

for Republicans. And Republicans somehow, especially the rightwing propaganda, just blames Democrats with no logic, no rationale.

What Republican rightwing propaganda is saying couldn't be further from the truth. Democrats wanted to fund all of the law-abiding Agencies at DHS, and we worked with Republicans, Leader THUNE, here in the House to do it—here in the Senate to do it.

Democrats looked to compromise with Republicans as we pushed for commonsense reforms for ICE and other Agencies, and twice Democrats and Republicans here in the Senate unanimously passed a bill that would fund all of the Agencies within DHS except for ICE and Border Patrol, which are already funded.

Let me say that again. Democrats unanimously—unanimously—supported funding the vast majority of DHS, including Secret Service, not once but twice. We passed it in the Senate, not once but twice.

It was House Republicans, not Democrats, who blocked funding for Secret Service, TSA, CISA, Coast Guard, FEMA, and other Agencies that we all agree should be funded.

House Republicans could and should fund the Secret Service today, but, instead, they are holding it up. So Leader THUNE—if he wants to be constructive, if he wants to get something done—should stop pointing fingers in this direction and start looking in the mirror. At least look down the hall and start talking some sense into the House Republicans, who seem to be tied in a knot because the rightwing MAGA few refuse to go forward.

Republicans ought to start standing up to Speaker JOHNSON and the House Freedom Caucus and say: We must fund this. And that applies to the Republican leader, who has a greater responsibility than just inanely pointing fingers to the other side of the aisle.

To the Republicans—House and Senate—stop with the partisan games. Advance the bipartisan bill that we all passed unanimously in the Senate, and we could get the funding for the Secret Service and other Agencies done.

#### RECONCILIATION

Mr. President, on the budget resolution, last week, the Nation saw what Republicans are prioritizing. Instead of lowering Americans' costs and funding Agencies like the Secret Service, on amendment after amendment and vote after vote, Democrats held Republicans accountable in last week's vote-arama for trying to give ICE and Border Patrol up to \$140 billion but zero dollars—zero—to lower Americans' costs.

Democrats gave Republicans opportunities to join us in lowering out-of-pocket healthcare costs and reducing childcare costs and stopping insurance company delays and protecting school meals. Republicans said no over and over again simply to take \$140 billion and put it into ICE and Border Patrol.

Can you believe it?

Can you believe it, America?

At a time when Americans are crying out for relief, Republicans are tying this Senate in knots—all to cut Trump's rogue Agencies a blank check, with no significant reform—reform that the American people want.

If Republicans think they are finished taking these difficult votes, they have got another thing coming. Democrats will make sure Republicans face more votes on affordability when reconciliation comes back up in a few weeks because it is so important to the American people. We will continue to expose Republicans' economic agenda for what it is: an utter disaster for working Americans. It is no wonder Trump's numbers are lower than they have ever been. He is not addressing what the American people want, and Republicans in the House and Senate just follow him blindly. The GOP has completely lost sight of the needs of the American people right now.

Trump wants to seclude himself in a walled palace—literally. His party is now trying to use their reconciliation process to pave the way for Donald Trump's gilded ballroom. If Republicans truly want to improve security, they should join Democrats in funding the Secret Service, not Donald Trump's luxury ballroom. Americans want us to help them put food on their tables and gas in their tanks, not to help Donald Trump put more gold on his walls.

#### IRAN

Mr. President, on Iran, the hole Donald Trump has dug himself into grows deeper and deeper by the day. Every day Donald Trump continues this war, the harder it will be for him to escape that hole.

This Friday will mark 60 days since Donald Trump officially notified Congress of his foolhardy venture into Iran—a war he launched without declaration or authorization from Congress, without a plan, without a goal, without knowledge of how much it would cost or how long it would last. It is incredible. I have never seen such a ridiculous, harmful, unthought-out, erratic foreign policy venture as this war with Iran is—totally started by Trump. There is no clamor in America to do it.

Sixty days is the threshold under the War Powers Act, which several of my Republican colleagues clearly recognize, but it didn't take 60 days for anyone to recognize Trump's mismanagement of this war. We have given Senate Republicans five opportunities to support our War Powers Resolution. Each time, they chose to back Trump and prolong this blunder even longer. Democrats will give Republicans a sixth opportunity to support our resolution this week, and by the end of the week, we will cross the 60-day threshold, and Trump's flaunting of our congressional war powers will be undeniable.

I urge Republicans to support our resolution instead of continuing to tie themselves to this reckless war. I urge Republicans to have a little courage. You hear, when they talk to one an-

other and when they even talk to us, they know what folly this war has been in terms of its costs—huge amounts of costs—in terms of the loss of life, in terms of oil prices, and Americans paying more than \$4 a gallon at the pump.

So, if Republicans were to vote with us, they would be doing Donald Trump a big favor. Negotiations remain frozen; gas prices remain over \$4 a gallon; the Strait of Hormuz remains closed; and our servicemembers, including those actively enforcing a blockade of the strait, remain in harm's way.

The other day, Trump said that gas prices could be high "for a little while." That is what he said. Well, the Pentagon reportedly notified Congress last week that it could take 6 months after the war ends to sweep the Iranian minefields in the strait, and 6 months is not a little while for the American people, who, every week, struggle to figure out how to pay the damned bills. That is what is happening here. Every week, Americans are getting crushed by the costs of this war every time they go to the pump, and that is 6 months after the war ends.

Unfortunately, there is still no end in sight. Trump doesn't know what he is doing. He sends envoys to Pakistan: Leave Pakistan. Be here. Maybe in the first week or two, some people thought there was a strategy here. Now it is clear to everybody there was none, and there is no end in sight.

Democrats will continue to force votes on a War Powers Resolution every week this war rages on. Allowing this reckless war to continue would be a supreme dereliction of my colleagues' duty under the Constitution.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

#### HONORING JOHN BARTHOLOMEW

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the city of Chicago is in mourning. On Saturday, Chicago police officer John Bartholomew was fatally shot after taking a robbery suspect to the hospital.

Officer Bartholomew had been on the force for 10 years. In that decade, he became known by his station and his community as someone you could always count on. When it snowed, he was the first one outside to shovel. At the station, officers often heard him singing his lungs out in the locker room.

Officer Bartholomew was a loving father, and a faithful husband to his wife Renee.

Loretta and I offer our deepest condolences to the Bartholomew family.

Officer Bartholomew's partner, a 21-year veteran of the Chicago Police Department, remains in critical condition. We should all pray for his fast and full recovery.

## POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Mr. President, only 12 hours after this awful shooting in Chicago, our Nation watched in horror as a different gunman attacked the White House Correspondents' Dinner. Let's be clear. Whether right or left, political violence has no place in America—none. I am grateful no one was seriously injured at the Hilton.

This attack, however, shows a sobering pattern of escalating political violence. Last year, we witnessed the horrific assassination of Minnesota House speaker emerita Melissa Hortman and her husband Mark, the attempted murder of Minnesota State senator John Hoffman and his wife, and the assassination of Charlie Kirk.

These attacks have a chilling impact on politics. Townhall meetings now are requiring metal detectors. People are wary of open-air events.

Political violence is corrosive to democracy. It is an American crisis and one that is made worse by the growing arsenal of dangerous guns in our country. These weapons flooding our streets make what is already an incredibly difficult job for our Nation's law enforcement and security personnel even more dangerous. Our police are being outgunned by people who are fomenting violence.

For our communities and our law enforcement officers in our country, we have to do more to stop this gun violence. It is a national scourge.

## GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, now on a totally separate topic, earlier this month, President Trump issued his fiscal year 2027 budget proposal. It includes a 42-percent increase in military spending for the war in Iran. That war is costing us, we estimate, \$1 billion a day. We are now into 2 months and even longer in that war at \$1 billion a day.

Meanwhile, as the President asks for more money for the military for his war in Iran, he is slashing billions of dollars in investments for medical research and disease prevention. What a senseless, reckless idea from the Trump administration.

Let me tell you a story about why this is so troubling. Over 10 years ago, I went to the National Institutes of Health—the preeminent medical research Agency in the world—and I met with Dr. Francis Collins.

I think Francis Collins is an American hero. He led the NIH through Presidents of both political parties—a real professional.

I said to Dr. Collins: I have been in Congress long enough to remember a time when a Congressman from Illinois named John Porter and two Senators, one Republican and one Democrat, came together and led a bipartisan effort to actually double the NIH budget of that date. I don't know if I can match that, Dr. Collins, but what can I do?

Here is what he told me. He said: If Congress could provide 5 percent real growth in the medical research budget

each year, we will light up the scoreboard.

He assured me there were so many great ideas just on the cusp of being realized—curing diseases, sparing suffering, giving families hope.

He said: If we can just let the researchers know that we are going to be there to help them year in and year out until they reach their goal, with that confidence, they can achieve greatness.

So we set out to do it. I came here to the Senate and put together a little team. It was easy in some respects. My partner in the effort on the Democrat side was PATTY MURRAY. PATTY MURRAY has been in the Senate longer than I have, and I will tell you something: She is a real dramatic leader when it comes to appropriations and is the ranking Democrat on the Appropriations Committee now. She was anxious to help to make sure medical research was funded.

Then I found a Republican who was a great partner—Roy Blunt of Missouri, chairman of the Appropriations Committee. I sat down with Roy, and he was sold instantly on making this 5 percent growth every year our cause. Roy was a great person.

Lamar Alexander from Tennessee, when he served here, was another one of our partners.

Since then, we have been joined by SUSAN COLLINS. She chairs the Senate Appropriations Committee and has a real commitment to medical research.

We grew the budget for NIH, from the time I visited Dr. COLLINS, from \$30 billion to \$49 billion today. The 5 percent a year was virtually guaranteed. And those aren't just numbers on a sheet; they consistently mean new cures and treatments. We have developed new, more effective ways to deliver chemo drugs directly into brain tumors, breakthrough treatments for sickle cell, and continued progress in the fight for patients with dementia, Alzheimer's, ALS, and Parkinson's. Those reliable funding increases gave confidence to our researchers, giving them the belief that they could continue and actually reach their goal of finding a cure.

Last year, President Trump's budget sought to cut NIH's budget by 40 percent—\$18 billion in 1 year. That is what the President proposed. Thankfully, this body on a bipartisan basis rejected President Trump's cuts in medical research and actually provided a nominal increase.

But this President is back at it again. A billion dollars a day for his war in Iran, but now he is knocking on Congress' door to cut \$6 billion from the NIH and \$3 billion from the Centers for Disease Control.

HHS Secretary Kennedy struggled recently to defend his budget request. Why would he want to fund 4,600 fewer research grants across the Nation? That is potentially 4,600 cures. Those cuts would extinguish hope for patients and devastate America's standing as the world leader in medical research.

America has been lucky. As a country of immigrants, our immigrants have made this a better life for America from day one. We have attracted the best and brightest minds from all corners of the globe. In case it needs to be stated, it is a good thing, not a bad thing.

When you or a loved one has a medical emergency, you go to the hospital. Oftentimes, you will see nurses and staff from all over the world. A doctor's name badge might indicate they aren't originally from this country. That is no coincidence. Sixty-four percent of foreign-trained physicians are practicing in areas of this country where there is a shortage of healthcare professionals.

Unfortunately, President Trump's current crackdown on legal immigration—legal immigration—has closed the doors to many of these bright, young people who want to come to practice medicine in America. This administration has indefinitely paused most immigration processing for high-skilled visa applicants from 39 countries. Imagine that—categorically saying: If you are from country X, you are not welcome in America.

What is worse, the administration has not provided any timeline or criteria for lifting these holds. It has a really personal impact.

Let me tell you a story. My staff recently met with a doctor from Iran. Her name is Dr. Mehrnoosh Ebadi. She is a foreign medical graduate and research associate at Northwestern University working on advanced cancer therapies. She recently matched into a family medicine residency at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Bloomington, IL, but her residency position and legal status are at risk as a result of the processing hold President Trump has put on Iranian nationals. She is not a combatant. She is not involved in politics. She just happens to be a brilliant cancer researcher who wants to help the people of America. She says she came to the United States to "contribute to science and patient care." She may not be able to begin this residency in Bloomington on time, if at all. She described it as "incredibly difficult."

Does this sound like someone who is one of the "worst of the worst"? Should we turn ICE loose on this hospital to arrest her and detain her? Absolutely not.

What is happening to her is happening in hospitals all over the country, in blue States and red States. Especially at a time when Republicans' Big Beautiful Bill is making a trillion-dollar cut in Medicaid over the next several years, which will devastate rural hospitals, what sense does it make to close the door to this doctor whom we so desperately need?

When we shut down legal pathways for qualified international students and professionals, do you know who loses? We lose. Americans lose.

You are not making America any safer, Mr. President, by telling this