

the 55th Wing were not negatively impacted, and, above all, a unifying spirit of dedication and purpose that showed the world that, when disaster strikes, there is nothing that can keep the men and women of Offutt Air Force Base from answering the call of duty.

I am extremely proud to have the privilege of representing everyone who makes this base such a key part of our national security. There is no finer representation of what it means to serve than the selfless work of the personnel at Offutt who responded to this emergency.

Despite the outstanding efforts made in preparation for this natural disaster, Mother Nature took a toll on the base. At the flood's peak, one-third of Offutt Air Force Base was underwater. Eighty facilities at the base have been impacted, and waters crested at a depth of 16 feet. More than 3,000 personnel were displaced from their work centers, and 1.2 million square feet of office space was underwater.

The damage across the installation is extensive, and it will take a concerted effort to ensure that the impacts from the flooding are resolved and that the base is fully restored.

I urge my colleagues to work together with the Nebraska delegation to ensure that when the full accounting of the impacts from the flood are assessed, we provide the Air Force with the full resourcing it needs to repair that damage.

The good news is, our service men and women at Offutt are already hard at work on the process of putting Offutt back on its feet.

As the water recedes, personnel have been working hard to account for the damage and take action to resume the operations that were suspended as a result of this disaster.

One of the signature sounds of the Bellevue, NE, community is the distant rumble of the engines of the aircraft that depart from and land at Offutt every day. During the flooding, that unmistakable sound was absent. Now that sound is back at Offutt.

Last week, the runway was certified for operation, and the first of our relocated planes came home.

We should not operate under any misperceived notions that repairing Offutt will happen overnight. This is going to be a step-by-step process. But with the hard work of the Air Force, Congress, and the local community, we can rebuild Offutt Air Force Base even better than it was before.

I wish to offer my thanks to everyone at Offutt Air Force Base who dedicated their time and energy to responding to this disaster. I also want to thank the heroic men and women of the Nebraska National Guard who provided aerial damage assessment during the flooding. Thank you to the countless members of the Bellevue and Omaha communities who donated food, equipment, and offered to volunteer during the flooding.

As we look to the days ahead, I am confident that both Offutt and Ne-

braska will emerge from this disaster stronger.

Now is a time when we must focus on the future. We will rebuild and ensure that Offutt remains Nebraska Strong.

Thank you.

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

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

#### NOMINATION OF CHERYL MARIE STANTON

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I come to the floor this afternoon to speak in support of my friend Cheryl Marie Stanton, who is well qualified to be the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division within the U.S. Department of Labor. In her previous role as executive director for the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, she gained valuable experience that will prepare her well for the role she is about to take on within the U.S. Department of Labor. She is also someone who has vast experience in labor and employment law, both in public life and in the private sector. She also served as Associate White House Counsel, as liaison to the Department of Labor.

Cheryl currently works at the Social Security Administration as associate to the Chief of Staff. She previously served as the executive director for the South Carolina Department of Employment and Workforce, to which she was appointed by then-Governor Nikki Haley in 2013.

Cheryl is someone I have known for more than 20 years. Like me, Cheryl served as a law clerk to then-Judge Samuel Alito on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Although we never clerked at the same time—she clerked the year before, and I got to know her through mutual friends initially and then got to know her independently through that clerkship experience—she is someone who is well regarded within the Alito chambers as being a hard-working law clerk and someone who everyone enjoyed working with and getting to know.

I still remember many years ago, when she was serving at the White House Counsel's Office as Associate Counsel, she took my family and me on a tour of the White House and showed genuine interest in them. This is the kind of person who comes with a lot of academic and professional qualifications. When you add to that this X factor, this intangible factor of being someone who is genuinely interested in people, genuinely interested in their well-being, their welfare, and making sure they are informed and happy, this is exactly the kind of person we would want in a position like this one.

Her academic credentials are, of course, impeccable. She received her

law degree from the University of Chicago Law School and her undergraduate degree from Williams College.

In short, Cheryl Stanton is someone I look forward to voting for and confirming to this position within the Department of Labor. I urge my colleagues to support her nomination.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### HEALTHCARE

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, it seems that every week now, I come to the floor to say the same thing, which is that healthcare is not political; it is personal. There is no part of healthcare that is more personal than the decision regarding if, when, and under what circumstances to have a child. And that certainly is the case when things go terribly wrong, which they sometimes do. These reproductive health decisions need to be made by women in consultation with their doctors, their families, and their faith. That is what the Supreme Court has ruled. They should not be made by politicians—mainly men—looking to score political points from women's personal tragedies. Yet, once again, that is what the Republicans are doing right now.

I have a question. How dare you pretend to care about the health of women and babies when all of your actions suggest otherwise?

Unfortunately, Republicans haven't noticed, but we have a real healthcare crisis involving women and babies in this country. In most of the world, fewer and fewer women are dying from childbirth—not here in the United States. Our maternal mortality rate is climbing. More women are dying. Our infant mortality rate ranks a shameful 32 among the world's 35 wealthiest nations. That means we have more babies who aren't surviving through the first year of their life because of lack of healthcare, nutrition, and other issues.

The Republican majority should be working with us and taking action to improve health outcomes for moms and babies. Instead, they are busy trying to take away their healthcare.

Between 2010 and 2018, the Republican majority in Congress voted to repeal or weaken the Affordable Care Act more than 70 times—7-0. Now the Trump administration has stepped in to help. Last June and August, they expanded access to association health plans and short-term plans. We just call them junk plans because they don't cover so many basics, like prescription drugs, mental health care, and—you guessed it—maternity care.

Let me remind everyone that before the Affordable Care Act, most insurance companies did not cover prenatal care and maternity care as a basic part of healthcare. Women had to go out