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No. 205

## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 12 p.m.

## Senate

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025

(Legislative day of Thursday, December 4, 2025)

The Senate met at 3 p.m., on the expiration of the recess, 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.

Eternal God, yesterday we remembered a date which will live in infamy: December 7, 1941. Lord, thank You for the reminder that even when wrong seems to have its way, You continue to sit on the throne of Your universe. Today, give our lawmakers hearts that seek Your wisdom, feet that flee from evil, and hands that serve Your purposes.

Lord, empower our Senators to be faithful to You, to do Your will on Earth, and to live above reproach. May they be guided by integrity, reverence, and righteousness in all they think, say, and do. We pray in Your mighty 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.

### VOTING

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, in early November, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service announced improvements to their voter verification system. Now, States can use a program named the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements to verify that only citizens are voting in the Federal elections. This is welcome news.

So here is why it is welcome news: During the 2024 election, Iowa's election official, Secretary of State Paul Pate, sought confirmation of citizenship status for 2,176 voters that, based on driver motor vehicle records, may have been noncitizens.

The Biden-Harris administration refused—yes, refused—to give Secretary Pate the information he needed to confirm whether these 2,176 voters were eligible to vote, which kind of proves that the previous administration was not interested in verifying citizenship for voting.

Now that the Trump administration has allowed Secretary Pate access to the SAVE Program, we know that 277 people from Iowa's 2024 voter registration list were noncitizens. In other

words, potentially, 277 people could have voted if they wanted to, and I will tell you that some did.

While the Biden-Harris administration refused to verify the citizenship of these voters, 40 noncitizens attempted to vote in Iowa. Five of those attempts were caught before the ballots were counted, but 35 unlawful ballots were actually tallied.

Thanks to President Trump's Executive order concerning election integrity and the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service's needed upgrades to the SAVE system, other States can avoid the uncertainty that Iowa had in last year's election, and the voters in those States can have peace of mind that noncitizens won't be voting because when noncitizens vote, it reduces the value of every legal vote.

I would encourage these States to participate in this program. I want to thank the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service for their improvements to the SAVE Program, and I also want to thank Iowa's Secretary of State Paul Pate for his commitment to election integrity and the Trump administration for providing Iowa the information needed to confirm the citizenship of its voters.

I yield the floor.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

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



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## HEALTHCARE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I would like to read a few quotes from some of my Democrat colleagues from the past couple of months.

This is from November 6:

We did fail to bring down the cost of healthcare.

This is from September 30:

Now, right now, we have a broken health care system. Nobody can afford health care.

This one is from December 3:

I think we all agree there's brokenness in the whole system.

Again, from December 3:

As much as we disagree on things, I just want to note the underlying agreement that this system needs a lot of reform.

Now, as I said, all of these are quotes from my Democrat colleagues in just the past couple of months. Every quote is an implicit admission that ObamaCare has failed.

Back in 2009, of course, Democrats were arguing that ObamaCare was going to fix healthcare. This is a quote from that time:

[A]n historic bill that will finally reform our broken health care system and help millions of our families and small businesses get the coverage they need at a price they can afford. It is about time.

That, again, was a senior Democrat Senator from back in 2009.

Or in the words of the Democrat leader:

Who would have thought that we could finally get a handle on the thing that is driving our budget deficit to great heights, which is health care costs, and at the same time do so much good by covering so many people?

Well, contrast that with the words of the Democrat leader today:

[T]he healthcare crisis is so deep and so real.

"The healthcare crisis is so deep and so real." In other words, Democrats' great scheme to fix healthcare—ObamaCare—has failed. So what are Democrats proposing to do this week? Introduce reforms? Perhaps try a different approach? Well, no. That would be wrong if you assumed that. They have announced plans to throw good money after bad. They proposed a clean, 3-year extension of the enhanced ObamaCare subsidies. "Clean"—no reforms, no revisions, just billions of additional taxpayer dollars to prop up part of a program that has utterly failed to reduce healthcare costs.

Since 2013, premiums for ObamaCare enrollees have risen 221 percent—221 percent. In other words, this program is doing the very opposite of lowering healthcare costs. And as if soaring premiums weren't a big enough problem, the exchanges are rife with potential for waste, fraud, and abuse. A damning report from the Government Accountability Office released last week found that the exchanges continue to enroll fake individuals, are improperly paying out subsidies, and are failing to ensure payment accuracy, potentially putting taxpayers on the hook for millions or billions in improper payments.

So I might just show you. This is what the GAO found—the Government Accountability Office—and this just came out literally just this last week. This was a finding on their behalf—on their part: ObamaCare subsidies granted without documentation to 90 percent of fake accounts.

So what the Government Accountability Office did is they ran an audit of the exchanges in which these insurance policies change hands and found that 90 percent—90 percent—of these fake accounts were granted subsidies without documentation. Think about that. Ninety percent of these—this investigation—these accounts they checked—they created fake accounts to see if, in fact, they would get a government subsidy, and they did. There is a 90-percent failure rate in this program.

So we have spiraling healthcare costs, a program incredibly vulnerable—as is evidenced—vulnerable to fraud and abuse, and, again, Democrats are proposing that we do absolutely nothing—no reforms, no revisions, no safeguards; just billions more in taxpayer dollars.

Republicans have made it very clear that we would like to work with Democrats to address the affordability of healthcare and find solutions that actually reduce costs, but, as Democrats have made clear with this "clean bill," they are not really after healthcare solutions. They seem to be OK with a 90-percent fraud rate. They are after a political issue to attempt to batter Republicans with during this next election year. If that means a proposal to throw more money at a program they know very well—very well—is failing—it is documented—then that is what they are going to go with.

I will quote again:

As much as we disagree on things, I just want to note the underlying agreement that this system needs a lot of reform.

Again, those are the words of a Democrat Senator, and she is right. The system does need reform—and a lot of it. It is too bad Democrats aren't interested in making any.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 4, S. Res. 532.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the executive resolution.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

An executive resolution (S. Res. 532) authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

## CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. 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 senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Executive Calendar No. 4, S. Res. 532, an executive resolution authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

John Thune, John Cornyn, Steve Daines, Bernie Moreno, Roger Marshall, Chuck Grassley, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Rick Scott of Florida, Tim Sheehy, Pete Ricketts, Jon A. Husted, Tom Cotton, John R. Curtis, John Barrasso, Markwayne Mullin, Josh Hawley, Todd Young.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 136, H.R. 4016.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 136, H.R. 4016, a bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

## APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 94-304, as amended by Public Law 99-7, appoints the following Senator as a member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission) during the 119th Congress: the Honorable RUBEN M. GALLEGO of Arizona vice the Honorable TINA SMITH of Minnesota.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed

## RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

## FARMERS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today, Donald Trump is announcing a \$12 billion bailout for farmers who have been punished by his trade war and his tariffs.

Let's be very clear. The reason farmers need relief at all is largely because Donald Trump betrayed them and decimated their businesses with his disastrous tariffs.

Now, Donald Trump is patting himself on the back, acting like a hero to farmers, while using taxpayer dollars to clean up the mess he created. It is textbook Donald Trump incompetence.

I want to make three very important points about this announcement.

First, as is so often the case with Donald Trump, we have no idea whether the farmers who actually need help will ever see this \$12 billion. He always makes promises that don't deliver. He regularly announces that relief is coming with all due haste, and, somehow, time and time again, the money never reaches the people who need it most.

So if I were a farmer, I wouldn't count on this money. It is probably more of Donald Trump's big talk without really delivering. That is what has happened over and over again.

Second, a one-time payment for farmers is cold comfort for all the headache and anxiety and losses they have endured because of Donald Trump's trade war.

Farmers do not want a handout. Ask them. They want markets. But Donald Trump's policies have killed the markets our farmers rely on to make a living.

This is especially true for soybean farmers. China went from buying more than \$12 billion in American soybeans last year to virtually nothing by the middle of this year. That Chinese need for soybeans didn't disappear. Contracts went to other countries, like Argentina, which Trump then bailed out at U.S. farmers' expense. And producers in those countries—Argentina, Brazil—have now locked in new long-term deals that will shut American farmers out for years and which a one-time check can't alleviate. A one-time check isn't a solution; it is a bandaid over gunshot wounds.

Again, ask our farmers. They want long-term contracts. Unfortunately, they are not going to get them because, when we cut off China, China went to Brazil and Argentina, and those soybean growers said: Yes, we will give you soybeans, but not for a year—3 years, 4 years, 5 years.

Finally, the American people are being punished twice for Donald Trump's costly tariffs. Families have seen the cost of beef, produce, and other groceries skyrocket over this year because of the tariffs. And now they are told their taxpayer dollars must be used to clean up the mess that Donald Trump and his tariffs created.

So, on the first, he tells consumers: You have to pay more for the tariffs.

Then the taxpayers have to pay more because the farmers are in such trouble because of what Donald Trump did.

Donald Trump's announcement today is hardly a triumph. It is an admission of failure—failure to help farmers, failure to rein in China, and failure to lower costs.

(The remarks of Mr. SCHUMER pertaining to the introduction of S. Res. 533 are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### THE ECONOMY

Mr. President, on Donald Trump and the costs that Americans pay for his policies, tomorrow, Donald Trump will travel to Pennsylvania to give a speech on what he calls his economic accomplishments.

We all know how this is going to turn out. Donald Trump will spend the first few minutes of his speech trying to stick to his talking points. Then he will spend the next 2 hours rambling about how affordability is a Democratic scam, a fake narrative. He will blame Joe Biden for his own failures while offering zero solutions to bring down costs.

Americans who are paying more for daily essentials want to see the President act, not ramble from a podium. Affordability isn't some kind of messaging issue, and it is certainly not a scam, as Donald Trump claims from inside his little bubble. He doesn't even realize what Americans are going through as they worry and struggle to pay the bills that come in each week and each month. It is a crisis Donald Trump himself exacerbated with his own policies.

There aren't enough speeches in the world to reverse the damage Donald Trump has done to rising costs. After all, those tariffs have raised prices across the board on groceries, on clothing, on energy.

Whose tariffs are they? Donald Trump's.

Who promised to bring costs down on day one and then turned around and cut healthcare, cut SNAP benefits, closed rural hospitals, and axed good-paying energy jobs in red and blue States alike? Donald Trump.

Who has been completely silent and invisible as Americans speed toward a healthcare cliff unlike any we have seen in a long time, and who has done nothing as families are on the brink of paying thousands of dollars more on healthcare premiums? Donald Trump.

So, look, the matter here is simple: Donald Trump can blame the previous administration all he wants for his own failures. He can keep calling affordability a con job or a fake narrative or a Democratic scam. He can keep pretending everything is going great.

But, Trump, it can't change the reality that you have created. People are hurting, and people need help paying for the things they need every day.

Donald Trump has failed to deliver on the No. 1 thing the American people care about: costs—how much it costs them to buy the things they need. And it is going to come back to haunt Republicans very, very soon.

#### HEALTHCARE

Mr. President, on healthcare, well, we are at the start of an extremely important week for Donald Trump and for Republicans when it comes to our Nation's healthcare crisis. On Thursday, the Senate will vote on the Democrats' bill for a clean, 3-year extension of the ACA premium tax credits.

The question Republicans face this week is very simple: Will they support

our bill and lower people's premiums or will they block our bill and send premiums through the roof? That is what is at stake on the vote this Thursday.

Leader THUNE just gave a speech blasting the ACA.

But, Leader THUNE, you blast the ACA; well, where is the Republican plan?

The Republicans have no plan. They are so divided between themselves that they can't even put a plan together.

We Democrats do have a plan, and it is this bill for a clean, 3-year extension. This is the only way to solve this problem now before premiums go way up and, in January, people are faced with such high bills. Our bill prevents costs from going up right now.

Here is the reality: Most Americans want to see these credits extended.

Leader THUNE blasts the ACA, but he has no plan. Amazingly, he has no plan when 55 percent of Trump voters—of MAGA voters—want to see the credits extended.

So I urge my Republican colleagues not to follow Leader THUNE.

You have one chance, Republican colleagues, to get this right.

Left to their own devices, Republicans don't have a snowball's chance in hell of fixing the healthcare crisis—not a snowball's chance in hell of fixing this crisis—because they are so divided. Even the plans they claim are reasonable can't move forward because one-half of the Republicans want one thing, a third of the Republicans want another thing, a sixth of the Republicans want a third thing, and they can't agree.

The contrast is stark: Republicans are divided, and Democrats are united. We want to extend these credits. It is the right thing to do for the American people as they stand on the edge of the cliff.

Meanwhile, one of the biggest failures in leadership on healthcare has been Donald Trump. As our country faces a crisis that will touch the lives of millions of people, he is sitting on the sidelines. For months, we have urged him to meet with us, to talk with us, and to come to an agreement on fixing ACA premiums. Instead, he has isolated himself in the White House and blasted the ACA on Truth Social while doing nothing—nothing—to prevent this from happening, while doing nothing to present a real plan.

Republicans are nowhere on healthcare, and the clock is ticking. Americans' livelihoods are at stake. Our healthcare system is at stake. The future of our hospitals, many of which will be overrun when people lose insurance, is also at stake.

Republicans who claim to worry about healthcare costs have one last chance to act, and that is to join Democrats in supporting our bill for a clean, 3-year extension.

#### EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

Finally, Mr. President, on these noms packages that are coming forward, today, Senate Republicans are

moving forward on a new nominee package that is chock-full of horribly unqualified and shockingly radical nominees.

All year long, Republicans have bent the knee to Donald Trump—bent the knee to Trump—and turned the Senate's duty of advice and consent into obey and confirm, and this package of nominees is no different.

By moving these nominees in one package, Republicans in the Senate are trying to hide how bad these nominees are from the American people. They would be embarrassed to have a debate even of 2 hours. They would be embarrassed to have a vote because these nominees are so bad.

We all know that Donald Trump and the way he nominates people often are perverse. If someone has broken the law or if someone has done a bad thing, he almost wants to nominate them, and the folks around here are going along.

Let me give you a few quick examples. Thomas Bell to be inspector general of HHS. He is supposed to be looking at fraud, waste, and abuse. This guy is supposed to be inspector general of HHS. Well, Bell is a well-documented Trump loyalist and anti-abortion extremist who has a history of committing repeated fraud, manufacturing fake documents, and misusing unauthorized funds. This is who the Republicans want to confirm as an HHS watchdog? Give us a break. Give America a break.

By the way, these nominees are going to come back and embarrass Trump, just as we warned about Hegseth. If you pick a FOX News commentator to run the most complicated life-and-death Department in our country, he will embarrass you, we said, or worse, and that is just what is happening. It is worse.

What about James Percival to be general counsel at DHS? He is another Trump loyalist who has been a key figure in pushing the administration to defy court orders in regard to deportation actions.

Then there is Jeffrey Hall to be Assistant Administrator at the EPA. How much experience does Mr. Hall have for this position? Zero. And in his time acting in the role, the EPA dismissed a complaint, against a Trump donor group, that alleged that pesticides were sprayed by guards on detainees at an ICE facility.

I could go on and on and on as so many of these nominees are awful—this is chock-full of unqualified, horrible nominees—but the bottom line is this: Democrats want individual votes on these nominees. We want time to debate them on the floor, and we want the American people to see for themselves who Donald Trump and the Republicans are trying to appoint to serious positions of power.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### NOMINATION OF ARJUN MODY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor just having listened to the minority leader talk about our nominees for various positions in the Trump administration, and I am happy to report that this month, December of 2025, we will confirm nearly 100 more of President Trump's qualified nominees. This is going to bring the total number of nominees confirmed this year to nearly 420—we will surpass 400—and this far surpasses the number that Joe Biden confirmed in his first year in office.

One of these highly qualified nominees is Arjun Mody, whom I would like to talk about now.

Arjun is an extraordinary leader and a trusted friend. Arjun has been nominated to serve as Deputy Commissioner of the Social Security Administration. Now, in choosing Arjun, President Trump has chosen the very best. I have known him for 15 years, and he has helped shape my work in the Senate. He ran three of my Senate leadership offices, and in each one, he transformed how we served the Members of this body.

Prior to that, Arjun worked for Senator Elizabeth Dole of the Presiding Officer's home State of North Carolina and for Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison of Texas.

When you hire staff, you need people you can trust completely. I saw Arjun earn that trust in moments both big and small.

Here is the truth about Arjun: If something needs to get done, he is going to get it done with excellence. He doesn't just know policy and process; he knows and understands people. He doesn't just build high-impact teams; he builds loyalty among the teams. He doesn't just work hard; he works well with everyone.

When the stakes are the highest, he always delivers results. I have watched Arjun take on the toughest challenges and find solutions that other people have missed. That is exactly what Social Security needs right now in our Nation because for 90 years, Americans have relied on Social Security—not just for income but for the independence these people have earned. They count on it to keep a roof over their heads and to put food on the table. That promise matters, and it needs leaders who understand both its importance and its challenges.

Arjun is going to modernize the Social Security Administration, he is going to help strengthen its core mission, and he is going to ensure that payments are timely, accurate, and secure. At the same time, he is going to work with this committee, with the Senate, and all across the government.

Most importantly, he will never forget that behind every case number is a person and that every beneficiary matters, whether they are a senior, whether they are a survivor, or whether they are someone with a disability. Social Security works because Americans can trust it month after month, year after year. With Arjun, that trust is in capable hands.

I have trusted Arjun to lead my staff, and the President has trusted him to strengthen Social Security. Now I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to trust him with their vote.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### HEALTHCARE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, the issue of quality, affordable health insurance is personal to me. I know what it feels like to be a new dad with a beautiful little baby girl with a serious medical condition. It happened in my life when I was a student in law school at Georgetown here in Washington, DC.

God gave us this beautiful little girl, but I didn't have health insurance as a law student. We ended up in the charity ward of Children's National Hospital waiting for our name to be called to be introduced to the doctor—the new doctor—at the hospital who would do his best to help my daughter.

I thought about it as I sat in this ward with other people who could not afford to pay their medical bills and thought to myself, I failed as a father and husband. I didn't do the basics. I didn't have health insurance when my baby came along.

Well, there were some wonderful people who did some wonderful things for our daughter, and I will never forget it. But I also never will forget sitting in that chair wondering who would come through that door and be my daughter's doctor. I would be meeting him for the first time. I never felt so helpless as I did at that moment.

As lawmakers, I believe our job is to help make life a little bit better for the people we represent. This week, it means tackling the quality, affordable health insurance issue. It is no secret what happened in this Chamber over the last several weeks and months. We had the longest government shutdown in history—42, 43 days, depending on how you calculate it, but it was a record.

The issue was whether or not we would do something to provide health insurance to some 20 million Americans who stand to lose it because the premiums are too expensive.

We went back and forth, and every day I came to this floor and stated our

position on the case. Senator THUNE, Senator BARRASSO stated their position. Senator SCHUMER, of course, was part of this dialogue that went on week after week.

The decision was finally made by a number of us to end the government shutdown by voting to open the government. There was an understanding that certain things would happen: Appropriations bills would pass as part of the continuing resolution, and many Agencies of government, which were in a questionable position, would be funded.

That was important.

But when it came to health insurance, we reached an agreement that this week, before the Christmas recess, we would have a debate and a vote on extending health insurance.

Why are we doing this? Because the Affordable Care Act passed under President Obama provides tax credits, help in premium payments, for millions of Americans who could otherwise not afford to have it. And the decision in the Big Beautiful Bill—the budget bill of President Trump—to end those tax credits meant that millions of Americans stood to lose the health insurance that they had before starting January 1 with new and higher premiums.

Senator THUNE promised a vote, and I believed—he told me personally—he would keep his word, and I believe he will. I think we will have a vote this week, but a vote is not enough if we can't come to an agreement.

We need 13 Republicans to join us in a bipartisan effort to extend this tax credit so that millions of Americans don't lose their health insurance—13 of them. They need to step forward and, frankly, join us in a bipartisan effort. There is a lot more to be done. This is not all that we will do, but extending this health insurance premium assistance to these families can make a real difference.

Let me tell you a story. If you are looking for breakfast in downtown Chicago on a Sunday morning, let me recommend a restaurant. The name of the restaurant is Lou Mitchell's. Lou Mitchell's restaurant is in the shadow of Union Station, the Amtrak station downtown Chicago. It is two or three blocks from our Catholic parish, and we are there regularly on Sunday mornings, 8 o'clock. We have got two stools by the counter that my wife and I sit at and eat breakfast. We have come to know just about all of the waitresses and helpers in this restaurant.

It is legendary, by Chicago standards. They claim to be the starting point for the creation of U.S. Route 66. There are people, literally, coming from all over the world to make that journey down Route 66 and start with breakfast at Lou Mitchell's.

Donna Fenton is my personal friend, my wife's as well, and she is the maitre d' at the breakfast restaurant. She is 94 years old. She never misses a day of

work. She is a wonderful person, a die-hard Cubs fan who wears earrings with the Cubs logo on them. I have taken her to games over at Wrigley Field, and she, even at her age, is just as lively and involved as any person in the whole audience.

Yesterday, when my wife and I went to Lou Mitchell's for breakfast before church, I had conversation with another person who is on their staff, a waitress. She is a manager as well, and she has been working at this job for years. She is 63 years old.

Her husband just qualified for Medicare, and she felt relieved that that worry about his health insurance would be taken care of. She then found out that the Medicare Advantage Program that she would be having him sign up for runs \$200 a month. Her original premium that she is paying for health insurance for him and for her is \$279 a month.

So right off the bat, she faced an increase over her base premium that she has been paying for some time, but she had the good fortune, at least now—up to now—to have a tax credit to help pay for those premiums. Then she got the notice from her insurance company that the cost of her insurance, even with her husband not covered by the same policy, is going to virtually double.

I can tell you, this is a hard-working lady. I have come to know what it means to be in your sixties and still working as a busy waitress in a busy restaurant. It isn't easy, physically demanding. She has had orthopedic surgeries and other problems occasioned by the fact that it is just an act of life. At a time when most of us would like to think we are going to close that chapter and take it easy, she is not able to.

She said to me: What is going to happen to me when I can't afford health insurance?

And I thought back to my own experience here in Washington.

I said: Well, I hope you don't get sick. It is the best I can say for you.

She said: Who wants to raise my premiums more than double? Who is behind all this?

I said: Unfortunately, there is a political difference here. I won't go into details. It will sound too partisan. But there are some Members of the Senate, who, frankly, know you are going to have to pay twice as much and really don't want to see changes made—let it go forward.

I think that is unfair to her. I could give you her name, but I am not going to because I didn't ask her permission, but I believe every word she told me.

Hard-working woman, 63 years old, whose health insurance is going to more than double each month. She doesn't make a fortune as a waitress. She makes a basic wage in tips. And now she is asking me as her U.S. Senator: Why did you do this to me?

Well, my answer is: We have a chance this week to change it.

And that is what I told her.

If we can get a bipartisan group to agree to just extend these credits, we are going to be able to bring your premiums down to be more affordable. It won't be the same. It will still be high. But it won't double or triple, which is likely to happen otherwise.

I think about her as I stand on the floor of the Senate and think of the tears in her eyes as she talked to me about what her life is going to be like if we fail. We can't fail. We have an obligation to her as Democrats and Republicans.

Are there things we can do to deal with the Affordable Care Act? Yes. I still think it is fundamentally sound, but there are elements in it that need to be changed.

We look forward to not only extending these tax credits but also a meaningful, bipartisan gathering in the appropriate committees to talk about changes in the Affordable Care Act.

Now, there are some people who want to see changes that are politically volatile. To go into the issue of abortion now instead of just expending these premium benefits—I know because I have lived through the Affordable Care Act—it is a nonstarter. It is a poison pill. It is the end of the conversation. We are too divided on the issue.

Prior to the ACA, we must remember that insurance companies could deny coverage to patients with a preexisting condition. This waitress I am talking about has a long list of preexisting conditions now. I won't go through them here, but under the old school, before the Affordable Care Act, she would have had exclusions in all of her health insurance policies for all of these medical conditions.

Under the Affordable Care Act, she must be offered health insurance, regardless of preexisting conditions.

If someone had, for example, a history of diabetes, heart disease, or even a past pregnancy, insurance companies used to be able to exclude those services from your plan or charge you an amount that you couldn't afford.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, insurance companies are no longer allowed to discriminate against patients with preexisting conditions. We required in that law that health insurance plans cover comprehensive benefits, hospitalizations, prescription drugs, and even mental health and addiction treatment, and we allowed children to stay on their parents' health insurance until the kids reached—no longer kids, young men and women reached the age of 26.

What was the result? It worked. For 15 years, it worked.

We achieved the lowest number of uninsured Americans in our country's history. Millions more Americans suddenly had the peace of mind of having quality healthcare.

But faced with high costs, from expensive medications to specialty treatment, too many hard-working families

are struggling to keep up with the high price of healthcare.

I have heard my colleagues on the Republican side, who didn't support the bill when it was created, come in and say: But healthcare is still too expensive.

That is a fact. But imagine, if there were no help in paying the premiums, what families would be doing with these increased costs.

Do you want to know one of reasons that the health insurance is so expensive? I have asked Blue Cross Blue Shield in Chicago, and they tell me it is pretty simple.

Did you ever see an ad for a pharmaceutical product on television? I will bet you did, and I bet you saw more than one. They play it all the time. There are only two countries in the whole world that run these ads for drugs: the United States of America and New Zealand. In every other country, it is prohibited.

What difference does it make? People get into their minds that these drugs just might be the cure for my problem, and they go to the doctor's office, and they sit down for the 10 or 15 minutes they have with that doctor and say: I have been hearing all these ads about Xarelto.

The doctor says: Xarelto? I am surprised you can pronounce it.

The person says: I can spell it. I have seen so many ads. I think I need it, Doctor.

And in too many cases, the doctor, rather than get into a debate or say there is a cheaper generic for this drug or the other, ends up writing a prescription for an expensive drug. It is one of the major reasons that health insurance premiums have gone up so high in the United States of America.

Now, I have a bill that eliminates directed consumer advertising, as approved and requested by the American Medical Association. I won't be able to add it to this bill—I want to—but I am prepared to join in the debate about making the system better and more affordable that will follow after this vote.

So what I am saying is this: The Affordable Care Act is so important. It is one of the most important votes I have ever cast. I still stand by it, but it needs to be improved, and we need to do that. We won't do it this week, but, this week, let's give peace of mind to my friend who is a waitress at Lou Mitchell's, and others that have written to me from all over the State of Illinois, that they can afford health insurance, that their premiums will get a helping hand.

It takes 13 Republicans to join the Democrats for that to happen. It has to be bipartisan.

As a result of the enhanced premium tax credits, the number of Americans covered in the ACA marketplace plans has increased from 11 million in the year 2020 to 24 million this year, including my waitress friend at Lou Mitchell's.

In Florida, the number of residents with healthcare coverage has doubled since passage of the Affordable Care Act. In Alabama, tens of thousands of children and older Americans have obtained health insurance for the very first time because of the Affordable Care Act.

Why do we want to reverse this? Why do we want to put the waitress that I mentioned to you in a situation where she can't afford her premiums anymore? That is going to happen in just a few days if we don't act in a responsible, bipartisan way.

This summer, Congressional Republicans eliminated \$1 trillion in spending for Medicaid. It is a different but related issue. This will take healthcare away from 11 million Americans and threaten rural and intercity hospitals. But in also refusing to extend premium tax credits, 22 million Americans may see their health premiums double, on average—double what the health insurance payments were just today and a few weeks ago. These could get raised by more than \$3,000 next year.

In Jackson County, in Southern Illinois, an area of small towns and rural areas, residents there, on average, will see their monthly premiums go from \$122 a month to \$458. That is a difference of \$330 a month, a 274-percent increase.

In Crawford County, in Downstate Illinois, monthly premiums could rise from \$170 a month to \$517, a 204-percent increase. That is why our vote this week is so important.

We can stop these premiums from increasing in my State, in Alabama, in every State where people are affected by it. In Western Illinois, residents, on average, will see a 120-percent increase if we don't do something this week.

What is our excuse? We are too busy? Look around you. Does this place look too busy? Not to me. We used to have legislation on the floor regularly—and amendments and debate—and we would actually pass laws that had to be considered by the House and Senate. And it would happen. It doesn't happen anymore. We come to the floor and make a speech. We may, once a month, have something to vote on the floor.

This Senate is described as one of the great legislative bodies—deliberative legislative bodies—in the world. You couldn't prove it by the history of our schedule over the last several months.

This week, the Senate Democrats are going to put forward a proposal to extend health insurance premium tax credits for 3 years. I have heard some people say: Well, that is too long.

Well, come back with an amendment for 2 years or 1 year or something. Show there is a beating heart there that actually cares to solve a problem—a problem that affects a waitress in a restaurant in downtown Chicago.

We have tried many times to have this debate. It never gets off the ground. But now we have come to a moment where, on January 1, the world is going to change for millions of Americans if we do nothing.

I want to work with the Republicans on this bill. I want to make the Affordable Care Act better. But we have got to take care of the immediate crisis before January 1.

If Republicans, 13 Republicans—13 brave Republicans—will step up and say, "We want to extend the tax credits," there is going to be an opportunity for us to sit down and say: All right, what do we need to consider to do to make the Affordable Care Act better?

There is an editorial in the Wall Street Journal this morning. I don't usually buy that newspaper, but I am glad I did. There is a long list of things they raised questions on when it came to fraud in the Affordable Care Act. It is legitimate to raise those questions. We should ask that of every single program.

They suggested in their editorial that the tax credits are somehow an inducement toward fraudulent enrollment. The Wall Street Journal came out with an editorial, as I said, highlighting the findings from the General Accounting Office, the congressional watchdog.

My response: Sign me up to sit down, put that editorial on the table, and, on a bipartisan basis, address the very things they have raised. But let's not allow these findings about malfeasance by brokers of insurance—and those are the ones they are blaming, not the patients—to be the reason that 24 million Americans face unaffordable premiums, and not the reason my friend the waitress at the restaurant is going to face premiums she and her husband cannot afford.

To be sure, what the GAO found is unacceptable. But there are proposals on the table that Democrats would support to crack down on malicious brokers who fraudulently enroll customers. No excuse—that has got to stop. I will be part of it, on a bipartisan basis, if we get that opportunity, and I hope we do.

But to argue that tax credits to help my waitress friend pay her premiums are the reason for fraud and, therefore, should be eliminated is the wrong conclusion. It is an outsized, collective punishment to her. And what did she do wrong?

We don't punish seniors when their identity is stolen. We punish the grifters who did it, and the same things are true when it comes to fraud. Let's hold those accountable for it—strictly accountable. Raising premiums so that patients have skin in the game would still not deter malicious brokers from their illegal behavior—we can address this, and we should—and it would ignore the fact that the Medicare Advantage plans also have zero premium policies. I don't hear any bipartisan howling about that.

I am willing to work with Republicans to take on fraud, but let's be honest about the scope of the problem and not use it as an excuse to abandon the tax credits that more than 20 million Americans rely on.

I want to go back to that restaurant—maybe not next Sunday, maybe after Christmas—and tell that friend of mine that we heard her and we did something about it, and we are going to give her a helping hand, at a time when she has nowhere else to turn. She is working hard every single day and has done that all of her life. All she has asked us to do is to give her a fighting chance to have health insurance for her family. Isn't it really incumbent upon us to meet that responsibility?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. McCORMICK. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum with respect to the Chamberlin nomination.

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

Mr. McCORMICK. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the roll-call vote begin immediately.

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 senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 571, Robert P. Chamberlin, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi.

John Thune, Katie Boyd Britt, Tommy Tuberville, Tim Sheehy, Jon Husted, Joni Ernst, Shelley Moore Capito, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Bernie Moreno, James Justice, Pete Ricketts, John Barrasso, Ted Budd, Eric Schmitt, Ashley B. Moody, Tom Cotton.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Robert P. Chamberlin, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN),

and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 635 Leg.]

#### YEAS—52

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

#### NAYS—44

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

#### NOT VOTING—4

Merkley	Wyden	Young
Rosen		

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 44.

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 Robert P. Chamberlin, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

#### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, on behalf of his Big Tech billionaire backers, some of whom are the wealthiest people on the planet, President Trump wants to deny States the right to regulate artificial intelligence through an Executive order.

What he is proposing is not only unconstitutional, it is extremely dangerous. Artificial intelligence and robotics will transform the world. We don't know exactly how, and no one can predict with precision the timeline. But no one should doubt that enormous and consequential changes are coming, which will impact our economy, our political life, foreign policy, our emotional well-being, our environment, and how we educate and raise our kids; further, and this is not science fiction, some very knowledgeable people believe that in the not too distant future, a superintelligent AI

could replace human beings in controlling the planet. Despite the extraordinary importance of this issue and the speed at which it is progressing, AI is getting far too little discussion in Congress, the media, and within the general population. That has got to change.

Several months ago, as the ranking member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, my staff and I undertook an investigation regarding the monumental changes that we face with the rapid development of AI.

Last month, I held a public discussion at Georgetown University with Nobel Prize winner Dr. Geoffrey Hinton, considered to be the "godfather" of AI, to get his views on a wide variety of AI-related subjects.

Based on our investigation and other information that we are gathering, my staff and I will soon be presenting a very specific set of recommendations as to how we can begin addressing some of the unprecedented threats that AI poses. And as we go forward, here are some of the outstanding questions that, in my view, must be answered.

Simple question and maybe the most important: Who will be in charge of the transformation into an AI world? Currently, a handful of the wealthiest people on Earth—people like Elon Musk, Jeffrey Bezos, Bill Gates, Mark Zuckerberg, Peter Thiel, and others—are investing many, many hundreds of billions of dollars in developing and implementing AI and robotics.

Are we comfortable with seeing these enormously wealthy and powerful men shape the future of humanity without any democratic input or oversight? Why does President Trump, who is strongly supporting their efforts, want to impose an Executive order blocking States from regulating AI?

What does it mean that Peter Thiel, the billionaire investor and cofounder of Palantir, has called those who want regulations over AI "legionnaires of the Antichrist"?

Does this elite group of some of the most powerful people on Earth believe that they have the divine right to rule like the Kings of the 18th century?

That is one question.

Another question: What impact will AI and robotics have on our economy and the lives of working people?

I can tell you, as somebody who has spoken to groups all over this country, that working people today are very, very nervous about what AI and robotics will mean to them. The report that my staff and I released last month found that AI, automation, and robotics could lead to nearly the loss of 100 million jobs in America over the next decade, including 40 percent of registered nurses, 47 percent of truck drivers, 64 percent of accountants, 65 percent of teaching assistants, and 89 percent of fast-food workers. In other words, what we are going to see is AI and robotics impacting not just blue-collar workers but white-collar workers as well.



Elon Musk recently said:

AI and robots will replace all jobs. Work-ing will be optional.

Mr. Musk is investing hundreds of billions of dollars into AI and robotics. I suspect he knows something about what he is talking about.

Let me repeat Elon Musk:

AI and robots will replace all jobs. Work-ing will be optional.

Bill Gates, the founder of Microsoft, predicted that humans “won’t be need-ed for most things.”

Dario Amodei, the CEO of Anthropic, warned that AI could lead to the loss of half of all entry-level white-collar jobs.

If AI and robotics eliminate millions of jobs and create massive unemployment, how will people survive if they have no income? How do they feed their families? pay for housing? pay for healthcare? That might be an issue that we should be talking about, like yesterday.

Further, what impact will AI have on our democracy?

Some of us—maybe not all here in Washington but some of us—actually do believe in democracy and the right of ordinary people to control the future. At a time when the foundations of democracy are under attack here in the United States and throughout the world, will AI and robotics help make us a freer society or will it give even more power to the oligarchs who control and own the technology? Will AI result in a massive invasion of our privacy and our civil liberties?

Larry Ellison, the second richest person on Earth, who is investing huge amounts of money into AI, predicted an AI-powered surveillance state where “citizens will be on their best behavior because we’re constantly recording and reporting everything that is going on.”

He is the second richest guy on Earth, who is heavily investing in AI, and this is what he says:

Citizens will be on their best behavior because we’re constantly recording and report-ing everything that is going on.

Are we reaching the stage where every phone call that we make, every email or text that we send, or every bit of research that we do on the internet will be available to the billionaire owners of AI? And, if that is the case, how do we sustain a democracy under those conditions?

Further, in terms of another, rightly, important question, could AI literally redefine what it means to be a human being? Could AI literally redefine what it means to be human?

Who we are and how we develop emotionally and intellectually is highly dependent upon our relationships with other human beings: our parents, family, teachers, lovers, friends, and co-workers.

To quote the 17th century poet John Donne:

No man is an island unto himself.

The human beings with whom we interact help shape us to become the people that we are, but AI is changing that.

According to a recent poll by Com-mon Sense Media, 72 percent of U.S. teenagers say they have used AI for companionship, and more than half do so regularly.

What does it mean long term for young people to form friendships with AI and to be increasingly isolated from other human beings? What happens when millions of people seek emotional support not from other people but from a machine? What is the long-term impact upon our humanity when our most important relationships may not be with human beings?

Further, what impact is AI having on our environment?

AI data centers require a massive amount of electricity and water. A relatively small AI data center can consume more electricity than 80,000 homes. A large one, like the \$165 billion data center that OpenAI and Oracle are building in Abilene, TX, will use as much electricity as 750,000 homes.

In community after community, Americans are fighting back against data centers being built by some of the largest corporations in the world. They are opposing the destruction of their local environments, soaring electric bills, and the diversion of scarce water supplies. Nationally, we need to know: How will AI data centers impact our environment?

Further, how will AI and robotics im-pact foreign policy and warfare?

Tragically, in the midst of the 21st century, governments have not yet cre-ated a mechanism for solving inter-national or internal disputes without armed conflict. In the last several years, for example, we have seen hor-rific wars taking place in Ukraine, Gaza, and elsewhere. Nonetheless, de-spite the maintenance of large armies around the world, leaders are often constrained in their warlike tendencies because of their fear of public reaction to the loss of life. It is not great poli-tics for any government or any govern-mental leader to have large numbers of young people coming home in body bags.

Now, what does the future look like if millions of robot soldiers replace human soldiers? Will leaders be more likely to engage in war or threaten military actions if they don’t have to worry about the loss of life? How will that shape foreign policy around the world if you no longer have to worry that people in your military are going to get killed, just robots?

Then, last but certainly not least, is AI an existential threat to human control over the planet? It is a rather sig-nificant question.

You know, some of us remember the scene in that great 1968 science fiction film “2001: A Space Odyssey” in which HAL, the superintelligent computer that controlled the spaceship, rebelled against its masters—the people, the crew, on the spaceship. Today, as AI makes rapid progress, Dr. Geoffrey Hinton, the “godfather” of AI, recently told me that it was only a matter of

time before AI becomes smarter than human beings, and Dr. Hinton is not alone in that assessment.

What does that mean? If AI becomes smarter than human beings, does that mean that humans will be ceding their ability to control the planet? This, un-fortunately, is not science fiction. This is an issue which some of the leading experts in AI are thinking seriously about.

So the bottom line: AI and robotics are going to have a profound impact on the United States and the entire world. The time is long overdue for us to be taking a very hard look at these pro-found issues and understand that it is the American people who must deter-mine our future with regard to AI and not just a handful of multibillionaires.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The ma-jority leader.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate re-sume legislative session and be in a pe-riod of morning business, with Sen-ators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

## MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

(Legislative Day December 4, 2025)

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 1949. An act to repeal restrictions on the export and import of natural gas.

S. 3385. A bill to amend the Internal Re-venue Code of 1986 to extend the enhancement of the health care premium tax credit.

S. 3386. A bill to provide a health savings account contribution to certain enrollees, to reduce health care costs, and for other purposes.

## EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-2204. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Depart-ment of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Mu-nitions List to Iraq in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 25-076); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2205. A communication from the Direc-tor, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a compilation and summary of reports received from chief dis-trict judges detailing each public event con-ducted in accordance with the Pro bono Work to Empower and Represent Act of 2018’s requirements during the previous fis-cal year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.



EC-2206. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medical Devices; Quality Management System Regulation Technical Amendments" (Docket No. FDA-2025-N-4635) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2207. A communication from Associate Director, Office of Legislative, Intergovernmental, and Public Affairs, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency for the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2025 financial report received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2208. A communication from the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 111th Annual Report of the Federal Reserve Board covering operations for calendar year 2024; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-2209. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of lieutenant general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2210. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of vice admiral in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777a; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2211. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taxation of DISC Income to Shareholders" (Rev. Rul. 2025-23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2212. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Estate Tax Closing Letter User Fee Update" (RIN1545-BR22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2213. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Repeal of Minimum Staffing Standards for Long-Term Care Facilities" (RIN0938-AV25) (CMS-3443-IFC) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-2214. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Calendar Year 2026 Home Health Prospective Payment System (HH PPS) Rate Update; Requirements for the HH Quality Reporting Program and the HH Value-Based Purchasing Expanded Model; Durable Medical Equipment, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Competitive Bidding Program Updates; DMEPOS Accreditation Requirements; Provider Enrollment; and Other Medicare and Medicaid Policies; Final Rule" (RIN0938-AV53) (CMS-1828-F) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 4, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CRUZ for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

\*Michael Graham, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2030.

\*Ryan McCormack, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy.

\*Coast Guard nomination of Adm. Kevin E. Lunday, to be Admiral.

\*Jared Isaacman, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

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

## 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. KELLY (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. CURTIS):

S. 3381. A bill to require coordination of depot-level maintenance in multinational exercises conducted by the Air Force; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BANKS:

S. 3382. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 520 South Walnut Street in Bloomington, Indiana, as the "Curt Cignetti Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3383. A bill to amend the Act of August 9, 1955, to make improvements to that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 3384. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to complete fraud risk assessments of the advance premium tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 3385. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the enhancement of the health care premium tax credit; placed on the calendar.

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

S. 3386. A bill to provide a health savings account contribution to certain enrollees, to reduce health care costs, and for other purposes; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. GALLEGO:

S. 3387. A bill to prohibit certain uses of automated decision systems to inform individualized prices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 3388. A bill to improve the availability of care for veterans from facilities and providers of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHSTER, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. GALLEGO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 533. A resolution condemning white supremacy, hate, and antisemitism, and efforts to give a platform to these dangerous ideologies; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNOCK:

S. Res. 534. A resolution honoring Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., on reaching the historic milestone of 119 years of brotherhood as "Servants of All"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. Res. 535. A resolution commending and congratulating the Las Vegas Aces professional basketball team on winning the 2025 Women's National Basketball Association championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CURTIS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. JUSTICE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HUSTED, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 536. A resolution designating December 2, 2025, as "World Nuclear Energy Day"; considered and agreed to.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 558

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

S. 735

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 735, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a sickle cell disease prevention and treatment demonstration program.

S. 766

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S.

766, a bill to require an annual report of taxpayer-funded projects that are over budget and behind schedule.

S. 939

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 939, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for dental and oral health care, hearing care, and vision care under the Medicare program.

S. 1283

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1283, a bill to modernize Federal firearms laws to account for advancements in technology and less-than-lethal weapons, and for other purposes.

S. 1504

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1504, a bill to require the Social Security Administration to make changes to the social security terminology used in the rules, regulation, guidance, or other materials of the Administration.

S. 1538

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1538, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 1806

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1806, a bill to terminate unused authorities of the Securities and Exchange Commission that were established pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

S. 1884

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1884, a bill to clarify the Holocaust Expropriated Art Recovery Act of 2016, to appropriately limit the application of defenses based on the passage of time and other non-merits defenses to claims under that Act.

S. 1924

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1924, a bill to add suicide prevention resources to school identification cards.

S. 1925

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1925, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve access to diabetes outpatient self-management training services, to require the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to test the provision of virtual

diabetes outpatient self-management training services, and for other purposes.

S. 2042

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2042, a bill to provide lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System.

S. 2211

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2211, a bill to reauthorize the Special Diabetes Program for Type 1 Diabetes and the Special Diabetes Program for Indians.

S. 2803

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2803, a bill to provide for congressional oversight of domestic use of the National Guard, and for other purposes.

S. 2994

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2994, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to clarify that a State may not use an individual's failure to vote as the basis for initiating the procedures provided under such Act for the removal of the individual from the official list of registered voters in the State on the grounds that the individual has changed residence, and for other purposes.

S. 3145

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3145, a bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to require the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation to test a comprehensive alternative response for emergencies model under the Medicare program.

S. 3166

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3166, a bill to rescind unused COVID funding and reduce the deficit.

S. 3191

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3191, a bill to prevent corruption by appropriately limiting donations for any public property, building, or fixture at the White House, the Naval Observatory, or certain other public property, for events on such property, or for monuments to living current or former Presidents, current or former Vice Presidents, or current or former employees or officers appointed by the President.

S. 3238

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs.

MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3238, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to prohibit approved medical residency training programs under the Medicare program from requiring opt-out abortion training.

S. 3264

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mrs. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3264, a bill to establish a health freedom waiver program, to promote better price reporting and outcomes, and for other purposes.

S. 3358

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3358, a bill to assist Indian Tribes in protecting Native American seeds, and for other purposes.

S. 3368

At the request of Ms. BLUNT ROCH-ESTER, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 3368, a bill to improve patient protections and affordability under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3380

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3380, a bill to provide for a minimum monthly premium payment amount for individuals receiving premium tax credits, and to require additional enrollment verification procedures prior to enrollment in qualified health plans.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SCHUMER:

S. 3385. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the enhancement of the health care premium tax credit; placed on the calendar.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 3385

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Lower Health Care Costs Act".

### SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF ENHANCEMENT OF HEALTH CARE PREMIUM TAX CREDIT.

(a) EXTENSION OF RULES TO INCREASE PREMIUM ASSISTANCE AMOUNTS.—Clause (iii) of section 36B(b)(3)(A) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking "THROUGH 2025" and inserting "THROUGH 2028", and

(2) in the matter preceding subclause (I), by striking "before January 1, 2026" and inserting "before January 1, 2029".

(b) EXTENSION OF RULE TO ALLOW CREDIT TO TAXPAYERS WHOSE HOUSEHOLD INCOME EXCEEDS 400 PERCENT OF POVERTY LINE.—Subparagraph (E) of section 36B(c)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “THROUGH 2025” and inserting “THROUGH 2028”, and

(2) by striking “before January 1, 2026” and inserting “before January 1, 2029”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2025.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 533—CONDEMNING WHITE SUPREMACY, HATE, AND ANTISEMITISM, AND EFFORTS TO GIVE A PLATFORM TO THESE DANGEROUS IDEOLOGIES

Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. GALLEGU, Ms. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJAN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 533

Whereas Nick Fuentes is a white supremacist leader, organizer, and podcaster;

Whereas Fuentes identifies himself as a “White Identitarian, race realist, ‘Jewish aware’, counter-Zionist, authoritarian”;

Whereas Fuentes is a frequent Holocaust denier and supporter of Hitler who—

(1) has said on his show that “Hitler was awesome. Hitler was right. And the Holocaust didn’t happen.”;

(2) described Hitler as having an “aura” and being “really...cool”;

(3) has hosted “Hitler Friday”;

(4) criticized Polish people for “this bad habit of hating Hitler all the time”;

(5) popularized the phrase “six million cookies” to express doubt about the 6,000,000 Jews killed during the Holocaust;

Whereas Fuentes expressed support for killing Jews on his show, saying, “There is an occult element at the highest levels of society, and specifically among the Jews...When we take power, they need to be given the death penalty.”;

Whereas Fuentes used the 2017 “Unite the Right” rally in Charlottesville, Virginia, during which hundreds of torch-bearing demonstrators chanted “Jews will not replace us”, to mainstream his ideology;

Whereas the “Unite the Right” rally was followed by a broader cycle of antisemitic, racist, and xenophobic attacks, including the 2018 mass shooting at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, which was the deadliest attack on the Jewish community in the history of the United States;

Whereas Fuentes has repeatedly peddled the white supremacist “Great Replacement

Theory”, which Fuentes calls the “Great Replacement REALITY”, an antisemitic, racist, and xenophobic conspiracy theory that claims that Jews are orchestrating the replacement of native white Europeans from their countries by non-white immigrants;

Whereas, on June 6, 2024, Fuentes posted that “there are basically two things that are going on: White genocide and Jewish subversion”;

Whereas, in March 2023, at a rally in Maryland, Fuentes declared, “I love Hitler”, and targeted “Talmudic Jews”, which is a white supremacist and antisemitic term for Jewish people, saying, according to reporting, that “Talmudic Jews need to either leave the country or be converted”;

Whereas Fuentes, during his livestream of the inauguration of President Trump in 2025, said he believes “Jews are in the way of the ‘sovereignty’ of the U.S.” and are the “most influential faction in our government”;

Whereas Fuentes has likened “organized Jewry” to a “transnational gang” and repeatedly uses rhetoric such as “globalists” and “cosmopolitan elites”, which are dog whistles to classic antisemitic tropes that suggest Jews secretly control media, finance, and government;

Whereas, in March 2025, Fuentes said on Rumble that “Jews are running society, women need to shut the — up, Blacks need to be imprisoned for the most part, and we would live in paradise, it’s that simple.”;

Whereas, in November 2025, Fuentes posted on X, “No to the Christ-hating Talmud...No to our Jewish oligarchy.”;

Whereas Fuentes has stated that the Hamas terrorist attacks against Israel on October 7, 2023, were “staged” and denied acts of rape and the killing of babies by Hamas;

Whereas Fuentes and Tucker Carlson, a former Fox News host, have a combined 17,800,000 followers on X alone;

Whereas, on October 27, 2025, Carlson hosted Fuentes for a lengthy interview;

Whereas, during such interview, Fuentes perpetuated antisemitic conspiracy theories, including—

(1) blaming “organized Jewry” for undermining cohesion in the United States;

(2) telling Carlson that the main obstacle within the conservative movement was “these Zionist Jews”;

(3) claiming that neoconservatism is “Jewish in nature”;

(4) advancing the dual-loyalty trope by saying that Jewish Americans are loyal first to Israel and that “they have this international community across borders, extremely organized, that is putting the interests of themselves before the interests of their home country”;

(5) claiming that he sees “Jewishness” as the defining trait of his political opponents;

Whereas Carlson did not push back on or reject the claims made by Fuentes during the interview and platformed the views of Fuentes, at times even validating his framing;

Whereas Carlson spoke on the main stage of the Republican National Convention in 2024;

Whereas Heritage Foundation President Kevin Roberts—

(1) filmed a video in response to criticism of Carlson for his October 27 interview of Fuentes, defending Carlson and saying that those who opposed Carlson were “the globalist class” and a “venomous coalition”;

(2) defended Fuentes as expressing ideas that are worthy of debate rather than rejecting the ideas outright;

Whereas Roberts refused to fully retract his video, despite apologizing for parts of what was said in the video, and has not taken the video down;

Whereas the Trump administration nominated an individual who said, “I do have a Nazi streak in me from time to time”, and then appointed that individual to another position after his original nomination was withdrawn following bipartisan opposition; and

Whereas Executive Order 13899 (84 Fed. Reg. 68779, relating to combating anti-semitism), Executive Order 14188 (90 Fed. Reg. 8847, relating to additional measures to combat anti-semitism), and the United States National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism affirm the importance of fighting antisemitism in the United States and around the world: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) strongly rejects the views of and platforming of Nick Fuentes;

(2) condemns the effort by Tucker Carlson to platform and mainstream Fuentes;

(3) condemns Nazism, honors the sacrifices of the United States Armed Forces who gave their lives to defeat the Nazis, and affirms that Nazi Germany and its collaborators murdered 6,000,000 Jews in the Holocaust;

(4) unequivocally condemns antisemitism and white supremacy whenever and wherever they occur; and

(5) urges all elected officials, thought leaders, and community leaders to reject and condemn white supremacy and antisemitism whenever and wherever they occur.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on anti-Semitism, today, in America, we are witnessing a disturbing and alarming trend. Anti-Semitism and White supremacy and, indeed, neo-Nazism—just saying the word sends shudders down one’s spine—are increasingly running rampant in our society. These deeply pernicious forms of hate, spewed by rightwing radicals like Nick Fuentes and platformed by people like Tucker Carlson, who almost seem proud to platform them, have pushed America closer to a tipping point.

Jewish Americans and all those targeted by White nationalist hate are all too often looking over their shoulders, fearing for their safety. And too many—too many—in this country are silent against this threat.

On this issue, silence is dangerous. Because silence is dangerous, today, I am introducing a resolution cosponsored by every single Senate Democrat—all 47. This resolution rejects Nick Fuentes and his anti-Semitic and White supremacist views. This resolution condemns Tucker Carlson for giving Fuentes a platform, and it condemns anti-Semitism, White supremacy, and Nazism wherever and whenever they strike.

As I introduce this resolution today, I invite my Senate Republican colleagues to join us in taking a stand against hate by cosponsoring this resolution. The country wants to see both parties united against anti-Semitism, so it is not too late for my Republican colleagues to join my resolution.

This is not a theoretical exercise. Senators speaking out against White supremacist hatred is vital in today’s day and age because there have been far too many instances lately of anti-Semitism, White supremacy, and other forms of hatred being welcomed, normalized, and even endorsed in our society. Who would have thought? When we

stay silent, when we fail to reject anti-Semitism and White supremacy, that is when they spread through society like wildfire.

So my resolution gives Senators from both parties a chance to stand up against anti-Semitism and White supremacy and to send a clear, unmistakable message that here in America, we reject all and any forms of hatred and bigotry.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 534—HONORING ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY, INC., ON REACHING THE HISTORIC MILESTONE OF 119 YEARS OF BROTHERHOOD AS “SERVANTS OF ALL”**

Mr. WARNOCK submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 534

Whereas Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., (referred to in this preamble as the “Fraternity”) was founded on December 4, 1906, at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, as the first intercollegiate fraternity founded by African-American men, who are affectionately known as “The Seven Jewels”, Henry Arthur Callis, Charles Henry Chapman, Eugene Kinckle Jones, George Biddle Kelley, Nathaniel Allison Murray, Robert Harold Ogle, and Vertner Woodson Tandy;

Whereas the mission of the Fraternity is to develop leaders and promote brotherhood and academic excellence while providing service and advocacy to their communities;

Whereas the Fraternity, which is headquartered in Baltimore, Maryland, includes more than 720 college and alumni chapters and general-organization members, serving communities in the United States and other parts of North America, Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia;

Whereas the Fraternity, whose motto is “First of All, Servants of All, We Shall Transcend All”, has long stood at the forefront of the African-American community’s fight for civil rights through Alpha men including—

- (1) Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.;
- (2) late former Congressman Adam Clayton Powell;
- (3) late former Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall;
- (4) legendary activist, actor, and performer Paul Robeson;
- (5) former Ambassador Andrew Young;
- (6) former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Charles Q. Brown, Jr.;
- (7) late former Senator Edward Brooke;
- (8) scholar Cornel West;
- (9) Maryland Governor Wes Moore;
- (10) the first Black Senator of Georgia, Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock;
- (11) former chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus Congressman Steven Horsford;
- (12) 5 other Members of Congress;
- (13) numerous State and local lawmakers across the United States; and
- (14) the President of Liberia, His Excellency Joseph Boakai, Sr.; and

Whereas the Fraternity, which was responsible for and led the effort to erect the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, engages in general programs, including—

- (1) “Brother’s Keeper”, which advocates for and improves the lives of its senior members and members with disabilities, as well as their spouses and widows;
- (2) “A Voteless People Is A Hopeless People”, which engages in voter registration, engagement, and empowerment;
- (3) “Go-to-High School, Go-to-College”, which concentrates on the importance of

completing secondary and collegiate education as a road to advancement; and

- (4) “Project Alpha”, which is designed to provide education, motivation, and skill-building on issues of responsibility, relationships, teen pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases for young males ages 12 to 15 years of age: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This resolution may be cited as the “Original Resolution Honoring Alpha Phi Alpha”.

**SEC. 2. RECOGNITION.**

The Senate congratulates and commends Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., on 119 years of service.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 535—COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE LAS VEGAS ACES PROFESSIONAL BASKETBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE 2025 WOMEN’S NATIONAL BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP**

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Ms. ROSEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 535

Whereas, on October 10, 2025, the Las Vegas Aces basketball team (referred to in this preamble as the “Aces”) won the 2025 Women’s National Basketball Association (referred to in this preamble as the “WNBA”) championship;

Whereas the Aces previously won back-to-back WNBA championships in 2022 and 2023;

Whereas the Aces were in danger of missing the postseason altogether, starting the regular season at 14-14, then went on a 16-game regular season winning streak, setting a new franchise record and tying the second-longest winning streak in WNBA history;

Whereas the Aces finished the regular season 30-14 and the playoffs 9-3 with series victories over the Seattle Storm (2-1), Indiana Fever (3-2), and Phoenix Mercury (4-0) in the first ever best-of-seven WNBA Finals;

Whereas Aces center A’ja Wilson became the first WNBA player in league history to win the WNBA Most Valuable Player (referred to in this preamble as “MVP”) (her fourth MVP), Defensive Player of the Year, and Finals MVP in the same season;

Whereas Aces guard Chelsea Gray now holds four WNBA championship titles and as of the end of the 2025 season has the most championships among all active WNBA players;

Whereas Aces Head Coach Becky Hammon guided the team throughout a turbulent regular season to secure her third championship in only four seasons as head coach;

Whereas every member of the Las Vegas Aces organization, including players, coaches, and support staff, contributed to the team’s success during their 2025 WNBA championship run;

Whereas the ownership of the Aces has demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing women’s sports, investing significantly in the Aces organization, facilities, and staff; and

Whereas the Aces represent their loyal fans, the Las Vegas community, and the entire State of Nevada with a commitment to excellence: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved,* That the Senate—

- (1) congratulates the Las Vegas Aces on winning the 2025 Women’s National Basketball Association (referred to in this resolution as the “WNBA”) championship;
- (2) recognizes the Aces for—

(A) the team’s perseverance and dedication in bringing the 2025 WNBA championship title back to Las Vegas, Nevada; and

(B) the achievements of all players, coaches, and staff who contributed to the success of the Las Vegas Aces during the 2025 season; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

- (A) Las Vegas Aces owner Mark Davis;
- (B) Las Vegas Aces President Nikki Fargas; and
- (C) Las Vegas Aces Head Coach Becky Hammon.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 536—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 2, 2025, AS “WORLD NUCLEAR ENERGY DAY”**

Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. TILLIS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CURTIS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. JUSTICE, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. HUSTED, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. COONS, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 536

Whereas, on December 2, 1942, Enrico Fermi and his team achieved a historic milestone by demonstrating the first self-sustaining, controlled nuclear chain reaction in the world at Chicago Pile-1;

Whereas, on December 2, 1957, in the State of Pennsylvania, the Shippingport Atomic Power Station began operations as the first commercial nuclear power plant in the world, dedicated exclusively to peaceful applications;

Whereas nuclear energy produces—

- (1) nearly 18 percent of the electricity generated in the United States; and
- (2) 43 percent of the carbon-free electricity generated in the United States;

Whereas the nuclear sector of the United States—

- (1) directly employs more than 70,000 people in high-quality jobs that last for decades; and
- (2) is responsible for more than 180,000 secondary jobs;

Whereas, for every 100 nuclear power plant jobs, another 250 jobs are created in the United States;

Whereas nuclear energy plays a key role in the national security of the United States, as the United States has the largest nuclear-powered Navy in the world, which is supported by—

- (1) the commercial nuclear energy industry in the United States; and
- (2) a shared nuclear supply chain;

Whereas advanced nuclear technologies are vital to powering space exploration;

Whereas nuclear energy promotes grid security and reliability by being one of the least expensive sources of baseload power generation worldwide;

Whereas nuclear power plants are largely resilient to adverse weather events, providing electricity 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year to distressed areas when other sources of electricity shut down;

Whereas nuclear energy contributes an estimated \$63,800,000,000 per year to the gross domestic product of the United States;

Whereas a strong civilian nuclear sector is essential to United States leadership in global energy diplomacy, which allows the United States to influence and promote the peaceful use of nuclear technologies; and

Whereas the United States collaborates with other countries to develop new and innovative opportunities for nuclear technologies: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 2, 2025, as “World Nuclear Energy Day”;

(2) celebrates the contributions of nuclear energy in advancing clean, reliable, and sustainable power generation worldwide;

(3) honors the scientists, engineers, and innovators who have worked toward harnessing the potential of nuclear technology for the betterment of humanity;

(4) commends the global community for its commitment to the safe and responsible utilization of nuclear energy; and

(5) encourages continued cooperation domestically and abroad in research, development, and implementation of nuclear energy technologies.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3957. Mr. SCHMITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

#### TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 3957.** Mr. SCHMITT submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. Of the amounts appropriated by this Act to the institutes and centers of the National Institutes of Health, not less than \$30,000,000 shall be allocated to tuberous sclerosis research.

#### NOTICE OF INTENT TO NOT OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator JIM BANKS, do not intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Col. George H. Sebren Jr. to grade of Brigadier General, dated December 8, 2025.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEE TO MEET

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have one request for a committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Monday, December 8, 2025, at 5:30 p.m.

#### APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to Public Law 105-292, as amended by Public Law 106-55, Public Law 107-228, and Public Law 112-75, appoints the following individual to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom: Rachel K. Laser of the District of Columbia vice Ariela Ruth Dubler of New York.

#### RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions which are at the desk: S. Res. 535 and S. Res. 536.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD (Legislative Day of December 4, 2025) under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

#### SCAM COMPOUND ACCOUNTABILITY AND MOBILIZATION ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 244, S. 2950.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2950) to require the Secretary of State and relevant executive branch agencies to address international scam compounds defrauding people in the United States, to hold significant transnational criminal organizations accountable, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Scam Compound Accountability and Mobilization Act”.

##### SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) transnational cyber-enabled fraud, particularly perpetrated from scam compounds in Southeast Asia, is a growing threat to citizens of the United States, national security, and economic interests globally, with the Federal Bureau of Investigation reporting \$13,700,000,000 in losses in the United States due to cyber-enabled fraud in 2024, including schemes commonly perpetrated by significant transnational criminal organizations operating scam compounds;

(2) significant transnational criminal organizations responsible for a large proportion of these scam compounds are affiliated with the People's Republic of China (PRC), actively spread PRC propaganda, promote unification with Taiwan, and have brokered projects for the Belt and Road Initiative;

(3) significant transnational criminal organizations have lured hundreds of thousands of human trafficking victims from over 40 countries to scam compounds, primarily in Burma, Cambodia, and Laos, for purposes of forced criminality;

(4) significant transnational criminal organizations are expanding scam compounds internationally including in Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, and the Pacific Islands, and related money laundering, human trafficking and recruitment fraud have occurred in Europe, North America, and South America;

(5) the United States should redouble efforts to hold the perpetrators and enablers of scam compound operations accountable, including those involved in related money laundering, human trafficking, and recruitment fraud, by employing tools, such as targeted financial sanctions, visa restrictions, asset seizures, and forfeiture;

(6) to effectively address cyber-enabled fraud originating from scam compounds internationally, the United States Government should work with partner governments, multilateral institutions, civil society experts, and private sector stakeholders to improve information sharing, strengthen preventative measures, raise public awareness, and increase coordination on law enforcement investigations and regulatory actions; and

(7) survivors of human trafficking, including forced criminality, require victim-centered support to ensure they are not punished for offenses committed under duress.

##### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

(D) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

(F) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives;

(G) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(H) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(2) CYBER-ENABLED FRAUD.—The term “cyber-enabled fraud” means the use of the internet or other technology to commit fraudulent activity, including illicitly obtaining money, property, data, identification documents, or authentication features, or creating counterfeit goods or services.

(3) ENABLING COUNTRY.—The term “enabling country” means a country where—

(A) government authorities actively or implicitly permit, enable, or perpetuate scam compound operations; or

(B) ineffective law enforcement or a failure to enact legislation intended to prevent facilitating services from reaching scam compounds or significant transnational criminal organizations enables scam compound operators to obtain facilitating services.

(4) FORCED CRIMINALITY.—The term “forced criminality” means a form of forced labor for the purpose of causing the victim to engage in criminal activity, which may include cyber-enabled fraud.

(5) FORCED LABOR.—The term “forced labor” has the meaning given the term severe form of

trafficking in persons in section 103(11)(B) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(11)(B)).

(6) **RELEVANT FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AND DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS.**—The term “relevant foreign assistance programs and diplomatic efforts”—

(A) means unclassified voluntary support programs funded directly by the United States Government that provide assistance to one or more foreign countries for the purpose of combating scam compound operations and related significant transnational criminal organizations; and

(B) excludes intelligence activities, including activities authorized by the President and reported to Congress in accordance with section 503 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3093).

(7) **HUMAN TRAFFICKING.**—The term “human trafficking” has the meaning given the term severe form of trafficking in persons in section 103(11) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(11)).

(8) **HUMAN TRAFFICKING VICTIM.**—The terms “human trafficking victim” and “victim of human trafficking” mean a person subject to an act or practice described in section 103(11) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102(11)).

(9) **IMPACTED COUNTRY.**—The term “impacted country” means a country that is a significant—

(A) transit location for victims of human trafficking to scam compounds; or

(B) source location for victims of human trafficking for scam compounds; or

(C) target of cyber-enabled fraud originating from scam compounds internationally.

(10) **SCAM COMPOUND.**—The term “scam compound” means a physical installation where a significant transnational criminal organization carries out cyber-enabled fraud operations, frequently using victims of human trafficking and forced criminality.

(11) **SIGNIFICANT TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION.**—The term “significant transnational criminal organization” means a group of persons that—

(A) includes one or more foreign person;

(B) engages in or facilitates an ongoing pattern of serious criminal activity involving the jurisdictions of at least two foreign states or one foreign state and the United States; and

(C) threatens the national security, foreign policy, or economy of the United States.

(12) **STRATEGY.**—The term “Strategy” means the strategy to counter scam compounds and hold significant transnational criminal organizations accountable required under section 4.

(b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—The definitions under this section are exclusive to this Act and may not be construed to affect any other provision of United States law.

#### **SEC. 4. STRATEGY TO COUNTER SCAM COMPOUNDS AND HOLD SIGNIFICANT TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS ACCOUNTABLE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the heads of other Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive strategy that—

(1) is designed to counter scam compounds and hold significant transnational criminal organizations accountable;

(2) is global in scope; and

(3) may prioritize efforts focused on Southeast Asian countries where scam compound operations are most prevalent.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The Strategy shall—

(1) articulate a comprehensive problem statement identifying the structural vulnerabilities exploited by significant transnational criminal organizations operating scam compounds;

(2) develop a comprehensive list of enabling countries and impacted countries;

(3) identify all active executive branch relevant foreign assistance programs and diplomatic efforts underway to address scam compounds, significant transnational criminal organizations connected to scam compounds, and related money laundering, human trafficking and forced criminality, including efforts with enabling countries and impacted countries;

(4) identify relevant foreign assistance resources needed to fully implement the Strategy and any obstacles to the response of the Federal Government to scam compounds, including coordination with partner governments, to address the human trafficking, including forced criminality, and money laundering that facilitates and sustains scam compound operations;

(5) include objectives, activities, and performance indicators regarding the response of the Federal government to scam compounds, including—

(A) the prevention of recruitment fraud and human trafficking, including by—

(i) engaging private sector entities operating internet platforms or other services that can be abused or exploited to perpetrate recruitment fraud, human trafficking or cyber-enabled fraud;

(ii) raising awareness among at-risk populations to identify common recruitment fraud strategies and improve due diligence and self-protection measures;

(iii) urging governments to monitor and enforce laws against fraudulent and unlawful recruitment practices; and

(iv) sharing information and building awareness among foreign counterparts, including law enforcement and border officials, to identify potential human trafficking victims;

(B) the support for survivors of human trafficking and forced criminality under the direction of the Ambassador at Large to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons;

(C) the enhancement of coordination and strengthening the capabilities of partner governments and law enforcement agencies;

(D) the use of sanctions, visa restrictions, and other accountability measures against enabling countries, significant transnational criminal organizations, and related third-party facilitators of scam compound operations;

(E) the support of partner governments in countering corruption and money laundering related to scam compound operations; and

(F) the investigation of PRC connections to significant transnational criminal organizations operating scam compounds.

(c) **LIMITATION.**—Nothing in the Strategy may affect, apply to, or create obligations related to past, present, or future criminal or civil law enforcement or intelligence activities of the United States or the law enforcement activities of any State or subdivision of a State.

#### **SEC. 5. ESTABLISHING A TASK FORCE TO IMPLEMENT THE STRATEGY.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after submitting the Strategy pursuant to section 4(a), the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Attorney General, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the heads of other Federal departments and agencies, shall establish an inter-agency task force (referred to in this section as the “Task Force”)—

(1) to coordinate the implementation of the Strategy;

(2) to conduct regular monitoring and analysis of scam compound operations internationally;

(3) to track and evaluate progress toward the objectives, activities, and performance indicators of the Strategy described in section 4(b)(5); and

(4) to update the Strategy, in consultation with the appropriate congressional committees, as needed.

(b) **ANNUAL REVIEWS AND REPORTS.**—Not later than one year after the establishment of the Task Force, and not less frequently than annually thereafter, the Secretary of State and the Attorney General, in consultation with the Sec-

retary of the Treasury and the heads of other Federal departments and agencies, shall—

(1) conduct a status review of the Strategy and the overall state of scam compounds operated by significant transnational criminal organizations;

(2) include a list of enabling countries and impacted countries; and

(3) submit the results of such review in a public report to the appropriate congressional committees, which may contain a classified annex.

(c) **TASK FORCE TERMINATION.**—The Task Force shall terminate on the date that is six years after the date on which it is established.

#### **SEC. 6. STRENGTHENING TOOLS TO DISMANTLE SCAM COMPOUNDS AND HOLD SIGNIFICANT TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS ACCOUNTABLE.**

(a) **IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO SIGNIFICANT ACTORS IN SCAM COMPOUND OPERATIONS.**—Beginning on and after the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President may impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any foreign person that the President determines—

(1) has materially assisted in, or provided significant financial or technological support to, or provided significant goods or services in support of, the activities of international scam compounds or enabling services, including recruitment fraud, human trafficking (including forced criminality), cyber-enabled fraud, or money-laundering; or

(2) owned, controlled, directed, or acted for, or on behalf of, a significant scam compound operation or enabling service, including recruitment fraud, human trafficking (including forced criminality), cyber-enabled fraud, or money-laundering.

(b) **SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.**—The President may exercise of all powers granted to the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of a foreign person described in subsection (a), including, to the extent appropriate, the vessel of which the person is the beneficial owner, if such property or interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(c) **IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.**—

(1) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(2) **PENALTIES.**—The penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to any person who violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of any prohibition of this section, or an order or regulation prescribed under this section, to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in section 206(a) of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1705(a)).

(d) **INTELLIGENCE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.**—Sanctions authorized under this section shall not apply with respect to—

(1) any activity subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.); or

(2) any authorized intelligence or law enforcement activities of the United States.

(e) **SEMIANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the President shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) identifies all foreign persons the President has sanctioned pursuant to the authorities under this section; and

(2) the dates on which sanctions were imposed.



(f) EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property pursuant to subsection (b) shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(2) DEFINED TERM.—In this subsection, the term “good” means any article, natural or man-made substance, material, supply, or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

(g) WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the application of sanctions under this section with respect to a foreign person or a foreign financial institution if the President determines that such waiver is in the national interest of the United States.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 15 days before granting a waiver pursuant to paragraph (1), the President shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(A) the name of the individual or institution that is benefitting from such waiver; and

(B) if the beneficiary is an individual, a detailed justification explaining how the waiver serves the national security interests of the United States.

**SEC. 7. REDRESS TO VICTIMS OF INTERNATIONAL SCAM COMPOUND OPERATIONS.**

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the heads of other appropriate Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report containing an assessment of existing forfeiture law that—

(1) outlines challenges or limitations to providing financial redress to victims of international scam compound operations;

(2) offers recommendations to amend existing forfeiture law to enable the Department of Justice to use assets forfeited as a result of law enforcement activities targeting international scam compound operations to provide financial redress to United States citizen victims of scam operations; and

(3) offers recommendations for the administration of such a redress mechanism.

**SEC. 8. SUNSET.**

This Act shall cease to be effective beginning on the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2950), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

**MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 3385, S. 3386, and H.R. 1949**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand that there are three bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3385) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the enhancement of the health care premium tax credit.

A bill (S. 3386) to provide a health savings account contribution to certain enrollees, to reduce health care costs, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 1949) to repeal restrictions on the export and import of natural gas.

Mr. THUNE. I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bills will receive their second reading on the next legislative day.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to adjourn until 6:48 p.m. today.

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

The motion was agreed to.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:46 p.m., adjourned until Monday, December 8, 2025, at 6:48 p.m.



# 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, December 9, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

## MEETINGS SCHEDULED

### DECEMBER 10

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations  
To hold hearings to examine arms race.  
SD-419

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works  
Business meeting to consider the nominations of Lee Beaman, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2030, and Douglas Weaver, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2026.  
SD-562

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
To hold hearings to examine the future of retirement.  
SD-430

2 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations  
To hold hearings to examine defining our healthcare problem, and principles we should follow to solve it.  
SD-342

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe

To hold hearings to examine from production to procurement, focusing on how Europe and Ukraine are transforming defense supply chains.  
2358C-RHOB

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations  
Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy  
To hold hearings to examine maritime security in Africa, focusing on assessing threats to United States commer-

cial diplomacy and national security interests.

SD-419

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine running government like a small business, focusing on waste and fraud.  
SR-428A

3 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence  
To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.  
SH-219

3:30 p.m.

Special Committee on Aging  
To hold hearings to examine aging with purpose, focusing on the positive impact of seniors in today's economy.  
SH-216

4 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine S. 342, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize an individual who is awarded the Purple Heart for service in the Armed Forces to transfer unused Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to a family member, S. 668, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Office of Falls Prevention of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 926, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program to furnish to certain veterans items used for the secure storage of firearms, S. 1116, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the provision of certain additional burial benefits for individuals for whom an urn or plaque is furnished, S. 1657, to amend title 38, United States Code, to limit the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to deny the claim of a veteran for benefits under the laws administered by such Secretary on the sole basis that such veteran failed to appear for a medical examination associated with such claim, S. 1665, to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure veterans of secrecy oath programs receive the full benefits they have earned, S. 1868, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand access by veterans to critical access hospitals and affiliated clinics under the Veterans Community Care Program, S. 1992, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the efficiency of adjudications and appeals of claims for benefits under laws administered by Secretary of Veterans Affairs, S. 2061, to require the Interagency Working Group on Toxic Exposure to conduct research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of descendants of individuals exposed to toxic substances while serving as members of the Armed Forces, S. 2220, to expand presumptions of exposure by members of the Armed Forces to toxic substances, S. 2264, to improve the emergency management capabilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 2309, to direct a physician or nurse practitioner employed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certify the death of a veteran not later than 48 hours after such physician or nurse practi-

tioner learns of such death, S. 2328, to authorize the use of veterans educational assistance for examinations and assessments to receive credit toward degrees awarded by institutions of higher learning, S. 2333, to require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit supplementation of health records of deceased veterans, S. 2397, to require implementation by the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs of certain recommendations relating to the provision of health care through community care providers, S. 2683, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Officer, and S. 2737, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to implement a pilot program to furnish hyperbaric oxygen therapy to certain veterans through community care providers.  
SR-418

### DECEMBER 11

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services  
To hold hearings to examine the Administration's deployment of the National Guard across the United States.  
SD-G50

10 a.m.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
To hold hearings to examine the future of the U.S. organ procurement and transplantation network.  
SD-430

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold oversight hearings to examine the Federal Reserve's big bank welfare program, focusing on the IORB regime.  
SD-342

10:15 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary  
Business meeting to consider the nominations of David Clay Fowlkes, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas, Nicholas Jon Ganjei, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Aaron Christian Peterson, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska, Andrew Benson, to be United States Attorney for the District of Maine, William Boyle, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Richard Price, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, Darin Smith, to be United States Attorney for the District of Wyoming.  
SH-216

10:30 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Frank Weiland, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs).  
SD-419

• 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.

Committee on Rules and Administration  
Business meeting to consider S. Res. 526,  
withholding the pay of Senators if a  
Government shutdown occurs.

SR-301

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

(Legislative Days of December 4, 2025 and December 8, 2025)

*Routine Proceedings, pages S8521–S8535*

**Measures Introduced:** Eight bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3381–3388, and S. Res. 533–536. **Page S8529**

#### Measures Passed:

***Congratulating the Las Vegas Aces:*** Senate agreed to S. Res. 535, commending and congratulating the Las Vegas Aces professional basketball team on winning the 2025 Women's National Basketball Association championship. **Page S8533**

***World Nuclear Energy Day:*** Senate agreed to S. Res. 536, designating December 2, 2025, as "World Nuclear Energy Day". **Page S8533**

***Scam Compound Accountability and Mobilization Act:*** Senate passed S. 2950, to require the Secretary of State and relevant executive branch agencies to address international scam compounds defrauding people in the United States, to hold significant transnational criminal organizations accountable, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S8533–35**

#### Measures Considered:

**En Bloc Consideration of Certain Nominations—Cloture:** Senate began consideration S. Res. 532, authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar. **Page S8522**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the resolution, 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 James D. Maxwell II, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi. **Page S8522**

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

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the resolution. **Page S8522**

**Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2026:** Senate began consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 4016, making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026. **Pages S8522–27**

#### Appointments:

***Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:*** The Chair, on behalf of the Vice President, pursuant to Public Law 94–304, as amended by Public Law 99–7, appointed the following Senator as a member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission) during the 119th Congress: Senator Gallego vice Senator Smith. **Page S8522**

***United States Commission on International Religious Freedom:*** The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Democratic Leader, pursuant to Public Law 105–292, as amended by Public Law 106–55, Public Law 107–228, and Public Law 112–75, appointed the following individual to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom: Rachel K. Laser of the District of Columbia vice Ariela Ruth Dubler of New York. **Page S8533**

**Chamberlin Nomination—Agreement:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Robert P. Chamberlin, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi. **Pages S8527–28**

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

By 52 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. 635), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S8527**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, December 9, 2025, notwithstanding Rule XXII, Senate continue consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation of the nomination at 11:45 a.m.; and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination of William J. Crain, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern

District of Louisiana, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:15 p.m. **Page [see next issue]**

**Measures Placed on the Calendar:** **Page [see next issue]**

**Measures Read the First Time:** **Pages S8528, S8535**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S8528–29**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Page S8529**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S8529–30**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**  
**Pages S8530–33**

**Additional Statements:** **Page [see next issue]**

**Amendments Submitted:** **Page S8533**

**Notices of Intent:** **Page S8533**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S8533**

**Record Votes:** One record vote was taken today.  
(Total—635) **Page S8527**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:46 p.m., and reconvened at 6:48 p.m.,

on the same day, and adjourned at 6:50 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, December 9, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in the next issue.)

## Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Michael Graham, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, Jared Isaacman, of Pennsylvania, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Admiral Kevin Lunday to be Commandant of the United States Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, and Ryan McCormack, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy.

# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House will meet at 12 p.m. on Tuesday, December 9, 2025.

## Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

### NEW PUBLIC LAWS

*(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1204)*

S.J. Res. 80, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Land Management relating to "National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan Record of Decision". Signed on December 5, 2025. (Public Law 119–47)

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

#### Senate

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, to hold hearings to examine a review of the activities and fiscal year 2026 funding priorities of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, 4:30 p.m., SD–138.

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on National Parks, to hold hearings to examine S. 290, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to upgrade existing emergency communications centers in units of the National Park System to Next Generation 9–1–1 systems, S. 332, to require a study on Holocaust education efforts of States, local educational agencies, and public elementary and secondary schools, S. 446, to prohibit Big Cypress National Preserve from being designated as wilderness or as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, S. 573, to designate a mountain in the State of Alaska as Denali, S. 601, to remove restrictions from a parcel of land in Paducah, Kentucky, S. 730, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of establishing the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center at the African Burial Ground National Monument, S. 791, to establish the Justice Thurgood Marshall National Historic Site in the State of Maryland

as an affiliated area of the National Park System, H.R. 186, and S. 858, bills to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients, S. 1088, to provide that the memorial to commemorate the sacrifice and service of the women who worked on the home front to support the efforts of the United States military during World War II may be located on the National Mall, S. 1131, to establish the Ocmulgee Mounds National Park and Preserve in the State of Georgia, S. 1135, to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, S. 1280, to designate six creeks in North Carolina in honor of the lives lost in a plane crash in Carteret County, North Carolina, on February 13, 2022, S. 1353, to extend the authority for modifications to the Second Division Memorial in the District of Columbia, S. 1377, to ensure the maintenance of a herd of horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, S. 1518, to redesignate the Saratoga National Historical Park as the “Saratoga National Battlefield Park”, S. 1777, to amend the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 to expand the boundary of Joshua Tree National Park, to redesignate the Cottonwood Visitor Center at Joshua Tree National Park as the “Dianne Feinstein Visitor Center”, S. 1870, to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, S. 1926, to encourage reduction of disposable plastic products in units of the National Park System, S. 2270, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the portion of the Myakka River in Sarasota County, Florida, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 2308, to amend the Federal Land Recreation Enhancement Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to collect a surcharge from international visitors to units of the National Park System, S. 2369, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to remove or permanently conceal the name of Francis Newlands on the grounds of the memorial fountain located at Chevy Chase Circle in the District of Columbia, S. 2385, to codify Executive Order 14253 relating to restoring truth and sanity to American history, S. 2546, to provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, S. 2708, to enhance the preservation, maintenance, and management of national historic trails and national scenic trails, S. 2970, to authorize the use of off-highway vehicles in certain areas of the Capitol Reef National Park, Utah, and H.R. 249, to redesignate certain facilities at Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park in honor of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr, 10 a.m., SD-366.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Subcommittee on Education and the American Family, to hold hearings to examine building pathways, focusing on advancing workforce development in the 21st century, 2 p.m., SD-430.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* to hold hearings to examine protecting children online against offenders, 10:15 a.m., SH-216.

Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, to hold hearings to examine balancing the interests of local radio, songwriters, and performers in the digital age, 3 p.m., SD-226.

*United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control:* to hold hearings to examine Chinese organized crime in Latin America, 2 p.m., SD-215.

## House

*Committee on Rules,* Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 3638, the “Electric Supply Chain Act”; H.R. 3628, the “State Planning for Reliability & Affordability Act”; H.R. 3383, the “Increasing Investor Opportunities Act”; H.R. 3668, the “Improving Interagency Coordination for Pipeline Reviews Act”; H.R. 3898, the “PERMIT Act” [Rule Markup Only]; and S. 1071, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disinter the remains of Fernando V. Cota from Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery, Texas, and for other purposes [National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2026], 4 p.m., H-313 Capitol.

## CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of December 9 through December 12, 2025

### Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Robert P. Chamberlin, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:45 a.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of Robert P. Chamberlin, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of William J. Crain, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2:15 p.m.

Following disposition of the nomination of William J. Crain, Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of James D. Maxwell II, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, and after a period of debate, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination.

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 Appropriations:* December 9, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, to

hold hearings to examine a review of the activities and fiscal year 2026 funding priorities of the Office of the United States Trade Representative, 4:30 p.m., SD-138.

*Committee on Armed Services:* December 11, to hold hearings to examine the Administration's deployment of the National Guard across the United States, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* December 9, Subcommittee on National Parks, to hold hearings to examine S. 290, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to upgrade existing emergency communications centers in units of the National Park System to Next Generation 9-1-1 systems, S. 332, to require a study on Holocaust education efforts of States, local educational agencies, and public elementary and secondary schools, S. 446, to prohibit Big Cypress National Preserve from being designated as wilderness or as a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System, S. 573, to designate a mountain in the State of Alaska as Denali, S. 601, to remove restrictions from a parcel of land in Paducah, Kentucky, S. 730, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of establishing the African Burial Ground International Memorial Museum and Educational Center at the African Burial Ground National Monument, S. 791, to establish the Justice Thurgood Marshall National Historic Site in the State of Maryland as an affiliated area of the National Park System, H.R. 186, and S. 858, bills to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients, S. 1088, to provide that the memorial to commemorate the sacrifice and service of the women who worked on the home front to support the efforts of the United States military during World War II may be located on the National Mall, S. 1131, to establish the Ocmulgee Mounds National Park and Preserve in the State of Georgia, S. 1135, to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Bonneville Shoreline Trail, S. 1280, to designate six creeks in North Carolina in honor of the lives lost in a plane crash in Carteret County, North Carolina, on February 13, 2022, S. 1353, to extend the authority for modifications to the Second Division Memorial in the District of Columbia, S. 1377, to ensure the maintenance of a herd of horses in Theodore Roosevelt National Park, S. 1518, to redesignate the Saratoga National Historical Park as the "Saratoga National Battlefield Park", S. 1777, to amend the California Desert Protection Act of 1994 to expand the boundary of Joshua Tree National Park, to redesignate the Cottonwood Visitor Center at Joshua Tree National Park as the "Dianne Feinstein Visitor Center", S. 1870, to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, S. 1926, to encourage reduction of disposable plastic products in units of the National Park System, S. 2270, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate the portion of the Myakka River in Sarasota County, Florida, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers

System, S. 2308, to amend the Federal Land Recreation Enhancement Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to collect a surcharge from international visitors to units of the National Park System, S. 2369, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to remove or permanently conceal the name of Francis Newlands on the grounds of the memorial fountain located at Chevy Chase Circle in the District of Columbia, S. 2385, to codify Executive Order 14253 relating to restoring truth and sanity to American history, S. 2546, to provide for an extension of the legislative authority of the National Emergency Medical Services Memorial Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, S. 2708, to enhance the preservation, maintenance, and management of national historic trails and national scenic trails, S. 2970, to authorize the use of off-highway vehicles in certain areas of the Capitol Reef National Park, Utah, and H.R. 249, to redesignate certain facilities at Paterson Great Falls National Historical Park in honor of Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr., 10 a.m., SD-366.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* December 10, business meeting to consider the nominations of Lee Beaman, of Tennessee, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2030, and Douglas Weaver, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2026, 10 a.m., SD-562.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* December 10, to hold hearings to examine arms race, 9:30 a.m., SD-419.

December 10, Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy, to hold hearings to examine maritime security in Africa, focusing on assessing threats to United States commercial diplomacy and national security interests, 2:30 p.m., SD-419.

December 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Frank Weiland, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs), 10:30 a.m., SD-419.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* December 9, Subcommittee on Education and the American Family, to hold hearings to examine building pathways, focusing on advancing workforce development in the 21st century, 2 p.m., SD-430.

December 10, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the future of retirement, 10 a.m., SD-430.

December 11, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the future of the U.S. organ procurement and transplantation network, 10 a.m., SD-430.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* December 10, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to hold hearings to examine defining our healthcare problem, and principles we should follow to solve it, 2 p.m., SD-342.

December 11, Full Committee, to hold oversight hearings to examine the Federal Reserve's big bank welfare program, focusing on the IORB regime, 10 a.m., SD-342.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* December 9, to hold hearings to examine protecting children online against offenders, 10:15 a.m., SH-216.

December 9, Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, to hold hearings to examine balancing the interests of local radio, songwriters, and performers in the digital age, 3 p.m., SD-226.

December 11, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of David Clay Fowlkes, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas, Nicholas Jon Ganjei, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Texas, Aaron Christian Peterson, to be United States District Judge for the District of Alaska, Andrew Benson, to be United States Attorney for the District of Maine, William Boyle, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina, Richard Price, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, Darin Smith, to be United States Attorney for the District of Wyoming, 10:15 a.m., SH-216.

*Committee on Rules and Administration:* December 11, business meeting to consider S. Res. 526, withholding the pay of Senators if a Government shutdown occurs, 10:30 a.m., SR-301.

*Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:* December 10, to hold hearings to examine running government like a small business, focusing on waste and fraud, 2:30 p.m., SR-428A.

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* December 10, to hold hearings to examine S. 342, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize an individual who is awarded the Purple Heart for service in the Armed Forces to transfer unused Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to a family member, S. 668, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish the Office of Falls Prevention of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 926, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a program to furnish to certain veterans items used for the secure storage of firearms, S. 1116, to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the provision of certain additional burial benefits for individuals for whom an urn or plaque is furnished, S. 1657, to amend title 38, United States Code, to limit the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to deny the claim of a veteran for benefits under the laws administered by such Secretary on the sole basis that such veteran failed to appear for a medical examination associated with such claim, S. 1665, to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure veterans of secrecy oath programs receive the full benefits they have earned, S. 1868, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand access by veterans to critical access hospitals and affiliated clinics under the Veterans Community Care Program, S. 1992, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the efficiency of adjudications and appeals of claims for benefits under laws administered by Secretary of Veterans Affairs, S. 2061, to require the Interagency Working Group on Toxic Exposure to conduct research on the diagnosis and treatment of health conditions of descendants of individuals exposed to toxic substances while serving as members of the Armed Forces, S. 2220, to expand presumptions of

exposure by members of the Armed Forces to toxic substances, S. 2264, to improve the emergency management capabilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 2309, to direct a physician or nurse practitioner employed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to certify the death of a veteran not later than 48 hours after such physician or nurse practitioner learns of such death, S. 2328, to authorize the use of veterans educational assistance for examinations and assessments to receive credit toward degrees awarded by institutions of higher learning, S. 2333, to require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to permit supplementation of health records of deceased veterans, S. 2397, to require implementation by the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs of certain recommendations relating to the provision of health care through community care providers, S. 2683, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Officer, and S. 2737, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to implement a pilot program to furnish hyperbaric oxygen therapy to certain veterans through community care providers, 4 p.m., SR-418.

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* December 10, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 3 p.m., SH-219.

*Special Committee on Aging:* December 10, to hold hearings to examine aging with purpose, focusing on the positive impact of seniors in today's economy, 3:30 p.m., SH-216.

*United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control:* December 9, to hold hearings to examine Chinese organized crime in Latin America, 2 p.m., SD-215.

## House Committees

*Committee on Agriculture,* December 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Member Day", 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

December 11, Full Committee, hearing entitled "CFTC Reauthorization: Stakeholder Perspectives", 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth.

*Committee on Education and Workforce,* December 10, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Development, hearing entitled "Building A Talent Marketplace: How LERs Empower Workers and Expand Opportunity", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce,* December 10, Subcommittee on Environment, markup on H.R. 6409, the "Foreign Emissions and Nonattainment Clarification for Economic Stability"; H.R. 4218, the "Clean Air and Economic Advancement Reform Act"; H.R. 6387, the "Fire Improvement and Reforming Exceptional Events Act"; H.R. 4214, the "Clean Air and Building Infrastructure Improvement Act"; H.R. 161, the "New Source Review Permitting Improvement Act"; H.R. 6373, the "Air Permitting Improvements to Protect National Security Act"; and H.R. 6398, the "Reducing and Eliminating Duplicative Environmental Regulations Act", 10:15 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

December 12, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Member Day", 9 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.



*Committee on Financial Services*, December 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled “From Principles to Policy: Enabling 21st Century AI Innovation in Financial Services”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

December 11, Subcommittee on Financial Institutions, hearing entitled “Right-Sizing the U.S. Bank Capital Framework: A Return to Tailoring, Economic Growth, and Competitiveness”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs*, December 10, Middle East and North Africa Subcommittee, hearing entitled “Understanding Judea and Samaria: Historical, Strategic, and Political Dynamics in U.S.-Israel Relations”, 10:10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

December 10, South and Central Asia Subcommittee, hearing entitled “The U.S. India Strategic Partnership: Securing a Free and Open Indo-Pacific”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

December 11, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

December 11, Africa Subcommittee, hearing entitled “Stopping the Bloodshed: U.S. Response to Crimes Against Humanity in Sudan”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security*, December 11, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Worldwide Threats to the Homeland”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on House Administration*, December 10, Subcommittee on Elections, hearing entitled “Examining Potential Updates to the NVRA”, 2 p.m., 1310 Longworth.

*Committee on the Judiciary*, December 10, Subcommittee on Oversight; and Subcommittee on the Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust, joint hearing entitled “Fighting Obamacare Subsidy Fraud: Is the Administrative Procedure Act Working as Intended?”, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn.

December 11, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act”, 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, December 10, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Abuse of the Equal Access to Justice Act by Environmental NGOs”, 10:15 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

December 11, Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing entitled “Modernizing the Implementation of 638 Contracting at the Indian Health Service”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

December 11, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, hearing on H.R. 3924, the “Wildfire Risk Evaluation Act”; H.R. 5095, the “HOMEFRONT Act of 2025”; H.R. 5419, the “Enhancing Administrative Reviews for Broadband

Deployment Act”; H.R. 5729, the “North Rim Restoration Act of 2025”; H.R. 6365, the “Wintergreen Emergency Egress Act”; H.R. 6380, the “Chiricahua National Park Act”; and legislation on the American Products in Parks Act”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform*, December 10, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs; and Subcommittee on Health Care and Financial Services, joint hearing entitled “Lowering the Cost of Healthcare: Technology’s Role in Driving Affordability”, 10 a.m., HVC–210 Capitol.

December 10, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation, hearing entitled “Using Modern Tools to Counter Human Trafficking”, 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology*, December 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Genesis Mission: Prioritizing American Science and Technology Leadership”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business*, December 10, Full Committee, hearing entitled “From Service to Startup: Empowering Veteran Entrepreneurs”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, December 11, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing entitled “Cutting Costs, Adding Value: The Future of Federal Property”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs*, December 10, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Putting Families First: Strengthening CHAMPVA for Survivors and Dependents”, 2:15 p.m., 360 Cannon.

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence*, December 11, Subcommittee on Defense Intelligence and Overhead Architecture, hearing entitled “FY 2026 Department of Defense Proposal for Cover Enhancement Authority”, 1:30 p.m., HVC–304 Hearing Room. This hearing is closed.

*Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party*, December 11, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Trojan Horse: China’s Auto Threat to America”, 10 a.m., 390 Cannon.

### Joint Meeting

*Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe*: December 10, to hold hearings to examine from production to procurement, focusing on how Europe and Ukraine are transforming defense supply chains, 2 p.m., 2358C–RHOB.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

10 a.m., Tuesday, December 9

## Senate Chamber

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*(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of William J. Crain until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)*

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

12 noon, Tuesday, December 9

## House Chamber

**Program for Tuesday:** Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.



## Congressional Record

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