

given how out of touch Trump is, given how he talks about loving inflation while the American people are suffering, that some of our Republican colleagues would have the guts to cross the aisle and join us in fighting this inflation. But instead, silence, fear, knees knocking because they are afraid of Trump.

Well, we will see how much Trump and the GOP love inflation come November.

STOCK BUYBACK ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2026

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on stock buybacks, you know costs are skyrocketing, but corporations are making massive profits. And instead of using the profits to create jobs and invest in growth, corporations too often buy back their own stock to increase its value and reward executives.

I am introducing legislation today with Senators WYDEN and WARREN to rein in the stock buybacks that corporate executives use to line their own pockets to the detriment of the American people. Americans need more jobs and higher wages right now, not more privileges for millionaires and billionaires.

Our bill would quadruple the tax big corporations pay on these stock buybacks, which will both push companies to invest in their workers in the future and allow us to invest more in lowering costs and helping working families get ahead, with some of the money we could use when you collect that 4 percent on stock buybacks.

While Trump and Senate Republicans don't have any plan to lower Americans' costs—in fact, their policies are doing the opposite—Democrats continue to fight back against corporate giveaways and push for solutions to help the American people deal with skyrocketing costs in Trump's economy.

Let's not forget, if you are the CEO of a company and you are often measured by your stock price, buybacks raise that stock price. The damn shame of it all is those buybacks don't create a single new job or an investment in workers or an investment in equipment to increase productivity and produce more.

No. They simply raise the stock price, which benefits corporate executives and shareholders but not the American public.

So we ought to, at the very minimum, raise the tax which was put on at 1 percent to now 4 percent. And in addition, it will bring in revenues to the Federal Government, hopefully, that we can use to help lower costs for the American people. That is certainly what we would do.

WILLIAM PULTE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now on Bill Pulte. The whole job of the Director of National Intelligence is to

keep America safe, but Trump's decision to appoint Bill Pulte—someone with absolutely zero relevant experience—is going to put Americans in danger.

Let me repeat, America. With Pulte in charge, we are in danger.

This job is so sensitive, we need real leadership in the intelligence community, not a national security novice sent to undermine the work of intelligence professionals. That is what Pulte is expert in. Trump has an enemy, he goes after them, even if the facts don't merit it. Look what he did to my attorney general in New York Letitia James, and with so many others, including Cook at the Federal Reserve.

He is just a hit man in a certain sense, a financial sense. And it is outrageous. He has no fidelity to fact. He is just a yes-man to Trump. Trump says: Go after one of my enemies—and Pulte does.

No one in their right mind would trust Bill Pulte, a person nicknamed "Little Trump" by his administration colleagues to speak truth to power, to conduct objective analysis, to resist efforts to politicize the intelligence community.

In a job where facts are so important and the President knowing the real facts is so important, to have this man who has no fidelity to facts in this job, again, is very dangerous for the American people.

Trump and Republicans need to put an adult in the room. Bill Pulte is not the man for the job, and my Republican colleagues know it.

IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on Iran, for weeks, Donald Trump, Pete Hegseth, and Marco Rubio have insisted their disastrous war in Iran is over. How stupid do they think the American people are?

This morning, Trump said he plans to take Kharg Island, which could even mean putting American boots on the ground. It doesn't take a military genius to see that Trump's fiasco of a war with Iran never ended, not with American helicopters being shot down, not when American bases are being attacked and American troops are coming under fire.

Saying this war is over is an insult—an insult—to the brave American servicemen who are risking their lives every day to fight it.

The only thing more absurd than the Trump administration's lies about the Iran war is that Republicans accept them at face value and just go along—too many, too many of them.

For months, Democrats have urged Republicans to support our War Powers Resolution to end this war for real. And for months, Republicans have failed to do so. Americans have made it clear they don't want this war. They don't want the high costs, gasoline and fertilizer and everything else that

comes with it. And Trump has made it clear he is incapable of cleaning up this mess.

You just have to listen to his statements over a period of a few days, and they completely contradict each other. Typical of Trump. He doesn't care if he says one thing one day and says the total opposite thing the next day. The American people know he is lying to them. He doesn't care.

Trump is incapable given his way, his lack of concern for facts, his only concern being his own ego. He is incapable of ending the war, incapable of cleaning up his own mess.

Republicans need to stop buying the BS, show some spine, and help us bring our servicemembers home.

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.

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.

ENERGY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, 12 years ago, Barack Obama drew a target on the back of American energy producers and, specifically, coal. Coal mines were under attack by the Obama administration, and his deliberate goal was to kill clean, affordable coal—the most available, reliable, secure source of energy we have in this Nation.

He tried to do it by shutting down coal mines all across the Nation and do it by shutting down coal powerplants that use that coal. And one of the targets that he painted on the back was that of the Dave Johnston Power Plant in Converse County, WY.

Now, the Dave Johnston Power Plant uses Wyoming coal. Our coal is some of the cleanest, most affordable, most available, most reliable coal in the world. It is low-sulfur coal. People around the world want to use Wyoming coal in coal-fired powerplants. It supports hundreds of good-paying jobs. It delivers affordable, available, reliable energy all across the Rocky Mountain West.

Obama wanted to take a sledgehammer to coal powerplants and, specifically, to the Dave Johnston Power Plant in Wyoming, and it was scheduled to close at the end of 2027.

Now, fortunately, the Trump administration has reversed the Democrats' harmful, heavyhanded regulations. The Dave Johnston Plant will keep its doors open. The jobs will be protected. The power it produces will continue to keep the lights on for families across the West. This is the difference between Democrats and Republicans.

We just heard the minority leader come to the floor and talk about costs. Well, let me tell you, Democrats love

high energy costs because they don't want people to use fossil fuels. They think the higher the energy cost, the fewer fossil fuels will be used. And that is their worshipping of the climate god that they have continued to worship.

That is where we are today. Democrats want coal to remain in the ground. They want to treat coal as something to be punished, taxed, regulated, eliminated.

Here is the difference. Republicans understand national security begins with energy security.

When Joe Biden was President, he told his EPA—his Environmental Protection Agency—to prioritize climate over energy that is affordable, available, and reliable, used by the American people.

President Trump and Republicans see it differently. We put American families and American workers first.

Coal is a key economic driver in Wyoming. Wyoming produces nearly half of the coal in the United States. Wyoming truly is America's energy breadbasket. In Wyoming, the royalties, the taxes from mining their coal pays for education for every child in the State.

Coal mining provides jobs for Wyoming workers. These are good-paying, high-tech jobs.

When powerplants know that they will stay open, when they have that commitment, as they do now from President Trump, our coal producers can plan, can invest, and can produce.

President Trump's actions are going to bring down costs for American families.

And it is not just Americans who want Wyoming coal. Our allies overseas, especially in Asia, want it.

Last week, President Trump made a historic announcement. He announced a \$75 million investment to support building the West Gateway Terminal Project in Oakland, CA. This facility will expand America's ability to export coal. It is also going to support good mining jobs.

Wyoming's Governor, Mark Gordon, joined President Trump in the Oval Office for the announcement. Governor Gordon told the President about his recent trips to Japan and Taiwan. Japan and Taiwan want American coal. They need it to keep their lights on, and they need it to power their own economies.

We have needed a new port and a facility like this on the west coast for a long, long time. One was supposed to be built 13 years ago, and the location was Oakland, CA.

What happened? Well, environmental extremists protested. They blocked the project. They sued. A decade of lawsuits followed.

This is no surprise to the Presiding Officer. You have seen these sorts of things.

The case went all the way to California's Supreme Court, and, finally, the court ruled with the people that want to develop the port. We need it. It is legal, now approved by the court.

So the new West Gateway Terminal has now been approved and is ready to move forward.

With support from President Trump and the Trump administration, Wyoming coal will soon reach hungry Asian markets. This is what unleashing American energy really looks like. Clean Wyoming coal is the best in the world, and now it is going to continue to help power the world.

Democrats talk like coal lives only in the past. They are wrong. Coal is the lifeblood of an affordable, prosperous future.

Demand for energy continues to grow. We need more energy, not less, and Wyoming coal is there to deliver. And I am grateful that President Trump is doing what he is doing.

Wyoming's energy workers and our coal communities now have the certainty that they need to do what they do best, and that is to power the country with coal—coal that is affordable, available, reliable—a secure source of energy for a long, long time to come.

With the President's historic announcement, last week, the President continues to put American workers, American families, and American energy dominance first.

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.

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.

MEDICAID

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, if you or a loved one is diagnosed with a life-altering medical condition, the last thing you want to face is a mountain of government paperwork in order to get your care.

But when Republicans in Congress passed their One Big Beautiful Bill, President Trump's budget—that is what they call it—last year, they placed themselves in the middle of whether or not you get treatment.

In that law, the Republicans created a requirement for all Medicaid recipients between the ages of 18 and 64 to either work 80 hours a month or verify they are too sick to do so in order to maintain Medicaid coverage.

At first glance, that might just sound like a reasonable requirement. The reality is, the plan drowns eligible patients in paperwork, requiring those who are poor and sick to navigate a maze of government redtape to see a doctor.

To qualify for Medicaid, you need to have low or no income or perhaps have a disability. Now the Republicans want to put a paperwork requirement on this to prove that you can't work 80 hours a month.

Last week, the Trump administration took a look at this and decided to

make a bad situation even worse. They announced the rules to implement these work requirements. The administration decided that documenting that you have a serious condition like cancer or Alzheimer's is not enough to avoid work requirements. Instead, they are further requiring patients to verify that these conditions actually impede your ability to work.

In case it is not obvious, a 64-year-old cancer patient, traveling 30 miles each direction every week to undergo chemotherapy, might not have the ability to show up to their shift, waiting tables. Under Republicans' work requirements, one misstep by a patient, provider, or State employee could mean the difference between having health coverage or not. Is this a burden?

What if we suggested that you file your income tax returns not only on April 15 but on October 15 as well—twice a year—to make sure we catch up with you? Is that a burden? Of course, it is.

Have Republicans in Congress really deemed you unworthy of getting cancer treatment because a signature was missing on one of the dozens of pages in the forms you had to submit to prove that you are unable to work?

In addition to creating this work requirement, Republicans in Congress also refused to extend the Affordable Care Act's enhanced premium tax credits in their Big Beautiful Bill—tax breaks for wealthy people but no benefits for those trying to pay their health insurance premiums.

Twenty-four million Americans rely on these tax credits to afford their health insurance, but they expired at the end of last year. Without them, insurance premiums have doubled or tripled for many families, the same families that are struggling to buy groceries, to pay their utility bills, to make sure that they have enough money for rent or mortgage. And how about the cost of gasoline while we are at it? We have decided these folks need to have an additional expense of health insurance premiums, according to my Republican colleagues.

Yesterday, the Chicago Tribune newspaper reported that more than 92,000 people living in my State have lost or dropped their health insurance this year due to the skyrocketing premiums and the Republican policy change eliminating tax benefits to help people pay for their health insurance.

Illinois is no outlier. Millions of Americans nationwide lost their insurance coverage because the Republican decision to change the policy priced them out of care. Listen to one of the stories.

Sharon Dunham, from Grand Rapids, MI, told the Wall Street Journal that she beat cancer twice and has multiple health challenges, but she had to drop her insurance altogether—drop her insurance altogether—this year when her monthly premiums increased by \$300.

With inflation, which the President embraced yesterday and said that he