

of actions—because, guess what, when you go to vote and you sign this ballot and you register, which also says you have to be a U.S. citizen, and then you have people at the voting place—every signature is checked. Every signature is checked.

In fact, in our State, the Washington State Patrol basically advises the election officials how to compare the signatures. And while they are comparing the signatures, there are Republicans and Democrats and League of Women Voters and observers in every election official office checking to see that that information is correct.

Now, you want to move all of that to the Homeland Security Department and let them be in charge of this and let them say how many people they think should be thrown off the rolls. I don't. This is a constitutional right for our States. It is one that is working. There is negligible fraud, and we shouldn't change it because you think you are going to get one more zero on that one ten-thousandth of 1 percent and disenfranchise millions of voters.

I do not want the Department of Homeland Security acquiring more information on us. I do not want the general post office holding ballots without postmarking them. I want our country to believe in free and fair elections. It is how we move forward. The President of the United States tonight should listen, as my guest tonight is the secretary of state from Washington whose vote-by-mail system is unparalleled in its ability to get the vote out and to be accurate, even in the closest of elections.

And we do catch fraud, and we do match systems against voters and information about them, so the system works. So please, please let us not tonight forget that voting in our country is a constitutional right upheld and pursued by our States. Let's keep that system. Let's turn down the SAVE America Act. Let's move our country forward with more participation in our elections, again by U.S. citizens in the system that has delivered for us today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

#### TARIFFS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last Friday, the Supreme Court ruled to strike down most—70 percent—of Trump's tariff taxes.

Tariffs can be useful when used strategically, but President Trump exceeded these authorities, as clearly defined by Congress, and the Supreme Court, by a vote of 6 to 3, told him as much. He defied basic economic sense. Just ask any American business or consumer who suffered under this chaotic policy.

Last year, the average American family paid more than \$1,700 in tariff costs. A tariff tax, as described by the President, sounds like a problem for the exporter to the United States. It is

not. It is paid by the importer. That turns out to be the American consumer.

So, at a time when families are struggling to make ends meet, when the cost of living is going up, the products that they are buying—many of them—are subject to Trump's tariff tax, and they have to pay it, how much does that mean for each American family? It means \$1,700 a year.

A recent report from the New York Fed found that 90 percent of the economic burden of Trump's tariff taxes fell on Americans—not on foreigners but on Americans.

How did the Trump administration respond to it? They said the researchers needed to be "disciplined."

The chaos unleashed by this administration's attacks on American businesses and consumers also resulted in a massive decline in manufacturing jobs last year—jobs the President promised he would be creating and would be booming. In fact, U.S. factories employ 72,000 fewer people than they did in April of 2025, with more declines every single month.

The President has also broken his promise many times over to the farmers in Illinois. His tariffs have made farming in Illinois unprofitable—not just by making the fertilizer, seeds, machinery, and equipment more expensive but also by wrecking export markets like China for years to come.

I have met with these farmers throughout my congressional career. They are proud, hard-working people. They are the backbone of so many communities across our State.

I meet with them, and they say: Senator, all we want the Federal Government to do is get the heck out of the way. We grow the best crops in the world. We can compete with any country on Earth. Just don't make our job more difficult by government action.

The tariffs did make it more difficult for these farmers, and they told me as much.

Last week's decision was a victory for America and a defeat for this President. It was a victory for the rule of law. But the damage has been done to small businesses and balance sheets across this country.

But instead of reconsidering his position after a clear 6-to-3 loss in the Supreme Court, President Trump is whipsawing between new tariffs—new taxes—resulting in the European Union halting a trade deal with us as they consider their next steps.

Chaos, turmoil—the President thrives on it, but American families and the economy do not. It is up to Congress to reject those desperate gambles by the President. Congress must also act to ensure that small businesses across the country get their money back as soon as possible.

And how about the families who paid for these products that have been taxed by the Trump tariff tax? They deserve relief too. If we are concerned about the cost of living as it hits American

families, they need to have some relief, too, and the President, after losing in the Supreme Court, should pay this money back.

#### REMEMBERING JESSE JACKSON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on a completely unrelated topic, the year was 1969. I had just graduated from law school. I was working for the Lieutenant Governor of the State of Illinois, a man named Paul Simon. He sent me on a mission. He wanted me to go to my hometown—East St. Louis, IL—and then to Cairo, IL. Both communities were in desperate need of help.

The reason he asked me to go at that time was the fact that the Reverend Jesse Jackson, in 1969, was launching Operation Breadbasket. He was shining a light on the ravages of poverty and the failure of the government to protect those in need.

He went through these two communities to listen to the desperate, the damned, and the disinherited. Even then, Reverend Jackson exuded a warmth that could put even the most anxious person at ease. He spoke with eloquence that would stir a person's heart—always did.

As he continued his fight against poverty and injustice, Reverend Jackson became one of the founding voices of the civil rights movement in America. He inspired countless politicians, activists, and preachers to fight for the dignity in every person.

In his life, Reverend Jackson contributed to the benefit of so many people. He will continue to be a symbol of hope, endurance, and equality long after his death. I extend my sympathies to his wife, his family, his friends, and followers.

His Operation PUSH on the South Side of Chicago is a legendary venue. Everybody who is anybody in politics makes a stop there. Jesse Jackson for years—for decades—managed to be a leader in our community through Operation PUSH.

I am going to miss him. We had speed dial on one another's phones, and he wouldn't hesitate to call me with advice on a regular basis. Sometimes, I even took it, but I was always glad to hear it because it was always heartfelt and always focused on helping the little guy. That was his life, and he lived it so valuably.

#### DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on a separate subject, last week marked the season 13 premiere of late-night host John Oliver's "Last Week Tonight."

In the 30-minute monologue, John Oliver laid into the Department of Homeland Security which he says "remain[s] a massive agency with unclear checks on its power, boatloads of money, and sweeping surveillance authority."

John Oliver is right, but it is important to remember how we got to this

point. I am old enough to remember a time before the Department of Homeland Security. After 9/11, Congress created what would become the third largest Department of the Federal Government. The creation and existence of this Agency was defended, in part, by proponents who argued that immigration was primarily a homeland security issue.

But from the beginning, DHS and its various components have struggled to accomplish its many conflicting missions while spending hundreds of billions of dollars. In the wrong hands, this behemoth of an Agency could be weaponized for political purposes. Sadly, that is just what we are seeing today.

I warned the Trump administration about their militarizing Federal immigration raids that don't target the worst of the worst by any means and instead amount to political theater with the intent of sowing fear and meeting arbitrary arrest quotas.

This past Friday, I attended the funeral of Ofelia Giselle Torres Hidalgo. Tragically, she passed away at age 16 after a battle with cancer.

In October of last year, her father Ruben was detained in a Home Depot parking lot. They crashed through his driver's side window and detained him. At that time, he begged them to let him go home. His daughter Ofelia had just returned from the hospital and was at home waiting for some food from her father.

He was trying to do one more odd job so he would have some money in his pocket to buy that food. That is what he was up to.

So they checked the background of Ruben Torres, and you won't be surprised to know he had no criminal record whatsoever. None. That didn't stop the ICE agents. They ended up arresting him, detaining him, and shipping him off to a location in Texas for 2 weeks.

Finally, they dropped all charges against him and let him go home to his sick daughter and his family. He did go home, but his status on the immigration schedule was still uncertain.

He managed to schedule a court hearing just 2 weeks ago. In that court hearing, his daughter, too weak to attend it personally, followed it by closed-circuit TV. The judge ruled against the government in their detention of Ruben Torres, and his daughter got to see her father finally liberated from this outrageous conduct by ICE at the very last minutes of her life. She died 3 days later.

I think about that, and I think about what the President promised us. He was going to send ICE into our communities and make them safer. He was going to make sure that people who came into this country illegally were removed from this country if they were a danger.

Oh, you heard him say it over and over again "the worst of the worst." That is what we are going after. Well,

Ruben Torres was not the worst of the worst. He was a father who had been in this country for 20 years, working, paying taxes, raising his family, and his kids had no criminal records whatsoever.

Does a father standing by his dying daughter who is battling cancer sound like "the worst of the worst" to you? Would you arrest him and send him off to Texas for 2 weeks on a suspicion and then drop all charges against him when he is begging you for a chance to go home to his sick daughter before she dies?

The political theater extends to the rest of U.S. citizens as well.

Kyle Frankovich and Juan Munoz were arrested and detained during November protests outside the Chicago ICE processing center despite peacefully protesting in a designated free speech zone.

According to Mr. Kyle Frankovich:

Kristi Noem was . . . surrounded by photographers, videographers, essentially just getting us in the background as she walked by.

Later, social media posts from DHS showed Kyle handcuffed, dubbing him a "violent activist." But after being detained for hours, Kyle and Juan weren't charged with any crimes. They were just being used as camera props for Secretary Noem's appearance.

These rogue immigration agents have not hesitated to round up American citizens, green card holders, and people with no prior criminal records. They have not hesitated to slap Americans with the label "domestic terrorist."

Now, they are building holding facilities—detention facilities—all over the United States—millions of dollars to hold thousands of these detainees for indefinite periods of time.

This is bound to get worse with the unprecedented funding surge of President Trump's "Big Beautiful Budget Bill." Thanks to that bill, ICE—this one Agency, ICE—has more funding than the Coast Guard or U.S. Marine Corps—more funding than the U.S. Marine Corps, an extra \$75 billion of taxpayer dollars to fund these ICE agents. We have seen plenty of them in the videotape.

That enormous pot of funding has been used in pursuit of the President's mass deportation agenda, while at the same time they are diverting money away from fighting drug trafficking and gun violence, ultimately making our country less safe. The funding certainly has not been used to improve hiring and training. Amid a hiring surge, ICE has reduced training requirements, waived age limitations, and bundled background checks, promising \$50,000 bonuses to those who sign up.

They have sought to recruit new agents via a multimillion-dollar advertising campaign that evokes White nationalism leading to a real concern that America is intentionally enlisting unqualified people based on their animus toward immigrants.

That is why Senate Democrats, with the support of the American people, are demanding real reforms in ICE.

First, DHS must end roving patrols, including indiscriminate arrests and racial profiling. The cameraless stops have to stop. They need to obtain judicial warrants in order to enter private homes.

Second, there needs to be accountability, including new use-of-force standards. And the masks must come off. If the mask is such a darn good idea, then why don't the State troopers in my State and yours wear them? Why don't the county sheriff's deputies wear them? Why don't our police wear them?

Only ICE believes it is so unique and so vulnerable that they need masks. Of course, that vision of a mask-wearing policeman is a secret policeman that doesn't instill trust or confidence in the community.

In a press conference claiming the end of Operation Metro Surge in Minnesota, border czar Tom Homan said in response to protests:

If you want certain laws reformed, [then] take it up with Congress.

Well, he is right. Congress ought to take this up on the agenda quickly.

He also said:

ICE . . . is enforcing laws enacted by Congress and signed by the President.

If they are, it is time for us in Congress to change them.

Let me be clear: It is not legal to deploy paramilitary DHS agents to tear gas Americans in the streets or shoot innocent people, nor to allow immigration agents to break into homes without a judicial warrant or detain U.S. citizens based on their race.

Is there any standard when it comes to too much government that the Republicans are embarrassed about?

It is true that our system needs reform. Time and time again, Democrats in Congress have tried to pass laws that bring meaningful fixes to the immigration system.

Thirteen years ago, I was part of a Gang of 8, with John McCain, LINDSEY GRAHAM, Jeff Flake, and Marco Rubio on the Republican side; myself, SCHUMER, Menendez, and BENNET on the Democrat side. We worked for months every night of every week until we had it done, the comprehensive immigration reform.

It had the support of business; it had the support of labor; it had the support of the White House, and we brought it to the floor of the U.S. Senate. It had more than 65 votes in favor of it. I believe there were 15 Republicans who voted for it.

It was a good bill. It would have avoided all the mess that we are facing today. What happened to that bill? It was sent to the Republican-controlled House where they refused to even consider it, wouldn't even bring it up for debate or amendment. They stopped it cold, and they have done nothing ever since.

That serious bipartisan effort would have fixed our immigration system. It

was blocked by Republican obstructionists in the House of Representatives.

That bill included bipartisan provisions to secure our border and deport dangerous individuals. It provided the solution that many undocumented immigrants need today. For those who have no serious criminal convictions, paid their taxes, and followed all the rules, they are offered a path to citizenship.

It was over 20 years ago when I introduced a bill known as the DREAM Act. The DREAM Act said if you were brought to this country as a child, an infant, a toddler, and you were raised in America, pledged allegiance to that flag in your classroom every day, you deserved a chance to earn your way to citizenship. That is the DREAM Act in a nutshell.

That has never become law. It is passed in the Senate occasionally, but not in the House; passed in the House but not in the Senate. Here it sits today.

My guest at the State of the Union tonight is a young woman named Tereza Lee. She lives in the city of New York now, but when I first ran across her, she was in Chicago. She was brought to the United States by her Korean family and raised by a father who wanted to be a minister at a Korean church in Chicago.

As he would visit these churches, it was Tereza that would go from one church to the next hammering away at the local piano which was always on board at these churches. Over time, she became part of the Merit music program and became an accomplished pianist.

There reached a point where she graduated from high school, and they said: You ought to go to one of the best schools, Julliard or Manhattan conservatory. She started to fill out the application, but didn't know what to put when it asked for citizenship.

So she called our office—or at least a friend did—and said: What should Tereza put to fill in the blank? We basically checked and found out that because she was undocumented and overstayed a tourist visa at the age of 2—at the age of 2—that she had to leave the United States for 10 years and apply to come back in.

It didn't sound right to me. How could she be held legally liable for this situation? It was her parents' decision not to file the papers.

So I introduced the DREAM Act. We had a good run on it with over a half a million people protected by a version of it that was passed into law by Executive order by President Obama.

Whatever happened to Tereza Lee? Well, some families in Chicago thought she was pretty good, and she was. She went to college in Manhattan in the city of New York and played in Carnegie Hall. She went on to get a master's and a PhD in music and is now recognized as one of the outstanding teachers of music to kids from lower-income families in New York.

It is an amazing story. She got married to a jazz musician from the United States. They have three children. She is an American citizen today.

She got her chance because people cared. President Obama passed DACA which gave hundreds of thousands of young people just like her a chance to earn their way to citizenship.

Isn't that part of a good immigration system? It should be.

If it had become law, we wouldn't be here today. The provisions that were included in the overall comprehensive immigration bill would have avoided the conflicts we are facing.

The American people are calling for reform today. The time to rein in this terror campaign is now. Congress must act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

#### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 6644

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk that is due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6644) to increase the supply of housing in America, and for other purposes.

Mr. BARRASSO. In order to place the bill on the calendar, under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be placed on the calendar.

#### STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, tonight the President of the United States will give the State of the Union Address. Americans are going to hear two things from the President. They are going to hear a record of progress that puts America back on track. They will also hear a plan to build on that progress.

In the 2024 election, Americans demanded safety and prosperity, and Republicans have delivered. Republicans cut taxes for Americans. We eliminated wasteful Washington spending. We rolled back regulations that strangled businesses and punished small businesses all across the country. We restored American energy dominance.

Today, America is safer, more secure, and more prosperous than it was when Joe Biden left the White House a little over a year ago. For the 4 years of his Presidency, painfully high prices punished American families. Republicans' policies have changed all of that. Our focus is affordability. The proof is in the pockets of the American people.

Last year, Republicans passed the Working Families Tax Cut law. Every Democrat—every single Democrat in

this body—voted against it. That law benefits every single American taxpayer.

Every working American receives a permanently lower tax rate. Every working American receives a permanent increase in the standard deduction.

Farmers, ranchers, small business owners, and Main Street small business owners receive permanent relief from the dreaded death tax.

All parents are going to receive a permanent increase in the child tax credit—\$2,200 for each child each year. Waiters, barbers, and bartenders are going to keep more money because of no taxes on tips. Nurses, firefighters, police officers, and coal miners will keep more money because of no tax on overtime.

Millions of seniors living on Social Security will receive higher payments as a result of no taxes on Social Security.

New parents can save and invest in their child's future through the historic new Trump accounts.

Republicans didn't stop with cutting taxes—oh, no. We also removed burdensome government regulations that strangled our economy. Just this month, in a historic decision, the Trump administration ended the so-called endangerment finding. That was an Obama-era regulation that raised car prices and limited consumer choice. This is the single largest action to cut burdensome regulation by any administration ever, and it is going to make life more affordable.

It follows a year of rolling back red-tape. Last year, President Trump eliminated 646 regulations, and his actions saved hard-working Americans over \$200 billion.

This is just the beginning. So what are the results so far? Inflation is at the lowest it has been in 5 years. More Americans are working—millions more—and wages are going up. The economy continues to see robust growth. Productivity grew twice as fast last year as it has over the past decade. That is what we have been able to deliver. These are the facts and figures.

Let me put it in personal terms. Because of the economic policies enacted in the past year, workers in America now have \$1,400 more in each and every one of their pockets than they did before President Trump took office. From the gas station, to the grocery store, to the pharmacy, paychecks are going further. Families are feeling financial relief, and more relief is on the way because there is more work for us to do.

Let's consider what the Democrats—the people on the other side of the aisle—want to do instead.

Joe Biden and the Democrats' reckless tax and spending agenda caused the worst inflation in 40 years. Record-high inflation. Sky-high prices. Today, these Democrats are determined to bring that back—that pain, that suffering. They want it all again.