

the U.S. Senate, and that would be the appropriate way to do it. But you know, when the Senate is only in session about 3 days out of the week, we aren't getting much done with separate pieces of legislation. So something like E15 is going to have to find a home in some other bill—the farm bill, the Defense bill, appropriations bills. But we aren't talking about what that is going to do. I just mentioned three possibilities, and there aren't a whole lot of other possibilities.

There is even talk around here that you don't hear or read in the press, but talk about maybe the government is going to shut down just before the election, that maybe Democrats want the government shut down just before the election. Then, you know what, you get into continuing resolutions, and continuing resolutions are usually what we call clean—nothing added to it.

So let's say we get to October 1 and there are no appropriations bills. Then you have a continuing resolution until Thanksgiving. Then you don't pass appropriations bills and you have a continuing resolution until Christmas. And then Christmas comes and you have a continuing resolution that maybe takes you over into the new calendar year, middle of February. And if those are all clean appropriations bills, where are you going to put E15 if it is not on the farm bill or the Defense bill or appropriations bills?

Now, we have to start thinking about that, both Republicans and Democrats, from farm States that support ethanol. We have to be thinking about what we are going to do if this isn't going to come up as a separate bill on the floor of the U.S. Senate. And I think we had better put our heads together. That is probably at least 28 Senators from grain-growing States in the United States where we grow. At least 14 States, 28 Senators better put our heads together, or we are going to lose the opportunity of getting E15.

It is through the House of Representatives. It is further than it has ever been. And if we miss this opportunity, we may never get E15 and lose that \$14 billion that the economists for the Iowa corn growers tell us that we are going to get—increased price of grain.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive 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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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.

#### SENATE DEMOCRATS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I don't think at this point there are too many

people who think Democrats were actually interested in reforms of Border Patrol and Immigrations and Customs Enforcement because it was pretty clear from their actions that they were not.

If you are interested in getting reforms, you don't say no when you are repeatedly offered a robust reform package, even if you can't get every single thing you want.

But Democrats, of course, said no again and again and again. And eventually, they just walked away completely and refused to provide even a dollar of funding for Border Patrol or ICE. Clearly, they decided that having a political issue for November was more important than reforms.

And you certainly don't have to take my word for it because the Democrat leader came out last week and admitted that the decisions he and his party have made in this Congress have been about one thing, and that is improving Democrats' prospects in November. This is a quote: "We made a lot of strategic decisions that got us to this place—it didn't happen by accident," the Democrat leader said, referring to his view of his party's position. And you know what he ticked off as some of the most strategic decisions? Democrats' two recordbreaking government shutdowns. That is right.

Democrats shut down the government twice to try to improve their chances in November, not to help hard-working Americans, not to get reforms at ICE and Border Patrol—no; to improve their chances in November.

Let's just run down some of the consequences of Democrats' choices. The disastrous situation at U.S. airports that resulted from Democrats' decision to cut off funding for air traffic controllers, for one. There are the incredible lines that Americans faced at TSA in the middle of that shutdown, the TSA officers who have left in droves thanks to Democrats' decision to force them to work without pay for quite literally months this fiscal year.

There is the strain Democrats' actions placed on our national security Agencies and the people entrusted with protecting our Nation. And then there were the government workers lining up at food banks charging necessary expenses on credit cards and wondering if they would be evicted from their homes because they couldn't afford to pay next month's rent.

The damage Democrats have caused have been immense. And for what? For what? To improve their chances in November. Democrats would like you to believe they are the party of the little guy, of everyday American workers, but a better insight into their real attitude might be gained by the Democrat leader's statement earlier in Democrats' first government shutdown when he said this:

Every day gets better for us.

The "us," of course, being Democrats.

Every day gets better for us.

When the Democrat leader made this statement, military families were on the verge of missing pay. So were a lot of civilian government employees like the Capitol Police officers who stand on guard for us around this building. People were wondering how they would cover their rent, their food, their commuting costs, their electric bills.

But none of that was on the Democrat leader's mind. All he could think about was whether the shutdown was good for Democrats' polling.

Then there is the article that came out last week about what House Democrats' first bill would be should they take the majority in November. Democrat leadership, of course, have been trying to push the narrative that Democrats' big interest is in making life more affordable for everyday Americans. But as last week's article made clear, it turns out that House Democrats are by no means agreed that affordability should be at the top of their priority list; they are interested in other issues like a reboot of their proposed Federal election takeover, or simply trying to undo anything President Trump has done presumably—presumably—simply because President Trump has done it.

I wonder if they would try to undo the tax relief Republicans passed for working families which every single Democrat voted against. Hard to know, but as the Democrat leader made clear last week, one thing is for sure: It is not the American people who are top of mind for Senate Democrats; it is their election prospects in November.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, for months—for months—Senate Democrats and I have said that Trump's blunder of a war with Iran can't end soon enough.

We have been told dozens of times that the war is over, and dozens of times we have been disappointed.

Trump has yet to give Americans a reason to believe that this latest peace deal won't leave them disappointed again. It has been 2 days since Trump claimed he had reached an "understanding" with Iran, and he still hasn't released any details, an MOU—memo of understanding—about what it actually is.

We keep hearing inconsistent statements from different members of the administration. So I am asking three things: First, I am calling on Donald Trump to hold a classified Gang of 8 meeting to disclose this so-called MOU, this memo of understanding. Second, I am calling on Trump to brief the whole Congress on this MOU, this memo of understanding. And third, and most importantly, I am calling on Trump to inform the American people on whatever his understanding with Iran involves, and he should do it immediately so we all know what the heck is going on.

We are in the middle of a war. No one quite understands what Trump is up to, and now he is keeping everybody in the dark. Americans need to know whether their loved ones in uniform will remain in harm's way.

Americans need to know what Trump has promised to Iran and what the United States will get out of it. Americans need to know how and when this war will truly end. They need to know what is the deal on the Strait of Hormuz, which has caused gas prices to go through the roof, and we need to know what the projected end time is and what Iran will be doing with its nuclear capabilities.

After more than 100 days of bloodshed, 13 Americans killed, hundreds more wounded, and tens of billions of dollars spent, the American people are, rightfully, wondering, What exactly did we get out of Trump's failed war?

Trump's Iranian misadventure has left America worse off than when he started it, worse off by every measure. The Iranian regime is more extreme than before Trump launched this disastrous war.

Iran has more control over the Strait of Hormuz than before Trump's disastrous war. Gas prices are dramatically higher than before Trump took us to war, and it is going to take months and months to go back to normal, given the destruction of the supply chains for oil and gas.

Trump asked the Americans to pay the immense cost to shoulder the burden of a war they did not ask for and gives them nothing in return. Democrats will soon force a vote on a War Powers Resolution to end Trump's war because every minute this blunder goes on is a minute too long.

Trump needs to reveal the deal and end this war once and for all.

#### ANTI-WEAPONIZATION FUND

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the slush fund, Trump's slush fund, anyone who seriously thinks Trump has any intention of dropping his plans for a MAGA slush fund that will funnel billions of tax dollars to him and his cronies clearly hasn't been paying attention.

Trump hasn't even intended to promise that he is done with this slush fund and saying instead that the corrupt scheme is "a beautiful thing." That is

what Trump said. Republicans said he is going to end it, some of them. He says it is "a beautiful thing." Whom do you believe?

Trump said it is "a beautiful thing. I love it. I think it's so important." That is what he said about the slush fund.

So anyone who thinks Trump is ready to forgo it is sadly mistaken. They are not listening to his words; they are not listening to who he is.

The only way to ensure Trump's corrupt taxpayer-funded slush fund never sees the light of day is to ban it permanently by law and also ban Trump's sweetheart tax deal that gives Trump and his family a permission slip to commit tax fraud for a lifetime.

That is why I will force Republicans to answer for Trump's slush fund and IRS sweetheart deal today. I am going to force the Republicans to answer for this Trump slush fund and the IRS sweetheart deal by asking to ban it by law on the floor.

Senate Republicans have already refused to outlaw the fund, and now they will have to show the country whom they stand for once again: American taxpayers or Donald Trump; working families or cop-beating insurrectionists.

It is unbelievable. Republicans seem to think that a promise from Todd Blanche, who built his career on bending the truth in service to Trump, and a hope and a prayer that Trump will suddenly find a conscience are enough to stop the slush fund. It makes no sense.

Republicans won't be able to wash their hands of Trump's effort to defraud the American people at a time when they are struggling to make ends meet as costs skyrocket.

#### CHILDCARE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today Senators Murray, Warren, and I are releasing the most comprehensive Senate report to date on Trump's broken promise to make childcare more affordable.

A couple months ago, Trump said:

Don't send any money for day care because the United States can't take care of day care. . . . It's not possible for us to take care of day care, Medicare, Medicaid, all these individual things.

That is what Trump said. Really, Trump?

Trump thinks it is fine to stick working Americans with the bill for his gilded ballroom, his costly war in Iran, \$2 billion of slush fund payouts for him and his MAGA loyalists, and trillions of dollars of tax cuts for the wealthy, but helping families afford childcare is just too much? What a disgrace.

Trump isn't just refusing to lower costs of childcare; he is actively making it more expensive and harder for families to find, and they are desperate for it.

Trump has removed caps on childcare costs, frozen \$2.4 billion in childcare funding for five States that didn't vote

for him, and made numerous other changes that have driven up the cost of childcare.

Is it any wonder families paying 5 percent more for childcare now than before Trump took office in 2025 are angry? Of course, they are angry. When I was majority leader and Democrats were in charge, we made a historic \$39 billion investment in childcare that lowered childcare costs by 10 percent, added 63,000 new childcare workers, and increased the supply of available childcare slots by 7 percent.

America, that is what Democrats did when we had the majority; we helped people with childcare. What does Trump do? He slashes it and then proposes billions of dollars for a slush fund for him and his family. What callousness, what hard-heartedness, and how out of touch with the American people can Trump be?

#### ELECTION SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on our Spotlight Forum, later today, Senator PADILLA and I will hold a Spotlight Forum on State and local efforts to protect free and fair elections from the chaos coming out of the Trump administration.

This Spotlight Forum is because the Republicans will not hold hearings on this important issue: protecting our elections. So we have our own Spotlight Forum, where people can testify, and the American people can learn the truth.

As Trump gears up to interfere in our elections and discount the votes of the American people, Senate Democrats' Election Protection Task Force is preparing to protect the independence of American elections.

Trump's anti-democracy agenda has left local and State election officials vulnerable to cyber attacks, intimidation from Trump loyalists, and Federal seizure of election equipment and ballots.

Today, we are going to discuss what we can do to counter Trump's interference efforts and uphold the sanctity of our elections.

Donald Trump, listen to this: You may not know it because you sure don't act like you know it, in America, voters pick their leaders; leaders don't pick their voters. And Democrats will ensure that remains the case in 2026.

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.

#### FRAUD

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, criminals are actively stealing billions