

Donald Trump has opened a Pandora's box. We have to take seriously that, after Venezuela, he may attack other nations without warning—maybe Colombia, maybe even a NATO ally like Greenland run by Denmark. All the while, how does any of this belligerence in Venezuela or Greenland put America first?

How does any of this help people here at home pay the bills, pay for their healthcare, put a roof over their heads, pay for their groceries or their energy bill? The American people voted for Donald Trump to put America first. That is what he campaigned on. A lot of his most hard-right supporters voted for him because he was "America First."

Well, "America First" means focusing on healthcare costs and all kinds of rising costs here at home, instead of using taxpayer dollars to build up the oil fields in Venezuela. It means helping American farmers instead of bailing out Argentinian farmers. It means bringing manufacturing back to our shores instead of giving critical chips away to China.

It means helping people pay their rent, pay their mortgage, pay their energy bill, instead of launching an attack on foreign countries and putting our troops in danger.

JEFFREY EPSTEIN

Mr. President, on Epstein, it has been 18 days—18 days—since the administration was required by law to release the full Epstein files to the American public, and it has been 15 days since the administration has released any documentation on Jeffrey Epstein.

Now, the Department of Justice says it has released less than 1 percent of the files—less than 1 percent in 18 days at 2½ weeks. Are you kidding me? They say they were preparing well in advance, and they have only gotten 1 percent done?

It is deliberate stonewalling of the American people, what Congress and the American people are demanding. It is an outlandishly naked attempt to hide the truth and defy the law. People across America are wondering, scratching their heads, and asking, What the hell is Donald Trump hiding? His Justice Department is so adamant about slow-walking everything.

Let's be very clear about what the Justice Department is doing and what I warned would happen. They are using every trick in the book to ignore the will of Congress and to ignore Federal law. Every single Member of Congress, with one exception, spoke in unanimity: The administration must release the truth about Jeffrey Epstein—no dodging, no obfuscation, no hiding. It has been 18 days, and what does the administration have to show for it? Less than 1 percent of the truth. It is unacceptable.

The American people won't stand for it. And the Senate is going to take every action available to ensure that every shred of evidence that must see the light of day comes out. Jeffrey

Epstein's victims deserve no less. The American people deserve no less.

Donald Trump, why are you hiding the truth about Jeffrey Epstein from the American people?

ANNIVERSARY OF JANUARY 6

Mr. President, on January 6, later this afternoon, I will join with Leader JEFFRIES and Members of both the House and Senate to mark the 5-year anniversary of the deadly insurrection of January 6.

It is a bitter, frustrating, and somber day for all of us who were in the building that fateful morning and afternoon. I remember standing right here on this very spot, alongside other Senators, getting ready to certify the 2020 election. All of a sudden—all of a sudden—my security detail pulled my collar like this, gripped me by the arm, and told me we had to get out because a mob of rioters had broken into the Capitol.

At that moment, I saw the Vice President was instantly rushed out of the Chamber as well. He was sitting up in that chair. We went downstairs. We turned toward one hallway and for a moment came within several yards of angry rioters before my detail pulled us away to safety.

It was a dark, scary, violent day. They pulled me away toward safety—not from. And when the MAGA rioters desecrated this Chamber, they ransacked offices, waved Confederate flags through these hallways, and used violence to try and steal an election. All of that happened, and it was propagated by Donald Trump.

But make no mistake, January 6 was also a day when the power of democracy ultimately prevailed. It was a day where U.S. Capitol Police faced their moment of maximum danger and responded with maximum valor.

Let us take a moment to remember all our brave public servicemembers, Capitol Police, DC Police, and all other officers who died in connection with the attack. I just want to thank our officers who were here on that day, who do their jobs every day without fanfare.

Of course, the 5-year anniversary of January 6 comes at a bitter and complicated moment. The very same man who sought to steal an election and delegitimize our democracy has now returned to office by the very same means he tried to destroy.

And what was Donald Trump's first official action while in office? Donald Trump—a man who claims to stand up for the police, a man who says he cares about law and order—pardoned every single convicted insurrectionist on his very first day as President.

These pardons are among the most sickening things Donald Trump has done in office. His betrayal of law enforcement—of democracy—makes a mockery of the rule of law. These pardons were an explicit endorsement of using violence to get your way. That is who Donald Trump is at his core: a man who is happy to see violence work in his favor to get what he wants.

And in this Chamber, especially in the House of Representatives, too many Republicans remain silent in the face of obvious evil. That is true in both Chambers, unfortunately. Too many have tried to rewrite the history of January 6. Too many are trying to turn these criminals into martyrs and into heroes. That is perverse, it is a lie, and it is wicked. History will curse those who absolve or celebrate the violence that happened on January 6.

We must never relent on speaking the truth of January 6 in the face of the hurricane of lies that comes from Donald Trump. That is a moral obligation, our obligation to this grand democracy, as Members of this institution and as citizens of this great democracy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

RURAL HEALTHCARE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, for 24 years, I practiced medicine as an orthopedic surgeon in Wyoming. And over that time, I know what it is like to practice in a frontier State, a State where huge distances separate us.

Medical care is needed everywhere. I know how important it is to provide available, affordable, quality care for the citizens in my State and in the Presiding Officer's State.

(Mr. SHEEHY assumed the Chair.)

And as in the Presiding Officer's State today where people are celebrating an overtime victory by the Montana football team last evening—a 1-point difference—and people traveled vast distances to get to the game, they also travel vast distances to get to care.

So in my State of Wyoming and in the Presiding Officer's State of Montana where the distances are great, we know how important it is to provide quality care for all of our citizens.

I want everyone in my State to be able to get the care that they need from a doctor they choose, at a price they can afford. And that is why we worked so hard—myself and the Presiding Officer, working together—during the Working Families Tax Cut bill that we passed last year to include a specific, large component for rural healthcare, for the patients in our small communities to get the care that they need and, many times, closer to home.

And we funded this program in a way that it really provides the necessary care in our communities. And I know, in my home State of Wyoming, \$205 million came to the State of Wyoming, and it is headed specifically to our critical access hospitals. It is heading for emergency medical services, emergency medical technicians.

It is to address the needs we have all across our State. And it is also going for education—to provide the education needed, to provide to make sure that, in the future, there are people there to continue to be able to deliver the care—because we need the money to

help strengthen and to train and to retain nurses and EMTs and paramedics and X-ray technicians, essential healthcare workers.

You know, if we want them to stay local, we need to train them locally. And the Presiding Officer sees that in his home State, and I certainly see it in mine.

Well, now, hospitals and clinics and health centers in vulnerable rural communities will have the necessary resources that we need to allow us to treat patients closer to home.

More choices and better care is a direct result of the Republicans' Working Families Tax Cut bill. This Rural Health Transformation Program that we put in place for \$50 billion is the largest Federal investment in rural healthcare ever.

Now, Democrats talk constantly about access to healthcare. Yet when Republicans—when we proposed this fund to help in rural America, every single Democrat in the Senate voted against it. Every single one of them said: Nope. We are not interested in funding rural healthcare.

When Democrats shut down the government last fall—lots of pain for the American people—one of their demands to reopen the government was to slash all of the funding for rural healthcare. They say they are for rural healthcare. They say they are for healthcare. But when given the chance, they refused and actually voted to eliminate our efforts to provide healthcare for rural Americans. That tells you exactly how little these far-left Democrats value America. Democrats have a long history—and it continues today—of thumbing their noses and turning their backs on rural communities and rural America.

At the same time, last summer, what did they vote to do? They voted to provide taxpayer-funded healthcare to illegal immigrants. Democrats: Yes for illegal immigrant healthcare; no for rural American healthcare. And they did it as we continue to uncover massive amounts of fraud. We are seeing it now in Minnesota with government programs, scammers who stole billions of dollars from taxpayers.

Republicans are committed to ensuring Americans have the healthcare they deserve and that the money goes where it needs to go: to American citizens who are deserving and need the care and need the funding and need the support, not to people ripping off the system as the Democrats look the other way.

In September, I attended the grand opening of a hospital in Pinedale, WY. For years, the nearest hospital was 85 miles from Pinedale—and that 85 miles includes curvy roads and a mountain pass. And if the roads were closed due to weather, the next hospital, which was a different direction, was 100 miles away. So this new hospital in Sublette County is going to be saving lives.

Republicans want rural communities across America to have what Pinedale

has today: care they need, doctors they choose, closer to home. Regrettably, many other rural communities are not so fortunate.

And let me tell you what has happened since ObamaCare has become law. Since the Democrats passed ObamaCare on a party-line vote 15 years ago, over 100 rural hospitals have closed—over 100. It is yet another broken promise from the failure of ObamaCare.

Republicans are reversing the trajectory: we are strengthening hospitals; we are supporting providers; and we are keeping care closer to home. That is our commitment, and this is just the beginning. Hundreds of millions of dollars are flowing now, and more funding will continue for the next 5 years. More communities are going to be better served; more patients will receive care; and more lives will be served.

Rural America deserves this sort of treatment and respect and care from the Federal Government. These are the hard-working people that make this country great. High-quality care is necessary for them, and we need to make sure it is where they need it.

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

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

#### RECOGNIZING THE PLAINVILLE TIMES

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, my hometown is Plainville, KS. The population, according to Google just this morning, is 1,746. I rise this morning to recognize and pay tribute to my hometown newspaper, the Plainville Times.

Several months ago, the headline of the paper—the very top story was—“Newspaper for Sale.” Last month, the Times published its final edition as a standalone newspaper and announced it will merge with a neighboring town’s newspaper, the Stockton Sentinel, to continue news coverage for local residents. So I take sadness in the demise, the departure of my hometown paper. I take pleasure and pride in its continuation with the news being covered by the Times Sentinel.

For more than a century, the Plainville Times has served the surrounding communities by providing information, education, and timely reporting. The paper first began in 1800, though it changed its names several times over the years, and it became known as the Plainville Times in 1904.

Growing up in this small town in western Kansas, I saw firsthand how the newspaper supported the community and brought neighbors, friends, and even strangers together. Community journalism pulls us together. National journalism has the habit of tearing us apart.

Over the years, the Plainville Times has kept the community informed on

important local issues like a new business coming to town, a city council meeting, or the score of a high school football game. Rural papers bring community residents together for special moments. It is where we see when we have a new birth. It is where we see when we lose a fellow citizen. It is where we celebrate with others about a 50th wedding anniversary. It is the joys of graduation and holiday celebrations. It is about ribbon cuttings. It is the pain of funeral services and natural disasters and really everything in between.

Community journalism is important to the future of communities across Kansas and the Nation. Today, community journalism faces growing challenges with a rapidly changing media environment, as well as workforce struggles and financial strains. Many rural newspapers have very limited staffs, and it is not uncommon for one person to fill the role of reporter, photographer, and editor.

Those who dedicate their lives to this profession, in so many instances in newspapers across Kansas, I find the person that is just doing the job because nobody else would do it. Despite these challenges, that newspaper, including the Plainville Times, leaves lasting marks on the rural towns they cover.

As a kid growing up in Plainville, then representing my hometown as a Member of Congress, and now as a U.S. Senator, I had the opportunity to know and speak with, get acquainted with the Times editors during my lifetime, including Harlan Lill, who was the editor when I was a kid; Carol Van Dyke, who then replaced him; and the current editor Candace Rachel, whom I grew up with in my hometown. She is a long-time native of Plainville, and Candace is deeply committed to our community and has devoted her life to providing news and information to Kansans.

Whether I am attending a Lions Club meeting or visiting the local high school, Candace is always there with her pen and pad and a camera slung over her shoulder. She is one of those editors who does it all. Candace is always there at everything. She loves supporting local sports, the athletes, their parents, their families. She loves to celebrate the victories and bemoan the losses. She always can be spotted on the sidelines of a local football field, the basketball courts, and at baseball games. I appreciate her. I appreciate her love for our community, and I appreciate the way she treats every citizen of my hometown—with the greatest of respect.

I want to thank the Times’ publisher, Frank Mercer of Main Street Media, as well as its staff, Bret Greenwood and Tonia Goertz, for their commitment to local journalism.

Over the years, the Plainville Times has been dedicated to pursuing the truth in informing local communities and providing a critical service to rural America. The paper has gained a reputation for informative, fair reporting,