

to guidance from local law enforcement.

Then, just a few hours later, on the first night of Hanukkah, on a popular beach in Sydney, Australia, two terrorists opened fire on Jewish Australians who gathered in celebration. At least 15 were killed, another 29 injured. Among the murdered was a 10-year-old girl and an 87-year-old Holocaust survivor. Also among the murdered was Rabbi Eli Schlanger—a pillar of Brooklyn's Crown Heights community—who welcomed a son into the world just 2 months ago.

May the memories of all those killed and injured this weekend be a blessing.

I have warned repeatedly that anti-Semitism is a scourge around the world that must be condemned loudly and fought vigorously at every turn. The Jewish people have been collectively demonized, increasingly so in the last few years. This tragedy in Sydney shows the danger—the abject danger—of letting anti-Semitic rhetoric and action go unchecked.

So those of us in elected office have a responsibility to speak out against anti-Semitic rhetoric and conduct wherever it arises and whenever it arises.

Separately, Congress must also take action against another poison of our age, that of rampant gun violence.

Australia is no stranger to gun safety legislation. They famously took strong action in the 1990s, so gun violence plummeted. Yesterday, Australia's Prime Minister said the country will take another look at their gun safety laws and see where they can make improvements. If Australia can find the courage to act after a tragedy like the one at Bondi Beach, Congress should certainly find the will to act after a tragedy like the one at Brown University.

For the sake of those who were killed this weekend and for the sake of so many lives we can save moving forward, Congress must again act against gun violence and act against all forms of violent hate.

ALL SENATORS BRIEFING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on the all-Senators briefing tomorrow morning: Senators, tomorrow morning, will attend a briefing by Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth and Secretary of State Marco Rubio on the latest developments in the Caribbean, including getting to the bottom of what happened during the September 2 boat strikes.

I have been calling on Secretary Rubio to provide an all-Senators briefing on these important topics since October, and I am pleased he has finally—finally—heeded our call. I expect him and Secretary Hegseth to come tomorrow prepared to answer tough questions from Senators about what exactly is going on with our forces in the territory surrounding Venezuela. The Senate also demands to see the full and

unedited tapes showing exactly what happened during strikes on the alleged drug boat on September 2.

Last week, I asked the Secretary of Defense point blank if he would provide the video of the boat strikes to every Senator. A simple yes from Secretary Hegseth would have been sufficient because, frankly, asking for the tapes is not a crazy request; it is basic oversight—something Senators are certainly entitled to see. It is part of our responsibility as Senators. But the Secretary hedged and said he needed more time to study this issue. More time? More time to study exactly what? It has been 3 months. What the hell is there to study? What is there to study? I made this request to the Secretary a week ago, and, to date, he has still not provided access to all Senators.

So, ahead of tomorrow's briefing, we need to be clear about one thing: Every single Member is entitled to see the full, unedited video of what happened during the series of strikes on September 2. Anything less than full access for every Senator would be unacceptable.

If Secretary Hegseth continues to conceal the truth, then what exactly is he trying to hide? Maybe he needs more time to study what he should hide and what he shouldn't hide. That would be totally wrong, inappropriate, and dishonest.

We also need immediate answers about what on Earth Donald Trump is planning to do in Venezuela. You get different answers all the time and no clear understanding by the American people of what he is up to and what his goal is. How far will he go? Will he get us into an endless war? We have thousands of troops on our largest aircraft carrier in the Caribbean but zero—zero—explanation for what Donald Trump is trying to accomplish.

Americans do not want to get our troops ensnared in another endless war, and the risk for war will only get worse the more a belligerent Donald Trump acts off the coast of South America.

Just this weekend, a U.S. Air Force tanker jet had a near-midair collision with a JetBlue Airbus flying to the United States. The Air Force tanker reportedly did not have its transponder on, of all things, and flew right through the Airbus's flightpath, forcing it to climb to avoid a crash—a near miss.

A near miss with this commercial flight should serve as a warning. All it takes is one accident, one moment of miscommunication with Venezuela, and things can spin out of control in an instant. That is exactly what the American people do not want to see. We have seen that happen in the past; that one incident can lead to an endless war.

So, tomorrow, Secretaries Rubio and Hegseth owe Senators some pretty big answers to some very important questions about what is happening in the Caribbean. What are their goals? What

are their plans? What are their limits? Anything less than full transparency and candor from the two Secretaries will be unacceptable to the Senate and to the American people.

NEW YORK

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on my 62-county tour and the cost of healthcare: Well, today is a special day for me as I completed my annual 62-county tour. Every year, I visit every one of New York's 62 counties, and today's 62nd county was Columbia County, with a visit to the Ooms Dairy Farm in Columbia County.

When I first ran for the Senate, I promised New Yorkers I would visit every single county at least once a year, and I have kept that promise up for 27 years. This is the 27th year I have had that tour. I love it today just as much as I loved it then. You learn so much. You see people face to face. Sitting behind a desk, just answering the phone, doesn't suffice if you want to be a good Senator. You have to get out there, meet people, shake hands, hear about their concerns, hear about their anguish, hear about their happiness and joys, and that is what I do in every county.

New York is a tremendously diverse State. We have one of the largest rural populations in America. Our upstate cities are like Midwestern cities, and, of course, we have New York City and its suburbs—the largest metropolis in the country—so I get to see and learn everything. I consider what I do in visiting each county a work requirement. I can't do my job if I don't talk to New Yorkers face to face and see firsthand what is going on with them every single day.

Now, I have to say this: This year's 62-county was somewhat different than the ones in the past. This year, I heard from New Yorkers in every corner of the State, of every profession and every age, of every race, creed, color, gender, and preference about the rising cost of living. It was a universal chorus of complaints that our country is not doing enough about the cost of living.

Every county I visited—all 62—had the same story. People are struggling to pay for the things they need. Some of their worst moments are while simply sitting around the dinner table after a Friday evening dinner and saying: How are we going to pay this bill? Maybe we should pay this one and not that one or do without this or do without that. For families with children, it is particularly hard when their kids need things that will be good for them, and they can't afford them.

Here are some instances, and I met so many: a man named Thomas, who is the owner of a beautiful brewery, the 1812 brewery in Watertown, NY, on the shores of Lake Ontario, where the War of 1812 was fought. His beer was taken off the shelves in Canada because of Donald Trump's stupidity and name-calling of the Canadians.

In northern New York, we have had a great border—a peaceful, wonderful, prosperous border—between Canada and New York. Trump just about destroyed it in a minute with some jerky comment that he always typically makes.

Well, Thomas's costs have gone up in his brewery, in addition to the anger for the Canadians not buying his beer. Tariffs have made it more expensive for him to can his beer and buy the grain he needs to brew his beautiful product.

I have met scores of businesspeople like Thomas, some of whom have gone out of business. A chocolatier who just loved making her chocolates but who can no longer afford it had to fire the people who had worked so hard in her company.

I met with another New Yorker, a man named Jeremy. He lives in the Hudson Valley, in Kingston, NY, who relies on the ACA tax credits to pay for health insurance. As his tax credits expire, Jeremy is going to pay more than double. Nearly \$1,000 every single month is what he is going to have to pay, and that is not an expense he can deal with or that people like him can deal with. He makes a good salary, and he is a hard-working guy, but he can't afford such a dramatic jump in the price of his healthcare insurance. That is the kind of financial shock that Jeremy will have about which I heard over and over and over and over again.

What do you do—sign up for healthcare you can't afford or go uninsured? Go broke or go uninsured?

What a terrible choice our Republican colleagues are forcing people like Jeremy and thousands and thousands of other New Yorkers to make.

And, finally, I met a woman named Roberta who lives in Wyoming County, one of our big dairy counties, by the way. She told me she relies on SNAP benefits to put food on the table. I took a picture with her. She had six of her seven beautiful children there, many of them redheads, like their mom.

She told me that, now, with rising grocery prices and budget cuts to SNAP, she can't put food on the table for all of her seven kids. She is living on the edge—what a horrible story to hear.

Can you imagine those beautiful red-headed kids? And they have to decide who is going to get the eggs, who is going to get the vegetables, because she doesn't have enough money, and SNAP doesn't give her the food she needs to feed her family.

So here is what I say to you, Donald Trump: If you are serious about focusing on affordability, come take a road trip with me through Upstate New York so you can see what a disaster your policies have been.

The stories were the same everywhere I went.

Under Donald Trump, costs are up, and financial security is down. People are having such a tough time affording the things they very much need—not

luxuries, not frivolities—things they need: food, medicine; got to fix the car that just broke down and which you need to get to work, and you don't have the money to do it—over and over and over again.

And, of course, the tip of the spear in these higher costs is what is becoming of healthcare. Nowhere do costs matter more. In no place have they accelerated more greatly than with healthcare.

Last week, the Senate had one last chance to halt the imminent spike of people's healthcare costs by supporting our legislation to extend the ACA premiums by 3 years—the ACA tax credits by 3 years. But Republicans blew it by voting our bill down, and now they have all but guaranteed that millions of people, including countless New Yorkers, will see their premiums go up.

In fact, sadly, today is the last day for Americans to sign up for January Marketplace coverage. And over the next 2 weeks, this holiday season—this Christmas season, this Hanukkah season—millions of people will see their skyrocketing premium amounts deducted from their bank accounts, wondering how they are going to make the numbers work, how they are going to balance their own books. That is shameful—shameful.

The No. 1 thing I heard this year during my 62-county tour is that people are worried about paying for the things they need—healthcare, above all.

Donald Trump and Republicans, meanwhile, have intentionally sent people's costs up and up and up. The idea of reducing costs on day one, which Donald Trump promised in the campaign and many people voted for because of that promise, is out the window. No one is even paying any attention to it. Donald Trump really is not paying attention to it.

People don't believe it anymore. They don't believe any of the promises that Donald Trump has made. Donald Trump has broken faith with the very same people he promised to fight for, and I have felt that frustration through my 62-county tour this year.

If Donald Trump and Republicans stay the course, the frustration people feel right now is probably only the beginning.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

SHOOTING AT BROWN UNIVERSITY AND SHOOTING IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in Skokie, IL, a few miles north of Chicago, is America's second largest Holocaust museum. Those who visit see thousands of artifacts from victims and survivors and their families. There is one lesson that every visitor takes away: All who walk through its doors learn the importance of tolerance, the need to choose love over hate. I have been reflecting on this lesson in the wake of

the two awful acts of violence that took place this past weekend.

On Sunday night, in Australia, hundreds of people gathered at Bondi Beach to celebrate the first night of Hanukkah. Two men opened fire on the crowd. The attendees at Bondi Beach were targeted for simply one reason: They were Jewish, and they were out to celebrate their faith.

At least 15 people were killed, and dozens more were injured. I am offering my prayers for the victims and their families. I am thankful for the heroic actions of first responders and civilians to end the gunman's rampage.

This act of violence is a grim reminder that we cannot stop combating anti-Semitism. This tragedy occurred just hours after Brown University, in Providence, RI, here in the United States, experienced its own mass shooting.

In the aftermath of these two tragedies, I am in awe of the bravery and sacrifice displayed by those caught up in the attacks.

One of them, Ahmed al-Ahmed, tackled one of the shooters at Bondi Beach in Australia, saving countless lives. He is now going through surgery. I wish him a swift recovery.

Another, Spencer Yang, after being shot in the leg, continued to help one of his fellow students at Brown hide from the gunman. To Spencer, too, I wish a full and swift recovery.

Ahmed, Spencer, and countless others should never be put in these unimaginable situations. Yet their selfless acts in the face of such violence are the ultimate demonstration of love—a willingness to risk their own lives to save a stranger.

As we seek to address the scourge of anti-Semitism and gun violence, may we act in the path of these brave upstanders, who in crisis chose humanity and love over violence and hate.

HEALTHCARE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on an unrelated matter, America's health system is in critical condition. In 17 days, 22 million Americans will be asked to pay double or triple for their current health insurance premiums. Rural hospitals will be facing closure, small businesses won't be able to cover expenses, and more than 4 million Americans will lose their insurance if we fail to do anything in Congress.

Last Thursday, Senate Democrats put forward a bill to prevent this catastrophe. Our bill would have provided a clean extension of the Affordable Care Act's enhanced premium tax credits, which 22 million Americans rely on to help them pay their insurance premiums. These credits expire at the end of this year.

But too many Senate Republicans voted against extending them and, instead, rushed a vote on a partisan proposal that would upend the Affordable Care Act and the American healthcare system, less than a month before the