

The interim final rule takes note of research that finds that “obtaining and maintaining stable employment is associated with improved physical and mental health outcomes and greater overall well-being, while unemployment and unstable work are linked to poorer health outcomes.”

In other words, working is good for your health.

New evidence also shows the work requirement will lift 1–6/10 to 2–9/10 million people out of poverty, and that is exactly what we found as a result of the 1990 welfare reform bills that were passed by a Republican Congress when we had a Democrat President; in other words, very bipartisan.

Commonsense Medicaid work requirements for able-bodied adults take the same approach as welfare reform did in the 1990s, and I am repeating that because it was an important move that had very positive outcome effects.

So moving people from welfare to work and self-sufficiency was our goal in the 1990s, and it is a goal that was established in the tax bill of last year in regard to Medicaid.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE SURVEILLANCE ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in 4 days, authorization for our Nation’s most critical intelligence-gathering tool will expire.

Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act allows the U.S. Government to target the digital information of foreign actors located outside of the United States for specific national security purposes, such as counterterrorism, counterintelligence, and stopping the spread of weapons of mass destruction. Established in the wake of September 11 to address gaps in foreign intelligence collection, this program plays a vital role in foiling bad actors, including terrorists, cyber criminals, and drug and weapons traffickers.

Our Nation’s policymakers—from the White House to the Pentagon, to Congress—rely upon intelligence acquired from section 702 on a near daily basis. Twenty-four percent of the National Security Agency’s intelligence reports in 2025 contained section 702 information. So did 62 percent of projects in the CIA’s daily World Intelligence Re-

view and 63 percent of articles in the President’s Daily Brief.

Just to bring this down to the concrete, more than 90 percent—90 percent—of synthetic drug disruptions enabled by the CIA in 2025 relied on section 702 information. Synthetic drug disruptions—that is operations targeting fentanyl and fentanyl analogs, poison intended for America’s streets. The CIA reports that one raid alone supported by section 702 resulted in the seizure of more than 1 metric ton of fentanyl pills from a facility in Mexico.

And drug disruption is just one activity supported by 702 information.

Section 702 provided intelligence that helped prevent a terrorist attack at a Taylor Swift concert. It enabled law enforcement to warn potential U.S. victims of ransomware attacks planned by North Korea. It helped enable the successful mission against al-Qaida’s top leader, Ayman al-Zawahiri, in 2022. It has identified threats to U.S. troops and provided information key in pursuing the release of Americans held hostage abroad.

The list goes on. Suffice it to say that section 702 plays a vital role in providing intelligence to protect our country.

We have considered multiple 702 reauthorizations since the program’s inception, and each time there is a robust discussion of the program and its safeguards to ensure that civil liberties are protected in the collection of vital intelligence. Two years ago, a bipartisan coalition of Senators voted to reauthorize this program with 56 bipartisan reforms that have now been fully implemented by the Trump administration. The result is that 702 is the most overseen intelligence collection tool in the world.

Over the past several weeks, both Senate Democrats and Republicans have been working on a section 702 reauthorization in good faith. The bill released by Chairmen COTTON and GRASSLEY last week includes additional bipartisan reforms over and above those included in the House-passed bill and over and above the robust guardrails already in place to ensure that 702 operates within the law and with respect for civil liberties.

On Friday, I would have expected those Democrats who have been working with us to vote to advance the bill. After all, some of the provisions in the bill were included at their request. But they didn’t. Why? Because they disagree with a short-term personnel choice made by the President: his temporary appointment for Acting Director of National Intelligence.

Democrats have every right to disagree with the President’s choice for this position, no matter how short-term the appointment is likely to be, but I invite my Democrat colleagues to think about what they are doing here in holding this vital intelligence collection program hostage because they don’t like the President’s temporary—temporary—DNI pick.

I have talked at some length here today about the critical role that section 702 plays on a near daily basis in protecting Americans from a range of threats. And you don’t have to take my word for it. The top Democrat on the Senate Intelligence Committee has also made it clear that he regards section 702 as a key intelligence source. And yet he and a number of his colleagues are holding up reauthorization because they disagree with the President’s, again, temporary DNI pick.

Without Democrat cooperation, in 4 days, the section 702 program will go dark. America’s enemies, however, will not—will not—go dark. They will continue working against the United States, whether that is conducting cyber attacks, planning terrorist activity, or trafficking fentanyl and other deadly drugs into our country. The only difference is that our intelligence Agencies will have a greatly reduced capacity to discover these activities.

I hope my Democrat colleagues will rethink their decision to hold the 702 program hostage before we all have cause to regret the consequences.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The majority whip.

WORKING FAMILIES TAX CUT ACT

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, the Working Families Tax Cut law has put more money in people’s pockets and pocketbooks. It made a real difference when people filed their taxes this year. Refunds went up; taxes went down. Working families kept more of the money that they had earned.

Over 60 million American families have benefited from at least one of the new tax cuts that the Republicans passed this past year. Over a million Americans benefited from no tax on car loan interest—average deduction \$1,800. Over 7 million Americans benefited from no tax on tips—average deduction \$7,000.

Twenty-nine million Americans benefited from no tax on overtime—average deduction there \$3,100.

Thirty-five million Americans benefited from the senior deduction on Social Security—average deduction there \$7,500.

And that is not all, 40 million American families benefited from the child tax credit. They were able to deduct \$2,200 for each of their children. The Department of Treasury confirmed that about 97 percent of Americans received a tax cut this year.

People who benefited the most were Americans earning less than \$200,000 a year. Every single Democrat in this

Chamber, every single one of them, voted against every one of these popular tax cuts. The Democrats, what did they vote for? They voted for raising taxes by \$4 trillion. It would have been the largest tax increase in American history. That is what the Democrats stand for. Higher taxes, less money in people's pockets, more money in the coffers of the government.

Now, this is the fundamental difference between Republicans and Democrats. Democrats want to raise your taxes; Republicans want you to keep more of your hard-earned money.

Some of the biggest benefits of the Working Families Tax Cut law are still ahead. I know many people worry about the future, especially if they have children. They want their children to get ahead, not just get by. That is why we have created Trump accounts as part of the Working Families Tax Cut law.

They are brand new, and they are investment accounts. And on July 4, Trump accounts go live. Accounts for newborn children, children born this year, start with a thousand dollars already in the account. Children own the account. Parents or trusted guardians are the custodians.

Accounts work like a traditional individual retirement account. They are built to kick-start the American dream for that next generation coming behind us.

Beginning the 4th of July, every child's Trump account will be able to accept additional contributions on top of the thousand dollars that they start with, and that can be up to \$5,000 each year. Parents, family members, grandparents, churches, community groups, and even employers can contribute—and many are committed to do so. Announcements have already been made. Michael Dell the CEO of Dell Technologies, he has pledged to contribute \$6 billion to Trump accounts for all American children.

In Wyoming, I am grateful that the cryptocurrency exchange Kraken has committed to make a contribution to the Trump account for every child born in Wyoming this year.

Other companies are talking about following suit around the country. Other businesses are following their lead, so are community groups; so are churches. So imagine this, years from now your son or daughter walks into the bank and they use their Trump account to put the downpayment on their first home or your son or daughter starts that small business they have been dreaming about using the Trump account or they simply let the investment continue to grow until they retire.

This is the future that Trump accounts are built to deliver to the American people. The best part is these accounts are easy to set up, easy to track, easy to use. Signing up for a Trump account is free and it is simple. Six million children have already been signed up for Trump accounts.

I have spoken with several people who have gone through the signup process; they say it took less than 5 minutes. Trump accounts put children's financial future where it should be: directly into the hands of the American people. They give that next generation something we all would like, a headstart on the future that no one can take away.

This is the essence of the Trump accounts. It is one of the important prospects for the future that we foresaw and put into the Working Families Tax Cut law that every Democrat voted against.

So independence for all these Americans begins on the 4th of July.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

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.

WORKING FAMILIES TAX CUT ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I listened to my colleague from Wyoming, my friend Senator BARRASSO, talk about the benefits of the Trump policies when it comes to American families.

I don't know the situation in his home State of Wyoming, but let me tell you the situation in most States in the Union, including my home State. American families are struggling. They don't believe the Trump policies are giving them any relief from what they face on a day-to-day basis.

I wonder when the last time was that Members of the Senate filled up a tank of gasoline in their home States and realized that the dramatic increase in cost is working a real hardship, particularly on working families in lower and middle-income jobs. They are struggling to get by paycheck to paycheck, and now they have gasoline bills they never anticipated. There is no end in sight. And to talk about relief for American families and ignore the cost of gasoline is really to ignore the obvious.

The same thing is true when it comes to utility bills. In my State, utility bills are up 15 percent this year over last year. There are a lot of reasons for it, and they have been explained over and over on the floor. The bottom line is that there is no Trump policy addressing this issue—particularly no policy that really is moving us toward renewable and sustainable sources of energy for generations to come.

How about the price of groceries? The tariff policies of this administration have led to a protest by farmers across the United States. These tariff policies hurt their ability to compete in the

world market. That is why the President recently went to the Midwest in the hopes of salvaging his reputation with farmers in rural communities.

For the Senator from Wyoming to come to the floor and talk about the benefits to American families is to ignore the increased costs of groceries that people put up with every day.

What the Senator didn't mention as well is that the big beautiful Trump budget bill also made some dramatic changes when it came to the cost of healthcare for American citizens. The idea of cutting \$1 trillion out of the Medicaid Program over the next several years is not only going to create a hardship on people with illness, but it is also going to create a hardship on providers.

Already in my State, where many rural hospitals and inner-city hospitals struggle to keep their doors open, the notion of these cutbacks in Medicaid means not only fewer treatments for those who are sick and need medical care, but it also means, when it comes to these hospitals and clinics that are really a life-and-death proposition, their survival is in doubt.

Talking about the future for American families—the future starts with healthcare that is quality healthcare that you can afford.

Do you recall when the Republicans, in their big beautiful budget bill, decided that they were going to cut back the tax benefits for people to help pay for their health insurance premiums? How can that be of any lasting, positive value for families across America? It creates a real hardship that they have to deal with.

So I think coming to the floor and talking about tax policies in decades to come is interesting and worthy of note, but it certainly doesn't address the reality of what American families are facing in Illinois, Wyoming, and across the United States. That is the reality.

IRAN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on a separate note, Sunday marked 100 days since President Trump launched his war on Iran. What was true at the beginning of the conflict is still true: There is no evidence that the President has a coherent plan to resolve this quagmire of his own making.

On Sunday, the President assured the Nation in an interview that he was "very close to a deal." If that sounds like a familiar refrain, it is. President Trump has been saying some variation on that sentence every week since the war began over 100 days ago.

Yet, just hours after he made those comments, Iran and Israel traded a new wave of strikes, and the Houthis—an Iranian-backed militia—fired on Israel and threatened to further restrict shipping in the Middle East.

While this latest exchange has ended, thank goodness, the larger regional instability remains. Global oil reserves continue to diminish by the hour. And