

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

## MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

## VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I was unavailable for rollcall vote No. 188 on the nomination of Timothy Kelly, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote No. 189, the motion to table Paul motion to refer H.R. 601, the Emergency Supplemental Continuing Resolution and Debt Limit Act, with instructions. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote No. 190, the motion to table the motion to refer H.R. 601 to committee with instructions to report back without any provision that was not contained in the House message accompanying the bill H.R. 601. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote No. 191, the motion to invoke cloture on the House message to accompany H.R. 601, with further amendment—emergency aid, debt limit, CR. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.

Mr. President, I was unavoidably absent for rollcall vote No. 192, the motion to concur in the House amendment to H.R. 601 with further amendment. Had I been present, I would have voted yea.●

(At the request of Mr. NELSON, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

## DISASTER RELIEF FUNDING BILL

• Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, today I am home in West Miami, FL, which is now under a Hurricane Watch for Hurricane Irma and currently projected to take a direct hit from a category 5 storm. Tropical storm conditions are expected in south Florida less than 48 hours after the time of this vote. Had I remained in Washington, DC, the earliest possible return to south Florida would have given me less than 12 hours to safely secure my home and my mother's home and otherwise prepare my family to face the brunt and the aftermath of a potentially catastrophic storm. Therefore, given these circumstances and the fact that my vote would not have been determinative of the outcome of the measures before the

Senate, I felt the prudent course of action was to remain in south Florida, take appropriate actions to protect my family and helping to coordinate efforts between Federal, State, and local officials.

If I had been able to participate in today's Senate vote in Washington, I would have voted to approve the supplemental package before the Senate, but my vote would come despite significant reservations about some of the other items attached to this legislation.

As I have always done in the past, I support providing additional emergency resources for disaster aid and recovery. Disaster relief is an appropriate function of the Federal Government. Unlike some previous disaster relief legislation, these funds are to be spent immediately, and are properly targeted to assist the areas impacted by Hurricane Harvey and potentially Hurricane Irma.

The rest of this spending package, however, contains items that, under normal circumstances and offered separately, I have opposed.

I strongly disagree with the decision made by the administration to agree to pair funding for FEMA and emergency disaster relief to short-term extensions to the continuing resolution, the debt ceiling and the National Flood Insurance Program unaccompanied by significant reforms.

During my service in the Senate, my support for increasing the debt limit has consistently in the past and will again in the future be conditioned on meaningful spending reforms that address our long-term debt.

Absent extenuating circumstances such as the outbreak of the Zika virus last year, I have consistently opposed passage of short-term continuing resolutions because it is an incredibly inefficient way of spending taxpayer dollars and fails to provide the certainty required for effective planning.

I am frustrated that Congress has once again temporarily reauthorized the outdated National Flood Insurance Program without enacting a long-term solution that makes much-needed improvements for the people of Florida and places this vital program on a sustainable path.

It is shameful these necessary and important measures are not being considered separately. Linking them to funds needed to assist our fellow Americans recovering from a devastating natural disaster is a cynical effort to avoid subjecting these measures to the scrutiny and debate they merit.

Today I was informed by its director that FEMA has less than 2 days of emergency funds remaining. Given that Texas continues to recover from the catastrophic effects of Hurricane Harvey and that the State of Florida is facing the most powerful Atlantic storm ever recorded, I have no choice but to support this measures, but I consider the manner in which this measure was structured, linking emergency disaster relief for victims which requires immediate action with other con-

troversial measures we still have time to debate through the regular order, to be among the most politically cynical efforts I have ever witnessed.●

## BUDGET SCOREKEEPING REPORT

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I wish to submit to the Senate the budget scorekeeping report for September 2017. The report compares current-law levels of spending and revenues with the amounts the Senate agreed to in the budget resolution for fiscal year 2017, S. Con. Res. 3. This information is necessary for the Senate Budget Committee to determine whether budget points of order lie against pending legislation. The Republican staff of the Senate Budget Committee and the Congressional Budget Office, CBO, prepared this report pursuant to section 308(b) of the Congressional Budget Act, CBA.

My last filing can be found in the RECORD on July 12, 2017. The information contained in this report captures legislative activity since that filing through September 5, 2017.

Republican Budget Committee staff prepared tables 1-3 of this report.

Table 1 gives the amount by which each Senate authorizing committee exceeds or is below its allocation for budget authority and outlays under the most recently adopted budget resolution. This information is used for enforcing committee allocations pursuant to section 302 of the CBA. For this reporting period, 11 of the 16 authorizing committees are in compliance with their allocations, two fewer than my last report. Legislative activity during this reporting period brought both the Committee on the Judiciary, for a State compact relating to the Washington Metrorail Safety Commission, P.L. 115-54, and the Committee on Foreign Relations, for the Countering America's Adversaries through Sanctions Act, P.L. 115-44, out of compliance.

In total, authorizing committees are estimated to increase outlays by nearly \$2 billion more than they were allocated over the fiscal year 2017-2026 period. The largest spending violation since the passage of the current budget resolution occurred during this reporting period. The VA Choice and Quality Employment Act of 2017, P.L. 115-46, increased budget authority by \$2 billion and outlays by \$1.9 billion over the fiscal year 2017-2026 window.

Tables 2-3 of this report, related to activities of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, remain unchanged from my previous report.

In addition to the tables provided by Budget Committee Republican staff, I am submitting CBO tables, which I will use to enforce budget totals approved by the Congress.

CBO provided a spending and revenue report for fiscal year 2017, which helps