriers to building new data centers. It encourages more private investors. Most importantly, it recognizes that America's AI future depends on America's energy future.

Republicans have made great progress in unleashing American energy, but, Mr. President, as you know, this is only the beginning. American workers are fueling American AI dominance with American energy dominance.

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.

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

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

#### APPROPRIATIONS

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor to discuss how our government is funded.

The Constitution puts Congress in charge of setting up programs and funding them. There are some programs—for example, Medicare and Social Security—that are funded at a certain level every year unless Congress passes a law to change it, but for pretty much everything else, Congress has to pass a new funding law every single year. The list is long. It is medical research, fighter planes, weather satellites, salaries for park rangers, and food inspection programs so that the lettuce you eat doesn't make you sick.

The money we spend is detailed every year in a set of 12 bills that Congress votes on, and they are called appropriations bills. The Senate voted on the first one of these 12 bills last week, the one that deals with funding veterans programs and military bases.

I care deeply about improving the lives of our servicemembers and our veterans. All three of my brothers were proud veterans, and they served their country with honor.

I am the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Personnel Subcommittee. I voted no on that funding

bill because even if this bill becomes law, I don't believe Donald Trump has any intention of following that law, and I am not willing to be a helpmate on another one of Donald Trump's scams.

Why do I think that Trump won't follow the law? Well, consider his administration's track record of the past 6 months on congressional spending laws.

First, Trump tried to freeze billions of dollars that American families and businesses count on, money that Congress set aside to support everything from food assistance programs to scientific research. Multiple Federal judges blocked the illegal power grab, saying it blatantly violated the Constitution of the United States. Now even Republicans are begging the administration to hand out the money for investments that Congress already passed and, by law, that their communities were promised.

Second, Republicans in Congress are bowing down to Donald Trump and ratifying some of his worst efforts. They are using an obscure piece of Federal law to zero out Federal funding after it was approved by both Republicans and Democrats in Congress. This process is called rescission, and it only requires 50 Republican votes to do Donald Trump's bidding.

If that wasn't bad enough, Trump is already promising to use a shady loophole to defund even more programs, demanding cuts so late in the year that Congress doesn't have time to do anything about it. The Director of Donald Trump's Office of Management and Budget Russ Vought has already said that the loophole is "on the table."

Let's be clear about what is happening here.

Step 1, Congress negotiates a compromise that both Republicans and Democrats support, and it is signed into law.

Step 2, Trump tells Republicans what parts of that deal he wants to cancel.

Step 3, Republicans in the Senate bend the knee and follow Trump's orders to cancel the money.

But wait—there is more. Apparently, step 4 is Republicans turn around and, with a straight face, ask Democrats to negotiate more deals for the next year's funding, starting the whole rinse-and-repeat process again, beginning with this bill to fund veterans services.

Are you kidding me? Do we really look that gullible? Why should Democrats come to the table and negotiate in good faith and throw our support behind a "bipartisan bill" only for Republicans to turn around after the deal is done and, somewhere down the line, delete any parts of the deal that Trump doesn't like? That is like Republicans saying "Let's cut a deal" and that you are going to sell us a car today, and then a month from now, the Republicans come back and steal the wheels.

Of course, Trump may not ask his Republican buddies to rescind spend-

ing. Maybe instead, on his own, he will just illegally refuse to spend it—the way he has done with \$425 billion already this year.

Look, our Founders didn't give the President the power to decide spending. A King can decide anything he wants but not a President. Donald Trump wants to be able to wake up and decide to cancel funding for public education, for transportation projects, for medical research, for food inspectors, for anything, just because Donald Trump feels like it, and he wants the Republicans in Congress to roll over and let it happen—no checks, no balances; just Trump playing King and ending the programs that would help the American people.

Trump is getting a lot of help from his Republican team. Russ Vought, the head of the Office of Management and Budget, has said the problem in Congress is too much bipartisanship—too much bipartisanship. In other words, the Trump administration is saying loud and clear that Donald Trump makes all the decisions. They don't need and they don't want Democrats.

At the very same time, the Republicans need Democratic votes for these funding bills because the Senate rules clearly require 60 votes for them to pass and there are only 53 Republicans in the Senate. If Democrats won't provide those votes, the Republicans want to blame Democrats for shutting down the government when this year's funding runs out at the end of September.

On the other hand, if Republicans really want Democratic votes for these funding bills, then they should ask us what is it going to take to win Democratic support, not just what programs we want to fund or what the level of funding should be—not that, when the promises themselves won't be worth the paper they are printed on. No. Democrats should tell Republicans that if they want our votes, then they are going to have to guarantee that the deal we strike actually means something.

I get it. Democrats and Republicans have different priorities. Here in the Senate, Republicans just voted to end healthcare for 17 million Americans and to drive up health insurance costs for millions more. Republicans have just voted to give billionaires huge tax cuts.

Democrats are willing to make a deal, but our deal is about bringing down costs for families, including the cost of healthcare, groceries, and housing.

If Republicans want to make a deal, then let's make a deal but only if Republicans include an agreement that they won't take back that deal a few weeks later.

Congress is a coequal branch of government. We swore an oath to the Constitution, not to a King. I am asking my Republican colleagues to grow a spine and stand up for Americans instead of bowing down to their pretend King, and I am asking my Democratic