

Working Families Tax Cuts raised it again to \$2,200. And Republicans didn't just raise the child tax credit, we linked it to inflation so it doesn't lose its value over time. That, too, is a permanent feature of the Tax Code thanks to Republicans' landmark bill.

The Working Families Tax Cuts also introduced a number of new tax relief provisions into the Tax Code. This tax season, more than 30 million seniors claimed a new \$6,000 bonus deduction for older Americans.

Over a million people bought a new American-made car and were able to deduct an average \$1,800 in auto loan interest on that new vehicle. More than 25 million American workers were able to deduct overtime pay from their taxes and realize thousands of dollars in tax savings. And over 6 million workers deducted income from tips this tax year.

With all that, a lot more Americans were looking at a bigger refund when they finished their tax returns, and they are thinking about the best use of that additional money in their pocket: Saving for their first home, investing in their kids' education, taking a family vacation, using their money how they see fit rather than sending it to Uncle Sam.

As its name implies, the Working Families Tax Cuts focuses on working families. But this bill also did a lot to support America's small businesses as well as family farms and ranches.

Thanks to Republicans' landmark bill, 12 million small businesses saw an average tax reduction of \$7,000. This bill made the 199A small business deduction permanent, which has been a significant boost for small businesses and for family farms and ranches.

One agriculture co-op in my State of South Dakota estimates its impact at over \$100 million since it was created by Republicans in 2017.

Millions of small businesses, farms, and ranches were able to use this provision and reduce their tax bill this year freeing up money to invest in their operations and employees, create jobs, and increase innovation.

That is not all. The working families tax cuts made 100-percent bonus depreciation permanent too, which allows businesses and farmers and ranchers to deduct the full cost of a new piece of equipment the year they start using it.

Permanent research and development expensing is already paying dividends for businesses in my State.

A lot of farmers, ranchers, and small business owners breathed a sigh of relief when they heard that this bill raised the death tax threshold and spared them—spared them—from a potentially devastating tax bill, not to mention from the costly estate planning expenses that come with it.

Since Republicans passed this landmark bill last summer, we have heard Democrats' typical refrain that this bill was just tax cuts for billionaires. That is laughable. It really is.

The largest proportional benefits from this bill went to Americans earn-

ing less than \$50,000 a year. The increased standard deduction from this bill is something that was claimed by more than a 100 million Americans this year to reduce and simplify their taxes. More than 34 million American families claimed the child tax credit this year, which the working families tax cuts permanently increased and linked to the cost-of-living.

And nearly half of filers—half of filers—claimed one of the new tax cuts—no tax on tips and overtime, auto loan interest, or the senior deduction.

Millions of middle-income Americans saw a lower tax bill this year, and that is no fluke. The working families tax cuts puts these hard-working Americans first. It lets them keep more of their hard-earned money to spend, invest, and save how they see fit. It helps hard-working people get one step closer to the American dream.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday an Ipsos poll found that fewer than one in four Americans think Trump's war in Iran has been worthwhile. And who can blame them? Every metric indicates that Donald Trump's handling of Operation Epic Fury has been an epic failure.

Donald Trump promised this war would be won in a matter of days or weeks. It is now day 47. And let's take stock of the 47 days into this historic blunder. Thirteen U.S. servicemembers have been killed. Thousands of civilians have been killed and injured across the region. The Strait of Hormuz is not only closed, it has become an Iranian cash cow. And Iran's control of the strait is greater today than before when Trump started the war.

Iran's nuclear ambitions have only grown, and the Iranian regime is even more radical than before the war. Americans, meanwhile, are shelling out more than \$4 for a gallon of gas, on average.

Now Donald Trump says that gas prices "could be the same" or "a little higher" by November. Those are his words. Trump says gas prices "could be the same" or "a little higher" by November. Unbelievable.

Trump's No. 1 promise entering the White House was to bring inflation

down, and now he is admitting his own war could drive gas prices up for much of the rest of the year. When Donald Trump admits his own war will drive gas prices up through November, you know there is trouble coming down the road for American motorists.

Donald Trump is learning the hard way that ending a war is a lot harder than beginning one. He would rather pick a fight with the Pope online than reckon with what is truly on the line right now: the lives of American servicemembers and the livelihood of American working families.

And throughout all this miasma, all this mess, this horrible war, where are the Senate Republicans? Months into this war, still no hearings, no testimony, no clarity on how it will end. Don't the Republicans, when we are in war, don't they know their responsibility? I don't care if they are the same party. Don't they know they have a responsibility to get the facts out and let the American people know what is going on here? Because Trump isn't giving people any idea, but he still keeps changing his mind and his goals in the war, none of which he has achieved.

So where are Senate Republicans? The American people have a right to ask. Enough is enough. Trump may not understand how damaging his war has been to the American people. Republicans may be hiding from having hearings or asking questions, but Senate Democrats who know how damaging the war has been are asking a whole lot of questions.

That is why we will force a vote on another War Powers Resolution. This is the fourth since the war began. I thank Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH for her work on this week's resolution. I thank Senators KAINE and BOOKER and other Members of our caucus for their continuing leadership on this crucial issue.

Republicans have voted against this resolution three times now. But as the war drags on for 47 days with no end in sight, they should join us on this resolution and end the war once and for all—and all the troubles it is bringing to Americans once and for all. It is 47 days already, where are you?

If the Republicans vote no again, we will continue to force votes on these resolutions every week until either this war ends or the Republicans get the courage to stand up to Donald Trump.

WORKING FAMILIES TAX CUT ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on tax day, not a single American would say that tax day is their favorite date on the calendar. Republicans, however, seem to think today will mark an inflection point in their political fortunes. Evidently, they haven't been paying much attention.

When Republicans passed the One Big Beautiful Bill, they promised Americans that their tax refunds would grow

by a thousand dollars, on average. Well, the results are in, and the massive tax relief Republicans promised has turned out to be a dud.

Refunds, on average, have changed only by a third, about \$350, and Americans need every penny they can get, but a couple of hundred dollars doesn't go very far on a tax break when the average American family will pay an extra \$2,000 on tariff taxes and \$740 this year to fill up their tank.

That is right. Donald Trump's war in Iran alone has wiped out any tax refund Americans will see this year.

Let me say that again: Donald Trump's war in Iran alone has wiped out any extra tax refund Americans will see this year, and that is not including all the increases they are paying because of tariffs and higher electric bills and what they are doing to healthcare.

No wonder only one in four Americans believe the One Big Beautiful Bill is helpful, only one in four. That means there are some Republicans who don't like it. Seven in ten Americans, meanwhile, say they are still paying too much in taxes. Seven in ten Americans say they are paying too much in taxes while the ultrawealthy aren't paying their fair share.

And they are right. Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill has been a dud for working families, but millionaires got a \$300,000 tax cut. Big corporations got a tax cut of \$65 billion. Republicans want to call their bill a working- and middle-class tax cut, but truth be told, it should be called a massive giveaway to the ultra-ultrawealthy. The lion's share of the benefits go to those at the very top, while inflation and Trump's war has eviscerated any shred of benefit felt by the rest of Americans.

That is not tax relief. That is not tax relief. That is a brazen betrayal of working Americans. If Republicans think that rebranding their toxic bill will make Americans forget the economic pit that Trump and the Republicans pushed them into, they will be sorely mistaken.

FEDERAL RESERVE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the Fed, this morning, once again, Donald Trump escalated his attacks on the independence of the Federal Reserve.

In an interview on Fox Business, the President renewed his threats against Reserve Chair Jerome Powell, saying that if Powell doesn't leave, he will fire him. There are no legitimate grounds for the President to remove the Chair of the Federal Reserve for simply doing his job.

Trump's threats against the Fed does nothing but rattle markets, undermine confidence, inject more chaos into the financial system, and then raise rates. Doesn't Trump understand something rudimentary? When there is uncertainty about the Fed's path, rates go up. Trump, are you hearing that?

The more you screw around with the Fed, the higher rates will be, and you want lower rates.

He doesn't know what to do. He doesn't know what he is talking about. He doesn't understand the economy, the Fed, or interest rates.

To every American who is struggling with high prices, if you want mortgage rates to come down or if you are worried about the economy getting worse, the President's attacks on the Fed should alarm you. And meddling with the Fed will certainly drive up interest rates because the markets hate uncertainty.

We know what is going on. Donald Trump—typical—is angry that his own policies have driven up prices and killed jobs. But instead of owning up to his mistakes, he continues to look for a scapegoat, someone else to blame.

That is all he does. He screws things up and then blames somebody else.

Doesn't he realize that is not going to solve the problem?

That is not going to solve the problem. Blame Donald Trump. That is not going to do it. It may make you feel better for a minute or two, but it sure doesn't solve the problem. And it doesn't solve the American people's firm, strong disagreement with what you are doing.

Trump wants to fire Powell because he won't lower interest rates, but Trump's Treasury Secretary said yesterday that the Fed shouldn't lower interest rates because of the chaos of the Iran war.

What is going on in this administration? Trump says one thing. His Treasury Secretary says another.

Senate Republicans have an obligation to push back when Donald Trump threatens the independence of the Federal Reserve. And so long as these bogus investigations and intimidation tactics continue, the nomination of Kevin Warsh should not—should not—move forward.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

DIRECTING THE REMOVAL OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES FROM HOSTILITIES WITHIN OR AGAINST THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN THAT HAVE NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED BY CONGRESS—Motion to Discharge

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, pursuant to section 1013 of the Department of State Authorization Act, fiscal years 1984 and 1985 (50 U.S.C. 1546a), and in accordance with section 601(b) of the International Security Assistance and Arms Export Control Act, I move to discharge the Committee on Foreign Relations from further consideration of S.J. Res. 123, to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against Iran, unless explicitly authorized by a declaration of war or a specific authorization for use of military force.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to discharge from the Committee on Foreign Relations, S.J. Res. 123, a joint resolution directing the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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.

TAX DAY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today is April 15. Americans all across the country know that it is tax day in America.

We just heard the minority leader come to the floor, and it sounds like he is almost despondent that this year the American people are able to get higher tax refunds than in the past.

Because of what we have been able to do and pass, people are keeping more of their hard-earned money. For people that are filing their taxes for the first time under this new tax law, the Working Families Tax Cuts, they are seeing that they are keeping more. And this is what we promised: to put more money in people's pockets.

I hear about it at home in Wyoming. I was home, traveling in the State, and recently spoke to a group of veterans. They were meeting with their families in Dubois, WY. We had a "welcome home" for our veterans.

I was also in Sundance, WY; Gillette, WY; Laramie, WY. I visited with students. I was in Lusk, WY, as well as Newcastle. I sat down with farmers, ranchers, and small business owners. Across the board, we talked about new opportunities that they are experiencing as a result of the law, since Republicans cut taxes dramatically, and how that appears to them in their daily lives and what it means to them and their families.

And those families in Wyoming aren't alone. Americans all across the country are seeing smaller tax bills and larger tax refunds.

So the Internal Revenue Service has released data today on the tax refunds. The average refund this year is over \$3,400 per family. Now that is nearly \$250 per month in people's pockets. That is much higher than it was last year. These are the refunds that people are getting.

And yet, when I hear the Senator from New York, he referred to the amount of money that people are getting back in their refunds, and I think he said the word "dud." Maybe to him that is a dud. Maybe to him, in New York City, that is a dud.

For working families in Wyoming, \$250 a month means a lot of money in their pockets. When they go to the gas station, the grocery store, when they