

which is designed to do as Kristi Noem said, to allow people to vote who we like how they vote as opposed to others.

Well, Donald Trump, your latest temper tantrum is not going to work. The SAVE Act does not have the votes to pass this Chamber, and Democrats will fight it every step of the way. The SAVE Act has nothing to do with DHS, Homeland Security; it has nothing to do with TSA workers or making sure ICE follows the same rules as every other Federal law enforcement Agency in the country.

Every other law enforcement agency uses warrants when they bust—needs a warrant when they bust into your home. Every other law enforcement agency doesn't wear masks.

Trump and the Republicans are insisting that continue, and they are saying we are holding TSA workers and millions and millions of passengers hostage. And now all of the sudden, in addition to that, Trump says: I won't move forward unless we pass the SAVE Act, which isn't going happen, Mr. Trump. It is not going to happen.

Democrats' position has not changed. We want to pay TSA workers today. We are ready to meet with the White House today to keep talking. In fact, we were going to meet this morning with Tom Homan, but apparently the White House pulled that meeting because of Donald Trump's temper tantrum.

They are all scrambling around there in the White House. They don't know what to do. Their boss, the President, comes out with these idiotic statements every day, whether it is related to the war in Iran where he contradicts himself, whether it is related to the SAVE Act where he doesn't even know what it does, or related to what is happening in Homeland Security.

We hope that Donald Trump will stop derailing these talks and let negotiations continue. Democrats want to be reasonable, and we are going to keep working in good faith to reach a solution. We need to pay TSA workers ASAP. The American people want ICE to change its violent ways. They do not want to repeat the kind of violence we saw earlier this year in Minnesota. They certainly do not want to see ICE detaining passengers at airports and making things worse.

Donald Trump is tying himself in a triple knot on the Iran war, on the SAVE Act, and on TSA workers. And he makes—he tightened that knot around his waist last night by saying ICE should go to the airports, then by saying that he would not go forward unless the SAVE Act passed.

He is making it harder and harder for himself. He is making himself less and less popular with the American people, and he is causing tens of millions to wonder: What is going on in that man's head?

So that is the dilemma we all face, and it is the American people who suffer. They suffer at the airports. They

suffer as gas prices go up because of the Iran war. They suffer because he is threatening their democracy.

Now, let me talk about ICE at the airports. This morning, Tom Homan from the Department of Homeland Security said ICE agents have arrived at 14 airports—New York, Chicago, Atlanta, Pittsburgh, and elsewhere. Everywhere ICE goes, trouble follows. We have seen that, and it is highly likely the airports will be no exception.

No one trusts that ICE is going to make things better. Patrolling airports is not in ICE's job description; it is certainly not what they are trained to do. Let's be clear: ICE agents performing the work of TSA officers are not going to make our airports any safer.

It is going to make them less safe because ICE agents aren't trained in airport security. These agents aren't familiar with the layout of the airports they are walking into. They don't know the protocols and procedures in the same way TSA workers do.

It is a simple solution, Donald Trump: Pay the TSA workers so you don't have to bring ICE agents in there.

ICE agents are going to miss things, and that is assuming they focus on security. What if they do what they have done in other cities and start harassing travelers, asking to check papers, check their citizenship, detain them without due process even if they are American citizens, just as we have seen them do for months now?

And I wouldn't be surprised if Donald Trump and Stephen Miller would encourage them to do just that at the airport.

In any case, ICE's mere presence is going to inflame the situation at these airports where tensions are already high. Every time a traveler walks to their gate or stands in line at security and sees an ICE agent lurking about, they are going to be reminded of Donald Trump's chaos. They are going to be reminded of Minneapolis, and they are going to think: The chaos is now coming to my city too.

So, Donald Trump, the more you keep ICE agents at our airports, the more you will be reminding people of how much chaos and fear ICE has already caused. It is a terrible idea that could backfire on the country and on Donald Trump.

Instead of trying to replace TSA workers with ICE agents, Trump should pay TSA workers right away, get Republicans to come to a deal before the chaos gets worse.

Let me repeat that because it is so simple. Instead of trying to replace TSA workers with ICE agents, Donald Trump should simply pay TSA workers and get Republicans to come to a deal before the chaos gets even worse.

#### IRAN

Mr. President, on Iran, Donald Trump's war with Iran now enters its fourth week. There is no end in sight. Instead of giving the American people a clear plan for how to move forward,

the President of the United States, the Commander in Chief, continues, unfortunately, to flail.

Over the weekend, Trump threatened to destroy Iran's major power infrastructure if Iran did not come to the table. Then this morning after all the blustering, all the threats, he appeared—Trump appeared—to retreat, suddenly claiming there are major points of agreement with the regime, even as Iran flatly denies it and there are no diplomatic talks.

What is going on here? This is not leadership from the Commander in Chief. He is either confused, lying, or both. That is what always happens. Whatever pops into his head at the moment, he speaks; and 2 hours or 2 days later, if he has a totally contradictory thought, he says that one.

That is not the way to solve our problems. That is not the way to get Iran to do what we want them to do.

He must look like a flailing fool to many of them.

A month ago, the national price of gasoline was \$2.93 a gallon. Today, it is \$3.94, up roughly a dollar in a month. Who is to blame? One man, Donald Trump. And this increase in gasoline is one of the sharpest monthly spikes Americans have seen since Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

Prices have been coming down. Then Trump started a war that most of the American people did not want, and he sent prices shooting back up.

Enough is enough. Senate Republicans need to hold hearings and bring members of the Cabinet under oath to explain what is exactly happening in Iran. We need accountability. We need transparency, but most of all, we need strategy and an endgame, something Donald Trump's war with Iran is dangerously lacking.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority whip.

#### AFFORDABLE CARE ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today is the 16th anniversary of an amazing event in the history of the United States.

Millions of Americans can remember a time when access to affordable healthcare was just not a reality in America. There was a time when, if you had a preexisting condition—you or your family—you could be disqualified from any health insurance coverage because of it. And being uninsured was a reality for those who just weren't healthy and wealthy enough to afford it.

Sixteen years ago today, it all changed when President Obama signed the Affordable Care Act into law, opening the door to quality, affordable health coverage for more than 30 million Americans. This transformed our healthcare system. Suddenly, no one could be denied insurance coverage because of a preexisting condition. Addiction and mental health coverage were no longer optional; they were required in the health insurance plans. Young

adults could remain on their parents' plans until they reached the age of 26.

Casting my vote for the Affordable Care Act is something I am proud of and will never forget, but now that law is under attack. Donald Trump and some Republicans in Congress have tried relentlessly to appeal the Affordable Care Act. They called it ObamaCare, mocking it. And while they haven't succeeded outright, they have jeopardized its benefits for millions of Americans.

Last summer, Republicans in a majority in Congress passed their so-called One Big Beautiful Bill—the Trump budget which cut Medicaid by \$1 trillion and slashed the Affordable Care Act by \$300 billion, which will result in more than 10 million people in America losing their health insurance.

Have you ever lived without health insurance with a family? Have you ever had a child who was sick and you had no health insurance? You will never forget it as long as you live. I have been there.

To make matters worse, Republicans in Congress also refused to extend the ACA's enhanced premium tax credit last year. The fallout of that Republican decision has been devastating to millions of American families. They have contacted my office and the office of every one of us, both parties, and explained to people what happened to their health insurance premiums because of that decision in the Trump big beautiful budget bill. Millions of Americans have had to forgo insurance or watched their premiums double or triple.

The peace of mind that the Affordable Care Act brought to millions of Americans is fading away, and we must build the momentum to reverse these cuts and address the shortcomings of our healthcare system.

I want to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to improve healthcare for everyone, but we need buy-in from our Republican colleagues to move forward—something they have refused to do to this point.

#### NOMINATION OF MARKWAYNE MULLIN

Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote on the nomination of our colleague from Oklahoma Senator MARKWAYNE MULLIN. If confirmed, he will serve as the next Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

His predecessor Secretary Kristi Noem presided over a Department that steamrolled civil rights and violated court orders to carry out Stephen Miller and the President's mass deportation campaign.

In pursuit of that campaign, communities, including my city of Chicago, were terrorized by masked, militarized agents whose presence did not establish the "law and order" that the President promised. Instead, indiscriminate, violent roundups swept up citizens, legal residents, American citizens, people with no serious criminal record, not just the "worst of the worst," which the President had promised.

In the State of Minnesota, two American citizens were killed by these occupying paramilitary forces, the so-called ICE agents, simply for exercising their constitutional rights.

Failure will be the defining feature of Secretary Noem's legacy at the Department of Homeland Security but so, too, will be the lasting pain she inflicted across the country, which still bears the scars left by rogue Federal immigration agents under her watch.

While Secretary Noem may be gone, she ought not to escape accountability for her actions. I have little hope that Attorney General Pam Bondi's weaponized Department of Justice will pursue that accountability, but the statute of limitations for many of these crimes, including deception before the Senate Judiciary Committee under oath earlier this month, will exceed this President's last day in office.

Senate Democrats have sought to rein in the lawlessness at DHS by recommending commonsense measures that are broadly supported by the American people.

Did you hear the White House announcement that they are going to take the ICE agents and send them to the airports to supplement the TSA? Well, the people with the TSA have said: They are not trained to do our job. They can't read the X ray machines. They are simply law enforcement agents of their own stripe.

Interesting enough, too, they have announced that they will not be wearing masks in the airports of America—thank goodness—so that traveling Americans and visitors to this country will not believe that this kind of justice really represents our country.

We have tried to rein in the lawlessness of DHS by recommending commonsense measures to change, but unfortunately, the White House and some of my Republican colleagues have allowed TSA agents and the Coast Guard to go without pay. On 9 or 10 separate occasions in the last several weeks, we have come to the floor of the U.S. Senate—the Democrats—offering to fund the entire Department of Homeland Security but for those two sections, for ICE as well as CBP. We were going to fund the others, which would include TSA agents who missed a paycheck. Each time, a Republican Senator stood up and objected. If they would not object, the payment would be made, and we could catch up with the payroll of these people who are performing these valuable law enforcement functions. The same thing holds true for Coast Guard and FEMA and CISA.

We are not asking for much. Democrats have said repeatedly that in the meantime, we will work with the administration on new standards for ICE that are consistent with law enforcement across the United States.

How many State troopers in your State wear masks when they stop people on the highway? None of them. So the demand that these ICE Agencies should be treated differently than pro-

fessional police forces across America just doesn't make sense.

We said that while the negotiations continue, we will be prepared to fund the rest of DHS. Senate Republicans blocked us in that effort 10 times, all while the chaos at our airports grows.

Yesterday, the President reportedly rejected a bipartisan offer brought to him by the majority leader, the Republican leader of the Senate, which would fund all of the Department of Homeland Security except for ICE. President Trump wants Senate Republicans to hold DHS funding hostage until the Senate passes his SAVE America Act.

I will save my speech on that terrible bill for another day.

Instead of taking the deal, the President announced via social media that he would deploy ICE agents to airports, as I mentioned earlier. That directive caught officials at ICE off guard, and they were forced to scramble to piece together some plan.

This was just a musing of the President's. He announced it, and now they have to try to make it work.

In response, the flight attendants union said:

The introduction of ICE agents into airports creates contradictory missions, as attempts to question passengers about immigration status may distract them from ensuring airport security.

They continued:

There's one solution that immediately solves the problem at our airports. Pay the people who are already trained to protect us . . . today.

I support that completely. We have tried 10 times on the floor of the Senate. I hope this week we will try again. The people who are working for TSA deserve it.

I agree—people do not need more untrained ICE agents at this point; they need a paycheck to do their job.

Against this background, the Senate is considering whether Senator MULLIN should assume his new role as DHS Secretary. The problems at DHS are larger than any one person, and I remain concerned that my colleagues will not rein in the abuses.

Senator MULLIN has not criticized the Department's past violence or tactics in the President's mass deportation campaign. He has issues with managing his temper—we have seen that—and he has virtually no experience with DHS, a sprawling Agency that employs hundreds of thousands of people.

I cannot look in the eyes of my constituent Marimar Martinez, an American citizen who was labeled as a "domestic terrorist" after being brutally shot five times on Kedzie Avenue in Chicago, IL, by a masked border patrol agent. It is an outrage. It is a miracle that she survived. Or Lia, the high school student from North Lawndale High School who has spoken out against immigration raids after her community was tear-gassed and her friends and neighbors were arrested by masked ICE and Border Patrol agents. Lia is an American citizen. I cannot