

kids at school should have fewer pencils.

Then he repeated that his favorite word was "tariffs." What kind of world does he live in? Does he understand that these tariffs are raising prices through the roof? When he said his favorite word was "tariffs," the crowd sure didn't like that. His own crowd didn't like that, his own crowd of MAGA people.

So Donald Trump simply doesn't get it. It takes a special kind of delusion to tell parents to buy their kids fewer toys and pencils while bragging about new ballrooms and gold in the Oval Office. You cut back on your Christmas presents for your kids, who might really want something and have looked you in the eye 10 times and said: Mom and Dad, can I have that? Instead, he is spending money on new ballrooms and gold and brags about it. That is Donald Trump in a nutshell, but that is not all.

During an interview released a few hours before this so-called affordability tour, Donald Trump was asked how he graded himself on the economy. He said A+++++, but the American people are giving him an F. What crackpot economics did Donald Trump study? An A with five pluses?

Well, in that case, let's look at the test scores. Over the last year, the price of beef has gone up at the grocery store by 20 percent. That is an F. Today, Americans pay 40 percent more for a single cup of coffee on their way to work than they did last year. That is an F. People are paying more in electricity bills while Donald Trump has cut domestic energy jobs. That is a massive F. People are paying more for clothing, more for produce. And this week, our farmers had to be bailed out with taxpayer dollars because of Donald Trump's disastrous tariffs.

The final grade: a big fat F. In no universe does Donald Trump deserve anywhere close to an A, a B, or even a C for his job on the economy.

The reality is that Donald Trump is a failure of a President and a failure on the American economy.

And I am not the one giving Donald Trump a grade; it is the people themselves. Last night, while Donald Trump was mocking affordability in Pennsylvania, voters in Georgia and Florida gave him a big fat F. In Georgia, just 1 year ago, Democrats lost that State house district by 22 points. Last night, they won it. We have had the first Democratic mayor in Miami in 30 years—what used to be a Republican redoubt. Those elections are another warning shot from the ballot box: Americans are tired of paying more for the things they need. They are tired of Donald Trump mocking them because they can't afford the things they need.

I warn my Republican colleagues: As the Florida and Georgia elections last night showed, you follow Donald Trump to your own doom and our country's doom.

Donald Trump might claim he deserves an A+++++, but at the ballot box, he is clearly getting an F.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, on healthcare, tomorrow is a moment of truth for Senate Republicans: Are they going to help bring healthcare costs down or are they going to sabotage our healthcare system and send premiums through the roof? That is what is at stake when the Senate votes tomorrow.

We have 21 days until January 1. After that, people's healthcare bills will start going through the roof—double, triple, even more. People will not be able to afford their healthcare. Millions will lose it altogether. Tens of millions will pay much more than they can afford as deductibles and copays go up, as different doctors leave plans.

You know, you could have had a doctor who had been treating your child for a chronic condition for years, and you had trusted the doctor. She or he is gone, and you have to start all over with someone who is less accessible, less friendly, and more expensive.

There is only one way to avoid all of this. The only realistic path left is what Democrats are proposing: a clean, direct extension of the current tax credits.

But even now, it looks like Republicans still don't get it. Yesterday, Leader THUNE announced he would bring another proposal—a Republican proposal, if you can even call it that—to the floor: the Cassidy-Crapo hedgepodge of half-baked ideas, whose fundamental core idea has failed over and over again. I want to be very clear about what this Republican bill represents: junk insurance. Let me tell my Republican colleagues that it is dead on arrival. The proposal does nothing to bring down sky-high premiums. It doesn't extend the ACA premiums by a single day. Instead, Republicans want to send people \$80 a month and pretend that it is going to fix everything. It is a "you are on your own" bill. If you have a sick kid, if you have cancer, if you need a complete top-to-bottom checkup because something is ailing you, Republicans are telling you: Americans, you are on your own; we are not helping you. That is what they say.

Republicans want to send people \$80 a month and pretend that it is going to fix everything? To even qualify for a check, you have to sign up for a bronze plan that comes with outrageously high deductibles—\$7,500, even \$10,000 for individuals. Under the Cassidy-Crapo plan, a 60-year-old Florida couple making \$85,000 would see premiums go up by \$21,000, and their deductible would go from zero to \$7,000. That is \$28,000 net taken out of their pockets. How are they going to pay for it?

Republicans, have you got an answer for them? This junk insurance won't help them one bit.

Cassidy-Crapo is not a healthcare plan. It is not a plan at all. It is an excuse. It is a figleaf. Because Republicans are so divided and can't come up with a plan that unites them, they have proposed this figleaf. My guess is that most Republicans themselves are grimacing that they even have to vote for this thing. How is a one-time check going to help you if you are paying \$1,000 or \$2,000 a month more for health insurance? The Cassidy-Crapo plan, even if you can call it that, is downright insulting.

What we need to do is prevent our premiums from skyrocketing, and only our bill does it. It is the last train out of the station to avoid these sky-high premiums from going up and up and up.

What we need to do is prevent premiums from skyrocketing, and only our bill does it. It is the last train out of the station, I repeat.

But Republicans? They seem to care more about banning abortion than lowering premiums. This bill is loaded with a poison pill, so everyone knows it can't come close to passing. By putting that poison abortion pill in it, they basically are saying to Democrats: Forget about it.

You can't even come close to realizing that this might be the basis of any compromise aside from how bad their plan is altogether.

So the bottom line: The Republicans do not have a serious plan to fix our healthcare problems, but we Democrats do—a clean, simple extension to prevent premiums from rising and rising and rising. Republicans still have a day to do the right thing.

Republicans, we are fighting for the American people; you are fighting with each other. Stop fighting with each other, try to help the American people, and vote for our plan.

I implore my Republican colleagues: We need just 13 of you to push this bill over the finish line.

If Republicans vote this bill down, they will unleash healthcare chaos throughout the country.

CARIBBEAN BOAT STRIKE

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, Mr. President, on the Hegseth briefing of yesterday, during yesterday's Gang of 8 briefing, I asked Secretary Hegseth directly will he let every Member of Congress see the full, unedited tapes of the September 2 boat strike. Secretary Hegseth's answer? He said: We have to study it.

What the hell has he been doing for the last 3 months? Hegseth and the DOD have had more than enough time to study this. It is time for all Members of Congress to see the tapes for themselves.

I told Secretary Hegseth that every Member of Congress, Democrat and Republican of the House and Senate, wants to see the tapes. Both parties are united in demanding that the tapes be released. Our Republican chairman of Armed Services and our Democratic

ranking member of Armed Services made a request together. This is not a partisan issue. Both parties are united in demanding the tapes be released not only to Congress but to the American people. The American people want to have the transparency they deserve.

Hegseth is resisting that transparency. What is he hiding, what is the DOD hiding, and what is President Trump hiding? Those are the questions the American people are asking when it comes to Hegseth's coverup of these tapes, these videos.

At the meeting, I also pressed Secretaries Rubio and Hegseth on the administration's recent military action in the Caribbean. I wanted to know: What are their plans? How far are they going? Is Donald Trump about to drag America into another endless war?

And again, I didn't get any satisfying answers.

When it comes to matters of war and peace, Congress needs the truth; the American people need transparency. Anything less is a total disservice to our men and women in uniform and to every citizen of this country.

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.

The majority whip.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I just heard the minority leader come to the floor and talk about our Republican plan for healthcare, and he called it "insulting."

What is insulting is that the minority leader and the Democrats want to send \$83 billion of taxpayer money directly from the Treasury of the United States to health insurance corporations that continue to get rich off of ObamaCare. That is insulting to the American people.

That is a program that is riddled—riddled—with fraud. That is what they want, these COVID bonus programs put forth by Joe Biden. They want to just—3 more years, more direct checks to insurance companies, taxpayer money with no accountability.

So how bad are these programs? Well, let's just take a look at the headlines. Monday's Wall Street Journal: "ObamaCare Is a Mecca for Fraud."

The Democrats must be in favor of all this fraud because that is what they want to do. They want to continue it for 83 billion more dollars.

What about the Washington Post? This is yesterday's Washington Post: "Obamacare subsidies make it too easy to scam the system."

That is what the Democrats appear to be wanting to do, continuing to put

money—\$83 billion—into a system that even the Washington Post said is easy to scam.

Is that what the American people want? That is insulting to the American people.

So tomorrow the Democrats are going to come here, and they are going to line up, one after another, and vote to send another \$83 billion directly from the Federal Treasury of the United States to insurance companies—\$83 billion to a program that is designed to be defrauded.

So how bad is the fraud?

Well, the Government Accountability Office tested whether the ObamaCare system would catch fraud.

Good for them.

So they made up and submitted 24 fake applications for ObamaCare. Yes. That is right—fake applications, fake information, make it up, make all the information up, and 23 of the 24 of the ObamaCare applications were approved. They were accepted and qualified to receive the subsidies.

They were fake. That is why even the Washington Post says that fraud is on the way.

They all received taxpayer-funded healthcare subsidies paid by the Federal Government. It is insulting to taxpayers that that is the best the Democrats can do, that that is what the Democrats offer.

Eighteen of the twenty-four fake enrollees—this is even worse—were still receiving taxpayer-funded subsidies as recently as September.

Now, remember, September—the month of September, end of September—that is when the Democrats shut down the government of the United States. Why? Because of these COVID bonus payments from the Biden administration.

That is insulting.

Those subsidies were paid directly from the government to the insurance companies. The insurance companies, just for those 18 of the 24, received over \$100,000 for these 18 fake applications—right from the government, not to the people, not so the people can see, did this go to a real person. No. Government. Insurance company. Insurance companies get rich. Democrats love it. Nobody gets to see what is going on, and premiums have gone up 221 percent since ObamaCare passed.

And remember Obama saying your premiums would go down by \$2,500 if you just passed his law?

I just told you what happened with 18 of 24 for \$100,000. Remember, there are 20 million people on ObamaCare today receiving government subsidies. When you take a look at that level of fraud happening across the board, imagine how much taxpayer money is being wasted or stolen.

The losses to the taxpayers is staggering. And that, I would say to the minority leader who came here and talked about the Republican proposal being insulting, is insulting.

And then these fake applications that were approved without any in-

come verification—the law says you have got to verify somebody's income. Under the law, the amount of money that a person would get, in terms of bonuses, is supposed to be based on income. In one case, the fake applicant's income, according to ObamaCare officials who worked out the system, it was confirmed, they said, because of documentation. That is what they said: Based on documentation, it was approved. The people that made up the fake applications never provided any documentation at all.

That is insulting to taxpayers.

In another case, the system never requested proof of citizenship. That is how we know, for a fact, that ObamaCare subsidies go to illegal immigrants. They don't ask if you are a citizen. It is easy for noncitizens to apply.

Oh, investigators also found out that dead people were getting ObamaCare subsidies. The Democrats don't care about any of that.

That is insulting to taxpayers.

Mr. President, 58,000 Social Security numbers that were linked to death records were used to receive subsidies. More than 7,000 Social Security numbers were used in enrollments after the date of that person's death, signing them up after they were dead.

It is OK with the Democrats and the ObamaCare people, but not a single Republican voted for it.

One Social Security number was used repeatedly to enroll people into ObamaCare policies, and the fraudsters used it 125 times.

All together, investigators, through the Government Accountability Office, discovered \$21 billion lost to ObamaCare fraud. That is insulting.

If Democrats were truly concerned about affordable healthcare, you would think that they would want to root out the waste and the fraud. Even the Washington Post says "ObamaCare subsidies make it too easy to scam the system."

Yet, every Democrat is going to come down here to the floor tomorrow and vote to continue the fraud.

The Democrat bill sends \$83 billion directly from the Federal Treasury to insurance companies, and it fails to include a single reform to stop the waste, the fraud, the abuse, or the corruption because Democrats simply don't care.

Their fat-cat friends at the big insurance companies don't care either because they get paid directly from the government either way, and the Democrats want to send another \$83 billion their way without a single reform.

The more people they enroll—either real people or fake people—the more money the insurance companies pocket. Oh, and their fake enrollees, they are not filing medical claims so that is just more profit for the insurance companies.

This, of course, is money from hard-working taxpayers. Stock prices of health insurance companies are up 500 to 1,000 percent since ObamaCare became law.