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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ALAN ARMSTRONG, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we praise Your holy Name. Forgive us for the times when our fear has been greater than our faith, when worries have overshadowed our trust, and when we have looked more at our circumstances than at Your promises. Strengthen our hearts and renew our confidence in You, knowing that You are able to do more than we can ask or imagine.

Lord, remind our lawmakers that You are the same God who has guided Your people through every step, the same God who makes a way when there seems to be no way, and the same God whose grace is sufficient for every trial they face. When burdens grow heavy, teach our Senators to cast their cares on You, trusting that You care for them.

We pray in Your wonderful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 10, 2026.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ALAN ARMSTRONG, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ARMSTRONG thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Anthony J. Powell, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

WORKING FAMILIES TAX CUT ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, it has been almost a year since Republicans passed the Working Families Tax Cut,

1 year since Republicans delivered permanent tax relief to the American people and put more money in their pockets.

I am proud to say that it is working. At the start of this year, hard-working Americans saw their take-home pay go up as the new tax law took effect. They saw its impact again in April when they filed their taxes. Many Americans saw a significant boost in their tax refunds.

The New York Times interviewed three dozen Americans, who reported that "many of the taxpayers said they had received their largest refund in years," allowing them to pay down debt, save more, or cover the cost of a vacation or a new bed.

Last week, we got yet more news that shows that the Working Families Tax Cut is working. The Treasury Department released data showing that 97 percent of Americans who filed taxes this last year actually got a tax cut. Take a look at that. That is a pretty stunning number, if you think about it—97 percent. Thanks to the Working Families Tax Cut, 97 percent of taxpayers got a tax cut this year, collectively saving about \$82 billion on their tax bills.

And who was it—who was it—that benefited from the Working Families Tax Cut? Well, I will give you a hint. It is in the name: working families. Almost every one of the 97 percent of American taxpayers who saw a tax cut this year earned less than \$200,000. Nearly 70 percent earned less than \$100,000.

So if you take a look at this chart, you will be able to see just exactly what I am talking about. If you look at the dark-blue line, those are the number of people who are making less than \$100,000 a year who benefited from the new tax deductions in this bill. And if you look at the light one, that is the number of people under \$200,000 who got a benefit. I will get into each of those specifics here in just a minute,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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but I think it is important to point out that the beneficiaries of the Working Families Tax Cut were working families. In other words, the Americans benefiting from this bill were people who got up every day to go to work to provide for their families. They are not rich. They are people who spend nights at the kitchen table putting together their budgets, trying to make ends meet and save a little bit for the future. And that is who Republicans were thinking about when we wrote the Working Families Tax Cut, and as the numbers show, that is who is benefiting.

I have said that the Working Families Tax Cut is about putting more money in hard-working Americans' pockets, and that is exactly what this bill did. It let working Americans keep more of their hard-earned money—money that they would have had to send to the IRS if not for the Working Families Tax Cut and that they can now spend, invest, and save as they see fit.

The Working Families Tax Cut delivered real taxing savings to the American people through a number of tax relief policies. Permanent lower tax rates reduced Americans' tax burdens across the board, and the now permanently doubled standard deduction helped 127 million Americans reduce and simplify their taxes this year.

Nearly 40 million families claimed the newly enhanced \$2,200 child tax credit in 2025. And as you can see from the chart, almost all of those families had incomes below \$200,000. And I said before, two-thirds earned less than \$100,000. And again, that is from the enhanced child tax credit, which is the bottom number down there.

A New York Times story in April on this year's larger tax refunds highlighted Nicole Mendoza, a 68-year-old Georgian who "works a couple of shifts a week at a Cracker Barrel in Canton, Ga., to supplement her Social Security income and savings. All told, Ms. Mendoza said, she earned about \$38,000 last year and paid \$551 in federal income taxes."

And Ms. Mendoza told the Times:

I got back every penny.

This year, millions of hard-working Americans like Ms. Mendoza were eligible for additional tax relief thanks to the Working Families Tax Cut. Americans earning between \$100,000 and \$200,000 last year who took advantage of new tax relief in this bill saw an average tax cut of \$1,250. Older Americans were able to take advantage of the enhanced senior deduction, which helped 35 million seniors this past year.

And 7.5 million tipped workers were able to take advantage of no tax on tips. Fully 90 percent of Americans who took advantage of no tax on tips earned less than \$100,000; 99 percent—99 percent—earned less than \$200,000.

So if you look at the tipped wages, the number there on top, the dark-blue bar represents the number of people who were making less than \$100,000 who

benefited from no tax on tips. The lighter-blue bar represents the number of people making less than \$200,000 in their income this year who benefited from no tax on tips.

So look at that. I mean, 90 percent of people—90 percent of people—who get tipped wages and get the benefit of no tax on tips made less than \$100,000 a year, and 99 percent, less than \$200,000 a year. That is pretty stunning, if you think about it, if you talk about actually working families out there, people who are trying to make ends meet. And those numbers, I think, represent just how important that particular provision was in the bill, and the savings they are seeing is significant.

A bartender in Beloit, WI, said that he more than doubled his Federal tax refund. Katie, who is a DoorDash driver in Oklahoma, said:

It increased my refund from \$300 to \$2,000.

Another DoorDash driver in Oregon said:

[No Tax on Tips] has changed life. I worry less about being able to cover all my expenses and I am able to work less which is better for my health and family.

That is the Working Families Tax Cut in action. And I haven't even talked about no tax on overtime, which, like everything else I have talked about this morning, is overwhelmingly benefiting middle- and lower-income Americans.

Last year, Republicans promised to deliver lower tax bills for hard-working Americans, and the data released last week proves that is exactly—exactly—what this bill does. The Working Families Tax Cut is delivering for working Americans.

As they have every time that Republicans have lowered taxes for working people, Democrats have resurrected their dusty, old talking points about tax cuts for the rich. I can't count the number of times that I have heard a Democrat Senator say this bill was just about tax cuts for billionaires.

Well, look at the data. Does this look like a billionaire tax cut to you? Seventy-five percent of Americans taking the overtime deduction made less than \$100,000 a year; 90 percent of those taking no tax on tips made less than \$100,000 a year; and 97 percent of Americans who filed their taxes this year got a tax cut. This is real tax relief for hard-working Americans, and the American people are seeing it with their own eyes.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

ECONOMY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this morning's inflation numbers reaffirm what the American people already know: Trumpflation is getting worse and worse, with no end in sight. Trumpflation hit 4.2 percent last month, a 3-year high. Another month of Trump's illegal Iran war, another month of Trump's tariffs, another month of Republican control of Congress, and what does America get? A new alltime high for Trumpflation.

Just about everything is getting more expensive. In the past year, the price of fresh produce has gone up 6 percent; meat, 7.6; electricity, 6; airfare, 26.7; and gasoline by a staggering 45-percent increase.

Is it any wonder that polling this week found that 70 percent—70 percent—of American voters disapprove of Trump's handling of the cost of living? That number includes a whole lot of Republicans.

Donald Trump promised to lower costs on day one, but nearly 17 months since taking office, he and his MAGA majorities in Congress haven't lifted a finger to lower Americans' costs.

But let's be clear. Republicans aren't just failing to address the affordability crisis; they are making it worse—actively making it worse. Republicans are driving up costs with their expensive tariff tax, with their disastrous war with Iran that is leading to record-breaking gas prices, with their trillion-dollar cut to healthcare, and with the rest of this radical, hard-right agenda that so miserves the American people.

Trump's tariffs are costing American families more than \$1,700 a year on average. American families have had to pay an additional \$750 on average during these past few months just to meet skyrocketing costs of gasoline because of the Iran war.

Instead of focusing on helping Americans weather this dire financial moment, Republicans are helping Donald Trump get even richer. As Americans' costs go up, Donald Trump keeps putting his hand into the till to make money for himself and his family.

Republicans are more concerned with Trump's golden ballroom than with helping Americans afford housing. Republicans would rather give taxpayer-funded payouts to Trump and his cronies through his MAGA slush fund than help Americans put food on the table. Republicans continue to fight for Trump and his corruption rather than lower costs for working families.

WILLIAM PULTE

Mr. President, on Pulte, last night, Donald Trump characteristically and stupidly doubled down on his reckless decision to appoint Bill Pulte as Acting Director of National Intelligence.

The law, of course, requires the DNI to have extensive experience in national security, but Pulte doesn't have any. DNI—Director of National Intelligence—isn't an entry-level position, but Donald Trump is treating it like one by appointing Pulte. The only experience Pulte has is helping Donald