

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.

These Democrats tried to raise taxes on American workers by \$4 trillion. Every single Democrat in this body—every single one of them on the other side of the aisle—voted in favor of the largest tax increase in America's history. We stopped them. We stopped them. Had these Democrats gotten their way, Americans would be paying more taxes today, not less. The refund checks coming would be smaller rather than larger, which is what they are going to get with the Republican plan when they get their tax refunds this year.

Even now, Democrats are still trying to raise your taxes. These Democrats are trying to undo the very policies that are putting more money back into the pocketbooks and the purses of American families.

Americans rejected the failed agenda of high prices and of open border and of high taxes. The American people chose safety and prosperity instead.

So, today, America is heading in the right direction. This is an all-American economic comeback, and we are going to continue to build on it, and people are going to hear that tonight when the President speaks.

Tonight, President Trump will lay out his vision for continuing to make America safer and more prosperous for the people who are here, the citizens of this country, and Senate Republicans are going to work closely with him to do precisely that.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### UKRAINE

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, today marks the fourth anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Vladimir Putin believed his so-called military operation would be over in 2 weeks, but, as the fifth year of the war begins, Russian forces have fought Ukraine longer than they fought the Germans in World War II. Because of the bravery and innovation of the Ukrainians, aided by American and European support, Vladimir Putin's objective to conquer and control the Ukrainian Government remains unattainable. His war is a strategic failure.

While the Russian military is making incremental gains in the east part of Ukraine, it is at an exorbitant cost. Since the invasion began in February 2022, 4 years ago, Russian forces have seized only 12 percent of Ukrainian territory. Because of the way they fight and how Ukrainians defend, Russian forces simply cannot achieve breakthroughs after the breach of Ukrainian positions. Today, nearly 20 percent of

the Donbas remains out of Putin's grasp and Russian forces, already struggling to take territory, face the "fortress belt" of the region's remaining cities.

Putin has abused his country's manpower advantage by employing a strategy of attrition with devastating consequences. Russian forces have suffered 1.2 million casualties in 4 years, and one-third of those are estimated to have come in the last year alone.

A recent report from the Center for Strategic and International Studies observes:

No major power has suffered anywhere near these numbers of casualties or fatalities in any war since World War II.

As these casualties mount, the monetary cost to lure new recruits is increasing. Russian regions are increasing their signing bonuses for contract soldiers, indicating that Russian recruitment is beginning to struggle to meet its goals. From the war's beginning, when Putin was resorting to mobilizing convicts, now, average Russians do not want to fight in this war.

Russia's economy has been degraded as the war has been prolonged. The move to impose sanctions on Russian's energy companies last year—which should have happened earlier in the war—has made it more difficult to export oil, the foundation of the Kremlin's budget. Moscow has had to offer buyers steep discounts of 25 to 30 percent below market value, increasing their budget deficit to 2.5 percent of GDP.

Sustaining Putin's war depends upon China's continued support. Beijing purchases nearly half of Russia's crude exports and provides critical dual-use technologies for Russian materiel.

Putin is overseeing a war effort that is succeeding in feet rather than miles, and it is coming at considerable cost to the future of his country. This is no time to permit him to claim a victory, either on the battlefield or at the negotiating table. We must share the resolve of Ukrainian people and make certain that Putin's invasion remains the blunder it was when it started 4 years ago.

While both Washington and Brussels have engaged in public debate, Putin should not mistake that debate for disengagement. The United States continues—continues—to provide substantial military and intelligence support, and our allies have increased their contributions. There must be no doubt in Moscow about our enduring commitment to Ukraine. The U.S. expanded intelligence sharing last October to assist Ukraine in targeting energy infrastructure deep inside Russia, and the United States lifted range limitations on certain weapons. Likewise, our European allies have stepped up to assume some of the financial support for the war, most recently agreeing to a \$105 billion loan for Ukraine.

There is much more I believe both sides of the Atlantic can do to assist Ukraine. I called for providing Toma-

hawk missiles last summer, and the European Union should use Russian foreign reserves to help pay for Ukraine's war effort. Congress should enact sanctions to discourage the purchase of Russian oil.

Last March, before the Senate Intelligence Committee, CIA Director JOHN RATCLIFFE told me:

I want to say that with regard to the Ukrainian resistance, the Ukrainian people and the Ukrainian military have been underestimated for a period of several years. . . . I'm convinced that they will fight with their bare hands if they have to.

Ukrainians are coming out of the most difficult winter yet, with temperatures at their most frigid of the war, and Russian bombing campaigns aimed at energy infrastructure have taken a toll. Instead of being convinced to sue for peace on Putin's terms, Ukrainians remain unwavering in their commitment to remain an independent and sovereign nation. We must commit to share in their resolve. I say that again. We must commit to share in their resolve and support the Ukrainian people in their fight for freedom.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. 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 MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

#### STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, later this evening, we are going to hear from Trump in the State of the Union Address. In a little more than a year, President Trump and Republican majorities in Congress have delivered on our promises to the American people, from a secure border to more money in Americans' pockets. As the American people will hear tonight, we are just getting started.

The Department of Homeland Security has been shut down for 11 days now. It is the second time in less than 6 months the Democrats have needlessly shut down all or part of the Federal Government. Senators will have another opportunity today to vote to proceed to the Department of Homeland Security funding bill. Democrats have previously opposed getting on this funding bill. They opposed a continuing resolution that would have temporarily funded Homeland Security Agencies while negotiations continued on immigration enforcement. All signs suggest that our Democrat colleagues will once again vote against moving to DHS funding this afternoon.