

half that? No. Is it 10? No. The entire operations budget for the National Park System is \$2 billion, just to give you kind of a sense of what we are talking about here. In 2½ months of war, we have spent \$70 billion. The National Park System needs about \$2 billion to operate. Their entire budget of deferred maintenance—if you wanted to fix everything that is broken in the National Park Service, how much would it cost? It would cost \$33 billion. So half of what we have spent on the Iran war could fix up every national park in the country to tip-top shape.

How much do we spend on elementary education—elementary, middle, and secondary education? Every year, about \$33 billion. So if you took the amount of money we spent on the Iran war and dedicated it all to K-through-12 education, we would triple the amount of money that our elementary, middle, and high schools get in this country. What an important investment that would be. What would it mean to your child's elementary school to have triple the amount of Federal funding? That would mean that you could reduce class sizes, you could hire more paraprofessionals. Urban school districts could hire guidance counselors and social workers for the first time. New school buildings would go up. Leaks would be fixed.

How about medical research? The total budget of NIH and CDC? About \$60 billion. So if we had taken this money that we have spent in just 2½ months of war and applied it to medical research, we would double—double—this year's budget for medical research. If you doubled the NIH and CDC budget this year, I guarantee you we would cure at least one disease; we would find a treatment years ahead of schedule; we would save lives, thousands of lives. But, instead, we are spending this money on a war that is making us less safe and driving up costs for millions of Americans.

Again, I am just telling you the cost to the government of this war. Of course, we are seeing billions of dollars being spent by businesses, by farms, by consumers because gas prices are out of control. This week, they will probably hit \$5 a gallon in Connecticut. That will put a lot of my small businesses out of business if gas prices remain at \$5 through this summer. There will be lots of families in my State—who for the first 60 days were probably able to manage that extra cost—who are going to have to cancel a week or two or three of summer camp for their kids this summer because they are going to have to make a choice as to whether I fill up my tank to get to work or whether my kids get to go to basketball camp. Those are the decisions that families are going to make.

The second thing, very briefly, I want to talk about is another cost. The President is not spending his time right now trying to end this war. Reports are that the President has become bored of the Iran war, and that is

why we are in a stalemate. Nothing is changing. Nothing is happening. We are blockading the Strait of Hormuz. The Iranians are blockading the Strait of Hormuz. Peace negotiations are stuck. And so day, after day, after day, grocery prices climb, gas prices climb, and the reports suggest it is because President Trump has lost interest in the war.

What is he interested in? Well, we found out this week. Instead of spending his last several weeks trying to end the war and bring down costs, the President has been engineering a novel, new corruption scheme to pad his pockets and his supporters' pockets. We learned this week that the President is settling a lawsuit that he lodged against himself for \$1.7 billion. The President sued himself. He sued the IRS—but essentially he was suing himself—and then he settled with himself for \$1.7 billion to be deposited into a slush fund that the President can use at his discretion to reward his political supporters.

We found out just hours ago that in that settlement is included a provision that stops the IRS from auditing the President or his family. So instead of ending the Iran war, instead of trying to do something about these spiraling prices and costs that are being borne by families and the Federal Government, the President has spent the last few weeks reaching his hand into the Treasury, stealing from the American people \$1.7 billion to be put into a slush fund that he controls, to reward his political supporters, and securing an agreement with the IRS that no matter how much fraud or illegality he and his family and his business entities engaged in, they are getting off scot-free. Everybody else in this country plays by the rules, can be audited by the IRS, and is subject to the Tax Code. The President, as of today, is no longer subject to the Tax Code. His past fraud, his past illegality has been immunized, and he is getting \$1.7 billion of your money to give away to his political supporters.

That is why the war is still happening. That is why these costs—right now, likely \$70 billion to the taxpayer, billions more in increased costs—that is why they continue to go up and up and up—because the President has become bored by the war. He doesn't pay the cost of the war. In fact, every day, he gets richer because, instead of ending the war, he is spending his time finding new, novel, and corrupt ways to reach his hand into the Federal Treasury and get paid by the taxpayers of this country.

I am glad that we are getting closer to 50 votes. I imagine that when we come back from recess, after many of my Republican colleagues have heard about the misery that is being visited on this economy because of these high prices, we will reach enough votes to pass this resolution. But we will not stop bringing these measures before the Senate until that day comes.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today in opposition to President Trump's war of choice in Iran that has cost taxpayers billions and taken the lives of 13 American servicemembers.

Since this war began over 11 weeks ago, it has been abundantly clear that Donald Trump and Pete Hegseth don't know what they are doing. They have offered shifting rationales for why we are at war, moving the goalposts by the hour. There seems to be no plan or timeline for when this war will end. This administration has also been caught flat-footed at every turn, including not anticipating that the Strait of Hormuz would be closed and the skyrocketing gas prices that followed.

It is not just Americans at home who are paying the price for this conflict. American servicemembers are sounding the alarm, too, that the Trump administration wasn't prepared to keep them safe. First, we learned that servicemembers who were injured in Kuwait in a March 1 drone strike had to wait nearly a month to get care for their traumatic brain injuries. Now we are learning that troops in the same unit had their calls for support from the Army ignored. Soldiers stationed in Kuwait asked for additional medical personnel and medical supplies before the war began, but that request was denied. These same soldiers also recount that they did not get the proper training for responding to an attack.

They were told: Don't worry about protection.

MAJ Stephen Ramsbottom told CBS News that he believed MSG Nicole Amor, an Army reservist who was killed in the attack, could have survived her wounds had the military been properly prepared for retaliatory strikes on U.S. bases.

All of this points to a larger problem and a larger pattern of Donald Trump and Pete Hegseth being totally reckless, starting a war without the careful planning necessary to protect Americans. And while two in three Americans say this war was the wrong decision, President Trump keeps threatening to ramp up this conflict, putting our troops further into harm's way. He has even hinted that he is interested in starting another war in Cuba.

Americans didn't ask for this war of choice. Their elected representatives in Washington didn't even vote on it. And yet it is Americans who are paying the price every single day.

I am glad to see more of my Republican colleagues are listening to their constituents, and I was pleased to see another vote to stop this reckless and illegal war.

But it is not enough. It is time for Congress to finally be a check on this President.

Stand up for your constituents and our servicemembers, and join us in voting to stop this war.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader.

WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, well, earlier today, Trump said he was just an hour away from launching another wave of attacks on Iran before he changed his mind.

Trump says: "We may have to give Iran another big hit"—that "we're all set to start" bombing at a moment's notice.

This President is like a toddler playing with a loaded gun. If there was ever a time to support our War Powers Resolution to withdraw troops from hostilities with Iran, it is now.

We have long since passed the War Powers Act's 60-day threshold to end hostilities that many of our colleagues cited as the time their position on this war would finally change. Every second we wait to end this war is another second Donald Trump puts our servicemembers at risk.

If Republicans truly believe that this war is going well, that Trump is some strategic genius, then why are they hiding behind shifting deadlines and fake notifications of the "end of hostilities"? Why do Republicans pretend Trump's war ended after 60 days, when it clearly has continued, with U.S. and Iranian forces exchanging fire in the Strait of Hormuz?

And the lack of planning in this whole war is just appalling. It is obvious even to a layman that the greatest vulnerability we faced, if we challenged Iran, was the Strait of Hormuz. And yet, despite the fact that many said, "Secure the strait before you do anything else," Trump ignored it.

And look at what is happening now: Gasoline is \$4.50 and going up.

How can anyone believe this President has a strategy, has a plan, knows what he is doing?

Senate Republicans are silent on Trump's war because they know it is a massive blunder, but they are foolish to think that silence will spare them. The American people's outrage over skyrocketing costs is right at their doorstep.

Americans took note all seven times this Republican majority passed up the opportunity to support our War Powers Resolution to end this disaster, and they will take note of those Republicans who pass up the eighth time—the eighth opportunity—to stop this war, which will occur shortly when we vote.

I thank Senator Kaine for his leadership on today's resolution.

Every week this war continues and Republicans continue to sit in silence, Democrats will force a vote on the War Powers Resolution and make Republicans go on record with their support for this war.

Let me be clear: Reasserting Congress' authority on matters of war and peace isn't a partisan issue. It never should have been one. It is a constitutional issue. It has been what this country has stood for, for centuries.

This vote is about fulfilling our most basic responsibility as Members of the Senate.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

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. Kaine. Mr. President, pursuant to 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. 185.

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. 185, 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.

VOTE ON MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, I know of no further debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the motion to discharge S.J. Res. 185.

Mr. Kaine. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO: The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 129 Leg.]

YEAS—50

Table listing names of Senators who voted YEAS: Alsobrooks, Baldwin, Bennet, Blumenthal, Blunt Rochester, Booker, Cantwell, Cassidy, Collins, Coons, Cortez Masto, Duckworth, Durbin, Gallego, Gillibrand, Hassan, Heinrich, Hickenlooper, Hirono, Kaine, Kelly, Kim, King, Klobuchar, Lujan, Markey, Merkley, Murkowski, Murphy, Murray, Ossoff, Padilla, Paul, Peters, Reed, Rosen, Sanders, Schatz, Schiff, Schumer, Shaheen, Slotkin.

Smith
Van Hollen
Warner

Warnock
Warren
Welch

Whitehouse
Wyden

NAYS—47

Armstrong
Banks
Barrasso
Blackburn
Boozman
Britt
Budd
Capito
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Cruz
Curtis
Daines
Ernst
Fetterman

Fischer
Graham
Grassley
Hagerty
Hawley
Hoeben
Husted
Hyde-Smith
Johnson
Justice
Kennedy
Lankford
Lee
Lummis
Marshall
McConnell

McCormick
Moody
Moran
Moreno
Ricketts
Risch
Rounds
Schmitt
Scott (FL)
Scott (SC)
Sheehy
Sullivan
Thune
Wicker
Young

NOT VOTING—3

Cornyn
Tillis
Tuberville

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). The joint resolution is discharged and will be placed on the Calendar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

SAN DIEGO SHOOTING

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, before I offer remarks this evening on voting rights, I want to take a moment to acknowledge a horrible tragedy that struck my home State of California just yesterday.

Yesterday afternoon, two assailants opened fire at the Islamic Center of San Diego, in what authorities are now investigating as a possible hate crime. Three people were killed: a security guard and father of eight named Amin Abdullah; Mansour Kaziha, a store manager at the mosque for 40 years; and Nader Awad, a member of the mosque who lived right across the street and whose wife was a teacher at the school.

Amin is credited with sounding the alarm bells as soon as the incident began, heroically saving the lives of everybody who was inside the mosque. And while authorities are still piecing together exactly what happened, what we do know is that Mansour and Nader somehow drew the shooters away from the mosque, into the parking lot, long enough for them to choose to flee the scene, as hundreds of police officers arrived.

Their sacrifices and their bravery were not in vain. Mr. President, 140 children were inside the center's school at the time, and they are all OK, now reunited with their parents.

Our prayers are with the victims, their families, and everyone impacted by this horrific act of violence.

I want to share my particular gratitude with the women and men of the San Diego Police Department and other first responders who responded literally within moments of first being alerted about the shooting, saving hundreds of lives in the process.

I want to echo the words of San Diego mayor Todd Gloria, who said yesterday:

[A]n attack on any one of our communities . . . because of who they are, what they believe, or how they pray—is an attack on all of us.