

at its fastest pace in more than 10 years. Thanks to tax reform, when many working families and small businesses file under the new Tax Code, they will see less of their money has been sent off to the IRS.

So there are more jobs to choose from, more wage growth, and higher take-home pay following tax cuts, but it is also worth looking at where this new prosperity is going.

The last administration's leftwing policies disproportionately benefited the Nation's largest metropolitan areas. It turns out, policies dreamt up in places like New York and San Francisco worked pretty well in places like New York and San Francisco, but the rest of the country decided we could do better.

Today businesses on Main Street and family farms are dusting off their "Help Wanted" signs. Smaller cities and States like Indiana, Nebraska, and Ohio have so many job openings that some of these communities are offering sizeable cash bonuses to move there. Smaller communities and rural America recently outpaced the rest of the country in relative job creation. So it is an all-American comeback, and the kinds of places liberal policies left behind are now at the front of the pack.

I have focused this morning on our robust economy. It is helping American families lift themselves higher, but it is just one part of the success story the President will be able to tell tonight.

The last 2 years have seen the White House and the Congress work together to identify pressing national challenges and to develop big bipartisan compromise solutions to attack them head-on. Working together, both parties collaborated on more than a dozen targeted measures to improve access to quality care for our Nation's veterans and passed landmark legislation to help local communities heal the wounds created by opioid addiction.

I am delighted to have one of these local champions as my guest tonight. Lisa Minton is leading on the frontlines of Kentucky's battle against opioid abuse. She runs the Chrysalis House, a treatment facility for pregnant and new mothers fighting addiction in Lexington.

In 2017, I worked with Lisa to secure a \$2.6 million grant to expand their services for low-income women and their children. I am glad she will be in the House Chamber this evening, and I am proud to highlight her amazing work this morning.

Working together, a bipartisan majority ended the harmful spending caps that hampered military readiness and made major progress restoring regular order appropriations on behalf of the American taxpayer. A bipartisan majority delivered commonsense relief for local lenders on Main Street from the burden of regulations designed for Wall Street.

These are just a few examples, and it is a good thing we know we can tap into that bipartisan spirit because the

American people did not hire us to spend the next 2 years in total gridlock. That is not what they did. When the American people elect divided government, they are saying: We know you disagree on a lot of things, but look to the things you agree on and do those.

If the past few weeks have shown anything, it is that we need to work together across the aisle in order to do our work, and make no mistake, there are significant challenges ahead, such as addressing the ongoing security and humanitarian crisis at our southern border, lowering the cost of healthcare and prescription drugs, and taking further steps to rebuild America's infrastructure.

Tonight I expect the President will offer a serious vision to deal with challenges like these. I look forward to hearing from him and then, throughout the coming year, I look forward to the Senate working closely with him and working closely with each other across the aisle to do just that.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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.

STATE OF THE UNION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, later this evening, in front of a joint session of Congress, President Trump will report on the state of our Union. As is tradition, the President will that say the state of our Union is strong, but the American people know the truth. Unfortunately, it is not.

The American people know that the Trump economy is failing the middle class and those struggling to get there. In Trump's economy, multinational corporations and the already-wealthy were given a tax cut, while American workers were left behind. The Federal Reserve reports that over 40 percent of Americans would have trouble covering an emergency of just \$400. Forty percent of working Americans, middle-class Americans, are just one medical bill, one unexpected car accident, one missed paycheck away from financial uncertainty. The state of the Trump economy—failing the middle class.

The President will say that the state of our Union is strong, but the American people know that the state of the Trump healthcare system is failing American families. After 2 years of relentless sabotage by the Trump administration and congressional Republicans, premiums are higher than they

should be, copays are higher than they should be, and for the first time in 8 years, fewer Americans have health insurance than the year before. The state of the Trump healthcare system—failing the middle class.

The President will say that the state of our Union is strong, but the American people know that the state of the Trump administration is in chaos. No administration has had as much Cabinet turnover as the Trump administration in over a century. Key positions are unfilled or uncovered or covered by individuals in an acting capacity—the Chief of Staff, the Attorney General, the Defense Secretary, the Interior Secretary, the OMB Director, and the EPA Director. Of the 705 top positions in the government, in close to one-fifth, the President hasn't even nominated somebody. The state of the Trump administration—chaos.

The President will say that the state of our Union is strong, but the state of the Trump foreign policy is woefully backward. It is inside out. Our allies are alienated and criticized. Our adversaries are emboldened and praised. Dictators and strongmen are given license by this administration, while our NATO allies receive harsh words. American values—free speech, free elections, freedom of the press, humanitarian rights, civil rights—go undefended in the dark corners of the world. The state of the Trump foreign policy—woefully backward.

The state of the Union is not strong. The state of the Trump economy—failing America's middle class. The state of the Trump healthcare—failing American families. The state of the Trump administration—chaos. The state of the Trump foreign policy—woefully backward, inside out.

These are not the total extent of our Nation's challenges, but even on these four metrics—the economy, healthcare, governance, and foreign policy—the state of our Union is in need of drastic repair. Still, knowing this President and his penchant for hyperbole, he will probably say that the state of our Union is stronger than it has ever been before in our Nation's long history, thanks to him. Knowing this President, he will rely on distortions and made-up facts to mislead the American people. The only question about the President's State of the Union is, How often will he distort? How often will he make up facts? How often will he resort to fear and divisiveness? And if past States of the Union are prologue, he will do that far too many times.

Knowing this President, he will then make some bold new promises and not even make an attempt to fulfill them. The man has so little integrity that a promise he makes at the State of the Union means nothing the next morning. Allow me to mention just a few of the things the President said in previous State of the Union Addresses.

Do you remember this one? In his first address to a joint session, President Trump said: "Education is the