

Rather than confront the looming crisis in 2009, President Obama, Vice President Biden, and Washington Democrats raided more than \$700 billion from the Medicare Program. They didn't do it to save Medicare; they cut money from a financially strapped Medicare Program and then spent that money on a brandnew entitlement program called ObamaCare. It was the Democrats who pushed ObamaCare through Congress without a single Republican vote.

And what do Democrats want to do if they find their way back into power? They want to enact something called Medicare for All. Moving the 180 million Americans with private, employer-based insurance to the Medicare rolls would cause Federal spending to balloon to unthinkable levels.

An analysis conducted by the Mercatus Center in 2018 found that Medicare for All would increase Federal spending by \$32 trillion over the next 10-year period. This Democratic plan would also give the Federal Government more control over healthcare, impose massive tax increases on the middle class, and disrupt access to services. That is why Democrats would rather mischaracterize the unavoidable impact of COVID and demonize Medicare budget proposals that are often bipartisan in nature.

Democrats used the very same dirty tricks related to Social Security, as I just talked about with Medicare. Some across the aisle recently concocted a hypothetical proposal that eliminates the funding source for Social Security and asked the program's Chief Actuary to assess its impact.

This was an obvious attempt to alarm seniors and disabled Americans with the ultimate intent of smearing Republicans and feeding false talking points to a Democratic candidate for President. Even when their schemes and false talking points earned four Pinocchios from even the Washington Post, Democrats still proceed full speed ahead with their misinformation campaign. And even though Ways and Means Committee Ranking Member BRADY and I got the Social Security Actuary to affirm the Democrat's recent scheme was just a bunch of malarkey, the Democrats and Candidate Biden continue with this misinformation.

Again, Democrats use scare tactics in the runup to an election. While they accuse Republicans of wanting to destroy Social Security, Senate Democrats do little or nothing to work in a bipartisan way to help this program. Remember, in 2015, when the disability insurance trust fund was going to run dry, Senate Democrats demanded that the only thing that you could possibly do was to take from the retirement trust fund and then just simply kick the can down the road.

Senate Democrats had no interest in working with us to at least try to make the disability insurance program better for beneficiaries. Instead, Sen-

ate Republicans worked with the House and Obama administration to prevent disability security trust fund exhaustion and even to improve the program.

There was no privatization of anything, and the only thing that could be construed as a benefit cut came directly from President Obama.

You will not hear anything about that from these Senate Democrats. Instead, they just bring out their stale talking points and, of course, scare tactics about Republicans trying to destroy the program. Now they are applying the same wornout, baseless scare tactics to this Supreme Court confirmation process.

Democrats want to make the President's nomination to fill the vacancy all about ObamaCare and the case the Court will consider this fall.

Going to the minority leader's own words when it comes to Judge Barrett's confirmation hearing, he said: "We must focus like a laser on health care." The left is misrepresenting an article by then-Professor Barrett in hopes of finding something—almost anything—to gum up this confirmation process. It seems to me they are just frustrated this nominee had the audacity to suggest judges interpret law as written.

There is an old saying in the legal profession: If the law isn't on your side, pound the facts. If the facts aren't on your side, pound the law. If neither fact or law is on your side, just pound the table.

That is what we see yet again from our Democratic colleagues. It is ludicrous to pick one pending case and predict how every member of the Court, including one just starting the confirmation process, would vote on that case, especially when entirely different legal issues are at stake. Frankly, it is a disservice to the American people.

The Democrats know this, but that will not stop them. It will not stop them from trying to mislead hard-working Americans into believing that their healthcare coverage could disappear tomorrow.

It is also just the latest example of how many Democrats in Congress view the Supreme Court—just somehow another policy end that they can't accomplish through this branch of government, where we are now. That is not the role of the Court. I am sure Judge Barrett will reiterate that point before the Judiciary Committee.

The Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in the case mid-November, and there are countless scenarios on a potential outcome. So is it useless, then, to speculate. But that will not stop the Democrats from speculating during this process of Judge Barrett's nomination.

The bottom line is, no matter the decision, no one will lose healthcare coverage on the day the Supreme Court issues its ruling.

In the meantime, Republicans will continue to protect individuals with preexisting conditions and fight to give Americans more affordable healthcare options.

The President reaffirmed that very thing in his commitment in an Executive order that he signed last week. That Executive order states that it has been, and will continue to be, the policy of the United States to assure that Americans with preexisting conditions can obtain insurance of their choice at an affordable price.

The Democrats don't want to stop at ObamaCare. What they really want to do is impose their government-run Medicare for All Program and take away people's private insurance plans that they like—because 160 million people have it.

As I mentioned earlier, this one-size-fits-all approach would take away people's private insurance, result in worse care, and bankrupt the country.

Republicans want to strengthen Medicare, preserve Social Security, and ensure affordable private coverage options now as well as in the future. Democrats want to mislead now in hopes of future political gains.

Americans deserve better. We can do better.

Vice President Biden and his party should stop their shameful election-year scare tactics. They should end the malarkey.

It is time to have the courage to engage in an honest, civil conversation about bipartisan ideas to improve these health and security programs for millions of people who depend on them.

## RECESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 2:15 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TOOMEY). Is there objection?

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:36 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PERDUE).

## CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2020 AND OTHER EXTENSIONS ACT—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

### NOMINATION OF AMY CONEY BARRETT

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, we are once again in a conversation about freedom of religion and the free exercise of religion and what that means. Very simply, I would argue that it means the ability to have any faith, to have no faith at all, to change your faith, and to be able to live it out.

The ability to have a faith is a part of who we are. It is our most precious possession within us. If it is not that, if it is something less than that, if the free exercise of religion has limitations on it, then it is simply the freedom to worship or to have a named faith around you but not to actually live your faith.

That is not what we have in this country, thankfully. We have a constitutionally protected right to the