

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

Trump wage a crusade against Trump's political enemies.

At a time when our Nation is at war and is preparing for massive security events like the World Cup and America's 250th anniversary, we need a DNI who is committed to telling hard truths, not one who is committed to telling Donald Trump whatever he wants to hear.

This is dangerous. This could be disastrous, having Pulte in charge.

NOMINATION OF DAVID M. PROUTY

Mr. President, now on David Prouty's nomination to the NLRB, today, the Senate HELP Committee will consider the nomination of David Prouty to continue serving on the National Labor Relations Board.

From his time working for the Major League Baseball Players Association to his tenure as general counsel for UNITE HERE! and for an SEIU local that represented 175,000 workers, Prouty has spent a lifetime defending the rights of organized labor across the country. For the past 5 years, Prouty has been a force for reason and a voice for workers on the NLRB even as Republicans tried to undermine that vital institution—hurt working families and hurt the unions that represent them.

Between August 2025 and January 2026, Prouty served as the only sitting member of the NLRB after Trump's unprecedented purge of the Board's only other Democratic member, a great member, Gwynne Wilcox and the expiration of the Chair's term. Trump's gutting of the NLRB paralyzed it for the better part of a year until it regained a quorum.

While I am pleased Prouty was nominated for another term, Trump continues to try to undermine our workers and their right to organize by trying to stack the NLRB with partisan loyalists committed to shielding employers from accountability.

I urge my colleagues to support Prouty's nomination so that workers have someone who will speak up for them on the NLRB for years to come.

COMMISSIONERS LETTER

Mr. President, on our Commissioners letter, in addition to his attacks on the NLRB, Donald Trump has refused to nominate and confirm Democratic Commissioners and Board members to vacancies at numerous Agencies that are required by law to have bipartisan members. It is outrageous.

Every other Republican President has gone along with the fact that there have to be a number of Democrats on these Boards. Every other Democratic President has gone along with the fact that there have to be Republicans. Only Trump, once again, has smashed these positive, bipartisan values.

So today, I join our Senate Democratic ranking members in calling on Trump and Leader Thune to start following the law and stop refusing to nominate or confirm these Commissioners.

Shortly after taking office, Trump launched an unprecedented purge of

over a dozen Democratic Commissioners and Board members across the Federal Government—officials who uphold election security, protect consumers, keep our roads safe, and perform other vital services for America. Trump removed these officials without a second thought and has either left these crucial positions vacant or filled them with MAGA loyalists committed to serving him rather than serving the American people.

Democrats will continue to call out Republicans for trying to undermine these Agencies and the crucial services they provide to Americans every day.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina). Without objection, it is so ordered.

WAIVING QUORUM CALLS

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum calls with respect to the Powell and Dahl nominations.

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

AGRICULTURE

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, this is the 250th anniversary year of the founding of the United States of America—the greatest Nation the world has ever seen. Agriculture has been a part of this country since our founding, and agriculture is the heart and soul of what we do in Nebraska. We must always work to support our farmers and ranchers. It is a privilege for me to be able to do so as a Senator from the great State of Nebraska.

However, these are tough times in our industry of agriculture. We have seen widespread drought and wildfires. We have seen commodity prices in corn and soybeans be depressed and input prices be high. This puts a lot of pressure on our farming families.

We, also, as recently as in the last day or so, have seen more wildfires in the State of Nebraska, in the northwest portion of our State, around Chadron and Fort Robinson. Our Governor is taking the appropriate action to be able to help fight these fires. But it is in very rugged terrain, and it is going to be difficult for our firefighters there. So I ask that all Nebraskans and Americans keep the firefighters and all of those who have been impacted by these fires in their thoughts and prayers as we go through it.

One of the other challenges we are now facing in agriculture has to do with one of the bright spots in our industry, and that is the beef industry. Now, the beef industry is the No. 1 industry in the State of Nebraska—we are the beef State—but this industry is being threatened by the New World screwworm. This is a parasite that we

had wiped out back in the 1960s and that is now making a reappearance. In fact, we have had six confirmed cases—five in Texas and one in New Mexico. They are in livestock, but in the case in New Mexico, it actually involves a dog. This is why Mexico is taking the steps to prevent all livestock from coming across the border, including pet dogs. It is to prevent the spread of the New World screwworm.

Today, I am sending a letter to our Ag Secretary, Brooke Rollins, to encourage her to continue to expedite the steps we are taking to combat the New World screwworm. The way we do that is by producing sterile flies that ultimately then wipe out the population here in this country, like we did before.

Panama has the only facility in North America right now that is capable of producing these sterile flies, while Mexico is set to have a facility come online later this summer. Panama is producing about 100 million screwworm sterile flies right now, and Mexico is distributing those. The USDA is distributing about 8 million a week in the affected areas of Texas right now. So we are trying to combat that right now. The USDA is also investing another \$750 million in a facility at Moore Air Force Base, near Edinburg, TX, so that, when it comes along, it will be able to produce about 300 million screwworm flies a week to be able to help combat this.

With the roughly 100 million a week that are being distributed right now, we are working on it. But to get there, we need to have more. This is where the USDA's investment is so critical to be able to help combat this. I appreciate the work that Secretary Rollins and the USDA are doing. I encourage them to continue to expedite this so we can combat this disease.

I would also point out that all of these investments are in addition to what the Senate Republicans did in the Working Families Tax Cut last year, wherein we added to the programs with regard to animal biosecurity and parasite mitigation. We actually were able to add about \$233 million a year to the USDA's budget in three different programs, which is seven times the level of funding that was being done before—again, all of this to help make sure we continue to protect our strong agricultural industry in the United States. Of course, as I always remind people, food security is national security.

In addition, one of the things that we have been able to do is to have Secretary Rollins and Under Secretary Fordyce come to Nebraska to see the damage that was done by the previous wildfires. The previous wildfires burned about a million acres in Nebraska and displaced tens of thousands of cattle—sadly, costing the life of one Nebraskan who was caught in that fire.

One of the things farmers and ranchers have told us is that they need to have flexibility and not regulatory red-tape when it comes to this recovery. I am happy to report that the USDA is