

to bar the IRS from ever reviewing his tax returns—not just for himself; for his family, for his trusts, and his affiliated companies.

So it is obvious to the American people that Congress needs to act to rein in this corrupt behavior.

I should underscore a point here because on the one hand, there have been these measures to block the creation of the fund. There are other ways for payments to go out from the Department of Justice. So it is not just the creation of the fund that needs to be blocked; payment to those convicted of violence on January 6 needs to be explicitly clear.

Now, I am a little surprised but not shocked at what I have seen in the last couple of weeks because now we see Republicans reverse quickly. Just a couple weeks ago, many of them were very concerned about this proposal. Yet, simultaneously, they would come to the floor to block my bill to prohibit the payouts to January 6 insurrectionists. Now, today, they have objected to Senator SCHUMER's bill to fix this once again.

So let me be clear: This fight is not over. The American people cannot and will not bear the cost of corruption that this administration has created.

While the slush fund is apparently dead for now, we have our eye on the many financial claims that were filed by January 6 insurrectionists that are still pending at the Department of Justice given other programs and pots of funding, which is why, colleagues, unless we pass my legislation, there is nothing to stop the DOJ from handing hard-working American taxpayer money out the door to January 6 rioters. And until we pass Senator SCHUMER's legislation, President Trump will continue to seek lifetime immunity from tax audits.

If our Republican colleagues will not join Democrats to address this, I guarantee you the American people will.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak before the previously scheduled recess.

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

Mr. HAGERTY. Mr. President, I find it quite interesting that my Democratic colleagues are now seeking to somehow block some of the funds of the Department of Justice when they would never do this before. I mentioned earlier that Republicans put forward the Stop Settlement Slush Funds Act. In four previous Congresses, not a single Democrat was willing to join; not a single Democrat was willing to help us rein in the Department of Justice. Yet, when we find abject weaponization of the Department of Justice, when we have my own staff—and I would ask any of the staff in this room to think about it, put themselves in their shoes. If you happen to work in the White House under a Republican administra-

tion, then you can find yourself, under a weaponized DOJ, subject to subpoena, subject to depositions, and your parents are putting \$200,000, \$300,000, \$400,000 of their life savings at stake to protect and defend their children. This is exactly the conversation I had with my staff and their parents. It is heart-breaking. It needs to stop, and there needs to be accountability so this never happens again.

I am not about to stand here and just sweep this under the rug and act like the weaponization of the Biden DOJ never happened. Not in history has anything happened like this before, where a sitting President goes after his opponent and all of his opponent's allies—subpoenaing U.S. Senators' phone records, like they did mine; having a corrupt operation with—it appears Verizon and the DOJ colluded. Maybe Verizon had a particular transaction like the Frontier acquisition that they wanted to curry favor with DOJ to achieve and therefore just violated the Constitution and handed my records over, along with other U.S. Senators'.

This should not be allowed to happen. We can't, as Americans, act like it never did, and to accept Senator SCHUMER and my colleague Senator PADILLA's recommendation would somehow give credence that nothing ever did happen. Indeed, the worst weaponization of government that we have ever seen in our lifetime did happen under the Biden administration.

I will not stand for it.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:57 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m., and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. BRITT).

MORNING BUSINESS—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wisconsin.

WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam President, today I rise in support of ending Donald Trump's illegal war in Iran.

Over the weekend, President Trump told the American people this conflict is over. He said that Iran had agreed to a deal.

So why take this vote today? Well, I have heard that one before from this President. From trade to peace negotiations, President Trump often claims victory without any work to show for it.

The truth is, President Trump has not reached a deal with Iran. There is no agreement to end their nuclear program, no assurances that the war won't continue, and no evidence that Americans are better off today than they were before this all started. In fact, we

are told—all just by press reports—that he has merely reached an agreement to keep talking about a deal over the next 60 days. But we have zero details and are told to just take the President's word for it.

President Trump started this war over 100 days ago without signoff from Congress, the people's branch. He cost 13 servicemembers their lives, spent more than \$30 billion in taxpayer money, and jacked up energy costs for American families by \$450, on average. President Trump has asked working families to foot the bill for a war that they did not choose and do not like, and now he is claiming victory without a permanent solution in hand. At an immense cost to the American people, we are in a worse position than when President Trump started this war. That is why Donald Trump's wink-and-nod promise is simply not enough. My constituents want a guarantee that this expensive and unnecessary war is over once and for all.

Diplomacy has always been the path forward. Passing this resolution would finally force President Trump to follow the law, listen to the American people, and end the war that no one likes.

I urge my colleagues to listen to your constituents and end this war.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam President, 3 weeks ago, this body voted to have a debate over the President's war in Iran; more specifically, whether the United States Congress should exercise its constitutional authority to declare war or to bring this conflict to an end. Since that time, the administration has announced that it has reached a deal with Iran to reopen the strait with an agreement to reach an agreement later over Iran's nuclear weapons. The President has made it clear that should Iran not agree to a deal over its nuclear program within 60 days, he will resume bombing.

I sincerely hope that this is the beginning of the end of the war and that our servicemembers will soon be coming home, but a still-secret agreement that postpones the difficult questions for 2 more months is little assurance when the President has so often during this conflict promised far more than he has delivered.

From the beginning, the President assured the country that the war would be "short" and it would be over "very soon." Just weeks after the conflict began, around 100 days ago, the President said that U.S. forces would be leaving "in the near future." He said talks were going very well and "very, very soon" the conflict would be over. "I think we won," he said.

That was on the last day of winter. This weekend will mark the first day of summer. This entire spring, the American public have stepped into the shoes

of Charlie Brown, constantly being told that the football will not move, that the end is near, only to have peace snatched away time and time again.

And so, in this moment, Congress cannot accept a vague promise of a future end to the war as a substitute for the very definite terms of the War Powers Act. The President should come to Congress for our authorization to keep troops deployed to the war zone or bring them home. Those are the only two choices the law provides.

After all, this war began without the administration making the case to Congress or the American people. There was no attack on the United States by Iran, nor was there any imminent threat. This was a war of choice, and it was chosen by the President.

In the months since, the administration's rationale for the war has shifted many times over time, with the President and his Cabinet alternately claiming an imminent threat from Iran's nuclear program, which they also claimed to have been obliterated by an attack by the United States 9 months earlier; claiming an imminent threat of a missile attack by Iran on our homeland, which the United States intelligence community concluded was, in fact, 9 years away; claiming this was the best opportunity for the Iranian people to rise up against the regime, then saying they would get mowed down if they did, with more vacillating, inconsistent, and implausible justifications for the war given every week.

And now we have little more than a deal to make a deal. Initially, the agreement seeks to rebuild the status quo that this war shattered by reopening the strait. But even this preliminary agreement is contested, with the President saying Iran won't charge any tolls, but with Iran saying it may charge "fees" for the crossing.

And the future deal on nuclear weapons, although still very much a work in progress, appears little different than the agreement that President Obama negotiated and Trump disavowed—although the present deal seems far better for Iran than that deal since Iran may receive 10 times the billions it did under the Obama JCPOA and also be a party to a \$300 billion reconstruction fund.

Imagine that: You paid \$60 billion more for gas during the war, and those billions you paid at the pump are going to go to Iran for rebuilding.

High gas prices are just one of the costs that have been borne by the American people over these 100 days. The region has been in chaos, along with global shipping. As a result, the price of Americans' grocery bills has been much higher, the cost of fertilizer for farmers much higher, and the price of energy bills much higher to heat our home in winter and to keep it cool in summer. Everything is going up, up, up—except the incomes of the American people.

And, most significantly, American servicemembers' lives have been lost.

That has been the most terrible price of this war.

Americans wanted a President who would bring down their cost of living, lighten their economic load, and deliver a better future for their children, address their rising rents, their inability to afford childcare, their difficulty getting a health plan or a good education without breaking the bank, to address their anxiety when the fridge runs empty or the gas light comes on. But this President did the exact opposite.

And now we are told that Iran—not the United States taxpayers, who footed the bill for all of this—may be set to receive \$24 billion in sanctions relief and another \$300 billion in reconstruction reparations and investment.

This war of choice was brought to America by a President who promised no more foreign wars, no more Middle East wars, no more regime change wars; someone who said on election night to the entire world, "I'm not going to start a war; I'm going to stop wars" but now says, "I didn't guarantee no war" and that he didn't build such a powerful military for nothing.

So let's look at the record of this President who promised no more wars and that he would focus on the problems of Americans here at home: 200 people killed in boat strikes in the Eastern Pacific and Caribbean Sea, with more strikes every week; an attack on Venezuela, capturing President Maduro and now leaving in power his corrupt second in command, long past the time when that country's constitution demands a new election and the country's rightful President, the winner of Venezuela's last election, is relegated to the sidelines, little more than an afterthought; and now the stationing of American military right off of Cuba, blockading that country and indicting its leaders.

The war in Iran is far from over, and the President seems to be promising another one when it is, saying, with respect to Cuba, he likes to do things one at a time.

We have in this moment an opportunity to show the President and the country that we are listening to our constituents, that we hear their concerns, that we will do our job to make their voices heard, to bring down the cost of living and address the difficulties they find in just making a go of it.

We have a responsibility to uphold what our Founding Fathers gave us: a Constitution that provided Congress with the power to make war, not the President. We can bring our troops home, and we can return our attention to our difficulties at home and rein in a President that has now become all too fond of war.

We have found a majority to carry this motion once before. We can do so again. The American people are counting on us to send this resolution to the Oval Office with bipartisan support and to end this war of choice once and for all.

Our constituents cannot afford to risk another 100 days of war, and—if we are to be more than a constitutional appendage—neither can we.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

Mr. KAINÉ. Madam President, I rise to speak, along with my colleagues, on the War Powers Resolution, followed by Senator WARNOCK, that will be called up soon.

I have spoken on this topic often, about once a week, since the war against Iran began at the end of February, sometimes speaking on behalf of my own resolutions and sometimes speaking on behalf of the resolutions of colleagues. I am very happy that Senator WARNOCK's resolution will be called up today. I believe he will be the last speaker before we begin voting.

And you have heard from other colleagues. I won't belabor a point that I have made often on the floor, but I do want to talk about this particular moment in time.

I do believe this war is illegal because it has not been authorized by Congress. I believe the war is unwise because we had a diplomatic deal that was controlling Iran's nuclear program that President Trump tore up. And thus, this is a war that was not necessary if the United States had done what we normally do and preferred diplomacy to war.

I believe these 14 troops would not have been killed. I believe we wouldn't have spent tens of billions of dollars pursuing an unnecessary war with an additional pricetag of probably hundreds of billions of dollars to replenish our munitions stock and repair infrastructure that has been damaged.

And I also believe that Americans would not have had to pay more than \$50 billion extra at the gas pump since the war began on February 28. Those are arguments I have made often on the floor that I don't intend to repeat today.

But the argument that I want to make today is about why this timing for the War Powers Resolution is sort of propitious, why this timing makes this vote different than the vote that we had 2 weeks or 4 weeks ago or 8 weeks ago.

We are in day 100-plus of this war, but I am happy that President Trump has announced a cease-fire and a potential deal to be signed and revealed on Friday. Now, I don't know exactly what is in the deal, but I believe an off-ramp to a war that never should have been started is a good thing.

We will have the opportunity to debate the deal once we know more details about it, but taking an off-ramp to a war that should never have been started is a positive.

What this off-ramp means is, I would say, we are in an intermission. We don't exactly know what the second