

Opening Statement
Hearing on “The Semiannual Monetary Policy Report to the Congress”
Ranking Member Elizabeth Warren
June 25, 2025

“When he ran for President, Donald Trump repeatedly promised to lower costs “on day one.” But since Trump became President, families have been more stressed than ever.

- Since January, consumer sentiment has plummeted.
- Since January, household debt and delinquencies continue to climb.
- Since January, workers’ worries over layoffs have climbed.
- Since January, businesses, big and small, have been paralyzed by uncertainty, and they have hit the brakes on investments and hiring.

The cause of these problems has been the chaos caused by one person: President Trump.

- chaotic trade policies,
- massive cuts to families’ health care coverage to fund tax giveaways to the wealthy, and
- wholesale deregulation of our financial system that will unleash fraudsters and con-men on the middle class.

First: trade. Trump continues to play his lose-lose game of red-light, green-light on tariffs. When this administration slaps tariffs on everything from food to clothing to electronics, working families pay the price. This is bad for the middle class and bad for Main Street. Tariffs like these mean higher prices on essentials for consumers and small businesses while large corporations and the wealthy find ways to shield themselves from the impact.

Second: tax cuts for the wealthy. Trump’s “One, Big Beautiful Bill” that Republicans are jamming through Congress represents one of the largest transfers of wealth from working people to millionaires and billionaires in American history.

How are Trump and Republicans paying for *part* of this \$4 trillion in tax giveaways to billionaires? By kicking 16 million people off their healthcare coverage; cutting food assistance for more than 2 million children; and raising monthly student loan payments for millions of borrowers just after delinquencies skyrocketed. In addition to raising costs for lower- and middle- class Americans and taking money right out of their pockets, this bill will also choke economic growth. This isn’t tax policy; it’s economic warfare against American families.

And even when they throw 16 million people off their health care, they still can’t pay for the lavish tax giveaways to billionaires. So instead of saying that billionaires and billionaire corporations should pay just a little more in taxes, they put the costs of those billionaire tax cuts

on the nation's credit card—the national debt. The Republicans plan to run up the national debt by another \$4.2 trillion.

Finally: Deregulation. This administration is systematically dismantling the safeguards policymakers put in place after the 2008 financial crisis to prevent Wall Street from causing another crash.

Less than two weeks ago, the Fed Board decided to lift Wells Fargo's asset cap. You couldn't even wait until Wells managed to make it one year without a major financial scandal. In the past six months, Wells has been caught and confessed to cheating its customers, cheating its investors, and cheating its workers. For the Fed to give them a gold star and tell Wells it's ok to expand the number of customers, investors and employees it cheats is an outrageous giveaway to one of Wall Street's most derelict banks.

And today you will leave this hearing and go directly to a meeting where the Fed is expected to vote to lower capital requirements for JPMorgan, Goldman Sachs, and all the other Too-Big-To-Fail banks. At a time when the economic data are flashing red, these short-sighted changes will increase the likelihood that these megabanks once again tank the economy and beg Congress for bailouts when their risky bets go bust.

To sum up Trump's economic agenda: it's chaos and pain for the middle class and even more profits for the powerful. American families will face higher costs and new risks to their health care and their bank accounts. Unemployment will tick up, and our economic growth will slow. That's not just me saying this—it's exactly what the Fed's latest economic projections indicate.

I hope that my Republican colleagues will wake up to the chaos around us. It falls to Congress to stop Trump's trade war and kill this "Big, Ugly Bill." And Chair Powell, it falls on YOU and the Fed board to not pile additional risk onto Trump's existing chaos by dismantling the safeguards that protect American families from another Wall Street meltdown."

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