

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

turn to them and promise to hold this administration to account while also voting to install someone who might be another “yes” man who will only enable this President to continue.

For these reasons, I will not support Senator MULLIN’s confirmation to lead the Department of Homeland Security.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. 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 Senator from Texas.

SAVE AMERICA ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, this week, we kick off the 2026 Major League Baseball season. While fans across the country once again enjoy cheering on the Texas Rangers and the Houston Astros, I am reminded of the wise words of one of the great legends of America’s pastime. Baseball Hall of Fame legend Babe Ruth once said:

It’s hard to beat a person who never gives up.

For several days now, the Senate has been debating and considering the SAVE America Act. This bill would simply require individuals to present proof of U.S. citizenship when registering to vote as well as photo identification before voting in a Federal election.

To show how far the Democrats have gone in opposing commonsense measures, one of the amendments to this bill was one that would counter Democrats’ dangerous and radical gender ideology by prohibiting men from competing in women’s sports.

Our Democratic colleagues should be embarrassed by their opposition, but of course, they are not, and they did not agree. Poll after poll shows that Americans are strongly opposed to men competing in women’s sports. Republicans will not give up on this issue, and the American people are with us.

We also will not waver on our support for the SAVE America Act because it will secure the Nation’s elections. Voter ID is just common sense. We all know that. In this country, you need an ID for almost everything you do—from boarding a plane, to entering a Federal building, to buying a beer, to renting a car, to opening a bank account, to renting a hotel room.

Presenting an ID is a facet of almost every aspect of our daily lives. So why should it be prohibited in terms of exercising one of the most important prerogatives that American citizens can perform, which is casting their ballots? There is simply no rational explanation as to why Democrats are against this.

Of course, in trying to think of what possible reason they could have, one is, of course, the most obvious, which is Trump derangement syndrome. Demo-

crats have made it their mission to deny, refute, and obstruct every single policy put forward by President Trump simply because he supports it. If President Trump supports it, they oppose it. Of course, they won’t put it in those terms. Instead, they falsely claim that the SAVE America Act will disenfranchise voters. Well, it is a fascinating thing to me that anywhere from 70 to 80 percent of the people who are polled say they support the requirement for a photo ID. So I suppose, by logic, based on the Democrats’ position, that 70 to 80 percent of the people polled are for disenfranchising themselves. Well, obviously, that makes no sense whatsoever.

Earlier this week, the minority leader, Senator Schumer, said the SAVE Act is not about election integrity; it is voter suppression, plain and simple. Well, it is really interesting. You know, we have videos of then-Representative SCHUMER who said 30 years ago:

[O]ne way to prove you are a bona fide person who can have a job is to ask for a driver’s license and a Social Security card.

So my question to Senator SCHUMER is this: Which is true and which is false? Both statements cannot be true.

It seems that Senator SCHUMER is of two minds on this topic depending on political expediency, but we all know what is going on. We all know what is going on. The fact is that Democrats are masquerading their opposition to President Trump as voter suppression, but we all know that that is not true. The only votes that will be suppressed as a result of the passage of this bill will be those of noncitizens, who cannot legally vote in the first place.

Our Democratic colleagues may say: Well, it is already illegal.

There are a lot of things that are illegal that, if not enforced, deterrence will not occur; that accountability will not occur. So let me set the record straight. The only votes that will be suppressed by the SAVE America Act are those of noncitizens or illegal aliens.

One other theory I have heard suggested is: For 4 years, President Biden had open border policies. He let in literally millions of people into the country. As for many of them, we don’t know who they are or what they are doing. Occasionally, we find out when they commit criminal acts against innocent American citizens. Now that President Biden has opened the borders, what we are attempting to do is make sure that only American citizens get to vote, but Democrats are opposed. The only reason Democrats, beyond Trump derangement syndrome, would oppose this is that they want the people who came in during the 4 years of Biden’s open border policies to be able to cast a ballot.

If anything, voter ID empowers Americans to vote, and it protects the integrity of the voting process because every illegitimate vote that is cast undermines and dilutes a legitimate vot-

er’s ballot. By requiring voter ID, it will give people greater trust in our elections and faith in the outcomes. We need to restore the public’s trust in our institutions, including elections. The more people believe that our elections are free and fair, the more they will participate in those elections, which is something we should all want.

President Abraham Lincoln famously laid out his vision for our Nation in the Gettysburg Address when he talked about a government of the people, by the people, and for the people. Well, what he was talking about was government by American citizens—the people who are legitimately casting their ballots and no one else. Nowhere do these words read truer than at the ballot box where the American people cast their votes and make their voices heard. This, of course, is how our democracy works. It hinges on the belief that elections are free and fair and secure and ensure a peaceful transition of power.

Requiring proof of citizenship is the surest and safest way we can help build trust and confidence with the American people and instill confidence in our elections. Self-government itself means nothing without free and fair elections.

As I have said multiple times this last week, this is an 80–20 issue; but of course, our Democratic colleagues believe that 80 percent who support these commonsense measures literally want to disenfranchise themselves, which is ridiculous. Public opinion is clear: The American people overwhelmingly support voter ID and proof of citizenship for voting. In 2025, the Pew Research Center showed 83 percent of voters, including 71 percent of Democrats, supported requiring photo ID at the voting booth. The facts speak for themselves: Americans want and deserve photo ID.

We will continue to fight to pass the SAVE America Act and deliver on the mandate given to us by the American people.

NOMINATION OF MARKWAYNE MULLIN

Mr. President, on another matter, later today, we will be voting on the confirmation of Senator MULLIN as Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security.

In the Senate, MARKWAYNE has been a conservative warrior with a proven track record of supporting the “America First” agenda and President Trump. He has been dogged in advocating for the good of his home State of Oklahoma, and I have every confidence he will carry out the same spirit of zeal and unwavering determination in his new role in overseeing the Department of Homeland Security. As Democrats continue to hold funding for this Agency hostage, we need a strong hand at the helm more than ever.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. President, we know that what the Democrats are doing in blocking the payment of appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security is endangering public safety in a number of ways—first, at the airports, where