

employees' student loans without the employee having to pay taxes on the repayment amount.

For Americans who are interested in learning a skilled trade, this bill is transformative. As I mentioned, it allows 529 savings to go toward vocational education.

It also created the Workforce Pell Program, which will provide financial assistance to Americans in shorter term skills and career-training programs—whether they are just starting out or looking to switch careers or develop new skills in their current field.

States are just beginning the process of identifying programs that will qualify for Workforce Pell, and it is already generating excitement. One community college president in New York said of Workforce Pell: "The potential is absolutely huge."

Another community college administrator in Oregon hailed how Workforce Pell will provide assistance for the college's truckdriving certificate program, a popular program that leads to high-paying jobs but for which financial aid is hard to come by. Workforce Pell will change that.

And Workforce Pell will also be a game changer for midcareer professionals. As Colette Atkins, who works at Kirkwood Community College in Iowa, said, "we have students that are working already, and they can't step away for 2 years, but can they step away to do that 8 to 15 weeks to get that training? They sure can. And now there's financial support to help them do that."

Suffice it to say, Workforce Pell will open new pathways and create a lot of opportunities for a lot of Americans, and it is getting started thanks to the Working Families Tax Cut.

Putting more money in Americans' pockets, helping them seize opportunities to get ahead, and creating new pathways to success—that is the Working Families Tax Cut at work.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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 Democratic leader is recognized.

IRAN

Mr. SCHUMER. It is an absolute disgrace that Pete Hegseth has withheld casualty numbers in the Iran war from the American public. One of the biggest questions Pete Hegseth has to answer today is why he was out marketing testosterone supplements for our troops last week while withholding casualty numbers from the Iran war to the American people.

We learned yesterday that the Pentagon failed to disclose that our troops have sustained nearly 100 injuries in the past few weeks of the Iran war.

Sending our troops in harm's way is the most serious thing we can do as a nation, but Hegseth, Trump, and Rubio certainly don't treat it that way.

Hegseth is hiding more than he is sharing these days—whether it is the number of wounded, the damage to our bases overseas, or the immense ballooning cost of this Iran war blunder.

We need answers, but Hegseth wants to give some to the GOP alone. Hegseth is reportedly attending a House Republican meeting today to brief their Members on the war without providing Democrats the same access.

There is no room for this administration's partisan pettiness when our servicemembers' lives are at stake. But that seems to be a trademark for both Hegseth and Trump.

I am calling on Pete Hegseth, Marco Rubio, and Donald Trump to tell the entire Congress everything they are telling the Republicans about the Iran war—both Chambers, both parties.

Everything they tell Republicans behind closed doors needs to be shared in public during today's testimony. But I don't need to hear from Hegseth to know just how poorly this war is going.

If we truly care about our servicemembers' well-being, we ought to be focused on getting them out of harm's way, not on their testosterone levels. We will be forcing another vote this week on our War Powers Resolution to bring our troops home and end this war.

Senate Republicans, don't let Trump off the hook. The Iran war isn't a game. It is not some trifle Trump, Hegseth, and Rubio can brush under the rug. Trump's reckless war is an absolute catastrophe. It must end, and Republicans should join us in making sure that happens. So far, crickets from them.

CORRUPTION

Mr. President, every single day, we see a new example of Trump's rampant corruption. Senate Democrats are putting all of Trump's scams under the magnifying glass in the coming weeks, and Trump's new Truth API stands out as one of his most corrupt gifts yet.

Every day, there is a new example of these kinds of gifts that Trump gets involved in. Instead of draining the swamp like he promised, Trump has filled it to the brim.

Now look at this: Trump is charging admission. For the low price of \$100,000 a month, an investor can turn a profit off early access to Trump's market-moving posts.

Trump imposes new tariffs? Subscribers can short their stocks before anyone else. Trump announces a new contract? Subscribers know where to invest. Trump shakes up the Fed? Subscribers get to reposition before the rest of the market blinks. Meanwhile, Trump rakes in hundreds of millions of dollars in subscription fees.

Truth API is the exact definition of "insider trading." It is textbook pay-to-play. And this is what Donald Trump spends his time doing. And re-

member, traders need only a millisecond headstart to make a fortune. Just 1 millisecond and they can make a lot of money, the way trading works these days.

As always, Trump's corruption benefits the rich at the expense of working families. How many American families do you think can afford \$100,000 a month to get a leg up in the market?

Trump is doing what he always does: selling out America, American interests, and the American people to the highest bidder.

Republicans ought to be up in arms about Truth API and the latest news about Trump's foreign jet. Trump's \$400 million Qatari jet is the biggest single bribe an American President has ever accepted in our history. Let me repeat that. Trump's \$400 million Qatari jet is the single biggest bribe an American President has ever accepted in history. I have been warning about this for months.

And somehow, the American people still get an invoice. It will reportedly cost the taxpayer as much as \$1 billion to retrofit Trump's plane for Presidential use. We just learned that his luxury jet is grounded until it can be "maxed out" to meet the same standards as the old Air Force One. Give me a break. Commercial airline ticket costs are up 27 percent over last year, and Trump wants the American people to pay to get his airborne palace off the ground?

Trump ought to rename the plane "Air Farce One." It is not Air Force One; it is "Air Farce One."

NOMINATION OF BENJAMIN M. FLOWERS

Now, Mr. President, on the Benjamin Flowers nomination, the nomination of Benjamin Flowers ought to concern every Member of this body. Flowers checks virtually every box the MAGA right expects from its judges.

America, this is who Trump is putting on the bench—people far away from what you believe.

Flowers has fought against birthright citizenship, against abortion rights, and against the result of the 2020 election.

What Flowers has fought for is also disturbing. In 2021, in Ohio, Flowers tried to defend a \$250,000 cap on damages for a child sex abuse survivor—a cap the Ohio Supreme Court deemed "arbitrary and unreasonable." Flowers is also on record as saying that a President can simply ignore a court's reasoning when he disagrees with it.

Election denial, attacks on reproductive freedom, siding with abusers over survivors and the President over the Constitution—is this the kind of person Republicans want on one of the highest courts in the land?

I urge my colleagues to oppose this nomination.

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 quorum call be rescinded.

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

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, the American people deserve a government that is fully funded.

Last week, the minority leader claimed on this floor that he wants to fund the government and avoid a shutdown. It is time for him to prove it. His record shows just the opposite.

The appropriations bills have historically passed with bipartisan votes. Yet when Senator SCHUMER was majority leader during the Biden years, he blocked every single appropriations bill from coming to this floor. Eleven bipartisan appropriations bills that passed out of the committees died in that wastebasket there under the desk of Senator SCHUMER. When Democrats were in the majority, they literally shut down the entire appropriations process.

After the Democrats lost the elections in 2024, they revolted, and they shut down the government twice. The two Schumer shutdowns broke records. First, in October 2025, Democrats shut down the entire Federal Government. It lasted 43 days—the longest shutdown in the history of our Nation.

During the shutdown, Senator SCHUMER infamously said:

Every day gets better for us.

Every day didn't get better for the American people all across the country. Federal workers missed paychecks, and there was a huge shutdown of TSA. People missed flights. There were long lines waiting to get to the airports and to get to the flights. Screening lines lasted hours and hours.

Then, in February of this year, Democrats did it again. They shut down the Department of Homeland Security, and that shutdown lasted 75 days.

The shutdown of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol lasted even longer. Democrats voted to defund Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and they voted to defund our Border Patrol. They want wide-open borders.

Democrats vote to protect illegal immigrant criminals but don't seem to care about protecting law-abiding American citizens. Democrats have proven their own willingness to disrupt travel, to delay paychecks, and to endanger our national security, and they will do it when they think it is to their political advantage, not to the advantage of the people of our country.

Senator SCHUMER may have said on the floor that he wants to avoid a shutdown, but his actions signal that Democrats are getting ready to do it again.

Just last month, Senator SCHUMER said shutdowns are, in his words, "strategic decisions"—"strategic decisions." Democrats have already shut

down the government twice. A third shutdown would be just as painful for the American people and maybe worse. Democrat shutdowns make life less affordable, and they make our communities less safe. The American people deserve better.

Senator SUSAN COLLINS, who is the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, is working very hard to fix what Senator SCHUMER has broken. She is working to put bipartisan bills on this floor and is working to keep the government open. This is how the appropriations process was designed to work.

House Republicans are soon going to vote on a bill that funds the government until after the elections in November.

Here in the Senate, Senator COLLINS continues to lead with integrity and with intelligence and by working in bipartisanship. She has a long and respected record of working on both sides of the aisle. She has presented good-faith offers to Democrats. Democrats continue to reject them. They demand more spending on things like these fraud-ridden programs that we have read about. They are threatening to stonewall every single appropriations bill again this year.

Democrats are trying to avoid a shutdown—so they say. But they are not trying to avoid a shutdown; they are preparing for another one.

Here is what another Democrat shutdown would mean to the American people: A Democrat shutdown means longer lines at the airport. A Democrat shutdown means our troops miss paychecks. A Democrat shutdown means TSA agents miss paychecks. A Democrat shutdown undermines national security. A Democrat shutdown hurts our veterans, and it hurts our seniors.

Senator SCHUMER says he wants to avoid one. Well, time is going to tell.

Republicans are focused on funding the government in a serious, timely, and bipartisan way. That is what we are intending to do. We will see if the Democrats are willing to meet us along the way.

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 (Mr. SHEEHY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF KARA MARIE WESTERCAMP

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, those seeking to recoup losses from President Trump's disastrous tariff policies will appear before what is called the Court of International Trade.

As is the case with many of President Trump's judicial nominees in his second term, his choice to fill a vacancy on this Court Kara Westercamp was tapped because of her obvious loyalty

to the President who nominated her instead of her loyalty to the law.

Her offensive, inflammatory, juvenile social media posts demonstrate she lacks the independence and the maturity and the temperament to be a judge.

Ms. Westercamp tried to delete her old tweets so we wouldn't see them on the committee. She failed. Our staff was able to recover them.

In these tweets, Ms. Westercamp spread conspiracy theories about the January 6 insurrection at the Capitol and attacked Republicans and Democrats alike for being insufficiently loyal to President Trump.

She elevated claims that the January 6 attack was "orchestrated by Members of the Senate, and members of the [Capitol] police."

Let me repeat that. In her tweets, she claimed that the January 6 attack on the Capitol, which we all saw the news of, was "orchestrated by Members of the Senate, and members of the [Capitol] police."

So much for the judgment of this would-be judge.

I was in this Chamber during the counting of electoral votes for the 2020 election. Vice President Pence was sitting where the Presiding Officer sits today.

Members of Congress watched as Secret Service evacuated the Vice President. Within minutes, we were told to leave as well because a violent mob of armed insurrectionists intended to prevent the certification of the 2020 Presidential election results, which Donald Trump had lost by 7 million popular votes.

But Ms. Westercamp dismissed this event entirely. She retweeted a post that read—and I quote:

We're all supposed to be sending thoughts and prayers to traumatized Members of Congress whose workday was interrupted for a couple of hours.

Mr. President, did you see the video? Did you see the mob? Did you see the damage they did to this U.S. Capitol Building?

Yes, we left for our lives. The Vice President was spirited out of here by the Secret Service to protect his life.

Ms. Westercamp has also repeatedly attacked Senator MITCH MCCONNELL of Kentucky for supposedly "betraying President Trump." She even called Senator MCCONNELL "a modern-day Benedict Arnold," and she repeatedly called him "Cocaine Mitch"—an inflammatory nickname used by MAGA critics of Senator MCCONNELL, the Republican Senator and former leader from Kentucky.

I am not going to be able to repeat some of the things that she wrote in her tweets. They are just too much. But of the late Senator Lindsey Graham, she wrote:

True to NO ONE but [his] own self-preservation.

She crudely called him a name that I can't repeat in the RECORD for not toeing the MAGA line. There is much,