

with limited exceptions after 30 days of an automatic continuing resolution.

So Congress needs to stop governing from crisis to crisis, respect the appropriations process, and fulfill its constitutional responsibilities to keep the government funded. Moreover, we need to put an end to the recurring political side show of costly government shut-downs.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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, a new report came out last month detailing who benefits from the working-families tax relief that Republicans enacted in the One Big Beautiful Bill, and here is what they found: Americans in every county in America will see tax relief from this bill. Let me say that again. Americans in every county in America will see tax relief from this bill.

I said this was a new report, but it is hardly news for Republicans. We knew what we were doing when we crafted this bill. We knew that we were enacting tax relief that would benefit people in every corner of this country. We knew that it would benefit people of every income level and that the greatest proportional benefit would go to working Americans. That is what we did in 2017. In 2017, we cut taxes for all Americans, and the greatest proportional benefit went to working Americans. What we did this year with the One Big Beautiful Bill was make that tax relief permanent. Now hard-working American families can be confident that they won't see a tax hike next year or in the years to come, and they can spend, invest, and save more of their hard-earned money with greater confidence for the future.

This morning, I want to walk through how working families will benefit from our legislation.

The 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act lowered tax rates for every income level and adjusted tax brackets to provide additional relief, but those reforms were going to expire this year without action from Congress. What that would have meant is that a typical family earning \$80,000 a year would have seen their tax rate jump from 12 percent to 15 percent next year. Not only that, that family would have lost other benefits, like the increased standard deduction and the increased child tax credit.

The standard deduction, which is something that 90 percent of taxpayers in this country use to simplify and reduce their taxes, would have been cut nearly in half, and the child tax credit would have shrunk from \$2,000 per child

to \$1,000 per child. For people in my State, that would have meant paying an average of \$2,500 more in taxes next year—\$2,500. Republicans were determined not to let that happen, and with our bill in July, we locked in the lower tax rates permanently.

We also made permanent the increased child tax credit and actually increased it further to \$2,200 per child and then linked it to inflation so it won't ever lose its value, and then we made the higher standard deduction permanent as well.

We also added a \$6,000 bonus deduction for seniors, and then we eliminated taxes on tips—something that will benefit millions of Americans who earn part of their income from tips. That includes servers, busboys, and bartenders; Uber, Lyft, and taxi drivers; hairstylists, tour guides, and a whole host of other Americans. Working people who once dreaded big tax bills on their tips every April are now breathing a little easier. They are already making plans to save that money, put it toward their schooling, or use it for groceries and other needs of their families.

We also eliminated taxes on overtime pay. That means that folks like police officers, first responders, and nurses won't have to pay taxes on the money they earn when they spend time away from their families working extra shifts to keep us safe. It is also a boon to Americans who put in overtime working in manufacturing and the trades—hard-working Americans who spend the workday on their feet and take a shower after work, not before.

All of these reforms make for a Tax Code that works for working people. That gives them more breathing room in their budgets and helps them build a better future for their families.

I also want to say a word about what this bill does for Americans who work for themselves.

Family-run businesses—farmers and ranchers, like the people I represent in South Dakota—are the backbone of a lot of American communities. They are families' livelihoods, job creators, and part of Americans' way of life. This bill makes sure our Tax Code helps them grow. Small businesses, farms, and ranches will all benefit from the permanent lower tax rates in this bill.

Those that are passthrough businesses will also benefit from the 199A small business deduction, which is also now a permanent fixture of the Tax Code. These provisions free up cash that will allow family farms and ranches and small businesses to invest in their operations and their workers.

Then there are the investment incentives this bill makes permanent: bonus depreciation for new equipment, meaning a farmer can deduct the full cost of a new tractor or combine the year he or she starts using it; a factory owner can deduct the full cost of improving his or her assembly line; a construction company can invest in new vehicles and technology more easily.

Immediate expensing for research and development is also now permanent—a provision that has had a meaningful impact on getting innovative technologies off the ground in South Dakota and around the country.

We also raised the exemption threshold for the death tax, which means a lot more family businesses, farms, and ranches are protected from this fundamentally flawed tax and the costly estate planning that comes with it. It means Americans who have worked their entire lives building up their dream won't have to worry about that dream being sold off or dismantled to settle a tax bill when they pass it on to the next generation.

With the working families tax reform Republicans enacted this year, America's Tax Code is now permanently oriented toward supporting hard-working Americans, helping the people who work every day to build a better future for their children, ensuring that they keep more of their hard-earned money, and making America stronger and more prosperous.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, a few moments ago, we got more news that the economy Donald Trump is sabotaging is in worse shape than we imagined. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the economy added about 900,000 fewer jobs than originally thought through the early part of this year. This report shows one thing: The job market was already struggling when Donald Trump took office, and he has made it much worse.

His tariffs are raising prices. His tariffs are making factories slow down. His "Big Ugly Bill" is kicking 16 million people off healthcare; unemployment is going up; health insurance premiums are going up; and people are less optimistic about the future as they struggle to make ends meet.

When Donald Trump came in, he said he would start the golden age—he was criticizing Joe Biden. But he is doing worse and worse and worse every month. Under Donald Trump—since Donald Trump has taken office, as these numbers show, there are fewer jobs, there are higher prices, and there is less opportunity for the American people.

The economy is clearly getting worse under Donald Trump's stewardship. His policies are leaving the American people holding the bag, and they don't like it.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, on nominations, the story of this Republican majority has been a story of surrender—a surrender of the Senate's power over to Donald Trump. That is especially true of the nominations process.

What is going on right now with nominations is beyond the pale. Donald Trump has nominated, as a whole, some of the worst, some of the most unqualified, some of the most unscrupulous loyalists ever to serve in the Federal Government.

These nominees are just horrible, one after the other, and now Republicans don't even want to vote on them. I understand why. They know how bad these nominees are, and they don't want to be held accountable. They know the American people would be appalled if they knew the kind of people Trump is trying to confirm and bring into the government.

So what do they do? Do Republicans send these terrible nominees back to Donald Trump and say: Try again, try someone better—which previous Republican Senators have done, even under Republican Presidents? Nope. Of course not, not these Republicans. Oh, no. They would rather go nuclear, change the way the Senate confirms nominees to make the confirmation process easier, faster, more hidden with virtually no scrutiny or accountability.

Republicans don't want to be forced to vote on some of these awful people. They don't want to go on record one at a time, so they would rather turn the Senate into a conveyor belt and escape accountability.

Just look at the kinds of nominees that have already gone through this Chamber and tell me if you think this is normal, that Senate Republicans have already approved anti-vaxxers and pseudoscientists to serve as public health officials to lead American health policy—not just quacks like R.F.K., Jr., but people like Jay Bhattacharya, who opposed healthcare guidelines during COVID and policies meant to keep our kids safe in school. Thanks to Republicans, he is now leading America's healthcare system. God help us.

And if Republicans go nuclear, it is going to get even worse. It is insane that Republicans have allowed the Department of Justice to be staffed by Donald Trump's own personal lawyers who prosecute his enemies, exonerate his friends, regardless of the law. It is a disgrace. That is a mark of dictatorship when that happens, when there is no rule of law in prosecutorial Agencies.

Thanks to Republicans, we now have podcasters and influencers in senior leadership at the FBI, people like Dan Bongino, someone with zero experience at the Agency. And if Republicans go nuclear, it is going to get even worse because nominees will be hidden; there won't be accountability; there won't be votes on individual nominees.

Finally, it is utterly insane that every Trump nominee has had to pass a litmus test about denying the legitimacy of the 2020 election when everyone knows that Donald Trump made up a whole bunch of lies about the 2020 election and keeps talking about it unproven. But you have to pass this litmus test: Was the election faked? Did Trump really win?

They have to say yes. That means they are willing to lie for Donald Trump.

And so Republicans are going nuclear to hide people like this from the public eye because they don't want to be forced to take a vote on them. Well, sorry, Republicans. In the Constitution, voting on nominees is our job. And when we have a President like this, one which you know—you know he has no sense of integrity or honesty or fidelity to the truth, you know he is a President who doesn't care about acting corruptly—look what he is doing with his own personal wealth—then the Senate's job is to scrutinize and review nominees, and it is doubly important under a President like this.

I warn my Republican colleagues. They will come to regret this move because what goes around comes around. They may not like being on the receiving end of the changes they will bring to bear this week. After all, when Democrats were last in charge, we were able to confirm a record number of judges to the bench.

I ask my Republican colleagues to think carefully—very carefully—before moving forward on this awful, awful, provision that goes nuclear and blows up even worse the Senate rules.

JEFFREY EPSTEIN

Mr. President, on Epstein, yesterday, the House Oversight Committee released a salacious drawing, the figure of a woman drawn around the text of a lewd poem. At the bottom, Donald Trump's signature.

Where did this image come from? From the Epstein estates. You know what this looks like to every American? Donald Trump is yet again lying to the American people.

He said for months that he never signed anything. He said this letter was “nonexistent.” He said the Wall Street Journal, often his political ally, is lying, but the letter is right now before our eyes.

It is gross. The American people can see for themselves that Donald Trump is an inveterate liar. There is no turning away from it. We have had probably, almost certainly, the most dishonest President in American history who will just lie at will. It is his MO.

The Epstein saga is, perhaps, the nastiest example of a trend that infects his entire Presidency, an infection of lies, dishonesty, dodging, self-enrichment. It is as if lying, to Trump, is like oxygen is to the rest of us. He needs to do it. One must imagine the truth to be fatal to him.

If Donald Trump disagrees, if he has got a problem with anything about

this, the answer is simple; he should release the Epstein files; he should tell the truth.

What he should not be doing is calling the Epstein files a “Democratic hoax.” A “Democratic hoax?” Does he think his supporters are stupid? Does he think the American people are stupid? No one believes him when he says this. It came from the Wall Street Journal, hardly a Democratic newspaper.

Shame on you, Mr. President. Shame on you for lying to the American people; shame on you for lying about this; shame on you for lying about so many other things.

Donald Trump and his minions are trying to desperately put this issue back in the bottle. At the same time, Americans are struggling to make ends meet. Americans are struggling to retain their trust in government after so many lies from the President.

Americans are struggling to keep their jobs, pay their bills, and provide for their kids. And then, when they look to the White House and see the President on a scorched-Earth campaign try and hide the truth about Jeffrey Epstein, they say: How can they trust Donald Trump on anything else? How can Americans trust a President who lies not only about the Epstein files but about the economy; who says that things are actually great; that there is no inflation; who pathetically urges foreign leaders to tell the Nobel committee to give him the Nobel Peace Prize?

In reality, unemployment is going up, manufacturing is going down, his own tariffs are forcing companies to raise prices.

How can anyone trust a President like Donald Trump who lied about Medicaid? Remember when he said Medicaid would not be touched by the “Big Beautiful Bill”? And now Medicaid has seen the biggest cuts in American history.

Donald Trump lied to the American people about Social Security. He said he wouldn't touch it. And now Social Security is being strangled by Donald Trump and cuts that come straight from the DOGE playbook. He said he would usher in a golden age. Friday, we learned that unemployment continues to rise.

Autocrats—autocrats lie. They reject reality, spin fantasy to try and retain control. That is what Donald Trump is doing. He is poisoning the soul of America and betraying the people who trusted him to fight for their interests.

President Trump, if you disagree with me, if you have a problem with anything I am saying, my answer is very simple: Do what you said you would do. Release the Epstein files. Release the Epstein files.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

RULES CHANGE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor having just listened