

their education and savings, toward groceries and rent, or as one mother in Michigan said, toward raising her four kids.

Because of the working families tax cuts, when someone puts their tips in their pocket at the end of their shift, their money stays in their pocket.

Republicans' landmark tax relief bill also created the new deduction for overtime pay. Overtime is a significant part of a lot of Americans' incomes: police officers, firefighters, paramedics, nurses, manufacturing workers, and tradespeople. But up until now, the impact of those extra hours and extra wages was muted by taxes—no longer. Now these hard-working Americans will be able to keep more of the money they earn when they spend extra hours away from their loved one, often doing very challenging jobs.

This is especially true for nurses and other healthcare workers for whom overtime is a routine part of their week. One nurse in California said:

Nurses are now asking for overtime, thanks to the no tax on overtime provision.

Whether it is more money for a vacation, for education, or for just paying for day-to-day expenses, the working family tax cuts is a game changer for a lot of Americans. And no tax on tips and overtime is on top of permanently lower tax rates, a higher standard deduction, a \$2,000 tax credit, and so much more. It all adds up to hard-working Americans keeping more of their hard-earned money to spend, invest, and save how they see fit.

Despite all that the working families tax cuts does for middle-income Americans, Democrats are once again peddling the lie that this bill is about tax breaks for billionaires. That obviously is very far from the truth. I have talked about some of the people who are benefiting from this bill today. Not a single one of them is a billionaire. They are not millionaires either. In fact, a lot of the people who are benefiting from the working families tax cuts live paycheck to paycheck. They work every day to have enough money to pay the bills, support their families, and maybe put something away for the future.

That is who Republicans had in mind when we wrote this bill, and that is who is benefiting.

Democrats can say what they want, but the American people are seeing the benefits from this bill with their own eyes.

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.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, in a podcast interview released yesterday, Donald Trump called for Republicans to "take over voting in 15 States in the country." Trump said:

The Republicans should say, we want to take over. We [want to] take [things] over. Republicans ought to nationalize the voting.

Let me say that again because it is hard to believe that a President of the United States—anyone who believes in democracy, anyone who believes in the Constitution, anyone who believes in this Country—would say it, but Trump said it. Trump said:

Republicans ought to nationalize the voting.

This is more dangerous, autocratic poison from Donald Trump. What does Donald Trump think he ran for—a dictatorship, President for life in a single-party state, where one party runs the elections, like in every other tin-pot dictatorship?

This President clearly doesn't believe in democracy at all. Never in American history have we had a President so hostile to democratic traditions. Even worse, never have we had a President who breaks the norms that have made this country strong and held it together for centuries, and he just slashes them. And people on the other side of the aisle just shrug their shoulders. It is incredible.

Democracy is at risk here from the President of the United States, and the people who might have the most say over him, the Republican Senators, are silent, quaking in their boots that they can never criticize Donald Trump, no matter how outrageous what he says is.

What Donald Trump wants is a one-party MAGA dictatorship. Do you want your kids to grow up in that autocracy? Do you want your kids to grow up in a one-party MAGA dictatorship, which is what Trump is calling for? He wants MAGA to call the shots and MAGA to control the elections.

Democracy trusts the people, but Donald Trump fears the people. He wants to make sure those who disagree with him don't have a voice. He can't stand criticism. Republicans ought to fiercely condemn Donald Trump's vicious attacks against our democratic systems. They are not only vicious; they are dangerous.

Republicans seem to have no problem criticizing Democrats who are trying to make it easier to vote, saying we are trying to nationalize elections. Yet when Donald Trump actually wants the Federal Government to control how elections are run in the States, the Republican Senate is silent as mice.

It is not just Donald Trump's words. If it were just his words, you might shrug your shoulders. It is his actions. He carries these things out—FBI agents raiding election offices in Georgia; Trump ordering his goons to dig up fake evidence of stolen elections and people voting illegally; demanding that States turn over voter rolls to the Department of Justice, which is his own

attack dog; threatening to use the Insurrection Act against States he doesn't like.

We know why Donald Trump is doing this. He is losing support of the American people, and he knows it. So he doesn't want them to vote. He doesn't want them to have power.

The American people are sending his candidates packing at the polls in State after State, most recently in Texas. They are losing elections by dramatic amounts because the people are repudiating Donald Trump.

What is his answer? To try and lower people's costs, to try and reduce the chaos in our cities? Oh, no. Take away people's right to vote. Let Donald Trump and his MAGA goons run the elections.

Democracy, the roots of which tunnel deep into the soil of this great country, has turned against Donald Trump in a truly profound way. We haven't seen anything quite like this, the dramatic drops in the President's popularity and poll numbers. So, of course, what is his answer? What is Trump's answer? Undo democracy itself.

That is the oldest trick in the book of dictators. Just say the elections are fake. Say certain people's votes don't count; your side should control the elections for some made-up reason or another.

Well, we have seen this, again and again, in countries around the world but never in the United States of America, until now. That is what makes Donald Trump's agenda such a danger to the grand American tradition of democracy, because it is only about him and the power he can grab. He doesn't have a single democratic fiber in his being. It is all about Donald Trump, his ego, his power, his self-aggrandizement. That is it. Democracy doesn't matter. The American people don't matter.

I ask my Republican colleagues: When the hell will you find your voice? When he says that we should nationalize the elections and Republicans should take over, and you don't make a peep? What is going on here? You are just so afraid?

This is the path that has ruined many a democracy.

Now, our democracy is deep and strong, but it requires and allows resistance to these things—verbal resistance, electoral resistance. Where are you? When are Republican colleagues going to speak against such brutish autocratic drivel from Trump?

His drive to autocracy is so obvious that any sixth-grade social studies student would recognize what Donald Trump is doing and tell you it is totally against what America is all about.

Republicans, if they think they are going to get the crumbs from Donald Trump's table when he gets his way, they are sadly mistaken. Donald Trump's autocratic instincts will consume everyone, Democrats and Republicans alike.

Republicans must reject Trump's call to nationalize elections, the very pillars of our grand democracy, our grand national experiment. Democracy must prevail over the cult of arrogant, autocratic, egotistical personality.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. President, now on ICE, yesterday, Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem, who for some reason still has a job—she should have been fired long ago—announced that all Federal immigration agents in Minneapolis are going to begin wearing body cameras.

I want to be very clear about something. Kristi Noem does not get participation points by saying agents are going to start doing something they should have done all along.

Why just Minneapolis? This policy, which is the right policy, should be nationwide. There is no reason to delay that.

Most importantly, Executive actions alone will never be enough for the American people. We need to pass legislation. We know how whimsical Donald Trump is. He will say one thing one day and retract it the next.

The same with Secretary Noem—we don't trust some Executive order, some pronouncement from some Cabinet Secretary. We need it enshrined into law.

What Democrats want is exceedingly common sense. We need to end the roving patrols. This means we need arrest warrants and an end to racial profiling.

Second, we need accountability. ICE needs to abide by the same rules as local police, including embedded investigations. And there has to be real accountability forcing them to do so when they don't.

And, third, masks need to come off, and cameras need to stay on. Every ICE officer should do what every police officer, or just about every police officer, in America does—have an ID. Every citizen knows when they meet a police officer or sheriff, their ID is clear on them.

There has always been accountability that we have had for decades and decades. And Noem thinks and some people think—like Speaker JOHNSON thinks—we shouldn't do it. Why is JOHNSON pro-secret police?

It is absurd for the Speaker and others like him to argue that masked ICE agents should get special treatment and be held to a different standard from just about every law enforcement Agency in the country. Sheriffs, local police, traffic cops—you don't see them with masks, do you? No. Defending ICE agents wearing masks and giving them special treatment, especially when they are so brutal and thuggish, is totally against the views of most Americans who want basic accountability.

Anyone defending these agents keeping their masks on is not seriously trying to solve this huge problem with the chaos we have seen in Minneapolis and in so many of our other cities when ICE is sent in there. It begs the question: Why are some Republicans speak-

ing so loudly trying to defend masked secret police? Is it that these new ICE hires weren't qualified as police officers in other departments? Could it be that some of them were kicked out of police departments and then they signed up to snatch people off the streets and beat protesters up with impunity because that is what they wanted to do?

The American people have a right to know, and the first step is identifying who they are.

Finally, I want to make one other very important point. Since the deaths of Alex Pretti and Renee Good, nothing meaningful has changed about ICE's abuses. Nothing meaningful has changed about ICE's abuses even since the deaths of Pretti and Good.

Last week, in Portland, OR, Federal agents fired tear gas at a crowd of demonstrators that included children.

There is a video circulating online of an agent in Colorado stealing a woman's phone. When she tried to get it back, the agent shoved her to the ground, yanked her by the hair, and then battered her. If you saw that video, it would turn your stomach.

Greg Bovino, the disgraced chief thug, former head of the Border Patrol, is seen in another video trying to motivate agents by saying—this is what Bovino said: "Arrest as many people who touch you as want. Those are the general orders way from the top."

This is absolutely not, not, not what the American people signed up for. Republicans in Congress need to see the chaos and realize it is finally time for ICE to be reined in.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Ganjei nomination.

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

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, we are at a point where America faces a critical choice about our Nation's security, and the debate isn't complicated.

Republicans are fighting to keep Americans safe. To do that, we need to enforce the law. We need to keep our borders secure.

The Democrats—and we just heard from the minority leader—they are fighting to weaken law enforcement. They want to reward illegal immigrants for their illegal behavior.

Right now, criminals who are here in this country illegally are among the most dangerous threats to the families of this country. They are violent offenders, murders, rapists, drug dealers, child traffickers. They are the worst of the worst.

Many entered our country when Joe Biden and the Democrats threw open the borders 5 years ago. Over 10 million illegal immigrants flooded into the country during those 4 years of the

Biden Presidency. During the 2024 election, the American people spoke very clearly. Americans voted for more border security, not less. Americans wanted more law enforcement, not less—and, yes, people spoke for deporting illegal immigrants, for not allowing them to stay. Republicans understand that safe communities are a result of secure borders.

Today, Democrats continue to choose illegal immigrants over American citizens—right here, on the floor of the Senate, this morning. Democrats are the party of defund the police. They have been for a long, long time. Now they want to defund our security even further—our security, our borders. You have seen them protesting: Eliminate ICE. Eliminate Immigration and Customs Enforcement. They don't want the law enforced.

Republicans refuse to allow this dangerous agenda of the Democrats' to succeed. Since retaking the majority, Republicans have made public safety a top priority. Republicans secured the border in record time. Illegal border crossings at the southern border are now at their lowest level in 50 years.

Republicans passed the Laken Riley Act. It was the first law that we passed this past year, and it was the first bill signed into law by President Trump. The Laken Riley Act simply says that illegal immigrant criminals must be detained. Republicans then passed the Working Families Tax Cuts. That law invested over \$170 billion to secure the border and safeguard our communities.

Republicans secured the largest investment in history in border security and law enforcement. That is what we promised to do, and we did. That investment includes \$46 billion to finish the wall and \$75 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement. It is going to help train, hire, and retain more agents. It includes a bonus for those agents who continue to serve so that they remain on the job.

Republicans also ended catch-and-release. For eight consecutive months now, zero—zero—illegal immigrants have been released into the country. None. Republicans strengthened enforcement in our country. More than 400,000 illegal immigrants who have been charged with or convicted of a crime have been arrested and removed from the country—400,000.

The lesson is clear: When we enforce the law and when we support law enforcement, Americans are safer.

So what have the Democrats done?

Well, they continue to put illegal immigrants ahead of law-abiding American citizens.

Last week, the Senate—right here in this body—voted to complete funding for 96 percent of the Federal Government. The Democrats blocked the final 4 percent. They weren't for that. As for the bipartisan Homeland Security appropriations bill—a bill that Democrats helped to write—the Democrats then blocked it. The Homeland Security appropriations bill funds TSA