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No. 48

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, March 14, 2025, at 9 a.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 2025

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MARKWAYNE MULLIN, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, today, give Your guidance to our lawmakers. Help them to seek first Your Kingdom so that everything will fall into its proper place and their lives will honor You. As they seek greater intimacy with You, empower them to relate honestly with themselves and one another.

Lord, lead them together to find solutions to the problems that beset this great land. Calm their fears and strengthen their faith. Use them to serve You and country with faithfulness. Let Your peace guard their hearts.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication

to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant executive clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 13, 2025.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MARKWAYNE MULLIN, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. MULLIN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, as the expression goes, it is time for Democrats to fish or cut bait. We have 2 days until government funding expires. Democrats need to decide if they are going to support funding legislation that came over from the House or if they are going to shut down the government. So far, it is looking like they plan to shut it down.

The Democratic leader came to the floor, yesterday afternoon, and had the nerve to complain about the House bill. He wants yet another short-term piece of funding legislation to, as he said, "give Congress time to negotiate bipartisan legislation that can pass."

Well, I am not sure how long the Democratic leader thinks we should drag out the funding process for fiscal year 2025: Until fiscal year 2026? Beyond?

We are already nearly 6 months into the 2025 fiscal year. In other words, we are halfway through—halfway through—this fiscal year, and it is past time to get fiscal year 2025 funding situated.

I would like to suggest to the Democratic leader that, if he has problems with the current situation, maybe—just maybe—he should have funded the government when he was in charge. The reason we are stuck here voting on a CR for the rest of 2025 is because the Democratic leader refused to consider appropriations bills last year.

Senators MURRAY and COLLINS, then chair and vice chair of the Appropriations Committee, did a lot of work to deliver the fiscal year 2025 appropriations bills. In fact, they had moved 11—11—of the 12 bills out of the Appropriations Committee by the end of August, last year—or, I should say, the end of July, last year—and 6 of those bills, 6 of the 11 that the Appropriations Committee passed by the end of July, last year, passed unanimously coming out of the committee. The others were passed with big bipartisan majorities.

And then what happened? Well, then, the Democratic leader just sat on it. In

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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his remaining 5 months as majority leader, he didn't bring a single fiscal year 2025 appropriations bill to the floor. So it is absolutely rich for him to be coming down to the floor now to call for a short-term CR—another short-term CR—to negotiate fiscal 2025 legislation. He had his chance for months.

I am no fan of continuing resolutions. In fact, I intend to do my very best to ensure that, from here on out, the government is funded through appropriations bills that proceed through regular order. But at this point, our best option is a continuing resolution to fund the remainder of fiscal year 2025 and clear the decks for the fiscal year 2026 appropriations process to begin, because, while the Democrat leader may have forgotten, given his decision to ignore regular-order appropriations last year, it is almost time to start considering fiscal year 2026 appropriations bills.

And I fully intend for us to consider them on the floor. My goal is to schedule floor action for every fiscal year 2026 appropriations bill that comes out of the committee, where they can be debated, amended, and passed for further negotiation with the House.

And that, of course, will require cooperation from Democrats. But I hope—I really hope—the Democrats will remember this situation, and others that we have been placed in, and work in partnership with Republicans to restore the regular-order appropriations process.

Continuing resolutions are never the preferred option, but thanks to the Democrat leader's decision to abandon the fiscal year 2025 appropriations process, the continuing resolution we have before us is the best option we have to fund the government for the balance of this year.

So it is time for the Democrat leader to acknowledge that it is his decisions that put us here and urge his colleagues to accept the situation and vote to fund the government rather than let it shutdown at midnight on Friday. If he doesn't, he will have the American people to answer to.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, Senators have been seeing a lot of each other lately—in fact, too much, some might say. The Senate is hopefully about to wrap up its 10th consecutive week in session—the Senate's longest in-session stretch in over 15 years—10 weeks that includes late nights, weekend work, and even an all-night session. We have a lot of accomplishments to report back to our constituents when we are back in our States next week.

The Senate has confirmed 21 members of President Trump's Cabinet, and we have done it at the fastest pace since 2001. That is right. The Senate has gotten through hearings, markups, and floor votes on 21 Cabinet nominees at a record pace. As a result, President Trump has more of his Cabinet in place

today than any President since George W. Bush. We have also confirmed a lot of sub-Cabinet officials and a new FBI Director. Senate committees are continuing to hold hearings and send more of the President's nominees to the floor for a vote.

The Senate Republican majority has also been working to execute our legislative agenda. At the top of the priority list is securing the border.

The first bill we sent to President Trump's desk was the Laken Riley Act, which ensures that criminal illegal immigrants are detained when they are arrested for certain crimes and not returned to America's streets. Senator BRITT led the debate on this bill on the floor, and we had an amendment process that made this bill stronger by adding Senator ERNST's bill, Sarah's Law, and elements of Senator BUDD's bill, the POLICE Act.

Senate Republicans also passed a budget resolution to unlock the process to provide resources to carry out President Trump's border agenda. We have already seen border crossings plummet in response to President Trump's border security measures. Criminal illegal immigrants have been arrested and deported from cities around the country. But to continue these efforts and maintain a secure border will require additional resources, and we are determined to deliver.

We are also working to address the fentanyl crisis by passing the HALT Fentanyl Act. The HALT Fentanyl Act would permanently classify fentanyl-related substances as schedule I drugs and provide law enforcement with the critical tools to go after the people who are bringing this poison into our country and killing Americans. I expect that we will pass this bill soon.

Senate Republicans are also working to eliminate some of the Biden administration's burdensome regulations. As part of our promise to unleash American energy, we passed Senator HOEVEN's resolution to block the Biden natural gas tax, and we also passed Senator KENNEDY's resolution overturning a rule that would have stifled energy development in America's waters. To promote financial freedom, we passed resolutions from Senators RICKETTS and CRUZ to protect America's financial privacy. There will be more regulatory relief to come.

It has been a busy couple of months, and we have gotten a lot done. We could have done even more if Democrats hadn't repeatedly chosen to use the filibuster. That is right. A few short months ago, when Democrats were in the majority, they were making plans to destroy the filibuster. Now that they have been in the minority for 10 weeks, they have already used the filibuster three times.

What are the bills that they blocked? Well, first, there was the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act—a bill that simply requires doctors to give a baby born alive after a failed abortion the same medical care that

any other baby would receive. Then there was the ICC sanctions bill, which would have supported our ally Israel and protected American servicemembers abroad. Just last week, every Democrat joined a filibuster against Senator TUBERVILLE's bill to keep biological men out of women's and girls sports. Now Democrats are threatening yet a fourth filibuster—this time to shut down the Federal Government tomorrow.

I have to say, it is funny how Democrats' opposition to filibuster changes with the prevailing winds.

I promised last year that 2025 would be a busy year, and these past 10 weeks are just the beginning. Republicans are working to deliver for the American people, and we are just getting started.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR EN BLOC—S. 1008, H.R. 1156

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand there are bills at the desk due a second reading.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The leader is correct.

The clerk will read the bills by title for the second time.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1008) to provide equitable treatment for the people of the Village Corporation established for the Native Village of Saxman, Alaska, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 1156) to amend the CARES Act to extend the statute of limitations for fraud under certain unemployment programs, and for other purposes.

Mr. THUNE. In order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 41.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant executive 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 the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 41, Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

John Thune, Katie Britt, Bernie Moreno, Mike Rounds, Tom Cotton, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Rick Scott of Florida, John Hoeven, Roger Marshall, Thom Tillis, Jim Justice, Tim Sheehy, James Lankford, Joni Ernst, John R. Curtis.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of William Pulte, of Florida, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency for a term of five years.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, it was reported that Elon Musk and DOGE have been pressuring the Social Security Administration to cut phone services—phone services—that millions of Americans rely on to help get their benefits from Social Security.

DOGE knows that all their claims of massive fraud within Social Security are nonsense. So what do they do? They are trying to cut telephone services that help the elderly and disabled people get their benefits. How cruel. How mean. Why? So some billionaires can get another tax break. That is appalling.

What DOGE is doing to Social Security is not government efficiency; it is cruelty—cruelty. It is a direct attack on some of our most vulnerable people—seniors and the disabled.

Social Security support lines are vital for seniors who struggle to get out of the house. Many seniors don't have the ability to drive themselves to an in-person local office, many of which are closing. If they can visit an office in person, guess what. DOGE is working on closing the local offices too. It is almost as if cruelty is the point for DOGE.

Elon Musk and DOGE are trying to drive Social Security into the ground, to make it so dysfunctional, so they can scream about fraud and justify cutting benefits. And for what? Giving billionaires another tax break.

Remember what Elon Musk said a few days ago:

Most of the federal [government's] spending is entitlements. So that's the big one to eliminate.

Imagine the cruelty of the richest man in the world—he is trying to sell his Teslas on the White House lawn—telling tens of millions of seniors that he wants to eliminate their benefits, that their checks are part of one big scam.

Elon Musk is utterly clueless—clueless—about what it means to rely on that \$1,100 check that seniors need for their food or their medicines. He has no empathy, and that lack of empathy will create immense suffering for people who aren't as fortunate as he has been.

That is why DOGE has already pushed to close Social Security offices. They are getting ready to fire 7,000 Social Security employees, and this is just the beginning. If DOGE keeps going, people could see their benefits disappear.

Are my Republican colleagues fine with these attacks against Social Security? Do they support closing Social Security offices? Do they agree with Elon Musk that Social Security is a scam? Why are they silent as Elon Musk and DOGE try to take Social Security apart?

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Republican whip.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor, the minority leader has just spoken on the floor of the U.S. Senate, and I would like to begin today's comments by quoting the Senator from New York.

Here is a quote, Senator SCHUMER says:

Shutting down the government over a policy difference is self-defeating.

He went on to say:

It accomplishes nothing but pain and suffering for the country and incurs an enormous political cost to the party shutting it down.

When did he say those things? Well, he said them in 2019. Well, they are as true today as they were then. Apparently, he has forgotten those things. He has forgotten the enormous suffering for the country that is caused and the political cost to the party shutting it down.

So who would be the party shutting down the government if we shut down at midnight tomorrow night? Well, according to this morning's—and as the Presiding Officer knows, I come to the floor often with a newspaper article. Today's Washington Post: "Democrats Prepare to Reject a Bill to Avert a Shutdown."

It is the Democrats who would be shutting down the government. Now, that is the Washington Post, clearly someone that so often sides with the Democrats.

What about the liberal New York Times, what are they saying this morning?

"Specter of Shutdown is Growing As Democrats Resist Funding Bill."

They resist funding the government. It is the Democrats who are doing this.

And then there is a picture of Senator SCHUMER in today's Wall Street Journal. So we see the Washington Post, the New York Times, and now the Wall Street Journal: "Schumer Signals Block of Funding Bill."

Let me go back, "It accomplishes nothing," he said in 2019, "but pain and suffering for the country."

That is what the Democrats want: the American people to suffer now, pain and suffering, because they don't want to fund the government. They want to shut it down.

As he said, it "incurs enormous political cost to the party shutting it down." And that cost should be imposed to the party shutting it down, and the party shutting it down are the Democrats in the U.S. Senate.

In less than 48 hours, government funding expires, and Senator SCHUMER and his party are on the verge of shutting down the Government of the United States. The deadline is looming. The Democrats now face a crucial choice: Pass the bill that has already passed the House of Representatives, fund the government, or shut it down. There is no magical third option for the Democrats or for the country.

We are on the brink of, once again, a Democrat shutdown of government. Why? Because they refuse to accept that President Trump and the Republicans won the election. They hate the fact.

Heard a lot of talk about how we got here. Let me set the record straight, because this shutdown has been driven and directed by the Democrats. The Presiding Officer remembers last year when the Democrats were in the majority. Senator SCHUMER was the majority leader, Joe Biden was in the White House, President. And last year, the Senate Appropriations Committee, chaired by a Democrat, passed 11 of 12 appropriations bills.

Like, I am so grateful for the work of Senator SUSAN COLLINS of Maine, vice chairman of that committee, worked hard, and led Republican efforts to get each of those bills done on time, through the committee, and they produced results.

Each of the bills passed the committee, bipartisan appropriations bills, strong bipartisan support, some unanimous; and these bills were all passed last summer. Last summer.

From the time they passed the final one of those bills—and let me just point out, I have the list of them: July 11, they passed Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, Agriculture,

food, legislative branch, unanimous, unanimous, 27 to 0 in each of those, passed the committee.

On July 25, Commerce-Science, Justice and Science passed, Interior passed, oh, 28 to 1. State and Foreign Ops passed, and Transportation. And then on August 1, Energy and Water Development, 28 to 0. Defense, 28 to 0. Labor-Health and Human Services, Education, Financial Services, all of them passed the Appropriations Committee. Done, passed.

Senator SCHUMER had 224 days to bring up any one of those bills on the Senate floor. He absolutely categorically refused to bring a single appropriations bill to the floor of the U.S. Senate when he was the majority leader, even though the bills came out unanimously, and one of his own Members was chairman of that committee. He ignored her. She said: Take them to the floor. He refused. Refused to put a single one of those 11 appropriations bills that came out of the committee to the floor. He refused to govern, and now he wants to shut down the government.

His burn-the-house attitude is what we are dealing with—rule-or-ruin approach. It is irresponsible, it is reckless, and he is trying to lead the entire Democrats in the Senate over the cliff and hurt the American public in the process.

But the right thing to do is to keep the government open. It costs money to shut down the government. It costs taxpayer dollars, and it costs even more to reopen the government.

The government shutdown denies the American people services that they need, that they want, that they wait for. It forces our military and our border patrol to work without pay.

It is time to move on from the Democrats' failures. It is time to get this done. Time to govern. That is what the American people elected the Republicans to do.

The business of the Senate will not stop because of Democrats' made-for-TV and made-for-their-liberal-base temper tantrums. Senate Democrats want to grandstand, we are going to continue to move deliberately and decisively and continue to work to confirm more of President Trump's well-qualified nominees.

So it is the choice of the Democrats on the other side: govern or grandstand. The American people are watching.

You know, they watched a week or so ago when the President of the United States addressed this joint session of Congress. The American people watched. What they saw was immature antics by the Democrats sitting there in the House Chamber waving their little paddles, refusing to applaud a young man with brain cancer, refusing to applaud families that have gone through great tragedy.

It was juvenile; it was wrong. That is what the American people saw. People that were watching that presentation

by the President of the United States saw a strong leader and saw a Democrat Party in disarray, acting as juveniles. And now it appears the Senate wants to do exactly the same thing by shutting down the government.

The American people that watched the President address a week ago are watching today, and they know that if there is a government shutdown, like it looks like we are heading to tomorrow night, it is going to be at the deliberate direction of the Democrat Party.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. President, before yielding the floor, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Pulte nomination.

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

Mr. BARRASSO. I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative 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 the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 30, William Pulte, of Florida, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency for a term of five years.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, Lindsey Graham, Cynthia M. Lummis, Dan Sullivan, Ashley B. Moody, Pete Ricketts, Bill Cassidy, Jon Husted, Mike Rounds, James Lankford, Todd Young, Joni Ernst, John R. Curtis, John Kennedy, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of William Pulte, of Florida, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency for a term of five years, 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 57, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 120 Ex.]

YEAS—57

Alsobrooks	Curtis	Lankford
Banks	Daines	Lee
Barrasso	Ernst	Lummis
Blackburn	Fischer	Marshall
Boozman	Gallago	McConnell
Britt	Graham	McCormick
Budd	Grassley	Moody
Capito	Hagerty	Moran
Cassidy	Hawley	Moreno
Collins	Hoeven	Mullin
Cornyn	Husted	Murkowski
Cotton	Hyde-Smith	Paul
Cramer	Johnson	Peters
Crapo	Justice	Ricketts
Cruz	Kennedy	Risch

Rounds	Sheehy	Tillis
Schmitt	Slotkin	Tuberville
Scott (FL)	Sullivan	Wicker
Scott (SC)	Thune	Young

NAYS—41

Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Coons	Lujan	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Markey	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warmock
Fetterman	Murphy	Warren
Gillibrand	Murray	Welch
Hassan	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Padilla	Wyden
Hickenlooper	Reed	

NOT VOTING—2

Duckworth	Sanders
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). On this vote, the yeas are 57, the nays are 41.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Missouri.

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I spoke on this topic last week, but there is just so much more to talk about this week. This is about the important work that President Trump and Elon Musk and the other folks at DOGE are doing to save taxpayer dollars.

Just this past week, DOGE canceled contracts within NIH, including \$75,000 for researching and studying structural racism; \$620,000 for an LGB+ teen pregnancy prevention program for transgender boys—let me repeat that because it is hard to follow: an LGB+ teen pregnancy prevention program for transgender boys—\$699,000 for studying cannabis use among sexual minority, gender-diverse individuals; \$740,000 for examining social networks among Black and Latino sexual minority men in New Jersey; \$50,000 for assessing sexual health among LGBTQ+ Latinx youth in an agricultural community.

The State Department, with Secretary of State Rubio, are canceling 83 percent of the programs under USAID. What is being cut: \$4 million for engineering services in Liberia, \$1.1 million for an online climate change tool, \$4 million for assessing primary education in Kenya, and much, much more.

And at the EPA, Secretary Zeldin canceled over 400 DEI and environmental justice grants across 9 grant programs that total \$1.7 billion, bringing the EPA's total savings to over \$2 billion.

And wait until you hear this: According to reports from the Daily Wire, \$2 billion in funding was directed toward a group called Power Forward Communities. Who runs Power Forward Communities? That would be Stacey Abrams.

And let me just opine, just for a second, on why my Democratic colleagues on the other side are so nervous about all this DOGE stuff. It is because of this racket that has been used to launder taxpayer dollars to their buddies and their leftwing, radical groups. The gravy train is stopping, and it is terrifying to them.

But to normal people, in real America, they think this stuff is crazy. And, finally, we have somebody in the Oval Office with a team that can root this stuff out. So keep going. We are just getting started with this stuff, and we will be back next week with more ridiculous things that the Democrats want funded with your taxpayer dollars.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about how my delusional Democratic colleagues have tried to poison our country's young people with what I call a woke mind virus.

Before I got into politics, I spent 40 years working with young people, from the high school level to the college level—higher education, we call it. I coached, recruited, and mentored young people all over the country—thousands of them. I saw firsthand how hard work and a quality education can change a person's life, no matter where they come from, what they look like, or how much money they have.

I used to tell my players that, if they work hard, there is no limit to what they can achieve. It is called the American dream.

Our Founders came here because they envisioned a country where the sky is the limit and people aren't bound by the circumstances that they were born in. But, unfortunately, the Biden administration and the Democrats have spent the last 4 years communicating a much darker message to our young people.

This country was founded on merit, but instead of focusing on hiring the best and brightest, Biden, Harris, Obama, and the "woke mind virus" Democrats have spent the last 4 years dividing our country based on diversity, equity, and inclusion—or, better known to all of us, what is called DEI. This poisonous ideology says that people should be hired based on their skin color or sexual preference, not because of how they might do in a job.

And to make matters worse, the Biden administration used 1 trillion American taxpayer dollars to pay for DEI programs in the Federal Government—1 trillion. You heard that right. American taxpayers are footing the bill, and they were paying for things that were racist, divisive, and woke—a woke propaganda.

So I don't know about you; I want a refund. I want my money back. We all pay taxes. Why in the world would we do that?

Let's call DEI what it really is: a fundamentally racist, prejudice, and anti-American ideology that is designed to divide and oppress people. That is exactly what it is. It is baffling to me how Democrats don't see this. Or do they?

They claim to be a very tolerant, inclusive party rooted in equality, but as

we have all learned, Democrats are only tolerant as long as you agree with them. I thought we left the stain of discrimination and race-based hiring practices behind in our country a long, long time ago, but apparently not. It is clear that Democrats would rather divide Americans based on their race, gender, creed, or sexual orientation than live in a world where people are hired based on intellect, experience, work ethic, and merit—what a thought.

So let's set the record straight. This country owes you nothing except for the opportunity to succeed. That is what is great about this country. And if you don't succeed, you can get back up and go again. We are the only country that allows that. For generations, Americans understood this—all Americans: an opportunity to pursue your dreams, to use your God-given talents to contribute to making this country the greatest place to live in the world.

I have always said this: If you were born in the United States of America, you hit the lottery, 100 percent. And I guarantee you, the other 7 billion people in this world would give anything to take the place of any of us, from the poorest to the richest.

To my new granddaughter of just 2 weeks, Rosie Grace, if there is any one thing I can teach her as a grandfather, it is the value of hard work and determination. There is nothing that takes the place of that—nothing. With a strong work ethic and a commitment to excellence, opportunities will open up for her, or anybody, to live a happy, successful life. And that is all a grandfather like me now can ask for—hard work and determination.

So what kind of message is it if we are teaching our young people that they are victims of their circumstances and the American dream is only for people who have a certain skin color? That is the opposite of the American dream.

But Democrats don't care one bit about that—not one bit. I have listened to it for 4 years. Obama started a horrible trend that Democrats carry on to this day. He used racism to divide the Americans and politically enrich themselves. Look at the money they have made. The woke mind virus has taken hold of them. They have lost their ever-loving mind. They would rather promise racism and promote it—sexism, divisiveness—than support solutions that empower, unify, or uplift our country and our people.

Democrats are obsessed with hating this country and tearing it apart. They want a different United States of America. If it is anything that is pro-American or pro-traditional values—it doesn't matter—Democrats will attack it, demonize it, and demonize us for supporting it.

These people have zero respect for human life. They have shown their true colors in the past few years, ever since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned, which sent abortion back to the States, where it could be voted on by the people, in-

stead of politicians. They have raised Cain. Since then, Democrat politicians have said the quiet part out loud, admitting that they think there should be no limits to abortion. How can you believe that?

That means that they are OK with aborting a baby at 9 months of pregnancy.

Former Virginia Governor Ralph Northam, a Democrat, said that he supports post-birth—after-birth—abortions. Are you kidding me?

And other Democrats, like Minnesota Governor Tim Walz—remember him, flash in the pan?—signed a law to allow abortions after birth—signed a law in Minnesota for abortions after birth.

What do they do with that? They cut these babies up and sell the body parts. It is never talked about too much, is it? Can you believe that this is who the Democrats picked as their Vice Presidential candidate? I can believe it. That means that, in Minnesota, a doctor can kill a baby after he or she is born, right there on the delivery table. It is evil, and it is absolutely sick.

But it isn't just babies Democrats have no respect for. They also have gone out of their way to attack women and girls. Just last week, every single Democrat in this body voted against my bill to protect women and girls in sports.

Oh, we have got to give these transitional boys an opportunity to participate.

Really? How about giving, in fairness to young girls and women, the opportunity to compete at a level that they are in; give them an opportunity not to play for second or third but to play for first. How about that?

The woke mind virus has struck again. Democrats who claim to be pro-women would rather protect a few transgender people than protect the millions of women and girls who make up half of this country.

Oh, we have to be nice. We have to be nice to everybody.

No. We need a mental health program in this country. That is what we need.

Democrats who claim to be pro-women would rather protect a few transgender people than protect the entire country of women and girls. It is backward, it is disgusting, and it is downright wrong.

You would have to be dumber than a box of rocks to celebrate this, but that is what they did. They celebrated the handful of transgenders participating against women.

Oh, we knocked it down because it was supported by Donald Trump, who wrote out an Executive order protecting women and girls.

Thank you, President Trump.

By the way, 79 percent of Americans and 67 percent of Democrats support that men do not compete against women—a huge majority. Every single one of my Democratic colleagues went against their constituents and voted against this commonsense bill to protect women and keep men out of women's sports.

Democrats basically are hypocrites—big-time. They claim to be pro-woman but allow men to dress up as women and take rights away from actual women.

When we saw this firsthand, during the Biden administration, when they had actual drag shows at the White House, it made me sick at my stomach.

But the hypocrisy doesn't end there. Democrats celebrate when Hamas protectors violently attack Jewish students, but they demonize and imprison pro-life activists who peacefully protest outside an abortion clinic.

Whose side are you on?

Democrat colleagues say they are pro-choice but lose their minds if a parent dares to ask a question about vaccines for infants. I mean, they go off the deep end when we talk about vaccines.

They claim they are the party of decency—really? Tolerance—are you kidding me? But turn a blind eye to multiple Democratic mayors being arrested for being pedophiles. Yes, that is what I said—pedophiles.

The former Democrat mayor of University Park, MD, was arrested and charged in 2024 with 28 counts of possessing and soliciting child pornography; in jail, 24, mayor, right down the street.

The year before, 2023, a different Democrat mayor from College Park, MD, pleaded guilty to 140 counts of possessing and distributing child sexual abuse images: mayor, leader, Democrat, believes in the way of life for the Democratic Party, a pedophile.

So two Democratic mayors in Maryland have been arrested in the past 2 years for pedophilia. You can't make it up. The woke mind virus strikes again. I have yet to hear a single floor speech from my Maryland Democrat colleagues about this catastrophe, a leader caught doing this. They don't care. It doesn't bother them.

They seem to find plenty of time to criticize President Trump every time he breathes, but they don't worry about pedophilia. How about we all speak out about it?

I have yet to see them take the time to condemn multiple elected officials from their State who have been arrested and contributed to all this child pornography. It is sad, but we shouldn't be surprised.

Democrats only pretend to care about the oppressed or the most vulnerable among us when it benefits their agenda. After all, it was Democrats in the States like California and Washington who introduced bills to change the term—the name of it—“sex offenders” to “minor-attracted persons.” You are not a sex offender anymore if you beat up a little child, molest a child. You are not a sex offender. You are a minor-attracted person. We don't want to hurt anybody's feelings, OK? What a joke. It makes me sick to my stomach.

If it wasn't for the reelection of President Trump on November 5, I real-

ly don't know whether we would have made it. Our country was headed straight to the gutter—straight to the gutter. I mean, just listen to all of this. It makes no sense.

Now we have common sense. We are trying to get common sense back in our country. We have to push for it. Thanks to President Trump and the ideas he has brought back to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, this administration is working around the clock to get this woke crap out of our government, our military, out of classrooms—out—get back to teaching our kids.

President Trump is committed to abolishing the U.S. Department of Education, a Federal Agency that has failed our students for the past 40 years that I have been in education and especially under Joe Biden and Barack Obama. President Trump believes and is correct that our young people are the country's most important, precious commodity that we have. They are the future.

He understands that under President Biden, the Department of Education allowed radical leftwing teachers to push radical, hateful ideologies onto our kids. We don't need opinion teaching. We need to teach reading, writing, math, science, and history. What is wrong with that? What is wrong with giving them a chance because they have ruined the lives of thousands of young people because they have been indoctrinated.

You had drag shows that were being performed recently in elementary schools. I mean, in my day, you would have been arrested for that. Woke anti-American curriculum taught kids to hate each other—actually in the classroom teaching them: Hey, you hate them because of who they are or where they are from, what skin color they are—absolutely a crime.

Schools help children secretly transition genders behind the parent's back. Oh, you want to transition. You are 8 years old. Don't tell your parents. We will get it all set up for you—mind-boggling. The woke mind virus has struck again.

All of this, by the way, on the taxpayers' dime. You are paying for it. Meanwhile, we are 26 in the world in math, and we are 6 in reading. That is simply not good enough for the most powerful country in the world.

When I coached and recruited, I was shocked if anybody was over a ninth grade reading level. That is everybody. I don't care what color, where they are from; urban, rural. If you can't read, you can't learn. If you can't learn, you are going to end up working for somebody or just scraping to try to make a living.

But instead of teaching our kids to read and write, the Department of Education under Joe Biden became ground zero for woke indoctrination.

All they were concerned about was bowing to the teachers unions—you heard that—teachers unions teaching our kids to hate this country, its gov-

ernment, our Constitution, and each other. What are we doing? I am thankful President Trump is sending education back to the States where it belongs. I have advocated this for the last 20 years.

Just this week, the Department of Education announced it was firing more than 1,000 people right down the street. Thank goodness. They hadn't been doing anything. They had been working from home, and what they do, we can do it back in the States a lot better, and we can use that money to educate kids—what an idea.

Good. The Federal Department of Education needs to be completely shut down. It is not done yet, but we just got started. I have been saying it for a long time: We can't have a one-sized-fits-all, top-down approach to education.

You know, I am from Alabama. We teach kids a little bit different because we are in a different environment; rural areas, 60 percent farmers, agriculture, all those things. We don't teach the same things that you would teach in Chicago or New York. Send it back to the States. Let them control it. Let them teach our kids to have a chance in the future. Each child is totally different.

You know, the Federal Government can't do that. I haven't figured out in my 4 years yet what we can do, but at least we are figuring out: Hey, it is not working here. Close it down; quit spending money; and send it back to the States, which is why President Trump's plan to empower the States makes all the sense in the world.

But, of course, Democrats don't believe in common sense. They are only concerned about we have to control this because they know that if they don't control education—education is the No. 1 thing we have in this country going for us—if you take that away, everything else goes.

If they can't control education, they won't be able to infect the minds of all these young kids across the country. They want them to think that the Constitution is bad, that government is really bad, that your parents are bad, that you ought to listen to us.

You know, a spoonful of common sense goes a long way. So let me sum this up for you: Merit-based hiring is the only way to make a business successful—merit-based. When I coached, I had to win games or I was gone. I didn't care who they were when they played for me. I didn't care whether rich, poor, rural, urban, Black, White, it didn't make me a dime of difference. I put the best ones on the field. They were going to earn it.

That is how this country should be run. That is the difference between my Republican side and my colleagues on the left. They want everything given. It ain't going to work, folks. We are not going to have the country we had the opportunity to grow up in if we continue down that path.

Merit-based; men are men, women are women. Men cannot get pregnant,

by the way, but I learned that very, very young in life. Evidently my Democrat colleagues didn't learn that.

Protecting women and girls in sports is the right thing to do. Allowing elementary schoolers with undeveloped brains to get irreversible sex change procedures make absolutely no sense. It is evil and sadistic.

Teaching kids to hate each other based on what they look like, that is racist. That is exactly the direction that the Biden administration was going.

Children shouldn't be forced to watch drag shows. If you are an adult, you can do what you want in this country, but forcing this woke agenda on kids is downright wrong.

Making taxpayers pay for abortions in the military—wrong, against the law, but they did it anyway. I fought it for a year. I lost out in the end, but you know what, it was worth the fight.

Pedophilia is straight from the pit of hell. And, no, these aren't minor-attracted persons. These creeps, they are criminals, and they are sick in the head.

I thank God every day for President Trump and the return of common sense in this country.

I hope some of my Democrat colleagues will wake up to how the past 4 years of this woke ideology has poisoned our country, especially our young people. Folks, we have got a long way to go—long way to go.

Our future is in the hands of our kids. Let's give that future back to our kids. Let's educate them, put them on the right track, teach them the Constitution, teach them that we have a higher being in God—put that back in our schools. What a thought that would be.

Let's stay away—stay away—from our young kids, and let them have a chance to develop.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

(The remarks of Mr. CORNYN pertaining to the introduction of S. 1053 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. CORNYN. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHMITT). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

HALT FENTANYL ACT

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, just last week in my home State of North Carolina, narcotics investigators from the Iredell County Sheriff's Office and the Gaston Police Department seized 5 pounds of fentanyl that was in possession of an illegal alien. It was enough to kill over a million people. That is nothing short of a weapon of mass destruction.

The reality is that is not just a public health crisis. It is a nightmare that is destroying families, shattering communities, and devastating our country.

On average, nine North Carolinians die every single day from fentanyl overdoses. Every day, fentanyl claims nearly 200 lives across our country. Just last year, this silent killer took more than 70,000 Americans.

But they are not just numbers. These are sons and daughters. These are parents and siblings. These are our friends and our neighbors. These are people who should be living full, meaningful lives but, instead, have become statistics.

Let's put this into perspective. Just 2 milligrams of fentanyl similar to 7 grains of salt is enough to kill a person. If it is a sugar packet and you pour it in your morning coffee and it were to be filled with fentanyl, it could take the lives of 500 people—the quantity equal to a sugar packet. Now, if it was a standard 4-pound bag of granulated sugar—the kind we all have in our pantries—if it were filled with fentanyl, it would wipe out 905,000 individuals.

This deadly drug is flooding our communities, and it is not by accident. When I talk to law enforcement across all 100 counties in North Carolina, I repeatedly hear the same alarming message: Every single county is a border county. North Carolina is roughly 1,000 miles from the southern border, yet the fentanyl pouring into our country knows no distance and no boundaries.

This is a direct consequence of the Biden administration's reckless open border policies that allowed the drug cartels to exploit our immigration system and to flood our communities with illegal drugs. President Trump, however, is taking necessary steps to restore our border, restore order, and dismantle the criminal networks profiting off of human suffering.

But the consequences of President Biden's open borders and lack of action to mitigate the fentanyl crisis in our country remain the deadly reality facing our communities every day. This was not just a failure of policy by the previous administration. It was a betrayal of the American people to put political agendas over our public safety.

Even in the face of these staggering losses, Democrats continue to block bipartisan efforts to dismantle the criminal networks fueling the crisis. They refuse to support measures that would cut off the supply, crack down on traffickers, and strengthen our border security.

I ask my colleagues: How many more lives are you willing to sacrifice before standing up and saying, "Enough"? We can't afford to turn a blind eye to the sobering reality and traumatic consequences of this crisis. We need to make our streets safer, and we need to do it right now.

That is why I proudly stand with my colleague Senator CASSIDY in sup-

porting the HALT Fentanyl Act, a commonsense bipartisan legislation that will give law enforcement the tools they need to close loopholes and stop criminals from evading the law by simply doing two things: first, permanently classifying fentanyl and related substances under schedule I and, second, increasing the sentences for fentanyl traffickers.

This bill has already passed the House with strong bipartisan support, and now it is time for the Senate to do the same. Let's secure our streets. Let's stop the flow of fentanyl. Let's protect the American people, and let's do it before another innocent life is lost.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Kessler nomination.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the previously scheduled rollcall vote begin immediately.

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

VOTE ON PULTE NOMINATION

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

Mr. BUDD. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 56, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 121 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Alsobrooks	Gallego	Moreno
Banks	Graham	Mullin
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeven	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cotton	Lankford	Slotkin
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—43

Baldwin	Cantwell	Gillibrand
Bennet	Coons	Hassan
Blumenthal	Cortez Masto	Heinrich
Blunt	Durbin	Hickenlooper
Rochester	Fetterman	Hirono
Booker		

Kaine
Kelly
Kim
King
Klobuchar
Lujan
Markey
Merkley
Murphy
Murray

Ossoff
Padilla
Peters
Reed
Rosen
Sanders
Schatz
Schiff
Schumer
Shaheen

Smith
Van Hollen
Warner
Warnock
Warren
Welch
Whitehouse
Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Duckworth

The nomination was confirmed.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant executive 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 the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 32 Jeffrey Kessler, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, Lindsey Graham, Dan Sullivan, Ashley B. Moody, Pete Ricketts, Bill Cassidy, Jon Husted, Mike Rounds, James Lankford, Todd Young, Joni Ernst, John R. Curtis, John Kennedy, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Boozman, Ted Cruz.

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 the nomination of Jeffrey Kessler, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 122 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeben	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Slotkin
Crapo	Lummis	Sullivan
Cruz	Marshall	Thune
Curtis	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McCormick	Tuberville
Ernst	Moody	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	Young

NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Reed
Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Kaine	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schatz
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schiff
Booker	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Coons	Lujan	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Durbin	Merkley	Warner
Fetterman	Murphy	Warnock
Gallego	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Welch
Hassan	Padilla	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Duckworth

(Mr. MORENO assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUDD). On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 45. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant executive clerk read the nomination of Jeffrey Kessler, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise to discuss the House continuing resolution that will be before this body over the next couple of days, and I want to begin by talking about a Senate Armed Services Committee meeting that we had yesterday morning at 9:30 a.m.

So if we are all paying attention, the House acted on a continuing resolution on Tuesday night. The budget deadline is at the end of the day Friday. And it takes two Houses to do a budget, but what happened is when the House acted on their portion of it, they decided to leave town.

They thought it would just be great if they just left town before the budget was even done, and they sent us a "continuing resolution" that would be unprecedented because it would mean that the Government of the United States would have operated not under a traditional appropriations bill but, instead, under a CR for the entire year.

To those who don't do the Washington speak, what is the difference between a CR and a real appropriations budget? The way I describe it is this: If you are driving a vehicle, you want to drive by looking through the windshield, where you are going. That is what the budget does. You budget for the year ahead of you, based upon the facts on the ground, the realities in the world, the priorities that you have embraced, the challenges that you will face. That is what a budget is supposed to do.

When you operate under a continuing resolution, you are driving by looking in the rearview mirror. You are instead embracing decisions that were made a while ago and just saying: Well, we can't even reach an accord about going

forward. So let's instead just—let's do what we did last month. Let's do what we did last year because we are unable to reach an agreement.

A continuing resolution has been somewhat normal for a couple of months. If we don't reach a budget deal by September 30, it is pretty normal that we do a CR through the end of the calendar year. But in every year that I have been here, Congress has been able to, at some point, find not the backward-looking CR but the forward-looking appropriations bill and put it in place so that we are spending money based on the priorities that are important right now.

What is pending before the Senate now is not that forward-looking budget. Instead, it is this vehicle that has come over from the House that would, for the first time, have us not budgeting based on the windshield but, instead, driving by what is in the rearview mirror.

We had an Armed Services Committee hearing yesterday, and it was a hearing that was called by the Readiness Subcommittee, on which I sit. Readiness looks at this very important metric: How ready are the different branches of the American military to fight tomorrow, if we need to?

And we have this hearing every year, and we usually invite to the hearing the vice service chiefs of each of the service branches—so instead of the service chief of the Navy, the deputy, Vice Admiral Kilby. We will invite the deputies of all the branches, and they come and talk to us about how they measure readiness and where we stand. And they were all before us, yesterday, in a hearing that was chaired by Alaska Senator SULLIVAN, with the ranking member, Hawaii Senator HIRONO, and a number of others there at the hearing.

Now, remember, it had just been 12 hours before that the House had passed the continuing resolution, and so folks were aware of what was on the table in this hearing yesterday morning. And what did our military leadership say to us about the continuing resolution that we were going to be asked to vote on in the next day or so?

Well, let me just read a couple of quotes from the military leaders.

Admiral Kilby:

Consistent and predictable funding is foundational to our improvement efforts. The Navy will need to make hard choices this year if we are operating under a full-year continuing resolution.

And so I asked him this question. I am just going to read the exchange that I had with him:

Admiral Kilby, I think you testified in your open testimony that under a CR one-fifth of our ships will miss their maintenance schedule, did I hear that right?

Admiral Kilby said:

Specifically eleven ships, those maintenance availabilities are at risk.

I followed up:

OK, so we want to get to 80% ready on ships and subs, where are we now?

Admiral Kilby said:

Depending on the day, around 67%.

I then said:

What will one-fifth of ships missing their maintenance schedule under the CR, what will that do to our quest to get to 80% readiness for ships and subs?

Admiral Kilby:

It'll certainly be a setback, we'll take a penalty there.

All of the other vice service chiefs said the same thing on behalf of the Marines and the Air Force and the Space Force and the Army: Operating under a full-year CR will hurt readiness, will hurt our national security.

This is what the Pentagon is telling us about the bill we are going to be voting on in the next day or so. But it wasn't just the military leaders who said that. The chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee, Senator SULLIVAN, said: The CR—from a readiness standpoint, I think that none of this is helpful. He described the frequent use of CRs as "a failure on the part of Congress."

Then my friend and colleague who was the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Senator WICKER—here is what he said about the bill we are going to vote on in the next couple of days:

I will say this about the fact that this is the first year-long CR for the Department of Defense. . . . This is a shame on our process and it is not in keeping with what the Founders intended.

This is the Republican chairman of the Senate Armed Service Committee's opinion about what a yearlong CR will do to our national security.

So why are we going to vote for it? Why are we taking it up and rushing to pass it? When our military leadership says it is a bad idea and when the chairman of the Armed Services Committee says it is a bad idea, why would we contemplate it?

Well, Senator SULLIVAN sort of hinted at it when he said it is better than a shutdown. But those are not the options. This was a hearing Wednesday morning at 9:30 in the morning. The budget deadline is not until the end of the day Friday. We don't have to accept that it is either a security-damaging continuing resolution or a shutdown because we are the Senate of the United States.

There is an attitude among Senators here that because the House came up with a partisan bill and sent it to us and then decided to skip town Tuesday night, that we just have to go along. I thought the Senate was an independent branch of Congress. I thought the Senate was the greatest deliberative body in the world.

I don't think the Speaker of the House is the czar of the Senate, and when he sends us a continuing resolution 3 days before a budget deadline and then leaves town, I don't think the Senate of the United States is bound to follow his wishes. Instead, we should do our own jobs and do the right thing for the country.

If the Armed Services chair says that this hurts defense, then let's get it

right. If the chairman of the Readiness Subcommittee says that the CR hurts defense, then let's get it right.

The good news is that we have an opportunity to get it right. It is not completely clear as I stand on the floor, but it looks likely that there could be a vote today or tomorrow on an alternative that I will call the getting-it-right alternative.

What is the getting-it-right alternative? We would extend the current spending level for 30 days and then finish the budget. We would decide we don't want to drive looking in the rear-view mirror; we want to drive looking in the windshield. We would get an appropriations deal that wouldn't hurt our readiness.

I am just talking about one priority. I could have other colleagues stand here and talk about how this CR hurts education priorities, health priorities, mental health priorities, transportation priorities, emergency response. We don't have to accept that, and frankly, to earn the label "U.S. Senator," we shouldn't accept it. We should do the get-it-right alternative, and the get-it-right alternative, which has been proposed by Senator MURRAY and others, is to do a simple, 30-day extension of existing spending—no amendments, no adjustments, no anomalies, no quirks for 30 days—and then get an appropriations deal done that can pass this body and pass the House.

We can do it. We are very, very close. I am not on the Appropriations Committee, but in my discussions with appropriators, they say: We are extremely close; we can do this. We should.

So I will just urge my colleagues, as you contemplate a vote on this House CR that, in my view, does great damage to many priorities, you don't just have to go along with the House work product, especially when they show disrespect to the Senate by skipping town Tuesday night, thinking that they could jam us by doing so. You don't have to go along with the work product that even the chairman of the Armed Services Committee says hurts our national readiness. You don't have to go along with a work product when Pentagon officials who have made this their lives look at us and tell us this will hurt national security. There is a better strategy, and we should embrace it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, over the past 2 months, we have seen chaos unleashed across our country as Donald

Trump and Elon Musk take a chain saw to our Federal Government, firing thousands of Federal workers en masse with no explanation and more firings to come. I suspect that by the time they are through—if they are ever through—hundreds of thousands of Federal employees will have been fired.

Rather than making government more efficient, these indiscriminate cuts are gutting our government from the inside out, effectively eliminating crucial programs and offices.

While Republicans shamefully paint hard-working Federal workers as faceless bureaucrats, we know that our Federal workers do important work, from ensuring Social Security checks go out to providing care for veterans and so much more.

Every State has individual Federal employees doing critical work—often work that goes unseen. In Hawaii, for example, Fish and Wildlife Service employees are responsible for keeping invasive species out of our State. Once invasive species arrive in our islands, it is often impossible to eradicate them. That is why the work of these employees is so important.

Last month, the Trump administration fired Fish and Wildlife Service employees whose job was to keep one particular invasive species—the brown tree snake—out of our State. You can see, Mr. President, it is pretty ferocious. This picture depicts a brown tree snake eating a bird whole.

Native to Australia, Indonesia, and Papua New Guinea, the brown tree snake was accidentally introduced to Guam during World War II and has been wreaking havoc on that island ever since. One of the most destructive invasive species in the world, the brown tree snake is responsible for the extinction of at least a dozen animal species in Guam, including many of the island's forest-dwelling birds and native lizards.

But the snake didn't stop at birds and lizards; it also went after Guam's native bats, domestic poultry, and even pets. As its population grew, the brown tree snake began invading power facilities, causing short circuits and frequent power outages. To this day, brown tree snakes cause nearly 200 outages a year in Guam, costing \$4.5 million each year in repairs and lost productivity. To this day, brown tree snakes cause nearly 200 outages a year in Guam, costing \$4.5 million each year in what they are doing in repairs—you can imagine what kind of havoc—and lost productivity by the millions.

Despite years of various attempts to control the brown tree snake, as of 2024, Guam's population of brown tree snakes is estimated to be in the millions. Sadly, it is highly unlikely that this invasive and destructive species will ever be fully eliminated from Guam.

Thankfully, the snake does not yet exist in Hawaii or anywhere in the continental United States, but that is not by accident or chance. It is because of

the tireless work of Federal employees from several Agencies that has kept this snake out of Hawaii.

Since the creation of the Brown Tree Snake Program nearly 20 years ago, not a single brown tree snake has been found in Hawaii because the program works. The Federal investment in equipment, training, and hiring personnel works. Several Agencies, including the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Defense work together on the research, interdiction, and management of the brown tree snake.

But the firing of just one individual who served as the Brown Tree Snake Program coordinator in Hawaii threatens to nullify all of that successful work. This individual was responsible for ensuring that prior security protocols were being followed in coordinating amongst the different Agencies involved in the program. He has been doing this for a number of years. He has the expertise to do this well, to keep this snake out of Hawaii. He oversaw the implementation of the Brown Tree Snake Program for the entire Pacific region.

As I give this speech today, his position was eliminated for no good reason by Musk and Trump. To this day, his position remains vacant. As we know, there is a hiring freeze imposed by the President also. So if he is not reinstated, the likely scenario will be that it will not be a matter of if brown tree snakes are introduced to Hawaii, but when.

Let's be clear. If this snake makes it to Hawaii, I fear it is only a matter of time before it reaches the rest of our country.

Trump and Elon Musk think they can just take a chain saw to our Federal workforce and budget, hacking away with no consequences. But in 10 years, when brown tree snakes have decimated Hawaii's ecosystem and wreaked havoc in other States across our country, it will, obviously, be too late.

Mr. President, the brown tree snake is a real threat that Hawaii takes seriously. And in every State across our country, red and blue alike, there are Federal workers doing critical, often unseen work, to protect the health, safety, and well-being of our communities—critical Federal employees. Firing these employees will inevitably make our country and our communities less safe, less prosperous, and more vulnerable to outside threats from foreign governments to invasive species, and everything in between.

I stand ready to work with anyone serious about making our government more efficient, but these cuts are having the opposite effect.

I urge my Republican colleagues to join me in standing up for the critical Federal programs in our States and to the well-being of the American people by rejecting this administration's attacks on our government and the people who keep it working and who protect our communities.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, here we go again. In just a little over 24 hours, Federal funding will run out, and the government will shut down.

Let me state for the record that my Republican colleagues and I are ready to get on with matters and ready to fund the government for the rest of this year. We all know that the faster we move it over the finish line, the faster our Federal Government can get to work on behalf of the American people and implement the agenda that the American people elected us to get done.

But after our Democratic friends had a nice long lunch on Capitol Hill yesterday, Senator SCHUMER took the floor to announce that their caucus would not support funding the government because, as he put it, "Republicans chose a partisan path." But here is what Senator SCHUMER is really saying: Democrats would rather shut down the government than pass the funding bill just to shift blame to Republicans for our current funding predicament. Democrats are going to shut down the government to protect the government.

In the next 24 hours, even, Democrats are planning to use the very same filibuster they have opposed and tried to abolish to shut down the government. In the last administration, former Vice President Kamala Harris said that Joe Biden and the Democrats are "kinda done with those archaic Senate rules." But here they are using those archaic Senate rules to shut down the government.

There is nothing that could explain such a drastic change of heart among my Democratic colleagues other than rank hypocrisy. Democrats are quick to criticize Republican efforts to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse in our bureaucracies on behalf of hard-working American taxpayers. Yet in the same breath, Democrats are fighting to withhold the paychecks of air traffic controllers, our troops, Federal custodial staff. They can't be serious. The level of hypocrisy displayed by the minority leader and my Democratic colleagues is appalling to the office they hold and the constituents they serve. A government shutdown, of course, doesn't just affect the Federal workforce. For instance, food inspectors will be forced to stop their work, interrupting our food supply chains. It is as if the Democrats are trying to finish Joe Biden's job of driving up prices in the grocery store.

Let me remind everyone of why we are on the verge of a government shutdown. Just a few months ago, Senator SCHUMER and my Democratic col-

leagues held the majority here. During that time, Republicans joined with Democrats to vote 11 out of 12 government funding bills from committee—11 out of 12. Six of them were unanimous. The other five passed with overwhelming bipartisan support. That would seem to be a great accomplishment in a too-often-divided Washington—11 out of 12 bills, 6 unanimous, 5 with overwhelming bipartisan support.

But even though we had all those spending bills ready to go last summer on a bipartisan basis, then-Majority Leader SCHUMER failed to bring a single bill to the floor from August to the end of last year. Not a single bill. Even though—let me say it again—11 out of 12 passed out of committee; six were unanimous; and the other five were overwhelmingly bipartisan. Not a single one.

Senator SCHUMER had 224 days to bring those bills to the floor for a vote—224 days. What did we do, instead? He chose to prioritize election-year stunts trying to distract voters from Joe Biden's disastrous border crisis. He had a vote on mandating government-funded fertility treatments for biological men—more important than funding the government.

We also confirmed a whole host of unqualified Biden nominees you have never heard of for jobs you didn't know existed, not to mention a whole host of unqualified judges in States with two Democrat Senators who couldn't have gotten confirmed for the first 4 years and were only jammed through in a lameduck session, when we also could have been passing those spending bills to fund the government so we wouldn't be in this position.

Senator SCHUMER claims to care about the livelihoods of Federal workers, but as leader, he seemed more preoccupied with putting on a big political show. Yet here is Senator SCHUMER claiming that Republican partisanship is the reason for shutting down the government. Spare me.

It continued this year. Since Republicans took over, he blocked negotiations that would have made this funding bill a bipartisan effort from the start. Senator COLLINS, the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee and TOM COLE, chair of the House Appropriations Committee, made multiple, multiple offers to their Democratic counterparts to negotiate on a bipartisan basis government funding bills, just like we did last summer. But, no. Senator SCHUMER blocked it time and time again until just a few days ago.

Yet now, supposedly, the clock has run out. He wants another 30 days—another 30 days—when he had 224 days last year to do this, when we had over 60 days this year to negotiate on a bipartisan basis.

The time for those negotiations has regrettably passed. It is time to finish last year's business and move on to this year's business.

Democrats have one last chance to join Republicans and support a simple

yearlong funding bill. Republicans encourage our Democratic colleagues to join this effort to keep the government funded for the American people we all serve.

Shutting our government down, as many of my Democratic colleagues are apparently considering, is not just some political stunt. There are real and consequential national security risks if they choose to go through with this reckless scheme.

A government shutdown will disrupt military training and could force us to cancel planned exercises with our allies and partners. These are the very same alliances Democrats claim to care so much about supporting and preserving. Furthermore, a shutdown would disrupt ongoing work to modernize our nuclear forces, which is already behind schedule. Any further delay would make this bad situation even worse.

And the potential Schumer shutdown will hurt military preparedness by slowing recruiting, create uncertainty in our defense supply chains, and impact our ability to produce badly needed munitions. This is not the message of strength we want to send to the allies we stand beside and the enemies we stand against.

To my Democratic colleagues who still believe that shutting down the government is the principled choice that you need to—again, it is hard for me to explain their position—shut down the government to protect the government, let me ask you, simply: What does voting no accomplish? Six months ago, Senator SCHUMER said:

If the government shuts down, it will be average Americans who suffer most.

That was Senator SCHUMER. What has happened in the last 6 months? Nothing, as far as I could tell, except who the American people elected to lead the government.

So if this Schumer shutdown stunt is just a threat to get Republicans to agree to a fake short-term extension that brings us right back to where we are now, again, what is the point?

The Democrats' hypocritical arguments reveal, once again, they are not serious about putting their duty to the American people above partnership, pettiness and pride.

I invite them all to justify the Schumer shutdown to the parents who must postpone a trip to a national park with their children after months of saving and planning; or to explain your reasoning for the Schumer shutdown to the veteran who has already taken a day off work to sign up for healthcare at his regional benefits office only to find it closed; or to defend the Schumer shutdown to the Federal employee who puts all of her groceries on a credit card to make sure there is enough money left at the end of the month to cover her rent.

My friends, we have two choices before us, and they are quite simple: either keep the government open and working for the people or shut it down. To do what exactly? I don't know. I

think we can all agree that the American people deserve better than a government that is a day late and a couple billion dollars short. So I encourage my Democratic colleagues to vote with us to simply fund the government. Let's not have a Schumer shutdown.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, as people all over this country understand, we are a nation today that faces enormous crises. Sadly, the continuing resolution passed Tuesday in the U.S. House and which will come to this body very shortly not only does nothing to address these crises but, in fact, it makes a bad situation much worse.

Today, at a time when we have more income and wealth inequality than we have ever had in the history of this country, 60 percent of our people are living paycheck to paycheck. What that means—I grew up in a family living paycheck to paycheck. It means that people are worried about how they are going to afford housing. What happens if their landlord raises the rent? People go to the grocery store, and they see the high prices of food and wonder how they are going to feed their kids. People are looking at the outrageous cost of childcare, but you need childcare if you are going to go to work. How can you afford childcare? Our healthcare system is dysfunctional. People worry about how they can afford healthcare if they are lucky enough to be able to find a doctor.

That is the reality of what is going on in our country today: The rich are getting richer; working people are struggling; and 800,000 Americans are sleeping out on the streets.

So, given that reality, what does this bill do—the bill written by the right-wing extremists in the House of Representatives without any bipartisan discussion at all? What does this bill do?

Well, let me count the ways. It makes the financial struggles of working people even more difficult than they are today, and it does all of that to lay the groundwork for massive tax breaks for Elon Musk and the billionaire class.

For a start, some 22 percent of our seniors in this country are trying to survive on \$15,000 a year or less, which, to me, is really quite incredible. I don't know how anybody, let alone a senior, survives on \$15,000 a year or less. Half of our seniors are trying to survive on \$30,000 a year or less. So what does the Trump-Musk administration do to address the terrible economic pressures on seniors all over America? Well, they have got a brilliant idea. They illegally fire thousands of workers at the Social Security Administration, with plans to cut that staff in half.

In America today, 30,000 people die each year while waiting to receive their Social Security disability benefits because of a grossly understaffed and underresourced Social Security

Administration. My office—and I expect the Presiding Officer's office and I expect every other office—gets calls every day from seniors, saying: I am having a problem with Social Security. I can't make contact with the Social Security people. They are not getting back to me.

That is because, today, they are understaffed. If Musk and Trump get their way and the Social Security Administration's staff is cut in half, nobody can deny that that will be a death sentence for many thousands of seniors who desperately need their benefits.

Now, Mr. Musk, who is worth a few hundred billion, may not understand that there are millions of seniors in this country who have nothing in the bank, who worry every day as to how they are going to heat their homes or buy the food that they need, and if they can't get the benefits that they need, some of them will, in fact, die.

Let me be clear: When you have Mr. Musk calling Social Security a Ponzi scheme despite the fact that it has paid out every benefit owed to every eligible American for the last 80-plus years, that ain't no Ponzi scheme.

When you have the President of the United States coming before Congress and lying—outrageously lying—about millions of people who are 150 or 200 years of age receiving Social Security benefits—a total lie—everybody should understand what is going on.

Trump and Musk are laying the groundwork for dismantling the most successful Federal program in history—Social Security—a program that keeps over 27 million Americans out of poverty. By the way, just to set the record straight, over 99 percent of the more than 70 million Social Security checks that go out each month are going to people who earned those benefits—over 99 percent. People 150 or 500 years of age are not getting Social Security checks.

But this continuing resolution that passed in the House is not just a vicious attack on Social Security; it is an attack on the veterans of our Nation—the men and women who put their lives on the line to defend our country. While we made some progress under the Biden administration in improving veterans' healthcare, the truth is that the VA has remained significantly understaffed. In the fourth quarter of 2024, there were 36,000 vacancies at the VA. We needed 2,400 more doctors, 6,300 more registered nurses, 3,400 more schedulers, 1,800 more social workers, and 1,200 more custodians.

So what do the Trump administration and Mr. Musk do to address this very serious workforce shortage? Their answer is that they are threatening to dismantle the VA by firing 83,000 employees. In other words, you have got a shortage today, and their solution to the shortage is to fire 83,000 workers. Not only does this CR do nothing to stop that, but it cuts more than \$20 billion in funding needed to provide care for veterans exposed to burn pits,

Agent Orange, and other toxic substances next year.

Pathetically, our Nation—the richest country on Earth—has the highest rate of childhood poverty of almost any major country on the planet, and that is often reflected in the crises facing many public schools today. Throughout America, children are coming into school hungry; kids are coming into school with serious mental issues; kids are coming into school from dysfunctional families and families often dealing with drug abuse.

And what is the Trump-Musk administration doing about that crisis?

Well, their response was interesting. Just the other day, they fired half of the staff at the Department of Education. That means that it will be far harder to administer the title I program that helps 26 million low-income kids get the education they need and pays the salaries of some 180,000 public school teachers throughout the country.

So how does a school in a working-class community survive if you don't get the funds to pay for teachers?

Further, it means that it will be far harder to administer the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the IDEA, that provides vital resources for 7½ million kids with disabilities. We have made progress in a bipartisan way over the last number of years to say to families: If your kid has a disability, that kid can still go to a public school. There will be services available for that kid.

But when you cut the Department of Education staff here in Washington in half, that is going to be extremely difficult to do, and it means that it will be far harder for some 7 million low-income and working-class students to get the Pell grants they need to get a higher education. In fact, just hours after the Department of Education laid off half of its staff, the website for the free application for Federal Student Aid that working families use to apply for Pell grants and other financial institutions crashed. They fired workers, and the website crashed for the people who were applying for Pell grants. This CR that we will be looking at perhaps tomorrow gives the Trump administration the green light to make these horrific cuts to education.

And it is not just education. We have a major healthcare crisis in our country.

Despite spending twice as much per capita on healthcare as the people of any other major country, 85 million Americans are uninsured or underinsured. Over 500,000 of our people go bankrupt because of medically related debt; over 60,000 people die each year because they can't afford to get to a doctor on time; and our life expectancy is not only lower than in almost any other major country, it is a system wherein working-class and low-income Americans die 7 years younger than wealthier Americans.

So you have got a crisis: People can't find a doctor. People are going bank-

rupt because of healthcare bills. And what does this CR do? Well, at a time when, in particular, our primary healthcare system is completely broken, when we don't have enough doctors or nurses or dentists or mental health counselors, this proposal cuts—cuts—community health center funding by 3.2 percent; it cuts the National Health Service Corps by over 5 percent; and it cuts funding for teaching health centers—a program which helps train doctors in rural and underserved areas—by almost 13 percent.

So, in the midst of a horrific primary healthcare crisis in Vermont and all over rural America, this proposal will make it that much harder for people to get the healthcare that they desperately need.

But it is not just healthcare. Everybody in this country, from Vermont to Los Angeles, understands we have a major housing crisis. It is not just all of the homelessness we are seeing. Over 20 million of our people, incredibly, spend more than 50 percent of their limited income on housing. How in God's name do you pay for anything else? How do you buy food? How do you take care of healthcare if you are spending 50 percent or more for your housing?

So how does this CR address the housing crisis? Well, it does it by cutting rental assistance for low-income families in America by \$700 million, which could lead to more than 32,000 families in our country being evicted from their homes. Well, that is a heck of a solution to the housing crisis: You make it much worse.

But it is not just housing. I know that the President might disagree. He thinks that climate change is a hoax. The whole scientific community understands that it is an existential threat. They understand that the last 10 years have been the warmest ever recorded, and extreme weather disturbances and natural disasters have been taking place all over the world—from California to India, across Europe, to North Carolina.

So what does the CR do about the existential threat of climate change? It does not even specify funding levels within the Environmental Protection Agency. In other words, the administration can simply eliminate funding for climate change and environmental justice, and that would be consistent with this CR.

And on top of all of this, the administration is already indicating that they will simply ignore the provisions of the spending bill they don't like. This week, it was reported that Vice President JD Vance said to the Senate Republican caucus: I want everyone to vote yes. The President, under section II, will ensure allocations from Congress are not spent on things that harm the taxpayer. There is so much grift in Washington. Let's move this CR, get to reconciliation, and for Congress to pass appropriations.

In other words, what Vance is saying is: Don't worry about what is actually

in the bill. If the Trump administration doesn't like it, they won't do it.

And let's be clear: The House CR that was passed in an extremely partisan vote—I think they won by 3 or 4 votes. One Democrat out of—whatever—215 voted for it. The House CR and the Trump administration are doing everything they can to lay the groundwork for more tax breaks for billionaires, paid for by massive cuts to Medicaid, nutrition assistance, housing, and education. So you are looking at a one-two punch: a very bad CR and then a reconciliation bill coming down, which will be the final kick in the teeth for the American people.

This legislation that the Republicans are working on—the reconciliation bill—would cut taxes for billionaires in the top 1 percent by over \$1.1 trillion over the next decade. According to a recent study, if all of Trump's so-called "America First" policies are enacted, the bottom 95 percent of Americans will see their taxes go up, while the richest 5 percent will see their taxes go down—way down.

I should also mention that that reconciliation bill which Republicans are working on right now would also cut Medicaid by \$880 billion.

Tax breaks for billionaires; throwing low-income kids off of healthcare; decimating nursing homes all over America, because nursing homes receive two-thirds of their funding from Medicaid; making it harder for community health centers to survive, which provide healthcare to 32 million Americans, because 43 percent of their revenue comes from Medicaid—cut Medicaid by \$880 billion, and you will significantly deteriorate the quality of healthcare all over America, at a time when the system is already broken.

Further, the reconciliation bill proposes to cut at least \$230 billion from nutrition. Today, nearly one out of five kids in America rely on Federal nutrition programs to keep them from going hungry. I find it rather remarkable that the richest person on Earth, somebody worth hundreds of billions of dollars—that he and his other oligarch friends are working night and day to cut programs for the working people of this country and to actually deny food to hungry kids in America. There is no world, no universe, no religion that would not believe that that is grossly immoral and unacceptable. You don't give tax breaks to the rich and take food away from hungry children.

The House CR bill that we will be soon voting on here is a piece of legislation I cannot support. Instead, what the Senate must do is pass a 30-day CR so that all Members of Congress, not just the House Republican leadership, can come together and produce a good piece of legislation that works for all Americans and not just the few.

We have an opportunity now to serve the American people. We have an opportunity to write something that reflects what people in the Congress feel, what the people in America feel.

I go around the country, and, just a couple of weeks ago, I held a telephone townhall in Vermont. We are a small State. We only have about 650,000 people. Yet on that telephone townhall, there were 34,000 people listening in. It is a significant percentage of a small State.

I have been in many parts of the country recently. I have been in Iowa. I have been in Wisconsin. I have been in Nebraska. I have been in Michigan. And what I can tell you with absolute certainty is, whether people are conservative, whether they are Republican, whether they are progressive, whether they are moderate, whether they are Independent—whatever they may be—there are very few people in this country who think we should give a trillion dollars in tax breaks to the rich and cut back on Medicaid, education, and nutritional programs for hungry children.

So, Mr. President, what I strongly propose is that we pass a 30-day CR; that we do what has always been the case here in the Senate: have both bodies, both parties work together to come up with a good piece of legislation.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. MORENO. I ask that the previously scheduled rollcall vote begin immediately.

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

VOTE ON KESSLER NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Kessler nomination?

Ms. BALDWIN. 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 123 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Slotkin
Crapo	Lummis	Sullivan
Cruz	Marshall	Thune
Curtis	McConnell	Tillis
Daines	McCormick	Tuberville
Ernst	Moody	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	Young

NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Bennet	Blunt Rochester
Baldwin	Blumenthal	Booker

Cantwell	Kim	Sanders
Coons	King	Schatz
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Schiff
Durbin	Lujan	Schumer
Fetterman	Markey	Shaheen
Gallego	Merkley	Smith
Gillibrand	Murphy	Van Hollen
Hassan	Murray	Warner
Heinrich	Ossoff	Warnock
Hickenlooper	Padilla	Warren
Hirono	Peters	Welch
Kaine	Reed	Whitehouse
Kelly	Rosen	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Duckworth

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.

The majority whip.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the motion to invoke cloture on S. 331.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative 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 Calendar No. 18, S. 331, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Ted Budd, Tom Cotton, Tim Sheehy, Lindsey Graham, Cynthia M. Lummis, Dan Sullivan, Ashley B. Moody, Pete Ricketts, Bill Cassidy, Jon Husted, Mike Rounds, James Lankford, Todd Young, Joni Ernst, John R. Curtis, John Kennedy.

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 S. 331, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 84, nays 15, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 124 Ex.]

YEAS—84

Baldwin	Bennet	Boozman
Banks	Blackburn	Britt
Barrasso	Blumenthal	Budd

Cantwell	Hickenlooper	Ossoff
Capito	Hoeven	Paul
Cassidy	Husted	Peters
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Reed
Coons	Johnson	Ricketts
Cornyn	Justice	Risch
Cortez Masto	Kaine	Rosen
Cotton	Kelly	Rounds
Cramer	Kennedy	Schatz
Crapo	Kim	Schmitt
Cruz	King	Schumer
Curtis	Klobuchar	Scott (FL)
Daines	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Durbin	Lee	Shaheen
Ernst	Lujan	Sheehy
Fetterman	Lummis	Slotkin
Fischer	Marshall	Smith
Gallego	McConnell	Sullivan
Gillibrand	McCormick	Thune
Graham	Moody	Tillis
Grassley	Moran	Tuberville
Hagerty	Moreno	Warner
Hassan	Mullin	Whitehouse
Hawley	Murkowski	Wicker
Heinrich	Murray	Young

NAYS—15

Alsobrooks	Merkley	Van Hollen
Blunt Rochester	Murphy	Warnock
Booker	Padilla	Warren
Hirono	Sanders	Welch
Markey	Schiff	Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Duckworth

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 84, the nays are 15.

The motion is agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

HALT ALL LETHAL TRAFFICKING OF FENTANYL ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 331) to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Thune (for Grassley) amendment No. 1237, of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, over the last 2 months, the United States has confronted a bitter—a very bitter truth: The Federal Government has been taken over by a nihilist. Donald Trump, in 2 months, has taken a blowtorch to our country and wielded chaos like a weapon.

Republicans in Congress, meanwhile, have caved to his every whim. The Grand Old Party has devolved into a crowd of Trump sycophants and MAGA radicals who want to burn everything to the ground. Look no further than what DOGE is doing. Now Republicans' nihilism has brought us to the brink of disaster.

Unless Congress acts, the Federal Government will shut down tomorrow at midnight. I have said many times that there are no winners in a government shutdown, but there are certainly victims—the most vulnerable Americans who rely on Federal programs to feed their families, to access medical care, and to stay financially afloat.

Communities that depend on government services to function will suffer and suffer greatly.

This week, Democrats offered a sensible way out: Fund the government for another month to give appropriators more time to do their jobs. Republicans rejected this proposal outright. Why did they reject it? Because Donald Trump doesn't want the appropriators to do their job; he wants full control over government spending. He isn't the first President to want this, but he is the first President to cower his party into submission.

So that Republican rejection leads us to a decision. That Republican rejection leads us to a decision. And it is not really a decision; it is a Hobson's choice: Either proceed with the bill before us or risk Donald Trump throwing America into the chaos of a shutdown. This, in my view, is no choice at all.

While the CR bill is very bad, the potential for a shutdown has consequences for America that are much, much worse. For sure, the Republican bill is a terrible option. It is not a clean CR. It is deeply partisan. It doesn't address far too many of this country's needs. But I believe allowing Donald Trump to take even much more power via a government shutdown is a far worse option.

Before I explain why, let me be clear about one thing. No one on my side of the aisle wants a government shutdown. Members who support this CR do not want a government shutdown. Members who oppose this CR do not want a government shutdown.

Members who oppose this CR want the Republicans to take their responsibilities more seriously and to negotiate spending bills that will address the many needs of the American people. I respect them for that. Unfortunately, though, this Republican Party is the party of Trump.

As bad as passing the CR is, as I said, allowing Donald Trump to take even much more power via a government shutdown is a far worse option.

First, a shutdown would give Donald Trump and Elon Musk carte blanche to destroy vital government services at a significantly faster rate than they can right now. Under a shutdown, the Trump administration would have full authority to deem whole Agencies, programs, and personnel nonessential, furloughing staff with no promise they would ever be rehired. The decision on what is essential would be solely left to the executive branch, with nobody left at the Agencies to check them.

In short, a shutdown would give Donald Trump, Elon Musk and DOGE, and Vought the keys to the city, State, and country.

A shutdown would give Donald Trump the keys to the city, the State, and the country.

And don't take my word for it. Musk has said aloud he wants a shutdown, and public reporting has shown he is already making plans to use the shutdown to expedite his destruction of key

government programs and services. Musk told reporters:

If the job is not essential or they are not doing it well, they obviously shouldn't be on the public payroll.

Many Federal employees and government experts are rightly worried that a temporary shutdown could lead to permanent cuts.

Second, if we enter a shutdown, congressional Republicans would weaponize their majorities to cherry-pick which parts of the government to reopen. In a protracted shutdown, House and Senate Republicans would pursue a strategy of bringing bills to the floor to reopen only their favorite departments and Agencies, while leaving other vital services that they don't like to languish.

Third, a shutdown is not a political game. Shutdown means real pain for American families.

For example, veterans services: I believe a shutdown could cause regional VA offices to reduce staff, delay benefit processing, and curtail mental health services, abandoning veterans who earned and depended on those resources.

Social Security and seniors: I believe a shutdown could green-light Trump to slash administrative staff at Social Security offices, delaying new applications and benefit adjustments and forcing seniors to wait even longer for the benefits they earned.

Justice and courts: Extremely troubling, I believe. A shutdown could stall Federal court cases, one of the best redoubts against Trump's lawlessness and could require furloughing critical staff at the courts, denying victims and defendants alike their day in court, dragging out appeals, and clogging the justice system for months or even years.

This administration has shown an unfathomable willingness to sacrifice American families and their well-being to advance their own political agenda. A shutdown positions them to do this on overdrive.

Finally, there is one more reason I oppose a shutdown. President Trump and Republican leaders would like nothing more than to pull us into the mud of a protracted government shutdown. For Donald Trump, a shutdown would be a gift. It would be the best distraction he could ask for from his awful agenda.

Right now, Donald Trump owns the chaos in the government; he owns the chaos in the stock market; he owns the damage happening to our economy from one end of the country to the other. The stock market is crashing; consumer confidence is plummeting. Donald Trump is hoping for a shutdown because it will distract from his true agenda of delivering massive cuts to the rich paid for on the backs of American families.

He wants to gut Social Security, hollow out Medicaid, slap taxes on consumer goods through his reckless trade wars. In a shutdown, we would be busy

fighting with Republicans over which Agencies to reopen, which to keep closed—instead of debating the damage Donald Trump's agenda is causing the American people.

Mr. President, I believe it is my job to make the best choice for the country, to minimize the harms to the American people. Therefore, I will vote to keep the government open and not shut it down. There is nobody in the world—nobody—who wants to shut the government down more than Donald Trump and more than Elon Musk. We should not give it to them.

And make no mistake: Democrats will continue to fight what Donald Trump is doing. Everything that Trump, Musk, and Republicans have done so far has a clear goal: again, cutting taxes for billionaires, eviscerate Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.

This is the fight that matters most and the fight we must focus on—all the chaos we have seen, all the lawlessness, all the grift and corrupt behavior. It is all about rigging the system in favor of the ultrawealthy at the expense of working Americans. This is the fight the American people need to see. This is the fight that Democrats will win. A shutdown will be a costly distraction from this all-important fight.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

TRIBUTE TO LYRA BAKER BOYD

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, today I rise to celebrate the birthday of someone very special: my grandmother Lyra Baker Boyd, who I call MaMa.

Today, she turns 100 years old. She is such an incredible woman. I think about the memories of her in my lifetime. I think about the impact she has had on me and my cousins, on people all around her who have the honor of knowing her.

Some of my earliest memories are that of her kindness and gentleness, her teaching me how to treat others. I remember sitting at her kitchen table as my grandfather was going over different Bible verses before church on Sunday morning. She would make oatmeal. We would get blueberries out of her garden. She would make scrambled eggs, pouring milk in them to make them go a little bit further; making sure we used our best manners at the table and then sending us off to conquer the day.

There is no doubt she had a passion for leaving everyone and everyplace that she encountered better as a result of her. Those values that she has, those values of service, they stirred in her so early in her life.

MaMa graduated high school at the height of the Second World War. She dreamed of serving our country overseas. As we know, women weren't allowed to enlist in combat roles at that time, so she embarked on a different pathway to serve. She became a nurse. It was 1943 when she enrolled at what was then the Hillman Hospital Training School for Nurses. It later became

Jefferson-Hillman, and it is now right at the center of the University of Alabama at Birmingham Medical Campus.

MaMa was ready to ship out to Europe to tend to our wounded soldiers, but V-Day actually came right before she graduated. Still wanting to serve her fellow Americans in some way, she moved to Enterprise, AL—I am proud to call that my hometown—and she began her 40-year nursing career.

In the early fifties, during the Korean war, her husband—my PaPa, as I call him—was among the brave soldiers defending our ally from communist invasion. MaMa and her sisters moved to Seattle during the time. She moved to live with her sister there, and she worked as a registered nurse.

During her time in the Pacific Northwest, she never lost her southern roots. Her colleagues even called her “Magnolia.” They said it was clear that she held Alabama dear. Ultimately, she and PaPa made their way back down to the Yellowhammer State, as MaMa worked as a labor and delivery nurse until she retired.

Both she and PaPa’s life are emblematic of their generation. Rooted in unselfishness, unselfish service to our great country, they personified what JFK said:

Ask not what your country can do for you, but what you can do for your country.

MaMa helped teach that to my entire family. She wanted us to know that life wasn’t always about us. She makes sure, in every conversation, that we understand that there is a greater purpose and a higher calling to which we must answer and a service to which we must all work. We all have a responsibility to put our God, our family, our friends, and our country above our own personal interest. And there is nobody who embodies that better than my grandmother.

That service to our communities and our Nation can take many shapes and forms. For both of my grandfathers, it was military service. For others in my family, it has been protecting their fellow Americans as law enforcement officers and firefighters. For me, it is the honor to stand and serve in this body. And for MaMa, it was helping bring life into this world, helping new moms, and nursing people back from sickness.

Above all, what MaMa has taught me is that you must use your post, whatever it is in life, to make a difference in the lives around you. We are all called to serve. We are all called to be in the arena. Everyone’s service is different, but no one’s is less important. It is about striving to do better, to be better, and to leave this world better than we found it.

So, thank you, MaMa, for being a guiding light throughout the course of my life. On behalf of my aunts and uncles, cousins, and MaMa’s family and friends, we say, “Happy 100th birthday.” We love you dearly, MaMa.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

(The remarks of Mr. CASSIDY pertaining to the introduction of S. 1015 are printed in today’s RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

HALT FENTANYL ACT

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, 74,000 people died of fentanyl and fentanyl analogs in 2023. Everyone in this Chamber and everyone watching from home knows of someone who has died of a fentanyl overdose. If you watched the Super Bowl, 74,000 is more people than were in the New Orleans Superdome.

Now, they didn’t just occur in a border State or in my State or in the Presiding Officer’s State; they occurred across the country. Every State is a border State when it comes to fentanyl flooding our country. Everyone has felt the effect of the 50,000 pounds of fentanyl that has poured across the open southern border or through the mail over the last couple of years. Fifty thousand pounds is enough to produce over 2 billion lethal doses—enough to kill everyone in the country six times over.

I was just told by a friend about the DEA Museum just outside of Washington, DC. It has a new exhibit, the “Faces of Fentanyl.” You see walls covered with thousands of photographs of Americans—many of them young—who have died from an overdose. When you see the pictures on these walls, you can’t see them, but you know the presence of parents, brothers, sisters, friends, cousins, aunts, and uncles who were devastated when that person on the wall died, when they heard the news that their loved one had bought a pill online or from somebody they happened to know. Perhaps they thought it was something else or perhaps they didn’t know the potency. Nonetheless, when they took it, they died.

The pain of this for so many people is why I urge my colleagues to join me in passing the HALT Fentanyl Act—to help law enforcement stop the criminals who are poisoning our fellow Americans.

What does the HALT Fentanyl Act do? It makes permanent the schedule I classification of fentanyl and fentanyl analogs. What is a fentanyl analog? I am a doctor, so I am going to speak a little bit like a doctor. An analog is fentanyl, which is illegal except they change it just enough so that, when they change it, technically, it would not be illegal. Yes, it looks like fentanyl; it addicts like fentanyl; it can kill like fentanyl. Yet, because of a minor modification, it is not actually fentanyl, but it still has the same terrible, addictive, deadly effect of the actual thing. It still has the ability to take our loved ones from us.

So how do we stop that? We say that whether it was fentanyl or a fentanyl analog, it is banned and that if you are illegally in possession of this or if you are selling it to other people, then law enforcement has the right to arrest you.

This bill makes the schedule I classification—schedule I, meaning it is illegal to have—permanent.

Aside from closing the loophole that criminals use to skirt around the law, we also strengthen the penalty for those who possess the fentanyl analog and, again, make it easier for law enforcement to prosecute.

This isn’t controversial; this is bipartisan. The need is there. We have been doing this on a temporary basis, but now we are going to make it permanent. Law enforcement will keep the most vital tool they have to hold fentanyl dealers accountable and to go after criminals.

The bill also makes it easier to research fentanyl analogs to determine if they actually have a medical use. It is possible that one of these analogs is better than the real thing, and fentanyl does have, when prescribed by a physician appropriately, a valid medical use, so maybe one of these analogs is useful. We allow for research into that. At the same time, we give law enforcement the ability to prosecute if it is used for things such as to create an addiction.

President Trump said he would sign this if we passed it. We are working—I am working—to get this bill to his desk.

I would like to thank my colleague from Iowa, Senator GRASSLEY, the Judiciary Committee chairman, for moving this bill through his committee so quickly and thank the majority leader for bringing this bill up for a vote. I also want to thank my colleague from Wisconsin, RON JOHNSON, for his work on this issue. I also thank MARTIN HEINRICH from New Mexico, who has really cared about this issue, and Senator HEINRICH has pushed this on a bipartisan basis.

The longer we wait, the more it emboldens drug cartels, people in China who either send supplies to Mexico or mail the fentanyl itself through the mail, and other criminals who look to exploit our communities.

We can take a concrete step in fighting the opioid crisis with the HALT Fentanyl Act. Republicans are united. This is a bipartisan bill. The country is united. Let’s bring that 74,000 fentanyl death toll down to zero.

I will never yield in this fight, but for now, I do yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MOODY). The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and 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.

HALT FENTANYL ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, later today, the Senate will vote on passage of the HALT Fentanyl Act. Opioid addiction has had a devastating impact on communities all across the country.

We have an overdose crisis in the United States, and we should be doing everything possible to combat it. In just a decade, fentanyl has emerged as the deadliest drug in American history. All it takes is 2 milligrams—that is a fraction of the size of a penny—to cause an overdose.

But we must do more than simply pass this bill. Since fentanyl-related substances were originally scheduled by the DEA, in 2018, Congress has never allowed this authority to expire. So, by passing this bill, we are merely maintaining the status quo. We must also address how this poison gets into the hands of the most vulnerable: our children. Too often, fentanyl is peddled in the open on some of the world's largest social media platforms.

When the Senate Judiciary Committee marked up the HALT Fentanyl Act last month, I filed amendments that would finally hold these companies accountable and demand they put safeguards in place to protect our children. One of my amendments would have repealed the liability shield that Congress granted Big Tech nearly 30 years ago, known as section 230.

At that markup, Chairman GRASSLEY agreed to work with me to finally—finally—allow these companies to be sued by their victims' families so they can be held accountable in a court of law. I hope the full Senate will join us in this effort. Enough teens have died due to Big Tech's deliberate indifference.

If we are going to stem the fentanyl crisis, we also must acknowledge the role the United States has played in arming cartels to the teeth—sending hundreds of thousands of firearms south in an “iron river”—and facilitating the cartels' use of violence to traffic fentanyl into the U.S. That is why I filed my Stop Arming Cartels Act as an amendment to this bill.

The HALT Fentanyl Act fails to account for the role that America's lax gun laws play in arming and enabling drug cartels to traffic fentanyl. Consider this: An estimated 200,000 to 500,000 American-made guns are trafficked into Mexico annually. A study by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives found that 70 percent of crime guns recovered in Mexico from 2014–2018 and submitted for tracing were from the United States.

My Stop Arming Cartels Act would prohibit future manufacture, sale, and possession of .50-caliber rifles—a particularly powerful weapon favored by Mexican drug cartels. These high-caliber weapons smuggled from the United States have allowed cartels to shoot down police helicopters, attack military convoys, and undercut public faith in law and order. My bill would also

allow victims of gun violence to sue manufacturers and dealers who engage in firearm transactions prohibited under the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act.

We also must provide local and Federal law enforcement with the resources they need to fight against the highly armed cartels.

These Agencies are on the frontlines protecting our communities from fentanyl and other opioids. But detection is getting more difficult. Fentanyl is so potent and moved in quantities so small that high-value shipments are easily hidden. As a result, law enforcement needs access to technology and resources to quickly and efficiently detect these drugs. This includes expanding nonintrusive inspection capabilities, making lifesaving Naloxone widely available, and adequately funding State and local law enforcement.

I am also gravely concerned about the negative impact of President Trump's recent order diverting Federal law enforcement agents, including from the DEA and ATF, away from combatting fentanyl and firearms trafficked by cartels and onto working on the President's mass deportation efforts. As a reminder, the vast majority of fentanyl and other illegal drugs entering the United States are smuggled by American citizens through legal ports of entry. And lastly, I am concerned about the negative impact of President Trump's mass removals and reassignments of senior career law enforcement at DOJ and FBI and how that will affect our ability to hold traffickers accountable and cut off the supply of fentanyl.

Today, I will vote for the HALT Fentanyl Act. Still, it is only a starting point, and there is so much more that we can do, like stopping the trafficking of American guns that arm the cartels and holding social media companies accountable for peddling fentanyl to our kids. Getting fentanyl off the streets is a herculean task that will require us all to come together and work across the aisle to make this country a healthier, safer place to live. I hope this bill is a sign that all of my Senate colleagues are willing to continue working on this task with me in the future.

JANUARY 6 PARDONS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, on January 6, 2021, a solemn constitutional proceeding was disrupted when a mob of thugs, egged on by President Trump, attacked and trashed the U.S. Capitol in an attempt to overturn a free and fair election.

The grimmest results of the insurrection were the subsequent deaths of five of our law enforcement officers and the injuries to approximately 140 others, many of whom are still paying the price for that day.

On the campaign trail, Donald Trump promised that he would pardon January 6 insurrectionists—but it still came

as a shock when, on the first day of his second Presidential term, he issued a blanket pardon and 14 commutations to all of those who had been charged or convicted for their involvement in the attack on the Capitol.

And listen to what President Trump said about his pardons at a recent press conference “I pardoned people who were assaulted themselves. They were assaulted by our government . . . They didn't assault. They were assaulted, and what I did was a great thing for humanity.”

Trump's decision is highly unpopular, with 83 percent of Americans opposed to these pardons. This includes 70 percent of those who lean Republican.

And not only that, but these pardons also highlight the hypocrisy of President Trump when it comes to his claimed crackdown on antisemitism. Just days after pardoning these rioters, he signed an Executive order outlining his administration's efforts to combat “the explosion of antisemitism” in the U.S..

But, many of the rioters who Trump pardoned openly embrace violent antisemitism. Take Robert Keith Parker, who wore a black hoodie emblazoned with “Camp Auschwitz” on that horrific day.

Robert Keith Parker was pardoned by President Trump.

Or consider Timothy Hale-Cusanelli, whom prosecutors identified as a “white supremacist and Nazi sympathizer.” He told his coworkers that “Hitler should have finished the job” and frequently dresses up as Adolf Hitler.

At Hale-Cusanelli's sentencing hearing, Judge Trevor McFadden, a Trump appointee, said “Statements and actions like yours make [Jewish people] less safe and less confident they can participate as equal members of our society.”

Timothy Hale-Cusanelli was pardoned by President Trump. And what is more? After his release from prison, Mr. Hale-Cusanelli was welcomed as a speaker at two events held by the President's supporters last year at his Bedminster club.

At one of these events, he received an award from Ed Martin, now serving as President Trump's interim U.S. Attorney for the District of Columbia. Mr. Martin called Hale-Cusanelli an “extraordinary man” and an “extraordinary leader.”

Does that sound like the actions of an administration that cares about protecting the Jewish community from antisemitism? Seems more like lip service to me.

But the hypocrisy doesn't end there. President Donald Trump, in his speech to the joint session of Congress last week, said he would, “Get police officers nationwide the support, protection, and respect they so dearly deserve.” He said those words in a chamber that was protected by the very officers who were violently assaulted on January 6 by the rioters who he egged on and later pardoned.

Trump talks a big game about “backing the blue—but his pardons of the very rioters who beat and brutalized hundreds of cops on January 6 show that he has no idea what “support, protection, and respect” for the police means.

He continues to tout bringing back “law and order” while releasing violent criminals onto the streets—the scope of his dangerous pardons continues to grow.

Two weeks ago, a Justice Department prosecutor struggled in court to explain the administration’s view of the scope of Trump’s mass pardons, arguing that the relief should apply to separate criminal conduct committed by Capitol rioter Dan Wilson, in Kentucky in 2023.

U.S. District Judge Dabney L. Friedrich, a Trump appointee, questioned a Justice Department attorney about the government’s shifting position on the scope of Trump’s January 6 pardons.

Judge Freidrich said, “[p]ardons have to have a fixed meaning” on the day they are issued, and there has to be a “clear definition of the pardon that doesn’t evolve or change.”

Unfortunately, these individuals continue to pose a dangerous threat to our democracy—and law enforcement.

Just last month, dozens of former January 6 offenders joined forces on social media to compile and publicize the identities of at least 124 individuals who had been involved in their cases—including prosecutors, judges, and FBI agents.

The post, which has received at least tens of thousands of views, includes names, photos, disparaging remarks, and demands for accountability.

In January, another pardoned January 6 defendant who pleaded guilty to assaulting police officers with pepper spray, Ryan Nichols, Sr., identified in a Twitter post “officers in the D.C. Jail who need to be investigated for corruption and abuse,” adding the names and LinkedIn profile photos of two DC Jail employees.

The men and women who bravely defended us on January 6 deserve better than this—and we should honor them for their heroic efforts that day, not excuse the thugs who attacked this body and the ideals it represents.

Law enforcement officials should not fear for their safety or that of their

families just for simply doing their jobs.

I hope that all of us, regardless of our political persuasion, can agree on two things: that violence has no place in a democracy, and that our law enforcement officers are worthy of our respect and support.

BUDGETARY REVISIONS

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, BBEDCA, establishes statutory limits on discretionary spending and allows for various adjustments to those limits. In addition, sections 302 and 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 allow the chairman of the Budget Committee to establish and revise allocations, aggregates, and levels consistent with those adjustments.

The Senate will soon consider H.R. 1968, the Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025. The measure provides full-year appropriations for 2025 and contains spending that qualifies for cap adjustments under BBEDCA.

First, H.R. 1968 includes appropriations designated as emergency funding pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of BBEDCA. The Congressional Budget Office estimates the bill’s emergency-designated spending amounts to \$12.375 million in nonsecurity budget authority and \$8,600 million in associated outlays in 2025.

Second, the measure also includes \$22,884 million in nonsecurity discretionary budget authority designated for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of BBEDCA. This budget authority is expected to result in \$963 million in outlays in 2025.

Third, the measure includes appropriations for certain program integrity activities that qualify for adjustments pursuant to sections 251(b)(2)(B), 251(b)(2)(C), and 251(b)(2)(E) of BBEDCA. The adjustments for these activities amount to \$2,531 million in nonsecurity budget authority and \$1,894 million in resulting outlays for 2025.

Finally, H.R. 1968 includes \$2,750 million in nonsecurity budget authority for wildfire suppression operations pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(F) of BBEDCA, which is associated with \$945 million in outlays.

In total, the adjustments for H.R. 1968 amount to \$40,540 million in nonsecurity budget authority and \$12,402 million in outlays.

I am also filing adjustments to reflect the emergency designations in two bills enacted last year: the Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act, 2025, P.L. 118–83, and the American Relief Act, 2025, P.L. 118–158. Together, the emergency-designated appropriations in these bills increase security category budget authority by \$11,775 million, nonsecurity category budget authority by \$105,395 million, and total outlays by \$26,511 million.

Consequently, I am revising the budget authority and outlay allocations to the Committee on Appropriations by increasing revised security budget authority by \$11,775 million, revised nonsecurity budget authority by \$145,935 million, and outlays by \$38,913 million in fiscal year 2025. I am also increasing the budgetary aggregates for fiscal year 2025 by \$157,374 million in budget authority and \$38,611 million in outlays.

I ask unanimous consent that this notice and the accompanying tables, which provide details about the adjustment, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REVISIONS TO BUDGET AGGREGATES	
(Pursuant to Section 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)	
(\$ in billions)	
	2025
Current Spending Aggregates:	
Budget Authority	5,302.483
Outlays	5,473.615
Adjustment:	
Budget Authority	157.374
Outlays	38.661
Revised Aggregates:	
Budget Authority	5,459.857
Outlays	5,512.276

REVISIONS TO THE SPENDING ALLOCATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025			
(Pursuant to Section 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)			
(\$ in billions)			
	Current Allocation	Adjustments	Revised Allocation
Revised Security Budget Authority	895.212	11.775	906.987
Revised Nonsecurity Budget Authority	710.688	145.935	856.623
General Purpose Outlays	1,869.797	38.913	1,908.710

DETAIL OF ADJUSTMENTS TO FISCAL YEAR 2025 ALLOCATIONS TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS
(Pursuant to Section 314(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974)
(\$ in billions)

Detail of Adjustments Made Above	Emergency	Disaster Relief	Program Integrity	Wildfire Suppression	Total
Revised Security Budget Authority	11.775	0.000	0.000	0.000	11.775
Revised Nonsecurity Budget Authority	117.770	22.884	2.531	2.750	145.935
General Purpose Outlays	35.111	0.963	1.894	0.945	38.913

Note: Of the program integrity amounts, \$336 million of budget authority and \$252 million of outlays are from the Disability Insurance Trust Fund and are off-budget. The off-budget amounts are not included in the adjustment to the budget aggregates.

HALT FENTANYL ACT

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I voted today to oppose cloture to end debate on the HALT Fentanyl Act. Our Nation and my State of Maryland

are experiencing a crisis with synthetic opioids like fentanyl and related drugs, and I strongly support action to combat drug trafficking and prevent overdoses. We need public health solu-

tions that will help American families and our communities, but instead, the bill before us could lead to harmful unintended consequences, including limiting the potential for less addictive

pain therapies and treatments like Naloxone that could prevent and reverse overdose. It also expands mandatory minimums, which increase incarceration but do not reduce crime, and applies them to a broad class of drugs regardless of their actual physiological effects, so that someone could be incarcerated for a decade or more for drugs that are effectively harmless.

I continue to hope that we will have the opportunity to amend this legislation, including with amendments put forward by my colleague Senator BOOKER. However, as we still do not have an agreement to hold amendment votes, I voted against cloture to end debate on the bill today. I urge my colleagues to work to improve the bill in order to address the possible unintended consequences of this legislation so instead the bill focuses on tackling dangerous drugs and allows for lifesaving research and development of potential treatments.

RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK

Mr. WARNOCK. Madam President, today, I pay tribute to the University of Georgia School of Social Work for its 60th anniversary and to Deans Charles A. Stewart (1964–1995), Bonnie Yegidis (1995–2003), Maurice Daniels (2005–2016), Anna Scheyett (2016–2021), and its current dean, Philip Hong (2022–present).

For six decades, the School of Social Work has advanced the University of Georgia's teaching, research, and service mission. It has conferred more than 9,000 degrees in social work and nonprofit management and leadership while strengthening the University of Georgia's academic excellence by preparing culturally responsive practitioners and scholars to be leaders in addressing social problems and promoting social justice, locally and globally, through teaching, research, and service.

Throughout its history, the University of Georgia School of Social Work has positively impacted the State of Georgia, our Nation, and our world. It established a Center for Social Justice, Human, and Civil Rights; an Institute for Nonprofit Organizations; and a Center on Human Trafficking Research and Outreach, each of which has worked to address practices and policies which affect equal access to resources, international human and civil rights, and the well-being of all populations. It was the first school in Georgia to offer bachelor's, doctorate, and part-time master's degrees in social work; first to offer a master's degree in nonprofit management and leadership; and first to offer dual degrees in social work and law, and social work and public health.

Today, the University of Georgia School of Social Work continues its 60-year legacy of building a better world

for all by seeking socially innovative solutions to create meaningful change. Its faculty are actively involved in issues such as child safety and family well-being, civil rights and social justice, community health and well-being, culturally informed practice, health and behavioral health prevention and intervention, human trafficking and human rights, social economic policy and development, trauma and violence prevention, and many more. Its students contribute countless internship hours to institutions across Georgia. And alumni of its Athens and Gwinnett campuses, as well as its online program, are engaged in meaningful careers in service to the well-being of our society.

On the 60th anniversary of the University of Georgia School of Social Work, I would like to congratulate and thank its faculty, staff, and students—both past and present—for the contributions and impact that it has come to represent in the State of Georgia, nationally, and globally.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING SHERIFF WAYNE POTTER

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, last month Tennessee lost a great man, public servant, and community leader: Sheriff Wayne Potter.

For almost three decades, Sheriff Potter served the citizens of Morgan County as a member of law enforcement. Starting in 1995, he became a correctional officer for the Tennessee Department of Corrections, serving at Brushy Mountain State Penitentiary. Three years later, he joined the Morgan County Sheriff's Office, where he would rise through the ranks with a dedication to helping others. In recognition of his distinguished service, Morgan County elected him as sheriff in 2018. With the responsibility entrusted to him from his community, Sheriff Potter worked to lower crime, improve public safety, and make life better for all residents.

Over the years, Sheriff Potter took on many roles: patrolman, narcotics investigator, school resource officer, and law enforcement professional with the Wartburg Police Department and Oliver Springs Police Department. And through it all, he showed unwavering courage. After receiving his tragic cancer diagnosis last year, Sheriff Potter remained committed to leading his department and helping those in need.

On behalf of all Tennesseans, I extend my heartfelt condolences to Sheriff Potter's family, including his wife Lea and six beautiful children. While our State has lost a great leader, Sheriff Potter's legacy will endure in Morgan County and across Tennessee for many years to come. •

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT "BOB" JOSEPH MILLER

• Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, today I rise to recognize Governor Robert "Bob" Joseph Miller and his lifetime of public service and dedication to the State of Nevada. Governor Miller has demonstrated inspired service to the people of Las Vegas, Clark County, and the State of Nevada. From police officer to the longest serving Governor in the State of Nevada, Governor Miller has a diverse and honorable public service career and an equally spirited sense of community.

Governor Miller started his career in public service in the U.S. Army Reserve from 1967 to 1973, and then while studying law at Loyola Marymount University, he continued his service as a police officer for the Los Angeles and then Las Vegas Sheriffs' Offices. He then went on to join the Clark County's District Attorney's Office and was eventually elected the 19th District Attorney of Clark County. In 1986, Governor Miller was elected as the 29th Lieutenant Governor of Nevada, and on January 3, 1989, he was sworn in as the 26th Governor of Nevada. He served as Governor of Nevada from 1989 to 1999 and is Nevada's longest serving Governor.

The son of a gaming pioneer in Las Vegas in the 50s and 60s, Governor Miller grew up in a period of immense transformation for the city. As Las Vegas was taking off into a new era, so did Governor Miller's career. His rise from gambler's son to Governor parallels the rise of Las Vegas from the tiny desert town to the Entertainment Capital of the World. President Bill Clinton wrote that Governor Miller's "journey could only have happened in Nevada. He is a man of integrity who cares deeply about the issues facing his state and nation, and who has always been willing to put aside differences to solve problems."

At the time Governor Miller entered Nevada's capital, southern Nevada was entering a new era of development and rapid population growth. Governor Miller was quickly introduced to the high-stakes world of Nevada tourism promotion, transportation infrastructure, and economic diversity. As Lieutenant Governor and Governor, he was a key supporter of Nevada's growing economy, paving the way for necessary infrastructure improvements, encouraging foreign air carriers to offer non-stop service into Las Vegas' Harry Reid International Airport, and helping Nevada hotels and casinos to embrace business travelers. Notably, during his time as Governor, Nevada convention capacity grew from just under 1 million to over 7 million square feet. While Governor Miller no longer works in public service, he continues to support the growth of Las Vegas and Nevada's tourism economy.

The great work he did has inspired me in my own public service career, including elevating the rights of people victimized by crime and protecting our

children from exploitation. As district attorney of Clark County, he created a unit dedicated specifically to ministering to the needs of crime victims and those who lost a loved one due to a criminal act. Governor Miller was also asked by President Ronald Reagan to accept an appointment to his President's Task Force on Victims of Crime, one of nine delegates selected from across the United States.

During his time as Governor, I had the honor of working with Governor Miller from 1994 to 1998. As I stand here today as a Member of the Senate, proud to represent my home State of Nevada, Governor Miller was a public servant and leader from whom I gained experience, knowledge, and an introduction to my husband Paul. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Governor Bob Miller and his remarkable achievements on behalf of the State of Nevada.●

RECOGNIZING THE 60-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AGENCY RENO

● Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, I come forward today to recognize the 60th anniversary of Community Services Agency Reno. Serving as a beacon of hope for Washoe County and surrounding rural communities, this nonprofit community action agency seeks to provide services to thousands of individuals across Nevada. From programs intended to support children and families, to programs for workforce development and assistance with utility costs, CSA Reno empowers individuals to become self-sufficient through the help of community partners and wraparound services.

Founded in 1965, CSA Reno prides itself in tackling on-the-ground needs of everyday Nevadans in search of a helping hand. Using a solution-driven model and a strategic plan that is re-evaluated every 5 years, this agency is committed to ensuring they take a modern and tailored approach to serving each of their clients. With a common goal of advocating for their clients and setting meaningful benchmarks to achieve genuine results, CSA Reno above all seeks to impact lives today for a better community tomorrow.

As the agency expanded its outreach and support services across the State, so came new programs to help uplift underserved communities. As one of Nevada's providers of Head Start and Early Head Start programming, CSA Reno helps fulfill a critical childcare need at no cost to low-income families, giving children the opportunity to grow and learn in a safe environment. Specifically designated for toddlers and children ages 0-5 living in poverty or struggling with a disability, CSA Reno is a vital resource to Nevada families. CSA Reno also provides programs targeted at affordable housing, workforce development, home weatherization services, and more—all in an effort to

help those most in need overcome barriers. With a mission to drive positive change and a team of outstanding staff, CSA Reno helps equip Nevada families with the tools they need to thrive in an ever-changing environment.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing CSA Reno for their 60 years of dedication to Washoe County and the Northern Nevada community at-large. I am grateful to CSA Reno for their work to uplift and support our most vulnerable populations and know they will continue this impressive legacy over the next 60 years.●

TRIBUTE TO MALPHINE FOGEL

● Mr. MCCORMICK. Madam President, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to wish happy birthday to Malphine Fogel, who celebrated her 96th birthday on March 11.

Malphine is a native of Brady's Bend, PA, where she graduated from East Brady High School in 1947. She then worked at the local paper, the Butler Eagle, for many years as a proofreader. In 1957, she married her late husband Maurice L. "Cubby" Fogel, and she continued to work at the Butler Eagle while he finished his B.S. in economics at Grove City College. Malphine and Cubby made their home in Butler and raised three children.

Malphine demonstrated her strength and tenacity while fighting for her son Marc's release while he was wrongfully detained in Russia from 2021-2025. Malphine continues to inspire us every day, as she embodies what it means to be an outstanding Pennsylvanian.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Malphine for all that she has accomplished and in wishing her a happy 96th birthday.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Mr. Hanley, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a withdrawal which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bills were read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

S. 1008. A bill to provide equitable treatment for the people of the Village Corporation established for the Native Village of Saxman, Alaska, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1156. An act to amend the CARES Act to extend the statute of limitations for fraud

under certain unemployment programs, and for other purposes.

PRIVILEGED NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On request by Senator RICHARD J. DURBIN, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary: Patrick David Davis, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communication was laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and was referred as indicated:

EC-489. A communication from the Chairman of the Board, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the requirements of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mrs. CAPITO for the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

*David Fotouhi, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

*Aaron Szabo, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

By Mr. CASSIDY for the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

*Jayanta Bhattacharya, of California, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health.

*Martin Makary, of Virginia, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Dean Sauer, of Missouri, to be Solicitor General of the United States.

Harmeet Dhillon, of California, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Aaron Reitz, of Texas, to be an Assistant Attorney General vice Hampton Y. Dellinger.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. MOODY (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 1013. A bill to require the headquarters of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to be transferred to Brevard

County, Florida; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. MOODY (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 1014. A bill to ensure that certain permit approvals by the Environmental Protection Agency have the force and effect of law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 1015. A bill to extend the National Flood Insurance Program through December 31, 2026; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WICKER (for himself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 1016. A bill to modify the boundary of the Vicksburg National Military Park in the State of Mississippi, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SHEEHY (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. BUDD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. YOUNG, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 1017. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to modify a provision relating to criminal penalties for damaging or destroying pipeline facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 1018. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to establish a cybersecurity circuit rider program to provide cybersecurity-related technical assistance to certain entities that operate rural water or wastewater systems; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 1019. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to establish an emergency preparedness and response technical assistance program to assist entities that operate rural water or wastewater systems in preparing for and responding to natural or manmade disasters; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. SHEEHY):

S. 1020. A bill to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend the time period during which licensees are required to commence construction of certain hydropower projects; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 1021. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to establish a dairy nutrition incentive program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1022. A bill to reauthorize the program for strengthening communities of recovery for individuals with substance use disorders; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GALLEGO (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 1023. A bill to amend the Social Security Act to limit the recovery of overpayments under titles II and XVI to a 10-year period; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 1024. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to authorize a grant program to support students

who have epilepsy or a seizure disorder; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1025. A bill to authorize the Federal Communications Commission to enforce its own forfeiture penalties with respect to violations of restrictions on the use of telephone equipment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 1026. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that products derived from tar sands are crude oil for purposes of the Federal excise tax on petroleum, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. BOOZMAN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. WARNER, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. MORAN, and Mr. COTTON):

S. 1027. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE:

S. 1028. A bill to provide for the protection of the integrity of honey marketed in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. KING):

S. 1029. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to expand the snow survey and water supply forecasting program to serve the Northeastern United States; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 1030. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of the Interior from issuing new oil or natural gas production leases in the Gulf of Mexico under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to a person that does not renegotiate its existing leases in order to require royalty payments if oil and natural gas prices are greater than or equal to specified price thresholds, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 1031. A bill to amend Title XVIII of the Social Security Act to create a Radiation Oncology Case Rate Value Based Payment Program exempt from budget neutrality adjustment requirements, and to amend section 1128A of title XI of the Social Security Act to create a new statutory exception for the provision of free or discounted transportation for radiation oncology patients to receive radiation therapy services; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. KELLY,

Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. WARNER, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 1032. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with combat-related disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 1033. A bill to establish minimum Federal standards for sports betting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. HAWLEY, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 1034. A bill to establish the Southwestern Power Administration Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SULLIVAN:

S. 1035. A bill to prohibit certain exports of natural gas produced or refined in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 1036. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize fellowships under the Minority Fellowship Program to be awarded for training for professionals in the addiction medicine field; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. LUMMIS (for herself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAPO, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 1037. A bill to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to require the acceptance of cash payments for entrance fees at units of the National Park System; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1038. A bill to direct the Attorney General to include a data field in the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System to indicate whether the last known location of a missing person was confirmed or was suspected to have been on Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SHEEHY (for himself, Mr. LEE, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. BUDD, Mr. DAINES, Mr. JUSTICE, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1039. A bill to amend the definitions of firearm silencer and firearm muffler in section 921 of title 18, United States Code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1040. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to prohibit product hopping, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1041. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to address the infringement of patents that claim biological products, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1042. A bill to require the Agricultural Research Service to conduct research relating to wildfire smoke exposure on wine

grapes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1043. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the energy credit for qualified fuel cell property; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 1044. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make improvements to the redistribution of residency slots under the Medicare program after a hospital closes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 1045. A bill to provide for funding from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund for all Federal Aviation Administration activities in the event of a Government shutdown, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 1046. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude overtime compensation from gross income for purposes of the income tax; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. YOUNG:

S. 1047. A bill to prohibit individuals convicted of defrauding the Government from receiving any assistance from the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. COONS):

S. 1048. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to include requirements relating to graduates of career and technical education programs or programs of study for small business development centers and women's business centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 1049. A bill to direct the Office for Victims of Crime of the Department of Justice to continue implementing the anti-trafficking recommendations of the Government Accountability Office and to report to Congress regarding such implementation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. WICKER):

S. 1050. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a Forest Conservation Easement Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1051. A bill to establish the Historic Greenwood District-Black Wall Street National Monument in the State of Oklahoma, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 1052. A bill to amend the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act to reauthorize the National Volcano Early Warning and Monitoring System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. KIM, Mr. RICKETTS, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MCCORMICK, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 1053. A bill to protect the national security of the United States by imposing sanc-

tions with respect to certain persons of the People's Republic of China and prohibiting and requiring notifications with respect to certain investments by United States persons in the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 1054. A bill to abolish the United States African Development Foundation; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 1055. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to modify the notification requirement for emergency contract health services for certain beneficiaries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 1056. A bill to establish a home-based telemental health care grant program for purposes of increasing mental health and substance use services in rural medically underserved populations and for individuals in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. DURBIN):

S. 1057. A bill to modify the requirements for transfers of United States defense articles and defense services among the Baltic states; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 1058. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to clarify congressional intent and preserve patient access to home infusion therapy under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 1059. A bill to transfer antitrust enforcement from the Federal Trade Commission to the Department of Justice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SCHMITT, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1060. A bill to amend the Clayton Act to prevent conflicts of interest and promote competition in the sale and purchase of digital advertising; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 1061. A bill to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to provide that the President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, the Chief of the Forest Service; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 1062. A bill to authorize a pilot program to expand and intensify surveillance of self-harm in partnership with State and local public health departments, to establish a grant program to provide self-harm and suicide prevention services in hospital emergency departments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. 1063. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to require the Secretary of Transportation to waive vehicle weight limitations for certain logging vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. BUDD, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 1064. A bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Mr. WELCH):

S. 1065. A bill to require the United States Postal Service to post notices of changes that will affect nationwide postal services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. LUMMIS:

S. 1066. A bill to authorize funding for electric vehicle charging infrastructure programs to be used for other highway projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 1067. A bill to strengthen and enhance the competitiveness of cement, concrete, asphalt binder, and asphalt mixture production in the United States through the research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of technologies to reduce emissions from cement, concrete, asphalt binder, and asphalt mixture production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. KAINE, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MEKLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KELLY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 1068. A bill to amend title 5 and title 38, United States Code, to put veteran and military families first and to provide protections for employees, benefits, and programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. MOODY:

S. 1069. A bill to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to recoup certain payments of Federal financial assistance; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 94

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 94, a bill to award 3 Congressional Gold Medals to the members of the 1980 United States Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at the XIII Olympic Winter Games where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they defeated the dominant Soviet ice hockey team in the historic "Miracle on Ice", revitalizing morale in the United States at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations, and transforming the sport of ice hockey in the United States.

S. 115

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 115, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish a criminal penalty for unauthorized access to Department of Defense facilities.

S. 199

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 199, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States.

S. 224

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 224, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow intangible drilling and development costs to be taken into account when computing adjusted financial statement income.

S. 315

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 315, a bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue a rule requiring access to AM broadcast stations in passenger motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 339, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 400

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 400, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance the paid family and medical leave credit, and for other purposes.

S. 403

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 403, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish an Office of Rural Health, and for other purposes.

S. 424

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) was added as a cosponsor of S. 424, a bill to amend the Federal securities laws to enhance 403(b) plans, and for other purposes.

S. 470

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 470, a bill to amend the

CARES Act to remove a requirement on lessors to provide notice to vacate, and for other purposes.

S. 522

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 522, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 558

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 558, a bill to provide for the consideration of a definition of antisemitism set forth by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance for the enforcement of Federal antidiscrimination laws concerning education programs or activities, and for other purposes.

S. 574

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 574, a bill to amend the Animal Health Protection Act to provide compensation for poultry growers and layers in control areas, and for other purposes.

S. 864

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of S. 864, a bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to apply financial assistance towards the cost-sharing requirements of health insurance plans, and for other purposes.

S. 876

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 876, a bill making continuing appropriations for military pay in the event of a Government shutdown.

S. 913

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 913, a bill to repeal and rescind any unobligated balances under sections 70002 and 70003 of the Inflation Reduction Act, and for other purposes.

S. 918

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 918, a bill to allow Federal employees who are involuntarily separated from Government service while serving a probationary or trial period to resume that period upon reinstatement, and for other purposes.

S. 948

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 948, a bill to reauthorize the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, and for other purposes.

S. 971

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 971, a bill to provide for the conservation of the Chesapeake Bay, and for other purposes.

S. 978

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the names of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) were added as cosponsors of S. 978, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

S. 986

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 986, a bill to address and take action to prevent bullying and harassment of students.

S. 990

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 990, a bill to prohibit the enforcement of a rule with respect to emissions, to amend the Clean Air Act to ensure that tailpipe regulations do not limit the availability of new motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 995

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 995, a bill to repeal a rule of the Environmental Protection Agency with respect to multi-pollutant emissions standards, to amend the Clean Air Act to ensure that tailpipe regulations do not limit the availability of new motor vehicles, and for other purposes.

S. 1010

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1010, a bill to prohibit the use of funds for universities that provide support to the People's Liberation Army, and for other purposes.

S. 1012

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1012, a bill to increase oversight of foreign direct investment in agricultural land in the United States, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1258

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 1258 intended to be proposed to S. 331, a bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1267

At the request of Ms. ALSOBROOKS, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator

from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 1267 intended to be proposed to H.R. 1968, a bill making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 1015. A bill to extend the National Flood Insurance Program through December 31, 2026; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, this is a theme I have been speaking of which affects States across the Nation, which is the National Flood Insurance Program and the threat that it might lapse and the inability of families to be able to afford.

Why are flood insurance premiums so high, you might ask? Flood insurance premiums have skyrocketed across the country due to FEMA's new risk assessment system, Risk Rating 2.0. At the heart of the problem of Risk Rating 2.0 is that with much higher premiums, people will quickly be unable to afford coverage and just drop their policies.

It is well-known in the insurance actuarial world that when you increase a policy by a certain percent, there is going to be another percent of people who just drop their coverage. That means that the pool of policyholders shrinks, and the program enters into what is called an actuarial death spiral, which is to say the risk, instead of being spread out over many, is concentrated in increasingly fewer people, driving up their premiums even that much more; therefore, more people drop.

If we do nothing, the National Flood Insurance Program will collapse. This is important. The National Flood Insurance Program covers 4.7 million American homes across the country. Now, clearly, I am concerned about Louisiana, as that is my State, but it is not just Louisiana or even just a coastal issue. Look at a map of those affected. The States in dark yellow have been hit the hardest by flooding. They have all had at least \$1 billion in claims from the National Flood Insurance Program. Missouri—inland—has had over \$1 billion in claims from the National Flood Insurance Program, as has my home State of Louisiana. But just go around, and you can see California and Hawaii—all with this issue. Now, 44 States have had at least \$50 million worth of claims, and those would be in the kind of mustard color.

So here you see again inland States—not coastal but inland—having problems with flooding. When we say a “problem with flooding,” we mean there is a family that has lost their possessions. They have lost their home, and now, they don't know where to go. That is what we mean by a “problem with flooding.”

My message to my colleagues representing States that rely on the National Flood Insurance Program is, let's find a way forward. One day, the National Flood Insurance Program will lapse if we fail to act.

Now, we are going to, with this CR, do a temporary—temporary—extension. I would ask that we actually have a reauthorization and a reform of the National Flood Insurance Program before it is too late.

By the way, a short-term extension is better than nothing. I thank Speaker JOHNSON in the House for including a short-term extension. If that is the only option, let's take that option. However, I am working on a longer reauthorization so that the National Flood Insurance Program is not thrown into a legal purgatory every year or even sometimes multiple times a year.

Today, I have introduced a bill to fully reauthorize the National Flood Insurance Program for this year and for next year. There are 4.7 million homeowners across the country who deserve that little bit of certainty, and it does not seem like it is asking too much.

Imagine if your homeowners or life insurance was subject to lapsing every year if Congress couldn't get their act together. Well, for families living in communities with the NFIP as the only option for flood insurance, this would be unsettling.

In the past 10 years, Congress has passed 32 short-term National Flood Insurance Program extensions. The vote we are taking tomorrow will be the 33rd short-term extension—American families holding their breath 33 times. Families need stability. Businesses need stability. This is the absence of stability. This is a yin and a yang. Congress needs to reauthorize this for an extended period of time.

Let's make flood insurance affordable again. I will keep working to do that. I am pleased that the Flood Insurance Program will survive the weekend, but we need to make it survive long term.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1042. A bill to require the Agricultural Research Service to conduct research relating to wildfire smoke exposure on wine grapes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Smoke Exposure Research Act of 2025. This legislation will bolster research at land-grant universities to better understand the impacts of wildfire smoke on wine grapes.

Increasingly frequent and catastrophic wildfires are threatening the longterm sustainability of important winegrowing regions in California, Washington, and Oregon. Vineyards, winery operations, and the communities they support are routinely facing the threat of wildfires that can not only destroy vineyards, but even those

vineyards that escape direct wildfire damage can still suffer from prolonged smoke exposure, which can be absorbed into grapes and create an ashy taste known as smoke taint.

The impact has been particularly acute for California's 4,800 wineries and 5,900 winegrape growers, who have seen significant property loss, loss of tourism, and loss of production due to smoke-exposed grapes. The 2020 wildfires alone are estimated to have cost wineries and winegrape growers \$3.7 billion both from immediate fire-caused losses as well as losses in future sales due to unharvested grapes exposed to wildfire smoke.

Yet, there is a limited understanding of how to measure and identify compounds that cause smoke taint and even less understanding of the mitigation and risk management measures necessary to reduce these impacts.

Recognizing the dearth of information and how much is at stake for the wine industry, Congress provided \$5 million to the USDA to identify the compounds responsible for smoke taint and to develop mitigation methods to reduce or eliminate smoke taint.

This was a great first step, but we need more. That is what my bill would do.

The Smoke Exposure Research Act of 2025 would provide \$32.5 million over years to ensure the sustainability of the wine industry in the face of climate crisis.

Specifically, this bill would direct the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Service, in coordination with land-grant universities and researchers with viticulture and enology expertise, to identify the compounds responsible for smoke taint; establish standard sampling, testing, and screening tools for use in vineyards and wineries; and develop new risk assessment tools, mitigation measures, and management strategies for growers.

As researchers from the University of California Davis, Washington State University, and Oregon State University explain in recent research, the impact of smoke taint is not predictable.

We cannot currently predict which grapes may have suffered damage based on anything intuitive, such as sight, smell, or even the flavor of fresh grapes. Freshness of wildfire smoke, length of exposure, variety of grape—the list goes on. There is so much we don't know.

That is why we need to pass the Smoke Exposure Research Act, to ensure we have strong science-based data for actual risk management and mitigation tools to protect the U.S. wine industry.

I would like to thank my colleagues Senator Jeff Merkley and Representatives Mike Thompson and Doug LaMalfa for their leadership in bolstering west coast winegrowing communities and for their partnership on this legislation.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the Smoke Exposure Research Act as quickly as possible.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. KIM, Mr. RICKETTS, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MCCORMICK, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 1053. A bill to protect the national security of the United States by imposing sanctions with respect to certain persons of the People's Republic of China and prohibiting and requiring notifications with respect to certain investments by United States persons in the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, a lot has changed in Washington, DC, in the last 6 weeks. That is an understatement, perhaps. But one of the things that President Trump has done is shifted the Overton window when it comes to the People's Republic of China.

Years ago, when the Clinton administration invited China to join the World Trade Organization, the idea behind that was that somehow communist China would change with being part of the rules-based international order. Well, of course, we know China doesn't follow the rules and has taken advantage of the United States for decades. But under President Trump, that will no longer be the case. For example, last month, the White House announced its America-first investment policy, which will be critical for holding China to account.

One of the avenues that China has exploited to gain the upper economic hand is through both inbound and outbound flows of capital. By investing in U.S. companies, the People's Republic of China and the Chinese Communist Party can obtain access to intellectual property and know-how. And, of course, they have no shame. Again, they don't play by our rules. They are not afraid to cheat or steal our technology if it is possible.

On the other side of the coin, U.S. investments from the United States are flowing into China and have for a long time. A 2021 estimate was that the market value of U.S. investments in China was valued at more than \$1 trillion.

Now, the reason why that is important is that China has used that investment to build their economy and their military. It has allowed them to advance technologies that one day might be used against the United States.

So I am very glad that President Trump, by his Executive order, has brought this issue from the back burner to the front.

It is no secret to any of my colleagues that I have been working on this issue for a while now. I was proud to partner with President Trump during his first administration to update CFIUS, the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States. This

interagency committee reviews foreign investments and real estate transactions to determine whether they pose any security risks for the United States.

Through the Foreign Investment Risk Review Modernization Act, or what was known as FIRRMA, we strengthened and modernized CFIUS to rise to the occasion of new threats coming from the People's Republic of China. The President's America-first investment policy builds on this by directing CFIUS to restrict PRC investments in U.S. tech, agriculture, energy, raw materials, and more.

But as Chinese companies get richer and richer from American investment, it is clear that restricting inbound investment is not enough. We need to prevent the People's Republic of China from using capital investments by the United States to gain access to and copy our technological advances—most importantly, in certain critical sectors.

As of 2023, U.S. investors were investing close to \$2 billion in Chinese critical technology sectors, including semiconductors, quantum computing, and artificial intelligence. A report from the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission noted: "The United States is the most important foreign source of investment to semiconductors, quantum computing, and AI in China."

Let me say that again. "The United States is the most important foreign source of investment to semiconductors, quantum computing, and AI in China."

So it is these investments, which are largely opaque to us, as policymakers, that are helping China basically compete with us. We know, of course, it is not just about economic competition. We know that China has a strategy of military-civil fusion, which means that these investments are not simply benefiting China's economy and consumer tech sector; they are directly helping build China's military strength.

It is not too dramatic to say that as I stand here, U.S. dollars are funding the development of technologies that could one day be used against Americans, potentially even to kill Americans or American troops.

Inbound and outbound investments are simply two sides of the same coin. We can't be giving away all of our intellectual property and our incredible innovation for Chinese companies to copy at will, and we can't be giving them the capital to recreate our ideas or reverse-engineer and then use them against us.

How can we expect to outcompete our most significant competitor on the world stage if we are sending billions of dollars directly into their arsenal?

President Trump has been a great partner with Congress on ending this exploitative relationship with China. Again, this is not dealing with another country on the basis of good faith and a knowledge that everybody is operating from the same set of rules and

norms. China does not, and we have recognized that more recently, but it is important to reemphasize because some people, I think, still naively assume China operates by the same rules the United States does.

So I am glad the President is as excited as I am to finish the job we started with CFIUS reform.

Today, I am proud to announce that I am introducing legislation to finally tackle this issue called the Foreign Investment Guardrails to Help Thwart China Act. The acronym is FIGHT China. Two years ago, I sponsored an amendment to the NDAA requiring transparency for these outbound investments. It passed the Senate overwhelmingly with a final bipartisan vote of 91 to 6. We don't see many votes here in the Senate these days where there is such strong bipartisan support, so I am grateful for that.

Regrettably, even in the face of such overwhelming consensus, this amendment did not make its way into the final version of the bill for reasons I won't dwell on now. But, as my colleagues can attest, I am not one to give up easily, and this issue is simply too important to American national security to take no for an answer, so I have continued to work with great partners in the House, in the Senate, and in the Trump administration to continue to make progress on this and bring us to where we are today.

The legislation we are introducing today has been the culmination of years of work, and I believe it is stronger as a result of the input and the collaboration that have occurred.

The FIGHT China Act will establish a program at the Department of Treasury to prohibit U.S. investments in certain sensitive technologies in the PRC.

Now, some people may say: Well, if you stop all U.S.-based investment in China, that is a big problem. But we are not talking about that. I could care less how many Starbucks or Burger Kings are built in China. It only addresses certain of the most sensitive technologies. These include advanced semiconductors, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and hypersonics. Of course, all of these have a military application.

So this is not just an economic question; this is a national security issue. We know that all of these critical industries directly support the Chinese military, and this is the military that has been instructed by President Xi to be ready to invade Taiwan or to absorb Taiwan one way or another, either by force or by coercion, by 2027. It is simply foolish to continue to send money to fuel these technologies that could be used perhaps in the next few years against the United States and our allies.

This legislation would create a notification regime to create more transparency around investments that are not prohibited. You know, as long as we are blind to how much money is

being invested in China and in what technology and in what sectors it is being invested in, we as policymakers can't do our job and the administration can't do its job, which is primarily to keep our country safe and the American people safe.

This legislation will authorize the President to impose sanctions against any PRC entity that engages in PRC military or intelligence sectors.

I want to express my gratitude to our colleagues, people like Senators CORTEZ MASTO, WARREN, BANKS, SLOTKIN, RICKETTS, BENNET, HAGERTY, KIM, MCCORMICK, SCHUMER, SULLIVAN, FETTERMAN, and others for their partnership on this legislation.

I especially want to recognize the chairman of the Banking Committee, which has principal jurisdiction over this subject matter, Senator TIM SCOTT, and thank him for working with me and cosponsoring this legislation.

Last but not least, President Trump has been a great partner to see this project to the finish line. Everything we are doing here is working hand in glove with the administration to ensure that the People's Republic of China is not allowed to meddle with the United States under the guise of simply doing business.

But time is running short. We know that China, as I said, has an interest in reincorporating Taiwan as early as 2027, not 2 years from now. Now is not the time to continue to allow them access to copy all of our work, in particularly the most sensitive areas. Nor is it the time to allow them to continue to benefit from U.S. investment dollars now that they are no longer a developing country, but they are one of the most advanced economies in the world and certainly a rising military power.

We know that China, Iran, and Russia have conducted joint naval drills in the Middle East, called the Maritime Security Belt 2025. These exercises took place in the Gulf of Oman near the strategic Strait of Hormuz, the narrow mouth of the Persian Gulf through which nearly a fifth of all crude oil traded in the world passes. This is an ominous sign. We know they are strengthening their cooperation together in a way to undermine and challenge the West, including the United States. The last thing the United States should do is to join this cooperation by investing in the Chinese military, and that includes not just the Government of the United States but all Americans and American businesses and investors.

So the President has been right to highlight this growing threat, and I look forward to continuing to work with President Trump and Secretary Bessent to ensure that U.S. dollars no longer are able to help build the Chinese military and line the pockets of the country that is working to undermine the international rules-based order and the United States first and foremost.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 1062. A bill to authorize a pilot program to expand and intensify surveillance of self-harm in partnership with State and local public health departments, to establish a grant program to provide self-harm and suicide prevention services in hospital emergency departments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, as we all know too well, rates of suicide have risen to epidemic levels in the United States, with suicide now the 10th leading cause of death in the country. On average, there are 135 suicides every day, roughly one every 11 minutes. These are staggering statistics behind which there are tragic stories of loss. That is why I am introducing the Suicide Prevention Act with my colleague Senator MORAN.

Our bipartisan bill would provide new resources to help turn the tide on this disturbing trend. It would authorize new funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, to partner with State and local health departments to improve surveillance of suicide attempts and other incidences of self-harm. Data collection efforts regarding suicide often occur years after the fact, which limits the ability of State and local health departments, as well as community organizations, to recognize trends early and intervene. CDC has already begun some of this work, but the Suicide Prevention Act would expand these efforts and enhance data collection so we can respond to new trends quickly and save lives.

We know that emergency healthcare providers are often at the frontlines of responding to suicide attempts. Approximately 37 percent of individuals without a previous history of mental health or substance abuse who die by suicide make an emergency department visit within the year before their death. According to the Suicide Prevention Resource Center, the risk of suicide is greatest within a month of discharge from the hospital. To help ensure our emergency healthcare professionals have the tools to respond, the bill would also authorize funding for a grant program within the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, SAMHSA, to help better train emergency department staff to implement suicide prevention strategies, screen at-risk patients, and refer patients to appropriate followup care. The legislation would also require SAMHSA to develop best practices for such programs so that healthcare providers are able to provide their patients with the best possible care and advice.

Nationwide, suicide rates have skyrocketed over the last decade. In 2022, over 49,000 Americans lost their lives to suicide. That same year, there were 1.6 million suicide attempts. We must renew our efforts on suicide prevention and take a holistic approach. We must also continue to invest in 9-8-8, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

Senator MORAN and I passed legislation in 2022 that increased funding for the lifeline and made key improvements, such as enhance texting capability, but we must do more.

Today, I am pleased to have the opportunity to partner with Senator MORAN once again by introducing the Suicide Prevention Act. This bill is one more step Congress can take to combat the the mental health and suicide crisis in our country. I look forward to working with Senator MORAN and advocates in Rhode Island and across the country to make a difference in addressing this epidemic.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1268. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1269. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1968, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1270. Mr. KAINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1968, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1271. Mr. KAINE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1968, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1272. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, and Mr. KAINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1968, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1268. Mr. JOHNSON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . AUTOMATIC CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 13 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 1311. Automatic continuing appropriations

“(a)(1)(A) On and after the first day of each fiscal year, if an appropriation Act for such fiscal year with respect to the account for a program, project, or activity has not been enacted and continuing appropriations are not in effect with respect to the program, project, or activity, there are appropriated such sums as may be necessary to continue, at the rate for operations specified in subparagraph (C), the program, project, or activity if funds were provided for the program, project, or activity during the preceding fiscal year.

“(B)(i) Appropriations and funds made available and authority granted under subparagraph (A) shall be available for a period of 14 days.

“(ii) If, at the end of the first 14-day period during which appropriations and funds are

made available and authority is granted under subparagraph (A), and the end of every 14-day period thereafter, an appropriation Act for such fiscal year with respect to the account for a program, project, or activity has not been enacted and continuing appropriations are not in effect with respect to the program, project, or activity under a provision of law other than subparagraph (A), the appropriations and funds made available and authority granted under subparagraph (A) during the 14-day period shall be extended for an additional 14-day period.

“(C)(i) Except as provided in clause (ii), the rate for operations specified in this subparagraph with respect to a program, project, or activity is the rate for operations for the preceding fiscal year for the program, project, or activity—

“(I) provided in the corresponding appropriation Act for such preceding fiscal year;

“(II) if the corresponding appropriation bill for such preceding fiscal year was not enacted, provided in the law providing continuing appropriations for such preceding fiscal year; or

“(III) if the corresponding appropriation bill and a law providing continuing appropriations for such preceding fiscal year were not enacted, provided under this section for such preceding fiscal year.

“(ii) For entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided for the previous fiscal year in appropriations Acts, under a law other than this section providing continuing appropriations for such previous year, or under this section, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, appropriations and funds made available during a fiscal year under this section shall be at the rate necessary to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act.

“(2) Appropriations and funds made available, and authority granted, for any fiscal year pursuant to this section for a program, project, or activity shall be available, in accordance with paragraph (1)(B), for the period—

“(A) beginning on the first day of any lapse in appropriations during such fiscal year; and

“(B) ending on the date of enactment of an appropriation Act for such fiscal year with respect to the account for such program, project, or activity (whether or not such Act provides appropriations for such program, project, or activity) or a law making continuing appropriations for the program, project, or activity, as applicable.

“(3) Notwithstanding section 251(a)(1) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(a)(1)) and the timetable in section 254(a) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 904(a)), for any fiscal year for which appropriations and funds are made available under this section, the final sequestration report for such fiscal year pursuant to section 254(f)(1) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 904(f)(1)) and any order for such fiscal year pursuant to section 254(f)(5) of such Act (2 U.S.C. 901(f)(5)) shall be issued—

“(A) for the Congressional Budget Office, 10 days after the date on which appropriation Acts providing funding for the entire Federal Government through the end of such fiscal year have been enacted; and

“(B) for the Office of Management and Budget, 15 days after the date on which appropriation Acts providing funding for the entire Federal Government through the end of such fiscal year have been enacted.

“(b) An appropriation or funds made available, or authority granted, for a program, project, or activity for any fiscal year pursuant to this section shall be subject to the

terms and conditions imposed with respect to the appropriation made or funds made available for the preceding fiscal year, or authority granted for such program, project, or activity under current law.

“(c) Expenditures made for a program, project, or activity for any fiscal year pursuant to this section shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever an appropriation Act for such fiscal year with respect to the account for a program, project, or activity or a law making continuing appropriations until the end of such fiscal year for such program, project, or activity is enacted.

“(d) This section shall not apply to a program, project, or activity during a fiscal year if any other provision of law (other than an authorization of appropriations)—

“(1) makes an appropriation, makes funds available, or grants authority for such program, project, or activity to continue for such period; or

“(2) specifically provides that no appropriation shall be made, no funds shall be made available, or no authority shall be granted for such program, project, or activity to continue for such period.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 13 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“1311. Automatic continuing appropriations.”.

(c) CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The budgetary effects of this section and the amendments made by this section shall be estimated as if this section and the amendments made by this section are discretionary appropriations Acts for purposes of section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.).

(2) BASELINE.—For purposes of calculating the baseline under section 257 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 907), the provision of budgetary resources under section 1311 of title 31, United States Code, as added by this section, for an account shall be considered to be a continuing appropriation in effect for such account for less than the entire current year.

(3) ENFORCEMENT OF DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS.—For purposes of enforcing the discretionary spending limits under section 251(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(a)), the budgetary resources made available under section 1311 of title 31, United States Code, as added by this section, shall be considered part-year appropriations for purposes of section 251(a)(4) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(a)(4)).

SA 1269. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Further Additional Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2025”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

Sec. 1. Short Title.

Sec. 2. Table of Contents.

DIVISION A—FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

DIVISION B—EXTENSIONS AND OTHER MATTERS

DIVISION A—FURTHER ADDITIONAL CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

SEC. 101. The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025 (division A of Public Law 118–83) is further amended—

(1) by striking the date specified in section 106(3) and inserting “April 11, 2025”;

(2) in section 156(b) to read as follows:

“(b) Amounts made available by section 101 to the Department of Defense for ‘Procurement—Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy’ may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary for ‘Columbia Class Submarine’ in an amount not to exceed \$3,341,300,000.”; and

(3) by adding after section 169 the following new sections:

“SEC. 170. Notwithstanding section 101, section 521(b)(1) of division C of Public Law 118–42 shall not apply during the period covered by this Act.

“SEC. 171. Notwithstanding sections 102 and 104, amounts made available by section 101 to the Department of Defense for ‘Procurement—Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy’ may be apportioned up to the rate of operations necessary for ‘Completion of Prior Year Shipbuilding Programs’ in an amount not to exceed \$1,930,024,000 to fund prior year shipbuilding cost increases for the following programs in the following amounts:

“(1) 2013/2025: Carrier Replacement Program, \$236,000,000;

“(2) 2016/2025: DDG 51 Program, \$10,509,000;

“(3) 2017/2025: Virginia Class Submarine Program, \$219,370,000;

“(4) 2017/2025: DDG 51 Program, \$115,600,000;

“(5) 2017/2025: Littoral Combat Ship Program, \$8,100,000;

“(6) 2017/2025: LHA Replacement Program, \$115,397,000;

“(7) 2018/2025: Virginia Class Submarine Program, \$73,634,000;

“(8) 2018/2025: DDG 51 Program, \$107,405,000;

“(9) 2018/2025: Littoral Combat Ship Program, \$12,000,000;

“(10) 2018/2025: LPD 17 (Flight II) Amphibious Transport Dock Program, \$19,158,000;

“(11) 2018/2025: Oceanographic Ships Program, \$18,000,000;

“(12) 2018/2025: Ship to Shore Connector Program, \$14,694,000;

“(13) 2019/2025: Littoral Combat Ship Program, \$27,900,000;

“(14) 2019/2025: T-AO Fleet Oiler Program, \$49,995,000;

“(15) 2019/2025: Ship to Shore Connector Program, \$33,345,000;

“(16) 2020/2025: CVN Refueling Overhauls, \$669,171,000;

“(17) 2020/2025: T-AO Fleet Oiler Program, \$151,837,000;

“(18) 2020/2025: Towing, Salvage, and Rescue Ship Program, \$978,000;

“(19) 2021/2025: Towing, Salvage, and Rescue Ship Program, \$17,375,000;

“(20) 2022/2025: T-AO Fleet Oiler Program, \$13,222,000;

“(21) U2022/2025: Towing, Salvage, and Rescue Ship Program, \$4,234,000; and

“(22) 2023/2025: T-AO Fleet Oiler Program, \$12,100,000.

“SEC. 172. In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, for ‘Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief Fund’, there is appropriated \$750,000,000, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until expended, for major disasters declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.): *Provided*, That such amount is

designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, and shall be available only if the President subsequently so designates such amount and transmits such designation to the Congress.

“SEC. 173. In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, there is appropriated \$1,650,000 for the ‘Office of Navajo and Hopi Relocation—Salaries and Expenses’ to remain available until expended to carry out responsibilities under the Navajo-Hopi Land Settlement Act of 1974.

“SEC. 174. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, there is hereby appropriated for fiscal year 2025, for payment to Ashley Paige Turner, beneficiary of Sylvester Turner, late a Representative from the State of Texas, \$174,000.”.

This division may be cited as the “Further Additional Continuing Appropriations Act, 2025”.

DIVISION B—EXTENSIONS AND OTHER MATTERS

TITLE I—HEALTH EXTENSIONS

Subtitle A—Public Health Extenders

SEC. 2101. EXTENSION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS, AND TEACHING HEALTH CENTERS THAT OPERATE GME PROGRAMS.

(a) EXTENSION FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS.—Section 10503(b)(1)(I) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b-2(b)(1)(I)) is amended by striking the period at the end and inserting “, and \$132,602,740 for the period beginning on April 1, 2025, and ending on April 11, 2025; and”.

(b) EXTENSION FOR THE NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.—Section 10503(b)(2)(J) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b-2(b)(2)(J)) is amended by inserting “, and \$10,963,593 for the period beginning on April 1, 2025, and ending on April 11, 2025” before the period at the end.

(c) TEACHING HEALTH CENTERS THAT OPERATE GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS.—Section 340H(g)(1)(E) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h(g)(1)(E)) is amended by inserting “, and \$6,058,748 for the period beginning on April 1, 2025, and ending on April 11, 2025” before the period at the end.

(d) APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the amendments made by this section shall be subject to the requirements contained in Public Law 118-47 for funds for programs authorized under sections 330 through 340 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b et seq.).

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 3014(h)(4) of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “and section 3101(d) of the Health Extensions and Other Matters Act, 2025” and inserting “section 3101(d) of the Health Extensions and Other Matters Act, 2025, and section 2101(d) of the Further Additional Continuing Appropriations and Other Extensions Act, 2025”.

SEC. 2102. EXTENSION OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS.

(a) EXTENSION OF SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS FOR TYPE I DIABETES.—Section 330B(b)(2)(F) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-2(b)(2)(F)) is amended by inserting “, and \$4,798,658 for the period beginning on April 1, 2025, and ending on April 11, 2025” before the period at the end.

(b) EXTENDING FUNDING FOR SPECIAL DIABETES PROGRAMS FOR INDIANS.—Section 330C(c)(2)(F) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c-3(c)(2)(F)) is amended by inserting “, and \$4,798,658 for the period beginning on April 1, 2025, and ending on April 11, 2025” before the period at the end.

SEC. 2103. NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY EXTENSIONS.

(a) Section 319(e)(8) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d(e)(8)) is amended by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”.

(b) Section 319L(e)(1)(D) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-7e(e)(1)(D)) is amended by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”.

(c) Section 319L-1(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-7f(b)) is amended by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”.

(d)(1) Section 2811A(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-10b(g)) is amended by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”.

(2) Section 2811B(g)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-10c(g)(1)) is amended by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”.

(3) Section 2811C(g)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-10d(g)(1)) is amended by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”.

(e) Section 2812(c)(4)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300hh-11(c)(4)(B)) is amended by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”.

Subtitle B—Medicare

SEC. 2111. EXTENSION OF INCREASED INPATIENT HOSPITAL PAYMENT ADJUSTMENT FOR CERTAIN LOW-VOLUME HOSPITALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1886(d)(12) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(12)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “April 1, 2025” and inserting “April 12, 2025”;

(2) in subparagraph (C)(i)—
(A) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”;

(B) in subclause (III), by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”;

(C) in subclause (IV), by striking “April 1, 2025” and inserting “April 12, 2025”;

(3) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”;

(B) in clause (ii), by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may implement the amendments made by this section by program instruction or otherwise.

SEC. 2112. EXTENSION OF THE MEDICARE-DEPENDENT HOSPITAL (MDH) PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1886(d)(5)(G) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(5)(G)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “April 1, 2025” and inserting “April 12, 2025”;

(2) in clause (ii)(II), by striking “April 1, 2025” and inserting “April 12, 2025”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1886(b)(3)(D) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(b)(3)(D)) is amended—

(A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “April 1, 2025” and inserting “April 12, 2025”;

(B) in clause (iv), by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”.

(2) PERMITTING HOSPITALS TO DECLINE RECLASSIFICATION.—Section 13501(e)(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 1395ww note) is amended by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”.

SEC. 2113. EXTENSION OF ADD-ON PAYMENTS FOR AMBULANCE SERVICES.

Section 1834(l) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(l)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (12)(A), by striking “April 1, 2025” and inserting “April 12, 2025”;

(2) in paragraph (13), by striking “April 1, 2025” each place it appears and inserting “April 12, 2025” in each such place.

SEC. 2114. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR QUALITY MEASURE ENDORSEMENT, INPUT, AND SELECTION.

Section 1890(d)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395aaa(d)(2)) is amended—

(1) in the first sentence, by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”;

(2) in the third sentence, by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”.

SEC. 2115. EXTENSION OF FUNDING OUTREACH AND ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME PROGRAMS.

(a) STATE HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS.—Subsection (a)(1)(B)(xiv) of section 119 of the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 1395b-3 note) is amended by striking “March 31, 2025, \$22,500,000” and inserting “April 11, 2025, \$23,125,000”.

(b) AREA AGENCIES ON AGING.—Subsection (b)(1)(B)(xiv) of such section 119 is amended by striking “March 31, 2025, \$22,500,000” and inserting “April 11, 2025, \$23,125,000”.

(c) AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTERS.—Subsection (c)(1)(B)(xiv) of such section 119 is amended by striking “March 31, 2025, \$8,500,000” and inserting “April 11, 2025, \$8,708,333”.

(d) COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO INFORM OLDER AMERICANS ABOUT BENEFITS AVAILABLE UNDER FEDERAL AND STATE PROGRAMS.—Subsection (d)(2)(xiv) of such section 119 is amended by striking “March 31, 2025, \$22,500,000” and inserting “April 11, 2025, \$23,125,000”.

SEC. 2116. EXTENSION OF THE WORK GEOGRAPHIC INDEX FLOOR.

Section 1848(e)(1)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(e)(1)(E)) is amended by striking “April 1, 2025” and inserting “April 12, 2025”.

SEC. 2117. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN TELEHEALTH FLEXIBILITIES.

(a) REMOVING GEOGRAPHIC REQUIREMENTS AND EXPANDING ORIGINATING SITES FOR TELEHEALTH SERVICES.—Section 1834(m) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(B)(iii), by striking “ending March 31, 2025” and inserting “ending April 11, 2025”;

(2) in paragraph (4)(C)(iii), by striking “ending on March 31, 2025” and inserting “ending on April 11, 2025”.

(b) EXPANDING PRACTITIONERS ELIGIBLE TO FURNISH TELEHEALTH SERVICES.—Section 1834(m)(4)(E) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(4)(E)) is amended by striking “ending on March 31, 2025” and inserting “ending on April 11, 2025”.

(c) EXTENDING TELEHEALTH SERVICES FOR FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS AND RURAL HEALTH CLINICS.—Section 1834(m)(8)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(8)(A)) is amended by striking “ending on March 31, 2025” and inserting “ending on April 11, 2025”.

(d) DELAYING THE IN-PERSON REQUIREMENTS UNDER MEDICARE FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FURNISHED THROUGH TELEHEALTH AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY.—

(1) DELAY IN REQUIREMENTS FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FURNISHED THROUGH TELEHEALTH.—Section 1834(m)(7)(B)(i) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(7)(B)(i)) is amended, in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking “April 1, 2025” and inserting “April 12, 2025”.

(2) MENTAL HEALTH VISITS FURNISHED BY RURAL HEALTH CLINICS.—Section 1834(y)(2) of

the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(y)(2)) is amended by striking “April 1, 2025” and inserting “April 12, 2025”.

(3) MENTAL HEALTH VISITS FURNISHED BY FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTERS.—Section 1834(o)(4)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(o)(4)(B)) is amended by striking “April 1, 2025” and inserting “April 12, 2025”.

(e) ALLOWING FOR THE FURNISHING OF AUDIO-ONLY TELEHEALTH SERVICES.—Section 1834(m)(9) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395m(m)(9)) is amended by striking “ending on March 31, 2025” and inserting “ending on April 11, 2025”.

(f) EXTENDING USE OF TELEHEALTH TO CONDUCT FACE-TO-FACE ENCOUNTER PRIOR TO RE-CERTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR HOSPICE CARE.—Section 1814(a)(7)(D)(i)(II) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395f(a)(7)(D)(i)(II)) is amended by striking “ending on March 31, 2025” and inserting “ending on April 11, 2025”.

(g) PROGRAM INSTRUCTION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services may implement the amendments made by this section through program instruction or otherwise.

SEC. 2118. EXTENDING ACUTE HOSPITAL CARE AT HOME WAIVER AUTHORITIES.

Section 1866G(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395cc-7(a)(1)) is amended by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”.

SEC. 2119. EXTENSION OF TEMPORARY INCLUSION OF AUTHORIZED ORAL ANTIVIRAL DRUGS AS COVERED PART D DRUGS.

Section 1860D-2(e)(1)(C) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395w-102(e)(1)(C)) is amended by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”.

SEC. 2120. MEDICARE IMPROVEMENT FUND.

Section 1898(b)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395iii(b)(1)) is amended by striking “\$1,251,000,000” and inserting “\$1,018,000,000”.

Subtitle C—Human Services

SEC. 2131. SEXUAL RISK AVOIDANCE EDUCATION EXTENSION.

Section 510 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 710) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”; and

(2) in subsection (f)(1), by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”.

SEC. 2132. PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY EDUCATION EXTENSION.

Section 513 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 713) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—
(A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B)(i), by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”; and

(2) in subsection (f), by striking “March 31, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”.

SEC. 2133. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR FAMILY-TO-FAMILY HEALTH INFORMATION CENTERS.

Section 501(c)(1)(A)(viii) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701(c)(1)(A)(viii)) is amended—

(1) by striking “\$3,000,000” and inserting “\$3,200,000”; and

(2) by striking “April 1, 2025” and inserting “April 12, 2025”.

Subtitle D—Medicaid

SEC. 2141. ELIMINATING CERTAIN DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE HOSPITAL PAYMENT CUTS.

Section 1923(f)(7)(A) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396f-4(f)(7)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “April 1” and inserting “April 12”; and

(2) in clause (ii), by striking “April 1” and inserting “April 12”.

TITLE II—MISCELLANEOUS EXTENSIONS **SEC. 2201. COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION WHISTLEBLOWER PROGRAM.**

Section 1(b) of Public Law 117-25 (135 Stat. 297; 136 Stat. 2133; 136 Stat. 5984) is amended, in paragraphs (3) and (4), by striking “March 14, 2025” each place it appears and inserting “April 11, 2025”.

SEC. 2202. PROTECTION OF CERTAIN FACILITIES AND ASSETS FROM UNMANNED AIRCRAFT.

Section 210G(i) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 124n(i)) is amended by striking “March 14, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”.

SEC. 2203. ADDITIONAL SPECIAL ASSESSMENT.

Section 3014 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by striking “March 14, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”.

SEC. 2204. NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY PROTECTION SYSTEM AUTHORIZATION.

Section 227(a) of the Federal Cybersecurity Enhancement Act of 2015 (6 U.S.C. 1525(a)) is amended by striking “March 14, 2025” and inserting “April 11, 2025”.

TITLE III—BUDGETARY EFFECTS

SEC. 2301. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

(c) CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105-217 and section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of this division shall not be estimated—

(1) for purposes of section 251 of such Act;

(2) for purposes of an allocation to the Committee on Appropriations pursuant to section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(3) for purposes of paragraph (4)(C) of section 3 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as being included in an appropriation Act.

SA 1270. Mr. Kaine submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by a Federal agency, during the 30-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, to remove more than 1 percent of the employees of the agency.

(b) After the 30-day period described in subsection (a), any Federal agency that seeks to restructure the agency shall, before carrying out that restructuring, submit to the congressional committees of jurisdiction with respect to the agency a plan that outlines how the agency plans to execute the statutory missions of the agency with a greatly reduced workforce.

SA 1271. Mr. Kaine submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to involuntarily relocate, reclassify, or remove any Federal employee who is a veteran.

SA 1272. Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, and Mr. Kaine) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in division A, insert the following:

SEC. _____. LIMITATION ON USE OF AMOUNTS FOR DOGE.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this Act may not be used by—

(1) the United States DOGE Service, or any successor agency;

(2) the U.S. DOGE Service Temporary Organization, or any successor agency; or

(3) a detailee of an agency described in paragraph (1) or (2) working at any other agency.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I have six requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 13, 2025, to consider legislation.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 1:45 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 4:15 p.m., to consider a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the

Senate on Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 9:15 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

AFFIRMING THAT HAMAS CANNOT RETAIN ANY POLITICAL OR MILITARY CONTROL IN THE GAZA STRIP

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 72.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 72) affirming that Hamas cannot retain any political or military control in the Gaza Strip.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 72) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of February 11, 2025, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, and at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, on Friday, March 14, the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 18, S. 331; further, that all postcloture time on the bill be expired and the Grassley amendment No. 1237 be withdrawn; further, that the bill be read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill; finally, that if passed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m., Friday, March 14, 2025; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed, and notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Calendar No. 35; further, that at 10:45 a.m., the Senate vote on cloture on the Feinberg nomination and if cloture is invoked, the postcloture time expire at 1:15 p.m. and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Feinberg nomination; further, that the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 18, S. 331, as under the previous order; and following disposition of the bill, the Senate vote

on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 26, H.R. 1968; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Friday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:13 p.m., adjourned until Friday, March 14, 2025, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 13, 2025:

FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

WILLIAM PULTE, OF FLORIDA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

JEFFREY KESSLER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR INDUSTRY AND SECURITY.

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on March 13, 2025 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

DAVID WELDON, OF FLORIDA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION. (NEW POSITION), WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 20, 2025.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S1723–S1751

Measures Introduced: Fifty-seven bills were introduced, as follows: S. 1013–1069 **Pages S1741–43**

Measures Passed:

Hamas in the Gaza Strip: Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 72, affirming that Hamas cannot retain any political or military control in the Gaza Strip, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S1751**

Measures Considered:

Halt All Lethal Trafficking of Fentanyl Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of S. 331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, and taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S1735–37**

Pending:

Thune (for Grassley) Amendment No. 1237, of a perfecting nature. **Pages S1735–37**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 84 yeas to 15 nays (Vote No. EX. 124), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the bill.

Page S1735

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, and at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Democratic Leader, on Friday, March 14, 2025, Senate continue consideration of S. 331; that all post-cloture time on the bill be expired, and Thune (for Grassley) Amendment No. 1237 (listed above) be withdrawn; and that Senate vote on passage of the bill, with no intervening action or debate. **Page S1751**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Friday, March 14, 2025, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Stephen Feinberg, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense; that at 10:45 a.m., Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the

nomination of Stephen Feinberg; that if cloture is invoked on the nomination, the post-cloture time expire at 1:15 p.m., and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination of Stephen Feinberg; that Senate continue consideration of S.331, to amend the Controlled Substances Act with respect to the scheduling of fentanyl-related substances, as under the previous order; and that following disposition of the bill, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 1968, making further continuing appropriations and other extensions for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025. **Page S1751**

Landau Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Christopher Landau, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of State.

Pages S1724–25

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of the nomination of John Phelan, of Florida, to be Secretary of the Navy.

Pages S1724–25

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S1724**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S1724**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 56 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 121), William Pulte, of Florida, to be Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency for a term of five years.

Pages S1729–30, S1751

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 57 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 120), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1726**

By 54 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 123), Jeffrey Kessler, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Security.

Pages S1730–35, S1751

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 54 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 122), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S1730**

Nomination Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nomination:

David Weldon, of Florida, to be Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which was sent to the Senate on January 20, 2025. **Page S1751**

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Pages S1724, S1741

Executive Communications: **Page S1741**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S1741**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S1743–45**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S1745–47

Additional Statements: **Pages S1740–41**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S1747–50**

Authorities for Committees to Meet:
Pages S1750–51

Record Votes: Five record votes were taken today. (Total—124) **Pages S1726, S1729–30, S1735**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:13 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Friday, March 14, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1751.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S.919, to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute; and

S. 875, to curtail the political weaponization of Federal banking agencies by eliminating reputational risk as a component of the supervision of depository institutions, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of David Fotouhi, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator, and Aaron Szabo, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator, both of the Environmental Protection Agency.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Peter Hoekstra, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to Canada, and George Glass, of Oregon, to be Ambassador to Japan, who were both introduced by Senator Hagerty, and Ronald Johnson, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States, who was introduced by Senator Scott (FL), all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Jayanta Bhattacharya, of California, to be Director of the National Institutes of Health, and Martin Makary, of Virginia, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, both of the Department of Health and Human Services.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Dean Sauer, of Missouri, to be Solicitor General of the United States, and Harmeet Dhillon, of California, and Aaron Reitz, of Texas, both to be an Assistant Attorney General, all of the Department of Justice.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House will meet in Pro Forma session at 9 a.m. on Friday, March 14, 2025.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Finance: business meeting to consider the nomination of Michael Faulkender, of Maryland, to be

Deputy Secretary of the Treasury; to be immediately followed by hearings to examine the nomination of Mehmet Oz, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, 10 a.m., SD-215.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Friday, March 14

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Stephen Feinberg, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Defense, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 10:45 a.m.; If cloture is invoked on the nomination of Stephen Feinberg, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination at 1:15 p.m. Following which, Senate will continue consideration of S.331, HALT Fentanyl Act, with a vote on passage of the bill. Upon disposition of the bill, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 1968, Full-Year Continuing Appropriations and Extensions Act.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, March 14

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 9 a.m.



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