

modernize transmission lines, harden energy systems, and reduce blackout risks.

As a top investment bank for the defense, healthcare and energy sectors, and a manager of trillions of dollars in clients' assets including in infrastructure and AI, we know how to put capital and expertise to work to solve big challenges like this.

Policy will be essential, too. America needs a permitting process measured in months, not years. Vocational and apprenticeship programs must be expanded to close the manufacturing skills gap. And we must create consistent long-term incentives for private investment in these critical industries so that more capital is available. Fortunately, bipartisan legislation has begun to modernize procurement and streamline industrial policy, and new federal initiatives are encouraging domestic production of chips and critical medications.

We hope that America will come together to address these challenges, as we have in the past. We need to act now.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. October is the month that we bring attention to the plight of those who have had breast cancer and educate others on the importance of early detection.

My wife Barbara is a 38-year breast cancer survivor. We are fortunate that her breast cancer was detected very early. We know with certainty that early detection can dramatically increase a woman's chance of defeating breast cancer.

A regular mammogram is the best way to find breast cancer early. As screening and treatment have improved, we have also learned more about the accuracy of mammogram tests. However, if you have what is called dense breast tissue, it can make it harder for the radiologist reading the mammogram to see the breast cancer. So last year, the Food and Drug Administration started requiring that all mammogram reports sent to patients must include breast density, which should be described as either "not dense" or "dense."

If someone is notified that they have dense breasts, they should talk to their healthcare provider to discuss the next steps, as an MRI or ultrasound may be recommended to confirm the mammogram reading.

This new yet simple requirement by the Food and Drug Administration will better inform patients and help them advocate for themselves.

Early detection was critical for my wife. Today, patients will be better informed when they do get checked. As my wife often says: Just keep on getting checked.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND EXTENSIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 168, H.R. 5371, making continuing appropriations and extensions for fiscal year 2026, and for other purposes.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, 3 weeks. It has been 3 weeks since Democrats shut down the government. Democrats chose to put the demands of far-left activists ahead of serving the American people, and over the last 3 weeks, it is the American people who have borne the consequences of the Democrat shutdown. Thousands of flights have been delayed. Nutrition assistance for millions of needy families is in jeopardy. Military families are turning to food banks in "unprecedented" numbers.

Democrats apparently are willing to prolong the suffering until their far-left base is satisfied. We have given Democrats here in the Senate numerous opportunities to end the shutdown. We have held now 11 votes on a clean, nonpartisan continuing resolution to end the shutdown and the pain that comes with it, and they said no every time.

We gave Democrats an opportunity to consider the bipartisan Defense appropriations bill—something that, I might add, passed the Senate Appropriations Committee 26 to 3, an overwhelming bipartisan vote. We gave them an opportunity to consider that here on the floor so we can at least protect our national security and pay our troops. Democrats called it "unacceptable" and a "distraction" to pay the troops.

We even offered to give them a vote on a healthcare proposal of their own design if they vote to reopen the government. The answer again was no.

I don't know what Democrats are looking for, but if they are looking for Republicans to give in to their hostage taking, they should think again. I have been very clear since the beginning. On the first day of this shutdown, I said Republicans would be perfectly willing to discuss the issues Democrats are raising but only after we reopen the government.

I said, and I quote, quoting myself here:

[W]e're not going to engage in bipartisan discussions while Democrats are holding the federal government hostage to their partisan demands.

Interestingly enough, that is the exact same position the Democrat leader espoused during the 2013 shutdown. He said then:

As we said a thousand times, we are happy to discuss how to fund the government but

not with a gun to our head. Open up all of the government, and then we can have a fruitful discussion. . . . Then we will discuss things, but—as has been said over and over—not with a gun to our heads.

That is from the Democrat leader back in 2013.

He espoused the same position, interestingly enough, again in 2019, noting:

We cannot—cannot—ever hold American workers hostage again.

Yet here he is in 2025 holding American workers and government funding hostage. I guess he has forgotten his own words, or maybe it is just situational, like a lot of things. They just adopted a political position, not a real one.

Republicans are ready to sit down with Democrats just as soon as they stop holding the government hostage to their partisan demands. As I have said, we have actually offered to guarantee them a vote on the ObamaCare issue they are raising, but Democrats continue to dig in.

They say we have to agree to their demands before they will agree to pay our troops, before Federal workers can have certainty about putting food on the table and paying their bills, before needy families can be sure that nutrition assistance will be there for them. They say all of this has to wait until after we fix a problem Democrats created, because, let's be clear, the ObamaCare cliff that Democrats are so worked up about is a result of their own choices.

Democrats wrote ObamaCare. They passed ObamaCare without a single Republican vote. They created the ObamaCare COVID credits without a single Republican vote. They extended the COVID credits, and then they chose the expiration date without a single Republican vote. That is right—they chose the expiration date, and then they chose not to address that expiration date when they had the majority here in the Senate for the last 4 years. But now they want you to believe that this is somehow a "Republican healthcare crisis." Give me a break. Give me a break.

If Democrats truly want a discussion on how to fix the healthcare mess they created, then they should be voting to reopen the government, and we have a bill right there at the desk that will do just that. It is clean. It is nonpartisan. It has no new Republican policies. It has no partisan policy riders. It just extends current funding levels for a few short weeks until we get an opportunity to finish the rest of the appropriations process.

Right now, we are just five Democrat votes away from passing that here in the Senate and sending it to the White House for President Trump to sign. And if just a handful—a handful—of Democrats would step forward, we could reopen the government literally in a matter of hours, today.

As I said from the very beginning of the shutdown, I made it clear that if Democrats reopen the government, we

can immediately sit down and talk about the ObamaCare cliff they have created.

Instead, Democrats have wasted now 1, 2, 3 weeks when we could have been having those discussions.

And while the American people have suffered, Democrats have been courting praise from the far left. They spent their time looking to be praised for fighting against President Trump when they could have been working with him and with Republicans on solving a problem they claim to be concerned about.

I will say it again: Republicans are ready to go to work. We have been ready. We are just waiting for Democrats to take yes for an answer.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I just heard my friend the Republican leader Senator THUNE here on the floor, and I heard him say that Democrats are somehow pushing far-left demands here in the Senate.

What the heck is he talking about? How is it far left to say we want to lower healthcare premiums and spare tens of millions of people from financial ruin? Far left? Tell that to an American family whose premiums will go up from \$200 a month to \$1,400 a month; that fixing that is far left. Tell that to young couples whose parents are about to get kicked out of nursing homes. Tell that to people who live in rural America and see their hospitals closing. That is far left?

I am afraid the Republican leader doesn't know what the American people want and where they are on healthcare.

There is nothing far left or far right or center about wanting lower premiums. It is common sense. It is what the American people overwhelmingly want. Fifty-eight percent of Trump voters—they are not far left—want the ACA tax credits extended, according to the Washington Post.

And we cannot—we cannot—and must not delay like Republicans want to do.

And beyond that, Leader THUNE—I don't know what got into him today—also claimed Republicans are ready to get to work.

Really? Tell that to Speaker JOHNSON and the House Republicans, who have been on vacation for nearly a month—nearly a month.

So they want to get to work? Then, get JOHNSON back here. Get the House Republicans back here, if they want to work.

The American people see right through that one.

It is day 21 of Donald Trump's government shutdown. While millions of Americans are feeling the squeeze, as I said, the House remains on vacation, and Senate Republicans are headed to the White House, today, not for negotiations, not to work on any path out of a shutdown or to avert a healthcare crisis, but for a Rose Garden pep rally with Donald Trump.

That is right. Senate Republicans, today, will join the President to celebrate staying strong and being unified—staying strong against helping Americans who desperately need a fix to the healthcare crisis, staying strong to the young couple whose parents are getting kicked out of a nursing home, staying strong to people in rural America who are seeing their hospitals close.

So as millions of Americans continue to endure the pain of one of the longest shutdowns in American history, Republicans will be celebrating keeping the shutdown going. Republicans may not have time to fix people's healthcare, but, apparently, they have plenty of time for a mini pep rally with Donald Trump.

In the meantime, the pain for Americans is getting more and more real. More and more States are notifying their residents about the disastrous premium hikes coming their way. And the pressure is building on Republicans, the party in the majority, to do something about this shutdown and about the cost of living.

A CNBC poll from Friday found Americans now hold Donald Trump and Republicans responsible for the shutdown by a 53-to-37 margin. Sixty-two percent of Americans in the same poll disapprove of the President's handling of inflation. Fifty-six percent disapprove of his handling of tariffs.

In other words, what do Americans care about most? Cost, inflation, healthcare—the very things Republicans here in the Senate and in the House are refusing to address because they want to shut the government down to avoid discussing the healthcare issue and having a serious negotiation about it.

Our Republican colleagues can dig in all they want, but, at the end of the day, the American people know the Republicans are in power. They know Republicans set the agenda. They know that Republicans have the Presidency, the House, and the Senate. And the burden is on Republicans to work with Democrats in a serious way to reopen the government and fix people's premiums.

That is why, when I was majority leader, we passed 13 CRs, precisely through bipartisan consultation. When Democrats were in the majority, we talked with the leadership on the other side. We negotiated. We worked together. We didn't have a shutdown.

That is not what is happening here. It is a take-it-or-leave-it partisan bill

with no input from Democrats whatsoever.

Now, yesterday, on the floor, the Republican leader kept using the word “galling” to describe Democrat's push to find a bipartisan fix to ACA premiums. The Republican leader wants to talk about galling? What is galling is doing nothing—nothing—as 20 million Americans face the prospect of paying \$1,000 or more a month just to have health insurance. What is galling is saying there is nothing to negotiate on healthcare while, as we speak, people from New York to Georgia and beyond are going online and seeing their premiums are now going from \$600 a month to \$2,200 a month. What is galling is Republicans being OK with people like Kristi Noem getting a private jet; Donald Trump getting his fancy, expensive new ballroom; Argentina getting a \$40 billion bailout; but then saying Americans don't deserve cheaper healthcare. That is what is galling. I will say to my friend the Republican leader: That is what is galling.

If my Republican colleagues take issue with any of that, perhaps, they should not have spent their whole summer passing the biggest healthcare cuts in American history. Perhaps, the Republican majority should have acted when they had not one, not two, but three chances to extend these ACA premium credits.

Democrats were ready to work with the other side to get it done, but Republicans continue to act like these ACA premiums are not their problem. They are the problem of the American people, and they are a problem with every legislative Democrat or Republican who serves here.

The fact that they continue to act like the ACA premiums are not their problem, that, more than anything else, is what is galling to the American people about this debate.

NOMINATION OF PAUL JOSEPH INGRASSIA

Mr. President, now, on Mr. Paul Ingrassia, yesterday, for the second week in a row, we got a disturbing report about a young Republican operative celebrating Nazi—Nazi—ideology and racist garbage when they think no one is listening. This is what they really think, and they continue to be appointed in positions of power by Donald Trump.

Last week, it was thousands of pages of texts from prominent members of Young Republicans from New York, Vermont, Arizona, and other States. Well, this week, it is Mr. Paul Ingrassia, a Presidential nominee for a very important office—the Office of Special Counsel—and his nomination is scheduled to come up before the Homeland Security Committee this week.

Mr. Ingrassia's texts are appalling and point to a really disturbed individual. Let me read a few of the disgusting texts from Ingrassia:

I do have a Nazi streak in me from time to time, I will admit.

MLK . . . was the 1960s George Floyd Floyd and his “holiday” should be ended and tossed

into the seventh circle of hell where it belongs.

[All of Africa is a [S]-hole and will always be that way.

Though he didn't say just "S-hole." Imagine, a whole continent.

Mr. President, these are texts from a Presidential nominee. Do they vet them? And if they vet them and know these things, do they shrug their shoulders and say that is OK? These texts are foul and disqualifying, and it is hard to believe there would be any process in any White House that would allow such a man through to be nominated.

This person does not merit confirmation by this body. I am glad a number of our Republican colleagues have said so. That is good and necessary.

To state the most obvious thing in the world, the President should pull the nomination of Mr. Ingrassia, today, before his big celebratory lunch. He is not going to pass. Ingrassia is not going to pass through this Chamber.

And I want to be very clear about something else. These texts that have surfaced over the last couple of weeks are not a laughing matter. Some of these Republicans wink at each other and say: Isn't that funny? Won't that gall people? Isn't that fun?

This is not a laughing matter. These texts are dangerous.

And I hope I am wrong, but we are now seeing what seems to be a pattern of young Republican operatives perfectly at ease spreading or endorsing surprisingly Nazi propaganda and racist views. These people aren't random online trolls who are just college kids. They are party operatives—in the case of Mr. Ingrassia, a nominee to serve in the administration in a very important position and picked by the President of the United States.

These are the people who one day will likely hold senior positions within government or the Republican Party, and here they are calling themselves Nazis and endorsing outright racist views.

Again, is there any vetting? Do they care?

It is incredible—just incredible—that this happens over and over again. It makes you wonder how many Trump nominees or GOP operatives have said similar things but have not been exposed. It is a chilling thought. Now that this has happened on multiple occasions, it can't be outright dismissed.

Again, the President should pull Mr. Ingrassia's nomination immediately. He should be fired from his current job within the administration, and he should never—never—hold a position of leadership within the Republican Party or the government again.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TUBERVILLE). The majority whip.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor having just heard the minority leader on the floor, and I would like to remind the minority

leader that it was the Democrats who created ObamaCare and, in the process, broke healthcare in this country.

I am a doctor. I practiced medicine in Wyoming for 24 years. I want American citizens to receive quality, affordable care. So much of that has been impossible because of what the minority leader supported when Barack Obama was in the White House.

They realized it was failing so they had to prop it up with juicy subsidies. And it was still failing. So, then, during COVID, they needed to prop it up even more with even juicier subsidies.

That is what he is talking about today.

Let me point out that it was the minority leader and his party that set the date for those to end. They are the ones that chose that date. Those are the folks that have caused the problem here today.

With all these juicy subsidies, what they ended up with is a program fraught with waste, fraud, abuse, and even corruption. They removed all of the income issues so that anybody—no matter how wealthy and how much money they are making—are qualified for these juicy subsidies. It is just wrong.

There has been a complete fall-down in terms of the cost of healthcare. The expenses have continued to rise, and the failures are the result of the program they put in place, in the first place.

But the minority leader doesn't want to think about any of that. That is the reason—one of the reasons—the Democrats are holding the American people hostage and keeping the government closed for today, the 21st day of the Schumer shutdown.

On Thursday, Republicans brought to this Senate floor a bipartisan appropriations bill. It was a bill to appropriate money for the military. It funds our defense, it funds our troops, and it even gives the troops a raise.

So, this summer, Democrats overwhelmingly supported this bill in committee. The Appropriations Committee voted 26 in favor and only 3 opposed. So you think it might have a shot—a chance of passing—here on the floor of the U.S. Senate—to pay the troops, to make sure they have the weapons they need, to make sure they can be the fighting force we need to protect our Nation.

But, on Thursday, Senate Democrats voted no. Evidently, they were for it before they were against it. All but three Democrats voted to deny paychecks to our men and women in uniform.

So why would they do that? Why would they be for and then against it? Why would they change their tune?

It is because the radical wing of the Democrat party demanded it. The radical wing of the Democrat Party, that is who these people are playing up to. They would rather provide free healthcare to illegal immigrants in this country than pay the men and

women in uniform. That is who the Democrat party members of this Senate are listening to, are following the advice of. And they are following them right over the cliff.

Before the vote, Senator CHRIS COONS of Delaware came to the floor to explain why the Democrats had flip-flopped on this critical issue of defending the Nation. He is the ranking member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. He helped write the bill. You would think he would be for it. He is well aware of what we need to do to supply the military with what they need.

In his speech, he called the bill-writing process—he said it was "positive," it was "constructive," and it was "bipartisan." Sure it was. That is how you get a bill out of committee 26 to 3. Yet he admitted, on this very floor, last Thursday:

I won't vote just for the Defense appropriations bill, even though it is my bill.

There you have it. He praised it. He helped write it. He voted yes. Then he voted no.

That is the Democrat party of today. They were for it before they were against it.

That is what happens when you let the radical leftwing of the party call the shots. Democrats have now voted 11 times against a clean continuing resolution to reopen the government.

I would remind the President that they voted 13 times on similar measures supporting opening the government—supporting a clean continuing resolution when Joe Biden was President. The only difference now is that the far-left activist groups are watching, and they are taking names.

One Democrat Senator admitted that voting to reopen the government would mean "people are going to get hammered by the radical left." That is what they are worried about—getting hammered by the radical left.

It has been reported that Senators are "terrified"—the Democrat Senators—"terrified" of getting the guillotine from the far-left activist groups, afraid of getting hammered. They are trying to avoid the guillotine. That is what the Democrats are doing today.

Democrats know they could end this shutdown today, but they are too scared of the radical activists who continue to call the tune of the Democrat Party. You saw it this past weekend. They were congratulating themselves.

On Saturday, Senate Democrats protested in the streets, and they protested with radicals who were seen holding signs that called for the death of President Trump. That is the Democrat Party of 2025. Democrats gave speeches that bragged about shutting down the government. They chanted old, tired songs about resistance, and they worked overtime to prove their loyalty to their rulers—the people who have the leash and the chains around their necks. They are their rulers. They are the Marxist, the pro-criminal, the anti-police, the anti-ICE, the anti-

American wing of the Democrat Party. They are the ones calling the tunes. They are a dangerous, extreme, scary, and radical wing of the party. These are the same radicals by whom the Democrats say they are terrified of getting the guillotine.

Senator BERNIE SANDERS said:

If the shutdown ends, Democrats will lose their leverage.

Senator CHRIS MURPHY of Connecticut said, "I am very proud," he said, of his Democrat colleagues for shutting down the government. Proud of what? Proud of denying soldiers their paychecks and denying the paychecks of air traffic controllers and TSA agents—all who have to work without pay day in and day out? Are they proud of that? Are they proud of these workers like the one I talked to yesterday in Wyoming who is on the job, working without a paycheck, saying: How am I going to go to the grocery store? How am I going to put food on the table? How am I going to help make sure my child gets to eat?

That is what we have with the Democrat Party today.

We know that 42 million Americans may soon lose food stamps as a result of the Democrats' obstruction and keeping the government closed.

Flight safety is also at risk because of staffing shortages. Some Democrats are saying they won't open the government unless "planes are falling from the skies." That is from a Democrat staffer, who may be somebody who is in this Chamber right now but who works with the Democrats right here in the U.S. Senate.

Through it all, Senator SCHUMER gloats to the press. He says:

Every day gets better for us.

Who the heck is "us"? It is not the American people. He has to be talking about the Democrats because it is certainly not getting better for men and women all across the country—the people who are going to work without pay because the Democrats have shut down the government. It is not the Border Patrol agents, who aren't getting paid. It is not the air traffic controllers, who are missing their paychecks. It is not military families, who are now lining up at food banks.

I look around, and I see on every day of the Senate Schumer shutdown a day that is actually worse for the American people.

Now, two in three Americans in a recent poll say they see the Democrat Party as weak. Every day this shutdown continues, Democrats are proving Americans right.

It is time for the Democrats to end this dangerous political game that they are playing. It is a game for them, and it is dangerous, and it is hurting people.

Republicans are committed to reopening the government, to paying the Federal workers, and to putting American families first. It is time for the Democrats to join us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, my friend and colleague from Wyoming believes that he knows who was in the streets last Saturday. I don't know where he was, but I was in the streets of Chicago. We estimate over 100,000 people were there. Were they the Marxists? the radical left? the anti-police? the pro-criminal? No. They represent the families of the State of Illinois who believe that the situation with this government is unfair to them, and I agree.

Why is this government shut down? It is basically an issue that goes to the heart of why we occupy these chairs, why we run for these offices.

Are we listening to the people who send us to Washington? If we are listening, they are telling us that something is about to happen to them that they cannot manage and control. What is it? It is that health insurance policy costs are going to go up dramatically.

On January 1, those costs are going to go up an average of 114 percent. That means double—double—your health insurance premium. Now, some people are comfortable and well-off, and they can live with it, but others cannot. That is the bottom line.

When you look at what happened here—the passage of the big, beautiful Trump budget—it ended up eliminating a tax credit that was available for people in middle-income categories to pay for health insurance. We know that is going to happen.

In my State of Illinois, on October 27—just a few days from now—everyone who is in the Affordable Care Act is going to receive notice of the increase in premiums—like I said, an increase of 114 percent. So if you are paying \$1,000 a month for health insurance now, on January 1, it goes up to \$2,000 a month. That is the kind of thing that people have to cope with. We want to save them from that. All we ask is that Congress do its job.

Listen to the people you represent back home who are going to tell you: You just added a burden on my home budget that we can't handle. Senator, do something to help.

That is not unreasonable. I have done this job for a few years. Many people come to us asking for help, just like this.

How many people across America are going to be affected by this increase in premiums—this dramatic increase in premiums? Some say 24 million people—24 million people.

We say, on the Democratic side of the aisle, we were sent here to fix it. Let's fix it. When we say that to the Republicans, they say: We would rather shut down the government.

Shut down the government? It was your vote that created this premium increase.

Can't you join us now, Democrats and Republicans, and fix it?

Of course we can, and we ought to do it as quickly as possible.

Republicans control the House, the Senate, and the Presidency, but our government has been shut down for 21 days over this issue. We have taken show vote after show vote on the Republican-crafted plan to fund the government. All of them have failed.

There is an obvious way out of this. I have been in Congress for a few years, and I know how this problem is solved. It is when people of good will sit down at the same table. There are thousands of pieces of furniture in this Capitol Building and lots of tables and chairs. Why is it we can't sit down and do it?

One of the problems is that the House of Representatives has gone AWOL; it has gone on vacation. I believe this is the fourth week that they have stayed on vacation instead of coming to Washington to help solve this problem. How do you explain that? How do you explain men and women elected to the House of Representatives who face a looming deadline on the increase of health insurance who don't even show up for work?

I talked to a number of Democratic Congressmen this morning. They said that you can't explain it. Everyone on the committee has important work to do, but the Speaker of the House refuses to call them back.

As for the Republicans in the Senate, well, today is going to be a spectacular day for them, I guess. They have been invited to a meeting—maybe even a lunch—in the Rose Garden of the White House with the President. If one or two of them would break off of that lunch and sit down with one or two Democrats, maybe we could start the conversation to solve this problem—and it is a real problem.

In Illinois, a 60-year-old couple with an income of \$82,000 a year can see their annual health insurance premiums increase by \$17,000 a year—more than 254 percent. That is \$1,400 more a month for health insurance starting on January 1. A family of four earning \$64,000 could see their annual premium increase by \$2,571 a year. That is a 226-percent increase.

We ought to be concerned about that; we ought to care about it a lot more than any political position. Ask any American if they can afford to pay double for their healthcare insurance, and most of them will tell you that they can't.

These looming premium spikes are causing Americans to panic. Don't take my word for it; listen to the people I represent.

Karissa wrote and said that she has chronic conditions and takes several medications every single day. Karissa gets cancer screenings several times a year for breast and GI cancer because she is at risk, but if Republicans allow the increased premium tax credits to expire, Karissa said that she "won't be able to continue those [treatments]."

Think about that. What a choice to make—your money or your life. What is going to happen if she is not able to get screened for cancer? Karissa may

have been able to prevent a serious issue early on by that screening, but now she may not know until it has progressed and costs even more to treat, if it can be treated at all—all because of this political difference wherein Republicans in Congress say that her health insurance premiums, even though they are unaffordable, are not a worry to them.

Ingrid from Springfield wrote to me, and she said she is “in distress” because she is afraid she won’t be able to afford her medical treatment next year. She has a disability. She is retired. She struggles to pay a mortgage, utilities, student loans, and other debts.

Ingrid is also fighting cancer right now and needs ongoing medical treatment. When she checked her health insurance premium for next year, her jaw dropped. Ingrid wrote that all the options were quite impossible for her. The cheapest option for her health insurance came with a \$1,400 a month premium and a \$14,000 deductible. Ingrid is worried that she may lose her home just to pay for basic coverage.

No American should be forced to choose between their home and healthcare, their money or their life, but if my Republican colleagues continue to ignore this issue, more Americans are going to be facing just that decision starting this next year.

If Republicans in Congress fail to extend the enhanced premium tax credit before the end of the year, premiums for 22 million Americans will more than double. If we do nothing, premiums for 22 million Americans will more than double, and more than 4 million Americans will become uninsured, including more than 100,000 people in Illinois.

What is it like to live without health insurance? I faced that at one point in my life. I never want to face it again. It is a horrible feeling.

This isn’t rocket science. Republicans do not have 60 votes in the Senate to pass their partisan bill that fails to do anything to lower healthcare costs. They must work with Democrats to fund the government and to prevent Ingrid, Karissa, and millions of other Americans from losing their healthcare. We can do that today. Instead of a vacation for the House and a picnic for Senate Republicans, we should be sitting down to get to work.

Senator THUNE and Speaker JOHNSON need to go not to the picnic table at the White House but come to the table to bargain and do it sooner rather than later. Instead, Senate Republicans are heading to the White House for lunch. I am sure it will be nice, but if a couple of them could peel off and actually sit down and bargain, that would be a much better day for America.

It is unfathomable that Speaker JOHNSON has chosen to give the House a 5-week vacation amid this crisis. House Republicans must return to Washington and go to work or they will have to explain to an increasingly

large group of constituents why health insurance premiums have doubled under the Republican leadership in Congress.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

WAIVING QUORUM CALLS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls with respect to the Moe and Mercer nominations be waived.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Harold D. Mooty III, of Alabama, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Alabama.

VOTE ON MOOTY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Mooty nomination?

Mr. GRASSLEY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted “yea.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 66, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 577 Ex.]

YEAS—66

Banks	Grassley	Moran
Barrasso	Hagerty	Moreno
Blackburn	Hassan	Mullin
Boozman	Hawley	Murkowski
Britt	Heinrich	Paul
Budd	Hoeven	Reed
Capito	Husted	Ricketts
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Collins	Johnson	Rounds
Coons	Justice	Schiff
Cornyn	Kaine	Schmitt
Cotton	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Cramer	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Crapo	King	Shaheen
Cruz	Klobuchar	Sheehy
Curtis	Lankford	Sullivan
Daines	Lee	Thune
Durbin	Lummis	Tuberville
Ernst	Marshall	Welch
Fetterman	McConnell	Whitehouse
Fischer	McCormick	Wicker
Graham	Moody	Young

NAYS—32

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Sanders
Baldwin	Kim	Schatz
Bennet	Lujan	Schumer
Blumenthal	Markey	Slotkin
Blunt Rochester	Merkley	Smith
Booker	Murphy	Van Hollen
Cantwell	Murray	Warner
Cortez Masto	Ossoff	Warnock
Gallego	Padilla	Warren
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hickenlooper	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—2

Duckworth	Tillis
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 11:41 a.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. BRITT).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2983

Mr. KIM. Madam President, I rise today because across this country Americans are reading headlines about the impacts of cyber security threats that make us less safe. Let me read to you three from just yesterday: From Reuters, “Cyber defenders sound the alarm as F5 hack exposes broad risks”; from a TV station in Tennessee, “Cyber attack closes La Vergne offices”; and from the Nevada Current, “Nevada’s recent cyber attack shows the importance of shoring up security for election systems.”

All of these are a reminder that we must do everything we can to be able to protect our communities. There is one thing we can do right here today. Today, we can pass the bipartisan Protecting America from Cyber Threats Act, introduced by Senators PETERS and ROUNDS. This bipartisan legislation would reauthorize the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015, groundbreaking legislation that has served as a catalyst of Federal and private sector cooperation on the real and consequential cyber security threats facing our Nation.

For a decade, this program has had broad bipartisan support because of its positive impact on our Nation’s cyber security landscape.

Cyber attacks are real, and America’s adversaries will not wait until our government is reopened before waging these attacks on our critical infrastructure, on small businesses, and vulnerable populations, such as the elderly.

That is why we need to safeguard future collaboration and make sure that