

healthcare programs, strips away commonsense work requirements for able-bodied adults to be eligible for Medicaid, and repeals the transformative \$50 billion rural health fund that Republicans enacted in July to support and bolster rural hospitals.

Why Democrats think that threatening healthcare in rural America is a winning proposition is beyond me, but apparently they really do think so because we are still in this shutdown 1 week later, and Democrats are digging in their heels on their partisan demands.

Needless to say, Democrats' partisan \$1.5 trillion bill has zero chance of becoming law. There is only one viable path out of the mess the Democrats have created. We need to pass the clean, nonpartisan CR that has already passed the House of Representatives and that President Trump is ready to sign today—right now. It is only a handful of votes away from passing here in the U.S. Senate.

We are not asking Democrats to support any Republican policies; we are just asking them to reopen the government. It is that simple. If just a handful of Senate Democrats would join Republicans and the three Democrat Senators who already support the bill, we could end this shutdown in a matter of hours and get back to doing the work the American people sent us here to do.

Democrats may be earning some praise from the far-left base, but I doubt that hard-working Americans have many kind words.

Right now, Federal workers, including our troops, Border Patrol, and air traffic controllers, are working without pay. The National Flood Insurance Program has lapsed, putting households at risk during hurricane season. Telehealth and hospital at-home programs have expired, taking away services that Americans depend upon, especially in rural areas. Americans seeking services or benefits from the Federal Government are facing delays.

The longer Democrats refuse to support a clean funding extension, the worse things will get. Some Federal workers will soon be missing a paycheck. WIC is almost out of money and may soon be unable to deliver resources to American families. Federally funded programs will continue to run through their reserve funds and be forced to curtail or cancel their activities.

Before I close, I also want to point out that Senate Democrats, at the same time, are blocking progress on bipartisan, full-year legislation with their shutdown strategy.

We have a number of bipartisan bills that are waiting for consideration on the Senate floor right now—bipartisan bills that contain priorities from Members of both sides of the aisle and from every corner of the country, bills that we would be considering this week if we weren't stuck in this shutdown.

The Democrats' shutdown is helping no one, and I hope, when we vote next

to reopen the government, my Democrat colleagues will join us to support our clean, nonpartisan continuing resolution, something that they have done 13 times as recently as when they were in the majority here in the Senate and President Biden was in the White House.

We have had a few Democrats join us already. We just need a handful more, and we can reopen the government and get back to working for the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

ISRAEL

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, well, unfortunately, it is a sad day. Today marks 2 years since Hamas's horrific, brutal, terrorist attack on Israel—a day of inextinguishable grief, the single deadliest day for Jews since the Holocaust. No matter how much time passes, I will always remember October 7 as if it were yesterday.

On October 7, I was in Beijing, leading a bipartisan delegation in China, meeting with President Xi about opening up Chinese markets to U.S. companies, when I first learned of the attack. I will never forget the story. The Israeli Ambassador to China came and told me what happened in Israel and talked about what happened at the Kibbutz Be'eri, where Hamas gathered children, grandparents, mothers, and babies into one community center and gunned them all down.

It reminded me of the story of my grandmother in Chortkiv, in western Ukraine, in 1941, when the Nazis came to her home and asked her to gather her greater family on the porch. About 35 people gathered, from ages 80 to 3 months.

The Nazis said: You are coming with us.

She said: We are not moving.

They gunned them all down—machine-gunned them all down. So the story of Be'eri was eerily reminiscent.

After hearing of the attack, I cut my trip to China short, as important as it was, and got on a plane to Israel as soon as I could. I told the Israeli people, during these troubled times, that the American people were with them.

What I saw in Israel, in the aftermath of the attack, shook me to my core. I met with families whose loved ones were killed, injured, and a woman telling us she was waving good-bye to her son, 12 years old, who was kidnapped and on a motorcycle with a Hamas thug. I will never forget those meetings. There wasn't a dry eye in the house.

The world must never—never—forget the horrors that Hamas inflicted on them that day. The brutality and viciousness of Hamas's attacks—indiscriminate violence against innocent infants, young people at a concert, women, the elderly; sexual violence—taking hundreds of hostages, will remain ever present in my mind and in the minds of the conscience of the world.

Today, we remember the victims of the October 7 attacks—may their memories be a blessing—and we reaffirm our commitment to finally bring home all the hostages still held so cruelly by Hamas, vicious organization that it is.

Two years later, 48 hostages remain in Hamas's captivity, including the remains of two New Yorkers, Omer Neutra and Itay Chen. Every day that these hostages remain in captivity, every day their families are denied full closure and burial of their loved ones is a day too long. We remain committed to bringing the hostages home as soon as possible.

At this crucial moment in negotiations, the Trump administration and all those at the table and the international community must do everything—everything—to finally secure a cease-fire and hostage agreement to end the war in Gaza and to bring the hostages held by Hamas home, and to surge desperately needed humanitarian relief to innocent Palestinians facing heartbreaking levels of hunger and devastation in Gaza, and, finally, to build an enduring and lasting peace.

It is imperative that all parties involved do everything possible to secure this desperately needed agreement.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, now on a different subject, the shutdown, yesterday, for the fifth time—the fifth time—the Republican CR failed to secure enough votes to pass in this Chamber.

After five failed votes, Republicans should understand they cannot go forward unless we come to a bipartisan agreement to address the healthcare crisis facing America.

The shutdown has now lasted almost a week—the Trump-caused shutdown—and Republicans are still in the no-negotiation, “our way or the highway” mode.

President Trump, meanwhile, is not taking this shutdown seriously. Listen to this: Instead of fixing healthcare, instead of reopening the government, Donald Trump seems more interested in sending money to other countries instead of focusing on the problems here at home. His administration is in negotiation right now to send a \$20 billion bailout to Argentina—right in the middle of a government shutdown. You have got to be kidding.

Does the administration really want us to believe there is not enough money for air traffic controllers, not enough money to fix the ACA healthcare premiums, but there somehow is \$20 billion available to bail out

Argentina because Trump likes the government's leader there? Give me a break. It shows you that this administration and Republicans are not serious enough when it comes to people's healthcare and when it comes to ending their shutdown.

So this crisis will not end by sending \$20 billion to Argentina. We need to get serious about fixing the problems here at home, starting with healthcare.

Democrats—our position has not changed. We want the same thing that an overwhelming majority of Americans want, which is to end this shutdown and halt the healthcare crisis that will send premiums spiking for tens of millions of people. Eighty percent of Americans want to extend the ACA tax credits. Fifty-eight percent of Trump voters want to extend those credits.

We need to end this shutdown and halt the healthcare crisis, and we can do both. It is not either-or, as some Republicans seem to think.

We have been wanting to talk to the President and Republicans, have serious negotiations with the President and Republicans, for months. Finally, after months and months of asking Leader THUNE and Speaker JOHNSON to sit down with HAKEEM JEFFRIES and me and asking the President to sit down with us—where he said yes, and then he said no—finally, at the last minute, the President agreed to have one meeting right the night before money was running out, but it was not a productive discussion, and nothing was agreed to.

Now, yesterday, President Trump claimed that he is talking with Democrats on fixing healthcare. He now clearly knows that he has to show the American people at least some fig leaf of caring. So he said he is talking with Democrats on the healthcare issue. Only one problem: It is not true. I am not sure what the President was talking about yesterday, but he certainly hasn't called my office or Leader JEFFRIES.

Still, JEFFRIES and I happily welcome a chance to talk with the President and with Republicans, to sit down and seriously negotiate with them so we can address the healthcare crisis facing Americans—the sooner the better. But it takes two sides to negotiate, and Republicans—particularly Speaker JOHNSON, who seems to be the nub of the crisis—still haven't come to the table in a serious way.

Speaker JOHNSON, perhaps more than anyone else, has dug in and shut the door on any cooperation. JOHNSON has become a massive roadblock to progress.

Yesterday, he even said:

There's nothing to negotiate.

He sent the House home for yet another week. The House hasn't held a vote now for 18 days. They haven't been in session for 2 weeks. That proves beyond a doubt that Speaker JOHNSON is causing and not interested in ending the shutdown. Clearly, at this point, he—he—is the main obstacle.

Ending this shutdown will require Donald Trump to step in and push Speaker JOHNSON to negotiate because without the President's involvement, Speaker JOHNSON and MAGA Republicans in the House are increasingly dug in. JOHNSON has pushed this partisan, one-sided CR and told us to take it or leave it.

I heard my friend Leader THUNE say it is a bipartisan bill, although there hasn't been one drop of Democratic input. You can't call that a bipartisan bill; it is a partisan bill.

Anyway, JOHNSON pushed this partisan, one-sided CR and said: Take it or leave it. I am going home.

He has shut the House down now—the House of Representatives—for 3 weeks, and he has said he won't bring the House back until the Senate Democrats cave to his demands.

He also continues to outright lie—lie—about Democrats trying to give undocumented immigrants health insurance through ACA or Medicaid or Medicare. That was a lie yesterday. It is a lie today. It will be a lie tomorrow. He knows that, and yet he is still saying it to distract from the real issue. He doesn't want to solve the crisis of healthcare premiums, so he makes up these lies, and he hopes it will divert people's attention.

It is not diverting our attention, Speaker JOHNSON. We know you are lying, and we are paying attention to what the American people need.

Every action the Speaker has taken has been geared toward avoiding having to confront the core issue at hand, which is to fix people's healthcare.

So why is he doing this? Well, in part, he doesn't want to come back. He cares more about protecting the Epstein files than protecting the American people from the healthcare crisis. But, also, he has a very big problem. His problem is that House Republicans—his own caucus—are bitterly divided on healthcare. On one hand, a large number within his conference will never agree to any extension of the ACA premium tax credits. They are against it. But there is also a growing number of House Republicans who realize something needs to be done to fix this mess.

Listen to this: MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE—one of the hardest right MAGA loyalist—broke with the Speaker and said we need to fix these ACA tax credits. Let me read what she said. This is not CHUCK SCHUMER; this is MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE:

I'm going to go against everyone on this issue because when the tax credits expire this year my own adult children's insurance premiums for 2026 are going to DOUBLE, along with all the wonderful families and hard-working people in my district.

So hold on to your hats. I think this is the first time I have said this, but on this issue, Representative GREENE said it perfectly. Representative GREENE is absolutely right.

Republicans can't sit by and do nothing while American families pay thou-

sands more out of pocket for healthcare. If the Speaker doesn't relent and these credits expire, people will go bankrupt; people will get sick; some will die.

Inaction would be reprehensible, and the Speaker needs to realize that. That is why, when push comes to shove, Donald Trump needs to step in and get Speaker JOHNSON and Republicans in Congress to come to the table and engage in real negotiations to address this issue.

Democrats stand ready and willing to negotiate. We urge Donald Trump and congressional Republicans to do the same.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, the American people reject what is going on here, and that is the Schumer shutdown. We are now in day 7 of the Schumer shutdown—7 days of wasted time and growing hardship for the American people.

There is a new Harvard-Harris poll that has just come out, and it makes it loud and clear. And what is loud and clear is that 7 in 10 voters in America oppose the government shutdown. Americans overwhelmingly say Democrats should accept a continuing resolution at the current levels of funding until the actual spending bills are passed. It is interesting because 13 times in the Biden administration, the Democrats did exactly that, and it is the thing they are refusing to do right now.

Americans don't want their government closed. They want it open. They want it to work for them. They want a nation that is safe and secure and prosperous. They are sick and tired of Democrats holding them hostage with partisan and unreasonable demands.

What do the Democrats want? What did their demand letter say? It said they want free healthcare for illegal immigrants. This is opposed by an overwhelmingly large number of Americans.

The Democrats shut down the government, and they think they are hurting President Trump. In fact, the Schumer shutdown is hurting people all across America. Across this country, Americans are feeling the pain.

There are headlines that tell the story, and I have a few here. One in New York says "Gov't shutdown threatens food access for Long Island's most vulnerable." Another in Nevada says "Government shutdown threatens food stamps, jobs, national security." In New Jersey, one reads "Hospital-at-home, telehealth programs on hold amid government shutdown." In New

Hampshire: "At least 1,800 NH federal workers to be furloughed or fired during shutdown."

They are not statistics. These are families. These are our troops. These are seniors. These are veterans. These are mothers with young children, working families, patients all across the country. And the stresses upon American families are mounting as a result of the Schumer shutdown.

Paychecks for our servicemembers—well, they run out in days. Reports already show there are signs of financial distress. Every day this shut down continues, the damage drags on. Financial stress will lead to financial crises for many families. Temporary hardships will lead to lasting harm. The American people don't want it. They can't afford it. They want it to end.

Democrats have now voted five specific times to keep the government closed. Now all you need to do is read their ransom note. Democrats are demanding taxpayer-funded healthcare for illegal immigrants. And who do they want to hurt in the process? They want to cut the funding for rural hospitals in my State and yours. That is how they want to pay for healthcare for illegal immigrants. That is their price to reopen the government, to get back to the normal workings of Washington and our government. As a result, the Democrats are holding the American people hostage.

There is a simple solution to the shutdown. The House passed a clean continuing resolution—current spending levels, bipartisan support—to fund the government through November 21. Why November 21? Well, I just heard the minority leader say there has been no discussion between Republicans or Democrats on the continuing resolution. Well, in fact, there has been, and it is the deadline date of November 21 because the chairs and the ranking members of the Senate Appropriations Committee and the House Appropriations Committee all said they needed 7 weeks to finish the bipartisan work on the appropriations bills. So, yes, Senator COLLINS, Senator MURRAY worked together on the clean continuing resolution.

It is interesting because what we see are the Democrats fearing the wrath of the far-left wing of their party. That is why they are not voting to open the government.

The clock continues to tick. Every day Democrats hold out is another day wasted, another day we ought to be making sure the government is open. I hear the Democrats say they want to negotiate. Well, open the government. We are ready to negotiate. Every day the Democrats choose to keep the government closed is another day spent ignoring and rejecting the priorities of the American people. If Democrats actually wanted to negotiate, they would reopen the government today. It is that simple.

So, today, we are going to vote for the sixth time on a clean continuing

resolution, something the Democrats approved 13 times when Joe Biden was President. Senate Democrats have a choice: Vote yes to end the Schumer shutdown or vote no, and tell the American people why their pain and their opinion just doesn't matter to the Democrats.

Let me end where I began: 7 out of 10 Americans oppose this shutdown. Americans overwhelmingly say Democrats should accept the clean continuing resolution that we are voting on here today. The American people have spoken. They want their government open, and they want it open now. It is time that the Democrats listened to them.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ISRAEL

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, today is October 7, 2025. It has been 731 days—2 years—that the war has been raging in Israel.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists stormed through a fence line separating Gaza and Israel, and early that morning, they brutally slaughtered over 1,200 people—men, women, children, moms and dads, grandparents. There were 4,000-plus people injured, and there were 251 people taken hostage. Forty-eight still remain today, 2 years later.

It is hard to process what it is like for those hostages—living in tunnels, stored underground, moved from place to place. Who knows what has happened to them.

Two years—for 2 years, Israel has said one simple thing: This war ends when Hamas, that terrorist organization, is not in charge of Gaza—because, clearly, they cannot be trusted—and when our hostages come home. For 2 years this war has raged unnecessarily because a terrorist organization is determined to drive Jews out of Israel—for 2 years.

I have been in Israel a couple of times during the war. I have been able to visit with senior leadership there to be able to get a status update, but I also took the opportunity to drive south, right along to the Gaza border, to visit the kibbutzim that are now empty, which were previously full of families and children. I was there in the springtime last year and saw the flowers popping up just organically, on their own, in an empty kibbutz, and I realized the horror of what happened that day.

I visited the Nova music festival—a just a big, open field with trees around it. You can look across the horizon and see Gaza. The Nova music festival site of that field was just a gathering place

for literally an all-night set of concerts that were running early into the next morning. People were just there enjoying the music, until terrorists came onto that field and started killing as many people as they could, raping as many women as they could, tormenting as many people as they could, and grabbing folks and taking them back into Gaza as hostages.

Elkana was one of those men. He was a husband. He was a dad of a young son. He was actually taken hostage back to Gaza from the Nova music festival while he was literally trying to help the wounded. But he remains a hostage still today, one of those 48.

President Trump has laid out a 21-point plan and has presented it between the folks in Gaza and Hamas and Israel to leadership all along the Arab world and has made a very simple statement: We have to find a way to be able to end the fighting, and when the fighting ends, Hamas cannot be in leadership in Gaza. Not only do they not have the trust of Israel; they don't have the trust of anyone in the region. They have to go. The hostages have to be released. There will have to be restoration in Gaza in the days ahead that should be led by the Arab communities around them. But there has to be a different path, and there has to be a recognition that Israel has a right to exist.

In the last 2 years, we have seen not only Hamas attacking Israel, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad attacking Israel, Hezbollah attacking Israel, the Houthis attacking Israel, and then missiles and rockets being fired and drones being fired from Iran; and all the while, we hear some protesters in the streets of America, out on college campuses, chanting "from the river to the sea," literally in support of some of those terrorists who are trying to kill as many Jews and drive the Jews out of Israel.

So on this day, October 7, I want to remind this body and Americans that we continue to stand by Israel. We continue to be able to stand by their right to not only exist but to be able to thrive and to live in peace. That is their right as a nation.

As we have faced terrorism and the threats of terrorism that come to us, we as a nation have pushed back against terrorism around the world and said: We will live in freedom and in peace.

Regardless of their opinions of us, we have the right to be able to live in freedom and in peace, and we stand with Israel's right to be able to do the same, to be able to live in freedom and in peace.

Now, we all grieve for innocent civilians that are living in Gaza right now, as Hamas literally uses them as a shield to protect their terrorist ambitions. No one wants to see civilians killed. But leave no doubt, Hamas cannot exist, as an organization and an entity.

And the folks in Hezbollah should hear clearly, and the Houthis should