

prices, for building up our energy supply, and for dealing with our adversaries from a position of strength.

Later today, the Senate will vote to confirm Governor Burgum as Secretary of the Interior. Chris Wright's confirmation will follow soon thereafter. They deserve strong support here in the Senate. With their leadership, the age of climate alarmism is over. The golden age of American energy dominance is here.

Additionally, I just heard the minority leader talk about the hearing today for Kash Patel as the nominee to be the Director of the FBI. The minority leader said he hadn't heard anything at the hearing that adequately addressed what Mr. Patel would do to make America safer. I would just refer to what was written today by Mr. Patel in the Wall Street Journal when he wrote an article that said: "How I'll Rebuild Public Trust in the FBI."

That will make America safer.

He wrote:

If confirmed, I will remain focused on the FBI's core mission and not involve the bureau in prosecutorial decisions. Determining whether someone should be charged with a crime is the responsibility of the Justice Department, not the FBI. If confirmed, I will guide the agency in investigating criminals and safeguarding the homeland.

To me, that answers the question.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Senator from Alabama.

CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I would like to start by thanking Leader THUNE for pushing to confirm all of President Trump's Cabinet nominees so far. President Trump is on the verge of having his full team. We have confirmed Pete Hegseth, Kristi Noem, Scott Bessent, and many others who are doing an outstanding job implementing President Trump's America-first agenda. But there are more critical nominees that President Trump still needs confirmed. This includes Robert Kennedy, Kash Patel, and Tulsi Gabbard, along with a few others.

I have gotten a chance to meet with each of these nominees and have been very impressed. They are all outstanding choices and should be confirmed to President Trump's Cabinet as soon as possible.

First, I would like to express my complete and total support for Robert F. Kennedy's nomination to be the next Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Last November, we saw millions of Americans—especially young Americans—flock to the MAGA movement after Bobby Kennedy endorsed Presi-

dent Trump. Both my sons, 28 and 30, Tucker and Troy, were huge fans of RFK, and I know there are just millions of young people who RFK has brought to the table and into the fold, opening their eyes towards something they had never really been involved in, and that is the health of their generation and all generations across the country. As we know, Bobby started the Make America Healthy Again movement, known MAHA, which eventually joined forces with President Trump. MAHA is not just a political slogan; it is a movement that has swept our Nation.

For the first time, important issues like the effectiveness of vaccines, the dangers of prescription medicines, and the chemicals in our food and household products are part of our national political disclosure, as they should be. And it is all because of the work of Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

You know, before entering the arena, Bobby spent four decades in environmental law and in healthcare policy, specializing in issues like water pollution, vaccines, and food safety—four decades. He is an accomplished attorney who attended Harvard, the London School of Economics, and the University of Virginia. And he has authored multiple best-selling books that I would suggest anybody that is concerned about the health of our country should read.

Throughout his career, he has committed to discovering the truth about what is causing the chronic disease epidemic in America today, and his Presidential campaign exposed the fact that we have a serious—a very serious—public health crisis facing our country today and in the future. For example, in his hearing yesterday, Bobby Kennedy laid out that over 70 percent of adults and one-third of our children are overweight or obese. The rate of diabetes is 10 times more prominent today than it was in 1960. Cancer among our young people is rising by 1 or 2 percent every year. Autoimmune diseases, neurodevelopmental disorders, and addiction cases are hugely on the rise. Depression and anxiety rates are absolutely through the roof.

Meanwhile, more Americans are relying on pharmaceutical drugs than ever before. I saw that in my former life of being a coach of players. Years ago, very few of them were on any kind of drug, such as Adderall or Ritalin, for attention deficit. But in the last few years, there was a huge uptick in prescription drugs for many, many young people across the country. These findings are alarming, and they should and they had better shock all of us.

Thank God, Bobby has dedicated his life to getting to the bottom of what is causing these trends. As he did in his hearing yesterday, Bobby is an expert on the health issues facing our country and has the facts, the data, and the evidence to prove it, and he will bring his commitment to evidence-based science transparency to our national health Agencies.

And it is simple. Americans want access to all the facts so they can decide what is best for themselves and for their families. Bobby has committed to giving Americans the information that they need to be informed and make informed decisions.

Recently, I have seen the mainstream media and some politicians attempt to smear Bobby Kennedy as anti-vax, anti-industry, or an enemy of food producers. All of this couldn't be further from the truth. It is just a political attack.

We have even heard from prominent Republicans, like former Vice President Mike Pence, who is running ads on TV criticizing Bobby Kennedy for not being sufficiently pro-life. Bobby addressed this himself yesterday. He believes every abortion is a tragedy, and he will work with President Trump to implement his pro-life policies.

These attacks are nothing more than dishonest attempts by the DC establishment to tank his nomination. We have seen that in the last couple of weeks on all nominees.

Sure, Bobby Kennedy may not be the typical pick for the job, but the American people don't want a typical pick.

The one we picked 4 years ago for President Biden was a lawyer living in California and very seldom came to Washington, DC. He worked from home. We got nothing done in Health and Human Services.

They gave us a mandate in November—77 million people—to deliver President Trump's agenda, and that includes making America healthy again.

As far as I am concerned, Bobby is not part of being the healthcare establishment class. That is a really good thing. We don't need that. Look at where it has gotten us.

The pharmaceutical industry and the industrial food complex won't be running the show anymore when Bobby Kennedy is confirmed. Instead, he will restore our health Agencies to the gold standard of specific research and explore historic healthcare alternatives as part of our efforts to end chronic disease epidemics across this country.

Ultimately, this will lower costs for Americans and ease the burden on our entire healthcare system, which is being overrun by all of the conditions that we have popping up today. With the many public health crises we are facing as a country, we have no time to waste.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting Bobby for HHS Secretary and help President Trump make America healthy again.

For our next nominee, I would like to turn to Kash Patel. He is on the Hill today going through his confirmation hearing.

Kash is President Trump's pick to be the FBI Director, who testified in front of the Senate all morning long. Kash is an excellent choice, and he has my full support.

It is clear to the American people that the culture at the top of our top

police Agency in this country, the FBI, is rotten. It is rotten to the core. We have some good people, but the people in charge have made devastating decisions against a lot of people across this country. It is far past time to clean house at the FBI.

Over the last 4 years, we have seen the Bureau become politicized and weaponized. The Biden administration turned the FBI into the “Fake Bureau of Investigations.” The scales of justice were never fair and balanced under the last administration.

Christopher Wray, the Director, went after parents and school boards, proliferators. He went after Catholics. He went after grandmas who peacefully protested right outside this building on January 6. He went to their homes and arrested them—not to mention the unprecedented raid on President Trump’s home in Mar-a-Lago, FL.

What we have seen unfold at our Nation’s premiere law enforcement Agency over the last 4 years is a complete and absolute disgrace to the American people and our Constitution. Not only has the public’s trust in the FBI been completely eroded, but it has been a disservice to all the great men and women in the FBI who commit every day to defending the Constitution and protecting us as American citizens.

It is going to take a lot of hard work to right this ship. Trust has to be put back into the FBI. Kash Patel is the right man to do the job.

He is qualified and has an impressive resume. He served in several national security and intelligence roles as a Federal prosecutor and as a public defender.

Not only is Kash qualified, but he also has the courage and the resolve needed to restore our faith in the FBI.

Despite the media’s lies, Kash won’t have his enemies list when he takes the job—unlike the Biden administration. If crimes are committed, he will open investigations, follow facts wherever they lead—no bias, no partiality. Kash will bring back truth and transparency, uphold the rule of law and the Constitution, and protect Americans against its enemies, foreign and domestic. He will ensure that the government works for the American people, and not the other way around.

Let’s confirm Kash quickly and give President Trump an important component of his national security team. I look forward to supporting Kash Patel and hope my Republican colleagues will do the same.

Finally, we need to confirm Tulsi Gabbard to be our next Director of National Intelligence. Like Kash, Tulsi will play a critical role on President Trump’s national security team.

She just had her hearing in front of the Senate Intel Committee this morning. Her hearing only further confirmed to me that Tulsi is the perfect candidate for the DNI role.

She is a decorated lieutenant colonel, with over 20 years of service in the military. Tulsi served in combat in the

Iraq War and is currently active in service.

She has a top security clearance, having passed five background checks to receive it. Tulsi served in Congress for 8 years, where she sat on the Homeland Security, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations Committees. And as a Member of Congress, she consistently participated in high-level intelligence briefings.

As she has displayed throughout her entire career in the military and as an elected official, Tulsi will bring a fearless spirit to the DNI role.

I have to tell you, my meeting with Tulsi was one of the most impressive meetings I have had since I have been in this office, going on 5 years. Her depth of knowledge and expertise is unmatched. I have no doubt that she will keep our country secure while protecting the Constitution and the constitutional rights of all Americans.

She will help us return to “peace through strength” and put an end to America’s costly foreign wars.

The attacks on her, questioning her loyalty to the United States, are absolutely disgusting. It is insulting. Tulsi has devoted her entire life to serving this country, the military, and in public service.

To the Senators criticizing Tulsi for not fitting the typical mold of a DNI director, might that be a good thing? Have the last several years shown us that the status quo is working? I don’t think so, and I don’t think the American people think so either, and they are the ones that count.

Tulsi brings a fresh perspective to the job and the America that we all want and deserve. We do not need another James Clapper.

Like the FBI, we have seen our intelligence community weaponized to target opponents of the regime. The IC conspired to take down President Trump in 2016 and 2020 and, maybe, most recently, in the election a couple months ago. For that reason, I think Tulsi is exactly the change agent we need leading our intelligence community.

Like Bobby Kennedy, Tulsi switched her party affiliation because she saw the status quo as a threat to the American people and our constitutional rights. As Director of National Intelligence, Tulsi will check her politics at the door, just like she has done the last 20 years serving in our military. She will come to DNI without any bias. She will fix our broken intelligence community—and, folks, it is broken.

I look forward to confirming Tulsi to DNI. I urge all my colleagues to join me in voting for Tulsi. She will play a major role in President Trump’s team and restoring faith in our intelligence community.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRUMP EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, the American public won yesterday. After 36 hours of public panic and confusion and outrage, the Trump White House rescinded the illegal and unconstitutional order to freeze Federal funding for every State in the country.

It was an obvious attempt to usurp power, designed to hurt people by cutting off access to the things that they need most. When you say “Federal grants,” you might think it is just some subcategory—nonprofits or something—and that they are just doing a review, but let me list the things that were cut off over that 36-hour period: meals, schools, healthcare, childcare, roads and bridges, public safety. So it was no surprise that people all across the country were so outraged. They called our offices; they spoke up online; and they let their frustrations be known.

It was a little different than a normal political argument, because it was very real. It was, Do I have to send my people home today? It was, Hey, with the Federal funding portal—basically, a website—we take a drawdown, and then those dollars allow us to make our payroll for this domestic violence shelter or this construction project. If it is shut down, I am not going to make payroll, and if I am not going to be able to make payroll, you guys have to go home. I can’t pay you.

So this wasn’t something just to argue about online. This was across the country—people trying to figure out whether society as we knew it was going to continue.

This was not just a review of Federal funding or an effort to allow a new administration and a new Congress to put its stamp on the appropriations process. This was an attempt to take an enacted law and say: You know, I would like to take the parts of this law that I like and implement them, and I would like to take the parts of this law that I don’t like and not implement them.

Look, I would like to be 6 feet tall. I would like to dunk a basketball. I would like to be able to surf a pipeline. I would like to be able to take all of the waste in the Department of Defense and pour it into the native Hawaiians’ needs around housing and healthcare, but I am not a monarch, so I have to do this the old-fashioned way, which is to argue with my colleagues, to cajole my colleagues, to work with my colleagues, to do a little horse trading with my colleagues and get a law enacted. And there are going to be parts of that law that we enact—because it is big; it is Federal spending; it is a lot of spending—that I am not going to like, and there are going to be parts that I will love, but once it becomes the law, it is not within anyone’s discretion—