

163 Cong.. Rec. S7666 (Dec. 1, 2017)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina is recognized.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, reserving my right to object, I am not sure what meeting I sat through for 12 hours about 2 weeks ago, where we essentially litigated each aspect of this legislation. I am not sure where we have been for the last several years as we have had, for the last 5 or 6 years, several hearings. The reality of this legislation is that every facet of it is something we have discussed. There is not a new part—not a new part—to the legislation. Yes, we have fused it together over time. There is no doubt about that. But to sit here and say that we have not had opportunities in the Finance Committee to hear the facets of the bill is just disingenuous.

Mr. WYDEN. Will my colleague yield for a question? Could my colleague tell me when the hearing was held on the health changes envisioned in this legislation?

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. President, it is not a secret that our party and this body have been working on healthcare for about 10 years. Anyone who doesn't understand and appreciate that the individual mandate and its effects in our bill take nothing at all away from anyone who needs a subsidy, anyone who wants to continue their coverage—it does not have a single letter in there about preexisting conditions or any actual health feature. The reality is, what our plan does on the individual mandate is good news for the average American. Here it is——

Mr. WYDEN. Will my colleague yield?

Mr. SCOTT. Here it is. Here is the good news for every American. They ought to hear loud and clear that 80 percent of the folks who are punished—punished—by the individual mandate live in a household of less than \$50,000 of income, and one-third of those folks live in a household of less than \$25,000. Therefore, the benefit of our actions is to set folks free from being penalized for doing nothing.