

in America. We are spending \$5 trillion a year—my friends across the aisle are quick to point out that America is getting sicker and that we are spending more and more money on healthcare. Yes, we have all sorts of new toys and new treatments available and new drugs out there, but if you want me to impact the true cost of healthcare—whether you are getting your insurance through your workplace, whether you are on ObamaCare, or if you are on Medicaid or Medicare—if you want me to save the Federal Government's budget, we need to fix the cost of healthcare. Getting back on a truly healthy, “eating real food” type of diet will impact more than any type of legislation that will ever be done up here.

This nutrition needs to go back to the center of our healthcare. Eating healthy food should be at the center of our healthcare reforms, not necessarily all these policies that we are arguing about.

Yes, we can keep throwing money at it. Yes, we can start giving our youth the latest GLP-1 drug. And rather than giving them a healthy diet, we can start treating them with a drug and give them all some type of drug addiction.

This new nutritional guideline is a win for our youth. I am especially excited to see what we are going to do in the SNAP programs as well. When we get food at our senior centers, I think there are more healthy choices out there.

We have to think of ways to make it more affordable and things the Federal Government can do to help make these nutrients more affordable as well. I just can't emphasize enough that the best medicine in the world is a healthy diet. This is what making America healthy again looks like. It is all going to start with nutrition.

I can't help but add that Americans probably need to do a little bit more walking and get outside a little bit more as well.

Again, I will finish up and say I am ecstatic that the Trump administration has taken this bold, decisive action and is breaking with decades of failed thinking. We are finally putting America on a realistic path to a healthier living that puts eating real food at the center. This is a huge win for the American families and the farmers who grow the best medicine in the world.

Look, eating real food delivers real results. Let's make America healthy again.

I have to do just one more thing. Even ice cream is healthy when eaten in small amounts. I want to add my favorite sweet out here and say it is OK to have a little ice cream. We need to have a lot more protein.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

FINISH THE ARKANSAS VALLEY CONDUIT ACT

Mr. BENNET. Last week, President Trump vetoed H.R. 131, the Finish the

Arkansas Valley Conduit Act, a bill that passed both Chambers of Congress unanimously with broad bipartisan support. The President did not veto this bill for any substantive objection. He did so out of a desire to punish the State that he believes didn't support him politically.

In my opinion, this is the last reason any President should make a decision about anything. An election is one thing, but once we hold office, we have a responsibility to represent every American, regardless of their political party, regardless of their politics.

The President's veto will inflict real harm on people in my State by denying 50,000 Coloradans living in tiny rural towns across the Arkansas River Valley and southeastern Colorado access to clean, affordable drinking water. Those farmers and ranchers have been forced to rely on unsafe, carcinogenic water for generations, despite the Federal Government's six-decade-old commitment to fix their water infrastructure.

The Arkansas Valley Conduit is the final unfinished piece of a water delivery project that Congress authorized in 1962, 2 years before I was even born. The conduit would wind its way for 130 miles, from Pueblo, CO, to the State line, traversing farming communities that had to rely on bottled water or prohibitively expensive water treatment.

This area covers a quarter of the land mass of Colorado. It is sprinkled with small towns and populated with small business owners and farmers and ranchers who are dedicated to a rural way of life, who have been fighting—generation after generation after generation—to try to bring this clean water to their valley but are living in fear that they or their children are delivering poisonous water.

There are probably not a lot of Senators here who aren't confident that the water that is consumed by their children or their grandchildren—the water that is consumed in their neighborhoods or part of their State—isn't safe. That, I think, would be a reasonable expectation in the richest country in the world.

Yet the inability of us to be able to finish this project—this joint project—has made it impossible for the hard-working people in southeastern Colorado to have the benefit—a benefit that other people just take for granted because they live maybe closer to a city or in a wealthier area than where the people in the Arkansas Valley live.

For 64 years, Coloradans have been relying on Washington to fulfill its promise to build on their efforts—they have been a big part of this in southeastern Colorado—to build on their efforts to deliver clean drinking water. The effort to complete the conduit has always been a partnership between the Federal and local government, driven by the leadership of the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District.

In the face of rising costs and materials and labor, once again, south-

eastern Coloradans, just as the generations before them have, came together to put forward an inventive solution to lower costs by changing the project's financing, with no increase at all to the Federal obligation here.

The House passed the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act last July, and the Senate passed it just 3 weeks ago, with the support of every single Member of Congress—every Member of the House, every Member of the Senate. There is almost nothing that ever gets through with that kind of universal bipartisan support.

Republicans and Democrats, under the leadership of Representatives LAUREN BOEBERT and JEFF HURD, my colleagues from Colorado, and Senator HICKENLOOPER, my colleague here in the U.S. Senate, we all worked together to ensure that rural Colorado would finally have access to clean drinking water, something every American should reasonably expect. And the folks in southeastern Colorado deserve it just as much as anybody else does.

Instead, when it got to his desk, President Trump used his first Presidential veto of his second term to deny Coloradans what should be a fundamental right as an American.

Article I of the Constitution explicitly provides Congress with the power to override a Presidential veto. Although overrides should only be used when necessary, they are essential when both Chambers of Congress have spoken clearly and spoken unanimously. There are very few places in the Constitution where the Founders actually themselves wrote about having a supermajority vote in the Chambers of Congress, and this is one of those things, because while they believed that a veto override should be rare, they believed that it was an essential part of this branch of the Federal Government exercising its oversight when a President does something like veto the Arkansas Valley Conduit, which is wildly out of step with what the people that we represent want all across this country.

If Congress allows this veto to stand, we set a troubling precedent. It would mean that noncontroversial, bipartisan bills that pass without objection can be rejected for reasons wholly unrelated to the substance and be weaponized politically.

It is no secret—and I am sorry to come to this floor to have to say this—that President Trump is, at the moment, engaged in a political vendetta against the State of Colorado. I don't think any President should be engaged in a vendetta against any State—obviously, least of all, the State that I represent. But what I worry about more than anything is that this is going to become a normal practice around here, which it hasn't been until now, where Presidents reward the States that support them and punish the States that haven't politically.

That is not how we should run this democracy. That is not how the Founders of this country wrote the Constitution. They didn't even think there would be political parties. They felt that it was very important for Congress to be able to be the backstop at a moment when, for whatever reason, a President made a decision that didn't serve the American people properly or well.

If we can't overcome this veto, I think it would say that no bill is safe and that the efforts of every single elected Member of Congress would now be at risk to one person's view and one person's decision.

Later today, I am pleased to say the House is considering whether to override the President's veto. They are putting it on the floor of the House.

I congratulate the work of Congresswoman BOEBERT and Congressman HURD and the rest of the Colorado House delegation to work with the Speaker to get this on the floor of the House. It is absolutely critical for the people of Colorado that Congress act, that we support, once again, the Arkansas Valley Conduit, which we have unanimously.

Next week, this bill will come over to the Senate floor. I urge every single Member of the Senate to do what you did the last time, which is to support with your vote the 50,000 farmers and ranchers in southeastern Colorado who need the benefit of this clean water.

They are not asking, by the way, for a handout here. They have done their part, generation, after generation, after generation, to keep this project alive. They have done their part to get a unanimous vote in the House of Representatives and on the floor of this Senate to be able to keep their faith with their children and their grandchildren. The least we can do in this Senate is to uphold the work that they have done and also the Constitution of the United States of America.

I hope every person in this room will use this as an opportunity to stand with the people in southeastern Colorado; to stand with our Constitution; and to make sure that we all—all—take seriously the legislative responsibility we have as an independent branch of government.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

VENEZUELA

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, I rise today because the United States, once again, stands on the brink of a dangerous and unnecessary war, one that neither the American people nor the elected representatives whom they sent here to Washington have authorized and one that risks yet another endless conflict that will drain our coffers and cost American lives.

President Trump took military action against Venezuela without the express consent of Congress. The Constitution is clear: The power to declare war belongs to the people through their

elected Representatives in Congress. That authority is not optional; it is not symbolic. It is actually a pillar of democratic accountability when it comes to matters of war and peace, to life and death.

The Senate has now spoken with a clear bipartisan voice: Trump must end his dangerous and illegal military action in Venezuela now. This Senate must speak with a bipartisan voice, especially if there is no prior congressional authorization. It must stop today.

If the Trump administration believes military force against Venezuela is necessary, the Constitution provides a clear and lawful path forward: go to Congress and make the case to the American people. If President Trump cannot make that case, then he has no business launching military strikes, killing civilians, and putting American servicemembers in harm's way.

Even after yesterday's classified briefing from "Secretary of War Crimes" Pete Hegseth, we all left with far more questions than answers: What will this unending occupation cost the American people? Why did the administration, led by Secretary Rubio, lie about regime change? Which is next: Greenland? Cuba? Colombia? Mexico?

But one answer is perfectly clear: the answer to the question of why Trump and Rubio did this. It is obvious. This is not a war for the Venezuelan people. It is not a war for democracy. This is an illegal war for oil. It is a coup for crude oil on behalf of big oil companies in our country. It is just like "The Godfather Part I." Trump made Venezuela an offer it couldn't refuse. Capturing Maduro is the head in the bed. We are holding their country hostage for the foreseeable future until Venezuela gives up its resources. We are stealing their oil at gunpoint.

Trump told Big Oil CEOs that he would help them if they paid his campaign \$1 billion just a year ago, and he has already given them countless tax breaks and nearly unlimited access to our public lands and waters, killing wind, killing solar, killing all-electric vehicles, killing anything that gets in the way of the agenda of the oil and natural gas industry in our country, and now—now—he is giving them Venezuela. We know he told oil execs before and after the invasion about his plans for Venezuela, not Members of Congress and not the American people.

He said to the oil companies: Get ready. Something is going to happen.

So the oil companies knew, but the American people did not. The President would not brief the U.S. Senate before the invasion. Secretary Rubio said that you can't trust the U.S. Senate, but they trusted oil companies to know; that they should get ready and that something was going to happen. On top of that, he is promising these very same oil companies that stand to get rich by selling the oil that they will get reimbursed by the American taxpayers whom they already charge through the nose for their products.

This war is not for the American people. It is for oil CEOs to profit off of instead of the American people. Chevron's stock? It is up. Americans' stock? It is down. Their bill will be paid by everyday Americans during the days to come as Trump tries to get us in a new war without end.

The Trump administration must immediately halt further military strikes in Venezuela, whether it is at sea or on land, and come to Congress if it believes force is justified. If President Trump cannot make his case to the American people and our elected representatives, then he has no business using military force and putting American servicemembers in harm's way.

So it is absolutely imperative that the Members of the U.S. Senate go on record. We are going to uphold our constitutional obligation before we commit our military to further operations in Venezuela. We must put them on record before they commit our military in Greenland. We must put them on record on the Republican side before our troops—our military—are committed in Cuba or in Colombia or in Mexico. This body must go on record. We must reclaim our constitutional prerogatives that are built into article I of the U.S. Constitution. That is the job which we must do, and that is what the American people expect from us.

Mr. President, I want to thank Dan Ohlstein for all of the great service which he has given to our country.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote that was scheduled for 1:45 be moved up to 1:30, right now.

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

VOTE ON VAN HOOK NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Van Hook nomination?

Mr. WARNER. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 6 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Banks	Britt	Collins
Barrasso	Budd	Cornyn
Blackburn	Capito	Cotton
Boozman	Cassidy	Crapo