

land without their permission or consent, then I am going to have something to say about it because this money that we are paying companies to do that is from a Federal statute. It is called, I think, a 45Q tax credit. And do you know what? That 45Q tax credit can be changed. I can't make the legislature pass or not pass a law, but I sure can offer a bill to change that amount of money that we are paying companies to do this if they are going to force people and take their land in order to put in these wells.

I wasn't very clear last night. I think I was tired, and it was late, and I was also in a hurry to get home to watch "Wheel of Fortune."

#### TRIBUTE TO PATRICK TAYLOR

Mr. KENNEDY. Now, Mr. President, the other reason I am here, which is just as important, is for this man sitting right here. His name is Patrick Taylor. He is a fine American, and he and I work together.

Much to my sorrow—well, it is sorrow, but it is also pride—Patrick is going to work for another Agency. And I mean that my feelings are mixed about it.

Here is my strategy. I am not saying people who don't follow my strategy are doing it wrong. This is just the way I have always done it. I have been in government and politics for a while, and I have known some politicians that don't want to hire anybody smarter than them, OK, because they don't want anybody around them who will make them look bad. That is cool. To each his own. I don't do it that way, OK? I figure, if I hire people smarter than me, they will make me look better. That is what I have always tried to do, and I fully concede that Patrick is smarter than me.

But one of the downsides of hiring people smarter than you is that they are ambitious, they learn all they can, and somebody comes in and hires them away. That happens, and it has happened to me a number of times. Every single time, even though I am disappointed, I also try to say to myself: You know, this is a compliment, and I am sad, but I am happy. And that is what has happened with Patrick.

Patrick, as I told you, is really smart. He is a graduate of Colgate. I wrote it all down here. He has a master's from Hillsdale College. He studied at the Claremont Institute. He is on my communications team. This guy is a master at digital media. I mean, he can make posts and stuff on digital media. He can make that social media stuff walk, talk, and whistle "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," man, and he gets people to watch, and it is awesome.

Patrick is going to work for the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation. I asked him about it, and he said: It is top secret. If I told you, I would have to drown you in the ocean.

He didn't really say that.

It is a great job, and I am happy for him. He has been with me for 3 years, and it has been a great 3 years.

Patrick, Godspeed. Come back and see us. You are going to do great.

I just wanted to come by and acknowledge his service to the good people of America and to the good people of Louisiana and thank him for all of his help. It has been a lot of fun.

If you write a book, I reserve the right to edit it first, OK? You can't include everything in that book.

Patrick, thank you, man.

That is all I have, Mr. President. I can show my way out. My work here is done.

So I suggest the absence of a quorum. Is that OK, Madam Parliamentarian? Thank you, ma'am.

This is our Parliamentarian, Mr. President. She is pretty smart too.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### WHITE HOUSE CORRESPONDENTS' DINNER SHOOTING

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, every American should be grateful that President Trump, Vice President VANCE, the Cabinet, and thousands of other attendees were not harmed during Saturday's disturbing shooting that took place at the White House Correspondents' Association dinner.

We now know that the shooter was attempting to kill the President, and this was the third assassination attempt we have seen on his life in the past couple of years.

Now, some Democrats—and I would include former President Obama in this—some have claimed that we don't have details about the suspect's motives, but we do have plenty of details, and we know that the shooter actually laid a good bit of this out. He did a manifesto, and he sent that manifesto to his family shortly before the attack. The shooter said he was going to target administration officials "prioritized from highest-ranking to lowest." It shows you he thought this through. Now, his reason for this, he said President Trump is—and I quote his wording here again—"pedophile, rapist, traitor."

Now, this is unhinged rhetoric. It is completely in line with the lies that the Democrats have repeated on just about a daily basis every day regarding President Trump. We have heard it on TV, on podcasts, on social media, in their speeches, and it is something else that they continue with this rhetoric.

And Gov. Tim Walz who, of course, was the VP nominee in the last election once said:

No one has ever been more dangerous to this country than Donald Trump, and he is a fascist to his core.

Again, that was Gov. Tim Walz.

Now, some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have called the President an "existential threat to democracy," "the most significant threat to American democracy since the Civil War," and an "authoritarian." And some of them have chosen to compare him to historical figures, and that historical figure they usually use is Hitler. And, of course, Kamala Harris once compared him to a "communist dictator."

This is reckless rhetoric. This is the kind of rhetoric that needs to stop because this places a target on our President, and this is the type of rhetoric that has no place in civil public life.

Now, we are celebrating America 250, and we are looking at how this Nation has remained strong and free. Indeed, I think that as you look at our history, those tenets of faith, family, freedom, hope, and opportunity have served us well. And how do we achieve that American dream? Well, we have kept ourselves free and focused on achieving that dream for each and every person. They all look different. Everybody's dream is different of what they want, what their goals are, the type of community they want to live in. They are all different.

But we arrive at decisions of what kind of communities we will have, what kind of country we will have—those issues of importance—we arrive there through robust, respectful, bipartisan debate. We don't get there by exercising reckless rhetoric, some of which I have quoted. It is so disappointing to hear this from some of our colleagues and then to see the type of vitriol that this spurs.

Now, when we have robust, respectful, bipartisan debate—I share my opinion; someone else shares their opinion—what this does is to empower not only us, but the people that we represent, to enter into that debate, to be a part of the public square, to defend our freedoms, to build consensus, and to serve the American people and to preserve the freedoms that we enjoy.

Now, without it, without having that marketplace of ideas, without that robust, respectful debate that leads to exchange and asking: What if we did this? What if we did that? If we did not have that, then this Nation would head to a very dark place. And this latest assassination attempt on President Trump is another reminder of what can happen when Americans abandon the possibility of working together and instead of settling their differences by debate in the public square, they choose to settle these differences by violence, by reckless rhetoric.

So as we approach our Nation's 250th anniversary, we need to remember that it is this exchange of ideas and this robust, respectful debate that has helped to sustain the freedoms that we enjoy in this country.

## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, now, on a separate but related topic, we go to this issue of Department of Homeland Security funding. It is important that we remember that the Agency that is responsible for protecting our President, his family, our Vice President, his family, our Cabinet members—they all have a security detail—but the Agency is the Secret Service, and the Secret Service is in the Department of Homeland Security, as is Homeland Security Investigations, ICE, Border Patrol, TSA. See, it all comes out of that DHS budget.

And we now are on day 74 of the Democrats' latest shutdown of the Department of Homeland Security. It is the third time this Congress that they have chosen to shut down Homeland Security.

Now, to ensure that agents continue to receive their paychecks, President Trump has resorted to using funds from the Working Families Tax Cut—Big Beautiful Bill—that we passed last year, and thank goodness that we did. And I will remind the Chamber: Every single Democrat voted against that bill. Every single Democrat voted against your pocketbook. They voted to increase your taxes by voting no on the Big Beautiful Bill.

Well, thank goodness we got it passed because that is where the President has been able to go and move some money around and pay people that are working without a paycheck.

Now, you know, it makes you wonder how many people would choose to continue to work and not receive a paycheck? But that is what our Democrat colleagues continue to do.

Last night, I did a telephone townhall, and on this townhall was a grandmother who lives in Middle Tennessee. Her question to me was very pointed. She said: Senator BLACKBURN, my grandson is in the Coast Guard. Have you all figured out how to pay the Coast Guard?

The Coast Guard. They are funded by DHS. So our colleagues across the aisle have chosen to say to the Coast Guard: Forget it. We are not for paying you.

So think about this. When you talk about going after human traffickers and drug runners, the Democrats don't want to fund that activity.

When you talk about Homeland Security Investigations that helps to find missing children, that locks up pedophiles and predators, that locks up groomers—they don't want to go after them. They are choosing to not fund that Agency.

Well, I had another caller on the townhall last night, and they said: I don't get this. Why don't they want to pay TSA? Why don't they want to pay ICE agents who were picking up people that broke the law to come into the country and have committed crimes and need to be deported? These are people that, by and large, most have orders of deportation already issued

against them. They are ready to be deported.

And the answer is disappointing, but it is what the Democrats will tell you. Their goal is to abolish ICE, to open the border back up, and just say: You-all come. Anybody can come. We are going to vacate immigration law.

And their third goal is to defund the police. You know, during Joe Biden's era, they loved the fact—loved it—the border was wide open. And we had illegal aliens entering the country by the thousands and the millions. They liked it that way. They didn't know who was in the country, but they were glad they were here. They wanted more sanctuary cities.

And, again, what we see the Democrats doing, they are putting illegal aliens before citizens. They are not funding—will not fund Federal law enforcement, don't want to fund immigration, don't want to fund the Coast Guard, don't want to fund the TSA. I guess they just think that there should be no scanning and no review.

So we know that that is their goal, and we know also that they don't want a deal on this. They want to continue to have a fight. They want this issue. Their goal is to abolish ICE, to defund Federal law enforcement. That is where they are headed, so they like having a shutdown.

## RECONCILIATION

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Well, they continue with this political charade, and we have now passed a budget resolution that is going to open the path for us for a targeted public safety reconciliation bill that is going to fund these issues through President Trump's term. We will take this issue off the table.

Now, we did this on the Big Beautiful Bill. We did it through reconciliation. We did it with 51 votes. And as I said earlier, not one single Democrat—not one—voted for the Big Beautiful Bill. And we will make certain that ICE and CBP and these other Agencies are funded, and we will do it without a single Democrat vote.

And also, doing it this way, the Democrats will have none of the reforms they pretended to want when it came to Homeland Security.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ARMSTRONG). The Senator from Louisiana.

## REMEMBERING MARTHA ODOM

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, you and I are the elected representatives of our States, and sometimes we speak not on behalf of ourselves but on behalf of our entire State. Now is one of those times.

Everyone in Louisiana felt grief at the mass shooting in Shreveport that I spoke of on this floor last week. Now I speak for all in Louisiana who feel grief at the mass shooting in Baton Rouge last week, and our whole State feels this grief. We all grieve.

I have a friend Collis Temple—famous in Louisiana—the first African American who played basketball for LSU. He called to say that he, as a parent, felt the grief of this young lady's family, and it was Collis who compelled me to speak today because every family can imagine no longer having their child or their sibling.

We all grieve. Every classmate can picture walking to school and seeing an empty chair where their classmate once sat.

We all grieve. Every friend can imagine going on a carefree senior skip day. If you are older than 18, you can remember when you were once 18 and something awful happened—indeed, every friend grieves.

What do we say when words fail? We can say that all, in my State, in my country, are deeply and profoundly sorry and that all of Louisiana grieves with Martha's family.

So I ask that this body and all who are here join in a quiet moment for the life of Martha Odom, for everyone who loved her, loves her still, and will always love her.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

## INSULIN ACT OF 2026

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a bill that Senator SHAHEEN and I introduced recently. It is called the Improving Needed Safeguards for Users of Lifesaving Insulin Now Act, or the INSULIN Act. This bill would make insulin more affordable for Americans with diabetes.

I would like to also recognize the work of Senators WARNOCK and KENNEDY who joined us in introducing this important bill.

In 1997, I founded the Senate Diabetes Caucus after meeting with a family from Maine who had a 10-year-old son with type 1 diabetes.

I will never forget this young boy looking up at me and saying to me that he wished that he could just take 1 day off from having type 1 diabetes—his birthday or Christmas—just 1 day. But, of course, he could not.

It was then that I knew that I had to dedicate my efforts toward earlier diagnosis, better treatments and technology, and one day a cure.

Since 2009, Senator SHAHEEN and I have cochaired the Diabetes Caucus in the Senate and worked together to fund vital research and advance policies that will improve the lives of those who are living with diabetes. One of our top priorities has been to make insulin more affordable.

Now, insulin was first isolated more than 100 years ago in Canada, and the scientist who did discover it gave away, essentially, the patent rights because they wanted insulin to be available and affordable to everyone who needed it.

Tens of millions of Americans rely on insulin as part of their daily treatment