



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025

No. 79

House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 12 p.m.

Senate

MONDAY, MAY 12, 2025

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O Lord, magnificent in mercy, plentiful in grace, and generous in love, we pause to confess our shortcomings.

Forgive us for speaking when we should listen and for listening when we should speak. Forgive us for waiting for opportunities instead of creating them.

Forgive us when we fail to ask You for mercy and grace to help us in our times of need.

Today, strengthen our Senators for their journey. Lord, give them strong hearts and sound minds to do their ethical best in representing You.

As they look to the future, give them the wisdom to join their plans to Your will and to do Your work on Earth.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUDD). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, today, I am here in the Senate honoring our Nation's law enforcement officers during our 64th annual National Police Week.

National Police Week presents an opportunity to show appreciation toward the men and women in blue for their sacrifice and selfless service and honor, at the same time, the fallen officers.

Every day, men and women selflessly and courageously dedicate their lives to keeping America safe and sound. They uphold our public safety and devote themselves to the pursuit of justice. Their devotion merits our admiration, and we are deeply indebted to them.

We especially honor the fallen heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty. This year, we are honoring 234 law enforcement officers who were killed in the line of duty.

The list of fallen includes two of my fellow Iowans, Trooper Jeffrey Brown and Senior Police Officer Phoukham Tran.

I want to make it crystal clear: I back the blue not just during Police Week, but year round.

I like to say to them when I see them: Thank you for your service, and I am not for defunding the police.

To our law enforcement officers nationwide: Thank you for your sacrifice, your service, and your dedication.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

GUIDING AND ESTABLISHING NATIONAL INNOVATION FOR U.S. STABLECOINS ACT—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 66, S. 1582.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 66, S. 1582, a bill to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes.

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S2847

MEASURE PLACED ON THE
CALENDAR—H.R. 276

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 276) to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the "Gulf of America".

Mr. THUNE. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

REMEMBERING DAVID H. SOUTER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to mention longtime Supreme Court Justice David Souter, who died on Thursday.

My thoughts and prayers are with his family and loved ones.

TRIBUTE TO POPE LEO XIV

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I also want to mention Cardinal Robert Prevost, who on Thursday became Pope Leo XIV, and I want to extend my congratulations on his election and my prayers for his service.

I know that his election is particularly moving for American Catholics, who for the first time in history will be led by an American-born Pope. I am very happy for them, and I look forward to seeing what this son of the Midwest brings to the Catholic Church and to the world.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, on Thursday afternoon, Democrats abruptly ended extensive bipartisan work on the GENIUS Act and filibustered the Senate's attempt to move this bill. Democrats, I should say, who had voted for the bill in committee, inexplicably chose to vote against it here on the Senate floor. That is pretty difficult to understand.

Providing a regulatory framework for stablecoins is a bipartisan issue. The bill is the product of a bipartisan negotiation, and the vote in the Banking Committee was definitely bipartisan—which leads you to wonder, of course, if this was really about the bill at all or if this was about wanting to deny President Trump or Republicans, more generally, a legislative victory, which might be nice for Democrats but leaves stablecoin issuers and Americans who use stablecoins in the same difficult spot that they are currently in. But unfortunately, it is pretty clear that obstructing, not legislating, is the Democrats' priority right now.

Until Democrats come to their senses and allow us to proceed to the GENIUS

Act, we are going to turn to nominations, another area where, unfortunately, Democrats have made obstruction the name of the game. I certainly understand that Democrats are not going to support all the President's nominees; that is their prerogative as Senators. But the way that they are drawing out this process on even non-controversial nominations is serving no one.

Mr. President, 57 out of 58 of the President's civilian nominees have required cloture votes, an unprecedented number for recent administrations; and of those 57 nominees, 17 received 60 or more votes in support on their final confirmation vote—in other words, support from a number of Democrats as well as Republicans. And yet Democrats dragged out those nominations in the same way they dragged out the nominations of individuals that they universally opposed.

Not a single one of President Trump's civilian nominees has been confirmed by unanimous consent or voice vote—again, something entirely unprecedented in recent years. No other President since at least 1977 has failed to have civilian nominees confirmed by unanimous consent or a voice vote at this point of his administration, except for President Trump in his first term in office.

And as I said, this is serving no one, nor is this going to prevent the President's nominees from getting confirmed. Democrats can drag out nominations all they want, but we are going to fill out the President's administration and ensure that his nominees get into place so that they can do their job and that he can do the job that he was elected to do.

I would like to do this the easy way and confirm noncontroversial nominees expeditiously—in batches, for example, and maybe even by unanimous consent. That would give us more time to legislate and give Members more time to spend in their States. But if we have to do this the hard way, we will. We are going to get the President's team in place.

So I guess Democrats have some decisions to make. I hope—I really hope—that they will come back to the table on the GENIUS Act, and I hope that they will cease their pointless obstruction of bipartisan nominees, but I guess we will have to see.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

MEDICAID

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week, hospital leaders from every cor-

ner of my State of Illinois came to Washington. What was the reason for the trip? The debate in Washington about the future of Medicaid.

Each and every one of them, from the city of Chicago through the most rural areas in the State, was concerned about the plans by the Republicans in Congress to change the funding for Medicaid. From the South Side of Chicago to Macomb in West Central Illinois, as well as Rockford, 20 miles from the Wisconsin border, and Carbondale, all the way downstate, they came to see me.

These are small, critical access hospitals in rural areas, the safety net hospitals treating the poorest patients and the large teaching hospitals in downtown Chicago. They are all focused on Medicaid.

All of them told me the Medicaid cuts that Republicans have put on the table would be devastating to their hospitals in every corner of my State—devastating to the doctors and nurses that they employ and especially hurtful to the patients and their families.

One told me that it is the only hospital in a 60-mile radius delivering babies. If Republican plans to cut Medicaid go through, this life-or-death care could be out of reach for pregnant mothers.

Another safety net hospital told me they might have to close their doors altogether if the Medicaid cuts happen.

Why? Why would Republicans in Congress even want to jeopardize healthcare and ring alarm bells in hospitals across America? They are trying to "save \$880 billion."

Well, what is the critical need to save that? To perpetuate the tax breaks of the Trump administration for the wealthiest people in America. Yep, that is the game plan. That is right.

President Trump and his billionaire buddy Elon Musk, the richest man in the world, have asked Republicans in Congress to provide a massive giveaway to the wealthiest Americans, and they want to use Medicaid cuts as the piggy bank.

Let's be clear: This is not a healthcare reform plan to improve our healthcare system or lower costs for families and patients. Nope. Republicans are looking to dismantle the basic Medicaid Program to help the tax cuts for billionaires.

Don't take my word for it. It is not just another political speech. Last week, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office issued a bombshell report. I am sure the Republicans in charge of the House and Senate didn't anticipate this. The Congressional Budget Office reviewed the Republican plans to cut Medicaid and determined the only way Republicans can "save money" is by removing millions of Americans from this health insurance, slashing benefits, or cutting access to doctors, nurses, and dentists.

For weeks, Republicans have been adamant that they are only focused on addressing waste, fraud, and abuse in Medicaid. Then comes the CBO report.

I want to agree with the basic premise that, if there is inappropriate spending, fix it. But that is not what is happening here, and I think the Republican majority knows it.

The Congressional Budget Office called their bluff and confirmed that these Medicaid cuts proposed by the Republicans are not about waste or efficiency. They are about restricting access to coverage to patients all across the United States, including in my State of Illinois.

Under Republicans' watch, CBO stated that 13.7 million Americans will have their health insurance coverage terminated. Almost 14 million Americans will lose healthcare coverage if the Republicans go forward with their plan. What is the acceptable number of constituents losing health coverage for Republicans?

Nationwide, half of all rural hospitals are already in the red, and more than 300 rural hospitals are facing immediate closure, including 26 in Kansas, 22 in Alabama, 21 in Texas, and 9 in Missouri. How many rural hospitals closing in their States are Republicans willing to accept to help perpetuate tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans?

Let me tell you, as a person from downstate Illinois, rural hospitals are the backbone of the community. Not only are they critical places for emergency medical care, but they are the anchors of the local economy.

Speaking of the economy, one of the ways Republicans plan to cut Medicaid is by imposing burdensome, redtape requirements.

Put paperwork in the path of an individual looking for medical care. Pile it up. Make it hard. Pitched by the Republicans as just simply "work requirements," this policy withholds healthcare for eligible patients until they meet overly complex paperwork requirements. It is a failing strategy.

In the States that have tried the so-called work requirements, there has been no increase in employment. The only impact is with patients who are ruled ineligible and kicked off Medicaid because they were drowning in paperwork. What a way to run a country.

Here is an example: A waitress with diabetes misses a paperwork deadline because the forms were sent to her old address. She loses her Medicaid coverage and can't access her medications and is forced to miss work to deal with it.

One analysis determined that approximately 3 million manufacturing, agricultural, and service sector workers could become uninsured under the simply "Make sure they are going to work" plan. Who thinks that is a good idea?

Yesterday, House Republicans spent Mother's Day scheming on how to advance these Medicaid cuts, finally releasing a copy of their legislation so we could see the detail. It is as catastrophic as we feared. It is the largest cut in Medicaid in the Nation's health

history, ripping health insurance away from millions of Americans in every single State.

But it is not too late for a few Republicans—and it only takes a few: four in the House, four in the Senate—to step up and say they don't want to be part of this, if they will stand up and say: No, we will not risk the healthcare for millions of Americans as bargaining chips for billionaire tax breaks.

Medicaid provides health insurance for 1 out of every 4 people in my State of Illinois—3.4 million people, including 1.5 million children. Medicaid pays to deliver half of all the babies in my State—half of them. Two-thirds of the seniors in nursing homes depend on Medicaid. If Medicaid is not helping to pay for that nursing home or care for seniors, what is going to happen to grandma, grandfathers, those that are affected by it? It is the largest funder of opioid addiction treatment.

Remember the image of Elon Musk—the richest man in the world—laughing gleefully as he danced around a stage with a chain saw in his hand? The richest man in the world was laughing out loud about his chain saw cuts to Medicaid. Well, these cuts are no laughing matter for that rural hospital worried about having to close its mental health services. They are no laughing matter for the pregnant woman forced to drive more than an hour to deliver a baby because the local hospital shuttered its obstetrics unit.

Wipe that smile off your face, Mr. Musk. We are talking about life-and-death healthcare for America's working families.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). The Senator from Texas.

UKRAINE

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, America is an exceptional nation: freedom of religion, freedom of speech and of the press; private property rights; free and fair elections; the rule of law and an independent judiciary. All of these help make us exceptional, but we Americans often take this for granted because these principles, these values, are so ingrained in our way of life. That is who we are. But it also makes it more challenging for us to understand how different other countries may be from us. It shouldn't be a surprise, though, if you think about it. History, culture, economics all matter, but, sadly, this is a lesson that seems like we and others need to learn over and over again.

When it comes to Russia, it is worth recalling Churchill's description of the former Soviet Union. He called it a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma, but when it comes to negotiating peace in Ukraine, we might be tempted to assume that Vladimir Putin is working from the same playbook as other stakeholders. But that is simply not the case. The fundamental differences between Russia and the

West have become all that much more apparent in the negotiations to end the war in Ukraine. This is precisely what has made it such a difficult challenge to end the war, and that is what makes President Trump's efforts all that much more noble when we consider the monumental task that he is seeking to accomplish.

As I have said before—and I will say it again—I am grateful to President Trump for his leadership and his efforts to end the conflict that has lasted far too long—for more than 3 years now. During his first 100 days, President Trump has done more than President Biden did in 4 years. He has made clear to the Europeans that they need to step up and assume greater ownership of their continental security, and he successfully persuaded them to increase their defense spending and enhance deterrents against future aggression.

The President's representatives have led several rounds of negotiations between the Ukrainians and the Russians—something that President Biden did not even attempt—and President Trump has secured a key critical minerals deal with Ukraine, which will help fund the reconstruction of that country. It will help compensate America for its investments in Ukraine's defense and dissuade future Russian aggression.

But there is one significant obstacle in achieving a lasting end to this conflict, and that, of course, is Vladimir Putin.

Succinctly stated, Vladimir Putin's Russia is a police state. In Russia, people who buck the government mysteriously disappear or fall out of windows to their deaths or are poisoned, imprisoned, or die of suspect causes like Alexei Navalny. In Russia, the government targets religious minorities, imposing fines and criminal charges. In Russia, the government controls the media. Independent media outlets are censored, suppressed, or shuttered if they do not conform to the party line. Under Vladimir Putin, government redistributes private property based on political loyalties, giving rise to the oligarchs that we have heard so much about.

Then there are the alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by Russia during its invasion of Ukraine. Take, for example, the bombing of Ukraine's civilian energy infrastructure during the first winter of Russia's full-scale invasion or consider the mass abduction of Ukrainian children. Thousands of Ukrainian children have been deported to Russia since the start of the full-scale invasion, with many having been adopted into Russian families or sent to camps, where they are subjected to ideological indoctrination designed to erase their Ukrainian identity.

The bombing of Ukraine's power grid, which was part of a state policy of widespread attacks on the civilian population, further illustrates the point.

One particular event in Bucha stands out. Russian troops intentionally massacred more than 400 civilians, apparently as part of a systematic clearing operation to secure their path to the capital, Kyiv. Russian paratroopers from the 234th Guards Air Assault Regiment interrogated and executed unarmed men of fighting age and killed people who unwittingly crossed their paths, whether it was children fleeing with their families or locals hoping to find groceries or people simply trying to get back home on their bicycles. The victims of this massacre were of all ages and professions. This massacre would be deemed a war crime under international humanitarian law, and because of their systematic and widespread nature, the killings in Bucha could also amount to crimes against humanity.

So the Russian Federation under Vladimir Putin is nothing like the United States or Europe, for that matter. Russia, of course, has its own history, culture, and form of government, and I said earlier, it can be easy for the West to assume, as we have done before, that our values are shared by other countries, but that is most decidedly not the case with Putin's Russia. Putin has made his unwillingness to end this unprovoked and barbaric war as plain as day. He has shown no remorse that his country is nearing 1 million casualties. He clearly doesn't care about the Russian people, who have been sacrificed to his fantasy of an empire restored, and his tolerance for casualties appears without limit.

In fact, Putin has done nothing to justify the hope that he might be persuaded to end this war. To the contrary, despite Putin's declared ceasefire over the Easter holiday, Russia then proceeded to launch attacks into Ukraine that killed innocent civilians. More recently, Russia launched two ballistic missiles and 165 drones, wounding 11 people, including 2 children.

One 54-year-old Kyiv resident, whose car caught fire during the attack, expressed frustration at the lack of progress for peace, saying:

They can't agree on anything, and we are the ones who suffer the consequences.

An 18-year-old student said:

People are just suffering all the time . . . It's still very hard to see our country constantly being destroyed.

President Trump noted in a statement on Truth Social:

There was no reason for Putin to be shooting missiles into civilian areas, cities and towns, over the last few days.

The President went on to suggest that Putin may not actually be trying to stop the war. I agree with President Trump. There is no indication he is trying to stop the war. Vladimir Putin is making a grave mistake in stringing the President of the United States and the rest of the world along while innocent lives are being taken.

In order to achieve peace, President Trump needs a good-faith partner both

in Ukrainian President Zelenskyy and Russian President Putin. Notably, while Zelenskyy has met with the President several times, most recently at the Vatican, Putin has not. Instead of working for peace, Putin recently threatened to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine in order to bring the war, in his own words, "to a logical conclusion with the outcome [that] Russia requires."

How does this relate to President Trump's peace efforts? Well, we should listen to Putin's own words. In a speech he delivered to the Russian Foreign Ministry last year, Putin argued that peace with Ukraine would require a removal of Ukrainian troops from the southern and eastern part of that country, the demilitarization and denuclearization of Ukraine, a neutral and non-NATO Ukraine, and the removal of all Western sanctions.

The hard reality is that Putin sees this conflict not just as a war between Russia and Ukraine but as a war between Russia and the West.

In this same speech, he says the West is primarily at fault for the conflict in the world today and that it was the West that incited a Ukrainian coup in 2014 and further unrest in Eastern Ukraine in 2022, which necessitated Russian military action to liberate the people of Crimea and Eastern Ukraine. Putin says that the war would have ended long ago, in March 2022, had it not been for the West's supplying Ukraine with weapons and political support and extending the conflict.

Likewise, Putin sees Ukraine's prospective association with NATO or European peacekeeping forces as an inherent extension of Western imperialism, which he cannot tolerate. He even goes as far as to say that Russia could not accept a cease-fire since it would give time for Ukraine to rearm.

Finally, Putin shares a vision for a multipolar world to counter what he perceives as Western imperialism and Russia's efforts to use security and economic agreements toward these ends.

In sum, Putin does not see this negotiation as a means to bringing about an end to the conflict in Ukraine; he sees it as a key piece to a larger war against the West. In essence, this negotiation is much bigger than Russia and Ukraine. We need to listen to what Putin says but also watch what he does as he attempts to stall peace negotiations while attempting to achieve his larger aims.

Putin's invasion of Ukraine just over 3 years ago is an obvious violation of another international agreement that Russia was a party to—the 1994 Budapest Memorandum. Under this agreement, Ukraine willingly gave up its arsenal of nuclear weapons—the third largest in the world—in exchange for security assurances by Russia and other signatories. Russia went on then to violate the Budapest Memorandum in 2014 when it invaded Crimea and annexed the Crimea Peninsula. Then, as

we all know, Russia violated the Memorandum for a second time in February 2022 with its invasion of Ukraine proper.

If Russia were unwilling to honor the commitments enshrined in the Budapest Memorandum in 2014 and 2022, how, then, can Ukraine or the rest of the world, for that matter, be assured that they will honor a peace agreement brokered in 2025?

And, once again, Putin is threatening nuclear war if he does not receive the guarantees of a further demilitarized Ukraine.

But if he thinks these threats are an effective method of intimidating the United States and President Trump, he is mistaken. President Trump has made very clear that he will not allow Russia to continue doing what he calls "tapping us along."

Putin may well have been able to dupe Obama. He may have been able to intimidate Biden. But any attempt to fool or strong-arm President Trump will not succeed. If Putin thinks he is going to pull the wool over his eyes or box him into a corner, Putin is in for a very rude shock.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRIBUTE TO EDAN ALEXANDER

Mr. SCHUMER. First, Madam President, today, we have heard some very good news: Edan Alexander, an American Israeli and New Jersey native, has finally been freed from Hamas's brutal captivity and reunited with his family.

I first met Edan's parents, Adi and Yael, right after October 7—a few days after—when Edan was taken hostage by Hamas. For the last 583 days, Adi and Yael have fought tirelessly for Edan's release. Today, that work pays off as they finally get to hug their son again.

Edan's release gives me more hope and motivation to keep pushing for the release of all 58 hostages in Hamas's captivity, including the remains of four New Yorkers brutally murdered by Hamas: Omer Neutra, Itay Chen, Gad Haggai, and Judi Weinstein. They were brutally killed, but their remains should be sent back. But, of course, Hamas, as brutal as they are, doesn't do that yet.

As the President departs to the Middle East, I call on him and his administration to use the full weight of U.S. diplomatic power to get a deal to bring all of the hostages home.

I will continue working as long as it takes to finally bring every last hostage—including the remains of hostages no longer with us—home at last.

QATAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now on Qatar, yesterday, reports came

out that the royal family of Qatar is set to gift Donald Trump a luxury 747 for him to use as his own Air Force One.

Without a shred of shame, Donald Trump will lecture families about putting up with higher prices that he himself triggered and then accept a \$400 million private jet from the Qatari royal family. His shameless self-enrichment is without equal in American history. You cannot think of another President who has been so brazen, so selfish, and so destructive of the norms of what America is about.

In truth, though, the news of the Qatari Air Force is just one tip of the iceberg. For months, Qatar and other Gulf State nationals have spent billions on deals with the Trump organizations to buy the President.

Donald Trump is using his office to enrich himself and his family. This isn't a question. This is a fact with incredible supporting data to prove it. He is putting America's national security at risk to enrich himself.

Just as concerning as the very gift are the national security implications that surround it. The deeply chilling part of this bribe and national security betrayal from the President is just how blatant and erroneous he is doing it, almost daring Republicans to stand up to him and defend our country—daring Republicans.

So where are our Republican friends with this kind of egregious, grubby, awful enrichment? Silence and total obedience.

TARIFFS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on tariffs, early this morning, it was reported that Donald Trump caved to Xi Jinping and the Chinese Communist Party, with virtually nothing to show for American workers. Donald Trump has changed his mind, once again, on his tariffs, with a new "deal" with China to pause most tariffs for 90 days.

Sadly, it looks like China has, once again, gotten the better of Donald Trump. They hardly had to give up a thing.

It is another example of Donald Trump's chaos. Trump has one policy for his tariffs on one day and a different policy the next day. One day, he is pretending to be a tough guy with China. The next day he is caving to China and getting little, if anything, in return. Who knows what Trump's tariff policy will be in 90 days?

If I were a businessperson, I wouldn't count on what he is doing or what he says today that probably won't be in effect in the next week or the next 3 weeks.

Even under this "deal," tariffs are still significantly higher than they were before Trump's "Liberation Day." Businesses will continue to struggle. Supply chains will continue to experience chaos, strain, and unpredictability.

Again, this is only a 90-day pause. As I said before, it is impossible to predict

what will happen next, even within the 90-day period, because Trump changes his mind so quickly. Whatever seems good in front of him at the moment, he goes for.

First, he is mad at China and puts in the tariffs. Then he gets lots of blowback and backs off.

Where will he be tomorrow? Who the heck knows. But businesses can't count on reliability, only on chaos.

Donald Trump's trade war is a lose-lose-lose for American families and businesses, leaving them with increased costs and more chaos.

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on drug pricing, a few hours ago, Donald Trump signed a new Executive order he claims will "almost immediately" bring down the costs of prescription drugs. Americans should hold their applause because Donald Trump's announcement is little more than a photo op masquerading at reform, just as he said he would bring down costs on day one, and it didn't happen—the same thing here. "Almost immediately"? Give me a break.

In case Donald Trump has forgotten, this announcement is like what he already tried to do in 2020, with little success. So Americans are right to be skeptical until they actually see their prescription drug costs go down more.

Donald Trump can say he is doing an Executive order, but we all know the odds are overwhelming that that Executive order will fail.

The real way to make drug price reform happen is to do what Democrats do and what Donald Trump is loath to do: Roll up your sleeves and do the hard work of passing legislation. That is what we did. That is why insulin is \$35 for senior citizens. That is why 20 of the most widely used drugs' prices have plummeted, because we negotiated with Medicare. That is why no family pays more than \$2,000 total for all their prescription drugs. We worked hard, we legislated, and we got prices down.

Donald Trump does a photo op, says it is going to come down immediately, but, obviously, this is a half-baked political stunt that is unlikely to bring any meaningful change.

Today's announcement is so typical of Donald Trump's Presidency: He promises a golden age, but, in reality, Americans get fool's gold.

BUDGET

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, yesterday, Republicans released the text of their plan to eviscerate Medicaid while cutting taxes for the ultrarich. The bill is as toxic as we all feared.

With a straight face, Republicans are telling the American people that they want to cut taxes for the ultrarich by trillions of dollars and pay for it with the biggest cuts to Medicaid ever—the biggest cuts to Medicaid ever. If this

bill becomes law, nearly 14 million Americans will lose their health insurance—again, the biggest cut to Medicaid in American history, 14 million losing their health insurance.

Hospital after hospital will have to lay off tens of thousands of workers. Many of them may be forced to close, particularly in rural areas.

Republicans promised for months they would protect Medicaid, but now Americans know the truth: Republicans never intended to keep that promise, and this confirms it.

Almost 14 million Americans lose insurance. Millions more see their premiums go up. Hospitals from one end of America to the other will close. Thousands will lose their jobs. Millions will lose their access to healthcare. Kids will suffer. Seniors suffer. Healthcare workers will lose their jobs. Americans with disabilities get hurt. And rural Americans are left to fend for themselves.

Hospitals and nursing homes will shutter. States will scramble with their budgets. And American families are left out to dry.

And why? Tax cuts for the billionaires. That is what happens when Project 2025 takes over the Republican mainstream.

But the cruelty doesn't stop there. Later today, we also expect Republicans to unveil their plan to cut SNAP, which feeds about 40 million Americans in need. If the reports are to be believed, Republicans plan to cut Federal food assistance by hundreds of billions. If the reports are to be believed, that is what the Republicans plan to do.

Kids will go hungry. Parents will suffer.

I just got back from Buffalo and Albany in Upstate New York, meeting with food banks and religious leaders and church leaders who are on the frontlines of the fight against hunger. The priests and nuns I met with spoke of the obligation Scripture imparts on us to feed the hungry and to give drink to the thirsty. But right now, Republicans want to rob the least of our neighbors to make it better for those at the top.

SNAP should not be a partisan issue. It should not be a political issue. It is a moral question: Are we going to let kids, veterans, senior citizens, and others go hungry? This is about taking care of the most vulnerable in society, especially the children, making sure every child in America is afforded basic dignity.

If a kid goes to bed hungry, they can't learn the next morning in school. They can't get along with their friends. They are off to an awful start.

So SNAP has been one of the great things that America has done until now, in a bipartisan way—but not with these MAGA people running the show and not with the Republicans here in the Senate and in the House being supine to what they know is wrong and vicious and mean and counter-productive.

I urge House Republicans to oppose these devastating cuts to SNAP, particularly those New York Republicans whose constituents I have met over the past couple of weeks. I was in or near the districts of two of them today, and the outrage against what they might do is palpable.

Given the narrow margins in the House, these swing districts in New York have the power to stop these cuts to SNAP. These Republicans can do it. They can make sure no kid goes to bed hungry. I urge them to stand up and hold the line.

When you put it all together, there is no other way to put it: This bill is a grotesque betrayal of working and middle-class families.

And a few moments ago, Republicans released the next phase of their plan: hiking taxes on electricity and raising energy costs for seniors and families. Republicans are so captured by the hard-right ideology that they are willing to cede America's energy future to China and tank domestic industries that we will need to keep energy costs low in the future.

Not a single Senate Democrat will support this destructive piece of legislation. Instead of calling this "one, big, beautiful bill," Republicans should tell the truth. This bill is a big, fat grift, and it is the American people who are getting ripped off.

STABLECOINS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, finally, I want to say a little bit about last week.

There are those on the other side of the aisle now shedding crocodile tears that, last week, the minority asserted its right not to proceed to a bill that has zero legislative text. Imagine—imagine—they said, the nerve of the Democrats not voting for a bill when there is no text. How crazy can they be?

We asserted our rights very simply to continue the legislative process to allow time to reach agreement. The majority, in an act of political stubbornness but also stupidity, asked people to vote on a bill they had never seen. They tried to force a vote before Senators even had text to know what they were voting on. And then they get upset that we all voted no?

They shouldn't be surprised—least of all, my good friend the Republican leader, who said in his first speech as majority leader: "One of my priorities as leader will be to ensure that the Senate stays the Senate."

Well, in the Senate, we have always had the text of the bill before we vote on it. I say that to my friend the majority leader.

Democrats were perfectly, perfectly appropriate, fair, and correct in asserting our rights. If this Senate is to work, the majority must allow it to work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

QATAR

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I cannot believe I have to say this, but a President should not take a \$400 million gift from a foreign country. It doesn't matter which President or what party. It doesn't matter which foreign country. It doesn't matter if there is or is not a legal justification. No President should take a \$400 million gift from a foreign country.

I shouldn't have to explain why, but it is a high principle, literally enshrined in the Constitution because people whom we represent should know—not think but know—that their representatives are focused on them and this country only; that our loyalties are not divided; that our minds are not wandering elsewhere.

The emoluments clause in the Constitution—it is a fancy phrase but a simple idea: no foreign gifts. If a foreign government offers you anything but especially something worth close to half a billion dollars, the answer is, no, thank you. End of story. Very simple. End of story. I cannot take that. First of all, I cannot take that because I can't have divided loyalties. I am going into the region; I can't take a \$400 million gift before I begin negotiations with you. But it is also explicitly prohibited by the U.S. Constitution.

And the gift in question is that the country of Qatar is going to literally provide a luxury aircraft—not just any luxury aircraft to the President of the United States but Air Force One. And why does this matter? Air Force One is not just a random luxury airplane. It is a symbol of and a projection of American power. It has flown 15 different Presidents. It carried President John F. Kennedy's body after his assassination and saw President Johnson be sworn in under unprecedented circumstances. It rushed George W. Bush back to Washington after the Twin Towers were struck. And just 2 years ago, it flew President Joe Biden to Europe for a secret trip to Ukraine during the war.

When people see Air Force One on TV, when they see it land in other countries—whether in London or Tokyo or Brazil—they immediately know that America has arrived. It represents not just the weight of the Presidency but America itself, generations of history and international leadership.

But in one fell swoop, Trump is selling out one of the most iconic symbols of American power that we have, and what people will now see is the most powerful man on Earth flying around in a plane paid for by a foreign government. It is disgusting. It is wildly corrupt. And just because they are doing the corruption in plain sight not does make it any less damning or sad or gross.

This week, several of my colleagues and I will be asking the Senate to vote to condemn this action. There should be 100 of us that agree on this fundamental principle: No President should take free stuff from a foreign govern-

ment and certainly nothing worth \$400 million.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 72.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Emil Michael, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 72, Emil Michael, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Eric Schmitt, Roger Marshall, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Joni Ernst, Pete Ricketts, Tom Cotton, James E. Risch, Jon A. Husted, James Lankford, Katie Boyd Britt, John Hoeven, Kevin Cramer, Bernie Moreno, Bill Hagerty, Chuck Grassley.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 82.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Eric Matthew Ueland, of Virginia, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented

under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 82, Eric Matthew Ueland, of Virginia, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Eric Schmitt, Roger Marshall, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Joni Ernst, Pete Ricketts, Tom Cotton, James E. Risch, Jon A. Husted, James Lankford, Katie Boyd Britt, John Hoeven, Kevin Cramer, Bernie Moreno, Bill Hagerty, Chuck Grassley.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 88.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Sean Donahue, of Florida, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 88, Sean Donahue, of Florida, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

John Thune, Mike Crapo, Thom Tillis, Cynthia M. Lummis, Mike Rounds, Rick Scott, Roger F. Wicker, Katie Boyd Britt, Steve Daines, John Boozman, John R. Curtis, James E. Risch, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Dan Sullivan, Bernie Moreno, Jim Justice.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Crowley nomination.

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 assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 76, Monica Crowley, of New York, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service.

John Thune, Jim Justice, Ted Cruz, Bernie Moreno, Jon A. Husted, Steve Daines, John R. Curtis, Tommy Tuberville, Tim Sheehy, Pete Ricketts, Joni Ernst, James E. Risch, Mike Rounds, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Eric Schmitt, Katie Boyd Britt, John Barrasso.

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 Monica Crowley, of New York, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service, 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.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 241 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—47

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Monica Crowley, of New York, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

ENERGY

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, today, Donald Trump's Department of Energy announced the largest deregulatory effort in the Department of Energy's history, with 47 regulations in the Department of Energy slashed in one fell swoop in the name of freedom on the same day that the House Ways and Means Committee proposed to slash clean energy tax credits and just a few days after the House Energy and Commerce Committee proposed to destroy critical programs that reduce hazardous air pollution in exchange for fast-tracking dirty fossil fuels.

This isn't one big beautiful bill, as Donald Trump calls it; it is a big billionaire bailout—that is what this whole thing is about—and the only freedom this announcement guarantees is the freedom to pollute, overcharge, and mislead the American people.

So let's be clear. These attacks are not common sense. These attacks on energy policy—on the environmental policy of the United States—is not common sense; it is nonsense which they are trying to sell. They are not about choice; they are about giving fossil fuel corporations and manufacturers a license to pollute on the one hand and to be profiteers on the other. This is not deregulation; it is the desecration of decades of bipartisan progress on public health and on the truth.

Republicans are willing to throw \$420 billion in clean energy investments and 400,000 jobs in red and blue States right down the drain. This would be a disaster for our economy and good-paying jobs. What does that look like in action? Well, let's just go through it. Let's go through what they are doing.

By the way, Chris Wright is the Secretary of Energy, and Chris Wright says: Well, I am a reasonable man.

And he seems like a very likable person. But, in fact, Chris Wright is a radical. He is an absolute, outright radical, trying to destroy the clean energy future of the United States. So while he says he believes in all of the above, we know he is an oil man; he is a gas man. He really believes in oil above all, not all of the above. That is for sure.

Chris Wright, with his radical, anti-capitalist attack upon the clean energy future of the United States is absolutely destroying our ability to be able to compete with China in the clean energy sector for the rest of eternity. He is just deciding to completely and totally eviscerate our future, and he does so at the behest of Donald Trump, who is tied to, of course, the oil and gas and coal industry and their profit-making opportunities.

Now, again, Chris Wright, that is where he made his money—oil and gas; so it is kind of natural for him to be a

radical, a radical oil and gas guy who wants to destroy wind, destroy solar, destroy new battery storage technologies. These are the technologies that compete against oil, gas, and coal and their profits. By the way, they would substitute technologies which would not pollute, not cause asthma, not warm the planet dangerously that would cause the storms and the fires and the floods, which we have been seeing. It would accomplish all that. But a radical—a radical like Chris Wright as Secretary of Energy—would rather destroy all of it in order to increase the profits of the oil and gas industry. That is what he is doing—creating this absolutely destructive policy that is going to ultimately have the next generation of young people today pay a huge price in the future.

So let's just take a few of these tax credits which they are destroying, which would create good-paying jobs, which would help to spur our economy. Let's just take a look at a few of them to see what he has orchestrated in the House Ways and Means and House Energy and Commerce Committees.

It would remove the tax credits that a local restaurant can use to lower its electricity bill by putting solar panels on the roof of the restaurant: Gone. Incentives that a local connoisseur could have used to buy electric delivery trucks and install charging stations: Gone. EV battery and offshore wind manufacturing factories that source steel from red States: Gone.

And why is he doing it again? He is doing it to help the oil and gas industry from which he came. He is a radical. He sees the world in the rearview mirror. Let's just stay in the oil and gas era. Let's stay in the coal era. Let's not move to a new innovation economy. Let's not move to a clean energy economy. Let's just stay back in the past. We will let China have the future. We will let Germany have the future. We will let India have the future. But we own the past, says Chris Wright. We own the energy past, and we are going to protect it against any innovation in America that would, in any way, inhibit the ability of the past to continue to reap profits from America.

By the way, one of the things which he killed is my offshore wind-manufacturing bill, which was going to give incentives to companies in the United States to manufacture the offshore wind technologies to be deployed. He killed that. That was going to keep the jobs here. That was going to incentivize American companies to innovate in the manufacture of offshore wind technologies. He wants to kill that because he wants to kill the offshore wind industry.

Why does he want to kill the offshore wind industry? What is Chris Wright's thinking? Here is what he is thinking, and here is what Donald Trump is thinking: Ah, the more you deploy offshore wind, the less gas you need to generate electricity. Since that is where he comes from, that is the past,

so he has to protect the past. He is a radical, Chris Wright—just an absolutely rabid radical looking at the rearview mirror at the past; and anything that would interfere with that, including the massive deployment of offshore wind, must be killed. So that is what he has recommended here in the House Ways and Means and the House Energy and Commerce Committees bill.

But that is not all. That is not all that Chris Wright is engaging in, that Republicans are engaging in, that Donald Trump is engaging in.

They are also cutting billions in historic investments from the Inflation Reduction Act, in environmental justice, in air pollution reduction programs. Even in schools—even where kids are exposed to the pollution—they are removing any of the protections against kids breathing in this dangerous asthma-inducing air that has been polluted by oil and gas and coal. That includes \$20 billion in the climate bank, the green bank, which CHRIS VAN HOLLEN and I secured in the Inflation Reduction Act. Also, it is called the Inflation Reduction Act because Joe Manchin, who voted for it, did not want it to be called the biggest climate bill or the biggest clean energy bill in the history of the world. OK? But that is what it is. It is the biggest clean energy bill in history. What McKinsey has analyzed is that the \$20 billion green bank will unleash \$250 billion worth of private sector investment in clean energy technologies.

Well, if you are Chris Wright, you have to kill that. You can't allow for a massive revolution in clean energy to come out of the green energy bank. So Chris Wright—Mr. Radical, Reactionary, "Look at the World in the Rearview Mirror" Secretary of Energy—has killed that too—at Donald Trump's behest, by the way. At Donald Trump's behest.

Again, he looks like a very nice man, but that is not what the job of the Secretary of Energy requires. It requires vision. It requires looking ahead, leading the way, having America be competitive with the Chinese in new technology. We are in a big battle with China over trade. Well, we won't have anything to send to them in clean energy. It is going to be a one-way street—a one-way street coming from them to us—after they finish off our clean energy industry, which is what they are trying to do. In the same way, they have made massive cuts to the National Institutes of Health. Research in Alzheimer's and cancer and diabetes and other diseases is going to finish off our ability to be competitive in biotech. This is the next step: Let's finish off the clean energy industry as well.

Unfortunately, the investments in the clean energy technologies would have created jobs by the millions. They would have strengthened our energy independence because all of that energy, by definition, is produced here in

the United States of America. It is our Sun; it is our wind; it would be our batteries that we could store that electricity with. We don't need the Chinese. We don't need anybody else. We could just do it right here. What could be more conducive to being able to have a headline of energy independence than capturing all of these God-given gifts which we have in our country, destroyed across the board? And they are going to be killing the funding that would save consumers money at the pump by increasing the fuel economy standards of the vehicles which we drive in our country.

The one thing the oil industry hates—I just talked about the natural gas industry. They hate wind and solar and batteries—you know, generating new electricity. What does the oil industry hate? Well, the oil industry hates vehicles that are twice as energy efficient as oil vehicles. Instead of 27 miles a gallon, they get 54 miles a gallon. Instead of 54 miles a gallon, they get 108 miles a gallon, or if it is a plug-in all-electric or a plug-in hybrid, it is pretty much an infinity sign that is next to how efficient that vehicle is and how little oil they need. That is a death star for the oil industry, so they have got to kill the fuel economy standards that make all of the vehicles which we drive more efficient because it is just going to protect the past, which is what Donald Trump is all about. This is some kind of nostalgia he has for 1958, OK? He wants to go back in time, but America can't afford to be looking in the rearview mirror because our European, our Asian, and our South American competitors, they are coming for us.

We are only 5 percent of the world's population, and up until the Trump administration, what has given us our edge is innovation; it is investment in research; it is looking ahead; and it is trying to lead the way. That is where young people in our country want to go, but instead of the dawn of a clean energy future, Republicans are sunseting incentives that would spur a clean domestic manufacturing for industries inside of the United States.

By the way, let me say it again: In just a very brief period of time—about 3 years since the passage of the biggest climate bill in history—we have created 400,000 new jobs in the clean energy sector in the United States and have already unleashed \$400 billion worth of energy investment. So they are committed—the Republicans, and they are proud of it, led by Chris Wright, an oil and gas man—to being the world's laggard, not leader, and to just falling behind everybody in the clean energy sector. That is what their plan is—to destroy everything that has been unleashed in our Nation. We not only won't be the leader in the global economy or the clean energy economy; we are just going to cede the jobs; we are going to cede the progress to our economic rivals, led by the Chinese.

And who is making this worse? Again, it is Energy Secretary Chris

Wright, the fracker in chief. He is a fracker. He really believes in fracking for oil, in fracking for gas. He is a man who, just last week, told the Congress that his Agency had paid all its bills, canceled no clean energy grants, laid off barely a handful of staff, and wasn't freezing funding. Every one of those statements is false.

Now he is doubling down with a thoughtless regulatory bonfire, and this deregulatory blitz eliminates standards for everyday appliances in our homes—microwaves, refrigerators, dishwashers, and washing machines.

All the regulations say is make all those devices more energy efficient so you don't have to burn coal in order to have the washing machine work, in order to have the refrigerator work. We are not asking anyone to put a mission to Mars in place. We are not asking for anyone to be a rocket scientist. We are asking for people to make dishwashers more efficient and washing machines more efficient.

Do you know what Chris Wright says? Impossible. Impossible. We can't figure out how to do that, so we are just going to stop all progress that we are making in ensuring that all these electricity-consuming appliances are more efficient.

The less efficient they are, the bigger the electricity bill for every single American. That is their goal. What happens when you have to consume more electricity? You have to pay the natural gas industry for all the extra electricity which is coming into your home. That is the plan.

The oil industry wants automobiles and trucks to be less efficient. The natural gas industry wants all appliances, homes, everything less efficient and not to use wind and solar and battery storage technology. They each have two simple business plans, which Chris Wright, who is one of the most radical people who has ever had a position in the American Government, wants to put in place—the fracker-in-chief.

I am the author of the law that the Department of Energy uses to set the standards for dishwashers and for refrigeration in our country. I put that law on the books in 1987. So far, it has saved the need for somewhere around 200 coal-burning plants to ever be built in the first place because those devices never needed the electricity that otherwise would have been needed if there was less efficiency.

The bill itself, according to experts, has now saved \$2 trillion in energy bills since 1987. Can I say that again? I am very proud of this. My bill has helped to save \$2 trillion that consumers otherwise would have had to have paid in their electricity bills to have inefficient refrigeration, inefficient dishwashers in the house, inefficient air-conditioning in the house. Two trillion dollars has been saved.

It has also prevented 3 billion metric tons of greenhouse gas emissions from going up. That is a law. Greenhouse gas emissions never went up because we

made those appliances so much more energy efficient. And it then saved consumers \$500 a year because they never had to pay those electricity bills.

So you would think the Secretary of Energy would say: Let's keep moving forward. Let's keep making all of these devices more and more efficient.

But no. He works in natural gas, he works in oil, so his goal is to roll it all back because it harms the business model of the natural gas industry or the oil industry.

Here is the thing: I personally believe in Darwinian paranoia-inducing competition. That is what I believe. I am a capitalist. Let's just have everybody be able to do everything. That is not the socialistic attitude that Chris Wright has. He wants to use socialism to protect the oil and gas industry from real competition.

Is he going to take the tax breaks for the oil and gas industry off the books? Oh, no, he is not taking those tax breaks off the books. Is he going to take off favorable regulatory protections for the oil and gas industry? He is not going to do that. No. No. No.

This is all the old boys' network, the billionaire boys' club network in the energy industry to thwart the movement that young people want toward a future of clean energy, of solar and wind, the all-electric vehicle—the future for our country.

So Chris Wright and Trump want to throw everything out because nothing says "freedom" more than smog and higher utility bills. They want us to have the freedom to have more smog. They want us to have the freedom to have more asthma. They want us as a nation to have the freedom to pay higher utility bills for natural gas and generated electricity. That is his idea of freedom—Chris Wright. Again, it just goes back to the bottom line of those companies that he used to run before he just became Secretary of Energy.

Now, I don't mind him saying that he wants to have a new future for our country, but you can't say it simultaneously when you are killing the future.

You are killing it, Chris Wright. You are the worst example of what the Trump administration is bringing to Washington. You are going to make us more dependent on fossil fuels. Consumers will have to pay higher prices. It is going to lead to higher levels of disease in our Nation. We are going to see more storms like Hurricanes Milton and Helene last year, which caused \$300 billion worth of damage. We are going to see more fires like those which we saw in L.A., which caused \$140 billion worth of damage. Those are just three storms that caused \$440 billion worth of damage, those three storms alone.

So you just say: Hey, Chris, Mr. Secretary, what is your answer to that?

Do you know what his answer is? More fossil fuels. Warm up the planet even more. Turn it up a few more de-

grees. The temperature is too low; let's put the temperature up higher.

What are young people saying? They are saying: Turn the thermostat down. This planet is getting too warm. Just turn it down.

That is renewables. That is the way in which you do it.

We have seen Chris Wright make outlandishly false claims before. Back in March, Chris Wright took the stage in front of oil and gas executives and delivered what might go down as the most egregious fossil-fueled fiction ever spoken at a podium—and that is still saying a lot. It was part sermon, part standup, and part 100 percent spin.

Chris Wright said:

The previous administration's policy was focused myopically on climate change with people as simply collateral damage.

That is his statement.

The Inflation Reduction Act, on the other hand, did create 400,000 clean energy jobs. It unleashed \$400 billion worth of investments. That is not collateral damage. That is a climate comeback. That is a middle-class revival in our country. That is 400,000 middle-class jobs in our Nation that the Inflation Reduction Act—also known as the biggest climate bill in our history—has produced. They are committed to stopping it. That is what Republicans are willing to tank with their latest proposal.

Now I am going to give you the killer stats. This is why they have to kill it. Last year in the United States, 94 percent of all new electricity generation capacity installed was wind and solar and batteries. So the natural gas industry is saying: That can't happen. You mean we were left with 6 percent?

Yes, that is right. This thing is moving—wind, solar, and battery storage—for electricity generation in our country. If you do it every year for the next 10 years or the next 25 years, then the natural gas industry just won't be able to compete in the marketplace.

So Adam Smith is spinning in his grave, looking at what Chris Wright is doing today—tampering with the free market, tampering with incentives for the competition to oil and gas, which have received tax breaks for 100 years.

Adam Smith is spinning in his grave, thinking how capitalism is being completely distorted, although he wrote a whole chapter in "Wealth of Nations," and the chapter was just about how much he hated monopolies, how much he hated oligopolies, which are anathema when it comes to competition, when it comes to capitalism. He really wanted Darwinian paranoia-inducing competition—Adam Smith. That is not what Chris Wright wants. That is not what Donald Trump wants. Donald Trump wants to be able to put his thumb on the scale for the oil and gas industry and for the coal industry just to destroy the future competition.

Meanwhile, the Trump administration has already cost America more than 50,000 clean energy jobs and over \$8 billion in private sector clean energy

projects. If anything is collateral damage, it is our economy under Donald Trump and the Chris Wright chaos agenda in the marketplace for the clean energy industry.

Here is what Chris Wright also said:

Natural gas . . . has been the fastest growing source of energy over the last 15 years. Wind and solar supply roughly 3 percent of global primary energy.

Chris Wright must have brought a calculator from 2005 because those numbers are just completely wrong. In reality, wind and solar are the fastest growing electricity sources in history. In 2024, as I have already said, they made up over 90 percent of all new electricity generation in the United States.

Listen to this—this is scary for the oil and gas industry—96 percent of all new electricity generation installed worldwide last year was wind and solar and battery—96 percent globally, wind and solar.

He is saying: Oh, it is just such a small part.

No, it is not, and it is going to grow and grow and grow and grow. That is what is putting the fear into the hearts of the oil and gas industry. They have got to stop it, so they have ordered the House Republicans to kill it in the Ways and Means Committee, kill it in the Energy and Commerce Committee, and then they want to send it over here so that Republicans can rubberstamp this decision to kill the future. I guess that is inaccurate. It is not the future; it is right now. It is over 90 percent of the United States and 96 percent globally, last year, the installation of new electricity generation capacity.

So they are desperate, totally desperate. They wish they had killed the Affordable Care Act 10 years ago because now they don't have the nerve to try to kill the Affordable Care Act because now people already are benefiting from those changes. They are trying to kill this, kill it right now, kill it before it gets more momentum and destroys the business model of 100 years of the oil, gas, and coal industry.

By the way, in the United States alone, we added 50 gigawatts of new solar in 2024. Think of it like this: In 2009, we only had 2,000 megawatts of solar from the beginning of time until 2009. Last year, 50,000 new gigawatts of solar was installed in our country. If it was 50,000 next year and the year after and the year after, when 10 years is done, you will have a half a million new gigawatts of solar.

So the oil and gas industry is listening to Donald Trump, who said: If you raise \$1 billion for me—he said this last April in the middle of his campaign—I will kill the clean energy revolution. I will kill it.

So this is just pay to play.

Here is an industry that is growing, creating new jobs hand-over-fist, just growing at a faster rate than the economy itself—growing way faster than the economy itself—and what we now see are the fossil fuel apologists saying that new solar just doesn't work when,

in fact, new solar is now cheaper than simply operating an existing coal plant. Offshore wind is half the cost of building a new gas plant. That is what offshore wind amounts to—half the price.

They have to kill it. It is too efficient. It is too clean. It doesn't pollute. It doesn't cause asthma. They have to kill it now, says Chris Wright, says the oil and gas industry.

Chris Wright also said:

Wind has been singled out because it's had a singularly poor record of driving up prices and increasing citizen outrage.

That is just not true. In fact, the States with the most wind and solar—Iowa, South Dakota, Texas—also have lower electricity rates than other parts of the country.

Clean energy isn't just clean; it is cheap. If Republicans really cared about communities, they would stop exporting our liquefied natural gas, which drives up prices at home. So let's stop these fossil fuel companies from gouging families with price spikes and pretending that pollution is patriotism.

The administration has made its tradeoff clear: your future for their profit. That is Trump's "art of the deal." They get to be rich, and young people don't have a future when it comes to clean energy or protecting against climate change. That is the "art of the deal." It is an intergenerational deal. The older generation gets all the money, and the next generations take all the risk. That is his deal, and he is expecting everyone to respond like a candidate on "The Apprentice."

Well, they are not going to. Young people are going to rise up. The word is going to get out. This is very dangerous, what he is doing.

The Trump administration—

said Chris Wright—

will end the Biden administration's irrational, quasi-religious policies on climate change that imposed endless sacrifices on our citizens.

That is Chris Wright. This is kind of radical, irrational, nonfact-based but, ultimately, Trumpian-at-its-soul policies that Chris Wright has to defend. Now, you would hope that he knows better, but I think it is different. I think that what Chris Wright has is a remarkable ability to harness voluminous amounts of information to defend a knowingly erroneous premise, and that erroneous premise is that wind and solar and batteries aren't working right now. So he has to just tell lies about it, plain and simple. Lie, lie, lie.

And I get it. This is a religious war, pitting economic stimulus policies that drove investment in the free market against their religion of pure Trumpism; pitting corporate profits against breathable air, drinkable water, and a habitable planet.

Do you place your alms at the foot of an effigy for Harold Hamm? Well, Republicans do. He is the biggest natural gas guy in the country, and he said he

would raise the money for Donald Trump.

Here is the real gospel. Clean energy is not polarizing; it is popular in the polls. Not only do people like it, 70 percent of registered voters support the biggest climate bill in history, with over 70 percent of registered voters saying the United States needs to use more renewable energy than it does today. That is not religion; that is stimulus in solar panels. And again, it is the public saying: Move to the future, move away from oil and gas.

If we want to talk about sacrifice, it is our communities that are sacrificing their lungs to pollution, their homes to floods, their paychecks to fossil fuel price spikes, all for the religion of climate denialism.

I think all these guys, they must have gotten their climate degree from Trump University—I think, Chris Wright and all of them inside of his administration—because it is just the opposite of what is happening out there. The planet is dangerously warming.

We have got a response that is massively capturing a private sector investment all across our country to deploy the renewable energy resources that reduce greenhouse gases. Yet—again, I am going to come back to Chris Wright—he claims:

The previous administration's climate policies have been impoverishing to our citizens, economically destructive to our businesses and politically polarizing.

The cure—

This is Chris Wright—

was far more destructive than the disease. There are no winners in that world except for politicians and rapidly growing interest groups.

Is he talking about the 450,000 asthma deaths every year worldwide? Let me say that again. Is he talking about the 450,000 people who die from asthma every year globally or the billions in extreme weather and climate change-related damage every year? That disease sounds pretty damaging.

The cure? Well, regulations that this administration is going to try to roll back right now. They are going to try to roll back the protections that are now in place to reduce dramatically the number of people who die from asthma. And the rest of the world, of course, is also deploying the cure—the renewable energy technologies.

So is there too little mercury up in the air? Are there too few air toxics up in the air right now, so that Chris Wright says we need more of them? We need more of them in the lungs of young people? We need more of them in the lungs of young mothers, pregnant women across our country and across the planet?

I don't hear anyone calling for more mercury, more toxics in the air. And if the regulations stayed in place, it would save 11,000 deaths every year.

And speaking of interest groups, let us not pretend this administration is for the people. The only group Trump has ever prioritized is the fossil fuel elite.

So now we come back to Chris Wright again, who is bringing that same attitude toward governing. And he just doesn't get the attention he deserves for the malevolent way in which he is trying to destroy the clean energy future of our country. Today's energy regulatory rollback—today—is a kamikaze mission against clean energy, against efficiency, against accountability. And the Republicans are more than happy to sign our planet's death sentence. That is what they are doing. That is what their plan is this year on the floor of the Senate and in the rollback of all the regulations that have been promulgated over the years at the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency—a death sentence for the planet.

We are talking about rescinding energy and water conservation standards for dozens of products that most Americans have in their homes—microwaves, faucets—that save billions of dollars and billions of gallons of water annually.

And what are we going to get instead? What is Chris Wright promising? What is Donald Trump promising us? A rule book written by and for fossil fuel companies. That is what we are going to have—fossil fuel profiteers. No science. No data. Just the same old special interests pushing the same old lies.

So when Chris Wright and Republicans say they want to cut redtape, what he really means is cut clean air, cut consumer savings, cut climate future, cut clean water, cut safe lands. Cut, cut, cut.

So let's call this what it is: the Trump deregulation doctrine. If it saves money, repeal it. If it protects public health, gut it. If it curbs emissions, cancel it. And if it benefits the American people, sabotage it. This isn't a regulatory review; it is a regulatory revenge tour. And it is not just about energy efficiency; it is about justice—because it is frontline communities, the poorest communities, Black and Brown communities, poor communities already overburdened by asthma, heat, and energy insecurity who are going to pay a disproportionate price because of what Trump is doing, because of what Chris Wright is doing.

It is almost unconscionable what Chris Wright is attempting to perpetrate upon the poorest, the most vulnerable in our society, but he is doing it all because they are not rich enough—the oil barons, the natural gas barons, the coal barons. They are not rich enough. We have to have more people die. We have to have more people get sick.

Madam American, Mr. American, the American people deserve better than this. They deserve an Energy Secretary who believes in science, who tells the truth, who doesn't measure progress in barrels sold or rules repealed.

We should be investing in the future, not dismantling the future. We should be building cleaner, safer, and more af-

fordable systems, not resurrecting pollution in the name of profit.

So to Chris Wright and Donald Trump, I say: We will fight you in the courts. We will fight you in the States. We will fight you on the floor of this Chamber—because every rule you tear down, we are going to rebuild stronger. Every lie you tell, we are going to counter with the truth. And every time you try to sell out the American people to pad a corporate balance sheet so that the rich become even richer, we will be back there to push against you, to protect the American public, to attempt to protect those who are most vulnerable in our society.

So you are not going to back down; we are not going to back down. This is a fight for the future. This is a fight for the planet. They are trying to write the death certificate of the planet right now, and we are not going to let them get away with it. They are in for a historic resistance coming up from the streets of our country because this is too important just to be another source of revenue for the tax breaks for the already too rich in our society.

Let me just finish with this. The three richest guys in America who sat behind Donald Trump at the inauguration, they control more wealth than the bottom 50 percent of our population combined. Do they really need more? Do oil and gas barons really need more? Does it have to come at the expense of the future of all the young people in our country? Does it have to come at the expense of the health of everyone in our Nation? Aren't we better than this? Aren't we really the innovation country?

So that would be my message: You are in for a fight. It is a fight for the future against those who want to pull us back toward a past which ultimately has created the issues, the problems, the risks that we are confronted with today.

So with that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

(Mr. MORENO assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. SCHMITT assumed the Chair.)

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

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

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. MORENO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Rubinstein nomination be waived.

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

The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we proceed immediately to the vote.

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

VOTE ON CROWLEY NOMINATION

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

Mr. BARRASSO. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 242 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—3

Gillibrand	Graham	Murphy
------------	--------	--------

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action on the Crowley nomination.

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session following the cloture vote on the Rubinstein nomination.

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

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 13; 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, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Calendar No. 69, Reed Rubinstein, postcloture, if cloture is invoked; further, notwithstanding rule XXII, at 11:30 a.m., the Senate vote on confirmation of the Rubinstein nomination, and if cloture is then invoked on Calendar No. 71, Troy Meink, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings; that at 2:15 p.m., the Senate vote on confirmation of the Meink nomination, followed by the motion to invoke cloture on Calendar No. 83, James Danly; finally, if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday'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.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the cloture vote on the Rubinstein nomination and the Senate resuming legislative session.

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 bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 69, Reed Rubinstein, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John R. Curtis, Rick Scott of Florida, Bernie Moreno, Pete Ricketts, Eric Schmitt, Jon A. Husted, Roger Marshall, Jim Justice, Tommy Tuberville, Bill Hagerty, Joni Ernst, James E. Risch, Marsha Blackburn, Tim Sheehy.

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 Reed Rubinstein, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State, 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. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 243 Ex.]

YEAS—52

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

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—3

Gillibrand	Graham	Murphy
------------	--------	--------

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Reed Rubinstein, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

MORNING BUSINESS

U.S. SENATE HEALTH AND FITNESS FACILITIES REGULATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, pursuant to Senate Rule XXXIII, the Committee on Rules and Administration adopted the U.S. Senate Health and Fitness Facilities Regulations, on

May 6, 2025, which supersede and replace the current "Guidelines for Senate Tennis Courts," "Regulations for the Senate Health Facility in the Office of the Architect of the Capitol," and "Regulations Governing Use of the Senate Health and Fitness Facility."

The updated regulations consolidate rules for the use of the fitness facilities, including the Senators' gym, staff gym, and athletic courts. The updated regulations define eligible staff for membership purposes and reflect current operational practices.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the regulations as adopted be printed in the RECORD.

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

U.S. SENATE HEALTH AND FITNESS FACILITIES REGULATIONS

[Adopted by the Committee on Rules and Administration on May 6, 2025, pursuant to rule XXXIII of the Standing Rules of the Senate]

1.0 SCOPE—The United States Senate offers the use of health and fitness facilities within the Senate office buildings to Senators and staff. These regulations establish the policies, procedures, and management responsibilities for these facilities.

2.0 DEFINITIONS—For purposes of these regulations, the following terms shall have the meaning specified.

2.1 AOC means the Architect of the Capitol.

2.2 *Athletic courts* means the multi-sport courts located in the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

2.3 *Disbursing Office* means the Secretary of the Senate's Disbursing Office.

2.4 *Eligible senator* means a U.S. Senator.

2.5 *Eligible staff* means an employee of the Senate, employee of the Superintendent's Office, a Senate detailee or paid fellow whose contract duration is greater than or equal to six months, or an employee of a federal government agency liaison office housed within Senate space. Interns, clerks, unpaid fellows, members of the media, and other non-government employees that provide services to the Senate are not covered under this term.

2.6 *Fitness facilities* means the U.S. Senate Health and Fitness Facilities, including the Senators' gym, staff gym, athletic courts, and all the associated equipment, furnishings, and fixtures.

2.7 *Membership* means the ongoing state of being qualified to use the fitness facilities by meeting the criteria to be an eligible senator or staffer and paying the required membership fee.

2.8 *Membership fee* means the monthly or annual payment made to maintain a fitness facilities membership.

2.9 *Rules Committee* means the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

2.10 *Senators' gym* means the gym located in the Russell Senate Office Building.

2.11 *Superintendent's Office* means the Architect of the Capitol's Senate Superintendent Office.

2.12 *Staff gym* means the gym located in the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

2.13 *Support office* means the office of an internal congressional entity that provides services to the U.S. Senate including but not limited to, the Architect of the Capitol, the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, the Secretary of the Senate, and the United States Capitol Police.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION—The AOC shall supervise and manage the fitness facilities

subject to rules, regulations, policies, and fee structures approved by the Rules Committee.

3.1 The Senators' gym is reserved only for use by eligible senators with memberships. No guests of any sort are permitted.

3.2 The staff gym is reserved only for use by eligible staff with memberships. No guests of any sort are permitted.

3.3 The athletic courts are reserved only for use by eligible senators with memberships to the Senators' gym, their current Chiefs of Staff and/or Staff Directors with memberships to the staff gym, and support office programs approved by the Rules Committee. Guests are permitted pursuant to section 5.4.

3.4 No photography, filming, live streaming, or media related activities are permitted in the fitness facilities.

3.5 No food or event setup is permitted in the fitness facilities.

3.6 The maximum occupancy for the courts is determined by the AOC Fire Marshal and shall not be exceeded.

MEMBERSHIP—Prior to using a fitness facility, eligible senators and staff shall fill out a membership application to their respective fitness facility, which must be approved or denied by the AOC.

4.1 If an eligible senator's membership is approved by the AOC, the senator shall pay a monthly or annual membership fee through the Disbursing Office.

4.1.1 The Disbursing Office shall provide monthly the list of senators paying a membership fee to the AOC.

4.2 If an eligible staffer's membership is approved by the AOC, the staffer shall pay a monthly membership fee through the AOC.

4.3 Memberships are continuous until the eligible senator or staff cancels the membership or no longer meets the criteria for membership.

4.4 A membership may be revoked by the AOC in cases of noncompliance with fitness facilities policies.

ATHLETIC COURT RESERVATIONS—Reservations are required to use the athletics courts.

5.1 Reservations shall be made through the AOC no more than one month in advance.

5.2 Reservations are first come, first served, and can be no more than two hours in length.

5.3 Senator reservations have priority and shall supersede the reservations of Chiefs of Staff and Staff Directors if the same reservation time period is requested.

5.4 Reservations may include guests without memberships, so long as the reservation holder is present for the entire duration of the reservation.

U.S. SENATE HALLWAYS AND BALCONIES REGULATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, pursuant to Senate Rule XXXIII, the Committee on Rules and Administration adopted the U.S. Senate Hallways and Balconies Regulations, on May 9, 2025, which supersede and replace the current "Display of Flags and State Senate Seals in Hallways Outside Senator's Offices."

The updated regulations include a new scope and definitions section, updated language for unobstructed hallways and the display of flags, and memorialize the renumbering and policies for the use of Senate balconies.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the regulations as adopted be printed in the RECORD.

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

U.S. SENATE HALLWAYS AND BALCONIES REGULATIONS

[Adopted by the Committee on Rules and Administration on May 9, 2025]

1.0 **SCOPE**—These regulations are applicable to all hallways and balconies in the Senate Office Buildings and the Senate wing of the Capitol.

2.0 **DEFINITIONS**—For purposes of these regulations, the following terms have the meaning specified.

2.1 *Balconies* means the outdoor platforms attached to the Senate Office Buildings and Senate wing of the Capitol that are accessible by a window or door.

2.2 *Capitol Superintendent* means the Architect of the Capitol's Capitol Superintendent's Office.

2.3 *Committee office* means the office of a standing, select, or joint committee of the U.S. Senate.

2.4 *Event space* means any space the Rules Committee authorizes to be reserved by a member office, committee office, leadership office, or Senate support office for Senate business related functions.

2.5 *External support office* means the office of an external entity housed within Senate space that provides services to the Senate, including federal government liaison offices, independent government commissions, and non-government entities such as contractors, credit unions, restaurants, and other private service organizations.

2.6 *Leadership office* means the offices of the U.S. Senate majority and minority leaders, majority and minority whips, party conferences, and party policy committees.

2.7 *Member office* means the personal office of a U.S. Senator.

2.8 *Official signage* means all temporary and permanent signs in the Senate Office Buildings and Senate wing of the Capitol.

2.9 *Rules Committee* means the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

2.10 *Senate offices* means all member, committee, leadership, Senate support, and external support offices located in Senate space.

2.11 *Senate Office Buildings* means all space in the Russell Senate Office Building, the Russell Courtyard, the Senate garages, the Dirksen Senate Office Building, and the Hart Senate Office Building.

2.12 *Senate Superintendent* means the Architect of the Capitol Executive Director of Facilities Operations, Senate Office Buildings.

2.13 *Senate support office* means the office of an internal congressional entity that provides services to the Senate, including the Architect of the Capitol, the Senate Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper, the Secretary of the Senate, the Office of the Attending Physician, Senate Legal Counsel, and Senate Legislative Counsel.

2.14 *Senate wing of the Capitol* means all space on the Senate side of the U.S. Capitol Building, including the Senate side of the Capitol Visitor Center.

3.0 **SENATE HALLWAYS**—Any conditions or circumstances pertaining to hallways not covered by the following regulations must be submitted in writing to and approved by the Rules Committee.

3.1 *Unobstructed Hallways*. All hallways in the Senate Office Buildings and the Senate wing of the Capitol shall remain unobstructed for security, accessibility, egress, and other purposes. Displays, decorations, furniture, and signage on walls, windows, doors, ceilings, floors, or in hallways outside Senate offices, or facing the Hart Atrium or other exterior spaces, are prohibited unless authorized by the Rules Committee.

3.2 *Official signage*. The Senate Superintendent provides the official signage in the Senate Office Buildings and the Capitol Superintendent provides the official signage in the Senate wing of the Capitol. All signage must be approved by the Rules Committee.

3.3 *Flags*. Senate offices shall only display flags, at the discretion of the highest-ranking official in that office, in the hallway outside of the office's official reception room. Senate support offices may also display flags outside of department offices at the discretion of the highest-ranking official in that office. All displayed flags must meet the following conditions:

3.3.1 All flags displayed shall measure 3' x 5'. Senate offices are responsible for providing all flags authorized for display except the United States flag, which shall be provided by the Senate Superintendent for the Senate Office Buildings and the Capitol Superintendent for the Senate wing of the Capitol.

3.3.2 Flagpoles, flagpole bases, and standard finials shall be provided by the Senate Superintendent for the Senate Office Buildings and the Capitol Superintendent for the Senate wing of the Capitol.

3.3.3 Any flags displayed may not be commercial, promotional, profit-making, or fund-raising in nature, or those affiliated with political activities, including political campaigns, political parties, or political action committees.

3.3.4 For member, committee, and leadership offices located in the Senate Office Buildings, a maximum of four flags may be displayed: the United States flag and up to three additional flags.

3.3.5 For committee and leadership offices located in the Senate wing of the Capitol, a maximum of two flags may be displayed: the United States flag and up to one additional flag.

3.3.6 For Senate support offices located in the Senate Office Buildings and the Senate wing of the Capitol, a maximum of two flags may be displayed: the United States flag and either the official Senate flag or the National League of Families POW/MIA flag.

3.3.7 For external support offices located in the Senate Office Buildings, only federal government liaison offices may display the following flags: the United States flag, a flag for each federal entity assigned to the office, and the National League of Families POW/MIA flag.

3.3.8 For external support offices located in the Senate wing of the Capitol, only federal government liaison offices may display a maximum of two flags: the United States flag, and either the flag for a federal entity assigned to the office or the National League of Families POW/MIA flag.

4.0 **SENATE BALCONIES**—Any conditions or circumstances pertaining to balconies not covered by the following regulations must be submitted in writing to and approved by the Rules Committee.

4.1 *Event space balconies*. Any balcony attached to an event space is reserved as a part of the event space and is eligible for use during an event approved by the Rules Committee.

4.2 *Office balconies*. The Rules Committee determines the assignment of balconies, or sections of balconies, to member, committee, leadership, Senate support, or external support offices.

4.3 *Balconies use requests*. Requests to use a balcony assigned to a member, committee, leadership, Senate support, or external support office shall be made to the highest-ranking official to whom the balcony is assigned.

4.4 *Russell Rotunda balconies*. Balconies located near and around the rotunda of the Russell Senate Office Building may be used under the following conditions:

4.4.1 Balcony 1 is reserved for use by Senators only. Reservation requests can be submitted to the Rules Committee for use Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., or at such times as may be authorized by the Rules Committee.

4.4.2 Senators may submit requests to the Senate Radio-TV Gallery to use balconies 2, 3, or 4 for official photographs.

4.4.3 Balconies 2, 3, and 4 are reserved for use by the Senate Radio-TV Gallery daily from 6 a.m. to 12 a.m.

NATIONAL SALVATION ARMY WEEK

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize May 12 to May 18, 2025, as National Salvation Army Week.

Founded in 1865, the Salvation Army has been unfailingly committed to serving those in need without discrimination. For more than 150 years, the Salvation Army has provided essential social services, including disaster relief, food assistance, shelter, rehabilitation programs, and youth development initiatives in local communities across the United States.

The Salvation Army serves more than 27 million Americans annually, offering compassion, hope, and support to the most vulnerable populations, including individuals experiencing homelessness, veterans, seniors, human trafficking survivors, and those recovering from addiction. Across the Nation, the Salvation Army operates shelters, food pantries, job training programs, and emergency disaster relief efforts that strengthen communities and improve lives.

The Salvation Army continues to be a trusted partner at the local, State, and Federal levels, providing critical services that address poverty, hunger, and natural disasters. Volunteers, donors, and officers of the Salvation Army exemplify the spirit of service, working tirelessly to provide relief and opportunity for those in need—and should be recognized and commended for their commitment to the betterment of others. I am grateful for the work that the Salvation Army accomplishes every day and applaud its dedication to social service.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK 2025

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, as our Nation comes together to observe National Police Week, we honor the courageous men and women in law enforcement who have given their lives in service to others.

This is a time of remembrance, reflection, and gratitude—a moment to recognize not only those fallen heroes, but also the families, friends, and loved ones who share in their sacrifice and carry the weight of their loss.

In my home State of Mississippi and across the country, law enforcement officers serve on the frontlines with unwavering dedication. Despite increasing challenges and adversity, they show up every day—facing risk and un-

certainty—not for the recognition, but out of a deep commitment to protect and serve their fellow citizens. Their courage is matched by the strength of their families, who live with the daily reality of what that service demands.

These public servants are more than officers. They are mentors, protectors, neighbors, community leaders, and patriots. In Mississippi, we are blessed with extraordinary individuals who wear the badge with honor and integrity. Every life lost in the line of duty is a tragedy that affects us all.

Today, I want to specifically honor the four Mississippi officers whose names have been added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial this year—four heroes who protected our communities, four heroes whose legacy will never be forgotten.

We remember: Jeremy Todd Malone, a George County Sheriff's deputy who was shot and killed during a traffic stop in January 2024. He served in law enforcement for 21 years and is survived by his wife, three daughters, mother, and two brothers.

We remember: Troy Lamar Floyd, a Summit Police Department patrolman who was shot and killed in August 2024 while conducting a checkpoint. Patrolman Floyd had served in law enforcement for more than 20 years and is survived by his wife and children.

We remember: Michael Elaine Griffin, a government affairs liaison and U.S. Marine Corps veteran, who died in the line of duty in September 2023 after encountering a car accident involving a partially overturned vehicle, which unfortunately shifted and fell on top of him. After retiring from the Mississippi Highway Patrol with 34 years of service, he served as a sworn officer with the Mississippi Department of Public Safety for 2 years until he passed away. He is survived by his wife and daughter.

And we remember: Robert Daye Daffin, Jr., a narcotics agent who served with the George County Sheriff's Office for more than 14 years. He died in 2021 from complications as a result of contracting COVID-19 in the line of duty and is survived by his daughter, parents, and three siblings.

We honor their memory and stand beside their families with enduring respect.

Remembrance must also inspire action. Supporting law enforcement means ensuring our officers have the tools, resources, support, and safety that they deserve on and off duty. It also means fostering a climate of respect and appreciation for the burdens they and their loved ones carry.

I remain steadfast in my commitment to those who wear the uniform and to the families who sacrifice alongside them. Their service deserves not only our gratitude but also our unwavering support.

Let us come together this week and throughout the year to honor their service, remember their sacrifices, and renew our promise to stand with those

who protect our communities. May God bless our fallen heroes, their families, all who serve in law enforcement, and the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO DANNY CARROLL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I want to take a moment today to recognize a friend and leader from western Kentucky, State Senator Danny Carroll, who continues to represent his home district, Kentucky's second District, so well since elected in 2014. Earlier this year, Senator Carroll announced his retirement as president and CEO of Easterseals West Kentucky, where he led an organization dedicated to providing services for children with disabilities and special needs for the past 15 years. As Danny prepares to step down as president, I would like to honor his years of service and dedication to this important organization.

Danny began his path of public service in the Paducah Police Department. The Paducah community is very grateful for his 24 years of public protection, eventually working his way up to assistant chief. He retired from law enforcement in 2012 and was soon after recruited to become the president and CEO of Easterseals West Kentucky. A couple years later, Danny was elected to the State senate, but his devotion to the Easterseals West Kentucky never faltered.

Over the past 15 years, Easterseals West Kentucky was transformed into a reliable resource for children with disabilities and their families. Danny played a pivotal role in the nonprofit's success, leading it through many milestones. In 2013, Danny and his team opened the Lily Pad, a facility providing pediatric care for those most in need throughout the region. In 2023, they opened the Lori Center, which assists children with autism. These essential resources will continue to serve the children and families of west Kentucky long after Danny's retirement.

Under Danny's leadership, the nonprofit underwent drastic improvements to existing services helping lead to an increase in the number of Kentuckians served. I am proud to say that because of Senator Carroll's hard work, he is leaving Easterseals West Kentucky equipped and ready to continue all their incredible services.

Along with his impeccable service to Kentucky, Danny remains an active member of his community along with his loving wife Teresa and two children.

While Easterseals West Kentucky will miss his constant devotion and positive attitude, his retirement is well-earned. I know Danny will continue serving the Commonwealth as a Kentucky State Senator, and I ask my Senate colleagues to please join me in recognizing his years of service leading Easterseals West Kentucky.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Hanley, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and withdrawals which was referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the second time, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 276. An act to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the "Gulf of America".

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-900. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13067 with respect to Sudan; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-901. A communication from the Attorney-Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-902. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcasting Services Wichita, Kansas" (MB Docket No. 25-107) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-903. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcasting Services Hazard, Kentucky" (MB Docket No. 25-108) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-904. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Television Broadcasting Services Monroe, Louisiana" (MB Docket No. 25-106) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-905. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-

off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4161" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31600)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-906. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Take-off Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments; Amendment No. 4162" ((RIN2120-AA65) (Docket No. 31601)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-907. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revocation of Class E Airspace; Pinecreek, MN" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0161)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-908. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Establishment of Class E Airspace at Pine Bluffs Municipal Airport, Pine Bluffs, WY" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2737)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-909. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Beckley, WV" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0062)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-910. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bell Textron Canada Limited Helicopters; Amendment 39-23024" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0743)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-911. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Bell Textron Canada Limited Helicopters; Amendment 39-23022" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0740)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-912. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP); Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes; Amendment 39-23005" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-1703)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-913. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Fed-

eral Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.a. Helicopters; Amendment 39-23009" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2425)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-914. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-23018" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0009)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-915. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-23026" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2548)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-916. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes; Amendment 39-23028" ((RIN2120-AA64) (Docket No. FAA-2025-0745)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 6, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-917. A communication from the Chair of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2024 Recommended Best Practices Report for Environmental Reviews and Authorizations"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-918. A communication from the Director of the Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Imposition of Import Restrictions Imposed on Archaeological and Ethnological Material of Uzbekistan" (RIN1685-AA31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 5, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-919. A communication from the Congressional and Public Affairs Specialist, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to the Unverified List" (RIN0694-AK06) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-920. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Drawbridge Operation Regulation; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Osprey, FL" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2024-0628)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-921. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation and Safety Zones; USCG Sector Eastern Great Lakes" ((RIN1625-

AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2024-0879)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-922. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Special Local Regulation; Bush River and Otter Point Creek; Between Perryman, MD and Edgewood, MD" ((RIN1625-AA08) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0264)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-923. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Pier 15 Fireworks; San Francisco Bay, San Francisco, CA" ((RIN1625-AA09) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0204)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-924. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Matagorda Ship Channel, Port Lavaca, TX" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0328)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-925. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Pier 15 Fireworks; San Francisco Bay, San Francisco, CA" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0219)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-926. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safety Zone; Cable Laying Corridor, Atlantic Ocean, Virginia Beach, Virginia" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2024-1093)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-927. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zone; Intracoastal Waterway, Palm Beach, FL" ((RIN1625-AA00) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0225)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-928. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Security Zone; Cooper River, Charleston, SC" ((RIN1625-AA87) (Docket No. USCG-2025-0176)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 9, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, without amendment:

S. 632. A bill to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to allow Indian Health Service scholarship and loan recipients to fulfill service obligations through half-time clinical practice, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-21).

S. 689. A bill to approve the settlement of the water right claims of the Tule River Tribe, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-22).

S. 719. A bill to amend the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 to improve that Act, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119-23).

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 Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 1707. A bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to minimum participation standards for pension plans and qualified trusts; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 1708. A bill to improve agency rule-making, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1709. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratio requirements in hospitals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. ALSOBROOKS):

S. 1710. A bill to improve family and medical leave for military families, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SMITH, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 1711. A bill to address national security risks and prohibit the use of Federal funds for the procurement of certain vehicles and vehicle technologies produced or provided by entities based in certain countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 1712. A bill to authorize peace officer standards and training agencies to access criminal history records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 1713. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to improve agricultural productivity, profitability, resilience, and ecological outcomes through modernized data infrastructure and analysis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

S. 1714. A bill to amend the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 to require the exclusion of service-connected disability compensation when determining whether a person is a person of low and mod-

erate income, a person of low income, or a person of moderate income, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. HAGERTY (for himself, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. RISCH, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. DAINES, Mr. LEE, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. FISCHER, and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 1715. A bill to prohibit payment card networks and covered entities from requiring the use of or assigning merchant category codes that distinguish a firearms retailer from a general merchandise retailer or sporting goods retailer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. MULLIN):

S. 1716. A bill to amend title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to improve health care coverage under vision plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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

S. 1717. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure prompt coverage of breakthrough devices under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ:

S. 1718. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create invest America accounts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1719. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the treatment of direct primary care service arrangements as medical care, to provide that such arrangements do not disqualify deductible health savings account contributions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 1720. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to remove the Medicaid coverage exclusion for inmates in custody pending disposition of charges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. Res. 215. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of May 12, 2025, through May 16, 2025 as "Veterans Affairs Research Week" to celebrate the research, innovation, and significant contributions of the Department of Veterans Affairs to improving the lives of countless veterans, people in the United States, and individuals around the world; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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

S. Res. 216. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the United States during Public Service Recognition Week and throughout the year; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. ALSOBROOKS (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. Res. 217. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Secretary of Health and Human Services Robert Fitzgerald Kennedy Jr. does not have the confidence of the Senate or of the American people to faithfully carry out the duties of his office; to the Committee on Finance.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 93

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 93, a bill to amend the Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998 to address harmful algal blooms, and for other purposes.

S. 304

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 304, a bill to amend section 301 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify those classes of individuals born in the United States who are nationals and citizens of the United States at birth.

S. 410

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 410, a bill to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to improve benefits and services for surviving spouses, and for other purposes.

S. 530

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 530, a bill to repeal a rule of the Bureau of Land Management relating to conservation and landscape health.

S. 556

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 556, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in logistical transactions and sanctions evasion relating to oil, gas, liquefied natural gas, and related petrochemical products from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 593

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) was added as a cosponsor of S. 593, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to modify Reid Vapor Pressure requirements and to provide for the return of certain retired credits, and for other purposes.

S. 672

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 672, a bill to establish the CCP Initiative program, and for other purposes.

S. 739

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) were added

as cosponsors of S. 739, a bill to amend title XXXIII of the Public Health Service Act with respect to flexibility and funding for the World Trade Center Health Program.

S. 784

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 784, a bill to expand and modify the grant program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide innovative transportation options to veterans in highly rural areas, and for other purposes.

S. 821

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 821, a bill to provide for increased reporting regarding Department of State Taiwan guidelines.

S. 978

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor 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. 1027

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) were added as cosponsors of 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.

S. 1032

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 1241

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 1241, a bill to impose sanctions and other measures with respect to the Russian Federation if the Government of the Russian Federation refuses to negotiate a peace agreement with Ukraine, violates any such agreement, or initiates another military invasion of Ukraine, and for other purposes.

S. 1561

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1561, a bill to authorize notaries public to perform, and to establish minimum standards for, electronic notarizations and remote notarizations that occur in or affect interstate commerce, to require any Federal court to recognize

notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any State, to require any State to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any other State when the notarization was performed under or relates to a public Act, record, or judicial proceeding of the notarial officer's State or when the notarization occurs in or affects interstate commerce, and for other purposes.

S. 1630

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1630, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide more opportunities for mothers to succeed, and for other purposes.

S. 1643

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1643, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect patient access to ground ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 1663

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1663, a bill to prohibit commercial sexual orientation conversion therapy, and for other purposes.

S. 1689

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1689, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a national outreach and education strategy and reach to improve behavioral health among the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander population, while addressing stigma against behavioral health treatment amongst such population.

S. 1690

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEG0) were added as cosponsors of S. 1690, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase funding for Social Security and Medicare.

S. 1693

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1693, a bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to provide premium support for certain plans of insurance, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 143

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 143, a resolution supporting the designation of May 29, 2025, as "Mental Health Awareness in Agriculture Day" to raise awareness

around mental health in the agricultural industry and workforce and to continue to reduce stigma associated with mental illness.

S. RES. 195

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 195, a resolution requesting information on El Salvador's human rights practices pursuant to section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

S. RES. 208

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 208, a resolution supporting the designation of May 10, 2025, as "National Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Mental Health Day".

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 1709. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish direct care registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratio requirements in hospitals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the bipartisan Nurse Staffing Standards for Hospital Patient Safety and Quality Care Act. This legislation would improve patient care and increase nurse retention by setting mandatory minimum registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratios.

The bill would require hospitals to annually develop safe staffing plans that meet the bill's mandated minimum registered nurse staffing ratios and provide for additional staffing based on individual patient care needs. Further, the bill requires hospitals to post notices on minimum ratios and maintain records on registered nurse and other staffing.

The bill would also provide whistleblower protections, including administrative complaint process and cause of action, for nurses who speak out against assignments that are unsafe for the patient or nurse.

For each additional surgical patient in registered nurse's workload above the baseline nurse-to-patient ratio of 1 to 4, the likelihood of patient death within 30 days increases by 7 percent. Studies have also found that registered nurse staffing levels in hospitals that serve communities of color are often lower, contributing to disparities in care. Setting a single standard of nursing care across hospitals will improve outcomes for patients of color, including reduced readmission rates, increased satisfaction, and better obstetrical outcomes.

There are no Federal regulations on the number of patients a registered nurse can care for at one time in U.S. hospitals. As a result, registered nurses are consistently required to care for more patients than is safe, compromising patient care and negatively impacting patient outcomes.

This legislation would improve patient care and increase nurse retention by setting mandatory minimum registered nurse-to-patient staffing ratios.

I would like to thank Senator Merkley for coleading this legislation, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this bill as soon as possible.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 215—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF MAY 12, 2025, THROUGH MAY 16, 2025, AS "VETERANS AFFAIRS RESEARCH WEEK" TO CELEBRATE THE RESEARCH, INNOVATION, AND SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO IMPROVING THE LIVES OF COUNTLESS VETERANS, PEOPLE IN THE UNITED STATES, AND INDIVIDUALS AROUND THE WORLD

Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

S. RES. 215

Whereas, in 1925, the Veterans' Bureau, the predecessor to the Department of Veterans Affairs (referred to in this preamble as the "VA"), established the Medical Research Section, marking 2025 as the 100-year anniversary of VA research;

Whereas Dr. Philip B. Matz served as the first Research Chief of the Veterans' Bureau, advocating for hospital-based research directly related to improving the clinical conditions of veterans;

Whereas, in 1925, a system of diagnostic clinics with links to outside consultants was established by the Veterans' Bureau, evidencing the long connection that VA research has had to industry and innovation;

Whereas VA-affiliated nonprofit research and education corporations play a critical role in facilitating collaborations between VA research and industry, enabling VA investigators to participate in public-private partnerships to amplify their groundbreaking research efforts;

Whereas, in 1933, the Tumor Research Laboratory at the Hines Veteran Affairs Medical Center in Chicago, Illinois, became the first research laboratory to receive designated funds from the VA Central Office, leading to Dr. Robert Schrek identifying the connection between sun exposure and skin cancer;

Whereas VA research has led to medical breakthroughs and lifesaving procedures used by veterans and non-veterans across the United States and around the world, including the development of the concept of computed tomography scanning, the first effective treatments for tuberculosis, development of an implantable cardiac pacemaker, the first large clinical trials of hearing aids, the first successful transplantation of a liver, and many others;

Whereas research on Gila monster metabolism at the Bronx VA Medical Center created breakthroughs leading to the development of GLP-one agonist medications, which is broadly considered one of the most consequential health advances of the 21st century;

Whereas VA research in the field of mental health and the 10 Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Centers of the VA have revolutionized the treatment of several mental, behavioral, and neuropsychological conditions, including leading research in fields like post-traumatic stress, substance use, major depressive disorder, serious mental illness, and many others;

Whereas VA research facilities across the United States employ thousands of top-tier researchers and innovators who, as of 2024, conduct over 7,000 active research projects in numerous disciplines;

Whereas VA Puget Sound and their nonprofit affiliate, the Seattle Institute for Biomedical and Clinical Research, has been a nationally renowned research facility for over 75 years, housing over 750 continuing research projects in 2024 in numerous disciplines;

Whereas the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine has been awarded to VA researchers, including Dr. Andrew Schally, Dr. Rosalyn Yalow, and Dr. Ferid Murad, for their vital contributions to scientific knowledge;

Whereas, in 2025, during the 100-year anniversary of VA Research, the VA Office of Research and Development is recognizing researchers for their scholarly excellence and commitment to improving the lives of Veterans, including—

(1) Dr. Jean Beckham, VA Durham Health Care System;

(2) Dr. Robert Clark, South Texas Veterans Health Care System in San Antonio, TX;

(3) Dr. Daniel Hall, VA Pittsburgh Health Care System;

(4) Dr. Robert Kirsch, Louis Stokes Cleveland VA Medical Center;

(5) Dr. Vincent Marconi, Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta VA Medical Center; and

(6) Dr. Arlan Richardson, Oklahoma City VA Health Care System; and

Whereas, May 12, 2025, through May 16, 2025, is the appropriate week to celebrate 100 years of VA research through "Veteran Affairs Research Week": Now, therefore be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors and celebrates the 100-year anniversary of Department of Veterans Affairs (referred to in this resolution as the "VA") research, representing a century of lifesaving and cutting-edge research conducted by the VA which improves the lives of veterans, people in the United States, and individuals around the world;

(2) applauds the spirit of inquiry and commitment to scientific excellence of VA researchers and their affiliates, who ensure that veterans receive the most up-to-date, effective care and maintain the leadership and competitiveness of the United States in scientific research and healthcare;

(3) recognizes the critical importance of supporting VA research through robust funding, public support, and Federal cooperation;

(4) acknowledges that VA research facilities and their affiliates contribute significantly to the economies of their local communities; and

(5) supports the designation of the week of May 12, 2025, through May 16, 2025, as "Veteran Affairs Research Week".

SENATE RESOLUTION 216—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT PUBLIC SERVANTS SHOULD BE COMMENDED FOR THEIR DEDICATION AND CONTINUED SERVICE TO THE UNITED STATES DURING PUBLIC SERVICE RECOGNITION WEEK AND THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. FETTERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

S. RES. 216

Whereas the week of May 4 through May 10, 2025, has been designated as “Public Service Recognition Week” to honor employees of the Federal Government and State and local governments, and members of the uniformed services, for their contributions to the United States;

Whereas Public Service Recognition Week provides an opportunity to recognize and promote the important contributions of public servants and to honor the people who serve the United States at all levels of government and as members of the uniformed services;

Whereas millions of individuals serve the public in government service and as members of the uniformed services in every State, county, and city across the United States and around the world;

Whereas public servants provide crucial services to millions of people across the United States, supporting local programs and contributing to local economies;

Whereas public service is a noble calling involving a variety of challenging and rewarding professions and highly skilled and trained individuals offering their knowledge, effort, and skills in support of the public;

Whereas the United States is a great and prosperous country, and public service employees contribute significantly to that greatness and prosperity;

Whereas public servants—

(1) defend the freedom of the people of the United States and advance the interests of the United States and the ideals of democracy around the world;

(2) provide vital strategic support functions to the Armed Forces and serve in the National Guard and Reserves;

(3) fight crime and fires;

(4) ensure equal access to secure, efficient, and affordable mail service;

(5) deliver benefits under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.), including benefits under the Medicare program under title XVIII of that Act (42 U.S.C. 1395 et seq.);

(6) fight disease and promote better health;

(7) protect the environment and the parks of the United States;

(8) enforce laws guaranteeing equal employment opportunity and healthy working conditions;

(9) defend and secure critical infrastructure;

(10) help the people of the United States recover from natural disasters, pandemics, and terrorist attacks;

(11) teach and work in schools and libraries;

(12) develop new technologies and explore Earth, the moon, and space to improve knowledge on how the world changes;

(13) improve and secure transportation systems;

(14) promote economic stability and growth;

(15) assist veterans of the Armed Forces; and

(16) provide critical support to the United States in a variety of other efforts and endeavors;

Whereas members of the uniformed services and civilian employees at all levels of government—

(1) provide a variety of services that make significant contributions to the general welfare of the United States;

(2) are on the front lines in the fight to defeat terrorism and maintain homeland security; and

(3) bravely defend the United States and its ideals; and

Whereas the week of May 4 through May 10, 2025, marks the 41st anniversary of Public Service Recognition Week: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of the week of May 4 through May 10, 2025, as “Public Service Recognition Week”;

(2) commends public servants during Public Service Recognition Week for their outstanding contributions to the United States throughout the year;

(3) salutes government employees and members of the uniformed services for their unyielding dedication to, and enthusiasm for, the public whom they serve;

(4) honors government employees and members of the uniformed services who have given their lives in service to their communities and the United States;

(5) encourages efforts to promote and celebrate public service careers at every level of government;

(6) expresses gratitude to the public servants who have selflessly answered the call to serve the United States, their State, and their communities; and

(7) expresses gratitude to the Federal workers who have selflessly answered the call to serve the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 217—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ROBERT FITZGERALD KENNEDY JR. DOES NOT HAVE THE CONFIDENCE OF THE SENATE OR OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO FAITHFULLY CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OF HIS OFFICE.

Ms. ALSOBROOKS (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. WARREN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 217

Whereas, while serving as the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this preamble as the “Secretary”), Robert Fitzgerald Kennedy Jr., in violation of his constitutional oath, has engaged in a pattern of conduct that is incompatible with his constitutional and statutory duties as the Secretary, including by—

(1) failing to meet his obligations under section 1701 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u), including the obligation to support “research and demonstrations respecting health information and health promotion, preventive health services, and education in the appropriate use of health care” and to increase “the application and use of health knowledge, skills, and practices by the general population in its patterns of daily living”;

(2) failing to meet his obligations under sections 402 and 464z-3 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 282; 285t), wherein it is clear that the congressional intent of National Institutes of Health research is to support programs for research, research training, and recruitment that “provide for an in-

crease in the number of women and individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds (including racial and ethnic minorities) in the fields of biomedical and behavioral research” and to support research and training “with respect to minority health conditions and other populations with health disparities”;

(3) failing to meet his obligations under the many statutes that govern the programs of the Department of Health and Human Services (referred to in this preamble as the “Department”) and appropriate funding for the Department to administer such programs, in violation of Federal law and the Constitution of the United States, through his directed reduction in force and reorganization of Department functions, which was initiated with little regard to the impact of the reductions on congressionally mandated activities, the efficacy of government programs and services, or the very legality of the reductions; and

(4) failing to meet his obligations under the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 15001 et seq.), and the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.), which together entrust the Secretary with ensuring both older Americans and individuals with disabilities are afforded the inherent dignity they are entitled to, including living where they choose with the ability to fully participate in their communities;

Whereas, under the direction of political leadership, the National Institutes of Health has sent hundreds of letters to Federal grant recipients at public research institutions announcing that various grants have been terminated because they “no longer effectuate agency priorities”, resulting in delays and terminations that have caused direct, immediate, significant, and irreparable harm to the States and to public research institutions;

Whereas on March 24, 2025, the Department abruptly and arbitrarily terminated \$11,000,000,000 of critical public health funding from States across the country, jeopardizing disease surveillance programs, substance abuse services, emergency preparedness initiatives, and funding to modernize State programs for childhood immunization and access to vaccinations, causing serious harm to public health and leaving States at risk for pandemics and the spread of disease;

Whereas these terminations exceeded the Secretary’s statutory authority and are unlawful under subchapter II of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Administrative Procedure Act”);

Whereas in late February of 2025, the Secretary and the Director of the National Institutes of Health launched a “reckless and illegal purge” of hundreds of research projects because they allegedly had “some alleged connection to ‘gender identity’ or diversity, equity, and inclusion”, when in reality, this new mandate was used as a guise to cut research from diverse researchers, diverse populations, or research related to health disparities;

Whereas according to court filings, this research included grants for Alzheimer’s research, research on disparities in pregnancy health, violence prevention among children, and the efficacy of preventative HIV medications, and as a result of these actions, “scientific advancements will be delayed, treatments will go undiscovered, human health will be compromised, and lives will be lost”;

Whereas 2 days after being sworn in as the Secretary, 5,200 probationary workers across multiple agencies of the Department received termination notices, in which these workers were told that they were “not fit for continued employment because your ability,

knowledge and skills do not fit the Agency's current needs, and your performance has not been adequate to justify further employment at the Agency";

Whereas on March 27, 2025, the Secretary announced that the Department would begin to terminate an additional 10,000 employees as part of a broader effort to push 20,000 Federal civil servants out of Federal health agencies and consolidate divisions;

Whereas on April 1, 2025, the termination notices began, with consequences that were, according to litigation, "severe, complicated, and potentially irreversible";

Whereas on April 1, 2025, most of the staff from the 8 Offices of Minority Health across the Department were eliminated at the Secretary's direction as part of a Department-wide reorganization, including the entire Office of Minority Health at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services;

Whereas sections 1707 and 1707A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u-6; 300u-6a) mandate the existence of these offices and section 10334(b)(3) of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 300u-6a note; Public Law 111-148) specifically prohibits the termination or reorganization of these offices absent an Act of Congress;

Whereas the Secretary has undertaken mass firings at the Administration for Children and Families, reducing the agency's staffing footprint by 35 to 40 percent, that endanger children and seniors and undermine the provision of essential services like child care, Head Start, adoption and foster care, and adult and child protective services;

Whereas the Secretary has initiated steps to reorganize the Administration for Community Living, terminating half of the staff at the Department that work on Federal aging and disability programs and causing real harm to programs that support more than 11,000,000 seniors and 70,000,000 Americans with disabilities;

Whereas critical programs of the Administration for Community Living, such as the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman programs, which protect the health and safety of individuals living in long-term care facilities, will be eliminated, and other programs will be scattered across agencies that do not focus specifically on aging and disabilities;

Whereas staff at numerous Freedom of Information Act offices at the Department have been eliminated, eroding the American people's ability to instrumentalize their right to government transparency and accountability;

Whereas 23 States have initiated numerous lawsuits against both Robert F. Kennedy Jr. in his official capacity as the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Department of Health and Human Services, underscoring the illegality of the Secretary's actions, and the ways in which both the Secretary and the Department are undermining public health;

Whereas leading health research organizations and individual researchers have filed a lawsuit against Robert F. Kennedy Jr. in his official capacity as the Secretary of Health and Human Services for breaching his statutory authority under subchapter II of chapter 5, and chapter 7, of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the "Administrative Procedure Act") by acting contrary to congressional mandates requiring the National Institutes of Health to promote health equity and address health disparities;

Whereas 20 States filed a lawsuit against Robert F. Kennedy Jr. in his official capacity as the Secretary of Health and Human Services for his arbitrary and capricious directive to conduct an abrupt reduction in force and reorganization of the Department, which violates the Appropriations Clause of section 9 of article I of the Constitution of

the United States and the constitutional doctrine of separation of powers;

Whereas the Secretary's illegal termination of National Institutes of Health research grants and the subsequent termination of Federal employees working at Federal health agencies, as well as the elimination of a number of Centers of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Institutes of the National Institutes of Health will undermine efforts to combat chronic disease;

Whereas the Secretary eliminated staff at the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, the National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, the National Center for HIV, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and Tuberculosis Prevention, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the National Center for Environmental Health, and the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, among others;

Whereas these actions will stifle efforts to research, prevent, and treat Americans living with Alzheimer's disease, diabetes, epilepsy, asthma, blood disorders, and many other chronic conditions;

Whereas it was reported that in order to secure support for his nomination from certain Republican Senators, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. committed that, as Secretary, he would maintain the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, the critical vaccine panel that advises the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on how to use vaccines to control disease in the United States;

Whereas immediately after making that promise, the Secretary went back on his word, abruptly cancelling the February meeting of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, and suggesting that he was preparing to remove experts from the committee;

Whereas the Secretary continued to breed distrust in our scientific institutions by saying in his Senate testimony and maiden speech as Secretary that "we will remove conflicts of interest from the committees and research partners", alleging without evidence that Federal vaccine advisers are not acting in the best interest of public health and safety;

Whereas in his first speech as Secretary, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. vowed to investigate the scientifically supported childhood vaccine schedule, saying "nothing is going to be off limits";

Whereas the Secretary subsequently pushed out esteemed career civil servants, including Dr. Peter Marks, the Director of the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research at the Food and Drug Administration, the regulator responsible for ensuring the safety and effectiveness of vaccinations;

Whereas in his resignation letter, Dr. Marks cast a light on the Secretary's political interference and misinformation that was undermining the work of the Food and Drug Administration, stating, "it has become clear that truth and transparency are not desired by the Secretary, but rather he wishes subservient confirmation of his misinformation and lies";

Whereas, in his answers to questions for the record following his nomination hearing before the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. wrote, "I will do nothing as HHS Secretary that makes it difficult or discourages people from taking vaccines but instead seek transparency in these products";

Whereas the Secretary has instead used his position to continue to discredit the science behind vaccines, stoke fear about the efficacy and safety of vaccines, and dismantle vaccine approval and education programs;

Whereas the National Institutes of Health halted funding for at least 40 research grants for projects studying vaccine hesitancy and paths to overcome it;

Whereas the National Institutes of Health cancelled funding for studies seeking new vaccines and treatments for both COVID-19 and other pathogens that may cause future pandemics, requested project lists regarding mRNA vaccines, the technology at the center of COVID-19 vaccinations, and have been urging scientists to remove references to such technology from their grant applications, raising fears that projects relating to mRNA vaccines are next on the chopping block;

Whereas after the Food and Drug Administration delayed granting a license to a COVID-19 vaccine in April, the Secretary falsely declared that "for respiratory illnesses, the single antigen vaccines have never worked";

Whereas through the Secretary's reduction in force and reorganization efforts, the Department has eliminated entirely or reduced the functionality of the Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee, the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, and the Division of Microbiology and Infectious Diseases;

Whereas during the Secretary's first week on the job, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced that it was stopping a flu vaccination advertising campaign during the height of flu season;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, a multi-State measles outbreak impacting communities with low measles vaccination coverage in New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas has been raging during the Secretary's tenure, with the number of reported cases already through mid-April representing an 180 percent increase over the entirety of reported measles cases in the past year;

Whereas 96 percent of these patients have been unvaccinated or had unknown vaccination status;

Whereas this measles outbreak has resulted in 727 hospitalizations and 3 deaths, including 2 unvaccinated school-aged children with no known underlying medical conditions;

Whereas, while measles was declared eliminated in 2000, largely due to the Measles, Mumps and Rubella vaccine (referred to in this preamble as the "MMR vaccine") being 97 percent effective in preventing measles, this outbreak under the Secretary's watch represents the largest single measles outbreak in 25 years;

Whereas instead of vocal support for the MMR vaccine, the Secretary has uplifted untested treatments like cod liver supplements, vitamin A treatments, the antibiotic clarithromycin, or the asthma steroid budenonide;

Whereas on May 2, 2025, the Secretary directed Federal health agencies to explore potential new treatments for measles, including vitamin A treatments;

Whereas vaccine safety experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Academy of Pediatrics have found no conclusive link between autism and vaccines that contain thimerosal as a preservative, yet the Secretary has used inconsistent and often contradictory messaging around the MMR vaccine, questioning the MMR vaccine's safety by incorrectly saying "we don't know the risks of many of these products because they're not safety tested," ignoring the decades of scientific research behind the vaccine proving that the vaccine is safe, and routinely misrepresenting the potential for adverse events from the vaccine, sowing fear in the public about vaccine use;

Whereas the Secretary has downplayed the deaths associated with the measles outbreak, saying that more attention should be paid towards chronic diseases like diabetes and autism, while at the same time falsely claiming that there may be a relationship between the MMR vaccine and autism;

Whereas on April 30, 2025, the Secretary made the false claim that the MMR vaccine contains “aborted fetus debris”, further perpetuating fears and stigma about the vaccine;

Whereas this is only the latest in a series of mistruths regarding the MMR vaccine that the Secretary has used his bully pulpit and position of leadership as the Secretary to promote;

Whereas, in his answers to questions for the record following his nomination hearing before the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. wrote, “addressing maternal mortality, and its underlying causes, will be a priority in my leadership of HHS”, yet as the Secretary, he has decimated Department divisions and offices responsible for protecting the health of women and their babies;

Whereas the Secretary’s illegal reorganization and unlawful mass firings at the Department have devastated the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Assisted Reproductive Technologies office (which focuses on infertility and in vitro fertilization research), Division of Reproductive Health, Women’s Health and Fertility branch, and Office of Women’s Health, and the Health Resources and Services Administration’s Maternal and Child Health Bureau;

Whereas the Secretary has made a series of offensive and scientifically unfounded statements about autism, perpetuating harmful stereotypes, disregarding decades of scientific research and consensus, threatening public trust in lifesaving immunization programs, undermining the dignity of individuals with autism, and denying individuals with disabilities the services they are entitled to;

Whereas in April 2025 the Secretary made crude, misleading, and ableist comments about individuals on the autism spectrum, offensively and incorrectly stating that they “will never pay taxes, they’ll never hold a job, they’ll never play baseball, they’ll never write a poem, they’ll never go on a date”;

Whereas reports have surfaced that the Secretary has directed the National Institutes of Health to launch an “autism registry” to track Americans with the disability, likely in violation of Federal privacy laws;

Whereas the Secretary has hired discredited vaccine skeptic David Geier as a data analyst to examine the long-debunked and harmful theory that links vaccines to autism, continuing to distort the public understanding of autism;

Whereas during his confirmation hearing before the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, Senator Hassan summarized the danger of Robert F. Kennedy’s words and actions best: “The problem with this witness’ response on the autism cause, and the relationship to vaccines, is because he is re-litigating and churning settled science, so we cannot go forward and find out what the cause of autism is, and treat these kids, and help these families.”;

Whereas leading national autism organizations released a joint statement in April 2025

on the importance of upholding scientific integrity with evidence-based research and investments in diverse supports for the autism community, rejecting Robert F. Kennedy’s rhetoric that “autism is preventable”, his framing of autism as a “chronic disease”, “childhood disease”, or “epidemic”, and his perpetuation of the myth that vaccines cause autism;

Whereas on April 7, 2025, the Secretary announced that he will direct the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to stop recommending fluoridation in public drinking water across the country and eliminated the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s entire Division of Oral Health as part of its reorganization efforts;

Whereas rolling back the fluoride guidance would contradict the guidance of scientists, dentists, and national health organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Dental Association, which maintain that community water fluoridation is a proven method of preventing dental decay;

Whereas the American Dental Association has reiterated its support of the “credible, time-tested, evidence-based science” behind the recommendation, and has criticized the Secretary’s work to discredit science, saying that “when government officials, like Secretary Kennedy, stand behind the commentary of misinformation and distrust peer-reviewed research it is injurious to public health”;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognize community water fluoridation as one of the top 10 public health interventions of the 20th century;

Whereas according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, dental caries is the most common childhood chronic disease in the United States and worldwide and disproportionately affects vulnerable children of lower incomes, children of color, and children that live in underserved areas;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Division of Oral Health provides evidence-based guidance on critical public health issues ranging from infection control in dental practices, community water fluoridation, and dental sealant programs targeted at preventing tooth decay in children;

Whereas, in just a few months in his role as the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has demonstrated a pattern of deception, perpetuating erroneous and even dangerous statements that have eroded public trust in the Department, Federal health agencies, and scientific research;

Whereas, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. has been negligent towards his statutory duty to provide for and enhance the health and well-being of all Americans, taking actions that have dismantled our public health system, defying the many statutes that govern the Department’s programs and appropriate funding for the Department to administer such programs, and intentionally undercutting the will of Congress; and

Whereas the role of the Secretary of Health and Human Services is to be a trusted leader and an authority on science and evidence-based health policies for the American public: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that Secretary Robert Fitzgerald Kennedy Jr. no longer holds the confidence of the Senate or of the American people to faithfully

carry out his duties as Secretary of Health and Human Services.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 8:57 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

THE JUDICIARY

ZACHARY M. BLUESTONE, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI, VICE JOHN ANDREW ROSS, RETIRED.

JOSHUA M. DIVINE, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN AND WESTERN DISTRICTS OF MISSOURI, VICE RODNEY W. SIPPEL, RETIRED.

WHITNEY D. HERMANDORFER, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SIXTH CIRCUIT, VICE JANE BRANSTETTER STRANCH, RETIRING.

MARIA A. LANAHAN, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI, VICE RONNIE L. WHITE, RETIRED.

EDWARD ALOYSIUS O’CONNELL, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE ALFRED S. IRVING, JR., RETIRED.

CRISTIAN M. STEVENS, OF MISSOURI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI, VICE AUDREY GOLDSTEIN FLEISSIG, RETIRED.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

EDWARD R. ROGERS II

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUALS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR NAVY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531:

To be lieutenant commander

ISABEL M. BERNAL
SABREEN H. BOONE
CAROLINE G. FERRIS
JOHN J.W. YUN

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate May 12, 2025:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MONICA CROWLEY, OF NEW YORK, TO BE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL, AND TO HAVE THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR DURING HER TENURE OF SERVICE.

WITHDRAWALS

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on May 12, 2025 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

MICHAEL JENSEN, OF ARIZONA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE CHRISTOPHER PAUL MAIER, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON FEBRUARY 3, 2025.

JONATHAN MCKERNAN, OF TENNESSEE, TO BE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE ROHIT CHOPRA, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON FEBRUARY 11, 2025.

CHARLTON ALLEN, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE SPECIAL COUNSEL, OFFICE OF SPECIAL COUNSEL, FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE HAMPTON Y. DELLINGER, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON MAY 6, 2025.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, May 13, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

MAY 14

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business meeting to consider the nominations of William L. Doffermeyer, of Texas, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, and Catherine Jereza, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary (Electricity), and Kyle Haustveit, of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Secretary (Fossil Energy), both of the Department of Energy; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of Jonathan Brightbill, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Tina Pierce, of Idaho, to be Chief Financial Officer, and Conner Prochaska, of Texas, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy, all of the Department of Energy, and Ned Mamula, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior.

SD-366

9:45 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Paul Dabbar, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce.

SR-253

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine FAA reauthorization one year later, focusing on aviation safety, air traffic, and next generation technology.

SR-253

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine trade in critical supply chains.

SD-215

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Environmental Protection Agency.

SD-124

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Sean McMaster, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, John Busterud, of California, to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, Environmental Protection Agency, and Adam Telle, of Mississippi, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, Department of Defense.

SD-562

1:30 p.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-430

2:30 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary
Subcommittee on Intellectual Property

To hold hearings to examine foreign threats to American innovation and economic leadership.

SD-226

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine financing America's manufacturing and industrial boom.

SR-428A

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

3 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Legislative Branch

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Senate Sergeant at Arms and United States Capitol Police.

SD-192

3:30 p.m.

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine delivering essential public health and social services to Native Americans, focusing on Federal programs serving Native Americans across the operating divisions at the Department of Health and Human Services.

SD-628

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine preparing for disasters, focusing on unique challenges facing older Americans.

SD-106

MAY 15

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense responsibilities related to Foreign Military Sales system

and international armaments cooperation.

SD-G50

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Janet Dhillon, of Virginia, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

SD-430

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Transportation.

SD-192

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, Freight, Pipelines, and Safety

To hold hearings to examine pipeline safety reauthorization, focusing on ensuring the safe and efficient movement of American energy.

SR-253

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 180, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the use of grant amounts for providing training and resources for first responders on the use of containment devices to prevent secondary exposure to fentanyl and other potentially lethal substances, and purchasing such containment devices for use by first responders, S. 237, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, S. 419, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize grants to support law enforcement officers and families, S. 539, to reauthorize the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008, S. 911, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to include certain retired law enforcement officers in the public safety officers' death benefits program, S. 1316, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that COPS grant funds may be used for local law enforcement recruits to attend schools or academies if the recruits agree to serve in precincts of law enforcement agencies in their communities, S. 1563, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program to help law enforcement agencies with civilian law enforcement tasks, S. 1595, to establish standards for trauma kits purchased using funds provided under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, and the nomination of Jason Reding Quinones, of Florida, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida for the term of four years.

SH-216

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

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

10:30 a.m.	MAY 20	10 a.m.
Committee on Foreign Relations		Committee on Foreign Relations
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine certain pending nominations.	9:30 a.m. Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Homeland Security.	To hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of State.
SD-419		SD-419
	SD-342	

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2847–S2867

Measures Introduced: Fourteen bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1707–1720, and S. Res. 215–217. **Pages S2862–63**

Measures Reported:

S. 632, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to allow Indian Health Service scholarship and loan recipients to fulfill service obligations through half-time clinical practice. (S. Rept. No. 119–21)

S. 689, to approve the settlement of the water right claims of the Tule River Tribe. (S. Rept. No. 119–22)

S. 719, to amend the Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004 to improve that Act. (S. Rept. No. 119–23)

Page S2862

Measures Considered:

Genius Act: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 1582, to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins.

Page S2847

Michael Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Emil Michael, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering.

Page S2852

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 Michael Rigas, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of State for Management and Resources.

Page S2852

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2852**

Ueland Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Eric Matthew Ueland, of Virginia, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget.

Pages S2852–53

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 Emil Michael, of Florida, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Research and Engineering. **Page S2852–53**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2852**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2852**

Donahue Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Sean Donahue, of Florida, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Page S2853

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 Eric Matthew Ueland, of Virginia, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget.

Page S2853

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2853**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2853**

Rubinstein Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Reed Rubinstein, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

Page S2858

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 243), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S2858**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nominee, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, May 13, 2025; that notwithstanding Rule XXII, at 11:30 a.m., Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination; that if cloture is invoked on the nomination

of Troy Meink, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Air Force, Department of Defense, at 2:15 p.m., Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination of Troy Meink, followed by the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of James Danly, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

Page S2858

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

By 52 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 242), Monica Crowley, of New York, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during her tenure of service.

Pages S2853–57, S2867

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 53 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 241), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Page S2853

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Zachary M. Bluestone, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

Joshua M. Divine, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri.

Whitney D. Hermendorfer, of Tennessee, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

Maria A. Lanahan, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

Edward Aloysius O'Connell, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Cristian M. Stevens, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

Routine lists in the Marine Corps, and Navy.

Page S2867

Nominations Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nominations:

Charlton Allen, of North Carolina, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, for the term of five years, which was sent to the Senate on May 6, 2025

Michael Jensen, of Arizona, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense, which was sent to the Senate on February 3, 2025

Jonathan McKernan, of Tennessee, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection for a term of five years, which was sent to the Senate on February 11, 2025

Page S2867

Measures Placed on the Calendar:

Pages S2848, S2861

Executive Communications:

Pages S2861–62

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages S2863–64

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Pages S2864–67

Authorities for Committees to Meet:

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—243)

Pages S2853, S2857–58

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 8:57 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 13, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2867.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

SPACE SUPERIORITY

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces received a closed briefing on space superiority from General B. Chance Saltzman, USSF, Chief of Space Operations, Major General Gregory J. Gagnon, USSF, Deputy Chief of Space Operations for Intelligence, and Brigadier General Brian A. Denaro, USSF, Director, Plans and Programs, Office of the Chief Strategy and Resource Officer, all of United States Space Force, Department of Defense.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House will meet at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13, 2025.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: to hold hearings to examine perspectives from the field, focusing on conservation, 3 p.m., SR-328A.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Richard Anderson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Adam Telle, of Mississippi, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, and Matthew Napoli, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine Department of Defense missile defense activities in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2026 and the Future Years Defense Program, 4:45 p.m., SR-232A.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of David Fink, of New Hampshire, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, David Fogel, of Connecticut, to be Assistant Secretary and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service, and Pierre Gentin, of New York, to be General Counsel, both of the Department of Commerce, and Robert Gleason, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Finance: business meeting to consider the nomination of Rodney Scott, of Oklahoma, to be Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine East Africa and the horn, focusing on a turning point or breaking point, 10 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Disaster Management, District of Columbia, and Census, to hold hearings to examine the insurance industry's claims practices following recent natural disasters, 2:30 p.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine competition issues in the prescription drug supply chain, focusing on pharmacy benefit manager power play, 10:15 a.m., SD-226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Full Committee, begin markup on Committee Print on legislative proposals to comply with the reconciliation directive included in the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025, H. Con. Res. 14, 7:30 p.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Full Committee, markup on Committee Print on legislative proposals to comply with the reconciliation directive included in the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025, H. Con. Res. 14, 2 p.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 2240, the "Improving Law Enforcement Officer Safety and Wellness Through Data Act"; H.R. 2243, the "LEOSA Reform Act"; and H.R. 2255, the "Federal Law Enforcement Officer Service Weapon Purchase Act of 2025", 4 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

Committee on Ways and Means, Full Committee, markup on Committee Print on legislative proposals to comply with the reconciliation directive included in the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2025, H. Con. Res. 14, 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of May 13 through May 16, 2025

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Reed Rubinstein, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:30 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Reed Rubinstein, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Troy Meink, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Air Force, Department of Defense. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Troy Meink, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of James Danly, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: May 13, to hold hearings to examine perspectives from the field, focusing on conservation, 3 p.m., SR-328A.

Committee on Appropriations: May 14, Subcommittee on Department of Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Environmental Protection Agency, 10:30 a.m., SD-124.

May 14, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Senate Sergeant at Arms and United States Capitol Police, 3 p.m., SD-192.

May 15, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Transportation, 10 a.m., SD-192.

Committee on Armed Services: May 13, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Richard Anderson, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Air Force, Adam

Telle, of Mississippi, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, and Matthew Napoli, of Virginia, to be Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation, National Nuclear Security Administration, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

May 13, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine Department of Defense missile defense activities in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2026 and the Future Years Defense Program, 4:45 p.m., SR-232A.

May 15, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Department of Defense responsibilities related to Foreign Military Sales system and international armaments cooperation, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: May 13, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of David Fink, of New Hampshire, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, David Fogel, of Connecticut, to be Assistant Secretary and Director General of the United States and Foreign Commercial Service, and Pierre Gentin, of New York, to be General Counsel, both of the Department of Commerce, and Robert Gleason, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years, 10 a.m., SR-253.

May 14, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nomination of Paul Dabbar, of New York, to be Deputy Secretary of Commerce, 9:45 a.m., SR-253.

May 14, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine FAA reauthorization one year later, focusing on aviation safety, air traffic, and next generation technology, 10 a.m., SR-253.

May 15, Subcommittee on Surface Transportation, Freight, Pipelines, and Safety, to hold hearings to examine pipeline safety reauthorization, focusing on ensuring the safe and efficient movement of American energy, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: May 14, business meeting to consider the nominations of William L. Doffermyre, of Texas, to be Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, and Catherine Jereza, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary (Electricity), and Kyle Haustveit, of Oklahoma, to be an Assistant Secretary (Fossil Energy), both of the Department of Energy; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of Jonathan Brightbill, of Virginia, to be General Counsel, Tina Pierce, of Idaho, to be Chief Financial Officer, and Conner Prochaska, of Texas, to be Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency—Energy, all of the Department of Energy, and Ned Mamula, of Pennsylvania, to be Director of the United States Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, 9:30 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: May 14, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Sean McMaster, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, John Busterud, of California, to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, Environmental Protection Agency, and Adam Telle, of Mississippi, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army, Department of Defense, 10:30 a.m., SD-562.

Committee on Finance: May 13, business meeting to consider the nomination of Rodney Scott, of Oklahoma, to be Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, 10 a.m., SD-215.

May 14, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine trade in critical supply chains, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: May 13, to hold hearings to examine East Africa and the horn, focusing on a turning point or breaking point, 10 a.m., SD-419.

May 15, Full Committee, business meeting to consider pending calendar business; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine certain pending nominations, 10:30 a.m., SD-419.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: May 14, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Health and Human Services, 1:30 p.m., SD-430.

May 15, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nomination of Janet Dhillon, of Virginia, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, 9:30 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: May 13, Subcommittee on Disaster Management, District of Columbia, and Census, to hold hearings to examine the insurance industry's claims practices following recent natural disasters, 2:30 p.m., SD-342.

Committee on Indian Affairs: May 14, to hold oversight hearings to examine delivering essential public health and social services to Native Americans, focusing on Federal programs serving Native Americans across the operating divisions at the Department of Health and Human Services, 3:30 p.m., SD-628.

Committee on the Judiciary: May 13, to hold hearings to examine competition issues in the prescription drug supply chain, focusing on pharmacy benefit manager power play, 10:15 a.m., SD-226.

May 14, Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, to hold hearings to examine foreign threats to American innovation and economic leadership, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

May 15, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 180, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the use of grant amounts for providing training and resources for first responders on the use of containment devices to prevent secondary exposure to fentanyl and other potentially lethal substances, and purchasing such containment devices for use by first responders, S. 237, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, S. 419, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize grants to support law enforcement officers and families, S. 539, to reauthorize the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008, S. 911, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to include certain retired law enforcement officers in the public safety officers' death benefits program, S. 1316, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that COPS grant funds may be used for local law enforcement recruits to attend schools or academies if the recruits agree to serve in precincts of law enforcement agencies in their communities, S. 1563, to

amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to establish a grant program to help law enforcement agencies with civilian law enforcement tasks, S. 1595, to establish standards for trauma kits purchased using funds provided under the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program, and the nomination of Jason Reding Quinones, of Florida, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Florida for the term of four years, 10:15 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: May 14, to hold hearings to examine financing America's manufacturing and industrial boom, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

Select Committee on Intelligence: May 13, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

May 14, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

Special Committee on Aging: May 14, to hold hearings to examine preparing for disasters, focusing on unique challenges facing older Americans, 3:30 p.m., SD-106.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, May 14, Full Committee, continue markup on Committee print to comply with reconciliation directives included in H. Con. Res. 14 Section 2001(b)(1), 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

Committee on Appropriations, May 14, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Health and Human Services, 9:30 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

May 14, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, oversight hearing on the Federal Judiciary, 10 a.m., 2362-B Rayburn.

May 14, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, oversight hearing on U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, 10 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

May 14, Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Transportation, 10 a.m., 2358-A Rayburn.

May 14, Subcommittee on Defense, oversight hearing on the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps, 2 p.m., H-140 Capitol.

May 15, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, oversight hearing on the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, 10 a.m., 2362-B Rayburn.

May 15, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, oversight hearing on U.S. Customs and Border Protection, 10 a.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

May 15, Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Labor, 10 a.m., 2358-C Rayburn.

May 15, Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Veterans Affairs, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

May 15, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency, 10 a.m., 2008 Rayburn.

May 15, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, oversight hearing on the Transportation Security Administration, 2 p.m., 2362-A Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, May 14, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled "Energy, Installations, and Environment Update", 3 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

May 14, Subcommittee on Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing entitled "National Security Space Programs", 3:30 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

May 15, Subcommittee on Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations, hearing entitled "Defense Intelligence Enterprise Posture Hearing", 3 p.m., 2118 Rayburn.

May 16, Subcommittee on Cyber, Information Technologies, and Innovation, hearing entitled "Fiscal Year 2026 Review of the Department of Defense's Cyber Posture", 9 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and Workforce, May 14, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, hearing entitled "Reimagining Education: How Charter Schools Are Closing Gaps and Opening Doors", 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

May 15, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing entitled "Reclaiming OSHA's Mission: Ensuring Safety Without Overreach", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, May 14, Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance, hearing entitled "Expanding Choice and Increasing Supply: Housing Innovation in America", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

May 14, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions, hearing entitled "Enhancing Competition: Shaping the Future of Bank Mergers and De Novo Formation" 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn.

May 15, Task Force on Monetary Policy, Treasury Market Resilience, and Economic Prosperity, hearing entitled "Examining Treasury Market Fragilities and Preventative Solutions", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, May 14, East Asia and Pacific Subcommittee, hearing entitled "National Economic Security, Advancing US Interests Abroad", 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, May 14, Full Committee, hearing entitled "A New Era of Homeland Security: A Review of the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget Request for the Department of Homeland Security", 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

May 15, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection, hearing entitled "In Defense of Defensive Measures: Reauthorizing Cybersecurity Information Sharing Activities that Underpin U.S. National Cyber Defense", 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on the Judiciary, May 14, Subcommittee on the Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust, hearing entitled "The MATCH Monopoly: Evaluating the Medical Residency Antitrust Exemption", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, May 14, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Member Day", 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

May 15, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "Fix Our Forests: How Improved

Land Management Can Protect Communities in the Wildland-Urban Interface”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, May 14, Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, hearing entitled “Forecasting Disaster: NOAA’s Transparency, Trust, and Scientific Integrity in Crisis”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

May 15, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing entitled “From Detection to Deflection: Evaluating NASA’s Planetary Defense Strategy”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, May 15, Full Committee, hearing entitled “A Small Part in A Big Company: Examining the Power of Franchising in the American Economy”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, May 14, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

May 15, Full Committee, hearing entitled “FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024: An Update on Implementation One Year Later”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, May 14, Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, hearing entitled “Waste and Delays: Examining VA’s Improper Payments in its Compensation and Pension Programs”, 10:15 a.m., 360 Cannon.

May 15, Full Committee, hearing entitled “U.S. Department of Affairs Budget Request for Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 Advance Appropriations”, 2 p.m., 360 Cannon.

Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, May 15, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Deterrence Amid Rising Tensions: Preventing CCP Aggression on Taiwan”, 9 a.m., 390 Cannon.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, May 13

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Reed Rubinstein, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:30 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Reed Rubinstein, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Troy Meink, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Air Force, Department of Defense. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Troy Meink, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of James Danly, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy.

Additional roll call votes are expected during Tuesday's session of the Senate.

(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Troy Meink until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

12 noon, Tuesday, May 13

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.



Congressional Record

printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published for each day that one or both Houses are in session, excepting very infrequent instances when two or more unusually small consecutive issues are printed one time. ¶Public access to the *Congressional Record* is available online through the U.S. Government Publishing Office, at www.govinfo.gov, free of charge to the user. The information is updated online each day the *Congressional Record* is published. For more information, contact the GPO Customer Contact Center, U.S. Government Publishing Office. Phone 202-512-1800, or 866-512-1800 (toll-free). E-Mail, contactcenter@gpo.gov. ¶To place an order for any of these products, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at: bookstore.gpo.gov. Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000, or phone orders to 866-512-1800 (toll-free), 202-512-1800 (D.C. area), or fax to 202-512-2104. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or GPO Deposit Account. ¶Following each session of Congress, the daily *Congressional Record* is revised, printed, permanently bound and sold by the Superintendent of Documents in individual parts or by sets. ¶With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the *Congressional Record*.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, *Congressional Record*, U.S. Government Publishing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.