

timely payments on a loan they took out to make necessary renovations to their fire department.

I heard from an administrator of a women's shelter for survivors of domestic abuse based in Southwestern Wisconsin. Without Federal funding, they would have to turn away women looking for safety from their abusers for themselves and their children.

As communities across Wisconsin continue to battle the opioid and fentanyl crisis, a community organization specializing in drug prevention told me that they would not be able to pay their staff or continue their vital work if funding was cut. I also heard from a community dental center in Southeastern Wisconsin that serves thousands of patients every single year, the vast majority of whom are children. They told me that without their Federal funding, they would be at significant risk of closing within a matter of a few short months, and, as a result, thousands of children would have nowhere to go to receive dental care, and 45 individuals would be out of employment.

Another family shelter in Milwaukee, which serves hundreds of families a year and dozens of pregnant and postpartum women, shared that a freeze on Federal funding would likely result in them having to cut wages for their 100 employees and consider staffing reductions. Without their services, more than 100 kids would remain in foster care, instead of with their families.

While the White House seems to be contradicting itself and putting out mixed signals on these drastic cuts, the level of chaos it has created should be upsetting to every American. We are talking about the most vulnerable people in our society.

Republicans who say these cuts are necessary are essentially saying it is fine if Americans don't get lifesaving treatment for opioid addiction. They are saying it is fine if kids miss a meal or can't access the medication they need to stay healthy; it is OK, in their books, if fire departments and law enforcement go without the resources they need to keep our communities safe.

Look, I agree that we need to go after fraud and waste in our government where it exists. Where I adamantly disagree with my Republican colleagues is what that waste and fraud actually is. Programs that Wisconsin families rely on every day are not waste in my book.

President Trump's egregious overreach of his Presidential power is plainly unconstitutional. It is illegal to withhold this funding from the American people, period. This funding came through bipartisan bills.

And I hope that my Republican colleagues are just as angry at President Trump for the confusion his administration has created as I am. But based on what I witnessed so far, I fear they are not.

This directive has put real people in real distress—something, it appears, President Trump and his allies don't really care about. We are going to do everything that we can to challenge this and make sure that kids can get a hot lunch at school, that cops get the funding that they need to be on the beat, and that families have what they need.

I will close with this. The Trump administration has said this is all to stop the "woke agenda." Well if the "woke agenda" is ensuring that seniors can access healthcare, kids can have food on the table, parents can find affordable childcare in their neighborhoods, and police officers and first responders have the resources they need to keep our communities safe, I think this administration is about to learn a real lesson in just how out of step they are with the vast majority of Americans who rely on these services every day.

If this is any indication of the next 4 years, I want my constituents to know that I, for one, intend to do right by them and stand up for their best interests.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

#### TRUMP EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Ms. ALSOBROOKS. Mr. President, while this may not be my maiden floor speech, I think it of vital importance that Marylanders hear from their elected leaders in this moment of chaos.

One of my greatest inspirations growing up was my grandmother, Sarah Daisy Alsobrooks. She was my father's mother. She raised my father and his siblings in a one-bedroom apartment in Northeast Washington, DC. My grandmother wanted for her family what all Americans want for their families—an affordable home to live in, a job that allowed her to support her family, and a safe community to raise her kids in.

My grandmother dreamed of civil service. She dreamed of working in the Federal Government, and she was determined to do so. Many in this Chamber will recall that you had to pass the civil service exam in order to be hired. And to pass, you had to take a typing test. At the time, my grandmother was a housekeeper. She worked day and night to provide for my father and his siblings. Every dollar she made went to her family. So she couldn't afford a typewriter to practice typing on. But that didn't stop her from pursuing her dream.

She took a white piece of paper and hand drew a keyboard on it. She taped that white piece of paper up on the refrigerator, and every night, after my dad and his siblings went to bed, she stood in front of that refrigerator and practiced on that white piece of paper. She taught herself to type every keystroke.

It was with fierce determination—the same determination that I have seen in

so many mothers and fathers who just wanted their kids to have more opportunities than they did—that she learned to type. She took the test, and she passed. She got the job she dreamed of, working in the Federal Government.

And she was so proud of herself. She worked for the Pentagon. I can still remember she would come home and tell me: I saw General This Person and General That Person in the hallway that day. She knew that the work she did mattered. For her, working in the Federal Government wasn't just a job. Working on behalf of the people of the United States was her American dream.

It is that kind of pride that makes our Federal workforce so special—the thousands of men and women who show up every single day to work on behalf of the people of this great Nation. They are public servants in the truest sense of the word.

At the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD, they are researching cures for cancer, trying to make sure that when a family gets that devastating news of a loved one who has been diagnosed with cancer, they have options. At the Food and Drug Administration in Silver Spring, MD, they are working tirelessly to make sure our food is safe to eat. At the Social Security Administration in Woodlawn, MD, they are working to make sure that our seniors have access to their hard-earned benefits.

These civil servants are patriots just like my grandmother. They love their country. They work for Democratic Presidents and for Republican Presidents. Their focus isn't on the politics of the day. It is on the mission of the Federal Government to serve the people of the United States of America.

So you can imagine my deep frustration with this current administration that has decided to target these hard-working Americans in what I can only describe as a witch hunt. When I think of the people being pushed out, I think about people like my grandmother—hard-working folks who wanted to make a difference in this country.

The calls that I am getting are equally heartbreaking as they are infuriating. I spoke with a woman just this morning who worked at the Department of Health and Human Services for over 35 years. She has been put on leave as a part of one of the President's Executive orders.

I spoke to another woman who spent over 37 years at the Department of Agriculture, and believe it or not, she was placed in a position under this current President's first administration, but now she has been let go.

These are people who have worked under President George H. W. Bush, a Republican; President Bill Clinton, a Democrat; President George W. Bush, a Republican; President Barack Obama, a Democrat; President Donald Trump, a Republican; and President Joe Biden, a Democrat—because, for these women

and countless other Marylanders, it is not about which party is in power or which President won the election; it is about the work. It is about doing their part to make sure that our government functions.

I represent the highest number of Federal workers per capita in the country. No State has more Federal workers per capita than the great State of Maryland. These are our friends, our neighbors, our mothers, our fathers, and, yes, our grandmothers. The fact that this administration has decided to disparage and demean these civil servants is infuriating. The bullying, the scare tactics, and the smoke and mirrors are unacceptable. These hard-working Marylanders deserve better.

I want every Federal worker in Maryland who sees this to know that, when they see me in these halls, they must also see you.

And what we know now is that this administration isn't stopping at our civil servants, which brings to us the last 48 hours. Let's recap.

The administration issued a cruel and callous directive. No longer was the target just Federal workers. Suddenly, it was the entirety of the American people, because what this directive did was freeze Federal funds—a move intended to sow chaos and confusion, to instill fear. You don't have to take my word for it. Talk to the countless Marylanders who called my office—veterans who were scared that their benefits wouldn't go through, seniors who didn't know if they would still have Medicare, families who rely on SNAP benefits who didn't know if they would be able to feed their kids. These were the calls my office was getting yesterday—all because the President decided to freeze Federal funds.

I don't know how to make this more plain. This has impacted so many people—people who voted for this President, people who did not vote for this President, and people who didn't vote at all.

We are talking about law enforcement officers who rely on Federal funds to protect victims of domestic violence—women and children. I was a full-time domestic violence prosecutor—the first in my county. So, when I hear that the President of the United States is making it harder for these victims, you can imagine my deep frustration. Know this: We are not going to accept this.

So I would like to take a few moments to paint a picture of exactly the kinds of Americans this administration is targeting: seniors and people with disabilities. Maryland is home to 1 million seniors and nearly 670,000 people living with disabilities. At the Department of Health and Human Services, the Administration for Community Living covers all the programs and services that help older adults and people with disabilities. Their work is essential, and it connects seniors with employment opportunities and provides support for caregivers like my fa-

ther. It supports States in providing nutrition services for seniors, just to name a few.

Services for seniors—on the chopping block.

The Nutrition Services Incentive Program, in the Division of Administration for Community Living, is responsible for delivering nutritious meals to older adults. They work to make sure that older adults who can't leave their homes have an opportunity to access food.

Helping hungry seniors—on the chopping block.

The Alzheimer's Disease Demonstration Grants to States expand the availability of diagnostic and support services for those with Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. Anyone who has watched a loved one suffer with Alzheimer's knows exactly how painful this is. So we should be doing everything in our power to find a cure for this disease and support those suffering from it—a disease that is the seventh leading cause of death among older residents in Maryland.

Supporting those with Alzheimer's—on the chopping block.

The National Family Caregiver Support Program provides grants to caregivers. I am a member of the sandwich generation. I am raising my 19-year-old daughter, who is just amazing—her name is Alex—while caring for two wonderful, aging parents. The work of caregivers across our country is so selfless, valuable, and necessary to ensure those who raised us get the care and support they deserve and have earned. I know I wouldn't be here today without my incredible parents. More than 700,000 caregivers receive services through this program.

Supporting our caregivers—on the chopping block.

The Office of Family Violence Prevention and Services supports emergency shelters and related assistance for victims of domestic violence and their children. I have sat with these women and their children in the courtroom, prosecuting the cases against their abusers, and I know how hard it is for them to get out of an abusive relationship and seek help at an emergency shelter.

These shelters literally save lives, providing emergency shelter to victims of domestic violence. You guessed it. It is on the chopping block.

Now, I could go on and on, but I think what has been made clear is that these political stunts are going to have a devastating and long-lasting impact on Marylanders—and, yes, it bears repeating—on Marylanders who voted for this President, Marylanders who didn't vote for this President, and Marylanders who did not vote at all.

My job in the Senate is to advocate for my people, and my people are Marylanders. They are the Federal workers who have spent their lives working on behalf of the American people, no matter who the President is. They are the parents who rely on SNAP benefits to

make sure their children don't go hungry. They are the teachers who prepare our kids to be leaders. They are the watermen who harvest blue crab from the Chesapeake Bay. They are the caregivers who make life easier for our loved ones. They are the scientists who are researching a cure for cancer. They are the veterans who serve our country honorably. They are the police officers who keep our communities safe. They are the Democrats. They are the Republicans. They are the Independents. And each and every one of them deserves better than this administration.

I am willing to work with anyone—Democrat, Republican, Independent, whoever—to deliver for Marylanders. My door is always open. What I have come to learn from my time in public service is that the people of this great country all want the same things: a roof over their heads, a good-paying job so they can provide for their families, great schools, good healthcare, safe communities, a lower cost of goods. These are the things each and every one of us should be fighting for. This is what the administration should be focused on. So, when they return to that mission, I will be here. But if this President continues to threaten Marylanders, I will be here, too, fighting back.

As I end, you know, many of my constituents know that I am a woman of faith and that, in the midst of chaos, I turn to the Word. So I would like to close by sharing Scriptures of encouragement, words that speak to us in tumultuous times and remind us to love one another.

II Timothy 1:7 says:

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Romans 12:12 says:

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Joshua 1:9 says:

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

James 1:2-4 says:

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.

Psalms 34:17 says:

The righteous cry, and the Lord hears, and delivers them out of all their troubles.

I Corinthians 14:33 says:

For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.

John 16:33 says:

These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

Romans 8:28:

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose.

II Corinthians 4:17:

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory.

Proverbs 25:28:

He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

Proverbs 11:14:

Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

II Thessalonians 3:16:

Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means. The Lord be with you all.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

#### REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT MIDAIR COLLISION

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, before I start my remarks, I do want to note that we have had news just now of a terrible tragedy at DCA. There has been a plane crash. We do not know all the details yet, but it is fair to say that, here in DC and all around the country, we should all be praying for the loved ones of those involved in this crash, hoping for some positive news, but knowing that this was a very, very serious crash, and the news is not likely to be good as we learn more. Our hearts and our prayers go out to all of those affected.

#### TRUMP EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I rise at this late hour to join my colleagues in expressing my grave concern—my alarm—at the new administration's attempt to discard the rule of law and expand Executive power and, in so doing, threaten the well-being of communities across the country, including in New Hampshire.

Typically, when Presidents are inaugurated, especially after a divisive election, they try to bring the country together. They focus on what unites Americans. President Trump campaigned on a platform promising to bring down costs for families. This is a priority of mine and a priority of Granite Staters, and I would welcome commonsense, good-faith efforts to work together to bring down costs.

Despite my deep and meaningful differences with the President, I am and remain willing to work together to help lower costs for families. But in the opening days of the Trump administration, it has been overwhelmingly clear that lowering costs is not one of President Trump's priorities.

This administration's priorities have ranged from the ridiculous to the reckless—unconcerned with delivering relief and results, more concerned with exacting retribution and revenge, pardoning violent criminals who attack police officers, firing inspectors general, who are the government's watchdogs, and freezing Federal grants—an illegal act that, should they go through with it, would be devastating for the lives of everyday Americans in every corner of our country and would signal

a break with our principles of self-government.

The President isn't going after high prices; he is going after the rule of law. He is going after our system of self-government. He is going after our government's ability to support communities and families across the country, and he needs to reverse course now.

In New Hampshire, our love of freedom runs deep. New Hampshire was the first colony to sign the Declaration of Independence. Patriots from New Hampshire, under Colonel John Stark, fought in one of the first major battles of the Revolutionary War—the Battle of Bunker Hill. It was Colonel Stark who, years later in a letter, wrote the words that would become our State's motto, a motto recognized by people in faraway corners of the world, including Ukraine—the words “Live free or die.” For us Granite Staters, these words represent an unwavering belief in the idea of self-government—that the government's powers derive from the consent of the governed.

We secured our freedom through the rule of law and our Constitution. We believe, as Americans across this country believe, that this great country of ours has no use for a king, nor do we have any use for anyone who confuses themselves with a king.

We secured these freedoms through the rule of law and our Constitution. We did all this not only because we believed that our values of freedom, the rule of law, and democracy are noble principles—although, indeed, they are—but because freedom, the rule of law, and democratic, small government are still the best means to improve people's lives.

Presidents from both parties have been committed to this principle, but the actions of the Trump administration have demonstrated a break with the rule of law and self-government that 10 years ago would have been impossible to imagine being tolerated by either political party.

Let me run through some of the most egregious priorities that this administration is advancing instead of doing what the American people expect them to do, which is working to lower costs for families.

As the first day of the new Trump administration drew to a close, the President chose to pardon the violent criminals who assaulted police officers, stormed these halls, and tried to overthrow our free and fair election. He has referred to these criminals as “patriots.” The patriots on January 6 were the Capitol Police who saved lives, including the Vice President's, and saved our democracy.

The violent criminals who assaulted police officers, who beat them with fists and flagpoles within an inch of their lives, do not deserve our praise, nor our pardon. To pardon them, as the President did, is to venerate lawlessness, reward violence, and betray police officers.

Police officers have some of the hardest jobs around. They deserve a Presi-

dent who has their backs. Instead, the President sent a message that violence against police officers is permissible, even laudable, if it is in his name or to advance his political cause.

I suggest that the President meet with the families of those officers and explain to them why these criminals deserved a pardon, why he thinks people who attack police officers are patriots.

The pardons have been issued. These violent criminals are now free. January 6 is now a part of our history, and time marches on. But the shameful decision of the President's decision will not fade away.

Of course, the pardons were only the beginning. By the end of the week, late on Friday night, the President attempted to fire at least 17 Federal inspectors general. Inspectors general offices are indispensable watchdogs who identify tens of billions of dollars in savings per year, and they crack down on fraud, abuse, and corruption. They hold big corporations to account, preventing those corporations from ripping off the American taxpayer, such as through overpayments on Federal contracts or Medicare reimbursement.

But in order to do their jobs effectively, inspectors general are supposed to be apolitical and independent. They need to be able to operate without fear or favor. Their job is not to serve the President's agenda; their job is to serve the American people. But President Trump, in a reckless, illegal, and politically motivated act, tried to reduce what is a pillar of government accountability to a rubberstamp for his agenda.

Even if one is not concerned with the illegality of this act—although you certainly would hope that the President would be concerned with following the law—this action to expand and consolidate Executive power does nothing to bring down costs and, in fact, will make government less efficient, open the door to rampant corruption, and waste more taxpayer money.

So why is an inspector general important? To begin with, the inspector general, tasked with finding ways to save taxpayer money, would not do so by releasing a memo freezing Federal grant funding across the board for every community in every corner of the country.

In a truly unprecedented act, President Trump ordered the freeze of nearly all Federal grant funding. This includes grant funding for firefighters, for police departments, for care and shelter for veterans, for disaster relief, for resources to fight the spread of fentanyl, for law enforcement fighting drug trafficking, for school lunches, for special education for students with disabilities, for small business grants, for community health centers—in short, for virtually every part of American life. Then the administration released a memo doubling down on these efforts and offering more chaos and more questions than answers.