this President’s tax cut and my Repub-
lcan colleagues going along with this
tax cut that went overwhelmingly to
the wealthiest people in this country,
the budget deficit has just sky-
rocketed. We know all that. President
Trump had promised to pay for his
tax cuts by cutting Social Security
and Medicare. He wants to pay for it
by cutting Social Security and
Medicare. 

Today we got President Trump’s
budget. This document makes it clear
how he wants to pay for his tax scam:
on the backs of working families and
seniors.

I want to start with one that is of
special interest in Ohio. We all know
that just in the last 2 or 3 years—well,
starting soon after President Trump
was elected and then over about a year-
and-a-half period, the Lordstown auto-
plant—about 4,500 jobs—shut down.
President Trump had promised those
workers—he said to Mahoning Valley:
Don’t sell your homes. These jobs are
coming back. They are going to work
for us. And then the President Trump did
absolutely nothing. The third shift was
laid off. The second shift laid was off.
The first shift was laid off. The plant
closed, and there were 4,500 lost jobs.

I was talking with Senator PORTMAN—my Republican colleague—and others on getting somebody to
come into that plant. It will not just be
the 4,500 good UAW jobs, but it could
be, potentially, a good many jobs.
There was a loan program that we and
this company were going to use to
make sure they could, if you will, re-
industrialize part of the Lordstown
complex. Well, the President’s budget
axed that plan, that loan program. We
were counting on that as a way to re-
place some of those jobs that the Presi-
dent of the United States promised
would come back, and now we can’t
even count on that. There is that.

Then, in addition to the cuts to Medi-
care and Social Security, he is taking a
sledgehammer to Medicaid, to food
stamps, to investments in infrastruc-
ture, and support for rural communi-
ties and small towns. He wants to
make it harder to clean up our drink-
ing water and stop polluters.

At a time when one in four renters
spends more than half of their income
in housing, he wants to make it harder
to help families find and afford loans
for a home. Pretty much the only ones
who will qualify, the only ones who
the President’s budget acts didn’t hit:
corporations and their wealthy, unac-
countable CEOs. To fund their tax
cuts—again, the tax cuts 2 years ago—
70 percent of the tax cuts went to the
wealthiest 1 percent of people in this
country. To pay for those tax cuts that
have exploded the Federal budget def-
cit—you don’t have to be an account-
ant like my friend from Wyoming to
understand what has happened to this
deficit—President Trump wants to
ask more of seniors and others on the
backs of working families and
seniors.

He wants to ask more of seniors and
people with disabilities and students
and kids who need healthcare all to
pay for this tax scam.

President Trump sold us a tax cut for
working people, but the jig is up. We
know people aren’t seeing more money
in their paycheck. People in Trump’s
tax cut for what it really was: a give-
away to corporations and the wealthi-
est, tiny sliver of the population.

Remember the promises the Presi-
dent made that his tax law would mean
an economic growth in this country and
over. I was in the President’s Cabinet
room with the President and a handful
of Senators from both parties. He
promised, before it was passed. With
this tax bill, everybody will get a $1,000
raise, he said—well, not exactly true.
He told workers last year, the month
after he signed the law. You are going
to start seeing a lot more money in your
paycheck.

One lie after another lie after an-
other lie. Instead of investing in work-
ers, he wants to give back tril-
ions—literally, trillions—of dollars
of their own stock to line investors’ pock-
ets. Meanwhile, the deficit exploded.

We know what the corporate crowd’s
plan always is to deal with the deficit,
evrything else is going to work for us.
That is what they are going to do. In spring 2017, right after President Trump was elected, the
Wall Street Journal ran an op-ed by
eco- nomist Martin Feldstein, who has
built his career pushing tax cuts for his
rich friends.

Guess how he wanted President
Trump to pay for his corporate give-
away? In those days, the President
said. We will have so much economic
growth that it will pay for itself. Well,
the economic growth has been less in
the last 3 years of Obama than in the last
3 years of Trump, but that is not the
point. The point is he said it would pay
for itself.

Well, Martin Feldstein didn’t believe
that. He knew. He said in this article
that it will not pay for itself; it will
pay a little bit. But he said the best
way to do it is raise the Social Secu-
rit y retirement age. It looks like Presi-
dent Trump was listening to Martin
Feldstein.

It always comes back to whose side
are you on. You stand with workers, or
you stand with corporations. You stand
with insurance companies, or you stand
with patients. You stand with
Wall Street, or you stand with con-
sumers.

Do you fight for Wall Street wealth?
Or do you fight for the dignity of work?
If you love this country, you fight for
the people who make it work. The
President promised to fight for Amer-
ican workers and their families. This
budget he released today is the latest
in a long line of broken promises and
betrayals.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The sen-
or Senator from Wyoming.

BUDGET PROPOSAL

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I suspect
I couldn’t have come to this floor at
a better time. The President’s budget did
come out today. It consists of a set
of documents a foot high. In my opinion,
the whole pile should be replaced with
a list from the President of what he
thinks are pretty good ideas to do this
year.

I want to encourage people, including
the Senator from Ohio, not to waste
time searching out the President’s
budget cuts. Nobody has listened to the
President in the 23 years that I have
been here. Congress doesn’t pay atten-
tion to the President’s budget exercise.
I don’t know why we put him through
that. That is all it is.

Congress holds the purse strings, ac-
cording to the Constitution. Congress
is very protective of that constitu-
tional authority. If you don’t believe
me, watch all the rhetoric that comes
out on the President’s budget. I am
hoping that I hear something positive
on it, but it is pretty hard to find any-
thing positive with the situation that we are in. I do have to take issue with something that was just said
here, that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act
didn’t work. It has worked.

Now, a very important thing for ev-
everybody to know. The problem that we
are in right now with our deficits
doesn’t have to do with the dollars
that are coming in. The first year after
the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, we took in
more revenue than ever before. More
people had jobs. More people were pay-
ing taxes. Companies were paying more
taxes. They were doing more business.

That results in more taxes. So, that
first year, we got more money than we
had ever had to spend before.

The second year, we had more money
than the first year. We keep getting
more money to spend. The problem is
we have no control over our urge to
spend. Since CBO’s June 2019 Long-
Term Budget Outlook, Congress has
passed and the President has signed
legislation that would add more than
$2 trillion to our national debt over the
next 10 years. That is how we are
spending.

The increased spending caps from the
Bi-partisan Budget Act of 2019 are
responsible for $1.7 trillion of that $2.1
trillion. It does include interest costs,
but that is what we have to pay any
time we have a debt. That $1.7 trillion
passed with no debate. There was a
budget point of order. I had established
a budget point of order, which takes 60
votes. I missed by four being able to
stop that. We can’t spend that way.

But that isn’t the President’s budget.
That is our budget.

I yield the floor.
hear lots of terrible things about the President’s budget. You won’t hear anything positive. In the present political atmosphere, you probably will not learn anything from the comments. Little of a positive nature is getting any coverage in Washington these days.

Recently, I went to a hearing on the dangers of youth vaping. It turned into a diatribe about President Trump. The Appropriations Committee that allocates the specific dollars, but we always wind up spending beyond the limit set by the budget, even if a budget can be agreed on. How can that happen? When a spending bill or a spending idea comes to the Senate floor, the bill technically needs 60 votes to pass. To bust the budget limits also means it must allow for any idea on a spending bill that is able to pass already, it already has the votes to bust the budget and put us deeper into debt.

Congress also doesn’t meet spending deadlines to do. Congress passes a continuing resolution, which means we couldn’t agree by the end of the fiscal year, the government stays open with permission to spend each month 1/12 of what it was allocated the previous year. That is what a continuing resolution does; it allows them to keep operating at what they had before. Continuing resolutions continue until both sides are able to negotiate what they want, but the new method of compromise is you can have everything you want—or let me have everything I want. What kind of negotiation is that?

Well, as I mentioned before, it is $1.7 trillion and one vote with no debate. Yeah. How would your Christmas shopping be if you were able to secure those circumstances where everybody could have whatever they wanted? Wouldn’t it even be worse if you were spending someone else’s money for those Christmas presents? What if it appeared to be an unlimited source of money? How long would that last?

Of course, if a continuing resolution doesn’t pass, the government is shut down. The employees are sent home. Federal public places are shut down and closed to the public. When agreement is finally reached, the employees come back. They are paid for the time they were off. They are away behind in their work, which hurts the economy when permits aren’t released—and other things also have to pay lots of overtime to catch up for the time they were off.

There are several proposals out there that could stop shutdowns and put pressure on Congress to get the spending job done on time. How long can we overspend? Well, interest, I think, is currently in the area of 2 1/2 percent. If people lose confidence in the Federal Government, we will have to pay a higher interest rate in order to get the money to fund them. Yes, we have also have to pay lots of overtime to catch up for the time they were off.

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below 45 is because we didn’t have jurisdiction over those in Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. Those were all in other groups.

In the area of housing, we have 160 programs—160 programs—and they are administered by 20 different agencies. So really, nobody is in charge. So nobody is setting goals. So nobody is checking to see if it is working. Nobody is checking to see if the program over here in one of those 20 is the same as the program over here in another one of the 20, which would allow them to be merged.

Merging saves money. If you merge, you only need one director, instead of two, and you don’t need all the assistants there were. You only need the assistants for one program, and the money that would be stuck in Washington can actually go to what we thought was going to get done. Every merger results in savings. Elimination results in more savings. How much better would it be to move the money to where the results are?

The proposed budget reforms that Senator WHITEHOUSE and I have worked on would provide for portfolio reviews. Here is how that works. Each committee would have to look at all of the programs, of the type that would be in their jurisdiction if it weren’t handled in a bunch of other places. So those other places would have to look at the ones under their jurisdiction. If we can get that portfolio review, I think we would find that some of those areas where we are doing it time after time, mostly by just adding to Washington bureaucracy.

We want the money out there where the problem is. We think we are solving problems, but we are not solving problems. We are just hiring more people in DC. We used to have a policy that the last person hired would be the first person fired and that resulted in an increase in government, too, because as soon as you got hired, you could expand your workload so you needed an assistant, and now you weren’t the first in line to be fired. That has resulted in a lot of people working in Washington. How much money actually makes it to the problem? We ought to see if the money makes it to the people or if we are just increasing Washington bureaucracy.

Over the next few weeks, I will be going into some detail on each of these problems with budgeting. I will also be promoting the budget reforms that Senator WHITEHOUSE and I and the Budget Committee have put out favorably. I think that is the first budget provision in about the last 20 years that has come out of the committee in a bipartisan way.

Now, I could tell you that the reforms that we proposed will not solve all of the problem. You can’t take that big of a leap when you have that big of a problem. But while those reforms will not solve the problem, they should help to make the solutions more noticeable. We are having trouble getting that on the floor, too.

I really came to the floor to eliminate some of the concerns about the President’s budget. I want people to know that they don’t all have to fly to Washington to make their case to the Budget Committee for their program. Once the Budget Committee sets the parameters, then, the detail comes into play with the Appropriations Committee.

Talk to your appropriators. They spend the money—the exact dollars. Do your work there, but be sure your program is as effective as it can be. Also, take a little look at how many similar Federal programs there are. See if there can be a savings by merging some, thus getting more money out in the field where you are and getting more money on the problem.

Once again, the President’s budget came out today. It consists of a set of documents a foot high. In my opinion, the whole pile should be replaced with a list from the President of what he thinks are pretty good ideas to do this year and, hopefully, there will also be a little piece in there that says how you can pay for it.

So don’t waste any time searching out the President’s budget program cuts. Congress doesn’t pay any attention to the President’s budget exercise. That is all it is—an exercise. Congress holds the purse strings, according to the Constitution, and Congress is very protective of that constitutional authority. Now we need to do the work that goes with that authority.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SULLIVAN). Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:38 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, February 11, 2020, at 10 a.m.