

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

REMEMBERING EDEN HOLGUIN

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to mention Special Agent Eden Holguin, a member of the Capitol Police's Dignitary Protection Division, who passed away last week following a brief illness.

It is men and women like Special Agent Holguin who allow us to complete our work here each day in safety. I am profoundly grateful for his service and for that of our other Capitol Police officers.

My prayers today are with Special Agent Holguin's loved ones and his family.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. President, it was a pleasure to hear from President Trump last night on some of the achievements of his first year in office and his continued plans to make life better for hard-working Americans.

It is something to remember the situation the President was facing 13 months ago, when he took office. America and Americans had been through a lot under President Biden—a historic inflation crisis and the worst border crisis on record. On top of that, hard-working Americans were facing the prospect of a \$2.6 trillion tax hike in 2026.

President Trump and Republicans took office last January determined to turn the page on these crises. We knew things weren't going to get fixed overnight, but we also knew we could do a lot to make life better for hard-working Americans.

We got right to work. A prime order for business was stopping that \$2.6 trillion tax hike on hard-working Americans, something we achieved with our signature 2025 legislation, the working families tax cuts.

But we weren't going to stop there. We were determined to put more money in American families' pockets. That is exactly what we did.

In addition to preventing a \$2.6 trillion tax hike and making permanent the tax relief Republicans passed in 2017, the working families tax cuts implemented a slew of additional tax relief. We increased the child tax credit by hundreds of dollars and linked it to inflation so its value will never go down. We boosted the standard deduction, which is claimed by 90 percent of taxpayers in this country. We instituted a new \$6,000 bonus deduction for lower and middle-income seniors. We implemented no tax on tips and overtime, allowing hard-working Americans, from nurses to ride-share drivers, to keep more of their own money—and more. Americans are already seeing this relief in the form of bigger tax refunds.

But the working families tax cuts didn't end with tax relief. We repealed the Democrats' natural gas tax and took steps to unleash American energy production to ensure that Americans have a stable, plentiful, and affordable supply of energy. We took measures to modernize the farm safety net, something very important to the financial well-being of farmers in my State of South Dakota and around the country.

And, of course, the working families tax cuts also addressed border security and national defense. Thanks to President Trump's work to stem the national security crisis at our southern border, encounters at our southern border are currently a tiny fraction of what they were under President Biden. Unlike under President Biden, individuals apprehended attempting to cross our southern border are not being released into the interior of the country.

The working families tax cuts bill helps ensure that we have the resources to maintain this kind of secure border for the long term.

The working families tax cuts may have been a signature legislation last year, but it is far from the only thing we have been doing to help make life more affordable for hard-working Americans. The President and Congress have taken action to repeal a number of burdensome rules and regulations—regulations that would have driven up energy and appliance prices in this country.

In this year's healthcare appropriations bill, we prioritized measures to make prescriptions less expensive at the pharmacy. We are looking to soon take up major housing legislation to make homeownership more affordable and accessible for everyday Americans.

My Democrat colleagues may talk a good game about helping hard-working Americans, but Republicans are actually putting them to work. We are putting more money in Americans' pockets and working hard to make life affordable for American families. As President Trump made clear last night, we are just getting started.

Before I close, the President awarded medals to several military members last night, including the Medal of Honor to South Dakota native Royce Williams. Then-Lieutenant Williams heroically took on multiple Soviet MiGs during action off the Korean Peninsula in 1952, hitting not one but several of the aircraft before piloting his own heavily damaged plane back to an American aircraft carrier.

I know from personal experience—my dad—that South Dakota has produced some incredible naval aviators, and we are incredibly proud of our South Dakota heroes, including Mr. Williams. And, Mr. President, we are grateful for their service.

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. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, last night was not America's State of the Union. It was Donald Trump's state of delusion. For 2 long hours the President stood in the House Chamber congratulating himself, inflating his own ego, but offering no solutions to our country's many problems.

He is in a bubble. He doesn't even have a clue about what the average American family is going through. Donald Trump patted himself on the back so many times I thought he would fall down. While Donald Trump kept claiming that "America is back" and that we are winning so much we don't know what to do about it, that is only half true. We are not winning so much, but he sure has no idea what to do about the problems in America, and he admitted it right there himself.

People back home were asking something different than what the speech addressed. They are asking: What about my electricity bill? How am I going to pay for my groceries? How am I going to afford a doctor? Donald Trump ignored all these things during his speech last night. Frankly, I have never heard a State of the Union speech—and I have heard quite a few—where the President's rhetoric and the country's reality were so far apart. Instead, Donald Trump spent most of his speech focused on the accomplishments, not of his administration, but on the accomplishments of other Americans whose accomplishments he has nothing to do with.

We are all proud of the men and women hockey teams that just won gold in the Olympics. We are all proud of and grateful for our veterans. They deserve honor. But Donald Trump didn't have anything to do with these accomplishments. He had so little to say about what he accomplished that he had to just go on and on about accomplishments of others, and folks back home want to hear about what the President is doing to help with their problems. They don't want to hear a fantasy that everything is going great.

But it got worse. Trump didn't simply ignore the affordability crisis. He mocked it yet again. The average American sitting at their table trying to figure out how they are going to pay that damn bill was furious that he said it doesn't matter. It is truly stunning to watch a billionaire like Donald Trump make fun of people's financial struggles during a State of the Union speech. The guy doesn't have a clue. He is in a bubble so thick, he can't hear what people are going through.

And of course, he lied about the economy. This man is an inveterate liar.

Everyone knows that. He said last night that manufacturing jobs have gone way up. That is a lie. Manufacturing is down by 100,000 jobs since he took office. He bragged last night about job creation. Well, job creation is at its lowest point in over 20 years outside of a recession—its lowest point in 20 years, and he brags about it.

Donald Trump claimed that the fight against inflation is over. That is a lot of BS. Just go to the grocery store, and you will see. Donald Trump's speech was filled with fluff and hype. When was the last time Trump bought a cup of coffee? When is the last time Trump walked into a grocery store? His speech shows that he never has.

It was also rich last night to hear Donald Trump announce that he will put JD VANCE in charge of investigating corruption. Now, I think putting JD VANCE in charge of corruption is actually something that might work out because he is right in the midst of it; he is all around it. And I have some suggestions for where he can begin.

If Vice President VANCE wants to investigate corruption, he should look into the billionaires who are donating to Donald Trump's fancy ballroom. He should look into how so many within the administration are making a killing—a personal killing—off crypto deals. He should investigate why Donald Trump pardoned the ex-President of Honduras, who was convicted of drug trafficking. If he wants to look into corruption, let him investigate the luxury jet Donald Trump received as a gift from the Middle East. He has got a lot to do right around him if he wants to investigate corruption because this is the most corrupt administration I think ever—certainly in decades and in maybe over a century. If JD VANCE wants to get to the bottom of corruption in government, the good news is that all he has to do is walk down the hall into the Oval Office.

So, in sum, last night, Donald Trump did what he does better than anyone else—one of the few things he does better than anyone else: He boosted his own ego and patted himself on the back. He didn't address the needs of Americans and just broke promise after promise after promise.

If anyone watching last night was hoping to hear about how Donald Trump is going to lower their costs and their economic pain, his speech was an anemic dud. So I suggest Americans who care about the high cost of living, about affordability, which Trump knocks, get a copy of Governor Spanberger's speech. She focused on it like a bull's eye. Her speech was so much more in tune with where the American people are than Donald Trump's. The contrast is glaring.

I also want to salute Senator PADILLA. He gave an outstanding speech as well.

Compare Trump's speech to their speeches, and you will know why Trump is in such trouble with the American people; you will know why

the Republican Party is panicking about what might happen in November of 2026.

#### REMEMBERING EDEN HOLGUIN

Mr. President, now one more sad note—the passing of Special Agent Eden Holguin. Today, the entire Senate honors the memory and the service of a great American: Special Agent Eden Holguin, who passed away last week after a sudden illness.

Special Agent Holguin joined the Capitol Police Force in May of 2023. He was assigned to the Capitol Division's First Responders Unit and House Chamber section before he was detailed to the Dignitary Protection Division. These are hard jobs. They demand immense personal sacrifice: time away from home, from loved ones, long hours, and sometimes dangerous situations. Most of all, they are indispensable, necessary, vital jobs. And it is because of people like Special Agent Holguin that the rest of us who come to the Capitol are safe, and he fulfilled his duties with dignity and with honor.

Today, the Senate grieves the passing of this great person. We give thanks that he served the U.S. Congress and the American people so admirably for 3 wonderful years. We pray for his family, for his friends, and his colleagues.

As always, to every single member of the Capitol Police, we say: Thank you. We stand with you. We join with you in remembering the memory of Special Agent Holguin.

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

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

#### STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor having just heard the minority leader, and he talked about the State of the Union Address last night. I heard the same speech that he did. I thought it was outstanding. Apparently, the difference is that I was actually listening.

The American people agree with me in terms of what they saw and heard and witnessed last night with Donald Trump's state of the Union. What Americans saw last night was quite simple: Republicans stood with them; Democrats didn't. They didn't stand for much. Republicans cheered for lower taxes, for safe communities, and for safer elections—secure elections, elections people have faith in.

Senator SCHUMER said he thought the speech was delusional. The American people didn't think that. Immediately after the State of the Union, CNN conducted a poll. Here is what they found: 62 percent of the viewers said that President Trump's economic and immigration policies would move the country in the right direction.

That is what we have been trying to do for the last year—get the country back on track. Those are the common-sense policies for which the Democrats refused to stand.

The President said to the whole body: If you agree with this statement, then stand up and show your support.

He then read the statement:

The first duty of the American government is to protect American citizens, not illegal aliens.

Every Republican stood up. Not the Democrats. They sat silently.

This is the first responsibility of a government of a nation—to protect its citizens. Why in the world would Democrats refuse to stand for such a statement, such a basic understanding of what the role of government is in our lives, what our Founding Fathers fought for? The Revolutionary War. Here we are 250 years into the United States, and the Democrats in the Senate and in the House and in the Chamber last night don't believe that is the responsibility of government, the No. 1 first duty—to protect American citizens, not illegal aliens? That is delusional on the part of the Democrats. It is astonishing.

I am happy to see CNN report that so many Americans agree that we are getting the country back on track, doing what we should do, what we were elected to do—to provide safety and prosperity for the American people.

What do the Democrats stand for? Raising taxes. They sit on their hands when it comes to protecting American citizens. Their priorities are wrong. We are in a shutdown right now for the Department of Homeland Security. Why? Because they want to stand with illegal immigrant criminals instead of the safety and security of the American people. To me, that was the most telling moment of the evening, and the American people will not forget that. They will not forget that visual. They will not forget seeing the President of the United States make his statement and the Republicans jump up and cheer and the Democrats sit in silence.

Last night, we heard about the great American comeback. The President's remark proved two things: Our country is strong, and our fellow citizens—boy, they are courageous. And we heard great stories of courage last night. More than a dozen heroes were honored, and rightfully so, heroes like 100-year-old Navy pilot retired CAPT E. Royce Williams and helicopter pilot CW5 Eric Slover, both of whom received the Congressional Medal of Honor. Well earned. Well done. Well deserved. Heroes like Pennsylvania mom Megan Hemhauser, who homeschools her two children and works in the evenings as a waitress; heroes like Coast Guard rescue swimmer Scott Ruskan, who rescued many young girls from the deadly Texas flood.

These American heroes remind me of two sailors I met with this past weekend. I was on a Navy destroyer within firing distance of Iran. These sailors