

wages for men, but I also can't believe he would say the problem is not women's wages when we know that—I have spent a lot of time on this floor talking about the dignity of work. I understand that so many Americans have seen corporate profits go up; we have seen executive compensation explode upward; we have seen workers working harder and being more productive; and we have seen wages remain flat. The issue is that wages are flat, in large part, because this body and this President have followed the advice of Stephen Moore and continued to cut taxes on rich people, underinvest in infrastructure, underinvest in working families, underinvest in public health, and underinvest in public education. So to put it on women and say that the problem has actually been the steady decline in male earnings—we shouldn't even be talking about women's wages—just makes no sense.

He doesn't seem to understand that, fundamentally, as challenged as so many working families are with stagnant wages and with lack of opportunity, if you are a woman in this country, if you are someone of color, the challenges are even greater. He should know that. Every economic statistic shows that. Sentient human beings walking down the street and listening should know that. But for some reason, this man who wants to be a Governor on the Federal Reserve thinks otherwise.

He wants the entire country—and this is probably even more serious. He wants the entire country to look like Kansas. He was the mastermind—or one of the masterminds—behind Governor Brownback's move in Kansas to basically eliminate tax liability for a whole group of mostly prosperous people, to cut taxes overall on the rich, and then go after public education and cut public education. It was so extreme that once it was enacted in a very Republican State by a Republican Governor, it was the Republicans in the legislature who unenacted it. They repealed most of the things he did and overrode this far-right Republican Governor's veto, again, based on what Mr. Moore had suggested. While almost all of the 50 States were gaining jobs, once-prosperous Kansas lost jobs during this time. He wants that disastrous economic model to go nationwide, and we know he is not alone. It is the same philosophy that so many in this town say we should do—tax cuts for the rich and not for working families. It is this view that if you cut taxes on the rich, the money will trickle down and everybody will have a better standard of living. We tried that with President Reagan, and it didn't work. We tried that with President Bush, and it didn't work. If you remember in the 8 years of the Bush economy, a few hundred thousand in a country of 300-plus million, there was no net job growth to speak of in the Bush 8 years. Then the Trump tax bill cut taxes on the rich, and maybe it will trickle down, and we will

have more jobs and more wages and all that. It just never works. It works for the rich. They get huge tax cuts. Bill Clinton, on the other hand—during his 8 years, in which they increased taxes on upper income people, we saw a 20 million net job increase.

For some reason, Stephen Moore and his corporate crowd don't understand what happens when you cut taxes for the rich. You don't grow the economy by giving more money to the super-wealthy, who will invest it in Swiss bank accounts. You focus on the middle class, and you give the tax breaks to the middle class like our earned-income tax credit bill. If you focus tax breaks on the middle class, you will grow the economy because you are putting money in the pocket of somebody making \$20- or \$30- or \$50- or \$100,000 a year. They are going to spend it. They are not going to put it in a Swiss bank account. When you give tax cuts to some of the people in the Trump Cabinet, they are going to put more in Swiss bank accounts. They are not going to spend it. They are not going to invest it. They are not going to make any difference in our economy.

So I ask my colleagues to vote no on Stephen Moore not only because there is so much about him and what he has done and what he has written, but mostly for what he would advocate as a member of the Federal Reserve.

If you love your country, you will fight for the people who make it work, and you respect and honor work. There is nothing about Mr. Moore's record that would suggest he would do that. We need someone on the Federal Reserve who actually understands that.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Iowa.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I would like to first give approximately a 1-minute speech and then speak for a longer time on another subject.

I am happy to recognize small businesses in Iowa, and, of course, we should recognize them all across our country. We do that by celebrating National Small Business Week.

In my State of Iowa, 99 percent of all businesses are small businesses. Also, almost half of Iowa's employees are employed by small businesses.

Government regulations have a disproportionate impact on small businesses, often costing them 20 percent more than the average of all businesses. So we need to remember that small businesses are the main source of America's innovations and economic strength. We should all be proud of and support these men and women who

work hard to keep our communities vibrant.

This week is devoted to honoring small business.

TAX REFORM

Mr. President, a few weeks ago, our tax filing season came to an end. This filing season was a very important milestone as it was the first tax filing season under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act signed by the President before Christmas 2017.

Congressional Democrats sought to turn the filing season into an indictment of the tax reform through a campaign of misinformation and a campaign of half-truths. They were obsessed with finding anything—just anything—they could hang their hat on to declare that the tax filing system was a failure.

I will give you a case in point—maybe, several cases.

They attempted to use early and incomplete tax reform data to mislead taxpayers into believing that since the average tax refunds went down, taxpayers' taxes actually went up. Of course, such a claim is just simple hogwash. The size of the tax refund tells you absolutely nothing about a taxpayer's overall tax liability. The tax refund, as most people ought to know, tells you how much a taxpayer overpaid the Federal Government throughout the year.

None other than the Washington Post Fact Checker called out Democrat tax refund falsehoods as, in their words, "nonsensical and misleading." The Democrat talking points earned the Democrats a whopping four Pinocchios from that Fact Checker. Yet the Democrats wouldn't let facts or reason get in their way, because if it did, it wouldn't be a political win for them. The Democrats continued to mislead and scare the public for several more weeks. And why not? The truth might hurt.

Then, more complete tax refund data came in showing that the average tax refunds were actually in line with the previous years. Much to the Democrats' chagrin, their favorite talking point was, once and for all, exposed for the nonsense that it is.

The fact is that this filing season was a resounding success for the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, signed before Christmas 2017. The filing season happened to run remarkably smoothly. This became even clearer the further into the filing season we went and a more complete picture emerged. On four points, all the IRS computer systems functioned as planned, refunds were processed in a timely manner, the total number of refunds sent to taxpayers are up—and the average refund amount differed by only \$55 compared to the previous tax year—and, lastly and most importantly, millions of middle-income taxpayers saw less of their hard-earned money go to Washington. And, of course, that was the purpose of the tax bill in the first place.

Now, unfortunately, the Democrats remain yet today as determined as ever