

grew at a rate of 4.1 percent in the second quarter of 2018, and I have to say that this is tremendous news.

Getting our economy going again has been a huge priority for Republicans since President Trump's election. We have eliminated burdensome regulations that were acting as a drag on economic growth. In December of last year, we passed a comprehensive tax reform bill that put more money in Americans' pockets and fixed some of the problems in the Tax Code that were keeping businesses from growing and creating jobs. Now we are seeing the results: robust economic growth, low unemployment, near-record optimism among small businesses, soaring business investment, and more.

What does all of this mean? It means more jobs and better wages for hard-working Americans. It means more opportunities, and it means more economic security and a better life for American families.

I am proud of the economic progress we have made over the past year and a half, and I am going to keep working with my colleagues in Congress to advance policies that will expand economic opportunities for Americans even further so that we can continue to create those good-paying jobs and those better wages for American workers and for American families.

I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

THE AMERICAN LEGION 100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to legislative session and resume consideration of the House message to accompany S. 1182, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany S. 1182, an act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of The American Legion.

Pending:

McConnell motion to concur in the amendments of the House to the bill.

McConnell motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the bill, with McConnell amendment No. 3628 (to the House amendment to the bill), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 3629 (to amendment No. 3628), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell motion to refer the message of the House on the bill to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, with instructions, McConnell amendment No. 3630, to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 3631 (to the instructions) amendment No. 3630), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 3632 (to amendment No. 3631), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PAUL). Under the previous order, the cloture motion, the motion to refer, and the motion to concur with amendment are withdrawn.

VOTE ON MOTION TO CONCUR

The question occurs on agreeing to the motion to concur in the House amendments to the Senate bill.

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRUZ). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 86, nays 12, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 173 Leg.]

YEAS—86

Alexander	Gardner	Murray
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Nelson
Bennet	Graham	Perdue
Blumenthal	Grassley	Peters
Blunt	Harris	Portman
Booker	Hassan	Reed
Boozman	Hatch	Roberts
Brown	Heinrich	Rounds
Burr	Heitkamp	Rubio
Cantwell	Heller	Sanders
Capito	Hirono	Schatz
Cardin	Hoeven	Schumer
Carper	Hyde-Smith	Scott
Casey	Isakson	Shaheen
Cassidy	Jones	Smith
Collins	Kaine	Stabenow
Coons	Kennedy	Sullivan
Corker	King	Tester
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Thune
Cortez Masto	Leahy	Tillis
Crapo	Manchin	Udall
Cruz	Markey	Van Hollen
Daines	McCaskill	Warner
Donnelly	McConnell	Warren
Duckworth	Menendez	Whitehouse
Durbin	Merkley	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Wyden
Feinstein	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Murphy	

NAYS—12

Barrasso	Johnson	Risch
Cotton	Lankford	Sasse
Enzi	Lee	Shelby
Inhofe	Paul	Toomey

NOT VOTING—2

Flake McCain

The motion was agreed to.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:55 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. PORTMAN).

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume executive session and consideration of the Grant nomination.

All time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Grant nomination?

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 174 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Alexander	Graham	Perdue
Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blunt	Hatch	Risch
Boozman	Heitkamp	Roberts
Burr	Heller	Rounds
Capito	Hoeven	Rubio
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Collins	Inhofe	Scott
Corker	Isakson	Shelby
Cornyn	Johnson	Sullivan
Cotton	Kennedy	Tester
Crapo	Lankford	Thune
Cruz	Lee	Tillis
Daines	Manchin	Toomey
Enzi	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Murkowski	
Gardner	Paul	

NAYS—46

Baldwin	Harris	Peters
Bennet	Hassan	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Jones	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Udall
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	McCaskill	Warner
Donnelly	Menendez	Warren
Duckworth	Merkley	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murphy	Wyden
Feinstein	Murray	
Gillibrand	Nelson	

NOT VOTING—2

Flake McCain

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be 5 minutes of debate equally divided prior to the cloture vote on the Shelby amendment No. 3399.

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to urge my colleagues to invoke cloture on the substitute amendment before us.

In debating this measure over the past week, we voted on several amendments. We hope to include dozens more in a managers' package that we are working with the Democrats on that continues to evolve. We sought to achieve a fair process on this package. The bill managers have gone to great lengths to accommodate Members' interests within the framework that has allowed us to make so much progress thus far in the appropriations process.

I want to thank my colleagues. I especially thank Senator LEAHY for working together with us in a bipartisan way. We hope this will continue to be a constructive process because all of us benefit. In this light, I urge my colleagues to vote yes so we can continue to move forward on this package and build upon the momentum we have generated thus far.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I applaud what the senior Senator from Alabama said. We worked very closely together on the weekend, yesterday, and today, and we are continuing to work on a managers' package. I also want to be able to bring up my elections security grants amendment, especially as we know that Russia and others continue to try to interfere with our elections.

I believe the Senate has to act as a coequal branch of government in defending against a threat to our democracy. The threat is very real. Our intelligence community unanimously agrees that Russia interfered in the 2016 elections. There is an imminent threat to our 2018 elections. Just last week, we learned that a Russian hacker targeted the office of a sitting Senator. We can't ignore such a threat against this Chamber or our government.

My amendment, if I bring it up, will provide \$250 million for State election security grants to protect our elections. It improves election cyber security, replaces outdated election data equipment, and undertakes other anti-cyber efforts.

In fiscal year 2018, Congress came together—Republicans and Democrats, House and Senate—and appropriated \$380 million for state election security grants. It was the first new funding for election security in years. In just a few short months since then, all the States and territories—55 in all—requested funding, and 100 percent has been committed to the states and 90 percent disbursed.

Last week, 21 State attorneys general signed a letter pleading with Congress to provide more funding to address this crisis, writing: "More funding is essential to adequately equip states with the financial resources we need to safeguard our democracy and protect the data of voting members in our states."

Securing our elections and safeguarding our democracy should not be a partisan issue. The House Republicans blocked Democrats from even

having a vote on the House floor. I am still hopeful the Senate will not make that same mistake.

Let us heed the warnings of our intelligence agencies. Of the lights blinking red. Of the appeals from the attorneys general, the secretaries of state, and the state and local election officials who are sounding the alarm. This duty has fallen to us, and we must not later be found to have been asleep at the switch, with so much at stake.

I join with Senator SHELBY on this next vote, but I do want Senators to be on notice that I will be bringing this up at some point.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Senate amendment No. 3399, to H.R. 6147, an act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Thom Tillis, Johnny Isakson, Orrin G. Hatch, John Hoeven, Bob Corker, James Lankford, Lindsey Graham, Mike Crapo, David Perdue, Mike Rounds, Steve Daines, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman, James M. Inhofe, Roy Blunt, Jerry Moran.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on amendment No. 3399, offered by the Senator from Alabama, Mr. SHELBY, to H.R. 6147, an act making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 94, nays 4, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 175 Leg.]

YEAS—94

Alexander	Casey	Enzi
Baldwin	Cassidy	Ernst
Barrasso	Collins	Feinstein
Bennet	Coons	Fischer
Blumenthal	Corker	Gardner
Blunt	Cornyn	Graham
Booker	Cortez Masto	Grassley
Boozman	Cotton	Harris
Brown	Crapo	Hassan
Burr	Cruz	Hatch
Cantwell	Daines	Heinrich
Capito	Donnelly	Heitkamp
Cardin	Duckworth	Heller
Carper	Durbin	Hirono

Hoeven	Moran	Shaheen
Hyde-Smith	Murkowski	Shelby
Inhofe	Murphy	Smith
Isakson	Murray	Stabenow
Johnson	Nelson	Sullivan
Jones	Perdue	Tester
Kaine	Peters	Thune
Kennedy	Portman	Tillis
King	Reed	Udall
Klobuchar	Risch	Van Hollen
Lankford	Roberts	Warner
Leahy	Rounds	Warren
Manchin	Rubio	Whitehouse
Markey	Sanders	Wicker
McCaskill	Sasse	Wyden
McConnell	Schatz	Young
Menendez	Schumer	
Merkley	Scott	

NAYS—4

Gillibrand	Paul
Lee	Toomey

NOT VOTING—2

Flake	McCain
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 94, the nays are 4.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, FINANCIAL SERVICES, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the clerk will report the bill.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6147) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2019, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Shelby amendment No. 3399, in the nature of a substitute.

Murkowski amendment No. 3400 (to Amendment No. 3399), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3304

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, to accommodate the Senator from Utah, I will not make my remarks first, but just by way of introduction to say that tonight at midnight American national security is going to be irreversibly weakened by the actions of President Trump and his administration. That is because at midnight the administration will allow the online publication of blueprints to manufacture 3D plastic guns, and this is one example.

So to accommodate the Senator from Utah, instead of making my remarks now, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3304 submitted earlier today; that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Utah.