

take advantage of the enhanced child tax credit or the new tax-advantaged accounts for their child or all the Americans, all of the Americans who benefited from our further increase in the standard deduction.

The Working Families Tax Cut is working for working families. The New York Times recently interviewed a number of taxpayers. The Times reported:

Many of the taxpayers said they had received their largest refund in years, money that is going toward paying down credit card debt, catching up on bills, padding savings accounts or covering the cost of a vacation.

“money that is going toward paying down credit card debt, catching up on bills, padding savings accounts or covering the cost of a vacation.”

That was our goal with this bill, to take some of the pressure off, to free up money that families could use to do things like pay down debt or put away for a rainy day or take a much-needed vacation. Thanks to the Working Families Tax Cut, Americans now have a little more breathing room in their budget.

And whether we are passing tax relief, new measures to make prescription drugs more affordable at the pharmacy counter, or legislation to address the cost of housing, Republicans will continue to work to make life more affordable for hard-working Americans.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### REMEMBERING MADISON WARNER

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to express my deepest and dearest sympathies for our friend MARK WARNER, his wife Lisa, and the rest of their family as they mourn the terrible loss of their daughter Madison.

I know how close the family was to Madison, and the depth of that loss is unfathomable. The Warner family should know that we are keeping them in our prayers. We are wishing them strength. May Madison's memory be a blessing.

#### KASH PATEL

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on Kash Patel, the American people expect competence from the President's

Cabinet, not the unmitigated and continuing chaos we see every day.

Over the weekend, more damning reports about FBI Director Kash Patel's disorderly, drunken, and deranged behavior came to light. The Atlantic's reporting only confirmed what Senate Democrats have said from the start: Kash Patel is not simply unqualified, he is a grave risk to the rule of law and to American national security.

I have called on Acting Attorney General Blanche to preserve all records, all communications, and other evidence regarding Kash Patel's dangerous behavior before the Trump administration tries to brush it under the rug again.

We are asking—we are calling on Acting Attorney General Blanche to preserve all records, communications, and other evidence regarding Kash Patel's dangerous behavior before the Trump administration tries to brush it under the rug.

The Atlantic interviewed dozens of people who have observed Patel's erratic behavior, his excessive drinking. Apparently, Patel frequently misses key briefings and meetings because he is too hungover to attend. Patel's security detail often struggles to wake him up after his nights of partying and once even had to ask for breaching equipment because Patel was unresponsive behind a locked door.

All of this is made even worse by the reports of Kash Patel's constant jet-setting on the taxpayers' dime, his illegal crusade against Trump's political enemies, and his purge of countless counterintelligence officers focused on Iran just days before Trump launched this reckless war.

Americans deserve steady, sober leadership from their FBI Director, and they are not getting it—it seems—in any way.

Kash Patel's job is to protect the American people and our Constitution, not to party on the job. Patel must resign immediately. Every day he remains in office subjects America to serious and unnecessary risks.

#### IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, Donald Trump continues to demonstrate that he has no plan to end his disastrous war of choice with Iran and no idea just how badly the American people are hurting because of him.

Companies and airlines are charging Americans an Iran war surcharge. Mortgage rates are climbing. Gas is still over \$4 a gallon.

Over the weekend, Trump's Energy Secretary said that gas prices won't be normal until 2027. If you don't believe Chris Wright, believe Donald Trump. Trump said gas prices will be “around the same” or “maybe a little bit higher”—his quote—by November—his words, not mine.

Just the other day, Trump said that \$4 for a gallon of gas is “not very high”—that is what he said—and that “everything's doing really well.”

Really, Mr. President, spoken like a man who doesn't have to fill up his own tank.

Try telling the American people, who will spend an average of \$740 more this year on gas because of this war, that “everything's doing really well.”

And, unfortunately and sadly, there is no end in sight. The Strait of Hormuz remains closed. Iran fired on commercial ships over the weekend. The United States seized an Iranian vessel.

According to Trump, JD VANCE will be on his way to Pakistan soon. But it is unclear whether the Iranians will even agree to meet with him, let alone agree to open up the Strait.

Mr. President, 51 days into this war, and Donald Trump still does not have an objective, strategy, or exit plan. The American people have questions. Congress must demand answers.

Last week, Senate Republicans had their fourth opportunity to support our War Powers Resolution, and for the fourth time, Senate Republicans acquiesced to Donald Trump and gave this historic blunder their stamp of approval.

Tomorrow, Senate Democrats will force a fifth vote on our War Powers Resolution. We will continue to force votes on our resolution every single week that Trump's war continues.

The most important vote a Senator can take is whether to go to war. Senate Republicans cannot sit on the sidelines while our servicemembers are risking their lives on the frontlines.

I don't know how Trump's war will end, but I do know that Trump's war cannot end soon enough.

#### RECONCILIATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, what does this majority choose to spend our time on instead?

Any hour now, Republicans are expected to release a budget resolution that adds tens of billions of dollars to the national debt and pumps colossal sums into ICE and Border Patrol without any reforms, all while doing absolutely nothing to lower costs for hard-working Americans.

We need to pause and examine how we got to this moment, because in a well-functioning Congress, the majority focuses on solving people's problems, not constantly cleaning up their own messes and shoveling tens of billions more into unaccountable rogue Agencies.

Remember, last year, in Donald Trump's “Big Ugly Betrayal,” Republicans rammed through \$75 billion for ICE and tens of billions more for Border Patrol, with virtually no guardrails, minimal training standards, and no real idea of what they were unleashing. Well, that led to disaster, as could have been predicted.

In January, Federal immigration officers in Minneapolis murdered two American citizens in broad daylight, triggering a reckoning across the country. After the murders of Alex Pretti

and Renee Good, the American people wanted change.

Democrats told our Republican colleagues we needed to work together to rein in ICE and Border Patrol and prevent this kind of violence from happening again. We put forth common-sense reforms modeled on guardrails law enforcement already follows in the States: no masked agents in unmarked vehicles, no bursting into people's homes without warrants, and body cameras for all agents.

But after weeks of back and forth, it became painfully obvious that Republicans were not serious about reform. Instead of listening to the people, Senate Republicans listened to Donald Trump and Stephen Miller. Even when Democrats offered to narrow the reforms to a small, targeted set of proposals in exchange for funding, Republicans, afraid of Trump, afraid of Miller, said no.

Leader THUNE eventually brought a bill to the floor that would fund the rest of the Department of Homeland Security, while leaving ICE and Border Patrol aside, as negotiations on reform continued. Democrats unanimously supported this bill. It was something we had been pushing for weeks because we believed FEMA, the Coast Guard, CISA, TSA, and the other four Agencies of DHS must be able to serve the American people.

But that agreement is now collecting dust in the House. Speaker JOHNSON and House Republicans refuse to move it.

And that brings us to where we are today. It is Republicans who have chosen to keep FEMA, the Coast Guard, CISA, TSA, and all other DHS Agencies shut down. It is Republicans' own divisions and their own inability to govern that have led to the longest shutdown of an Agency in American history.

Even now, instead of working with Democrats, Republicans want to waste even more time by going it alone through reconciliation. Any moment now, they are expected to release a budget resolution that would tee up more than \$75 billion over 3 years for ICE and Border Patrol through reconciliation, while doing nothing—absolutely nothing—to lower costs for hard-working Americans.

Let's be clear. What the Republicans are doing is not how a well-functioning Congress should be spending its time. We should be debating legislation to help people pay for groceries, afford the rent, and bring down electric bills. We should be focused on outrageous gas prices and on retiring Donald Trump's costly military endeavors. Instead, Republicans are preparing to spend precious time bogging the Senate down by partisan bickering.

And at a moment when President Trump claims we cannot afford Medicare or daycare, Republicans somehow think that we can give ICE and Border Patrol a blank check. Isn't that amazing? People are suffering because they can't pay for their healthcare needs,

and, instead, the Republicans want to send more money to ICE and Border Patrol.

One thing is clear—one thing is very clear: Americans cannot afford the cost of Republicans' continued chaos.

#### HAITI

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, on Haiti, after spreading hateful, bigoted lies on the campaign trail, Trump continues to target the Haitian community as President. Despite ongoing violence—gang violence—civil instability, terrible medical infrastructure, and poor food access in Haiti, Trump directed Kristi Noem to strip Haitian immigrants of their TPS—their temporary protected status—disregarding the process Congress set into law.

Last week, a bipartisan majority in the House—bipartisan—passed legislation on a discharge petition to extend temporary protected status for Haitian immigrants.

In New York, home of the largest Haitian-American community in the Nation, we cherish our Haitian neighbors and value the many contributions they have made to America. I will do everything I can to protect the Haitian community.

There are many Haitians in New York and beyond who anxiously await word on whether they will be forced to return to the dangerous circumstances they fled in Haiti.

That is why I will rule XIV this bill, so that the Senate can give this issue the consideration that it deserves without delay. I urge Leader Thune to put this legislation on the floor.

#### MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 1689

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1689) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to designate Haiti for temporary protected status.

Mr. SCHUMER. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### KASH PATEL

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, when Kash Patel was confirmed as head of the FBI, I said that he had neither the experience, the judgment, nor the temperament for the job. Fourteen months later, Director Patel has confirmed my worst fears about his integrity and competency.

Director Patel has spent his tenure at the FBI weaponizing the world's preeminent investigative Agency to serve the political interests of one person—Donald Trump. Patel has fired dozens of career law enforcement agents simply because they were assigned to work on investigations related to President Trump's and his allies' misconduct. These firings have deprived the FBI of decades of experience at a time when our Nation is facing growing threats not only at home but overseas.

Director Patel has timed these politicized purges to shield himself from allegations of misconduct. After his embarrassing actions at the Olympics and whistleblower disclosures to my office describing how his misuse of FBI aircraft has negatively impacted high-profile criminal investigations, Director Patel tried to save face by firing even more people at the FBI who worked on President Trump's mishandling of classified documents.

Several of the fired agents at the FBI were part of a global counterintelligence squad whose responsibilities included investigating espionage and cyber threats from Iran. Just days before the war began, Director Patel deliberately undermined the FBI's ability to counter Iranian threats—all to distract from his own failings and mismanagement as Director.

An article recently published in *The Atlantic* revealed that Director Patel's behavior has been even more erratic and irresponsible than previously reported. Current and former FBI officials are worried that Director Patel has become a national security risk due to his chronic absenteeism and his personal lifestyle. Those at FBI headquarters and field offices often find the Director absent at critical moments, delaying time-sensitive decisions on important investigations that require his approval.

These accusations would be concerning for any government official, but for one of the people principally responsible for keeping America safe, they are downright disqualifying. Director Patel should be replaced immediately. Our country's safety is too important to be left in the hands of an unqualified and undependable individual who is loyal only to the President and not to the people of this Nation.

#### FISA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, known as FISA, is a valuable, important national security tool