

I mean, what signal will it send if Republicans say, “we’re going to say no to the Democrats’ plan. But we’re not gonna offer anything?” The message that would send is: “Good luck to the American people, we don’t really care.”

That is from a Republican Senator. I couldn’t have said it better myself.

So Republicans should join us on Thursday, vote yes on our proposal, extend the ACA tax credits by 3 years, and greatly reduce the specter of premiums going up and up and up.

#### CHIPS

Mr. President, on chips, this one is an amazing one. Donald Trump is just selling out America for his own ego and his own gain. That is what he is doing on chips when, yesterday, Donald Trump announced he was giving the green light to NVIDIA to send even more powerful AI chips to China—the H200, which are used to train AI models.

Let’s be clear. You can’t claim to be “tough on China” if you willingly sell them some of the most advanced chips in the world so they can use them to strengthen their military.

People on both sides of the aisle are aghast that Trump would do this. Does he think it through? Does he care about what will happen tomorrow or just his little announcement today?

Donald Trump’s announcement selling these chips to China is dangerous. They will use them to strengthen their military, their technological edge—all at the expense of American and world national security.

Even Donald Trump’s own Department of Justice warned about the dangers of these chips making their way to China. Here is what they said—the Department of Justice, DOJ—when they acted against a chip-smuggling operation yesterday. This is Trump’s Justice Department:

These chips are the building blocks of AI superiority and are integral to modern military applications. The country that controls these chips will control AI technology; the country that controls AI technology will control the future.

Donald Trump, you are letting China control our future; you are selling us out—all so can you have a little, 1-day ego gain of making some kind of announcement, which no one is going to believe anyway.

Donald Trump should listen to his own DOJ about the danger of giving China these chips before cutting stupid deals that cost America dearly in the years to come, but, unfortunately, this is textbook Donald Trump. He is so desperate to get a deal with President Xi so he can get that photo op that he will sell out America’s long-term security for a short-term political gain. This sellout is not only going to hurt us, it is going to hurt our children and our grandchildren as China begins to dominate the world in AI.

Then he comes up with this tawdry deal where he says: NVIDIA makes money, and the United States makes money.

The short-term gain of dollars from selling these chips is so much outweighed by the danger when China takes the lead on AI using the chips that were made in America and sold to them by Donald Trump.

So I ask one question: Where is the outrage from my Republican colleagues? Are they just going to sit by while Donald Trump sells America out to Xi Jinping?

That is what is going on here. The chips deal is terrible. It will cost our national security dearly, and the President must reverse course before it is too late.

#### SECRETARY HEGSETH

Mr. President, on the NDAA and Hegseth, well, today, as has already been widely reported, Secretary Hegseth and top administration officials will hold a classified briefing for the Gang of 8.

At the Gang of 8 hearing, I will ask Secretary Hegseth directly: Will he commit to providing all Senators access to unedited tapes of the September 2 boat strike?

Again, Hegseth, will you commit, with no BS, to providing all Senators with access to the unedited tapes of the September 2 boat strikes?

Because the longer the White House and the Pentagon hold on to the tapes, the more the American people are wondering: What are Donald Trump and Pete Hegseth trying to cover up? Are they lying to the American people or are they just trying to hide their incompetence?

No one in the administration can seem to get their story straight. Last week, Donald Trump said he would have “no problem releasing the full video of the strike.” Then, yesterday, he walked back his statement, claiming he never said it and it was fake ABC news.

You know, Donald Trump says something, doesn’t like what he said and made a mistake, and then he says it is fake news. But he said it, and the American people heard it, and it is on tape, and then he blames one of the networks for simply broadcasting what he said. What is going on in this country and how do we let this man do what he does—destroying our values, our morals, the fact that America has always been an honest country?

So let me be clear. The only thing that can bring more clarity to the American people is the full release of the unedited tapes, plain and simple. Republicans and Democrats in Congress agree. That is why there is a provision in the most recent version of the NDAA that demands a release of the unedited tapes to Congress. If the Pentagon fails to hand over those tapes, Pete Hegseth’s travel budget will be slashed by 25 percent until he complies. That was a bipartisan shot across the bow to Donald Trump—hand over the tapes—done by Republicans. I salute them for their courage in bucking him and bucking Hegseth.

The inclusion of this NDAA provision restricting travel shows Congress is

united in wanting to see these tapes as soon as possible, and both Donald Trump and Pete Hegseth must comply, say the Republican Senators, or the DOD is penalized.

I strongly support this provision and worked with Senator REED, Senator WICKER, and others to keep it in. I hope it will compel Donald Trump and Pete Hegseth to do the right thing: release the tapes and give the American people the transparency we all deserve.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

#### HEALTHCARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, as I was coming to the floor today, I heard the minority leader CHUCK SCHUMER talking about wanting to send more government checks to insurance companies. That is what he said he wants to do. He is going to have a vote on it later this week. He wants to extend 3 more years the checks Democrats say we ought to send to insurance companies. I disagree with them.

When it comes to healthcare, American people deserve to have the care they need from a doctor they choose at lower costs, at a cost that they can afford. ObamaCare has done just the opposite. And today, ObamaCare is collapsing under its own weight.

What are the Democrats trying to do? They are trying to prop it up with an additional \$83 billion handed directly from the Federal Government to insurance companies. They want to send \$83 billion directly from the Treasury into the bank accounts of the very profitable insurance companies that have been made more profitable under ObamaCare. Democrats want to use your money to cover up for their failures. That is what is happening here.

So, this week, the Senate is going to vote on the Democrat plan to extend these Biden COVID bonuses for 3 more years with absolutely no reforms to a failing Obamacare program—no reforms, not one.

What do we see with the program so far they had? It caused waste, fraud, and corruption. Rich people get subsidies; insurance companies get rich. They all like it. That is why the Democrats are for it.

I practiced medicine in Wyoming for 24 years as an orthopedic surgeon. I was doing that before serving now in the U.S. Senate. I can tell you, these Biden COVID bonuses are a bad prescription because the side effects are so harmful: widespread fraud and corruption, direct payments to line the pockets of big insurance companies, taxpayer-subsidized healthcare for millionaires. That is right, millionaires. You can earn \$1 million a year and still get subsidized handsomely by what the Democrats are proposing, and they are bringing it to the floor to be voted on this week. That is the solution the Democrats have, throw more government money at a problem that caused the problem in the first place.

The people in my home State of Wyoming cannot continue to afford this endless drain that is ObamaCare. The Democrats saw ObamaCare was failing. They saw costs were getting high. They are trying to prop it up. They are trying to hide the failures.

In 2021, they used their narrow partisan majority to try to prop it up even more with the Biden COVID bonuses. Those are on top of all the other subsidies that the Democrats were sending to the insurance companies. Well, not a single Republican voted for it. Remember, these are new subsidies on top of the already generous subsidies.

And now they are for everybody. No matter how much money you make, you qualify for these subsidies. This was initially designed just to go for people that needed it, people that couldn't help themselves. But now, the sky is the limit.

When does that happen?

Oh, and by the way, Democrats said these will only be temporary. Don't worry. This is just because of COVID. But the following year, what did the Democrats do? They said: Well, ObamaCare is not in pretty good shape. We need to keep these going, this extra layer of subsidies. Keep them going. They set the deadline date for coming up the end of this month. Again, not a single Republican voted for it, not one. Now, what did CHUCK SCHUMER say today? He wants to extend them for another 3 years, \$83 billion.

So calling these Biden COVID bonuses temporary was just another way for them to cover up the damage that ObamaCare is doing to the country. They are doing it for one reason: because ObamaCare is unaffordable. It is a failure. Premiums have risen over 220 percent since ObamaCare came along.

What did Obama say? Premiums are going to go down by \$2,500 a year for a family. I think that was called the "lie of the year" by the press who evaluated those things. Even the deductibles have doubled.

Look, sending another \$83 billion to insurance companies is not going to fix the failures of ObamaCare. And when you create direct payments to insurance companies that are this vast, no guardrails, predictable things will happen. No. 1 is, of course, the price of insurance will go up because there is more government money coming to it; and No. 2, fraud runs wild. That is right, absolute fraud.

So the Government Accountability Office recently released a report that confirms it. In 2024 and 2025, the Government Accountability Office did something very revealing. They tried to figure out how easy it was to sign up for ObamaCare using fake information. Would fraudsters be caught if they submitted fake information under ObamaCare? In fact, GAO submitted 24 fake applications. It was intentional. They submitted them to the ObamaCare exchanges to see if, under the Democrats' program, these would actually be detected as fraudulent or if

money would just flow from the Federal Government to those who submitted all these false papers. Would they get approved by the government or was there anything out there that would stop them?

Well, 23 of the 24 fake applications were approved to qualify for ObamaCare subsidies. Money is going to go, fake applications, incompetent Federal Government—that is what the American people see.

So the GAO dug deeper, and they found, when they checked Social Security numbers, that a single Social Security number was used for enrolling 125 different ObamaCare policies, all of which qualified for subsidies. Yes, those Democrats love sending the money out. That is the thing they do. GAO also found that 58,000 Social Security numbers that matched death records were also receiving subsidies.

There they go. That is the way the Democrats roll. Democrats want to continue paying ObamaCare bonuses directly to insurance companies for signing up people with Social Security numbers of people that are dead.

Let's be very clear: The money from the Biden COVID bonuses is never actually seen by the American people. It goes right from the Department of the Treasury, mainline to the insurance companies. Insurance companies have recorded record profits. Their stocks are up 500 to 1,000 percent since ObamaCare became law.

Democrats created a system where insurance companies' profits are higher, and they go higher and higher the higher the premiums rise. So it is in their best interest to continue to raise premiums.

As long as Democrats are willing to subsidize all that, that is what you are going to continue to get: a drain on the Federal Treasury, taxpayers being taken advantage of, insurance companies getting rich, and Democrats saying everything is fine when it is not.

There are no cost controls. There are no incentives to compete on the insurance companies. Competition in healthcare basically collapsed in terms of the insurance markets and many rural counties.

Mr. President, in your State and mine, there may be only one choice. It is a monopoly. That is what we are finding across Wyoming. Many families have only one choice for health insurance: Take it or leave it. It is a monopoly. Charge what they want.

Insurance companies, if they have to compete to offer people what they want to buy, people have the money to make their own decisions, that is going to bring down costs; it is going to provide more choices. If Democrats get their way, premiums are going to keep going up. Insurance companies are going to continue to collect big checks from taxpayers directly into their bank accounts, and there will be no reforms to stop the fraud.

And there is plenty of fraud.

The Government Accountability Office has found it. It has been headlined

in papers, including the Washington Post this morning. Yet the Democrats come to the floor and say: Nope, \$83 billion right out the door right to the insurance companies.

And that is their solution for a failed ObamaCare healthcare.

Look, we need to empower families to make their own decisions. People get it at home that Obamacare has failed the American taxpayers. People know they want the care they need from a doctor they choose at a price they can afford. They are not going to get that with ObamaCare.

I yield the floor.

WAIVING QUORUM CALLS

Mr. BARRASSO. I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum calls with respect to the Crain and Maxwell nominations.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

MAIDEN SPEECH

Mr. KIM. Mr. President, a year ago, my two little boys sat right up there, in the Gallery above, as I raised my right hand here on the floor. It was a moment unlike any other moment I have ever had in my life.

My dear colleagues, I hope it is never lost upon us that we get to work a job whose job description is written in the Constitution of the United States; what a deeply humbling experience, one we should treasure every chance we get.

Never in my life have I felt the call to serve so strongly and viscerally as I do right now. I believe we are in a moment of extraordinary consequence and magnitude and that the next 5 years will shape the next five decades. There is nowhere else I would rather be than to be able to have a voice in this room and a vote in this Chamber on the monumental decisions that will shape our Nation's future through tumultuous times.

But there is a bittersweet taste now, a year later, as I look back upon the day that I was sworn in. By my children's side, as they watched me a year ago, were my parents, both born during the Korean war, born into poverty, and they struggled to survive. Both saw America as a place where they could achieve the closest thing that they could get to a guarantee that the family they had raised would have a better life than they did.

It was actually predecessors in this room who passed the immigration reform that allowed my parents to come here. Had it not been for those decisions made here, our family's story would have no choice and no chance in America, and the decisions we are making now are shaping families for generations to come. I am in awe of what this Nation has afforded my family in just one generation.

But now I think of an episode that happened a few weeks ago. I was with my father at the doctor's office, and the doctor asked my father, "Tell me