

Every American knows they want to have healthcare. God forbid they, their spouse, their loved one, their kids, their parents become ill or sick. They want to know there is some kind of safety net there for them. But Trump and the Republicans don't seem to realize that.

In just 28 days, the ACA tax credits are set to expire. Next year, tens of millions of Americans will see their healthcare premiums skyrocket—20 million by an average of 114 percent, those on ACA that need those credits. Millions more—even on private insurance—are going to pay a whole lot more too.

I just had a friend I know who works for a big company—the company told him “You are going to have to pay \$450 more a month for your health insurance” because the insurers are charging the health company more—all because of the expiration of the ACA credit.

This is not theoretical. Higher premiums mean real pain, real suffering for real people—most of them, in fact, in red States.

Yesterday, the American Cancer Society found that virtually every single cancer patient who relies on ACA tax credits—96 percent—96 percent said they will struggle to get the care they need if the credits expire.

Republicans are literally telling cancer patients “You are on your own.” Telling someone with cancer “You are on your own because I want to give tax breaks to billionaires”—how un-American is that? How against what Americans need, want, desire is that?

Republicans have clearly sent America barreling towards a healthcare cliff.

The Republicans are divided. Democrats—we are united on healthcare. One House Republican, though, said that the Republicans are “nowhere on healthcare.” That is right. On healthcare, Republicans are divided; Democrats are united. And the divisions on the Republican side are severe. One day, the White House says they will release some grand plan to address the problem. The next day, congressional Republicans say “hell no” and shoot the White House plans down, and Trump backs off. Republicans can't agree on whether to dismantle the ACA or privatize the whole system or just keep attacking women's health because it plays well with their hard-right, anti-choice base.

Forget not being on the same page on healthcare; Republicans aren't even reading from the same book. And while Republicans continue fighting with each other, the American people are left holding the bill.

So I have said many times before: When it comes to healthcare, Republicans are divided—divided among themselves and divided from what the American people overwhelmingly want. Fifty-five percent of Trump voters—Trump voters—want to restore the ACA credits.

Democrats are united on lowering premiums. We are united on lowering costs. We are united on helping Americans pay for the things they need. Republicans, meanwhile, are paralyzed—paralyzed by their divisions, paralyzed by their own extremism. And it will be Americans who will pay the price when premiums go up. And they know who is to blame. They know why.

SECRETARY HEGSETH

Mr. President, on Hegseth, it has been almost a week since a report came out saying Secretary Hegseth potentially ordered the indiscriminate killings of survivors clinging to a vessel in the Caribbean, and we still—still—do not know the truth because Pete Hegseth has not released the full tapes of the strike.

It is an incredibly serious matter. It is about the safety of our troops. This is an incident that could expose our members of the Armed Forces to legal consequences. Yet the American public and the Congress are still not hearing the basic facts.

So once again, Secretary Hegseth, you need to do the right thing. Tell the truth. Release the full, unedited tapes of the September 2 boat strike.

Only then will Americans know the truth because no one believes Hegseth. Until Secretary Hegseth releases the full tapes, the American people cannot trust what he says.

Secretary Hegseth's story, the White House's story, the Pentagon's story keeps changing every—every—day. How can you believe them when the story keeps changing?

The day after the boat strikes, Hegseth said on FOX News that he watched the operation live. He told us in person that he was in the room and that he was part of the operation. But then yesterday, he totally reversed himself and said he didn't see the second strike everybody is wondering about. He now says that he left in the middle of the operation, that a couple of hours passed before he was made aware that a second strike had even been necessary. He blamed “the fog of war.”

A couple of hours? What could have been possibly more important that Secretary Hegseth went missing for 2 hours during a military strike against alleged drug traffickers?

What is Secretary Hegseth hiding? The American people are asking, Congress is asking, Republican Senators and Congressmen are asking Secretary Hegseth: What are you hiding?

Why does his story keep changing? Why won't he release the tapes? The tapes will show the American people what really happened on September 2, and the American people and every person serving in our military deserve to hear the truth.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

HONORING SPECIALIST SARAH BECKSTROM

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, on Thanksgiving Day, 20-year-old Sarah

Beckstrom should have been at home celebrating the holiday with her family. Instead, she lost her life, murdered 1 day before Thanksgiving. Her killer is an Afghan national—someone Joe Biden flew into this country without proper vetting.

Sarah served in the West Virginia National Guard. She wore the uniform of the U.S. Army. She was murdered on American soil by someone who never should have been here.

This is the tragic cost of Joe Biden's open border policies. It is also a sign of national security weakness. For 4 years, Joe Biden and pro-crime Democrats turned our border into a New York City subway turnstile—no fare enforced; just hop right on in. It was routine for 10,000 illegal immigrants to flood across our Nation's southern border on a daily basis. Criminals, gang members, drug traffickers, terrorists—they all came in. For these failed policies, Americans have paid the price: Laken Riley in Georgia, Rachel Morin in Maryland, and many, many others.

Today, President Trump and Republicans are ending the chaos, securing the border in record time, and getting America back on track. We acted fast. We started here in the Senate with the Laken Riley Act. It was the first piece of legislation President Trump signed into law. It mandates that illegal immigrant criminals be detained and moved.

Republicans ended catch-and-release. We stopped the illegal invasion into our country. For the past 6 months, zero—zero—illegal immigrants have been released into our country. Under Joe Biden, it was often 10,000 a day.

For the first time in 17 years, the backlog of immigration cases is actually going down. Immigration judges can finally do their job. Open border, rubberstamping judges are gone. Interior enforcement is making our communities safer. Seventy percent of ICE arrests are illegal immigrant criminals. They are individuals charged with or convicted of crimes in the United States.

During the week of Thanksgiving, ICE worked overtime. They arrested a convicted murderer in California, a convicted rapist in Tennessee, and a convicted drug trafficker in Delaware. Every one of these arrests makes our country safer. These criminals and many more are off our streets because Republicans have acted.

We didn't just secure the border for today, we secured it into the future because, in July, Republicans passed and President Trump signed into law the largest border security investment in American history, \$170 billion. The law finishes the wall, it provides \$75 billion for ICE, and gives our agents the resources they need to continue to deport illegal immigrant criminals. Our law helps train, hire, and retain Border Patrol agents. It even gives them a bonus.

Republicans have made a generational investment in American border security. Every Democrat in the Senate voted against it. Republicans voted

to deport illegal immigrant criminals; Democrats voted to keep them in our communities. Republicans voted to secure the border; Democrats voted to keep it wide open. Republicans voted to hire Border Patrol agents; Democrats voted for free healthcare for illegal immigrants.

The dangers from Joe Biden's open policies remain today, and it is serious because millions of illegal immigrants are still here. Among them are criminals, cartel members, drug dealers, and terror suspects. We are tracking them down, and we are sending them home.

The damage Democrats have inflicted on our country runs deeper than most Americans realize, more than they know. Let's look at the situation right now in Minnesota. This week, the New York Times reported that immigrants from Somalia living in Minnesota have been defrauding American taxpayers out of \$1 billion—\$1 billion—living in Minnesota, immigrants from Somalia.

Investigators from the magazine City Journal found where the stolen money went. As they say, "follow the money." According to their reporting, the largest funder of al-Shabaab—which, as you know, is a terrorist organization affiliated with al-Qaida—the largest funder of al-Shabaab is the Minnesota taxpayer. How could that be? How could it be that American taxpayers are funding a group affiliated with al-Qaida? Taxpayers didn't know it, weren't aware of it.

Here is how the scheme worked: Fraudsters created fake companies that exist only on paper. They billed the government for services never provided, or they enrolled children in programs that they didn't need. Then they funneled the stolen money out of our country. Some went to buy luxury cars and real estate, some went directly to al-Shabaab. This was organized, systematic theft. It went on for years under Democratic leadership, and then it exploded under Joe Biden, Kamala Harris, and her Vice Presidential nominee Tim Walz, the current Governor of Minnesota.

No one stopped it until President Trump was elected. Then, this is what happened: In June, President Trump appointed Joe Thompson as the acting U.S. attorney for the District of Minnesota. Thompson immediately began bringing charges. So far, dozens of defendants have been charged. This is what Thompson discovered.

He said:

What we see are schemes stacked upon schemes draining resources meant for those in need.

"[m]eant for those in need."

Safety net programs, draining those resources.

"The depth of the fraud," he went on, "takes my breath away." It should take away the breath of all Americans when they see what was going on in Minnesota. The most fascinating thing is it doesn't take the breath away of the Minnesota Governor Tim Walz. Oh,

no, on Sunday, he was on "Meet the Press" talking to the Nation. You would think he would have expressed outrage. No, he made excuses. Instead of condemning the fraud, condemning the theft, condemning the funneling of taxpayer money overseas to a terrorist organization, he claimed the problem was President Trump. He must be back on his old talking points from the campaign where Trump won in a landslide.

Walz said we need to be "careful" about how we talk. Think about that. American taxpayer dollars funding terrorism funneled out of the country, and Democrats want us to be "careful" about how we talk. He is worried about our tone.

Here is what the Minnesota Governor will not tell you. Many of those charged have close ties to Minnesota Democrats. He doesn't want you to look over there, oh, no, including the socialist Squad member Representative OMAR. That is why Democrats want to sweep it under the rug, want to hide it from public view: No, no. Look at President Trump. Don't look at us.

This is what is wrong: When Democrats prioritize open borders, what do we get? Waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption. And the Democrats look the other way. Because President Trump won, we are bringing these criminals to justice.

According to the latest Harvard-Harris poll, 8 in 10 Americans support deporting illegal criminals. That includes 7 in 10 Democrats. I am not sure how many of those would fit in this Senate Chamber on the Democrat side of the aisle, but 7 to 10 Democrats across the country are supportive of deportation of illegal immigrant criminals. Three in four Americans want the government to eliminate waste, fraud and abuse and corruption. I am not sure who doesn't want us to eliminate that. Three out of four Americans say get rid of it, and I agree. Seven in ten support closing the border with enhanced security, and that is exactly what we are doing.

It is not complicated. Americans oppose illegal immigration, support border security, and want criminal illegal immigrants removed. Republicans work for the American people, not for the open border activists across the aisle.

Americans deserve secure borders, deserve safe communities. That is what Republicans are continuing to deliver. We are securing Americans borders, protecting American families, and we are making America safer.

WAIVING QUORUM CALLS

I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum calls with respect to the Orso and Rodriguez nominations.

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

MR. BARRASSO. I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

IMMIGRATION

MR. DURBIN. Mr. President, in my office here in the U.S. Capitol, which is

a few steps away from this Chamber, I have behind my desk a credenza. On that credenza is a document that is dear to me and my family and really defines who I am. It is my mother's naturalization certificate.

Despite all the speeches you hear on the floor about immigrants, we are a nation of immigrants, and my mother was an immigrant from Lithuania to the United States, brought here at the age of 2. Her brother and sister were with her on that boat, and her mom was bringing them along.

They went from Lithuania to Germany and then took the ship to Baltimore, eventually catching a train that took them to what they considered to be the land of opportunity, my hometown of East St. Louis, IL. That is my story. That is my family story. It is an immigrant story, and I am proud of it.

There were problems with immigration throughout our history. But there is also an opportunity with immigration which we have taken advantage of over and over and over again. We are a nation of immigrants. You will hear many of the speeches—and even this morning—from the other side of the aisle on what is wrong with immigrants and immigration. It is not a perfect system by any means.

But I think we can all agree on some basics. Whoever the President may be, whatever political party, we need an orderly process at the border when it comes to immigrants. No. 1. No. 2, we should never knowingly allow any dangerous person to come into the United States. No. 3, anyone who is here seeking citizenship and is a danger to the community or neighborhood they live in should be removed from the United States, period, end of story.

Finally, we need a process that allows people who have the best intentions to come here, work hard, pay their taxes, and be part of America's future. That is the story of my family. It is a story of millions of American families.

About 25 years ago, a young woman in Chicago contacted my office and asked for help. Her name was Tereza Lee—an interesting story. Tereza was born in Korea. She came to the United States through South America, and her father and mother brought her to Chicago where her father, a Protestant minister, was looking for a church to serve.

He spent many years doing that with limited success, and he brought along his little daughter Tereza with him as he visited these churches. Many times, when the services were not taking place, this little girl would go over to the beat-up old piano in each of these churches and start hammering away. Someone noticed that and invited her to be part of something called the Merit Music Program in Chicago. The Merit Music Program provides money for poor kids in public schools to buy instruments and take lessons and learn how to play. They decided to give Tereza that chance. They let her take