

has bipartisan support on the floor this morning. In other words, talking about who has been trying to bring people together and the like, our proposal on this floor—the Senator from Florida, the Senator from California, the Senator from Oregon—is a bipartisan proposal. The Senator from Texas is not on the floor with bipartisan support.

I hope he will work with us over the course of the morning to get this worked out.

That is why I object to the Cruz proposal, and I object again.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. First off, I rise to recognize all my colleagues that have spoken about the importance of disaster relief, and I think we all want to make sure we help our States. Right now, I rise in support of the Doug LaMalfa Federal Disaster Tax Relief Certainty Act.

Florida is no stranger to natural disasters. As we speak, we are in the middle of hurricane season, which started June 1. When I was Governor, I wanted Florida to be the national model for disaster relief. We prioritized preparedness, safety, and quick action. But once the storms pass, you know, like anywhere else, Florida is in the same position. Floridians had to rebuild. Families lost homes. Some lost everything they had.

When you are in that position, one of the worst moments of your entire life, you shouldn't have to worry about a rising tax bill. That is why I helped lead this bipartisan bill and previous bills to provide not just Floridians but all Americans all across this country tax relief after disaster strikes, including Texans and Oregonians.

Our citizens need certainty when they are piecing their lives back together; they don't need the government taking a cut of the money they need. This bill just gives certainty of necessary tax relief to victims of natural disasters so they can focus on getting back on track and not worrying about the IRS.

This bill is very critical to my State, but it is also about more than hurricanes. It is not just about hurricanes; this bill helps families affected by all natural disasters, including wildfires, tornadoes, earthquakes, and any other scenario that can be declared a Federal disaster.

It is good for the entire country. It is a bipartisan bill, and it is a tribute to Doug LaMalfa, who passed away earlier this year.

This passed the House unanimously earlier this year, so if we pass this today, it will become law.

Americans don't need extra worries when the worst happens, and we shouldn't be an obstacle to their recovery. By passing this bill, we will make it easier to rebuild the American dream when hardships strike.

I am not going to give up. I look forward to continuing to work with my

colleagues, including with my friend from Texas, to get this bill across the finish line for every Floridian and every American. I recognize the issue he is dealing with, and I look forward to working with him to try to solve the issues Texans are looking at right now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MOODY). The Senator from New Hampshire.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I rise today to speak about a broken promise, a promise that the President made to the country when he took office.

Time and again, the President promised that "starting on day one" of his administration, he would "end inflation"—his words. A year and a half into his term, it is clear that the President not only has broken his word but that he disdains the very notion that he should even try to make good on his pledge.

Now, for the vast majority of Americans of all ages and walks of life, of all political stripes, costs aren't a partisan thing, and it is simply clear: It costs more to be an American with Donald Trump as President.

Part of why I am speaking today is because, as a new Joint Economic Committee minority report details, American life has become more expensive under this administration. As of June, in my home State of New Hampshire, the average Granite State family has had to pay an additional \$4,400 for goods and services since President Trump took office. This toll is exacted from virtually every part of everyday life.

In Donald Trump's America, when a person wakes up and starts their day, they now drink coffee that costs around \$10 a pound, a 25-percent increase since the President launched senseless trade wars, launched without the support of the American people.

After they finish their coffee and drive to work or to drop their children off at school, they do so in a car that now costs more to fill up every time they stop at the pump. Each Granite State family has spent \$596 more on gas, in fact, since President Trump launched his reckless, illegal war against Iran—a war he launched without a plan to win.

Now, let's say our typical American has a doctor's appointment that day. Assuming that they are able to afford health insurance, they will receive care covered by a plan which premiums rose as much as 50 percent under President Trump. Why? Because the President let Affordable Care Act insurance premiums surge.

And at the end of the day, the average Granite Stater returns to a house or an apartment that is also more expensive, as families in our State have so far spent \$1,108 more on rent or mortgage payments since President Trump started his term—all because the President refuses to address our country's housing crisis.

And after my constituent gets home and goes to pick up her mail, she opens another electric bill. Electricity has gotten so expensive that people in New Hampshire have had to pay \$194 more so far this year than last year because the President caused a worldwide energy crisis and canceled clean energy projects.

Next on the list, my constituent goes into the kitchen to make dinner, where—you guessed it—the ingredients cost more than they did before Trump took office. Granite Staters paid \$310 more for groceries last year than they did the year before.

So what has been the cost of the Trump Presidency, a Presidency where food, healthcare, gas, rent, and more have all become more expensive? The costs can be summed up by the figures in this report, but it can also be put more simply. For many in our country, the cost has been nothing less than seeing their chance at the American dream fade before their very eyes.

A year and a half into his Presidency, my Republican colleagues are making excuse after excuse for the President's failure to address the American people's basic needs. They need to stop—stop trying to advance the fiction that the President cares about lowering costs or perhaps is trying to lower costs but is getting some bad counsel from his advisers. If the President actually wanted to help the American people, he would listen to them. He would hear that this economy isn't working for them and, for some, well, it is breaking them. If he cared, this man who was supposed to understand the economy, as well as the hopes and dreams of the American people, would acknowledge that he needs to take action to lower costs. And even if he doesn't care, if this President believed that, in America, Presidents are accountable to the American people, he would be working to make life more affordable.

But this President neither cares nor thinks he is accountable to anyone other than himself and perhaps his billionaire backers. Just consider, he has attacked and dismissed anyone who says that there is a problem at all. He has called inflation a "hoax" and dismissed the cost-of-living crisis as—his words—"made up." He says this despite the fact that virtually every American of every political perspective—at least those who live outside the splendor of Mar-a-Lago—knows that American life has become more expensive under President Trump.

So when the American people say that their costs have gone up and the President dismisses inflation as a "hoax," is he saying that American families are lying? Is he suggesting that they should not believe their own eyes, their own understanding of math, when they look at the numbers at the cash register or at the gas pump? Because it is one thing not to solve a problem for American families; it is quite another to essentially say that the American people are lying.

What have American families done, what have the people who gave the President the privilege of serving in the highest office in our country done to have their biggest challenge, their greatest anxiety and fear dismissed by the President as a "hoax"?

Should we be surprised that a President who incited a mob to storm the Capitol and tried to overturn the voices and votes of the American people dismisses yet again what they have to say? Maybe the President would be more inclined to help the American people if they were a little less decent and a lot better connected. After all, this is President Trump's Washington, and we know well who this President is. He will save one of his corrupt campaign donors asking for a pardon, but he won't lift a finger to save American families a dime on their groceries.

And so I return to the President's promise. When he sought our country's highest office yet again, Donald Trump told the American people to put aside his corruption, his self-dealing, his poor character, his willingness to fan the flames of division and extremism, to forget the way he disrespects our veterans. He wanted us to even forget the attack on this Chamber, to forget the scars of the Capitol Police officers, forget all of this and more because he said he would bring down costs.

And now he is dismissive and contemptuous of anyone who asks him to make good on his pledge. He even undermines my Republican colleagues when they do try, in good faith, to lower costs. He actually threatened to block a bipartisan bill to bring down the cost of housing, a law that we were eventually able to pass.

Now, Donald Trump has made himself very, very clear. His Presidency will be defined not by lowering costs for families but by raising monuments to himself.

It doesn't have to be this way. The American people, right now, want an American dream that they can afford, a dream that doesn't belong just to a privileged few, a dream that is bigger than self-dealing, kickbacks, and self-enrichment schemes in the gilded rooms of Mar-a-Lago. The dreams of the American people aren't focused on golden luxury trappings. Their dreams are less gilded than all of that, but they are also far more noble.

Americans want their children to live better lives than they did; with quality, affordable healthcare that can help them rest easier at night; a decent education for their children; a place to build not a gilded ballroom but a home—a home in a country where we don't live fearing one another, divided over politics, but instead united as freedom-loving Americans who know that we are lucky to live in the greatest country on Earth, who love this country too much to ever hate our fellow Americans and who won't let the miracle of self-government die—not in the service of one man's ego, not for anything.

The American people want an America that is as good as this Nation's promise. They deserve a President whose word is as good as our people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

IRAN

Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, colleagues, the Trump administration has us stuck in a humiliating quagmire, a total deadlock in Iran. We are wasting billions of taxpayer dollars dropping bombs and firing missiles at Iran.

Iran responds with escalation. They keep the strait closed. They attack our bases. They attack our allies in the region. The war just expands and expands and expands.

In the last week, for instance, a new war is threatening to break out between Yemen and Saudi Arabia, which would likely result in the other strait at the bottom of the Red Sea being closed as well.

Trump personally pays no price for this stalemate. His corruption schemes, his cryptocurrency, his insider trading, the contracts to his sons, all of that has practically tripled his net worth in just 18 short months in office.

No, the price of this war is being plainly paid, first and foremost, by our soldiers who are being put in harm's way for a war that is making America weaker every day.

They are getting killed. They are sustaining life-altering injuries. Many of our soldiers and sailors and airmen have been in the region far past their scheduled deployment. They haven't seen their families in years.

And, of course, American consumers are paying the price as well. Here is the most relevant chart. This is familiar to you. This is what gas prices were doing until the war. They are creeping back well above \$4 a gallon right now. That is not affordable for regular Americans, especially Americans who have to travel great distances for work, especially small business owners who rely on reasonable gas prices in order to be able to make their bills work.

Diesel prices are through the roof as well. Fertilizer prices are through the roof as well, all because of this war. No other reason—the war. The prices are this high because of the war. It is farmers, it is small business owners, it is the American public who are paying the price—not Donald Trump.

And so that is why the war is just wildly unpopular, like except for Trump's sort of hard-line supporters, the folks who just don't believe he can ever do anything wrong, nobody wants this war. If you are in a red State or a blue State, this war is deeply unpopular. The American public is smart; they are smarter than a lot of my colleagues give them credit for. They know a war with Iran is unwinnable. They don't want America stuck again in a quagmire, a stalemate in the Middle East.

So how does Trump handle this, a deeply unpopular war, a war that he is

losing, a war that is driving up prices for the American public? Well, this is how he handles it: He gaslights.

He tells lies. And the essential gaslight is that: The war is about to end, don't worry. Yes, it appears that there is no end. It appears that you are going to have to continue to pay these prices forever. It appears that America has no endgame, but, don't worry, the war is about to end.

And so I just want to go through this pattern with you because it is really important to talk about the fact that the White House is just not being straight with the American public about what is going on in this war.

Over and over again the President declares that the war is about to be over. He is not telling the truth. He normally declares that the war is about to be over on Sunday night or Monday morning, right before the markets open. But now that we are 6 months into this war, we can see the pattern.

Let me go through it with you quickly. On March 23, Trump announces a deal. I am just going to give you his quotes, these are his words. He says:

The United States of America, and the country of Iran, have had, over the last two days, very good and productive conversations regarding a complete and total resolution of our hostilities in the Middle East.

The market impact is immediate. That post sends oil prices tumbling nearly 11 percent, but there is no deal. He just made it up. Two days later, the U.S. military is back to conducting strikes.

USS *Abraham Lincoln* continues flight operations against military targets in Iran while sailing in regional waters.

On March 30, Trump announces another deal. This is Monday morning right before the markets open. He says:

The United States of America is in serious discussions with A NEW, AND MORE REASONABLE, REGIME to end—

end—

our Military Operations in Iran. Great progress has been made . . .

One week later, there is no deal. The opposite. One week later, Trump posts that he is going to wipe out the entire civilization of Iran, "A whole civilization will die tonight," he posts, "never to be brought back again."

That is a war crime. The President is promising to kill millions of civilians. He tries to dial it back, but later on that same day he is back to announcing a deal.

Literally, "I am going to wipe out a whole civilization," that morning.

That night, on April 17, he says:

We received a 10 point proposal from Iran, and believe it is a workable basis on which to negotiate . . . a two week period will allow the Agreement to be finalized and consummated.

Five days later, there is no deal. Trump announces a resumption of the war with Iran.

Now let's fast-forward 10 days later to April 17. He posts that a deal with Iran is imminent. "THIS PROCESS SHOULD GO VERY QUICKLY . . .