

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

of dollars from hard-working taxpayers. They are doing it through fraud, and the way to stop fraud is to punish those who commit it. And that is exactly what Republicans are doing.

For 4 years, Joe Biden and the Democrats treated fraud as acceptable and inevitable. Criminals defrauded hard-working taxpayers by deception and deceit. Democrats knew about it. They looked the other way.

Republicans are putting an end to it. We made fighting fraud a top priority. That is how to protect hard-working taxpayers and their money.

Republicans passed the Working Families Tax Cut law. We strengthened eligibility requirements for Medicaid. We ensured that illegal immigrants did not receive taxpayer-funded healthcare. We put in place work requirements for Medicaid and for food stamps.

At the same time, President Trump created an anti-fraud task force. Vice President Vance is leading the charge here. He has an incredible effort going on now, and he is working with clarity and urgency.

Criminals are now hearing a clear message: No amount of fraud is too small to prosecute.

The battlefield against fraud is nationwide, and Minnesota is ground zero for fraud. We know the story. Let me tell you how bad fraud is in Minnesota. Criminals are using children—children with autism—as a way to get rich quickly.

Mr. President, 8 years ago, the Minnesota Medicaid program for children with autism spent \$6 million. The money is needed and used to help children actually diagnosed with autism. But driven by massive criminal fraud, the pricetag ballooned from \$6 million to \$192 million going out.

How did this happen? Well, the program was being looted by crooks, by criminals, and loaded up with corruption. The money was being siphoned away from children with autism—children in need.

Last month, Federal officials charged 15 individuals for stealing \$90 million connected to the State's federally funded healthcare program. According to the Justice Department, that includes the largest autism fraud scheme ever prosecuted.

The schemes didn't stop there. Remember the fraudulent daycare center in Minnesota? No children—zero children—were actually enrolled in that facility. It was set up for one purpose and one purpose only: It was set up to steal money from the U.S. Treasury.

So I just heard the minority leader, Senator SCHUMER, here on the floor talking about daycare centers. Why did the Democrats ignore the abuse of daycare centers to steal money from the American people, from our taxpayers? They don't seem to care about that. They just say: Send more money, send more money, send more money.

And then he comes to the floor, complaining about daycare centers, when it

is the fraud in Minnesota, with their own candidate for Vice President being the Governor, overseeing it, ignoring it, allowing it to happen. They don't seem to care about any of those things.

Well, our colleague Senator JONI ERNST investigated. She discovered one of these so-called daycare centers that SCHUMER is out here talking about as wonderful things. One of these daycare centers raked in over \$230,000 from the Small Business Administration alone, just during the pandemic.

Remember, there were no children at the location—none. The Biden administration looked the other way, and the disgraced Governor of Minnesota looked the other way as well.

In total, stolen funds in Minnesota have now been identified as exceeding \$9 billion. It is a staggering sum. And that is only one State run by Democrats. California is just as bad, if not worse. I would put it as worse.

Last week, many of us met with Dr. Mehmet Oz. Dr. Oz runs the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid, confirmed here by the Senate. Dr. Oz says nearly half of hospice providers in Los Angeles are fraud—fraudulent hospice providers.

When you think about hospice and what it does—what it is supposed to do—in terms of caring and compassion, comforting those who are dying, not in California—it is used to defraud the government. Many of these so-called hospices don't serve a single patient. Many are shell offices, all in the same office building.

Recall, Los Angeles has only 3 percent of the population in the United States. Somehow, 33 percent of all hospice providers in the entire country are listed in L.A. There aren't that many people who are patients to justify that.

How can it be? Well, it is a racket. That is what it is. It is set up to steal money from the government, from our taxpayers.

And Democrats are well aware of the fraud, and they refuse to stop it. They refuse to talk about it. They want to keep looking the other way.

In Ohio, the anti-fraud task force dismantled a criminal scheme that stole tens of millions of dollars from Medicaid. The criminals submitted false claims for so-called behavior health services. These services were never provided. Criminals used the money to buy a fleet of luxury vehicles, including Maseratis, Mercedes, and a Bentley.

Thankfully, Senator JON HUSTED and Senator BERNIE MORENO of Ohio voted for the Working Families Tax Cut law. They voted to root out exactly this kind of waste, fraud, abuse, and corruption.

Nationwide, total estimates of Medicaid fraud are as much as now \$120 billion a year, and the fraud got worse after ObamaCare became law: bigger government, more money, more areas in which criminals can steal.

Vice President VANCE is encouraging States to fight fraud in their Medicaid Programs. Those who don't enforce the law will lose Federal funds.

A pattern has emerged. Democrats run the blue States. They control the big cities. And when criminals steal vast amounts of money from hard-working taxpayers, elected Democrats go silent.

Appallingly, we have seen cases where Democrats actually tried to silence whistleblowers, who sound the alarm to try to want to point out what is happening. Democrats try to muzzle them.

Here in the Senate, every single Democrat voted against landmark legislation to fight fraud, to fight waste, to fight abuse, and to fight corruption. Democrats would rather protect thieves than protect hard-working American taxpayers and the people that these programs are created to help.

The American people are absolutely infuriated by the fraud that is being exposed. They are finally seeing the results in combatting it, and they want these people to go to jail.

Republicans are fighting the war against fraud. We are fighting to protect taxpayers, to protect vulnerable families, and fighting to punish the criminals who steal from our country and our communities.

The American people deserve accountability. Criminals deserve the consequences.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

MEDICAID

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the President called it the Big Beautiful Bill—his budget—the Big Beautiful Bill. That Big Beautiful Bill did give tax breaks—there is no question about it—primarily to the richest people in this country.

Is that what you think is a priority for America? It is not what I think. It is one of the reasons I voted no.

The second thing it did was to cut Medicaid reimbursements to hospitals and healthcare providers by \$1 trillion over the next several years—\$1 trillion.

Do you know what the hospital administrators in Illinois told me would happen as a result of those cutbacks of Medicaid payments? Hospitals will close, particularly downstate hospitals in rural areas and those in the inner cities.

We went to those administrators of the hospitals directly and said: Forget the political hype in Washington. What is going to happen on the ground in the State of Illinois and across the Nation when \$1 trillion in Medicaid reimbursement disappears?

They said: Well, first, the hospitals will close certain departments.

I have noticed in Central Illinois—my own experience—that means usually the delivery of babies, as well as behavioral medicine, mental health counseling. Those are the first to go.

But some hospitals won't make it. The hospitals in rural areas, as you