

be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, notwithstanding rule XXII, the postcloture time with respect to Executive Calendar No. 765 be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, tomorrow; finally, that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. Mr. President, this weekend, my eldest son Theodore—Teddy—is going to graduate from college.

Over the past couple of decades, I have been lucky to serve as mayor of Denver, as Governor of Colorado, and now as a U.S. Senator, but the greatest title of all is "Dad." Teddy and now my 3½-year-old son Jack give my life and my public service real meaning.

Like millions of parents, I catch myself thinking about them and their future constantly. Will Teddy's generation be able to afford a home? Will our healthcare system still be a broken mess when they have to take their own kids to the hospital? Will the hiking trails I took Teddy on as a boy still be there when he has children? These aren't just my worries; they are the worries of many Coloradans.

Americans were right to be frustrated before President Trump took office. Our country was recovering from a global pandemic. Costs were too high. Help was too slow. So when President Trump came along and made promises—no more expensive wars, lower costs on day one, a government that finally works for working people—Americans took the deal. But President Trump didn't just fail to keep his promises, he broke them, and now Americans are paying the price.

The President promised no more expensive, deadly wars. Instead, we are

stuck with a war in Iran with no exit, no strategy, no end in sight. Every time you fill up your gas tank or buy your groceries, you are paying the price.

The President promised lower costs on day one. A year and a half later, household debt has hit a record-breaking \$18.8 trillion—\$18.8 trillion in terms of household debt. The average American household has \$105,000 in consumer debt, and families are spending money they don't have on necessities they can't go without.

The President promised a government that worked for Americans. Instead, he gutted Medicaid and our healthcare coverage. He slashed food assistance. He dismantled programs designed precisely for moments like these when families are already underwater. It is as if President Trump started a wildfire for the American people and then took away every bucket of water.

I hear from Coloradans every single day, and for years—long before this administration—they have been telling me the same three things: I can't afford to get sick. I can't afford my rent. I am scared about the kind of world my children will be inheriting.

While President Trump is busy spending trillions on bombs, ballrooms, and billionaires, my colleagues and I are trying to solve real problems—the ones Coloradans tell us about every day.

When Coloradans told us they couldn't make the rent, we got to work. Over my first 5½ years in the Senate, we secured over \$800 million from the bipartisan infrastructure law and congressionally directed spending for affordable housing in Colorado. That money turned a Durango Best Western into apartments. It delivered badly needed workforce housing in Alamosa, CO. It helped convert the Stay Inn in Denver into housing for the homeless.

We have heard from Coloradans who have risked their lives to afford healthcare—stretching their prescriptions, skipping the ER, and avoiding pricey ambulance rides—so when we wrote the Inflation Reduction Act, we allowed Medicare to negotiate drug prices for the first time ever, and we capped the cost of insulin at 35 bucks.

Americans couldn't afford their premiums, so we expanded the Affordable Care Act tax credits, which helped lower costs by \$2,400 a year for millions of Americans. That is \$200 a month.

Across the State, we met with communities ravaged by drought and wildfire. We knew we needed to adapt to our hot, dry future. We need to do a better job of adapting to that hotter and dryer future, so we passed the Inflation Reduction Act, the single largest climate investment in human history—\$4 billion for the Colorado River Basin, hundreds of billions of dollars in clean energy that created jobs and lowered energy costs. Then we created the Colorado River Caucus in the Senate to

help conserve the West's most significant and scarce resource.

That is what governing actually looks like. It is putting Coloradans at the center of everything we do. And when this administration threatened to take it all away, we fought at every turn. When they slashed \$1 trillion from Americans' healthcare to pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans and corporations, we refused to fund their corrupt government. When they moved to sell off 3 million acres of our public lands to pay for tax breaks for the billionaires, we stopped them in their tracks because Colorado's public lands are not for sale—not now, not ever. And just last week, when they tried to pass a taxpayer-funded slush fund for election criminals, we stood up.

Time and time again, we fought this administration—not over politics; we fight because Colorado's pain should never be their profit.

Good government isn't flashy. Good government is built on thankless hours spent fighting to keep people at the table without bullying or bribing, without compromising our values to get there. That is the only way we are going to pull Americans out of this mess. It starts by helping Americans get their heads above water and then building a country that actually works for them.

We will end the tariffs and the war that are driving up costs for everybody, because a family in Grand Junction shouldn't be paying high prices at the grocery store for this administration's reckless policy decisions.

We need to restore the healthcare this administration cut. Then we need to go further: We need to get and fully operate universal health coverage.

I recently spoke with a Coloradan whose husband put off chemotherapy so she could get lifesaving surgery. They couldn't afford for both of them to have health insurance in both cases, so it became a tradeoff that no family should be making. No family—not just in Colorado but anywhere in the country—should be making that kind of a tradeoff in the wealthiest country in the world.

This administration told Americans you can't lower costs and protect our resources. Their bright solution? Send energy costs through the roof while the Colorado River runs dry. That is not a tradeoff; it is a failure. The only way forward is a clean energy economy that lowers your bills and keeps Colorado's farms, forests, and rivers healthy for the next generation.

This weekend, my son is going to cross the stage and start his adult life. Back in Denver, Jack is probably outside somewhere covered in dirt—after all, his first word was "dirt." The reason I believe my kids are going to be OK is the same reason I believe yours will be too: America never gives up. From Gettysburg to Selma, from Ludlow to Minneapolis—each time Americans face adversity, we grow stronger.

I see it in Colorado every week: neighbors showing up to help each other, protecting each other, sharing what they have—food, childcare, a bed to sleep in—even when they don't have that much themselves. It is that spirit that gives me hope for my children's future and yours. It is the American spirit. It is the spirit that this administration can't defund, can't destroy.

Here is my promise to Colorado and to our country—one that can't be broken: If you are willing to roll up your sleeves and take on the tough fights, there is no peril, no problem, no President that we can't overcome.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today marks the 308th time that I have stood on the Senate floor and asked my colleagues to wake up to the realities of climate change.

This also marks 308 times that my Republican colleagues have ignored my call to wake up. They even refuse to acknowledge the simple truths that the climate is changing, oceans are warming, sea levels are rising, and our fossil fuel emissions are the principal cause.

In the last several weeks, Republicans have sent someone to the floor to object each time I sought unanimous consent to pass a resolution affirming these very simple truths.

The Senate's record of failure profoundly disappoints me. In fact, it angers me. I am angry on behalf of the homeowners in Florida, Louisiana, back home in Rhode Island, and across the country who are paying double or triple what they used to for property insurance because climate risk is making floods, storms, and wildfires more frequent and severe.

I am angry that these same families are paying more than ever for groceries due to increasingly frequent and severe droughts, heat waves, floods, and storms.

This is a tragedy. But, worse, it is a preventable tragedy. Ignoring it will not make climate change go away; it will leave Americans poorer and American communities more vulnerable and less prepared.

America can do big things. Our history shows that. And I believe a challenge of the magnitude of climate change justifies congressional action.

So here I still am, speaking because I still believe in the power of this body to take action, to serve the people whom we took an oath to serve, and to use the awesome power that our constituents have granted us to solve the greatest problems facing our country today.

This is a significant anniversary. Republican Senator John Chafee, whose distinguished career in the Senate spanned from 1976 to 1999, and who also served as Governor of my State and Secretary of the Navy, shared my belief.

On a note of personal disclosure, when he and my father both came back from World War II as marines from the Pacific theater, they ended up as roommates in college. So there is some personal family affection there, as well as professional appreciation.

Well, exactly 40 years ago this week, while serving as chair of the Senate Environment and Public Works Subcommittee on Environmental Pollution, Senator Chafee convened a 2-day, 5-panel hearing on the greenhouse effect, climate change, and ozone depletion. Senator Chafee believed Congress had a role in addressing both the hole in the ozone layer and the rising temperatures and global disruptions caused by climate change.

The 1986 Chafee hearing witnesses included scientists and policymakers—among them, Dr. James Hansen, who went on to become a leading advocate for decisive climate action and served NASA with great distinction; Dr. Michael Oppenheimer, later an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change participant and Nobel prize recipient; and even then-Senator Al Gore of Tennessee. Also testifying were President Reagan's EPA Administrator, Lee Thomas, and his Commerce Deputy Secretary, Clarence Brown.

In Senator Chafee's opening remarks, he warned of what he called two "critical problems facing the world." First was "the growing use of manmade chemicals" that were significantly depleting the ozone layer, and second was the "buildup of greenhouse gases, which threaten to warm the Earth to unprecedented levels."

Those problems had to be addressed, Senator Chafee warned 40 years ago, because—and I will continue with his words here—"there is a very real possibility that man—through ignorance or indifference, or both—is irreversibly altering the ability of our atmosphere to perform basic life support functions for the planet."

He asked the scientists to educate the public on the scientific consensus on ozone depletion and climate change, and he urged the government officials to take immediate action to, as he said, "put the brakes on" these looming crises and ensure a livable planet for future generations. Notably, Ronald Reagan's appointees acknowledged the climate crisis and agreed to take action.

This is not the first time I have brought this graph to the Senate floor. This is the so-called Keeling Curve, well known in science circles. This chart shows the change in carbon dioxide concentration in the Earth's atmosphere. As you can see, it has accelerated rapidly since 1950.

Last month, the Member whom the Republicans sent to the floor to object to my statement of the science made the point that CO₂ levels have naturally fluctuated over many, many years of geologic time. Well, yeah, that is true.

Here is what that looks like. This is 800,000 years ago—800,000 years ago. For

the last 800,000 years, the carbon concentration in the atmosphere has never gone above 300 parts per million. It has varied up and down. But something very, very different happened when our Industrial Revolution began and we started emitting massive amounts of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, like methane, into the atmosphere. There it is—up like a rocket. The notion that this can be explained by that is just plain preposterous.

This is also not the first time I have come to the floor to speak about the 1986 Chafee hearings. I did so 10 years ago, in 2016, to mark those hearings' 30th anniversary. Then, as now, I reflected not only on the reality of climate science, which is virtually undisputed except among those on fossil fuel's payroll, and the climate costs that have accrued since 1986. But I also spoke about the shocking transformation of the Republican Party from the 1980s to today.

In June of 1986, a Republican Senator, concerned by the same data that I am sharing with you now, committed to immediate and urgent action. He directed a panel of Ronald Reagan-appointed officials to outline their plans to address the crisis, and they did so. At that time, the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere was approximately 348 parts per million.

In June of 2016, when I recognized the 30th anniversary of this hearing, the fossil fuel billionaire-backed Supreme Court had just stayed the Clean Power Plan, EPA's first-ever attempt to regulate greenhouse gas emissions from powerplants. Then-Candidate Donald Trump promised to rescind the Clean Power Plan when he got into office, and the U.S. House of Representatives voted to officially denounce a carbon price. They went to bat to protect the freedom to pollute for their fossil fuel donors.

In 2016, the concentration of CO₂ had climbed from 348 parts per million to 404 parts per million. These are measurements, by the way, not opinions.

Today, President Trump, approaching the halfway point of his second term, calls climate change a "hoax." Hoax. His EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin rescinded EPA's greenhouse gas endangerment finding—an action flatly at odds with known science and with the law—and then celebrated what he called "driving a dagger straight into the heart of the climate change religion." Really.

And to bring things full circle, earlier this spring, 40 years after a senior Reagan administration Commerce official acknowledged the reality of climate change, today's Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, a strident opponent of affordable renewable energy, denies the science. The Republican Party steps backward.

Today, as I speak, the concentration of CO₂ in the atmosphere is north of 430 parts per million—348, up to 404, and