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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, January 30, 2026, at 10:30 a.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 2026

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Gracious God, without You, we are but disappearing dust. Draw near to our Senators, for in Your presence they find their dignity, destiny, and direction. Lord, breathe into them an awareness of Your presence and the saving knowledge that they belong to You. May this awareness inspire them to walk the days of their years in service to You and humanity. Help them to remember that You are changeless, nor is there any variableness in Your judgment, mercy, and love. Remind them also that they can depend on You for the vindication of every just cause, the forgiveness of every confessed sin, and the strength for every setback.

May they trust You to give them strength to work today for the glory of Your Name.

We pray in Your omnipotent 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. MULLIN). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026—Motion to Proceed—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 7148, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 302, H.R. 7148, a bill making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

NATIONAL TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, January is National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month. For that reason, the senior Senator from Nevada and I are introducing a resolution to raise awareness and honor the victims.

Every day, victims are trafficked across the world. Each person has a role to play and ought to be vigilant in preventing the vulnerable from becoming victims of trafficking.

As chairman of the Judiciary Committee, I will continue to support legislation like the Working Families Tax Cut law to give law enforcement all the resources it needs to protect people from the scourge of human trafficking. I will also continue to push legislation like the Senate-passed Preventing Child Trafficking Act, which would ensure our Federal Agencies take needed steps to protect in a better way potential victims.

So, today, please join me in raising awareness. And to those who may be victims, please know that there are resources available to you. If you are in Iowa, please visit stophtiowa.org, or, anytime and anywhere, you can text ''HELP''—H-E-L-P, obviously—to 233733.

I thank the Senator from Nevada for joining me in this effort.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

WORKING FAMILIES TAX CUT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, there is almost nothing parents won't do for their children. From the moment they

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

hand you that little bundle, your whole life becomes about giving them a better life, ensuring that they have every opportunity that you can give them, and setting them up for success. Most often, that starts with a good education. So last year, Republicans set out to support parents and empower them to make the choices they believe are right for their children's future.

For decades now, the 529 savings plan has been a powerful tool for parents to save for their kids' education. At first, 529s could only be used for college, but in 2017, Republicans expanded the eligible uses of 529 plans to include K through 12 expenses as well. And in last year's Working Families Tax Cut, Republicans again expanded 529 plans to include a number of education investments: tutoring, vocational education, homeschool materials, and continuing education. And on top of that, we doubled the amount that you can spend from your 529 account to $20,000 a year. These reforms will help more Americans find success, whether they need a little help getting through algebra or want to pursue a career in the trades.

As we mark School Choice Week this week, I also want to note how the Working Families Tax Cut supports scholarships for students who attend the school that best suits them. I am a proud product of public schools, the son of two public school educators, and both of our daughters graduated from our local high school. Students can get a great education at their public school, and they are a point of pride for many communities. But I also understand that some parents would like to send their child to a school outside of their district or to a nonpublic school or choose to homeschool.

My home State has been a leader in offering open enrollment, which allows students to go to the public school of their choice, even if it is not the school closest to home, or to enroll in another school district altogether. South Dakota gets it.

And I am not surprised that we were one of the first States to opt in to the scholarship initiative created in the Working Families Tax Cut, which encourages private support for scholarships that will help students cover a variety of education expenses and enable them to take advantage of the type of educational freedom that South Dakotans have long enjoyed. And I am glad to see that more than 20 States have already pledged to participate in this important initiative to encourage donations to K through 12 scholarship funds.

Our bill doesn't stop there. The Working Families Tax Cut provided additional funding for Pell grants and created the Workforce Pell Grant Program, which will support students pursuing shorter term job training programs that prepare them for in-demand skilled jobs.

Then there are our actions tackling the high cost of college degrees. The cost of a college education is out of control. Research suggests that a number of degree programs now have a negative return on investment. The answer isn't throwing more Federal dollars at the problem; it is putting downward pressure on tuition and holding schools accountable for the value of the education they provide.

That is what Republicans did last year. We implemented accountability measures to rein in high costs. We also streamlined student loan repayment programs, simplifying the process and providing much needed clarity to folks repaying their loans.

And we ensured that graduates won't have to pay taxes on tuition assistance from your employer, a measure that I introduced and this bill makes permanent.

The education provisions in the Working Families Tax Cuts gives the next generation more opportunities to get ahead and succeed. But before I close, I want to talk about another part of this bill that sets America's next generation up for success. That is the new Trump Accounts.

These new investment accounts provide parents with another vehicle to save for their children's future, to invest that money and let it grow over the years. And when those children turn 18, that money—thousands or tens of thousands of dollars—will be tax advantaged and can be used for education, to start a business, or to buy their first home.

In short, Trump Accounts will help the next generation get a head start on their American dream.

And for children born between 2025 and 2028, the government is offering an initial $1,000 investment in Trump Accounts. We have also seen similar activities from philanthropists and matching commitments from various companies for their employees. A number of those initiatives were announced during yesterday's Trump Accounts summit at the White House.

Musician Nicki Minaj was among those at yesterday's summit. She grew up in a housing project in a family that faced its share of financial struggles, and she is now raising her own family.

She recently said of Trump Accounts:

> This program will benefit everyone—decreasing the gap for future prosperity between children who traditionally aren't born with a full bank account and children who are.

I hope that parents will take the opportunity to learn about this option to invest in their children's future because the more people learn, the more they will see the potential to set their children—an entire generation of Americans—up for success.

A good education is the key to opportunity. It is one of the best gifts that parents can give to their children. Thanks to the Working Families Tax Cuts, the next generation will have greater educational freedom and be empowered to seize more opportunities and to find increased success.

Our legislation puts our Nation's children on a smoother path to achieving the American dream, and it gives a whole generation more opportunities to get ahead.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this is a moment of truth for the United States of America. What the Nation witnessed on Saturday in the streets of Minneapolis was a moral abomination. Federal agents shot and killed Alex Pretti, an American citizen, in broad daylight.

It was the second time that agents killed a U.S. citizen in 2 weeks after the tragic killing also of Renee Good.

Enough is enough.

What ICE is doing outside the law is state-sanctioned thuggery, and it must stop. It is state-sanctioned thuggery, and it must stop. Congress has the authority and the moral obligation to act.

This morning in Minneapolis, Tom Homan, Donald Trump's border czar, held a press conference. He didn't say much of significance, but he did say one thing that was important. Here is what Homan said:

> For the people out there who don't like what ICE is doing, if you want certain laws reformed, then take it up with Congress.
>
> For the people out there—

Homan said,

> —who don't like what ICE is doing, if you want certain laws reformed, then take it up with Congress.

I don't agree very much with Mr. Homan, and he is certainly not my choice for someone to lower the temperature in Minneapolis, but he is right in saying the epicenter of change has to be Congress—not the executive branch.

And change is desperately needed because the images of masked men beating up people in the streets and shooting American citizens in broad daylight have shocked the conscious.

Alex was holding his hand up. He had one hand up and another hand holding, I believe it was, a radio, and they shot him many times. It made every American recoil to see that our law enforcement is doing that to our citizens.

It is confounding. It does not look like America in these pictures. Oh, no. And it has been unleashed by Donald Trump and the people under him—Noem, who should be out of there. Thank God they got rid of Bovino. His face, when you saw, it looked like he was grimacing like a thug.

This has got to stop.

Congress must step up to the plate. The Republican majority must step up to the plate. Republicans in Congress cannot allow this violent status quo to continue. They must work with Democrats on legislation—real legislation, strong legislation—to rein ICE in.

Let me be clear: Democrats are ready to pass five bipartisan funding bills in the Senate. We are ready to pass them today. We are ready to fund 96 percent of the Federal Government today, but the DHS bill still needs a lot of work.

So after meeting yesterday as a caucus, Senate Democrats are united on three main goals that will rein in ICE and end the violence—rein in ICE and end the violence: first, end the roving patrols; second, enforce accountability; third, masks off; body cameras on. Each officer must have visible—visible—ID.

Now, no one thinks we are going to solve every single problem in one fell swoop. But the American people are demanding that something gets done. And, of course, to pass legislation and enshrine this into law, we need our Republican colleagues to come along with us.

So, again, first, we need to end ICE's indiscriminate patrols. We need to tighten the rules governing the use of warrants. ICE needs to stop the mass chaotic patrols. They need to work with State law enforcement, local law enforcement—not against them.

That means no more ICE agents barging into people's homes without a judicial warrant. When does that ever happen in America? It is a flagrant violation of the Fourth Amendment.

It also means stopping the dragnet harassment of American communities.

Second, we need accountability. ICE needs to be held to the same basic standards as any law enforcement agency in the country. We need a uniform code of conduct for ICE and all Federal agents, just like State and local law enforcement have. If they violate these standards—like in the instances of Renee Good and Alex Pretti—they must be held fully accountable.

And we need independent investigations, not ICE investigating itself—ICE, the leadership of which is a bunch of liars. We don't trust them to do the investigation.

Most Americans might be shocked to learn that these basic rules do not apply right now to Federal agents like ICE. It is the kind of thing most people would just assume is already in place because it is so obvious, but that is not true when it comes to ICE. They are operating effectively outside the law, and a small glimpse of a video taken by a bystanding citizen shows it every day, every minute. You see these videos. Again, you recoil. It is not America. It is thugs roaming our streets.

Third, we need the masks to come off, and we need the body cameras to stay on. No more secret police. Masks must come off, and body cameras must stay on. Agents need to carry clear identification. The public deserves transparency as it always has asked for with law enforcement.

These three—ending roving patrols; enforcing accountability; masks off, cameras on—are commonsense reforms. They are reforms that Americans already expect from law enforcement.

Now, the onus now is on Leader THUNE and Senate Republicans to work with Democrats to turn these goals into legislation. They are in the majority—the Republicans are. They are the ones who have responsibility to govern, and Democrats are ready to come to the table.

If Republicans refuse to work with us to rein in ICE and to end the violence, they are telling the American people they are choosing to protect ICE over choosing to protect people's safety.

Americans, by and large, support law enforcement. I do. And most people support border security. I do as well. But Americans do not support ICE terrorizing our streets, operating outside the law, killing American citizens.

The madness and violence must end. Congress must act to rein in ICE and end the violence—rein in ICE and end the violence.

The American people deserve nothing—nothing—less.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The majority whip.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, on the Senate floor today, right now, are six bipartisan appropriations bills—six—bills to keep America safe, bills to keep our government funded and government open, bills that the Senate Democrats have helped draft, bills that the majority of the House Democrats have voted for.

These are bipartisan bills, and they fund the rest of government for the remainder of the fiscal year. Every Senator should vote yes. Americans are counting on our government to stay open, to keep people safe.

Today, Senate Democrats are threatening to block these bills, not just to vote against them but to actually block us even getting the bills to the floor for debate.

So, once again, Democrats are threatening to shut down the government. If the vote we are about to take here today in the Senate doesn't succeed, if the bill stalls out, the government will shut down tomorrow night—Friday night—about 36 hours from now.

Let's talk about the painful consequences because here they are: no funding for FEMA. Now that is the Federal Emergency Management Agency. It would be disastrous to shut down FEMA in the middle of a major winter storm. It is affecting half the country, and it appears that another storm is along the way.

A shutdown would mean no paychecks for our troops, once again; no money for TSA agents or air traffic controllers. This is at the time the country is trying to get back on the move again. These are the consequences, and they are painful.

Now, we all remember the Democrat shutdown at the end of last year. That was the longest shutdown in the history of the American government. It was the politics of pain delivered by the Democrats.

The last Democrat shutdown was about covering up the many failures of ObamaCare. This Democrat shutdown would be about prioritizing illegal immigrants over American citizens. The Democrat shutdown does not change the immigration law, nor will it halt immigration law enforcement.

Even Senate Democrats admit that publicly. That is because Republicans already put into law the largest investment in border security and immigration enforcement in the history of this Nation.

Let me be clear: The vote that we are going to take, in just a few minutes, to advance the six bipartisan appropriations bills allows us to avoid a shutdown, to keep the government open, to make America safer.

The bills that are on the floor fund disaster assistance through FEMA. They hire thousands of new air traffic controllers. They fund TSA agents, the Coast Guard, and our military. They give our troops a well-earned and well-deserved pay raise. They support housing assistance for vulnerable families. They improve roads, bridges, and ports across the Nation. They upgrade our Nation's outdated air traffic control system. All of that is in front of us today.

These bills are the product of the Senate working the way it was designed to work. They reflect months of bipartisan committee work and good-faith negotiations.

I applaud Senator SUSAN COLLINS of Maine. She is the chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee. These bills are the product of her determination to deliver for the American people.

It is time for the Senate to vote yes, and every Senator should vote yes to avert a painful shutdown.

Republicans are going to keep working with Democrats to keep the government open. This Nation deserves safety and security, not another government shutdown.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, Democrats have been very clear. We have five bills in this package we would be happy to pass today on their own. We are all in agreement on funding for childcare, cancer research, air traffic controllers, our troops, and more. But we have also been clear that we cannot and will not move the DHS bill without real progress on accountability.

ICE and CBP are out of control, and we cannot approve that bill until commonsense reforms are included. That is what the vast majority of the American people are demanding, and many Republicans now also say that must happen as well.

So Congress, all of us, need to act. Peaceful protesters and American citizens are being targeted, detained, attacked, and killed. We have to say no to what this President is doing.

So while I am very glad to see that the White House and Republicans are now talking with Democrats to finalize a plan to pass the five bills and split off DHS, until that deal is finalized, I will be a no on this vote.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call in relation to the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 302, H.R. 7148.

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

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be permitted to complete my remarks before the vote begins.

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

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I urge my colleagues to vote to end debate on the motion to proceed to the six-bill package of appropriations legislation sent to us by the House of Representatives. These are fiscally responsible funding bills that reflect months of hard work and deliberation and contributions from Members of both parties and on both sides of the Capitol.

I would like to take a few moments to highlight some of the key aspects of these bills.

Let's begin with the funding for the Department of Defense. This legislation provides U.S. military services with the funding needed to deter China and Russia, supports our servicemembers and their families, and strengthens the defense industrial base. It addresses major funding gaps across the board, such as in shipbuilding. The bill provides a critical downpayment toward an additional DDG–51, the workhorse of the U.S. surface fleet, and invests in additional Columbia- and Virginia-class submarines.

The bill also provides multiyear procurement authority for critical munitions production, a priority for the President. It funds drone and counterdrone technologies, which, as we have learned in both Ukraine and Israel, are increasingly changing the nature of the battlefield.

And it sustains security cooperation with close allies and partners whose growing defense capabilities are force multipliers for the United States and contribute to the deterrence of shared adversaries. This is especially true of our NATO allies who are increasingly increasing their own domestic levels of military investment at the push and encouragement of President Trump, and appropriately so.

Finally, the Defense bill invests in our most precious asset: the men and women of our Armed Forces. The bill fully funds the 3.8-percent pay raise for servicemembers and the additional pay raise for our junior enlisted servicemembers, showing our commitment to their readiness, well-being, and mission success.

The second bill is the National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs bill. It used to be known as the State, Foreign Operations bill. It contains security assistance for key allies and partners, including Israel, Jordan, Egypt, Taiwan, and the Philippines.

The bill also supports important global health programs. It continues support for the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, known as PEPFAR, which has saved a remarkable 26 million lives since 2003, including the lives of 8 million babies born to HIV-infected mothers. It is difficult for me to contemplate another global health program—and we have many good ones—that has had more of a positive impact than PEPFAR. In many ways, I think it was President George W. Bush's greatest legacy.

Turning to the Labor, HHS bill, this appropriations bill would prioritize funding to help make Americans healthier, and it robustly funds lifesaving biomedical research.

This has been a top priority of mine, and I know of many other Members as well, including the subcommittee chair, SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO and her ranking member, TAMMY BALDWIN.

Funding for NIH is not decreased, as was proposed in the administration's budget. Rather, it is increased by $415 million, including increases of $100 million for Alzheimer's research and $10 million more for diabetes research, with a focus on type 1 diabetes.

This bill also makes critical investments in our Nation's children and families and invests in America's workforce. It includes funding for childcare programs to help low-income working families and for apprenticeship programs to help us reach the goal of 1 million new active apprentices.

The bill also includes more funding for low-income heating assistance, which is absolutely crucial for States like Maine and is an issue that I have worked for years on with my Democratic colleague JACK REED of Rhode Island.

The Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development bill focuses on our most pressing transportation challenges, including modernizing our Nation's outdated air traffic system. And I give Secretary Duffy a great deal of credit for coming up with a workable, much needed plan in that area. It would also address the air traffic controller shortage and provides a pay raise there as well.

The bill invests in critical infrastructure, like our roads, bridges, ports, and rail.

At the same time, the appropriations will continue to fully fund existing rental assistance for more than 4.6 million households to ensure that seniors, the disabled individuals, and working families who currently receive such assistance are not put at risk of homelessness.

The Financial Services and General Government bill funds core government functions. It increases funding for taxpayer services at the IRS, reallocates resources to strengthen court security, and helps keep our Nation's Capital—Washington, DC—safe for both residents and visitors.

As the vice chair of the committee has mentioned, there has understandably been a great deal of attention focused on the Homeland Security portion of the package, given the events of the past week. The horrific shooting death of Alex Pretti must be thoroughly and impartially investigated, and President Trump has promised that it will be investigated both impartially and thoroughly.

The Homeland Security funding bill includes important provisions that we put in during the negotiations that would make such incidents less likely to occur. For example, it includes $20 million for body-worn cameras, which help to protect both law enforcement officials and those with whom they are interacting. It includes $2 million to ensure that training requirements include how to deescalate an encounter with protestors. Yet another important provision of the bill empowers the inspector general to review and investigate detention centers.

These are all critical reforms, but it does not mean that we cannot do more. But to do more, we need to get onto the bill so that we can make the critical decisions that are being negotiated by leadership in both the House and the Senate and the White House as to how we proceed. Do we split off the Homeland Security bill and pass the other five and put Homeland Security on a continuing resolution, which will, by the way, delay implementation of the three reforms that I just discussed? Or do we try to amend that part of the bill with the agreed-upon additional precautions and safeguards?

We can't do that if we don't get onto the package.

It is also worth noting that more than 80 percent of the funding in the Homeland Security bill is for non-immigration and border security functions. For example, 35 percent of the funding of the Homeland Security bill is for FEMA. And think about what FEMA has been doing on the ground, right now, due to the horrific storm that we have experienced.

It includes $35 billion for FEMA to help State and local governments prepare to respond to disasters, including funding for programs that help local law enforcement and our firefighters that are so important. It includes funding for the nonprofit security grant program that helps organizations like synagogues, churches, temples, and mosques protect themselves from terrorism.

Another important component of this bill supports our Coast Guard. Think of our Coast Guard personnel out in this terrible weather, being available to rescue our fishermen, our lobstermen, or others who are in trouble. The Coast Guard provides critical safety, security, and stewardship functions from Maine to the Caribbean, to the Arctic and a myriad of places in between.

The bill provides funding to secure our borders and to stop the flow of the illegal drugs, money, weapons, and people being trafficked into our country by cartels and transnational criminal organizations. It includes funding for TSA to help keep Americans safe while they travel, as well as funding for a 3.8-percent pay raise for air traffic controllers to help address the serious workforce shortage that also can affect air safety.

Mr. President, my hope is that we can come up with an agreement that allows us to proceed to this bill and to provide some additional safeguards. Those negotiations are underway right now. But if we don't get on to this package, we cannot change this package. I think that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle need to recognize and acknowledge that.

I want to end by noting the tremendous work of the full committee staff, my staff and Senator MURRAY's staff. I particularly want to acknowledge the hard work of Betsy McDonnell, who has worked night and day as the staff director. I want to thank our subcommittee chairs and ranking members and their staff, who have worked so diligently and are so dedicated.

I know the conversations are continuing even as we speak between the administration and Congress on how to complete action on the Homeland Security portion of this package. This morning's vote is about taking the first step—not the final step—to consider the package on the Senate floor. I urge my colleagues to support cloture on the motion to proceed to this vital appropriations package.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 302, H.R. 7148, a bill making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Chuck Grassley, Ted Budd, Tom Cotton, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Katie Boyd Britt, John R. Curtis, John Cornyn, Bernie Moreno, Tommy Tuberville, Roger Marshall, David McCormick, Jerry Moran, Markwayne Mullin, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Tim Sheehy, Susan M. Collins.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on Calendar No. 302, H.R. 7148, a bill making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 45, nays 55, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 13 Leg.]

YEAS—45

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

NAYS—55

Alsobrooks	Johnson	Sanders
Baldwin	Kaine	Schatz
Bennet	Kelly	Schiff
Blumenthal	Kim	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	King	Scott (FL)
Booker	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Budd	Lee	Slotkin
Cantwell	Luján	Smith
Coons	Markey	Thune
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Tuberville
Duckworth	Moody	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Fetterman	Murray	Warnock
Gallego	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Hassan	Paul	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden
Hickenlooper	Reed	
Hirono	Rosen	

(Mr. MORENO assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. SHEEHY assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGERTY). On this vote, the yeas are 45, the nays are 55. Three-fifths of the Senate, duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have a motion to reconsider.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

The Senator from North Carolina.

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, nearly a year ago, Secretary Noem visited Western North Carolina to see the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene firsthand.

That day, the Secretary told the crowd in Bat Cave, NC, that "the previous administration failed in many areas and we're going to learn from that and do better," a sentiment that I shared wholeheartedly.

Secretary Noem highlighted some of the actions taken in the early days of President Trump's second term to remove all of the redtape that previously slowed the Department down and Western North Carolina's recovery. These actions were sorely needed, and I fully supported what she intended to do.

Now let's fast forward a year. Earlier this week, the New York Times reported that approximately 17 billion, with a "b," in Federal disaster funds for States has been delayed over the past year.

The article states:

The delays stem from a directive issued by Ms. Noem in June that said any expenditure of $100,000 or more must be approved by her office, which oversees the disaster agency, to root out "waste, fraud, and abuse." The bottleneck includes money that had already been approved by regional FEMA offices for things like debris removal and repairs to roads, bridges, and water and sewer systems.

This is being delayed, folks. This new reporting sadly confirms what the people of Western North Carolina have known for the past year.

This chart shows a comparison between FEMA obligations and outlays in Hurricane Matthew and Hurricane Florence under President Trump in his first term. The obligations and outlays to date for Hurricane Helene under the second Trump administration are these marks.

Down here is what I would call, in my management consulting days, best practice. We had storms, Florence and Matthew. We knew what the State and local governments needed. We got it out without any delay.

Now, under Noem's leadership, which is supposed to be more efficient, more effective, and more responsive to the disaster in Western North Carolina and the other States that were affected, it looked like the EKG of somebody who is having a heart attack. It makes no sense. This chart shows a comparison between FEMA obligations and outlays for Hurricanes Matthew and Florence under the first Trump administration with the FEMA obligations and outlays to date for Helene under the second Trump administration.

The data clearly shows that something is seriously wrong here. Under Secretary Noem's lack of leadership, FEMA has invented an entirely new set of bureaucracies, the likes of which I have never seen, and I am in a State that deals with a disaster almost every season.

We are about to have another one potentially this weekend, and we just are recovering from an ice storm last weekend. And I have got this to deal with. What do I tell my citizens of Western North Carolina? The result has not been the elimination of waste, fraud, and abuse in the Federal disaster spending; instead, Secretary Noem's new review processes have indefinitely prolonged disaster recovery efforts across the country and inflicted needless pain onto already vulnerable communities and people.

Yesterday, in my office, I was notified that FEMA released more than $233 million in Helene-related reimbursements. They are approved to move to North Carolina. This is great news. And these resources are severely needed in Western North Carolina. However, when you dig into the details of the announcement, it becomes clear that this money is long overdue.

Again, this list is just from yesterday's announcement alone—$200 million for North Carolina Emergency Management as partial reimbursement for their emergency expenses incurred in the first 6 months of Helene—folks, we are well past 6 months—meaning this is only part of what the State is owed before March of 2025. We are in 2026, folks.

There is nearly $9 million for the Blue Ridge Electric Cooperative for repairing and replacing electric and fiber infrastructure. Great, glad to see it come. For comparison, this is roughly equivalent to what Blue Ridge Electric spent on fiber for the entire year in 2023.

Mr. President, 1.8 million for the town—this is one I hope people pay attention to, 1.8 million for the town of Lake Lure to rebuild its marina and docks. For those that don't know, Lake Lure is some of the most iconic scenes that you are going to find in the movie ''Dirty Dancing.'' That is where that movie was filmed out in Western North Carolina.

The entire economy depends on access to the lake through the marina. The Corps of Engineers recently finished removing more than a million cubic yards of debris just from the lake itself.

After losing more than a year of tourism revenue, the town hopes to reopen the lake and the marina at some point in the spring or summer. This one award represents more than 20 percent of the town's general fund budget for this fiscal year, and it is just coming.

There is 22 million for the NCDOT for road repairs. Again, much needed funding, but to put things in perspective, I don't know, if you have not been through Western North Carolina, I–40 is a two-lane road now. It was down to a single lane at one point. We have managed to get two lanes. Everybody thought it was going to be done in a year-and-a-half. I told everybody they are crazy. Now it looks like it is going to be 2027. It is going to cost $2 billion, twice what we thought it was, and we hope it gets opened by 2027. It is trending more like 2028.

So think about that, a major interstate section, a major economic corridor between my State and the Presiding Officer's State of Tennessee is at a trickle right now. That is the sort of damage we are experiencing every day in North Carolina. And yet, I have got a Secretary of Homeland Security who thinks, at one point, FEMA shouldn't even exist and now is running the organization like some amateur.

So moving from yesterday's funding approvals, I want to share the plight of 1 of the 39 Helene-impacted counties in North Carolina, Yancey County. It is home to some of North Carolina's most cherished natural resources, including Mount Mitchell. If you want to win a bar bet, ask somebody what is the highest peak east of the Mississippi River. They are probably going to say Mount Washington or somewhere up in New England. It is actually in the great State of North Carolina at almost 6,700 feet, a little over.

But Yancey County was at the epicenter of Hurricane Helene's impact in North Carolina. There is a good chance, if you remember any of the devastating images of the aftermath of Helene, you are probably thinking about Burnsville, the Yancey County seat. To date, Yancey County has incurred $50 million in debris removal costs alone for Hurricane Helene, far exceeding the annual budget of the county of $37 million.

You would think that today, more than 16 months after Helene, Yancey County would have received a significant amount of funding from FEMA to help the county recover from this historic devastation. Well, you would be wrong under the so-called leadership of Secretary Noem.

As of today, Yancey County received a grand total of $5.7 million from FEMA. Remember, we are talking about a $50 million debt right now, a $50 million deficit in a small county—$5.7 million. And of that, only $3 million of it was for debris removal.

In fact, Yancey County has not even been approved for a $5 million Community Disaster Loan that the county began application process for in October of 2024, after the hurricane impact. The county was told just last week that FEMA should have an answer for them by June of this year. Good on you, Secretary Noem, 2 years late—more than a year-and-a-half after the storm, folks.

This is completely unacceptable and, sadly, just wrong.

So it is not a secret that I have problems with the Secretary of Homeland Security and the way that her failed leadership has led to unconscionable results in Minneapolis.

I thank the President for putting an adult in charge who actually knows law enforcement by having Mr. Homan go there. He is going to lower the temperature. He is going to keep the law enforcement officers safe. He is going to make Minneapolis safer. Thank God we have adult supervision there.

But another part of the Secretary of Homeland Security job is disaster response, and I cannot tell you enough how incompetent, based on the facts, she is on that score as well. The people of western North Carolina, the people of eastern Tennessee, the people of South Carolina, Georgia, and Florida who were affected by Helene deserve better. No reasonable businessperson would accept this in the C-suite. She needs to get out of the C-suite.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

ENERGY

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, this week—this is no news flash here—a major winter storm brought snow, sleet, frozen rain, and bitter, bitter cold temperatures to most of the middle and eastern parts of the country. I rise today to really highlight dispatchable baseload power—coal, natural gas, and nuclear—the role those items played in keeping the 200 million Americans impacted by this winter storm safe and warm.

Common sense tells us that in the peak heat of summer or the depth of a winter cold, we are going to consume more electricity. Americans expect, very reasonably, that our country's energy policies will result in affordable and reliable electricity so that they can keep their homes cool in the summer and warm in the winter. If we know that demand for electricity is at its peak during times of extreme heat or extreme cold, such as we are experiencing—I think it was 6 degrees this morning—then it would make sense that our energy policy would prioritize those generation sources that are available to meet the demand when electricity is needed the most.

So which sources of energy showed up this week? Not surprisingly, fossil fuels and nuclear power provided the bulk of electricity during this week's storm and the intense cold that has followed.

PJM Interconnection is the electric grid operator in all or parts of 13 States—including my State of West Virginia—that were impacted by this winter storm. In a filing with the Department of Energy, PJM projected that its highest ever—highest ever—winter peak electricity demand would take place on Tuesday morning of this week. At 8 a.m. on Tuesday morning, fossil energy sources, including coal, natural gas, and oil, provided two-thirds of PJM's power, and another 23.6 percent of that was nuclear power. So that means that at a time of record winter electricity demand, 90 percent of the load was shouldered by baseload energy sources.

Electricity is just part of the story because natural gas is also used for residential heating in many of the same areas, providing energy beyond what is reflected in electricity generation sources.

This chart here really shows—it is from the Energy Policy Research Foundation, and it shows PJM electricity generation by source for the past week. It illustrates just what I have said—that fossil fuels and nuclear carried the load across PJM throughout this week's winter storm and its aftermath.

The solid-blue here represents nuclear. It stayed solid—like you would a baseload energy resource.

Similarly, the red shows the reliable supply of electricity from coal plants. You see it fluctuates a little bit, but it is still very steady and very meaningful.

The green shows electricity produced from natural gas—the largest single source in the PJM region. There is the green.

At the very top, what you see here is you see the relatively small amount of electricity produced from wind, solar, and hydroelectric sources.

What is notable is not just that the renewable sources generate smaller amounts of electricity, but see how sporadic they are. This is through a whole week here of the last storm we just had. So you can see from the chart that solar energy, which is yellow, basically disappears at night, of course. Then on Saturday, we had all that cloud cover, and again—or Sunday, cloud cover, too, from the snow. No generation. Wind power produced more on Friday—wind is the blue—but then it basically disappears on Saturday because the wind wasn't blowing.

So I highlight this chart not because I want to pick winners and losers among our energy sources. To the contrary, I believe all types of energy, all of this, including renewables, should be part of our energy mixture. But our country must have enough dispatchable baseload energy—that is from green on down—the type of reliable power that fossil fuels and nuclear provide, if we are going to stay warm in situations such as this during the depths of the winter.

The Biden administration, like the Obama administration before this, did everything possible to shut down our coal fleet. The Biden EPA had an entire strategy for pursuing multiple regulations, and I will just name a few of them: Clean Power Plan 2.0, ELG rules for powerplants, coal ash regulations, unachievable particulate matter rules, ozone rules, and the MATS rule—all to make it impossible to keep a coal plant open.

As the Wall Street Journal editorialized on Monday, coal is an especially valuable part of our grid during periods of peak winter demand because months of fuel can be stockpiled onsite at a plant—you see this all over West Virginia because we have not just the resource but the power generation from it—and can be used to supply more electricity when natural gas is also needed for residential heating.

On the oil and gas side, the Biden administration imposed a natural gas tax designed to make energy more expensive for consumers. The administration canceled the Keystone XL Pipeline and, working with their allies in State governments, stood in the way of pipelines that could move abundant natural gas produced in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio to gas-starved areas in our Northeast and in our Southeast.

I was very proud of the bipartisan work that we did in passing the ADVANCE Act to make nuclear licensing more efficient, but even that overwhelmingly bipartisan bill took years longer to pass because of a handful of Democrat opponents.

So I am glad that we had sufficient dispatchable power to make it through the winter storm this week, but I am not convinced that we would have if we had continued the Biden administration's radical opposition to the energy sources that people rely on to keep them warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

I appreciate President Trump, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin, Energy Secretary Chris Wright, and others across the administration for their commonsense approach to regulation that allows us to keep producing and utilizing the energy resources that we need, especially during periods of peak demand.

Going forward, I will continue working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to lock in commonsense permitting reform so that projects of all types, including sources of dispatchable baseload electricity, can be permitted through a fair and efficient process.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. President, I am going to switch gears here to another hat that I wear, and I want to talk about another topic—and that is the progress we have made in restoring a functioning appropriations process—and the critical importance of the work before us. But first, I would like to thank our Appropriations leaders Chair COLLINS and Vice Chair MURRAY, as well as Leader THUNE. I applaud them for their steadfast commitment to returning to regular order, and I am glad to see that our work has brought these bills to the Senate floor.

In particular, I am proud of the work we accomplished in a bipartisan fashion on my Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies bill. It is a big bill. I would like to thank all of my fellow committee members for their input. We received 12,000 total member requests for this bill.

As Senator BALDWIN and I begin our fourth year this year of working on this subcommittee together, I am pleased that we are once again able to bring forward a bipartisan bill that reflects targeted investments, disciplined decision making, and a shared commitment to meeting the needs of the American people.

The Labor-H bill allocates limited taxpayer resources to key bipartisan priorities, and it does so at a lower level than we did in fiscal year 2025. In fact, it decreases the base discretionary cost of the bill by $3.2 billion compared to fiscal year 2025.

To achieve this, the bill reduces or eliminates funding for more than 40 programs and activities and realigns spending to reflect Republican values and priorities, while continuing to deliver on areas where agreements exist across the aisle.

The bill includes a number of Member priorities, such as greater investments in America's biomedical research, childcare, mental and rural health, workforce development, and continued efforts to combat the opioid epidemic.

As we work to rightsize the Federal Government, the bill also includes targeted decreases in administrative funding while ensuring that our Agencies have appropriate staffing levels to carry out their statutory responsibilities.

We also preserve longstanding, consensus-driven policy provisions and reject the inclusion of any new controversial riders. That stability is really important, not only for our Agencies but for our families, our workers, and communities counting on the programs that we authorize.

A major priority in this bill is our sustained commitment to the National Institutes of Health. We provide funding for NIH to support lifesaving biomedical research, which touches us all, and research that makes Americans healthier. It strengthens our economy and pushes the boundaries of what is possible in medicine.

This investment includes targeted increases for research in critical areas such as Alzheimer's, diabetes, Parkinson's, women's health, maternal health, rare diseases, and cancer.

We also increase support for NIH's IDeA Program, which expands research capacity in 23 States, including my home State of West Virginia, and continues to be important for institutions like West Virginia University and Marshall University.

The bill strengthens our efforts to combat substance abuse—an issue that still continues to affect many families and communities across the country and my State most deeply. So we are supporting prevention, treatment, research, and recovery programs. If you look at the latest statistics, we are actually bringing the statistics down, but they are still way too high. We bolster support for rural healthcare programs. Rural America is tough to get healthcare affordable and accessible in some ways, but we are trying to increase access to care for more than 60 million Americans who live in rural areas.

Critically, we maintain important conservative policy riders, like the Hyde and Weldon amendments, ensuring the bill reflects longstanding bipartisan consensus.

The Labor-HHS bill focuses on our children from early childhood through postsecondary education, ensuring that they are prepared for the jobs of today and the jobs of tomorrow. This includes critical infrastructures to help American workers upskill and to advance in their careers. We include funding for apprenticeship grants to support the Trump administration's goal of creating 1 million active apprenticeships.

The bill is important to our country. But make no mistake, it is really important to my State of West Virginia, for our universities, our hospitals, dozens of nonprofits and workforce programs, treatments for our coal miners and those suffering from opioid addiction. All of these things help my fellow West Virginians. And I know this because I hear directly from them about it every single day. My driving force in crafting this bill was to help meet those needs for my fellow Virginians, and I am proud to say this bill does just that.

Mr. President, as encouraging as this progress sounds, our work is not done. The American people expect Congress to fulfill its most basic responsibility: funding the government responsibly and on time. Every delay undermines confidence in our institution and forces our Agencies into wasteful, short-term planning cycles.

Completing this work is not about a partisan victory. It is about good government. It is about keeping our commitments. It is about demonstrating that Congress can function and can work together to deliver real results. That is why we must come together to pass this package. It ensures that the priorities that we carefully crafted, debated, and agreed to on a bipartisan and bicameral manner can actually be carried out.

So, once again, I want to thank Chair COLLINS for her leadership throughout this process. I encourage all my colleagues to vote positively on the entire package. We saw earlier, it didn't pass. But we still have negotiations moving so we can responsibly fund the government. This is what the American people sent us here to do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

ANNIVERSARY OF FLIGHT 5342

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to mark a solemn anniversary, one that continues to weigh heavily on the hearts of Kansans and families across this great Nation.

It was a year ago today that flight 5342 left Wichita, KS, en route to Washington, DC. As we all know, it never reached its destination. Sixty-seven lives were lost, amongst them, seven Kansans. Certainly, families were changed forever.

Today, we pause to remember those lives and honor their memory and to stand with the loved ones who carry this burden every day. Kansans grieve together. When tragedy strikes, we don't do it alone. We lean on each other, we lean on our faith, and we lean on our communities.

Today, we just want to remember those who were lost, remembering these were Kansans. They were sons and daughters, husbands and wives, parents, friends, and coworkers. And many were simply doing what so many of us do every day: traveling for work, for family, or to return home.

The best way we can honor those we lost is by remembering them and learning from the tragedy. We tried to ensure there was full accountability since this tragic accident. We tried our best to ensure complete transparency, and then take a look to the future to see what we could do for the safety of future flights. And, certainly, we owe it to their families and to the memory of these loved ones to pursue these improvements and never forget why it matters.

I recall a phone call early the next morning from the mayor of Wichita, KS, Mayor Lily Wu. She asked me—and we have a good friendship. She said, ''ROGER, what can I tell the people of Wichita so they know that it is safe to travel on this flight?''

And she pointed out this is the busiest runway in all of America. She asked me: Why was a military helicopter in that airspace?

So I picked up the phone and I asked our Secretary of Transportation and our Secretary of Defense that same question: Why would a helicopter be in that airspace?

At that moment—or shortly minutes after that, they grounded any helicopters from being in that airspace.

Then what did the Senate do? I am so proud of what my colleagues have done. Senator MORAN helped lead the charge on that—and many others. We passed the ROTOR Act out of the Senate, which would implement commonsense reforms to ensure a tragedy like this never happens again. I would hope that our colleagues on the House side would also pass this bill and we can get it to the President's desk.

Just in closing, here we are a year later, and we are here to remember, to honor, and try to figure out the best ways to move forward. But at the end of the day, we want the families of those back home to remember that we have not forgotten about their loved ones and that their lives did matter.

I think I would be remiss not to express gratitude to the first responders that we met that night out in the frigid cold, sacrificing their lives, diving into the chilly waters in hopes of finding someone whom they could save. Thanks to all of our first responders.

Finally, of course, we pray that God would continue to comfort the families who lost their loved ones.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

TENNESSEE

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment and express my gratitude for the Tennessee National Guard, the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency, our Governor, our electric power distributors, and our first responders, who are in every county, for working around the clock, as well as local elected officials. I thank everyone who has stepped up to help keep Tennesseans safe during this horrific storm, as it is truly one of the worst winter storms that has hit our State in decades.

At its peak, you had over 200,000 people in the Middle Tennessee area who were without any power. Days later, people are still waiting for that power to come back on. We are hearing from some people that they have been told it is going to be days or weeks before that power is restored, and we know that everyone is working as quickly as they can to restore this. We are grateful for the support that has come from surrounding States in order to help in ours.

We know people are really braving these downed powerlines, these hazardous roads, frozen pipes, and frigid temperatures. We have lost 13 individuals connected to the storm, and I am joining all Tennesseans in mourning their loss and in praying for their families. We also are focusing on making certain that roads are cleared, that water mains are repaired, and that power is restored.

I am continuing to get updates from mayors across our State and especially there in the mid-State, and I am so grateful for President Trump's swift approval of Governor Lee's emergency declaration request so that we can get our State the resources that we need.

As we recover, I encourage everyone to stay off the roads, to stay home, and to be mindful of all of the recovery crews that are out working and to stay safe.

ONLINE TICKETING PRACTICES

Mr. President, any American who has purchased tickets for a concert, a sporting event, or a show knows that online ticket-selling is broken. Scalpers are using AI-powered bots and software programs to scoop up hundreds and thousands of tickets at a time. They are forcing some events to sell out within just a minute or two of the window's opening for ticket purchase. With no other options, consumers are forced into the secondary, or resale, market, and scalpers are marking up ticket prices to extreme rates.

The consequences have been disastrous for the ticket-selling marketplace. In 2022, Ticketmaster's website crashed after scalpers used bots to purchase thousands of tickets for ''Taylor Swift's Eras Tour,'' reselling them by as much as 70 times the face value.

One of the scalpers involved in the fiasco is a U.S.-based company that is actually located in Maryland. It is called Key Investment Group. They purchase more than 375,000 event tickets over the course of a year. In the process, they clear millions of dollars in markup resale.

These scalpers add zero value to the ticket-selling market. Fans are extorted to go see their favorite singers, teams, and entertainers. Performers do not see a dime of the money that these bots and scalpers are skimming.

This practice is illegal. In 2016, I led the enactment of the Better Online Ticket Sales Act, or the BOTS Act, which prohibits ticket scalpers from using software to purchase high volumes of tickets. Yet, under the Biden administration, the FTC rarely enforced the law, and scalpers like Ticketmaster turned a blind eye and bypassed the safeguards to prevent mass ticket buying. In some cases, the company allegedly engaged in bait-and-switch schemes with scalpers to drive up the ticket price.

Live Nation, the company that owns Ticketmaster, even, allegedly, provided tech support for scalpers by helping them aggregate tickets purchased from multiple Ticketmaster accounts.

The reason is simple: If Live Nation enforced its ticket-purchasing limits, then Ticketmaster would lose $220 million in resale revenue. But by working with the scalpers, it was able to collect fees at three different points in the purchase and resale process.

This extortion of the American people is inexcusable. That is why Republicans and the Trump administration are demanding accountability from ticket sellers and cracking down on the fraudsters.

In September, Senator LUJÁN and I sent a letter to Live Nation's president, demanding answers about his company's abusive practices.

Yesterday, I chaired a hearing for the Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Technology, and Data Privacy on live performance ticket sale practices. We had the opportunity to hear from Kid Rock, who explained how bot scalpers harm the entertainment industry. I also questioned a representative of Live Nation, who had no explanation for why his company is putting fraudsters ahead of hard-working Americans.

Thankfully, the FTC, under President Trump and Chairman Ferguson, have launched several enforcement actions under the BOTS Act, including against Live Nation, Ticketmaster, and scalpers like Key Investment Group. Unlike the Biden administration, the Trump administration is enforcing the BOTS Act, as it is intended, to hold accountable both ticketing platforms and scalpers.

In the entertainment industry, nothing is more important than the relationship between the performers and their fans. With the exploitive practices of these scalpers and Ticketmaster, bot-powered scalpers threaten that bond. Republicans are doing everything possible to hold these criminals to account.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Colorado.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Mr. HICKENLOOPER. Mr. President, we like to believe that when democracy erodes, it is unpredictable and in some ways out of our control, but history tells us a different story. Authoritarianism rises through a time-tested playbook. These leaders have learned which moves weaken opponents, which tactics will rally a crowd, and which moments of fear or crisis work best to their advantage.

They don't need to invent new strategies. They can run familiar plays. There is one target we are watching this administration go after the hardest, and that is the truth. They begin by attacking every source of independent information. It started with universities and colleges. They moved on to our largest research institutions. They discredited or tried to discredit every journalist whose reporting differs from their own narrow point of view, and in doing so, they have tried to make the administration and the President the sole source of truth.

We have seen this play out in Minneapolis during the past few weeks. So let's get a few facts straight.

On January 7, ICE officers shot and killed Renee Good while she was in her own car. She was a mother of three, originally from Colorado Springs. Then, again, this past weekend, Americans watched the videotape of Federal immigration agents shooting and killing Alex Pretti. They fired 10 times in 5 seconds.

It is sickening. No family should have to witness their loved one being killed in such a fashion, and yet, obviously, Alex's parents did.

His parents live in Colorado. I connected with them earlier this week. Among other things, they wanted to make sure that we do everything we can to make sure that Alex's name is out front, that we keep their son's story alive to make sure that his life wasn't lost in vain. They have asked for truth and accountability. What they are getting—what all of us are getting—are excuses and lies—lies about their son. The reality of who Alex Pretti was doesn't fit the administration's playbook, so they are filling the airwaves with lies, repeating them over and over and over to try to somehow get them to stick.

DHS Secretary Noem, within hours of Pretti's death, said:

> It looks like a situation where an individual arrived on the scene to inflict maximum violence . . . and kill law enforcement.

Next, it was Greg Bovino, Trump's now-fired Border Patrol commander, saying that Pretti intended "to massacre law enforcement" and that he "violently resisted."

Stephen Miller called Alex Pretti a domestic terrorist, with Vice President VANCE and President Trump promoting that sentiment and that blatant lie from their pulpits.

By this point, we have all seen that video from multiple angles. We have seen it with our own eyes. Alex was not a terrorist. He was in no way an assassin. He was a U.S. citizen exercising his First Amendment right to protest ICE's lawlessness.

This week, families in Eagle County, CO, experienced another type of cruelty that fits into this administration's playbook. They found "death cards" left in the automobiles of their family members who were taken away by ICE agents. These cards—I hold one up here—have a history of being used by White supremacist groups to intimidate people of color. Death cards is what they call them. These cards found in Colorado had the address and phone number of the Aurora ICE detention facility printed on them. Aurora is a neighboring city to Denver.

Now, imagine just for a second that you haven't heard from your brother, your sister, and when you finally find their empty, abandoned car, it has one of these death cards sitting in the driver's seat. I mean, this is cruelty for the sake of cruelty, and it fits into the troubling pattern that we are seeing coming from some of the top officials in the White House.

This morning, I voted against a government funding that would have handed billions of dollars to DHS. Continuing to fund ICE while Federal officers terrorize our cities and kill people is unconscionable. We need to stop ICE officers beating Americans, killing Americans, arresting Americans without due process, taking away the civil rights of Americans.

The overhaul of ICE that we are demanding is common sense. The fact is that these are all basic standards of local law enforcement, who go after violent criminals, gangsters—in many ways, the worst of the worst. These are standards that those local police officers already follow.

ICE needs, first, to take their masks off. They need to turn on body cameras. They need to be clearly identified. There can be no accountability without transparency.

No more unmarked vans and masked agents pulling people over and pulling people away and arresting them to wherever. No more roving patrols. ICE needs to have judicial warrants signed by a judge. They need to stop arresting children on the side of the road and end these cruel family separation policies.

Secretary Noem—what she said, I think, is untenable and unacceptable, and I think she needs to resign. But let's be clear. ICE is carrying out the policies of our President, so just changing leadership at ICE or DHS is not going to be sufficient. We have to fundamentally overhaul the lawlessness of these organizations.

This administration is asking us to ignore what we can see with our own eyes. They get us to a point where we mistrust so many sources of information, and they force us to rely on believing what we see. They are asking us to believe lies about Alex and about Renee, about what is happening in Minneapolis, but we watched the videos. We saw those videos.

Those words matter—"we watched," "we saw"—because they acknowledge a larger truth that binds us all together. We saw what happened. We saw what happened. We saw the cruelty, and we saw and understand that it needs to end.

Asking us to make peace with that cruelty is asking us to ignore the values that make us Americans. It is telling us to believe that somehow we owe nothing to each other—not to our neighbors, not to our community, not to our country. We will not. We know the truth, and we are not going to look away.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BUDD). The Senator from Oklahoma.

NATIONAL SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, this body disagrees on a lot of things—a lot. But we should have at least one thing we can agree on. It is pretty simple. Kids are different.

You get three kids in a room and all three of those kids are very, very different. I know. I have two daughters, and they are different. I love them both deeply, but they are very different. I find that in a lot of different families.

Students and kids are different. One kid likes football. One kid likes baseball. Another kid doesn't like any sports at all. One likes the band. One likes choir. One likes drama. One doesn't like any clubs at all. One is in Latin club and another is in chess club and the other thinks chess club is dorky. You know why? Because people are different.

That seems normal for us to be able to think about that most basic thing, that not everyone is the same and not everyone chooses the same things that they like or has the same needs. But sometimes when we get into school, we will say: Oh, but they all need to go to the same school. I just disagree.

In America this week—this is actually School Choice Week. Some people may or may not even track that. That is fine. There is a week designated for everything across the country. But in Oklahoma, we really prioritize the ability for every family to be able to make their own choices for education for their kids. We have strong homeschooling. We have strong private schools. We have strong public charter schools. And we have public education. All of them are important to us, and all of them provide different options for families. Now, we have still got a long way to go in education in Oklahoma, but we are investing more and more and more into education. And I am proud of our State legislators prioritizing—in this coming session—reading for early childhood education and to make sure that we are doing the things that we need to do to improve our public education.

In the meantime, we want to continue to provide options to every single family and to every single kid to be able to make sure that the best education environment is out there for that particular child because we want every child to be able to thrive in America. We want every child to be able to have the opportunities that they need to be able to be successful in the days ahead, and that starts with a great education.

Quite frankly, some of our districts are doing not as well as others. Some are doing great, and some are struggling. I don't want a single family in my State, though, to have to think: My kids have to go to a certain school because of the ZIP Code that I live in and that is the only option. Quite frankly, I don't even want for families to say, ''Every one of my kids has to go to the same school,'' because sometimes it just doesn't work the same.

Now, I have heard some folks that are very passionate about public education, which, by the way, I am too. My mom was a lifelong public school educator. My degree was in secondary education. My family is very, very involved in education, and I am very passionate about public education. I think it is vitally important that we do it and that we do it very, very well. But I want to make it very clear for all of the folks whom I meet who say: If you will just give us a couple more years, this will improve. Give us a couple more dollars and a couple more semesters and this will get better for this particular school. I want to remind them that the kid growing up next to that school doesn't have a couple more years. It has to be right now for them. They can't wait until things get better. They only have today. So that is why school choice is so incredibly important, that every family and that every kid has the options to be able to get a better education or to get an education that exactly fits them best. That works better.

This past July, we passed the historic Working Families Tax Cuts Act. In that act, we did a lot of investment in education.

We expanded the 529 savings account to allow more parents to be able to set aside funding for private education if they choose to do that and put that in their 529 so it can grow tax-free.

We invested more into Pell grants and expanded the growth of Pell grants.

Now, you might say: Why does that matter for K through 12?

Well, Pell grants have been really targeted towards institutions that do what is called terminal degrees. So, if you are a kid in poverty and you want to get a degree in philosophy, we would help you do that. But if you are a kid in poverty and you want to get a certification in welding or in plumbing or in carpentry or as a truckdriver, we would say: You are on your own. Well, what in the world? For years, we have been fighting this to be able to say: If we are going to help somebody, give them more options than just a 4-year degree. If they want to do certification programs to be able to get into a vocation faster, why wouldn't we help them do that to be able to rise out of poverty? We fixed that in the Working Families Tax Cuts Act to expand the use of Pell grants so that more individuals who are in poverty can get access to education that helps them get a job even faster.

We actually reversed some changes that were done in the FAFSA. I am not even going into all of the issues of the FAFSA and for getting into higher education, but it actually blocked out kids from agricultural families because of the land and the equipment that they owned. They may be land rich, but they are often cash poor, and they were still blocked out of getting Federal assistance and getting a higher education. We finally fixed that, and there are a lot of other areas we fixed.

We also set up a new program where individuals could actually give to school choice for other families they will probably never ever meet. It is to help them in the days ahead be able to have an option for private education when they couldn't get there.

I have folks who catch me on this occasionally and will say: You talk about school choice all the time and the different options for families. Do you just hate public education or why is this such a big deal to you?

I smile at them and remind them of my mom and of my own past and that I am very, very passionate about public education and that we need to make sure we are investing in doing that well. But if I have a quiet moment with folks when they say to me, ''Why do you care so much about school choice?'' I will tell them there are two reasons. One is that my State cares about this a lot. Our homeschool programs and our programs for private education are thriving, and we have great public charter schools. We have a lot of great districts around, but in many of our districts, according to our State law—even in our public education in Oklahoma—you can choose from one district to another district even if you don't live in that ZIP Code for that district so that you even get school choice in Oklahoma even in public education. It is a big deal to us, but it is a big deal to me personally because I have personally experienced it.

You see, my mom—a single mom, a public school educator—did not make much. There was a time when I was in elementary school, and so was my brother, that education was not working for us. So my single mom sacrificed everything for my brother and me to go to private school. I went to private school for 2 years, and then she ran out of money. My brother continued on for a while, but I went back into public school, which there is no complaint there, but I watched, even in my own family, my mom say: I wish we had different options. As a public school educator and a single mom, she made the hard call to say: I have got to figure out a better place because my kids will only get one shot at education, and it has got to count.

I could not tell you how grateful I am for my mom and the sacrifices that she made for my brother and me because it made all the difference for us, but it is because she made a choice, where you would have looked at her and said she had no choice. She figured it out. We all sacrificed a lot, but education was just that important to her.

I don't want that to just be for my family. I want that option for every family. I want the option for every kid to have the opportunity to get the best possible education for who they are, because my brother and I—I love him—

but we could not be more different because we are two different kids, which is just like a lot of other families. So please don't say every kid has to do education exactly the same way when we all know every kid is different.

Why don't we give families the option to choose what is the best education environment for that particular kid and to allow them to thrive in the days ahead? I think that is better for kids—to allow them to have a choice—and for every family to get that choice as well.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mrs. MOODY. Mr. President, as you may know, we are recognizing National School Choice Week, and I thank my colleague for organizing those of us who believe dearly in educational options for children to come to the floor and speak about what we have accomplished and what we hope to accomplish on behalf of America's kids.

As you may know, in addition to being a U.S. Senator, I am also a mom of a kid in school who has gone to many different kinds of schools over the course of his educational career, and I am honored to serve as a cohost this week with the chairman of the HELP Committee Senator CASSIDY, as well as my friend Senator TIM SCOTT to represent the long strides that my home State of Florida has taken to make us the best State, I believe, in the Nation for educational freedom.

This did not happen overnight. It took decades of thoughtful policymaking and implementation and tweaks along the way, and we are still working to get it right. But I wanted to show up here today and tell my colleagues about how Florida has set its kids on paths to success by thinking outside the one-size-fits-all approach for education. That has happened from tireless work from parents, from advocates, and a State government that has transformed Florida from a State with poor performance across the board to a leader nationwide in education.

We went from having graduation rates at just 60 percent, with less than 1 percent of K through 12 students attending a public charter school, and fewer than 10 students in the State receiving a K through 12 scholarship in 1999. I will say that again: a 60-percent graduation rate. In the decades that have followed—today, I am proud to say Florida now has a graduation rate of 92 percent of its kids graduating on time. That coincides with when we really started pushing educational options for our kids, beginning with Governor Bush right up until our current Governor Ron DeSantis, who got to make this great announcement. We were one of the first States, a few years ago, to adopt universal school choice. Close to 1 in 8 of our students now attends a public charter school—a public charter school—and more than 450,000 students receive some form of K through 12 scholarship, including the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship.

For our children in Florida, school choice has been an invaluable tool for success no matter their background, their means, or what ZIP Code they live in. It is these accomplishments in Florida that drive me now as a U.S. Senator to ensure that all of America's kids can prosper.

I have been a proud champion of the Education Freedom Tax Credit, which is now, I am proud to say, signed into law. Not only do Florida kids have access to all of the options that we have provided to them through State law, but they now have access to supplemental resources that were provided through the Education Freedom Tax Credit. I thank my colleagues, and I thank the President for supporting this measure as, now, 2 million children across the Nation will be able to seek the schooling that best fits their needs. This is another way that we are empowering parents: by supporting educational freedom across the country.

As we wrap up National School Choice Week, we must remember and keep advocating publicly because there are some States that have the opportunity to opt in but refuse to do so, and that breaks my heart for the many kids who could benefit from what is available to them through educational choice. We must continue to remind the rest of America about the success we have seen in States that have embraced educational alternatives and have seen what it means when you place an emphasis on individual school needs and student needs, not ZIP Codes or economic means.

The individual needs of students and the individual circumstances of students should drive their opportunities for success. The possibilities are endless when we do away with that one-size-fits-all approach and empower parents to choose what best fits their individual child. That is why I commit to continuing to advocate for school choice—so that all of America's kids see the same opportunities that we have been able to offer to the children of Florida.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, for many months, the Trump administration has unleashed a campaign of fear across American cities, deploying thousands of immigration agents onto our streets and into our neighborhoods in an effort to terrorize and punish communities.

In Chicago, Portland, Los Angeles, and most recently Minneapolis, we have watched masked Federal agents in unmarked cars snatch people from the street, destroy private property, and leave others bloodied on the side of the road.

We have witnessed an approach to internal immigration enforcement that no President in our history has pursued, that no President would ever have conceived because of how fundamentally it violates our principles and the rule of law.

We have witnessed children separated from their parents—a 5-year-old detained by armed agents in Minnesota—people pulled from their cars, their engines still running.

All us have read reports of people grabbed off the sidewalk and abandoned hours later, miles away.

Every step along the way, Donald Trump's immigration troops have escalated tension on our streets with total disregard for the rule of law, basic safety, and their own accountability.

These events would be terrible enough, but even as communities across the country have struggled to pick up the pieces left in their wake, we have been forced to contend with another injustice: an administration that has tried to convince us time and time again that what we have seen with our own eyes is not the truth, that somehow the opposite has taken place, that reports and testimony contradicting the administration's position are simply political propaganda.

Over and over again, DHS Secretary Kristi Noem and others in the administration have lied to the American people and to Congress about what we are all seeing in plain sight. Now they are lying to justify the murder of Alex Pretti.

Right after the shooting of Alex Pretti in the street, Noem went on national television and told us that Alex was ''brandishing'' a firearm, ''impeding'' the law enforcement officers and attacking them, and that he acted ''violently'' or ''reacted violently'' when officers attempted to disarm him. She insisted that ''an agent fired defensive shots'' and that it appeared that this was ''a situation where an individual arrived at the scene to inflict maximum damage on individuals and kill law enforcement.''

Stephen Miller, who works at the White House, called Alex a domestic terrorist and a would-be assassin. Vice President JD VANCE amplified these statements.

Gregory Bovino, a senior Border Patrol official who is serving as ''commander at large,'' maintained that Alex had intended to ''massacre'' law enforcement agents. At a press conference, Bovino turned the facts completely upside down, insisting that the victims of Saturday's violence were the Border Patrol agents that were there.

Bovino, by the way, has served as the face of the administration's operations as they have swept through America's cities—in Chicago, in Charlotte, in New Orleans and then Minneapolis.

The American people deserve to know the truth, and Alex Pretti and his family deserve to have the truth told about him and what he did.

Thanks to a number of courageous bystanders at the scene, we know what happened that day, and we know that everything that Noem and Miller and others have said has been lies. The truth is that Alex put himself between

Federal agents and a woman they were shoving in the street. He had been filming Border Patrol agents detaining someone else on the side of the road when he went to help this woman. The officers responded by pepper-spraying him and wrestling him to the ground, where he was quickly surrounded by a group of seven agents. They struck him repeatedly with the pepper spray canister while he lay in the street. One officer took away his gun—a gun that had remained holstered and that Alex was legally allowed to carry. Then, disarmed and incapacitated, they shot him in his back. They shot him at least 10 times within 5 seconds.

Alex Pretti was killed by his own government, and then his government immediately began to lie about him and what had happened. He did not attack the agents. He did not threaten them. And at no point did he pull a gun. In the video of that horrific scene, it is clear that an agent disarmed him before any shots were fired. Multiple agents held him to the ground. Three of them beat him.

No reasonable person would have believed he posed any threat to the agents or anyone else at the scene, but the agents still shot him. They shot him 10 times.

(Mr. HUSTED assumed the Chair.)

In the days since his murder, we have learned a lot more about Alex from those who knew him and loved him. Alex was a dedicated ICU nurse at the Veterans Affairs hospital in Minneapolis. His colleagues described him there as helpful and kind and that he was uniquely capable of handling things with integrity and with grace.

His high school classmates remember him as a role model. They recalled him being a really good friend and a really good man.

Alex loved his country, and, like many of us, he was deeply concerned about the Trump administration's actions and the devastating effects they are having on our democracy.

It is true that he had very strong feelings about the presence of ICE on his city streets, but the day he was killed, Alex was exercising his First Amendment rights to peacefully protest and document the actions of Federal agents as they threatened his community.

Alex's parents, Michael and Susan, live in Colorado. They want the world to know the truth about what happened that day and the truth about the kind of person their son really was.

They told the world that Alex wanted to make a difference in the world. His patients and colleagues, friends and family testified to the fact that he did, and it is another tragedy that he will no longer be able to continue to do so.

But Alex's murder is only the most recent outrage we have been subjected to by a reckless and out-of-control DHS. On January 7, Federal agents shot and killed Renee Good in Minneapolis. Renee was a mother of three and a native of Colorado Springs. The next day, Federal agents shot and wounded two people in Portland. A week later, Federal agents shot and wounded another man, again, in Minneapolis.

It is worth remembering that these are just a few of the instances that have occurred in broad daylight and in public spaces, where bystanders have been there to witness these brutal activities firsthand and managed to capture video of what happened.

But if this is what is happening out in the open, it is hard to imagine what is happening behind closed doors.

Last year, 32 people died in ICE custody. That is the most in over 20 years. Given the total lack of transparency and accountability that we have seen from ICE, we can't be sure what has happened to these people. There have been reports about sexual abuse of detainees. There are disputed facts over deaths that occurred in ICE custody.

People in ICE facilities have reportedly been forced to ration food. They often go days or weeks without their prescription medicines or access to medical care.

Overcrowded detention facilities leave the lights on 24–7, and families report extreme violence and intimidation by guards.

These stories are consistent for people held in detention across the country, including in the detention facility in Aurora, CO. But the administration has lied about all of them.

President Trump has claimed that Renee Good was a ''professional agitator,'' that she was ''very disorderly, obstructing and resisting, then violently, willfully, and viciously ran over the ICE officer.''

Noem described Good's efforts to leave the scene peacefully as ''an act of domestic terrorism.'' Her Department issued a statement saying that ''violent'' rioter had ''weaponized her vehicle.''

In October, Noem and her Department lied when she said no U.S. citizens had been arrested, detained, or deported.

In November, Federal Judge Sara Ellis described Gregory Bovino as ''evasive,'' ''not credible,'' and declared that he was ''outright lying'' when questioned under oath.

A consistent pattern of lies corrodes American's faith in our government, which is already stretched dangerously thin. It strikes at the core of our constitutional system, which requires at least some basic level, some basic fidelity to facts in the conduct of our public affairs and our public discourse.

When the Secretary of Homeland Security appears on television to insist repeatedly on her preferred version of events, she is not just offering another lie that must be rebutted; she is insisting that there could never be a truth that actually mattered to the American people or to our sense of public safety or to our exercise in self-government.

And that is what is at stake here. If we allow this to continue, we risk falling into a degraded version of political debate when there are so many lies and so many contested facts, that the American people regard any claim with exhausted cynicism and suspicion. And if we go too far down that path—and we are headed a long way down it right now—the only guaranteed outcome will be greater contempt felt by Americans for their government and for the political process.

They will withdraw from public life, and the possibility for genuine political disagreement—in other words, a debate over what to do in the face of facts, rather than over the facts themselves, or unwilling to even have a discussion about it because of our permanent partisan division—will be erased.

Every one of us has a responsibility at a moment like this, and we know from American history that, in some ways, the most significant resistance in moments like this comes from the public itself. It comes from the people of this country. I could see that on the steps and the grounds of the State capitol in Colorado, last weekend, when thousands of Coloradans were there to rally, not just for themselves but for their fellow citizens in Minnesota and across our country.

I think, when times are tough, we often have a tendency to think that we are living in uniquely bad times. But I believe that way of thinking almost always does a disservice to the people who have come before us, who took on even tougher battles with longer odds and who, while they were doing that and because they were doing that, bequeathed to us their own legacy of resistance and the possibility of change, no matter how hard it seemed. And I think we should look to those battles for inspiration in our time.

It is important for us to tell our kids about those battles, to make sure they understood what those fights actually looked like and how hopeless, at times, those fights seemed to the people that were waging them.

When I was growing up—and I know this is true for many of my colleagues who are here—the moral character of this country was defined by the civil rights movement, the struggle against segregation, and the fight for equality. This fight, this battle—the effort to demolish centuries of legalized discrimination and disenfranchisement—never was going to be easy, and many believed that it was nearly impossible. And there were others who believed that it shouldn't have been fought to begin with. And, I would say, to this day, we have a long, long way to go.

The structure of Jim Crow, of the poll tax, of separate and worse schoolrooms and hospital wards and lunch counters had been built up over generations. State laws had established these exclusionary practices. State officials enforced them, and State courts upheld them.

There was no guarantee that they would ever come crashing down, but they did because the leaders of the civil rights movement and ordinary citizens in the streets and in America's pulpits, and reporters and journalists sent their reports on the demonstrations. And the conditions of real life in the South of this country made it impossible to ignore the facts.

It was harder then than it is in our own time just to turn the channel and imagine that that alternate reality didn't actually exist. For people in that country, with the broadcasters—ABC and CBS and NBC—it was impossible for the public to ignore what was right before their eyes.

The success of that generation of brave Americans was achieved because they forced a broad swath of this country, a majority of this country, to finally see what they would have preferred to be blind to—the reality of segregation and the subordination of their fellow citizens under law.

It is a story of moral reckoning and of citizen action. It is a story of street protests and police brutality and political vacillation, but it is also a story of American renewal, of our ability to author our own history, to continue the endless founding and refounding of this country as generations of Americans lay claim to it and shape it.

I don't believe that we have lost that ability. I don't believe that we have lost that ambition. I don't believe that people in Colorado and Minnesota and all across this country have given up on the promise offered by America, a promise that can only be given and kept to each other.

As Alex Pretti said himself when honoring a veteran who died in his care, ''today we remember that freedom is not free. We have to work at it, nurture it, protect it, and even sacrifice for it.

In the end, it is also not enough for there to be just public expressions of disapproval. We actually have to change the laws.

Part of our job here as Senators is to uphold the ideals that Alex and so many others in Minnesota and across Colorado and across the country believe in and are fighting for. And it is our job here in the Senate to provide a check on an Executive that our Founders knew was always susceptible to the temptations of unlimited power. That was their concern about a unitary Executive, the President of the United States.

And this week we have an opportunity to be that check. We have an opportunity to change the law.

The Senate is considering a number of bills to fund the government, including one that provides over $10 billion to the varied Departments responsible for the murder of Alex Pretti and the chaos we are seeing in communities across the country.

It would be unconscionable for us to pass this bill without amending how ICE or the Border Patrol operate at all.

In fact, we should use this as an opportunity to do it. What better opportunity will there be?

As written, the Homeland appropriations bill provides no real accountability, no oversight, no guardrails or transparency. It offers no guarantee at all that what happened to Alex Pretti won't happen again.

That is all the more absurd because Republicans gave the Department of Homeland Security an additional $190 billion on top of the regular annual appropriations. Think about that—190 billion additional dollars on top of the annual appropriations last year as part of their Big Beautiful Bill that they passed on a partisan vote. And this funding, I can assure you, came with no accountability or oversight at all.

In the midst of all this, it would be a profound abdication of our responsibility as Senators to entertain the idea of providing more funding to the Department unless serious reforms are put in place. I think these reforms are common sense that you would want for any law enforcement agency operating in America but especially when it comes to a Federal Agency operating in some sense now as the President's internal army.

I think the least we could ask is that children are no longer detained or stripped from their families. Who wants to come to this floor and debate the opposite of that point?

Immigration officers should take off their masks and provide clear identification.

There is no doubt in my mind that the minute we get through this fraught political moment in America, there will be a broad consensus—in fact, I think there is one now—that ICE shouldn't be separating children from their families; that law enforcement agents shouldn't be wearing masks; that they should use body cameras consistently with any immigration enforcement activities; that ICE stay away from sensitive areas like schools and hospitals and places of worship; and, consistent with our responsibility, our duty to provide a check, to provide our own oversight, that Members of Congress have full access to immigration detention facilities.

Those are reforms that do not today define the way ICE does its work—they do define the way a lot of our local law enforcement does its work—but I think they reflect a massive consensus in the country about what would fix the challenges we are facing. It would at least be a basic start in the right direction.

In my view—you might disagree, but in my view, President Trump would be doing himself and the country a favor if he removed Kristi Noem from her position and prevented her from doing any more harm to this country and to our communities and if he removed DHS agents from Minnesota and other cities across our country.

I would say to all of my colleagues here, Republicans and Democrats, that we cannot simply accept a promise of change or action or reform from this administration, which has spent months lying to Congress and the American people with a straight face. There is no world where we can sit back and assume that the President and his team are going to be persuaded to do anything—anything—unless we write it into law. Even then, we have no guarantee, of course, that this administration won't just break the law as soon as it is written. That has been our experience in Colorado. But at least putting this into statute would be a better pathway for holding Noem and Miller and others accountable for the bloodshed and chaos we are seeing in our streets.

After that, I think we could have serious conversations about passing a funding bill. Until then, we can't allow this legislation to go forward.

Our children and future generations have a reasonable expectation that their elected officials will do everything in their power to keep them safe and to provide the plain facts as they are.

As legislators, it is our responsibility to stand up to an executive branch that is unleashing mayhem in our streets and gunning down American citizens while insisting that the public should not believe what they have seen and what they have heard or that it is unpatriotic all of a sudden to disagree with the President's version of events.

We have seen this story before. There is nothing new under the Sun. We know the dark path this can lead us down. But we have also seen the courage that was demonstrated by the generations of Americans who have come before us, who have disagreed in this Chamber, who have disagreed with each other, but who ultimately have rejected injustice, particularly when it was directed from the highest levels of government.

One of these people was a hero of mine, it won't surprise anybody here to know, and it was Colorado's former Governor Ralph Carr, who spoke out against Japanese internment when most politicians in the West and in this country were staying silent.

Addressing a crowd one day on the Eastern Plains of Colorado, Governor Carr said:

> I am talking to . . . all American people whether their status be white, brown, or black . . . when I say that if a majority may deprive a minority of their freedom, contrary to the terms of the Constitution today, then you as a minority may be subjected to the same ill-will of the majority tomorrow.

What happened to Alex Pretti and the lies that followed were an assault on every one of us, on all of our children, on our sense of dignity and our innate understanding of right and wrong.

Now is the time for my colleagues to come together and demand that we reassert these principles and demand the return of safety and security and sanity to our government rather than the chaos and destruction we have recently seen. It is what all Americans expect, and it is what our country deserves.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

(Mrs. MOODY assumed the Chair.)

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. McCORMICK). Without objection, it is so ordered.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I have come to the floor today, once again, to raise objections—in fact, deep concerns—about something known as congressionally directed spending, but the more colloquial term for what I am describing is ''earmarks.'' Specifically, I want to talk about the inclusion of earmarks—a lot of them—about $5 billion worth in this particular package of bills.

The government-directed micromanagement of any large, complex economy never works. By ''never,'' I mean literally never. Never in the history of human beings has this worked or has it ended well except for a small handful who grow richer and more powerful every time government attempts it. Very often, it is undertaken with an eye toward a populous objective, one that is supposed to elevate the poor, but it, in the end, has quite the opposite effect. A reverse Robin Hood world then develops, one in which those who are already wealthy and already powerful become more so and everyone else suffers. It has been attempted time after time in this country and in other countries all over the world, in many different eras, and it literally never works.

It is like the game Mouse Trap. If you ever played Mouse Trap as a kid, you know the experience that I am talking about. In the game of Mouse Trap, you would set up this elaborate system of marbles, and they would go down a little tunnel and a little ditch, and they would turn a wheel and ring a bell at the end of it. The game never worked. Mouse Trap never works. Earmarks never work—neither does socialism, neither does the progressive nightmare that we have been living in for a long time—nursing it along—pretending that somehow, this time, it will turn out differently. It will not.

Our former colleague and dear friend of mine, the late Senator Tom Coburn from Oklahoma—a dedicated fiscal conservative and a fierce, stalwart opponent of earmarks—once said, ''Earmarks are the gateway drug to spending addiction.'' His words were prescient, and they remain as truthful today as ever.

Earmarks are, by their very nature, corrupting—corrupting of the process—perhaps not in a legally cognizable way, but they are corrupting, nonetheless, of the process. They allow for special interests to exert greater influence in our politics and steer Federal taxpayer dollars to pet projects in individual States or specific congressional districts often to benefit a particular business enterprise, nonprofit, or someone else. They fund projects that, as worthy or unworthy as they might be—and there is a broad spectrum of earmark beneficiaries that can be found at every point along a continuum of worthy in the abstract, or unworthy. But they have got certain things in common, and one of those is that they often shouldn't be funded by government at all. And for those that ought to be funded by the government, many of them shouldn't be funded by this government—this government, which is a government of limited, enumerated power, something that we fail most of the time to even acknowledge anymore, much less respect.

Remember, James Madison described, at the dawn of our Republic, as our Constitution had been proposed but not yet ratified—and during the ratification debates, he penned so many of the Federalist Papers. And in Federalist 45, he wrote that the powers of the Federal Government are ''few and defined'' and those reserved to the States are ''numerous and indefinite.''

The ''few and defined'' powers really are that. As much as we sometimes like to pretend otherwise, we are in charge of just a few basic responsibilities where we have exclusive domain within our system of government, where our power trumps State and local power. But those areas really are limited, you see, because our Founding Fathers understood a very simple truth, which is that the risk of corruption grows larger and the difficulty of overcoming corruption becomes more distant, more remote, more tenuous the higher the level of government you go. They understood that problems arising in a government are much more difficult to eradicate in a larger, more national government, and that is why they very carefully—almost religiously—reserved most of the power to be exercised at the State and local level.

But they carved out exceptions. What are those exceptions? Well, the most notable and obvious among them are national defense, weights and measures, trademarks, copyrights and patents, postal roads, regulating the interstate, and foreign trade or commerce. And there are a few others, but that is the gist of it. There is no general power in there. There is no power in there, for example, to say: Let's make sure we have good schools. Let's make sure everybody is happy. Let's make sure that a good idea gets funded.

No, those things don't exist in there. That is a figment of our imagination. For the first 150 years of our Republic when operating under the Constitution, we respected those limits and those boundaries. It started to change during the New Deal era in the 1930s where Congress and the executive branch and the judicial branch undertook a sort of collusive pattern of behavior to sideline principles that had fostered the development of the greatest civilization the world had ever known and ushered in one of the greatest, most prolonged eras of more or less continuous peacetime economic expansion.

And they just said: Oh, those rules that have worked here in the past that are still the law, were still the law in the 1930s, and remain the law today, we are going to set those aside. We are going to make them malleable. We are going to decide that they can mean whatever we want them to mean.

But, Mr. President, as Mark Twain is quoted as having said: If you name the tail of a dog a leg and you ask how many legs does the dog have, what is the answer? Well, it is still four legs. The tail of a dog is still a tail and is not a leg, even if you call it a leg.

We have called these things Federal powers, many of them since the 1930s, or at least looked the other way, with the Supreme Court also looking the other way since the 1930s, but it doesn't mean that these are appropriate activities for the Federal Government to engage in.

Now, what does this have to do with earmark spending? Everything. Because when we earmark spend, almost every time—not always, but almost every time—it is dealing with something that is at the far frontiers of what is even debatably connected to something that is debatably connected to an enumerated Federal power.

We have steered so far away from where we are supposed to be acting, we have forgotten why we are here. And as is the case when raising kids, especially when they get to be teenagers, you get into trouble when you stop doing the things that you are supposed to be doing. And when you start doing things that you are not supposed to be doing, you forget the things that you are supposed to be doing, and you don't do them very well.

We see that today, here, in this bill package right now, where we are being asked to jettison funding for a Department that includes, among other things, the enforcement of our immigration laws and the enforcement of our borders, something that has been severely compromised in the last few years and that President Trump is working hard to overcome. We are being asked to jettison that portion of the bill and replace it with a 2-week substitute, a 2-week temporary continuing resolution.

What does this have to do with earmarks? Everything. It has everything to do with it because, as we are not doing that, we are focusing on a whole bunch of stuff that we have no business doing, no business funding. And the way in which we are funding it is itself corrupting and corrosive of our process.

Any process that is designed to maintain sanity, fiscal responsibility, it is designed to maintain limited government with limited enumerated powers, we have thrown it all to the wind. The consequences have been disastrous. We are $38.5 trillion in debt, and we are adding to that debt at a staggering rate, close to $2 trillion a year, with no end in sight. Now, I can already hear the apologists of earmarks, the earmark brigade we will call them, saying: Well, earmarks are just a tiny, tiny percentage of overall spending.

That is true. They are. The same way that when you look at a locomotive, something that might stretch, I don't know, a half mile or a mile, the engine car of the mile-long locomotive is a tiny, tiny piece of the train, but it is what is driving the train. That is what earmarks do. They drive excessive Federal spending; they facilitate $2 trillion annual deficits; and they drive us into this awful downward spiral that leads us to a very dark place.

Now, at a time like this when American families around the country are working hard and the comeback is still just getting started, Congress really does need to remember its role as the steward of tax dollars. And to be a good steward of tax dollars, it has got to recognize some limit around its authority, but it doesn't do that. Its earmarks facilitate our further drift away from that standard.

We should consider earmark spending in the context of our $38.5 trillion debt, but we are adding to it at a rate of nearly $2 trillion a year. And our debt itself is a percentage of the economy—and you have to remember, it is at an alltime high. It is not just that the nominal debt, that the number is higher than it has ever been. It is true. We have never had a $38.5 trillion debt. But adjusted by every conceivable measure, whether you look at it in inflation-adjusted dollars, whether you look at it as a percentage of the economy, it is at an alltime high.

Now, fortunately, President Trump and many Senate Republicans have worked hard in an effort to root out wasteful spending and decrease the likelihood of a debt crisis or inflation or both. Remember the excitement when, about a year ago, first—a little over a year ago, as we were preparing for the new administration and the new Senate Republican majority to kick in and the new House of Representatives to continue under Republican control, there was a lot of enthusiasm over it with President Trump and Elon Musk kick-starting the DOGE process? You saw every Republican in Congress, and really in both Chambers, champing at the bit to be part of the DOGE movement. It was cool. It was hip. It was happening. It was the energy that this town needed. Everybody was excited about it. Everybody wanted to be part of the DOGE process. And then all of a sudden, they lost interest in it. Within just a few months, it has faded. And that is really, really sad.

But fast-forward to now, and there is still a lot of good things that we could and should be doing. In fact, just days ago, President Trump announced his appointment of a new Department of Justice official who will focus specifically on efforts to root out the fraud and abuse of American taxpayer dollars. That is a good thing. That is a natural outgrowth of the DOGE effort. It is a natural outgrowth of President Trump's desire to make America great again. This is an important project, and I hope and expect that it will succeed.

Yet sometimes I think that, while we draw near to the concept, to the idea, to the suggestion of being more efficient, of being more careful as stewards of the people's hard-earned money, we draw near to these concepts with our lips, but we show through our actions that our hearts are far from it. Democrats are continuing to push for more spending, more earmarks, and more government. That is not the path to prosperity.

As I have said before, earmarks don't just promote reckless spending; they are reckless spending. The process itself, when in the hands of fallible, mortal human beings, is itself naturally corrupting. They naturally do lead to and contribute to but fundamentally are reckless spending.

Now, according to the Congressional Research Service, from 1944 to 2011, there was a 282-percent increase in earmarks in appropriations bills. So after the very successful red wave election of 2010, the election in which I was first elected to the U.S. Senate, both the Senate and the House Republican conferences simultaneously adopted earmark bans correctly recognizing the corrupting nature of earmarks and their growing contribution to an increasingly problematic and unsustainable fiscal picture for the Federal Government.

I remember that moment well. I had just been elected to the Senate. It was November of 2010. I had yet to be sworn in. That wouldn't happen until January of 2011. But I came back here for my new Member orientation and was permitted, as a newly elected Senator-elect, to participate in my first Senate Republican conference. And it was in that measure that I supported and advocated aggressively for the earmark ban that we adopted.

It was a great move. So successful and so popular, so backed by popular voter demand was this anti-earmark wave that even former President Obama, while occupying the White House at the time, agreed, agreed right then, he said—shortly after the November 2010 election, about the same time the Senate Republican conference, just down the Hall from here in the Capitol, adopted this earmark ban which, in my view, is still in place—he said:

> I agree with those Republican and Democratic members of Congress who have recently said that in these challenging days (referring to rising deficits and debt levels) that we cannot afford . . . earmarks.

He was absolutely right. And if he was right then, it follows—in fact, it follows a fortiori that it is even more true today that the same words that President Obama uttered then are even more applicable then—they were applicable then; they are more applicable now, way more applicable.

Our national debt is several multiples of what it was then, $38.5 trillion, adding to it at a rate of about $2 trillion a year. Now, in 2019, Senate Republicans made the earmark ban permanent that had previously been considered temporary, a pause, a moratorium. And we had this decades-long earmark moratorium.

During that moratorium, what happened? Did the sky fall? No, it didn't. It didn't fall. Were there dogs and cats living together in the streets? Book of Revelation stuff? Not at all. There was no Armageddon. Were there disastrous political consequences to the Republicans who had spearheaded that earmark ban? No, not at all. Republicans did not suffer massive electoral defeat.

In fact, within a few years, we captured the majority again in the U.S. Senate. So to my Republican colleagues, stop telling yourselves that earmarks are necessary, that they are indispensable either for electoral success or the survival of the American economy or the survival of your home States' economy. They are not. That simply is not true. That is a lie we tell ourselves. It is not true.

Unfortunately, however, after Democrats took back the White House with House and Senate majorities also under Democratic control in 2021, they brought back the earmark practice. And, sadly, many Senate Republicans decided to go along with it at that time. Let's just go along because they are doing it. We might as well not let them have all the fun. So some started to do that.

Now, this return in recent years, starting in 2021, to include billions of dollars' worth of earmarks in annual spending bills, this is a microcosm of Federal waste and Congress' refusal to properly act to stave off a fiscal crisis.

This is the kind of direct attack on the President's economic agenda that goes unnoticed because those who support it often do so quietly, sometimes with a whisper or a whimper.

I will not go quietly, nor should I, nor should any of us when we consider what we do to our children and our grandchildren, whether they are born or unborn. Whether their parents are alive yet or not, our posterity will suffer from the consequences of these.

But it is not just that. It is those of us who are alive today, those of us who are working hard just to provide for our families today who suffer because when we spend too much money, everything costs more money. As Milton Friedman used to say, the true rate of taxation has to be measured not just by the top marginal tax rate. You have to look at the rate of government spending as a percentage of the economy because, one way or another, that piper has got to be paid. One way or another, it comes out in the wash. One way or another, the people will pay for it. They pay for it in terms of higher prices on everything they buy—every good, every service.

And, tragically, it is not the wealthy who bear this burden disproportionately. It is hard-working Americans, poor and middle-class Americans, those who work hard, pay their bills, pay their taxes and find that every dollar they earn buys a little bit less. We have seen more of that in the last few years than we have in a very long time.

Government Agencies, for their part, very often will try to hide the true impact of this, but they can't hide it for too long. They can conceal it. They can obscure it a little bit. But the American people know; they know what is happening. This is catching up to us.

Are earmarks the whole problem? No. Are they a small percentage of overall Federal spending? Yes, they are. Is discretionary spending much smaller than all mandatory spending? Yes. But this is all part of the same problem. And, again, it is earmark spending that drives the train. It is earmark spending that very often distracts us away from the things we are supposed to be doing and takes us down the direction of areas where the Federal Government probably shouldn't be acting in any event.

So let me ask this question: How are voters to trust Republicans in Congress to get spending in order and reduce our national budget deficits and eventually our debt if we don't have the discipline as a conference to cut even a few billion dollars in pork-barrel spending? How can we, as Republicans in Congress, in the House or the Senate, rightfully cancel wasteful foreign aid and subsidies to leftwing public radio but then simultaneously offset those things by greenlighting the enactment of several billion dollars' worth of wasteful earmarks?

Now, I will concede here everybody has a different definition of what is wasteful, what is good, what is bad. I will concede that a number of these probably go to worthy beneficiaries or at least good people intending, wanting to do good things for the American people. That doesn't mean that it is our money to spend. It doesn't mean that it is the appropriate role of the Federal Government to do that. It doesn't mean it is appropriate for any government to do that. And it doesn't mean that this process—the way we do it here—isn't terribly corrupting, with the tendency to drive up overall Federal spending.

To quote President Trump, ''For years, the radical left Democrats exploited the green-energy scam as an excuse to funnel many billions of dollars into their own massive slush funds'' and ''drastically drove up prices.''

That is what happens. That is what they do. Well, through certain earmarks, they quietly do the same, diverting the tax dollars of the American people to the kinds of projects that should never receive taxpayer money.

In total, the cost of earmarks this time around is around $5.2 billion. Yes, it is a small percentage of overall Federal spending. Yes, it is a small percentage even of the Federal spending in this particular package. But it is what is driving the train, and it is emblematic of the kind of problem that creates the much larger problem. While we are focused obsessively on doing these, we are not doing what we are supposed to be doing.

Speaking of emblematic, as we remove funding from the Department of Homeland Security, one of the few Departments that is pretty easy to fit within the enumerated powers of the Federal Government—why? Because the Federal Government is in charge of immigration laws, borders, and the enforcement of those laws governing immigration and nationality and that sort of thing. And yet that is what gets pulled out. We leave in there all the stuff that is tangentially related, at best, to enumerated Federal powers under the Constitution. Now, in total, yes, it is a small percentage, but it is what is driving the train.

Earmarks aside, perhaps the biggest problem with spending bills—with these spending bills, this package of spending bills that we will soon be considering—is that they simply spend too much money. Much of this stems from the fact that discretionary outlays spiked during COVID, and they never came back down to pre-COVID levels. In fact, total discretionary spending from fiscal year 2020 through fiscal year 2024 was $1 trillion higher than the Congressional Budget Office had projected it to be over that timeframe when they issued their 2019 budget baseline projections. That is the discretionary side.

Meanwhile, the mandatory side also exploded, so it got a lot worse. A lot of people are fond of saying: Well, it is not discretionary spending; it is mandatory spending. But they both went way, way up.

It is time to stop talking a big game about fiscal responsibility and to show voters that we measure up to the task. We cannot simply relent when Democrats want to tie the hands of this administration and saddle the American people with unsustainable debt.

So the question I pose to my colleagues who are OK with earmarks in their spending bills is this: Why are Senate Republicans supporting the effort to ignore our conference's still active, still intact earmark ban to partner with Democrats and reverse course on President Trump? You don't believe me? Well, this bill, as presently constituted, does among many, many other things the following: It funds hospitals and healthcare clinics that provide puberty blockers to children and perform abortions. It does that.

It sends money to a dance festival. This dance festival may be lovely. I am not really personally into dance festivals. Maybe some are. Those who like them, I hope they enjoy them. Dance festivals, I am sure, can be a great thing. That doesn't mean that the Federal Government should be funding it—or any government. I don't know why it is the job of any government that collects money from people, loosely speaking, at the point of a gun—because if you don't pay your taxes, eventually people with guns will come and issue a fine or haul you off if you refuse to pay—but we are funding it anyway.

It provides for million-dollar renovations at both the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Metropolitan Opera in New York City. Let's think about that for a minute. That is one of the wealthiest cities not only in America but in the world. And let's take the opera, for example. The opera: It is a great thing. I love the arts. It is fantastic. This is not exactly an everyman hobby. Now, I am sure there are exceptions. But it has a well-earned reputation for being something that is favored by the elite, by very wealthy individuals, in one of America's wealthiest cities.

So why are we sending them a million dollars? The Metropolitan Opera, the last time I checked, has an endowment worth about $255 million. It has multiple employees earning in excess of $1 million a year. I believe it has real estate assets valued at around half a billion dollars. And yet hard-working Americans in Peoria, IL, and in Orem, UT, all over the country, people who probably don't visit New York very often, if ever, who may not be into the opera, they are all being asked to subsidize that, to pay a million dollars for elevator renovations not only at the Metropolitan Opera but also at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Why? Why is that our role?

But not only why is it our role; why is it the responsibility of a plumber from Montana who is just trying to feed his family, who is probably never going to attend that opera or the Metropolitan Museum of Art? Why are you sticking that person with the bill?

The spending package also allocates dollars for nonprofits; specifically, nonprofits providing aid and counseling and legal services to illegal aliens, to individuals whose sole uniting characteristic is that they are here inside the United States unlawfully. Why are we doing that when it is counter to what we are supposed to be doing, which is to discourage illegal immigration and to make possible bringing to justice those who break the laws—something that—oh, yeah, we are removing that part of the bill that would even do that because we are too busy making sure that we are funding the hobbies of the ultrawealthy in one of America's wealthiest cities that most Americans will never visit. This is reverse Robin Hood at its worst. This is taking money from the poor and giving it to the rich, and it is wrong.

The bill also contains earmarks funding a nonprofit organization called NICE. Now, don't let the name fool you. NICE is not so nice. NICE is the New Immigrant Community Empowerment to assist illegal aliens in getting jobs—jobs that ought to go to American citizens or at least individuals who, if not citizens, are inside the United States legally and legally authorized to work in the United States of America.

The Federal Government, through taxpayers, should not be funding hospitals that give puberty blockers to children or nonprofit museums or leftwing labor activist organizations or leftwing physicians activist organizations or groups providing legal aid or subsidized housing specifically to illegal aliens. It shouldn't do that. It shouldn't do that ever, regardless of who is in charge, especially in a time when the House of Representatives is under Republican control, when the Senate is under Republican control, and the White House is occupied by a Republican President. It shouldn't do it ever but especially not when Republicans are in charge of all three levers of the two political branches: the legislative and the executive.

Senate Republicans especially should not be facilitating this abuse of power and at the hard-earned money of the American people, many of whom work months out of every year just to pay their Federal taxes only to find that every dollar they have left buys less because we are spending too much money.

We shouldn't be facilitating this abuse of power and violating pledges that President Trump and that we ourselves, as Senate Republicans, have made on the campaign trail to root out and end wasteful, woke spending across the Federal Government.

Even in a Republican-controlled Congress, Democrats are still able to effectuate and fund a radical agenda that the American people opposed when they elected us to this majority and that we promised we wouldn't perpetuate. And yet here we are. It is tragic.

Congress does not need to and should not use earmarks as sweeteners, for lack of a better word, to make the appropriations process work. We cannot continue appropriations bills that perpetuate excess spending, especially when those same things are pushing policies that inevitably, invariably, deliberately hobble the efforts of this administration.

This is like putting a humidifier and a dehumidifier in the same room and just letting them fight it out when you promised only the dehumidifier would be there.

And at a minimum we should build on the successful rescissions bill initiated through the DOGE process and carried forward throughout the last year, the successful rescissions bill that, by exerting some basic fiscal discipline to enforce our conference rules and put an end to earmarks—or rather than just put an end to it, resume the end that we put in place 15 years ago, heal the breach that has now been there for about 5 years, and honor what is still our conference position.

Only then will we be able, I believe, to tackle the self-inflicted economic wounds that cloud the bright skies of opportunity before us.

As President Trump said in his end-of-year speech, just a few weeks ago, ''we're poised for an economic boom the likes of which the world has never seen.''

I believe him, and he is doing a lot of things that are helping us get there. The least we can do is not undercut him. And to achieve that potential, we the Congress, we the Senate, and we the Senate Republican conference in the majority must act.

Earmarks aren't the way. They are the wrong way. Earmarks aren't the solution. They are the problem. We need to end them.

In connection with this package of bills, I have put forward an amendment to strip them from this bill, and I humbly, with all the conviction I am capable of communicating, implore my colleagues to support the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TUBERVILLE). The majority leader.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

H.R. 7148

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, we are considering an appropriations package on the floor this week, and there has rightfully been a lot of focus on the section of the bill that funds the Department of Homeland Security, a section that I and my Democratic colleagues continue to insist should be considered separately, as it was in the House, to secure essential reforms to end the Department's abuses, stop the killings, protect people's rights, and ensure real accountability. Any additional funding for this unconstrained, lawless operation at DHS is unacceptable as we witness executions of civilians in our streets, unaccountable and warrantless raids, and in my home State of Maryland, inhumane conditions at the Baltimore Holding Center even as ICE moves to set up a warehouse with the capacity to process and detain 1,500 persons. I said I would not support one more dime for Trump's lawless ICE operation, and I meant it—not even for 1 more day.

But I also want to take a moment to speak to the rest of that funding package, which includes the work of five other Appropriations subcommittees: Defense, State and Foreign Operations, Transportation and Housing, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Financial Services and General Government.

I appreciate the work of the Democratic ranking members of these subcommittees and Vice Chair MURRAY, who secured some important provisions in the bill to reassert the congressional power of the purse with specific spending directives in legislative text. For example, the Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education bill rejects the administration's effort to eliminate the Department of Education and cut Pell grants.

It also rejects the Trump proposal to cut NIH nearly in half and instead increases funding; and it successfully overrides the OMB directive that NIH fund more lump sum multi-year grants, which would otherwise result in fewer overall grants and less research activity. NIH, which is located in my home State of Maryland, is one of our greatest American success stories, where some of our brightest minds pursue treatments and cures to diseases that impact virtually every American family. This administration has spent the last year attacking the critical work of NIH, canceling grants and clinical trials and short-circuiting lifesaving research. I am glad this bill roundly rejects that and requires the administration to change course. At the same time, I am very disappointed that the bill does not reverse the rescission cut to public broadcasting, which provides critical services to Americans across the country, particularly in rural communities.

Indeed, while these bills make important investments and include some critical safeguards, I have serious concerns that they do not go far enough to protect the power of the purse and the Federal employees who carry out the programs we fund, particularly as the administration continues its efforts to strip away the protections that safeguard our nonpartisan civil service and hollow out Agencies. Without enhanced guardrails in this package, the administration will continue to wreak havoc on the ability of our dedicated, merit-based civil servants to provide critical services to the American people.

I also have deep concerns about the State foreign operations bill, now called the national security package. I know and appreciate the work of Vice Chair MURRAY and Ranking Member SCHATZ to preserve the legacy of U.S. foreign assistance in this bill after Elon Musk, Russell Vought, and their DOGE cronies took a chainsaw to USAID and the State Department.

The bill includes some new guardrails to prevent deeper cuts going forward, but it still reflects a $9 billion cut from FY25 levels. The largest share of those cuts comes from humanitarian assistance and development assistance.

Foreign aid is not a giveaway; it is an investment in the world we all live in. When your neighbor's house is on fire, it is foolish to wait until the flames reach your own home. Conflicts, pandemics, and humanitarian collapse do not respect borders. Preventing wars from starting and stopping new diseases before they reach American shores costs far less than fighting those threats once they arrive here.

For less than 1 percent of the Federal budget, we can help save the lives of the world's most vulnerable children.

Cutting that support is not fiscally responsible; it is morally indefensible. A Lancet study estimated that Trump's foreign aid cuts will cost 14 million lives by 2030, including over 4.5 million kids. Thousands of children are already dying.

The bill also codifies an $850 million ''America First Opportunity Fund'' for an administration that has proven itself to be a reckless and unlawful custodian of Federal funding. This risks becoming a political slush fund, untethered from evidence-based programs and longstanding safeguards that ensure taxpayer dollars are used to advance genuine U.S. interests, not pet projects and foreign ventures that serve the interests of the Trump family, Trump campaign contributors, and his billionaire buddies at the expense of America's national security interests.

The bill imposes a new cap on how much foreign assistance can be transferred to the Department of Homeland Security—an important check—but it still allows hundreds of millions of dollars to be transferred to an already bloated DHS for immigration enforcement. That is unacceptable.

I also object to the bill's $3.3 billion in foreign military financing to the Government of Israel with no conditions or guardrails. The Netanyahu government has spent years openly flouting international law and disregarding U.S. interests, advice, and warnings, including concerns ranging from blocking humanitarian assistance and ethnic cleansing in Gaza to continued settler violence and mushrooming illegal settlements in the West Bank.

I made clear on October 7, 2023, the day the heinous Hamas attack brutally killed over 1,200 people and seized over 200 hostages, that Israel had a right—indeed a duty—to go after Hamas. But the Netanyahu government's response went way beyond targeting Hamas to imposing collective punishment on all the people of Gaza.

In Gaza, entire neighborhoods have been systematically destroyed. Throughout the war, more than 1.9 million Palestinians have been forcibly displaced, many of them multiple times, through military orders, bombardment, and the deliberate rendering of civilian areas unlivable. All of this has occurred with U.S.-funded weapons and equipment.

In the West Bank, 240 Palestinians, including 55 children, were killed by Israeli forces or settlers in 2025, according to OCHA. Even the IDF found that Israeli settler violence in the West Bank rose by about 25 percent in 2025. This violence happened with virtual impunity and in many cases with the complicity of Israeli forces in the area. Along with settler violence, Israeli settlement expansion continues to rise, with a record number of 9,629 settlement housing units being approved by the Israeli Government in 2025, more than the previous 6 years combined. This includes approval for construction in the area known as E1, east of Jerusalem. Construction in E1 would effectively bisect the West Bank, preventing the development of a contiguous Palestinian state and sounding the death knell of the already diminishing prospects for a two-state solution. The Netanyahu government also retroactively legalized eight illegal outposts, half of which are located deep within the West Bank.

We should be using every tool at our disposal to ensure that the Netanyahu government complies with President Trump's stated objective of a ''credible pathway to Palestinian self-determination and statehood'' and end its slow-motion annexation of the West Bank, destruction of neighborhoods in Gaza, and displacement of the Palestinian people.

Conditions on foreign military financing and other types of assistance are not unusual; in fact, they are the norm. Other U.S. partners—including longstanding recipients like Egypt, Lebanon, Pakistan, El Salvador, Colombia, and Mexico—have had their assistance routinely tied to human rights, accountability, or other statutory benchmarks. Yet this bill provides the Netanyahu government with a blank check and no meaningful guardrails. That double standard weakens U.S. credibility and undermines our commitment to our core values.

I appreciate that the Defense title in this bill funds a pay raise for our servicemembers and makes investments to support military families and critical work at Maryland's military bases. But I am deeply disturbed by the way Trump has misused and wrongfully deployed our military, from our Active-Duty forces to our National Guard.

The Trump administration's abduction of dictator Nicolas Maduro wasn't a ''law enforcement operation'' or an effort to stop drug trafficking. It was about oil, seizing and controlling Venezuela's oil for the benefit of Trump's billionaire buddies. It is simply wrong to risk the lives of brave American soldiers to profit the Trump campaign's political contributors.

And Trump has deployed the National Guard to DC, Los Angeles, Memphis, and Chicago, manufacturing claims of emergency and chaos to use the Guard in domestic law enforcement and his mass deportation agenda rather than using Justice Department resources to work with local partners and keep communities safe. And as State and local leaders and courts have stood in the way of these deployments, Trump has threatened to invoke the Insurrection Act to bypass them and the restrictions of the Posse Comitatus Act.

Taken together, these abuses of power show an authoritarian administration using the military for its own ends, not for U.S. national security. These concerns only reinforce my existing reservations about the continued uncontrolled growth in defense spending, especially when the Pentagon continues to fail independent audits for 8 consecutive years.

Finally, I want to underscore a point regarding the financial services and general government portion of this bill, which funds the General Services Administration. GSA, together with the FBI, is responsible for the FBI headquarters project. This bill provides no additional funding for that project, but GSA has funding available from prior year appropriations. There are still significant outstanding questions about this project and a security assessment and construction plan is underway and must be delivered to Congress as directed in the CJS Appropriations bill. From the start of this project, Congress has expected that the building would meet Level 5 ISC security requirements to safeguard the FBI mission, and GSA has shared its expectation that this project will meet that standard, though the security assessment is not yet complete. In order to ensure adequate congressional oversight and use taxpayer resources responsibly, GSA should also pause activities until the plan is finished and Congress has reviewed it.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I recognize the challenges in negotiating these bills given the radical demands of the administration and the complicity of too many of my Republican colleagues in the House and Senate. I appreciate the hard-won investments and safeguards in these bills and the rejection of dozens of partisan House policy riders. That said, for the reasons I have outlined and because I believe more can be done to rein in this administration's authoritarian impulses, I oppose this package.

U.S. SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS ANNUAL REPORT

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent, for myself as chairman of the Select Committee on Ethics and for Senator COONS, vice chairman of the committee, that the annual report of the Select Committee on Ethics for calendar year 2025 be printed in the RECORD.

The committee issued this report on January 31, 2026, as required by the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007.

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

[Jan. 31, 2026]

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

119TH CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

The Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007 (the Act) calls for the Select Committee on Ethics of the United States Senate to issue an annual report no later than January 31st of each year providing information in certain categories describing its activities for the preceding year. Reported below is the information describing the Committee's activities in 2025 in the categories set forth in the Act:

(1) The number of alleged violations of Senate rules received from any source, including the number raised by a Senator or

staff of the Committee—181. (In addition, 5 alleged violations from previous years were carried into 2025.)

(2) The number of alleged violations that were dismissed—

(A) For lack of subject matter jurisdiction or in which, even if the allegations in the complaint are true, no violation of Senate rules would exist: 150.

(B) Because they failed to provide sufficient facts as to any material violation of the Senate rules beyond mere allegation or assertion: 10.

(3) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry: 27. (This figure includes 5 matters from previous years carried into 2025.)

(4) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry that resulted in an adjudicatory review: 0.

(5) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry and the Committee dismissed the matter for lack of substantial merit or because it was inadvertent, technical or otherwise of a *de minimis* nature: 18.

(6) The number of alleged violations for which the Committee staff conducted a preliminary inquiry and the Committee issued private or public letters of admonition: 0.

(7) The number of matters resulting in a disciplinary sanction: 0.

(8) Any other information deemed by the Committee to be appropriate to describe its activities in the previous year:

In 2025, the Committee staff conducted 20 Member and office campaign activity briefings; 26 employee code of conduct training sessions; 3 public financial disclosure clinics, seminars, and webinars; 32 ethics seminars and customized briefings for Member DC offices, state offices, and Senate committees; and 1 private sector ethics briefing.

In 2025, the Committee staff handled approximately 12,974 inquiries (via telephone and email) for ethics advice and guidance.

In 2025, the Committee wrote approximately 1,023 ethics advisory letters and responses including, but not limited to, 822 travel and gifts matters (Senate Rule 35) and 143 conflict of interest matters (Senate Rule 37).

In 2025, the Committee received 4,485 public financial disclosure reports including periodic transaction reports.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I was unable to attend votes on January 15, 2026. Had I been able to attend, I would have continued to vote in favor of H.R. 6938, Commerce, Justice, Science; Energy and Water Development; and Interior and Environment Appropriations on rollcall vote No. 10.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF CUTLER

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, in 1826, 6 years after Maine became our Nation's 23rd State, a small fishing town was incorporated in downeast Maine. Cutler, named after Joseph Cutler, an early settler from Massachusetts, is a beacon of Maine's nationally renowned beauty and a stronghold for Maine's traditional lobstering sector. From its humble beginnings to a booming fishing industry, Cutler remains a great pearl of the State of Maine.

During the mid-19th century, Cutler Harbor fostered substantial growth in the town's fishing industry, lumber shipping, and small boat operations. Known as the Harbor of Refuge, it became a safe place for fisherman to ride out the vicious storms of the coast.

As the town grew, Cutler played an important role in the promotion of maritime safety and American national security. Since 1876, the Little River Lighthouse, with a formidable cast iron tower, has guided fishermen and has been integral to U.S. Coast Guard operations in the area. It is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places, ensuring its existence for generations to come.

In addition, for 65 years, the Cutler Naval Station, with one of the most powerful radio transmitters in the world, has provided critical communications for the U.S. Navy's submarine fleet, anywhere in the world, whether on the surface or submerged.

Cutler is home to Maine's spectacular Bold Coast. The Cutler Coast Public Reserved land boasts an abundance of scenic hiking trails, peatlands, secluded beaches, and wild ocean views, offering a stunning example of the beauty that defines the State of Maine. In addition, Cutler remains a hub of the Maine blueberry industry that produces almost 85 percent of the world's wild blueberries.

Cutler's spirit and historic connection to America's freedom continues today. Every Fourth of July, the townspeople honor the courage, sacrifice, and vision that won our Nation's independence. This year's observation will be especially meaningful with the addition of a fun-filled bicentennial celebration.

The Maine State motto is ''Dirigo,'' meaning ''I Lead.'' With the beacon from its Little River Lighthouse lighting the way, Cutler has a bright and hopeful future. I congratulate the people of Cutler, ME, on this 200th anniversary and wish them all the best in the years to come.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

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

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

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

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. RISCH for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

*Gregory LoGerfo, of Massachusetts, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large.

Nominee: LoGerfo, Gregory Daniel.

Post: Counterterrorism Coordinator.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Scott Brown for Senate, $50, June 2025, Gregory LoGerfo; Brian Shortsleeve for Governor, $50, July 2025, Gregory LoGerfo; Louis Ingrassia for New York Assembly, $50, Oct. 2024, Gregory LoGerfo.

Spouse: None.

*Eric Meyer, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Nominee: Eric Meyer.

Post: Sri Lanka.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, donee, date, and amount:

Eric Meyer: None.

Karina Fausing (spouse): None.

*Jennifer Wicks McNamara, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Nominee: Jennifer Wicks McNamara.

Post: Hanoi, Vietnam.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, donee, date, and amount:

Self: None.

Spouse: None.

*Frank Weiland, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs).

By Mr. WICKER for the Committee on Armed Services.

*Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Joshua M. Rudd, to be General.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Col. Joshua E. Izenour and ending with Col. Guillermo Rosales, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 10, 2025.

*Air Force nomination of Gen. John D. Lamontagne, to be General.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Christopher A. Eason, to be Major General.

Army nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Phillip C. Baker and ending with Brig. Gen. Patrick A. Teague, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 15, 2025.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Rhett R. Cox, to be Major General.

*Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, to be Lieutenant General.

*Air Force nominations beginning with Lt. Gen. Stephen F. Jost and ending with Maj. Gen. Joel L. Carey, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 15, 2025. (minus 4 nominees: Lt. Gen. Patrick D.

Frank; Maj. Gen. Steven M. Marks; Maj. Gen. Jefferson J. O'Donnell; Maj. Gen. Thomas M. Suelzer)

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Raymond L. Adams and ending with Brig. Gen. John K. Jarrard, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 15, 2025.

*Navy nominations beginning with Vice Adm. Jeffrey T. Jablon and ending with Rear Adm. Douglas C. Verissimo, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 15, 2025. (minus 2 nominees: Maj. Gen. Lorna M. Mahlock; Maj. Gen. Sean M. Salene)

*Marine Corps nominations beginning with Maj. Gen. Lorna M. Mahlock and ending with Maj. Gen. Sean M. Salene, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on December 15, 2025. (minus 4 nominees: Vice Adm. Jeffrey T. Jablon; Vice Adm. Robert M. Gaucher; Rear Adm. Darin K. Via; Rear Adm. Douglas C. Verissimo)

Air Force nomination of Col. Christine C. Piper, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Col. Jodi J. Smith, to be Brigadier General.

*Marine Corps nomination of Lt. Gen. Francis L. Donovan, to be General.

*Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Brian W. Gibson, to be Lieutenant General.

*Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. B. Mark Pye, to be Lieutenant General.

*Marine Corps nominations beginning with Lt. Gen. James H. Adams III and ending with Lt. Gen. Joseph A. Matos III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 15, 2026. (minus 6 nominees beginning with Maj. Gen. Brian W. Gibson).

Army nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. Derek L. Adams and ending with Brig. Gen. Matthew S. Woodruff, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 15, 2026. (minus 4 nominees: Brig. Gen. Tracey L. Poirier; Brig. Gen. William E. Temple V; Brig. Gen. Kendrick D. Traylor; Brig. Gen. Brian F. Wertzler).

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Diane L. Dunn, to be Major General.

*Marine Corps nomination of Maj. Gen. Marcus B. Annibale, to be Lieutenant General.

*Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Richard E. Seif, Jr., to be Vice Admiral.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators .

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

Air Force nomination of Patrick W. McMorrow, to be Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Sunil L. Amin, to be Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Leslie A. Woll, to be Colonel.

Air Force nominations beginning with Ayad M. Abisaab and ending with Anthony P. Zelasko, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 13, 2026.

Air Force nomination of Evangeline C. Obi, to be Lieutenant Colonel .

Air Force nomination of Adrianna Perez, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Air Force nomination of Marcus W. C. MacNealy, to be Major.

Army nomination of Paul V. Johnson, to be Major.

Army nomination of Raymond F. Jaklitsch, Jr., to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Timothy T. Chan, to be Major.

Army nomination of Michael P. Thomas, to be Major.

Army nomination of Scott M. McGinley, to be Major.

Army nomination of Anthony C. Kight, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Krista L. Bartolomucci and ending with Abraham L. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 13, 2026.

Army nomination of Scott M. Katalenich, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Mark J. Crow, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Mark C. Rummel, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Christopher Fuhriman, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Javier F. Barrera, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Joseph D. Frjelich, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Scott D. Gale and ending with Allie M. Scott, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 15, 2026.

Army nomination of Andrew J. Withington, to be Major.

Army nomination of Casey C. Gower, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Clyde B. Gore, Jr. and ending with Matthew B. Mcdonald, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 15, 2026.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Andrew J. Clarke and ending with Joel C. Ellis, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 13, 2026.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Darien J. Garland and ending with Andres A. Madera, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 13, 2026.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Jason R. Mclamb and ending with George Vinay, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 13, 2026.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Travis L. Elliott and ending with Nathen J. Werner, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 13, 2026.

Marine Corps nomination of Thomas J. Heinsohn, to be Major.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Brencent T. Berry and ending with Andrew J. Vanhoogmoed, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 13, 2026.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with John R. Hall, Jr. and ending with Nicholas G. Welborne, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 13, 2026.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with Robert S. Jevning and ending with Gregorio W. Pro, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 13, 2026.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with David K. Burger and ending with Joseph F. Soileau, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 13, 2026.

Marine Corps nomination of Steven S. Mitchell, Jr., to be Major.

Navy nomination of Ryan D. Curran, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Satya K. Gutta and ending with Luis E. Torres, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 13, 2026.

Navy nomination of Timothy R. Trimble, to be Captain.

Navy nomination of Victor C. Schaefer, to be Commander.

Navy nomination of Ashley E. Allison, to be Commander.

Navy nomination of Jess B. Feldon, to be Captain.

Navy nominations beginning with Reza J. Mehran and ending with Parsa P. Salehi, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 13, 2026.

Navy nominations beginning with Anita R. Bhardwaj and ending with Brandee D. Wimberly, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 13, 2026.

Navy nominations beginning with John B. Newman and ending with Natasha Rai Morris, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 15, 2026.

Navy nomination of Ian W. McMenamin, to be Lieutenant Commander.

Navy nominations beginning with Lawrence E. Burkart and ending with Brendon W. Kiely, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 15, 2026.

Navy nominations beginning with Ali A.W. Abdul Wahid and ending with Imani N. Williams-Vaughn, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 15, 2026.

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. REED, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 3721. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to empower the States to set the maximum annual percentage rates applicable to consumer credit transactions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 3722. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore and extend certain tax credits to incentivize energy efficiency; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 3723. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water from the Missouri River to the Western Dakota Regional Water System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 3724. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to include certain reporting to the uniform crime reporting program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3725. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water to expand the capacity and reach of the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, Inc. (doing business as ''Lewis & Clark Regional Water System''), in the States of Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 3726. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require the President to define veteran success and to develop and implement a National Veterans Strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST:

S. 3727. A bill to combat fraud in Federal programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 3728. A bill to remove the requirement that the Secretary of Transportation consider the committed or anticipated non-Federal funding for long distance intercity passenger rail routes under the Corridor Identification and Development Program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 3729. A bill to require the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) submit to Congress two reports on agreements with pharmacy benefit managers with respect to prescription drug plans and MA–PD plans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 3730. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare coverage of ambulance services that do not include transportation; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KAINE:

S. 3731. A bill to require Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies to report information related to allegations of misconduct of law enforcement officers to the Attorney General, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GALLEGO (for himself, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 3732. A bill to amend the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act to authorize assistance under the storage program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 3733. A bill to amend the Passport Act of June 4, 1920 to authorize certain public libraries to collect and retain a fee for the execution of a passport application; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. 3734. A bill to address applications for deposit insurance submitted by industrial banks to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 3735. A bill to amend the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act to prohibit the use of the image of living political figures on the America the Beautiful-the National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Pass; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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

S. 3736. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water to the Dakota Mainstem Regional Water System service area in the States of South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, and Minnesota, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 3737. A bill to amend the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 to provide financial and technical assistance to eligible entities for the conduct of innovative approaches to voluntary water partnership agreements among multiple water users and projects conducted by individual agricultural entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 3738. A bill to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to reauthorize the large-scale water recycling and reuse program, to establish a Water Conveyance Improvement Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 3739. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a demonstration project on coverage by the Department of Veterans Affairs of over-the-counter hearing aids, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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

S. 3740. A bill to impose sanctions and other measures with respect to the Government of Syria, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3741. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to promulgate regulations to improve nucleic acid synthesis security, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 3742. A bill to improve incident reporting with respect to certain autonomous vehicles, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 3743. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to carry out a feasibility study on a selective water withdrawal system at Glen Canyon Dam, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. GRAHAM:

S. 3744. A bill to amend chapter 93 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit obstruction of immigration laws by official interference; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 3745. A bill to provide a civil remedy for any individual whose rights have been violated by an officer or agent of U.S. Customs and Border Protection or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORENO:

S. 3746. A bill to prohibit individuals receiving public assistance from conducting remittance transfers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MOODY (for herself and Mr. BANKS):

S. 3747. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to recognize students who have completed secondary school education in a home school setting as high school graduates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 3748. A bill to terminate the United States African Development Foundation; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MCCORMICK (for himself and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER):

S. 3749. A bill to lower the aggregate market value of voting and non-voting common equity necessary for an issuer to qualify as a well-known seasoned issuer; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BENNET (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3750. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish provider directory requirements, and to provide accountability for provider directory accuracy, under Medicare Advantage; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 3751. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study and submit a report on price-related compensation and payment structures in the prescription drug supply chain; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BUDD, Mr. BANKS, and Mrs. MOODY):

S. 3752. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require proof of United States citizenship to register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

S.J. Res. 104. A joint resolution to direct the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities within or against the Islamic Republic of Iran that have not been authorized by Congress; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. SMITH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. Res. 592. A resolution supporting the designation of 2026 as the ''International Year of the Woman Farmer'' to recognize and honor the critical role of women in agriculture; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BUDD, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HUSTED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, Mr. WICKER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. WARNER):

S. Res. 593. A resolution honoring the victims of the 2025 Potomac River mid-air collision; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCHMITT (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. Res. 594. A resolution supporting the contributions of Catholic schools in the United States and celebrating the 52nd annual National Catholic Schools Week; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 128

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 128, a bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require proof of United States citizenship to register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

S. 272

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 272, a bill to improve the safety of infant formula through testing of infant formula for microorganisms and toxic elements, and for other purposes.

S. 455

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 455, a bill to amend section 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to limit immigration enforcement actions at sensitive locations, to clarify the powers of immigration officers at sensitive locations, and for other purposes.

S. 494

At the request of Mr. SCHMITT, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 494, a bill to establish a national plan to coordinate research on epilepsy, and for other purposes.

S. 1228

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 1228, a bill to amend the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 to modify the cost-sharing requirement for conservation projects carried out by a qualified youth or conservation corps, and for other purposes.

S. 1261

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL) were added as cosponsors of S. 1261, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to telehealth services, and for other purposes.

S. 1352

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1352, a bill to secure the rights of public employees to organize, act concertedly, and bargain collectively, which safeguard the public interest and promote the free and unobstructed flow of commerce, and for other purposes.

S. 1374

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1374, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit machinegun conversion devices and illegal modifications of semiautomatic firearms, and for other purposes.

S. 1410

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1410, a bill to provide for health coverage with no cost-sharing for additional breast screenings for certain individuals at greater risk for breast cancer.

S. 1552

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1552, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 1562

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1562, a bill to reauthorize the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act.

S. 1677

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1677, a bill to provide health insurance benefits for outpatient and inpatient items and services related to the diagnosis and treatment of a congenital anomaly or birth defect.

S. 1773

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1773, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate the deduction for personal casualty losses as in effect prior to the enactment of Public Law 115–97.

S. 1808

At the request of Mr. MCCORMICK, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1808, a bill to permit a registered investment company to omit certain fees from the calculation of acquired fund fees and expenses, and for other purposes.

S. 1892

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1892, a bill to clarify that amounts from declinations should be deposited in the Crime Victims Fund and to temporarily provide additional deposits into the Crime Victims Fund.

S. 2106

At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 2106, a bill to provide a process for granting lawful permanent resident status to aliens from certain countries who meet certain eligibility requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 2212

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2212, a bill to amend section 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to require all immigration enforcement officers to display visible identification during public-facing immigration enforcement actions and to promote transparency and accountability.

S. 2518

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2518, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to revise payment for air ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 3062

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3062, a bill to require artificial intelligence chatbots to implement age verification measures and make certain disclosures, and for other purposes.

S. 3108

At the request of Mr. HAWLEY, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3108, a bill to require reports regarding artificial intelligence-related job impacts, and for other purposes.

S. 3187

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3187, a bill to provide a civil remedy for an individual whose rights have been violated by a person acting under Federal authority, and for other purposes.

S. 3302

At the request of Mr. MULLIN, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) were added as cosponsors of S. 3302, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to molecularly targeted pediatric cancer investigations, and for other purposes.

S. 3368

At the request of Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3368, a bill to improve patient protections and affordability under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3520

At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3520, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of Agriculture from implementing a Forest Service rule relating to criminal prohibitions, and for other purposes.

S. 3606

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3606, a bill to subject aliens convicted of fraud to deportation and to bestow concurrent jurisdiction to revoke the citizenship of any naturalized United States citizen convicted of fraud on any court that enters such a conviction.

S. 3653

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3653, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out efforts to inform veterans of their rights with regards to the receipt of health care, benefits, and services furnished under provisions of law administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 3660

At the request of Mr. FETTERMAN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3660, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to reduce excessive credit card late fees, and for other purposes.

S. 3687

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3687, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to prohibit the appointment of political appointees as Inspectors General, and for other purposes.

S. 3720

At the request of Mr. SCHIFF, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3720, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Bay Area Ridge as a national scenic trail, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 102

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 102, a joint resolution disapproving the action of the District of Columbia Council in approving the D.C. Income and Franchise Tax Conformity and Revision Temporary Amendment Act of 2025.

S.J. RES. 103

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 103, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to ''Reproductive Health Services''.

S. RES. 61

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 61, a resolution expressing support for the continued value of arms control agreements and negotiated constraints on Russian and Chinese strategic nuclear forces.

S. RES. 573

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 573, a resolution expressing the need for the United States' continued leadership on matters of religious freedom.

AMENDMENT NO. 4245

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 4245 intended to be proposed to H.R. 7148, a bill making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

S. 3723. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water from the Missouri River to the Western Dakota Regional Water System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S. 3723

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 ''Western South Dakota Water Supply Project Feasibility Study Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) NON-FEDERAL PROJECT ENTITY.—The term ''non-Federal project entity'' means the Western Dakota Regional Water System, Inc., a nonprofit corporation.

(2) PROPOSED RURAL WATER SUPPLY PROJECT.—The term ''proposed rural water supply project'' means the proposed project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water from the Missouri River to the Western Dakota Regional Water System.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. WESTERN SOUTH DAKOTA WATER SUPPLY PROJECT FEASIBILITY STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the non-Federal project entity, shall carry out a study to determine the feasibility of the proposed rural water supply project.

(2) FEASIBILITY REPORT.—After completion of the feasibility study for the proposed rural water supply project under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) develop a feasibility report that includes a recommendation of the Secretary on—

(i) whether the proposed rural water supply project should be authorized for construction; and

(ii) the appropriate non-Federal share of construction costs, which shall be—

(I) at least 25 percent of the total construction costs; and

(II) determined based on an analysis of the financial capability-to-pay the allocated construction and operations, maintenance, and replacement costs of the recommended plan;

(B) submit the report under subparagraph (A) to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(C) make the report under subparagraph (A) publicly available, along with associated feasibility study documents.

(3) CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION.—In addition to the non-Federal project entity, the Secretary shall consult and cooperate with appropriate Federal, State, Tribal, regional, and local authorities during the conduct of the feasibility study and development of the feasibility report under this subsection.

(b) COST-SHARING AGREEMENT FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY COSTS.—The Secretary shall enter into a cost-sharing agreement (or an appropriate financial assistance agreement, as determined by the Secretary) with the non-Federal project entity to conduct a study under subsection (a) that complies with the reclamation feasibility standards.

(c) FEDERAL SHARE OF FEASIBILITY STUDY COSTS.—The Federal share of the total costs of carrying out the feasibility study under subsection (a) shall not exceed 50 percent.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section $10,000,000.

(e) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority provided by this section expires on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 3725. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the feasibility of constructing a project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water to expand the capacity and reach of the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, Inc. (doing business as ''Lewis & Clark Regional Water System''), in the States of Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

S. 3725

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 ''Lewis & Clark Regional Water System Expansion Feasibility Study Act''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) NON-FEDERAL PROJECT ENTITY.—The term ''non-Federal project entity'' means—

(A) the Lewis and Clark Rural Water System, Inc. (doing business as ''Lewis & Clark Regional Water System''); and

(B) any nonprofit successor entity to the corporation described in subparagraph (A).

(2) PROPOSED RURAL WATER SUPPLY PROJECT.—The term ''proposed rural water supply project'' means the proposed project to supply municipal, rural, and industrial water to expand the capacity and reach of the Lewis & Clark Regional Water System in the States of Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. LEWIS & CLARK REGIONAL WATER SYSTEM EXPANSION FEASIBILITY STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the non-Federal project entity, shall carry out a study to determine the feasibility of the proposed rural water supply project.

(2) FEASIBILITY REPORT.—After completion of the feasibility study for the proposed rural water supply project under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) develop a feasibility report that includes a recommendation of the Secretary on—

(i) whether the proposed rural water supply project should be authorized for construction; and

(ii) the appropriate non-Federal share of construction costs, which shall be—

(I) at least 25 percent of the total construction costs; and

(II) determined based on an analysis of the financial capability-to-pay the allocated construction and operations, maintenance, and replacement costs of the recommended plan;

(B) submit the report under subparagraph (A) to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(C) make the report under subparagraph (A) publicly available, along with associated feasibility study documents.

(3) CONSULTATION AND COOPERATION.—In addition to the non-Federal project entity, the Secretary shall consult and cooperate with appropriate Federal, State, Tribal, regional, and local authorities during the conduct of the feasibility study and development of the feasibility report under this subsection.

(b) COST-SHARING AGREEMENT FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY COSTS.—The Secretary shall enter into a cost-sharing agreement (or an appropriate financial assistance agreement, as determined by the Secretary) with the non-Federal project entity to conduct a study under subsection (a) that complies with the reclamation feasibility standards.

(c) FEDERAL SHARE OF FEASIBILITY STUDY COSTS.—The Federal share of the total costs of carrying out the feasibility study under subsection (a) shall not exceed 50 percent.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section $10,000,000.

(e) TERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The authority provided by this section expires on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 3737. A bill to amend the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 to provide financial and technical assistance to eligible entities for the conduct of innovative approaches to voluntary water partnership agreements among multiple water users and projects conducted by individual agricultural entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the ''GROW SMART Act''. This bill would fund the design and development of voluntary demonstration projects for innovative agricultural water efficiency measures and agricultural partnerships with municipal, industrial, and commercial entities.

Our water supply deficit in California and the West is growing increasingly severe, and we need cost-effective adaptation strategies. Studies have shown that agricultural-sector water conservation approaches can be among the most cost-effective strategies available. They cost only $385 to $417 per acre-foot saved, as compared to thousands of dollars per acre-foot for most water supply projects.

For example, one potential project could replace some of the alfalfa that an Arizona integrated dairy relies on for forage with hydroponically-grown sprouted grain. The grain could be grown on-site to keep the land in production. If the capital cost of the hydroponic facilities is amortized over their 20-year expected life, the cost per acre-foot of water savings is $200–$500. Other examples include low water use crops like paulownia and other alfalfa substitutes; a mesquite-like crop that could provide a domestic, low-cost alternative for paper products; guayule, a rubber substitute; and so on.

If market prices governed water investments, cities and industries would be investing in these low-cost agricultural water-efficiency projects and sharing the benefits with agriculture. The bill seeks to overcome barriers to introducing market incentives into Western water in a way that is respectful of and profitable to holders of senior water rights.

Barriers like distrust and lack of information often prevent market pricing from influencing water investments. Farmers are often wary about outreach from cities and industrial and commercial entities, especially given the legacy of ''buy-and-dry'' efforts where wealthier urban areas have bought virtually all the water rights in rural areas and completely dried up the communities.

Relying completely on voluntary efforts, the bill would authorize Federal funding support to demonstrate that there are agricultural water efficiency measures, including switching to low water use crops, that could reduce water use by 25–80% and continue to support farmers and rural communities by keeping land in production:

The bill would preclude ''buy-and-dry'' by requiring that demonstration projects keep agricultural land in production for the majority of the growing season (or the majority of years of the agreement for drought-year agreements).

The bill would also prioritize projects that would dedicate a portion of the water savings back to the relevant irrigation district or broader agricultural community.

A few farmers in each area could test out which measures work and at what yield and cost; the bill would only fund practices/crops without a demonstrated local track record. Once they have learned about the costs and benefits of these voluntary partnerships on small demonstration plots, farmers can decide whether they want to pursue them further.

Finally, the bill would authorize $5 million per year for 7 years to fund the development of these projects. Reclamation, with its experience with WaterSMART and municipal partnerships with other entities, would take the lead on project development. USDA, with its expertise in agriculture, would fund project implementation.

Because cities and industries can pay for the investments in these projects once they have been demonstrated to be effective, these projects are much less costly for the federal budget than buying out water rights or relying completely on paying for expensive water infrastructure.

I believe that given the magnitude of our water supply deficit in many Western states, including in the Colorado Basin, it is well worth trying innovative demonstration projects that could help meet our water needs in a costeffective manner.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 3738. A bill to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to reauthorize the large-scale water recycling and reuse program, to establish a Water Conveyance Improvement Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the ''MORE Water Act''.

The California Department of Water Resources estimates that the drinking water deficit will reach 6 million acre feet of water per year by 2040—enough drinking water for 36 million people. The Making Our Communities Resilient through Enhancing Water for Agriculture, Technology, the Environment, and Residences Act (MORE WATER Act) would help fill this deficit by reauthorizing expiring Bureau of Reclamation programs that support the development of new water supply and recycling projects and by creating a new federal grant program to help repair California's water delivery system.

WATER RECYCLING PROGRAMS

The MORE WATER Act would reauthorize Reclamation's large-scale recycled water program, providing federal grants for up to 25% of the cost of these recycling projects. Multiple water districts in cities across Southern California and the Bay Area have large-scale water recycling projects (which cost $500 million or more) that together could create over half a million acre-feet of water per year, enough water for 3 million people, including Metropolitan Water District's project that involves a collaboration with Arizona and Nevada to work together to address water shortages on the Colorado River. The program benefits water supply as well as the environment by reducing the need to divert water from rivers and the Delta.

California also has dozens of other water recycling projects for which the bill would reauthorize federal grants for up to 25% of the costs. The MORE WATER Act also increases the cap on funding for these projects to $50 million.

Furthermore, the bill would reauthorize a program that funds in-stream and floodplain habitat restoration and other projects to benefit threatened and endangered salmon and other fish species.

IMPROVING CALIFORNIA'S WATER DELIVERY SYSTEM

As more and more of California's precipitation comes from a few major atmospheric rivers, restoring the capacity of the California Aqueduct and other large canals is critical in order to capture this precipitation and move it to places where it can be stored in the ground for future use. To support this effort, the bill would create a new multi-benefit conveyance program that would provide federal grants for up to 30% of the cost of restoring these canals. Additionally, the new program would issue federal grants for up to 20% of the projects' costs to provide environmental benefits and/or safe drinking water benefits for the many low-income communities in the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California.

Designing projects for multiple benefits can incentivize the inclusion of win-win features that benefit both water supply and either the environment or drinking water for low-income communities. For example, the voluntary buyout of lands adjoining the canals and conversion to significant blocks of terrestrial habitat for native species in the San Joaquin Valley consistent with California's Mult-Benefit Land Repurposing Program could save hundreds of millions of dollars in additional repair costs for the canals by liming further groundwater pumping while simultaneously advancing important environmental goals.

Furthermore, water districts can be quite creative in delivering safe drinking water to low-income communities if incentivized to do so. For example, the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency exchanged some of its water supplies to low-income communities along the California Aqueduct in return for state funding of a pipeline on the western edge of the Mojave Desert.

BUILDING PROJECTS FASTER

Besides authorizing federal funding, the bill also expedites Congressional approval for these projects so they can be built faster and cheaper. The bill reauthorizes an expired programmatic approval for water recycling projects and establishes a new programmatic approval so Congress does not have to enact specific bills for every project. This can trim five years or more off the process of developing projects and getting federal funding, without any reduction in the environmental reviews that projects must undergo.

I want to thank Congressman VALADAO (R–CA) for working with me on this effort.

Thank you, Mr. President. I yield the floor.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 592—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF 2026 AS THE ''INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF THE WOMAN FARMER'' TO RECOGNIZE AND HONOR THE CRITICAL ROLE OF WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. LUMMIS, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Ms. SMITH, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. ERNST, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. RISCH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. MORAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. PETERS, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KING, Mr. COONS, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 592

Whereas the United States proudly recognizes its agricultural heritage and acknowledges the vital role that women have played in advancing agriculture both domestically and globally;

Whereas women are essential to agriculture, serving as leaders on and off the farm, with more than 1,200,000 female agricultural producers in the United States comprising 36 percent of the agricultural producers of the United States;

Whereas, in addition to their leadership in farming and ranching operations, women in agriculture continue to make significant contributions across a wide range of sectors, including research and development, manufacturing, sales and distribution, agricultural education, agribusiness, and advocacy, benefitting communities in the United States and around the world;

Whereas 2026 has been designated as the International Year of the Woman Farmer;

Whereas women professionals and leaders in agriculture in the United States should be recognized and celebrated for their contributions during this designated year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of 2026 as the ''International Year of the Woman Farmer'';

(2) recognizes the critical role of women in agriculture; and

(3) encourages all citizens to—

(A) honor and recognize the contributions of women working in agriculture; and

(B) celebrate the positive impact these women have on the food systems and agricultural workforce of the United States by encouraging and empowering women to—

(i) pursue careers in agriculture, a high-demand and essential field;

(ii) cultivate leadership opportunities; and

(iii) help feed a growing and hungry world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 593—HONORING THE VICTIMS OF THE 2025 POTOMAC RIVER MID-AIR COLLISION

Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. MORAN, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. YOUNG, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. BUDD, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. HUSTED, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, Mr. WICKER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. WARNER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 593

Whereas, on January 29, 2025, a United States Army Black Hawk helicopter and a passenger aircraft, operated as American Airlines Flight 5342 from Wichita, Kansas, to Washington, D.C., collided in flight above the Potomac River near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport;

Whereas this tragedy took the lives of all 64 passengers and crew aboard the airliner and the lives of the 3 crew members aboard the helicopter, including individuals from Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Indiana, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, and several foreign countries;

Whereas 11 young United States figure skating athletes, along with their parents and coaches, were among the victims of the collision;

Whereas 3 United States Army soldiers, who selflessly chose to serve and defend their country, lost their lives in this tragic accident;

Whereas 78 agencies and organizations responded in the aftermath of the January 29, 2025 mid-air collision, including first responders of the District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia, the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Fire and Rescue Department, the United States Coast Guard, the Maryland State Police, and other local, State, and Federal agencies, all of which acted promptly and selflessly in responding to the disaster and assisting in the recovery efforts;

Whereas Federal, State, and local officials have cooperated to conduct a thorough investigation of this incident;

Whereas countless individuals suffered the loss of a spouse, parent, sibling, friend, family member, or loved one; and

Whereas the lives of those lost will be remembered and cherished by those who loved them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the memory of all victims of the 2025 Potomac River mid-air collision near Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, recognizing their lives and contributions to their families and the United States of America;

(2) offers sincere condolences to the families, loved ones, and friends of those who lost their lives in this tragic incident;

(3) acknowledges the bravery and professionalism of the more than 1,700 first responders and emergency personnel, servicemembers, medical professionals, and investigators who assisted in the rescue and recovery efforts following the collision;

(4) expresses its commitment to honoring and supporting the families affected by this tragedy; and

(5) expresses its commitment to translating the safety lessons learned from the collision into action to prevent future incidents and ensure a similar crash does not happen again.

SENATE RESOLUTION 594—SUPPORTING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN THE UNITED STATES AND CELEBRATING THE 52ND ANNUAL NATIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

Mr. SCHMITT (for himself and Mr. KAINE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 594

Whereas Catholic schools in the United States are internationally acclaimed for their academic excellence and provide approximately 1,700,000 students with more than an exceptional scholastic education;

Whereas Catholic schools instill a broad, values-added education, emphasizing the life-long development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in young people in the United States;

Whereas Catholic schools serve the United States by providing a diverse student population from all regions of the United States and all socioeconomic backgrounds with a strong academic and moral foundation, including, according to the 2024–2025 National Catholic Education Association survey of elementary and secondary Catholic schools in the United States—

(1) 34.9 percent of students from racial minority backgrounds;

(2) 15.4 percent of students of Hispanic heritage; and

(3) 21.8 percent from non-Catholic families;

Whereas Catholic schools are an affordable option for parents, particularly in underserved urban areas;

Whereas Catholic schools produce students who are strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment that promotes spiritual, character, and moral development;

Whereas Catholic schools are committed to community service, producing graduates who hold ‘‘helping others’’ among their core values;

Whereas the total Catholic school student enrollment for the 2024–2025 academic year is approximately 1,700,000, and the student-teacher ratio is 10 to 1, according to the 2024–2025 National Catholic Education Association survey of elementary and secondary Catholic schools in the United States;

Whereas the Catholic high school graduation rate is 98.6 percent, with 83.7 percent of graduates attending 4-year colleges;

Whereas the week of January 25, 2026, to January 31, 2026, has been designated as ‘‘National Catholic Schools Week’’ by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops;

Whereas, in 2026, National Catholic Schools Week marks a significant milestone and celebrates its 52nd anniversary, having been first established in 1974; and

Whereas the theme for National Catholic Schools Week 2026 is ‘‘Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community’’, which reflects the fact that Catholic schools, united in their faith, expand beyond the walls of the classroom to include the parents and families of students as integral parts of the school community: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of National Catholic Schools Week, an event—

(A) cosponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; and

(B) established to recognize the vital contributions of the thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools in the United States;

(2) applauds the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on their selection of a theme that all can celebrate; and

(3) supports—

(A) the dedication of Catholic schools, including the students, parents, and teachers of such schools, across the United States toward academic excellence; and

(B) the key role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for the United States.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4253. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4254. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4255. Mr. BUDD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4256. Mr. BUDD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4257. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4258. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4259. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4260. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4261. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4262. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4263. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4264. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4265. Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4266. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4267. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4268. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4269. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4270. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4271. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4272. Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4273. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4274. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4275. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4276. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4277. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4278. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4279. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4280. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4281. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4282. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4283. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4284. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4285. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4286. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 4287. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4253. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations 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 in division E, insert the following:

SEC. ______. None of the funds made available for obligation or expenditure by the District of Columbia government by this Act or any other Act may be used to carry out title IX of the Fiscal Year 1997 Budget Support Act of 1996 (sec. 50–2209.01 et seq., D.C. Official Code).

SA 4254. Ms. CORTEZ MASTO submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1235, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

SEC. 555. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this division or by Public Law 119–21, and none of the fees collected by the Department of Homeland Security, may be used by any component of the Department of Homeland Security while carrying out any civil immigration enforcement activity under the immigration laws (as defined in section 101(17) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(17)))—

(1) to detain a citizen of the United States; or

(2) to deport a citizen of the United States from the United States.

SA 4255. Mr. BUDD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In title V of Division H, insert after section 554 the following:

SEC. 555.

(a) Subject to subsections (b) and (c), not later than 5 business days after the date on which the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency designates an application for an award under section 404 or 408 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5170c, 5174) using amounts made available under this Act as pending approval by the Secretary of Homeland Security (referred to in this section as the ''Secretary''), the Secretary shall obligate the amounts for that application.

(b) The Secretary may withhold an obligation described in subsection (a) if, during the 5 business day-period following the date described in subsection (a), the Secretary submits to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a certification detailing specific and evidence-based findings of material fraud or legal ineligibility that preclude immediate obligation.

(c) Subsection (a) shall not apply during a period in which the Secretary determines that the amounts available in the Disaster Relief Fund are insufficient to comply with the requirements under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

SA 4256. Mr. BUDD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations 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. ________. The Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this section referred to as the ''Secretary'') shall collect data relating to the amount of Federal and State expenditures under the Medicaid program established under title XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) that are attributable to costs incurred for providing medical assistance for inpatient hospital services, outpatient hospital services, and for services received at a hospital emergency room (without regard to whether such services are emergency services (as defined by the Secretary)) related to marijuana use (as defined by the Secretary). Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this division, the Secretary shall submit a report to Congress that includes such data and recommendations for such legislation and administrative action as the Secretary determines appropriate.

SA 4257. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations 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. ___. REPEAL OF COMPREHENSIVE POLICING AND JUSTICE REFORM AMENDMENT ACT OF 2022.

The Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022 (D.C. Law 24–345) is repealed, and any provision of law amended or repealed by that Act shall be restored or revived as if that Act had not been enacted into law.

SA 4258. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1147, line 24, strike ''$10,036,362,000'' and insert ''$9,551,362,000''.

SA 4259. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1132, line 21, strike ''$316,295,000'' and insert ''$387,795''.

On page 1133, line 14, insert before the period at the end the following: '': *Provided further*, That notwithstanding the previous provisos, $42,900,000 shall be made available for the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and $28,600,000 shall be made available for the Office of the Immigration Detention Ombudsman and such amounts shall be obligated to restore the staff levels set forth in the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2024 (division C of Public Law 118–47)''.

SA 4260. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1201, strike lines 12 through 18 and insert the following:

(f) No funds may be reprogrammed or transferred to, from, or within the accounts covering the expenses of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

SA 4261. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1235, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following

SEC. 555. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or by any other Act may be used by the Department of Homeland Security to support immigration enforcement operations carried out by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or U.S. Customs and Border Protection if any Department of Homeland Security employee fails to cooperate with an investigation by an appropriate State or local official or agency relating to the use of force by any employee of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

SA 4262. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1235, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

SEC. 555. (a) The attorney general of a State, or another authorized State officer, alleging a violation of a use of force policy that harms such State or its residents shall have standing to bring a civil action against the Secretary of Homeland Security on behalf of such State or the residents of such State, as parens patriae, in an appropriate district court of the United States to obtain appropriate injunctive relief.

(b) The court shall advance on the docket and expedite the disposition of a civil action filed pursuant to subsection (a) to the greatest extent practicable.

(c) For purposes of subsection (a), a State or its residents shall be considered to have been harmed if the State or its residents experience harm, including financial harm in excess of $100.

SA 4263. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1235, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

SEC. 555. All of the terms, conditions, purposes, and amounts provided in the explanatory statement accompanying this division, including the amounts for programs, projects, and activities beginning on page 118 of the explanatory statement, shall have the force and effect of law, except that the language set forth in House Report 119–173 shall carry no legal force and effect.

SA 4264. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations 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 in division H, insert the following:

SEC. ____. The Secretary of Homeland Security shall make publicly available on the website of the Department of Homeland Security any request for reprogramming or transfer of funds and any final spend plan for the Department of Homeland Security and any component of the Department for fiscal year 2026, and for each fiscal year thereafter, not later than 14 days after final agency action.

SA 4265. Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations 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 in the matter preceding division A, insert the following:

SEC. ____. STRIKE OF EARMARKS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, none of the funds provided under any division of this Act may be used for Congressionally Directed Spending projects.

SA 4266. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1176, after line 17, add the following:

SEC. 239. (a) In this section—

(1) the term ‘‘agency’’ means an Executive agency (as defined in section 105 of title 5, United States Code);

(2) the term ‘‘covered employee’’ means—

(A) a covered immigration officer (as defined in section 236(g)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended by section 2), whose official duties put the covered employee at greater risk of being the target of a threat, intimidation, harassment, stalking, or a similar action;

(B) a spouse, child, or parent of an employee described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) any other familial relative of such employee who has the same permanent residence as such employee;

(3) the term ‘‘privacy-enhancing services’’ means any software or hardware solution, technical process, technique, or other technological means of mitigating privacy risks arising from data processing, including by eliminating, reducing, or suppressing personal information, including restricted personal information (as defined in section 119(b)(1) of title 18, United States Code).

(b) Section 236 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1226) is amended by adding at the end the following:

‘‘(g) IDENTIFICATION REQUIREMENT FOR IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL.—

‘‘(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

‘‘(A) COVERED IMMIGRATION OFFICER.—The term ‘covered immigration officer’ means—

‘‘(i) any officer, agent, or employee of U.S. Customs and Border Protection;

‘‘(ii) any officer, agent, or employee of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement; and

‘‘(iii) any officer, agent, or individual authorized, deputized, or designated under Federal law, regulation, or agreement to perform immigration enforcement functions, including pursuant to section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1357(g)) or any other delegation or agreement with the Department of Homeland Security.

‘‘(B) IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT FUNCTION.—The term ‘immigration enforcement function’—

‘‘(i) means any activity that involves the direct exercise of Federal immigration enforcement through public-facing actions, including a patrol, stop, arrest, search, interview to determine immigration status, raid, checkpoint, or the service of a judicial or administrative warrant; and

‘‘(ii) does not include any covert, nonpublic operation.

‘‘(2) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), any covered immigration officer who is conducting an immigration enforcement function and any Federal or non-Federal law enforcement officer who is providing direct support to such immigration enforcement function shall visibly display—

‘‘(A) such covered immigration officer’s last name and another individual identifier that is unique to such individual;

‘‘(B) the name of the Federal law enforcement entity or other organization employing such covered immigration officer; and

‘‘(C) the face of such covered immigration officer.

‘‘(3) EXCEPTION.—The requirement under paragraph (2) shall not apply to individuals referred to in such paragraph who—

‘‘(A) are engaged in investigative activity involving the use of an assumed name or cover identity;

‘‘(B) are engaged in planned tactical operations (such as high-risk situations, responding to hostage incidents, terrorism response, narcotics raids, hazardous surveillance, sniper incidents, armed suicidal persons, barricaded suspects, high-risk felony warrant service, fugitives refusing to surrender, and active shooter incidents) by specifically trained law enforcement personnel to a high-risk situation that requires the application of specialized lifesaving tools, tactics, and capabilities which exceed those immediately available to the officer or agent of the Department of Homeland Security who is conducting an immigration enforcement function and any Federal or non-Federal law enforcement officer who is providing direct support to such immigration enforcement function in the regular performance of the officer’s or agent’s official duties; or

‘‘(C) are engaged in a law enforcement function that necessitate the use of face coverings, as required under section 1960.10(b) of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations.’’.

(c) Nothing in this section or in the amendment made by this section may be construed to prohibit, restrain, or limit—

(1) the lawful investigation or reporting by the press of any unlawful activity or misconduct alleged to have been committed by a covered employee;

(2) the lawful disclosure of information relating to a covered employee or the immediate family of a covered employee regarding matters of public concern; or

(3) information that the covered employee or the employer of the covered employee voluntarily publishes on the internet after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SA 4267. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1176, after line 17, add the following:

SEC. 239. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to detain a child (as defined in section 101(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)(1))) or a primary caregiver of a child unless the Secretary of Homeland Security demonstrates that it is unreasonable or not practicable to place such child or caregiver in a community-based supervision program.

SA 4268. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1176, after line 17, add the following:

SEC. 239. (a) In this section, the term ‘‘sensitive location’’ includes any physical space located within 1,000 feet of—

(1) any medical or mental healthcare facility, including any hospital, health care practitioner’s office, accredited health clinic, vaccination or testing site, or emergent or urgent care facility, or community health center;

(2) any public or private school (including preschools, primary schools, secondary schools, and postsecondary schools (including colleges and universities)), any site of an early childhood education program, any other institution of learning, such as vocational or trade schools, and any other site where individuals who are unemployed or underemployed may apply for or receive workforce training;

(3) any scholastic or education-related activity or event, including field trips and interscholastic events;

(4) any school bus or school bus stop during periods when school children are present on the bus or at the stop;

(5) any recreational facility for children, such as playgrounds and formal recreational facilities;

(6) any child care focused facility, including child care centers, before or after school care centers, foster care facilities, and group homes for children;

(7) any location where disaster or emergency response and relief is being provided by Federal, State, or local entities, such as the distribution of emergency supplies, food, and water; any place of temporary shelter; any place along an evacuation route; and any site where registration for disaster-related assistance or family reunification is taking place;

(8) any location of any organization that—

(A) assists children, pregnant women, victims of crime or abuse, or individuals with significant mental or physical disabilities, including domestic violence shelters, child advocacy centers, facilities that serve disabled persons, drug or alcohol counseling and treatment facilities, rape crisis centers, supervised visitation centers, family justice centers, victims’ services providers, and community-based organizations providing social services; or

(B) provides disaster or emergency social services and assistance, or services for individuals experiencing homelessness, including food banks, pantries, or other establishments distributing food, and shelters;

(9) any church, synagogue, mosque, or other place of worship or religious study, such as buildings rented for the purpose of

religious services, or a temporary facility or location where such activities are taking place;

(10) any sites of a funeral, graveside ceremony, wedding, or any site where other religious or civil ceremonies or observances are occurring;

(11) any site during the occurrence of a public demonstration, such as a march, rally, or parade;

(12) any Federal, State, or local courthouse, including the office of an individual's legal counsel or representative, and a probation office;

(13) any congressional district office;

(14) any Social Security office;

(15) any public assistance offices, including locations where individuals may apply for or receive unemployment compensation or report violations of labor and employment laws;

(16) the indoor or outdoor premises of a department of motor vehicles;

(17) a polling place, including any building or infrastructure where voting takes place during an election;

(18) a labor union hall or any other union-operated building or office where registered applicants are referred in rotation to jobs;

(19) any public library; or

(20) any other locations specified by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(b) No Federal funds may be used by the Department of Homeland Security to engage in any immigration enforcement action, including any apprehension, arrest, interview, request for identification, investigative stop, search, or surveillance for the purposes of immigration enforcement (including enforcement actions that are part of a joint case led by another law enforcement agency), that takes place at, is focused on or occurs within 1,000 feet of a sensitive location.

SA 4269. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1176, after line 17, add the following:

SEC. 239. (a)(1) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall enhance the performance, professionalism, and integrity of immigration enforcement officers and agents by establishing strengthened hiring and screening standards for all newly hired officers and agents.

(2) The standards required under paragraph (1) shall, at a minimum, require that each applicant—

(A) be at least 20 years of age at the time of application and at least 21 years of age at the start of the next scheduled basic training academy;

(B) possess a high school diploma or equivalent credential at the time of application;

(C) possess authorization to live and work in the United States, as demonstrated by documentation sufficient to satisfy employment eligibility verification requirements under Federal law;

(D) possess not fewer than 5 years of prior law enforcement experience with a Federal, State, local, Tribal, or territorial law enforcement agency;

(E) hold a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education; and

(F) undergo comprehensive background investigations that include—

(i) criminal history checks;

(ii) reviews of prior law enforcement or military service, including disciplinary records and sustained complaints;

(iii) screening for any history of domestic violence, sexual assault, or other violent conduct;

(iv) drug use screening consistent with Federal law;

(v) reviews for affiliations with terrorist organizations, violent extremist groups, or hate-based organizations;

(vi) reviews of publicly available social media and online activity for evidence of bias, extremism, discriminatory conduct, or advocacy of violence; and

(vii) psychological suitability assessments to ensure fitness for duty, sound judgment, and the ability to safely interact with the public.

(b)(1) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish and enforce appearance standards applicable to immigration enforcement officers and agents.

(2) The standards required under paragraph (1) shall prohibit—

(A) any body markings that are vulgar, obscene, sexually explicit, gang-related, prejudicial, or otherwise reasonably likely to bring discredit upon the Department of Homeland Security or the law enforcement profession;

(B) body markings located on or above the collarbone; and

(C) body markings located on or below the wrist bone, except that an officer or agent may display one band-style marking on one finger, not exceeding 8 millimeters in width.

SA 4270. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1176, after line 17, add the following:

SEC. 239. (a) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure each immigration enforcement officer or agent who interacts with members of the public is equipped with a body-worn camera.

(b) Except as provided under subsections (c) and (d), an immigration enforcement officer or agent shall wear and activate a body-worn camera, or a dash camera if the officer's vehicle is equipped with such a camera, while—

(1) responding to a call for service;

(2) entering any premises for the purpose of enforcing the law or investigating possible violations of law;

(3) conducting a welfare check, except for motorist assistance; or

(4) engaging in any interaction with a member of the public initiated by the officer or agent, whether consensual or nonconsensual, for the purpose of enforcing the law or investigating possible violations of law.

(c)(1) A camera need not be activated while an immigration enforcement officer or agent en route to a call for service, but shall be activated shortly before the officer or agent arrives at the scene.

(2) An officer or agent working in an undercover capacity is not required to wear or activate a body-worn camera.

(d) An immigration enforcement officer or agent may deactivate a body-worn camera—

(1) to avoid recording personal information that is not related to an immigration case;

(2) while working on an unrelated assignment;

(3) during a prolonged break in an incident; or

(4) during administrative, tactical, or management discussions when members of the public are not present.

(e)(1) If an immigration enforcement officer or agent fails to activate a body-worn or dash camera as required under this section, or tampers with camera footage or operation when activation is required—

(A) there shall be a permissive inference, in any investigation or legal proceeding other than a criminal prosecution of the officer or agent, that the missing footage would have reflected misconduct; and

(B) any statements or conduct offered through the officer or agent that were not recorded and not otherwise documented shall be subject to a rebuttable presumption of inadmissibility.

(2) This subsection shall not apply if—

(A) a body-worn camera or dash camera malfunctions;

(B) the officer or agent to whom the camera was assigned was unaware of the malfunction or unable to correct it prior to the incident; and

(C) the records of the agency demonstrate that the officer or agent checked the camera's functionality at the beginning of his or her shift.

(f) In addition to any criminal liability—

(1) if an adjudicative body or final agency determination finds that an officer or agent intentionally failed to activate or tampered with a camera, the employing agency shall impose discipline upon the officer or agent, up to and including termination, consistent with applicable law;

(2) if the conduct of the officer or agent was undertaken with the intent to conceal unlawful or inappropriate actions or obstruct justice, the officer's or agent's certification or authority to perform enforcement duties shall be suspended for not less than 1 year, subject to reinstatement only upon exoneration; and

(3) if such conduct occurred in an incident resulting in the death or serious bodily injury of a civilian, the officer's or agent's certification or authority to perform enforcement duties shall be permanently revoked, subject to reinstatement only upon exoneration.

(g) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish and follow a retention schedule for body-worn and dash-camera recordings in accordance with applicable records management requirements.

(h) Not later than 21 days after receiving a complaint alleging misconduct by an immigration enforcement officer or agent, the Department of Homeland Security shall release all unedited audio and video recordings of the incident to the public, subject to privacy protections and delayed release provisions under subsection (i).

(i)(1) Recordings depicting death shall be made available to a victim's immediate family or lawful representative before being publicly released.

(2)(A) Recordings implicating substantial privacy interests may be blurred to protect such interests without removing any portion of the recording.

(B) If blurring a recording is insufficient—

(i) the recording shall be released to affected individuals or their lawful representatives; and

(ii) the Department of Homeland Security shall notify affected persons of their right to waive the restrictions under this subsection.

(3) A recording of alleged misconduct may be temporarily withheld if the release of such recording would substantially interfere with an ongoing investigation. Such recording shall be publicly released not later than 45 days after the allegation of misconduct, accompanied by a written justification for the delay.

SA 4271. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1176, after line 17, add the following:

SEC. 239. (a) The Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that all Members of Congress are given unrestricted access, without advance notice, to all immigration detention facilities used or operated by the Department of Homeland Security, including ICE-operated, State-run, and privately operated or contracted facilities, regardless of the source of funding for such facilities.

(b) Access to immigration detention facilities required under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) access to all of the areas in such facilities;

(2) the ability to speak privately with detained individuals and facility personnel; and

(3) the ability to observe conditions of confinement and compliance with applicable Federal law, regulations, and standards.

(c)(1) The operator of an immigration detention facility may not delay, condition, restrict, or deny access to such facility to a Member of Congress on the basis of security concerns, staffing limitations, operational considerations, contractual arrangements, or facility designation.

(2) Not later than 24 hours after discovering that a Member of Congress' access to an immigration detention facility was delayed or denied for any reason, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a detailed report identifying the reasons for such delay and denial and describing the steps that will be taken to prevent future delays or denials to—

(A) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

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

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(E) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

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

SA 4272. Mr. PAUL (for himself and Mr. LEE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In title II of division B, under the heading ''REFUGEE AND ENTRANT ASSISTANCE (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)'' under the heading ''ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES'', strike ''$5,163,956,000'' and all that follows through ''sections 462 and 235.'' and insert ''$0.''

SA 4273. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

(1) In section 2 in the matter preceding division A, strike the matter relating to division H and insert: ''Division H—Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026''.

(2) On page 4, strike lines 17 through 25.

(3) Beginning on page 1132, strike line 9 and all that follows through ''Sec. 554.'' on page 1235, line 16, and insert:

''DIVISION H—FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

''SEC. 101. The Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026 (division A of Public Law 119–37) is amended by striking the date specified in section 106(3) and inserting 'February 13, 2026'.

''SEC. 102. For the purposes of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026 (division A of Public Law 119–37), the time covered by such division shall be considered to include the period which began on or about January 31, 2026, during which there occurred a lapse in appropriations.

''SEC. 103. Amounts made available in the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026 (division A of Public Law 119–37) and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 for personnel pay, allowances, and benefits in each department and agency shall be available for payments pursuant to subsection (c) of section 1341 of title 31, United States Code and such payments shall be made.

''SEC. 104. All obligations incurred and in anticipation of the appropriations made and authority granted by the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026 (division A of Public Law 119–37) and by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2026 for the purposes of maintaining the essential level of activity to protect life and property and bringing about orderly termination of Government function, and for purposes as otherwise authorized by law, are hereby ratified and approved if otherwise in accord with the provisions of such Act.

''SEC. 105. ''.

(4) On page 1235, strike lines 22 and 23 and insert:

''This division may be cited as the 'Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2026'.''.

SA 4274. Mrs. SHAHEEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations 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 in title VII of division E, insert the following:

SEC. _____. LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act with respect to any fiscal year may be used to blockade, occupy, annex, conduct military operations against, or otherwise assert control over the sovereign territory of a member state of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), other than as authorized by that NATO member state or the North Atlantic Council.

(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.— Nothing in this section shall be construed to prevent the United States from defending itself or an ally from an armed attack or from a credible threat of an imminent armed attack.

SA 4275. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations 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:

DIVISION __—SAVE AMERICA ACT

SEC. __001. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the ''Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act'' or the ''SAVE America Act''.

SEC. __002. ENSURING ONLY CITIZENS ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE IN ELECTIONS FOR FEDERAL OFFICE.

(a) DEFINITION OF DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP.—Section 3 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20502) is amended—

(1) by striking ''As used'' and inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—As used''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP.—As used in this Act, the term 'documentary proof of United States citizenship' means, with respect to an applicant for voter registration, any of the following:

''(1) A form of identification issued consistent with the requirements of the REAL ID Act of 2005 that indicates the applicant is a citizen of the United States.

''(2) A valid United States passport.

''(3) The applicant's official United States military identification card, together with a United States military record of service showing that the applicant's place of birth was in the United States.

''(4) A valid government-issued photo identification card issued by a Federal, State or Tribal government showing that the applicant's place of birth was in the United States.

''(5) A valid government-issued photo identification card issued by a Federal, State or Tribal government other than an identification described in paragraphs (1) through (4), but only if presented together with one or more of the following:

''(A) A certified birth certificate issued by a State, a unit of local government in a State, or a Tribal government which—

''(i) was issued by the State, unit of local government, or Tribal government in which the applicant was born;

''(ii) was filed with the office responsible for keeping vital records in the State;

''(iii) includes the full name, date of birth, and place of birth of the applicant;

''(iv) lists the full names of one or both of the parents of the applicant;

''(v) has the signature of an individual who is authorized to sign birth certificates on behalf of the State, unit of local government, or Tribal government in which the applicant was born;

''(vi) includes the date that the certificate was filed with the office responsible for keeping vital records in the State; and

''(vii) has the seal of the State, unit of local government, or Tribal government that issued the birth certificate.

''(B) An extract from a United States hospital Record of Birth created at the time of the applicant's birth which indicates that the applicant's place of birth was in the United States.

''(C) A final adoption decree showing the applicant's name and that the applicant's place of birth was in the United States.

''(D) A Consular Report of Birth Abroad of a citizen of the United States or a certification of the applicant's Report of Birth of a United States citizen issued by the Secretary of State.

''(E) A Naturalization Certificate or Certificate of Citizenship issued by the Secretary of Homeland Security or any other document or method of proof of United States citizenship issued by the Federal government pursuant to the Immigration and Nationality Act.

''(F) An American Indian Card issued by the Department of Homeland Security with the classification 'KIC'.''.

(b) APPLICATION OF REQUIREMENTS.—Section 4 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20503) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

''(b) REQUIRING APPLICANTS TO PRESENT DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP.—Under any method of voter registration in a State, the State shall not accept and process an application to register to vote in an election for Federal office unless the applicant presents documentary proof of United States citizenship with the application.''.

(c) REGISTRATION WITH APPLICATION FOR MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVER'S LICENSE.—Section 5 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20504) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''Each State motor vehicle driver's license application'' and inserting ''Subject to the requirements under section 8(j), each State motor vehicle driver's license application'';

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking ''Each State shall include'' and inserting ''Subject to the requirements under section 8(j), each State shall include'';

(3) in subsection (c)(2)(B)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in clause (ii), by adding ''and'' at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(iii) verify that the applicant is a citizen of the United States;'';

(4) in subsection (c)(2)(C)(i), by striking ''(including citizenship)'' and inserting '', including the requirement that the applicant provides documentary proof of United States citizenship''; and

(5) in subsection (c)(2)(D)(iii), by striking ''; and'' and inserting the following: '', other than as evidence in a criminal proceeding or immigration proceeding brought against an applicant who knowingly attempts to register to vote and knowingly makes a false declaration under penalty of perjury that the applicant meets the eligibility requirements to register to vote in an election for Federal office; and''.

(d) REQUIRING DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP WITH NATIONAL MAIL VOTER REGISTRATION FORM.—Section 6 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20505) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by striking ''Each State shall accept and use'' and inserting ''Subject to the requirements under section 8(j), each State shall accept and use''; and

(B) by striking ''Federal Election Commission'' and inserting ''Election Assistance Commission'';

(2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following: ''The chief State election official of a State shall take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that residents of the State are aware of the requirement to provide documentary proof of United States citizenship to register to vote in elections for Federal office in the State.'';

(3) in subsection (c)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(C) the person did not provide documentary proof of United States citizenship when registering to vote.''; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) ENSURING PROOF OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP.—

''(1) PRESENTING PROOF OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP TO ELECTION OFFICIAL.—An applicant who submits the mail voter registration application form prescribed by the Election Assistance Commission pursuant to section 9(a)(2) or a form described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a) shall not be registered to vote in an election for Federal office unless—

''(A) the applicant presents documentary proof of United States citizenship in person to the office of the appropriate election official not later than the deadline provided by State law for the receipt of a completed voter registration application for the election; or

''(B) in the case of a State which permits an individual to register to vote in an election for Federal office at a polling place on the day of the election and on any day when voting, including early voting, is permitted for the election, the applicant presents documentary proof of United States citizenship to the appropriate election official at the polling place not later than the date of the election.

''(2) NOTIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT.—Upon receiving an otherwise completed mail voter registration application form prescribed by the Election Assistance Commission pursuant to section 9(a)(2) or a form described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a), the appropriate election official shall transmit a notice to the applicant of the requirement to present documentary proof of United States citizenship under this subsection, and shall include in the notice instructions to enable the applicant to meet the requirement.

''(3) ACCESSIBILITY.—Each State shall, in consultation with the Election Assistance Commission, ensure that reasonable accommodations are made to allow an individual with a disability who submits the mail voter registration application form prescribed by the Election Assistance Commission pursuant to section 9(a)(2) or a form described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a) to present documentary proof of United States citizenship to the appropriate election official.''.

(e) REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTER REGISTRATION AGENCIES.—Section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20506) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (4)(A), by adding at the end the following new clause:

''(iv) Receipt of documentary proof of United States citizenship of each applicant to register to vote in elections for Federal office in the State.''; and

(B) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i)(I), by striking ''(including citizenship)'' and inserting '', including the requirement that the applicant provides documentary proof of United States citizenship''; and

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (C) and (D), respectively; and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph:

''(B) ask the applicant the question, 'Are you a citizen of the United States?' and if the applicant answers in the affirmative require documentary proof of United States citizenship prior to providing the form under subparagraph (C);''; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting ''who are citizens of the United States'' after ''for persons''.

(f) REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO ADMINISTRATION OF VOTER REGISTRATION.—Section 8 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking ''In the administration of voter registration'' and inserting ''Subject to the requirements of subsection (j), in the administration of voter registration''; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''or'' at the end; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

''(D) based on documentary proof or verified information that the registrant is not a United States citizen; or

''(E) the registration otherwise fails to comply with applicable State law;'';

(2) by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (l); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (i) the following new subsections:

''(j) ENSURING ONLY CITIZENS ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, a State may not register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office held in the State unless, at the time the individual applies to register to vote, the individual provides documentary proof of United States citizenship.

''(2) ADDITIONAL PROCESSES IN CERTAIN CASES.—

''(A) PROCESS FOR THOSE WITHOUT DOCUMENTARY PROOF.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to any relevant guidance adopted by the Election Assistance Commission, each State shall establish a process under which an applicant who cannot provide documentary proof of United States citizenship under paragraph (1) may, if the applicant signs an attestation under penalty of perjury that the applicant is a citizen of the United States and eligible to vote in elections for Federal office, submit such other evidence to the appropriate State or local official demonstrating that the applicant is a citizen of the United States and such official shall make a determination as to whether the applicant has sufficiently established United States citizenship for purposes of registering to vote in elections for Federal office in the State.

''(ii) AFFIDAVIT REQUIREMENT.—If a State or local official makes a determination under clause (i) that an applicant has sufficiently established United States citizenship for purposes of registering to vote in elections for Federal office in the State, such determination shall be accompanied by an affidavit developed under clause (iii) signed by the official swearing or affirming the applicant sufficiently established United States citizenship for purposes of registering to vote.

''(iii) DEVELOPMENT OF AFFIDAVIT BY THE ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.—The Election Assistance Commission shall develop a uniform affidavit for use by State and local officials under clause (ii), which shall—

''(I) include an explanation of the minimum standards required for a State or local official to register an applicant who cannot provide documentary proof of United States citizenship to vote in elections for Federal office in the State; and

''(II) require the official to explain the basis for registering such applicant to vote in such elections.

''(B) PROCESS IN CASE OF CERTAIN DISCREPANCIES IN DOCUMENTATION.—Subject to any relevant guidance adopted by the Election Assistance Commission, each State shall establish a process under which an applicant can provide such additional documentation to the appropriate election official of the State as may be necessary to establish that the applicant is a citizen of the United States in the event of a discrepancy with respect to the applicant's documentary proof of United States citizenship.

''(3) STATE REQUIREMENTS.—Each State shall take affirmative steps on an ongoing basis to ensure that only United States citizens are registered to vote under the provisions of this Act, which shall include the establishment of a program described in paragraph (4) not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection.

''(4) PROGRAM DESCRIBED.—A State may meet the requirements of paragraph (3) by establishing a program under which the State identifies individuals who are not United States citizens using information supplied by one or more of the following sources:

''(A) The Department of Homeland Security through the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements ('SAVE') or otherwise.

''(B) The Social Security Administration through the Social Security Number Verification Service, or otherwise.

''(C) State agencies that supply State identification cards or driver's licenses where the agency confirms the United States citizenship status of applicants.

''(D) Other sources, including databases, which provide confirmation of United States citizenship status.

''(5) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—At the request of a State election official (including a request related to a process established by a State under paragraph (2)(A) or (2)(B)), any head of a Federal department or agency possessing information relevant to determining the eligibility of an individual to vote in elections for Federal office shall, not later than 24 hours after receipt of such request, provide the official with such information as may be necessary to enable the official to verify that an applicant for voter registration in elections for Federal office held in the State or a registrant on the official list of eligible voters in elections for Federal office held in the State is a citizen of the United States, which shall include providing the official with such batched information as may be requested by the official.

''(B) USE OF SAVE SYSTEM.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may respond to a request received under paragraph (1) by using the system for the verification of immigration status under the applicable provisions of section 1137 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–7), as established pursuant to section 121(c) of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (Public Law 99–603).

''(C) SHARING OF INFORMATION.—The heads of Federal departments and agencies shall share information with each other with respect to an individual who is the subject of a request received under paragraph (A) in order to enable them to respond to the request.

''(D) INVESTIGATION FOR PURPOSES OF REMOVAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall conduct an investigation to determine whether to initiate removal proceedings under section 239 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229) if it is determined pursuant to subparagraph (A) or (B) that an alien (as such term is defined in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101)) is unlawfully registered to vote in elections for Federal office.

''(E) PROHIBITING FEES.—The head of a Federal department or agency may not charge a fee for responding to a State's request under paragraph (A).

''(k) REMOVAL OF NONCITIZENS FROM REGISTRATION ROLLS.—A State shall remove an individual who is not a citizen of the United States from the official list of eligible voters for elections for Federal office held in the State at any time upon receipt of documentation or verified information that a registrant is not a United States citizen.''.

(g) CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY OF STATE TO REMOVE NONCITIZENS FROM OFFICIAL LIST OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 8(a)(4) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507(a)(4)) is amended—

(A) by striking ''or'' at the end of subparagraph (A);

(B) by adding ''or'' at the end of subparagraph (B); and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(C) documentary proof or verified information that the registrant is not a United States citizen;''.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 8(c)(2)(B)(i) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20507(c)(2)(B)(i)) is amended by striking ''(4)(A)'' and inserting ''(4)(A) or (C)''.

(h) REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO FEDERAL MAIL VOTER REGISTRATION FORM.—

(1) CONTENTS OF MAIL VOTER REGISTRATION FORM.—Section 9(b) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20508(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking ''(including citizenship)'' and inserting ''(including an explanation of what is required to present documentary proof of United States citizenship)'';

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(D) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(5) shall include a section, for use only by a State or local election official, to record the type of document the applicant presented as documentary proof of United States citizenship, including the date of issuance, the date of expiration (if any), the office which issued the document, and any unique identification number associated with the document.''.

(2) INFORMATION ON MAIL VOTER REGISTRATION FORM.—Section 9(b)(4) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20508(b)(4)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating clauses (i) through (iii) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively; and

(B) in subparagraph (C) (as so redesignated and as amended by paragraph (1)(C)), by striking ''; and'' and inserting the following: '', other than as evidence in a criminal proceeding or immigration proceeding brought against an applicant who attempts to register to vote and makes a false declaration under penalty of perjury that the applicant meets the eligibility requirements to register to vote in an election for Federal office; and''.

(i) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—Section 11(b)(1) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20510(b)(1)) is amended by striking ''a violation of this Act'' and inserting ''a violation of this Act, including the act of an election official who registers an applicant to vote in an election for Federal office who fails to present documentary proof of United States citizenship,''.

(j) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—Section 12(2) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20511(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''or'' at the end of subparagraph (A);

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (D); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraphs:

''(B) in the case of an officer or employee of the executive branch, providing material assistance to a noncitizen in attempting to register to vote or vote in an election for Federal office;

''(C) registering an applicant to vote in an election for Federal office who fails to present documentary proof of United States citizenship; or''.

(k) SPECIAL RULE FOR STATES NOT REQUIRING VOTER REGISTRATION.—Section 4 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20503), as amended by subsection (b), is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR STATES NOT REQUIRING VOTER REGISTRATION.—In the case of a State or jurisdiction that does not require voter registration as a requirement to vote in an election for Federal office on or after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the State or jurisdiction shall be deemed to meet the requirements of this Act if the State or jurisdiction establishes a system for confirming the citizenship of individuals voting in an election for Federal office prior to the first day for voting with respect to such election and provides such confirmation of citizenship status for each eligible voter to election officials at the polling places during the voting period.''.

(l) ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION GUIDANCE.—Not later than 10 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Election Assistance Commission shall adopt and transmit to the chief State election official of each State guidance with respect to the implementation of the requirements under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.), as amended by this section.

(m) INAPPLICABILITY OF PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.—Subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44 (commonly referred to as the ''Paperwork Reduction Act'') shall not apply with respect to the development or modification of voter registration materials under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.), as amended by this section, including the development or modification of any voter registration application forms.

(n) DUTY OF SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO NOTIFY ELECTION OFFICIALS OF NATURALIZATION.—Upon receiving information that an individual has become a naturalized citizen of the United States, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall promptly provide notice of such information to the appropriate chief election official of the State in which such individual is domiciled.

(o) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING PROVISIONAL BALLOTS.—Nothing in this section or in any amendment made by this section may be construed to supercede, restrict, or otherwise affect the ability of an individual to cast a provisional ballot in an election for Federal office or to have the ballot counted in the election if the individual is verified as a citizen of the United States pursuant to section 8(j) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (as added by subsection (f)).

(p) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING EFFECT ON STATE EXEMPTIONS FROM OTHER FEDERAL LAWS.—Nothing in this section or in any amendment made by this section may be construed to affect the exemption of a State from any requirement of any Federal law other than the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.).

(q) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this section, and shall apply with respect to applications for voter registration which are submitted on or after such date.

SEC. __003. PHOTO VOTER IDENTIFICATION REQUIRED FOR VOTING IN A FEDERAL ELECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each individual voting in an election for Federal office shall present an eligible photo identification document.

(b) PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN-PERSON VOTING.—In the case of an individual who votes in-person, the eligible photo identification document shall—

(A) be a tangible (not digital) document; and

(B) be presented at the time of voting.

(2) ABSENTEE VOTING.—In the case of an individual voting by absentee ballot, the individual shall include a copy of the eligible photo identification document—

(A) with the request for an absentee ballot; and

(B) with the submission of the absentee ballot.

(c) ELIGIBLE PHOTO IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT.—For purposes of this section:

(1) IN GENERAL.—The term ''eligible photo identification document'' means any document which—

(A) is issued by an authority described in paragraph (2); and

(B) meets the requirements of paragraph (3).

(2) ISSUING AUTHORITY.—The following are authorities described in this paragraph:

(A) A State agency responsible for issuing State motor vehicle drivers' licenses.

(B) A State or local election office.

(C) A Native tribal government.

(D) The Department of State.

(E) The Department of War.

(F) A branch of the Armed Forces.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—A document meets the requirements of this paragraph if the document contains—

(A) a photograph of the individual identified on the document;

(B) an indication on the front of the document that the individual identified on the document is a United States citizen; and

(C) either—

(i) an identification number issues by the entity described in paragraph (2)(A); or

(ii) the last four digits of the social security number of the individual identified on the document.

(4) USE OF ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION.—

(A) USE OF ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION.—A document which fails to meet the requirements of paragraph (3)(B) shall not fail to be treated as an eligible photo identification document if the document is presented together with another identification document that indicates the individual is a United States citizen.

(B) STATES USING SAVE SYSTEM.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The requirements of paragraph (3)(B) shall not apply to an individual—

(I) who votes in a State or jurisdiction which meets the requirements of clause (ii); and

(II) who registered to vote in such State or jurisdiction before the most recent date on which the State or jurisdiction last submitted its voter registration rolls to the Department of Homeland Security as provided in clause (ii)(I).

(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—The requirements of this clause are met if—

(I) the State or jurisdiction has submitted its voter registration list to the Department of Homeland Security through the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (SAVE) program not less frequently than quarterly since June 1, 2025, for purposes of identifying ineligible registrations and noncitizens; and

(II) the State or jurisdiction indicates in each voter record on its voter rolls whether the voter has been verified as a United States citizen based on the information provided by the Department of Homeland Security under subclause (I), and the date of such verification.

(iii) SPECIAL RULE FOR STATES NOT REQUIRING VOTER REGISTRATION.—In the case of a State or jurisdiction that does not require voter registration as a requirement to vote in an election for Federal office on or after the date of the enactment of this Act—

(I) clause (i)(ii) shall not apply; and

(II) the State or jurisdiction shall be deemed to meet the requirements of clause (ii) if the State or jurisdiction establishes a system for confirming the citizenship of individuals voting in an election for Federal office prior to the first day of the period described in section 3 with respect to such election and provides such confirmation of citizenship status for each eligible voter to election officials at the polling places during the voting period.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 303(b) of the Help America Vote Act of 2002 (52 U.S.C. 21083(b)) is amended by striking all that precedes paragraph (4).

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Each State and jurisdiction shall be required to comply with the requirements of this section with respect to all elections for Federal office occurring on and after the date of the enactment of this section.

SA 4276. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1176, after line 17, add the following:

SEC. 239. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law and except as provided under section 287(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1357(a)(2)), no funds made available to the Department of Homeland Security by this Act or by any other Act may be used by any officer or employee to make a civil immigration arrest without—

(1) a judicially enforceable warrant issued by a Federal magistrate or Article III judge; or

(2) a civil administrative warrant that complies with the requirements described in subsection (b).

(b) To meet the requirements described in this subsection, a civil administrative warrant shall—

(1) be served on the recipient with the accompanying documentation described in paragraph (3) at the time the warrant is issued;

(2) be issued concurrently with or based on a previously-existing charging document or conclusive evidence of an existing removal order;

(3) accurately document the probable cause of the recipient's lack of lawful immigration status; and

(4) be approved by an immigration judge or a supervising officer not later than 24 hours before it is executed.

SA 4277. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 1198, strike line 23 and all that follows through page 1201, line 19, and insert the following:

SEC. 503. (a) None of the funds provided by this Act, or by any prior appropriations Act, to the components in, or transferred to, the Department of Homeland Security that remain available for obligation or expenditure during fiscal year 2026, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees available to the components funded by this Act or from Public Law 119–21 shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates or eliminates a program, project, or activity, or increases funds for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by the Congress;

(2) contracts out any function or activity presently performed by Federal employees or any new function or activity proposed to be performed by Federal employees in the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Homeland Security;

(3) augments funding for existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of $1,000,000 or 1 percent, whichever is less;

(4) reduces funding for any program, project, or activity, or numbers of personnel, by 5 percent or more; or

(5) results from any general savings from a reduction in personnel that would result in a change in funding levels for programs, projects, or activities approved by the Congress.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply if the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives are notified at least 30 days in advance of such reprogramming.

(c) Up to 5 percent of any appropriation made available by this Act for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Homeland Security or provided by any prior appropriations Act may be transferred between such appropriations if the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives are notified at least 30 days in advance of such transfer. None of these appropriations, except as otherwise specifically provided, may be increased by more than 1 percent by such transfer.

(d) Notwithstanding subsections (a), (b), and (c), funds may not be reprogrammed within or transferred between appropriations—

(1) based upon an initial notification provided after June 15, 2026, except in extraordinary circumstances that imminently threaten the safety of human life or the protection of property by a natural disaster or congressional authorized drug interdiction carried out by the United States Coast Guard;

(2) to increase or decrease funding for grant programs; or

(3) to create a program, project, or activity described in subsection (a)(1), including any new function or requirement within any program, project, or activity that has not been approved by Congress.

(e) The notification thresholds and procedures set forth in subsections (a), (b), (c), and (d) shall apply to any use of deobligated balances of funds provided to the Department of Homeland Security in a prior appropriations Act or funds provided under Public Law 119–21 that remain available for obligation during the 3-year period ending on September 30, 2029.

(f) Funds may not be reprogrammed or transferred to, from, or within U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

SA 4278. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1161, strike lines 7 through 12.

SA 4279. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1176, after line 17, add the following:

SEC. 239. No funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or by any other Act may be used to carry out any civil arrest or apprehension of any noncitizen, including immigration enforcement actions authorized under section 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1357), without a judicial warrant issued by a Federal district court or magistrate judge.

SA 4280. Mr. MURPHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1133, line 14, insert before the period at the end the following: ``: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding the previous provisos, $42,964,000 shall be made available for the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties and $28,641,000 shall be made available for the Office of the Immigration Detention Ombudsman and such amounts shall be obligated to restore the staff levels set forth in the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2024 (division C of Public Law 118–47)''.

SA 4281. Mr. BLUMENTHAL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1235, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

SEC. 555. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Homeland Security by this division or by Public Law 119–21, and none of the fees collected by the Department of Homeland Security, may be used to arrest or detain any United States citizen unless such action is explicitly authorized under paragraph (4) or (5) of section 287(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1357(a)).

SA 4282. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1176, after line 17, add the following:

SEC. 239. LIMITING IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS AT SENSITIVE LOCATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1357) is amended by adding at the end the following:

``(i)(1) In order to ensure individuals' access to sensitive locations, this subsection shall apply to any enforcement action by—

``(A) officers or agents of the Department of Homeland Security, including officers and agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and U.S. Customs and Border Protection; and

``(B) any individual designated to perform immigration enforcement functions pursuant to a written agreement described in subsection (g).

``(2)(A) An enforcement action may not take place, be focused on a location, or occur, within 1,000 feet of a sensitive location, except under exigent circumstances.

``(B) If an immigration enforcement action is taking place under exigent circumstances, and the exigent circumstances permitting the enforcement action cease, the enforcement action shall be discontinued until such exigent circumstances reemerge.

``(C) If an individual referred to in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) is not certain as to whether exigent circumstances exist, the individual—

``(i) shall cease the enforcement action immediately;

``(ii) shall consult with his or her supervisor in real time regarding the existence of exigent circumstances; and

``(iii) may not continue the enforcement action until the individual's supervisor affirmatively confirms the existence of exigent circumstances.

``(3)(A) When proceeding with an enforcement action at or near a sensitive location, individuals referred to in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) shall make every effort—

``(i) to conduct themselves as discreetly as possible, consistent with officer and public safety;

``(ii) to limit the time spent at the sensitive location; and

``(iii) to limit the enforcement action to the person or persons for whom prior approval was obtained.

``(B) If, in the course of an enforcement action that is not initiated at or focused on a sensitive location, individuals referred to in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1) are led to or near a sensitive location, and no clear exigent circumstance with respect to the sensitive location exists, such individuals shall—

``(i) cease before taking any further enforcement action;

``(ii) conduct themselves in a discreet manner;

``(iii) maintain surveillance; and

``(iv) in the event that uncertainty exists about the existence of exigent circumstances, immediately consult their supervisor in order to determine whether such enforcement action should be discontinued pursuant to paragraph (2)(C).

``(C) This subsection shall not apply to the transportation of an individual apprehended at or near a land or sea border to a hospital or health care provider for the purpose of providing such individual medical care.

``(D) This subsection shall not apply to a rare premeditated arrest operation, undertaken with the prior written approval of an appropriate authorizing official, involving the targeted arrest of a terrorist suspect, an individual who poses a clear threat to national security, or an individual who poses an extraordinary danger to public safety.

``(4) If an enforcement action is carried out in violation of this subsection—

``(A) no information resulting from the enforcement action may be entered into the record or received into evidence in a removal proceeding resulting from the enforcement action; and

``(B) the alien who is the subject of such removal proceeding may file a motion for the immediate termination of the removal proceeding.

``(5)(A) Each official specified in subparagraph (B) shall ensure that the employees under the supervision of such official receive annual training in compliance with the requirements of this subsection, section 239, and section 384 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1367).

``(B) The officials specified in this subparagraph are the following:

``(i) The Chief Counsel of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

``(ii) The Field Office Directors of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

``(iii) Each Special Agent in Charge of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

``(iv) Each Chief Patrol Agent of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

``(v) The Director of Field Operations of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

``(vi) The Director of Air and Marine Operations of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

``(vii) The Internal Affairs Special Agent in Charge of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

``(6)(A) Not later than 30 days after any enforcement action is taken at a sensitive location by any individual referred to in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall provide a report to both the Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security and the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the Department of Homeland Security for each such enforcement action, which shall contain—

``(i) the date, State, and local political subdivision (such as city, town, or county) in which each enforcement action occurred;

``(ii) the specific sensitive location site where the enforcement action occurred;

``(iii) the type of enforcement action that occurred;

``(iv) the specific department, agency, and officers responsible for the enforcement action;

``(v) a thorough description of the circumstances which purportedly justified the enforcement action, including either—

``(I) a clear description of the exigent circumstances involved; or

``(II) a certified copy of the written approval for the immigration arrest that was signed by an appropriate authorizing officer, along with a clear description of the specific and rare threat which justified the premeditated arrest at this sensitive location;

``(vi) a description of the intended target of the enforcement action;

``(vii) the number of individuals, if any, arrested or taken into custody through the enforcement action;

``(viii) the number of collateral arrests, if any, from the enforcement action and the reasons for each such arrest; and

``(ix) a certification of whether a supervisor was contacted prior to, during, or after each such enforcement action.

``(B) An appropriate committee of Congress may, at any time, request and successfully receive a confidential or redacted copy of any of the individual reports described in subparagraph (A).

``(7)(A) The Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Commissioner for U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall each submit an annual report to the appropriate committees of Congress that describes the enforcement actions undertaken by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or U.S. Customs and Border Protection, as applicable, during the preceding fiscal year that were covered by this subsection.

``(B) Each report submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall include—

``(i) the number of enforcement actions at or focused on a sensitive location;

``(ii) the number of enforcement actions where officers or agents were subsequently led to or near a sensitive location;

``(iii) the date, site, State, and local political subdivision (such as city, town, or county) in which each enforcement action covered by clause (i) or (ii) occurred;

``(iv) the component of the agency responsible for each such enforcement action;

``(v) a description of the intended target of each such enforcement action;

``(vi) the number of individuals, if any, arrested or taken into custody through each such enforcement action;

``(vii) the number of collateral arrests, if any, from each such enforcement action and the reasons for each such arrest; and

``(viii) a certification of whether the location administrator was contacted prior to, during, or after each such enforcement action.

``(8)(A) The Office of the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit an annual report to the appropriate committees of Congress regarding the complaints of enforcement actions taken in sensitive locations by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and U.S. Customs and Border Protection during the preceding year that were covered by this subsection.

''(B) Each report submitted pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall include—

''(i) the number of complaints of enforcement actions reported at, or focused on, a sensitive location;

''(ii) the reported date, site, State, and local political subdivision (such as city, town, or county) in which each enforcement action referred to in clause (i) occurred;

''(iii) the reported agency responsible for each such enforcement action;

''(iv) a description of the intended target of each such enforcement action;

''(v) the reported number of individuals, if any, arrested or taken into custody through each such enforcement action;

''(vi) the reported number of collateral arrests, if any, from each such enforcement action, and the reasons for each such arrest; and

''(vii) if available, a certification of whether the location administrator was contacted prior to, during, or after each such enforcement action.

''(9) In this subsection:

''(A) The term 'appropriate authorizing official' means—

''(i) in the case of officers and agents of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—

''(I) the Assistant Director of Operations, Homeland Security Investigations;

''(II) the Executive Associate Director of Homeland Security Investigations;

''(III) the Assistant Director for Field Operations, Enforcement, and Removal Operations;

''(IV) the Executive Associate Director for Field Operations, Enforcement, and Removal Operations; or

''(V) any other individual who is determined to be an appropriate authorizing official by the Secretary of Homeland Security; and

''(ii) in the case of officers and agents of U.S. Customs and Border Protection—

''(I) a Chief Patrol Agent;

''(II) the Director of Field Operations;

''(III) the Director of Air and Marine Operations;

''(IV) the Internal Affairs Special Agent in Charge; or

''(V) any other individual who is determined to be an appropriate authorizing official by the Secretary of Homeland Security; and

''(iii) in the case of all other individuals referred to in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (1), an official determined under rules promulgated by the Secretary of Homeland Security not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2026.

''(B) The term 'appropriate committees of Congress' means—

''(i) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

''(ii) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate;

''(iii) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

''(iv) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

''(v) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives; and

''(vi) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

''(C) The term 'early childhood education program' has the meaning given such term in section 103(8) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003(8)).

''(D) The term 'enforcement action'—

''(i) means an apprehension, arrest, interview, request for identification, search, or surveillance for the purposes of immigration enforcement; and

''(ii) includes an enforcement action at, or focused on, a sensitive location that is part of a joint case led by another law enforcement agency.

''(E) The term 'exigent circumstances' means a situation involving—

''(i) the imminent risk of death, violence, or physical harm to any person, including a situation implicating terrorism or the national security of the United States in some other manner;

''(ii) the immediate arrest or hot pursuit of an individual presenting an imminent danger to public safety, including the imminent risk of death, violence, or physical harm to a person;

''(iii) a rare, premeditated arrest operation described in paragraph (3)(D), undertaken with the prior written approval of an appropriate authorizing official, involving the targeted arrest of a terrorist suspect, an individual who poses a clear threat to national security, or an individual who poses an extraordinary danger to public safety;

''(iv) a direct threat to national security; or

''(v) the imminent risk of destruction of evidence that is material to an ongoing criminal case.

''(F) The term 'sensitive location' includes all of the physical space located within 1,000 feet of—

''(i) any medical or mental healthcare facility, including any hospital, health care practitioner's office, accredited health clinic, vaccination or testing site, or emergent or urgent care facility, or community health center;

''(ii) any public or private school (including preschools, primary schools, secondary schools, and postsecondary schools (including colleges and universities)), any site of an early childhood education program, any other institution of learning, such as vocational or trade schools, and any other site where individuals who are unemployed or underemployed may apply for or receive workforce training;

''(iii) any scholastic or education-related activity or event, including field trips and interscholastic events;

''(iv) any school bus or school bus stop during periods when school children are present on the bus or at the stop;

''(v) any recreational facility for children, such as playgrounds and formal recreational facilities;

''(vi) any child care focused facility, including child care centers, before or after school care centers, foster care facilities, and group homes for children;

''(vii) any location where disaster or emergency response and relief is being provided by Federal, State, or local entities, such as the distribution of emergency supplies, food, and water; any place of temporary shelter; any place along an evacuation route; and any site where registration for disaster-related assistance or family reunification is taking place;

''(viii) any location of any organization that—

''(I) assists children, pregnant women, victims of crime or abuse, or individuals with significant mental or physical disabilities, including domestic violence shelters, child advocacy centers, facilities that serve disabled persons, drug or alcohol counseling and treatment facilities, rape crisis centers, supervised visitation centers, family justice centers, victims' services providers, and community-based organizations providing social services; or

''(II) provides disaster or emergency social services and assistance, or services for individuals experiencing homelessness, including food banks, pantries, or other establishments distributing food, and shelters;

''(ix) any church, synagogue, mosque, or other place of worship or religious study, such as buildings rented for the purpose of religious services, or a temporary facility or location where such activities are taking place;

''(x) any sites of a funeral, graveside ceremony, wedding, or any site where other religious or civil ceremonies or observances are occurring;

''(xi) any site during the occurrence of a public demonstration, such as a march, rally, or parade;

''(xii) any Federal, State, or local courthouse, including the office of an individual's legal counsel or representative, and a probation office;

''(xiii) any congressional district office;

''(xiv) any Social Security office;

''(xv) any public assistance offices, including locations where individuals may apply for or receive unemployment compensation or report violations of labor and employment laws;

''(xvi) the indoor or outdoor premises of a department of motor vehicles;

''(xvii) a polling place, including any building or infrastructure where voting takes place during an election;

''(xviii) a labor union hall or any other union-operated building or office where registered applicants are referred in rotation to jobs;

''(xix) any public library; or

''(xx) any other locations specified by the Secretary of Homeland Security for purposes of this subsection.

''(G) The term 'supervisor' means an official determined under rules promulgated by the Secretary of Homeland Security pursuant to section 239(c) of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2026.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall promulgate regulations to carry out the amendment made by subsection (a).

SA 4283. Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 1235, between lines 21 and 22, insert the following:

SEC. 555. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this division or by Public Law 119–21, and none of the fees collected by the Department of Homeland Security, may be used by any component of the Department of Homeland Security for any operation involving the entry into a private residence solely on the basis of an administrative warrant.

SA 4284. Mr. BENNET submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

After section 194 of title I of division D, insert the following:

SEC. ______. (a) Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Transportation shall issue a notice of funding opportunity for each program described in subsection (c) using any amounts made available in title VIII of division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58; 135 Stat. 1412) for each program described in subsection (c) that are unobligated and have not been committed to any existing grantees.

(b) In making awards for each program described in subsection (c), the Secretary of Transportation shall first prioritize any applicant that had a previously awarded grant withdrawn, canceled, or terminated after December 15, 2025.

(c) A program referred to in subsections (a) and (b) is—

(1) the consolidated rail infrastructure and safety improvements grant program under section 22907 of title 49, United States Code;

(2) the Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation Grant Program under section 25005 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (23 U.S.C. 502 note; Public Law 117–58);

(3) the local and regional project assistance program under section 6702 of title 49, United States Code; and

(4) grants to States or localities under the twenty-second proviso in paragraph (2) in the matter under the heading ''HIGHWAY INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAMS'' under the heading ''FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION'' under the heading ''DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION'' in title VIII of division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58; 135 Stat. 1425).

(d) Amounts repurposed pursuant to this section shall continue to be treated as amounts specified in section 103(b) of division A of Public Law 118–5 (137 Stat. 16).

SA 4285. Mr. SANDERS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations 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. ______. REPEAL OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT.

Sections 90003 and 100052 of Public Law 119–21 (139 Stat. 358, 387) (commonly known as the ''One Big Beautiful Bill Act'') are repealed and the unobligated balances of amounts made available under those sections (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act) are rescinded.

SA 4286. Mr. LEE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In title III of division F, under ''BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE'', strike the heading ''UNITED STATES AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION'' and everything that follows under such heading.

SA 4287. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations 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. ______. PROHIBITION ON LAST-MINUTE RESCISSIONS.

Notwithstanding any provision of the Impoundment Control Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 681 et seq.), a special message transmitted under section 1012 or 1013 of such Act may not propose to rescind or defer any budget authority that expires on or before the date that is 90 days after the date on which such special message is transmitted.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I have six requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to Rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 29, 2026.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 10 a.m., to conduct a subcommittee hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, January 29, 2026, at 10 a.m., to conduct an open hearing on a nomination.

FOREIGN TRAVEL FINANCIAL REPORTS

In accordance with the appropriate provisions of law, the Secretary of the Senate herewith submits the following reports for standing committees of the Senate, certain joint committees of the Congress, delegations and groups, and select and special committees of the Senate, relating to expenses incurred in the performance of authorized foreign travel:

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
CODEL Hagerty—Cancelled					
Delegation Expenses: **					
Japan	Yen			12,732.70	12,732.70
Senator John Hoeven:					
Canada	US Dollar	672.00			672.00
United States	US Dollar		1,612.80		1,612.80
Joshua Carter:					
Canada	US Dollar	818.00			818.00
Delegation Expenses **					
Canada	Canadian Dollar			1,419.42	1,419.42
Total		1,490.00	1,612.80	14,152.12	17,254.92

* Note: All values are United States Dollar Equivalent.

** Delegation Expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR SUSAN COLLINS,
Chairman, Committee on Appropriations, Jan. 22, 2026.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Joni Ernst:					
Germany	US Dollar	380.00			380.00
United States	US Dollar		13,720.80		13,720.80
Senator Joni Ernst:					
Bulgaria	US Dollar	313.00			313.00
Germany	US Dollar	386.00			386.00
United States	US Dollar		18,457.53		18,457.53
Caden Waterstradt:					
Bulgaria	US Dollar	285.71			285.71
Germany	US Dollar	413.29			413.29
United States	US Dollar		18,845.69		18,845.69
Delegation Expenses: **					
Bulgaria	Bulgarian Lev			1,666.20	1,666.20
Senator Kevin Cramer:					
Canada	US Dollar	392.00			392.00
Senator Angus King, Jr.:					
Canada	US Dollar	506.81			506.81
Senator Mike Rounds:					
Canada	US Dollar	763.62			763.62
Senator Jeanne Shaheen:					
Canada	Canadian Dollar	256.81			256.81
Jeffrey Bennett:					
Canada	US Dollar	466.35			466.35
Andrew Braun:					
Canada	US Dollar	574.09			574.09
Abigail Kane:					
Canada	US Dollar	414.00			414.00
Colby Kuhns:					
Canada	US Dollar	392.00			392.00
Delegation Expenses: **					
Canada	Canadian Dollar			6,193.81	6,193.81
Adam Barker:					
Germany	US Dollar	861.22			861.22
United States	US Dollar		15,364.33		15,364.33
Maggie Cooper:					
Germany	US Dollar	450.61			450.61
United States	US Dollar		15,364.33		15,364.33
Delegation Expenses: **					
Germany	Euro			2,451.57	2,451.57
Adam Barker:					
Belgium	US Dollar	1,063.20			1,063.20
United States	US Dollar		14,602.43		14,602.43
Maggie Cooper:					
Belgium	US Dollar	915.31			915.31
United States	US Dollar		14,602.43		14,602.43
Delegation Expenses: **					
Belgium	Euro			2,518.17	2,518.17
Kristina Belcourt:					
Cyprus	US Dollar	700.23			700.23
Italy	US Dollar	555.01			555.01
United States	US Dollar		14,265.73		14,265.73
Jonathan Epstein:					
Cyprus	US Dollar	712.47			712.47
Italy	US Dollar	420.03			420.03
United States	US Dollar		14,265.73		14,265.73
Delegation Expenses: **					
Cyprus	Euro			186.66	186.66
Italy	Euro			186.65	186.65
Levi Brunt:					
United Kingdom	US Dollar	941.00			941.00
United States	US Dollar		8,171.23		8,171.23
Marty Fromuth:					
United Kingdom	US Dollar	1,134.23			1,134.23
United States	US Dollar		8,171.23		8,171.23
Katie Karam:					
United Kingdom	US Dollar	469.00			469.00
United States	US Dollar		8,728.00		8,728.00
Bradley Patout:					
United Kingdom	US Dollar	938.00			938.00
United States	US Dollar		8,171.23		8,171.23
Kaitlyn Romaine:					
United Kingdom	US Dollar	938.00			938.00
United States	US Dollar		8,170.03		8,170.03
Adam Trull:					
United Kingdom	US Dollar	193.00			193.00
United States	US Dollar		8,203.00		8,203.00
Delegation Expenses: **					
United Kingdom	Pound Sterling			7,030.00	7,030.00
Maureen Fromuth:					
Jordan	US Dollar	1,048.86			1,048.86
United States	US Dollar		6,340.61		6,340.61
Eric Trager:					
Jordan	US Dollar	732.19	7.87		740.06
United States	US Dollar		6,340.61		6,340.61
Delegation Expenses: **					
Jordan	Jordanian Dinar			1,037.82	1,037.82
Katie Karam:					
Belgium	US Dollar	1,050.19			1,050.19
United States	US Dollar		10,442.03		10,442.03
Adam Trull:					
Belgium	US Dollar	456.00			456.00
United States	US Dollar		4,895.13		4,895.13
Jonathan Epstein:					
Romania	US Dollar	239.84			239.84
United States	US Dollar		14,725.00		14,725.00
Katie Karam:					
Romania	US Dollar	369.34			369.34
Spain	US Dollar	507.34			507.34
United States	US Dollar		14,036.33		14,036.33
Kaitlyn Romaine:					
Romania	US Dollar	369.34			369.34
Spain	US Dollar	507.34			507.34
United States	US Dollar		14,036.33		14,036.33
Adam Trull:					
Romania	US Dollar	177.00			177.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Transportation U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Miscellaneous U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Total U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Spain	US Dollar	180.00			180.00
United States	US Dollar		14,036.33		14,036.33
Delegation Expenses: **					
Romania	Romanian Leu			767.82	767.82
Spain	Euro			323.14	323.14
Michael Urena:					
Belgium	US Dollar	1,064.00			1,064.00
Germany	US Dollar	885.00			885.00
Poland	US Dollar	352.00			352.00
United States	US Dollar		13,300.43		13,300.43
Delegation Expenses: **					
Belgium	Euro			726.85	726.85
Germany	Euro			1,896.81	1,896.81
Poland	Zloty			551.12	551.12
Total		23,773.43	287,264.39	25,536.62	336,574.44

* Note: All values are United States Dollar Equivalent.
** Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR ROGER WICKER,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, Jan. 26, 2026.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Transportation U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Miscellaneous U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Total U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Lindsey Graham:					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	1,398.00			1,398.00
United States	US Dollar		14,109.00		14,109.00
Ryan Geary:					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	1,316.25			1,316.25
United States	US Dollar		7,788.31		7,788.31
Taylor Reidy:					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	1,306.25			1,306.25
United States	US Dollar		14,696.31		14,696.31
Aaron Strickland:					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel	1,305.01			1,305.01
United States	US Dollar		14,696.31		14,696.31
Delegation Expenses: **					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel			11,547.22	11,547.22
Total		5,325.51	51,289.93	11,547.22	68,162.66

* Note: All values are United States Dollar Equivalent.
** Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State, under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR LINDSEY GRAHAM,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget, Jan. 23, 2026.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON CONGRESSIONAL-EXECUTIVE COMMISSION ON CHINA FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Transportation U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Miscellaneous U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Total U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Piero Tozzi:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		5,938.63		5,938.63
Japan	Yen	1,493.73			1,493.73
Taiwan	NTD	881.54			881.54
Andrew Hartnett:					
United States	U.S. Dollar		6,655.53		6,655.53
Japan	Yen	1,493.72			1,493.72
Taiwan	NTD	881.53			881.53
Delegation Expenses: *					
Japan	Yen			428.87	428.87
Taiwan	NTD		914.66	1,519.92	2,434.58
Total		4,750.52	13,508.82	1,948.79	20,208.13

* Delegation expenses include official expenses reimbursed to the Department of State, under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Sec. 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH,
Co-chairman, Committee on Congressional-Executive Commission on China, Jan. 21, 2026.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON U.S. COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Transportation U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Miscellaneous U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Total U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Kyle Parker: [1]					
United States	Dollar		70.00		70.00
France	Euro				
Poland	Zloty				
Rachel Bauman:					
United States	Dollar		105.00		105.00

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE, UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON U.S. COMMISSION ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
France	Euro				
Poland	Zloty				
Janice Helwig:					
Poland	Zloty		95.00		95.00
Fleur Cowan:					
United States	Dollar		35.00		35.00
Poland	Zloty				
Jordan Warlick:					
United States	Dollar		35.00		35.00
Poland	Zloty				
Shannon Simrell:					
United States	Dollar		35.00		35.00
Poland	Zloty				
Bakhti Nishanov:					
United States	Dollar		35.00		35.00
Poland	Zloty				
Everett Price: [2]					
United States	Dollar		35.00		35.00
Italy	Euro				
Everett Price:					
United States	Dollar		10,176.01		10,176.01
Turkey	Turkish Lira	1,714.12			1,714.12
Fleur Cowan:					
United States	Dollar		7,789.83		7,789.83
Turkey	Turkish Lira	1,714.12			1,714.12
Bakhti Nishanov:					
United States	Dollar		7,738.43		7,738.43
Turkey	Turkish Lira	1,714.12			1,714.12
Everett Price: [3]					
United States	Dollar		35.00		35.00
Austria	Euro				
Belgium	Euro				
Alanna Marguiles:					
United States	Dollar		12,463.63		12,463.63
Belgium	Euro	958.22			958.22
Lithuania	Euro	870.82			870.82
Austria	Euro	1,573.91			1,573.91
Fleur Cowan:					
United States	Dollar		2,812.23		2,812.23
Lithuania	Euro	870.81			870.81
Austria	Euro	1,573.92			1,573.92
Janice Helwig:					
Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyz Som	2,064.00	4,774.83		6,838.83
Rachel Bauman:					
United States	Dollar		4,774.83		4,774.83
Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyz Som	2,064.00			2,064.00
Janice Helwig:					
Austria	Euro	32,306.00			32,306.00
Delegation Expenses: * **					
France	Euro				
Poland	Zloty			7,231.66	7,231.66
Italy	Euro				
Turkey	Turkish Lira			19.60	19.60
Austria	Euro			308.41	308.41
Belgium	Euro				
Lithuania	Euro			731.29	731.29
Kyrgyzstan	Kyrgyz Som			1,400.70	1,400.70
Austria	Euro				
Totals		47,424.04	51,009.79	9,691.66	108,125.49

[1] Staffdel Parker to France and Poland was canceled due to a lapse in government funding.
[2] Staffdel Price to Italy was canceled due to a lapse in government funding.
[3] Everett Price canceled travel to Austria and Belgium due to medical reasons.
* Cancellation fees go toward delegation expenses.
** Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under the authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR ROGER F. WICKER,
Chairman, Committee on U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, Jan. 23, 2026.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON DEMOCRATIC LEADER FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
CODEL Schumer—Cancelled					
Delegation Expenses: **					
Japan	Yen			13,148.87	13,148.87
Chris Homan:					
Norway	Norwegian Krone	739.88			739.88
United States	US Dollar		5,794.13		5,794.13
Total		739.88	5,794.13	13,148.87	19,682.88

* Note: All values are United States Dollar Equivalent.
** Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR CHARLES SCHUMER,
Democratic Leader, Jan. 15, 2026.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & NATURAL RESOURCES FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem: U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Transportation: U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Miscellaneous: U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Total: U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Steve Daines:					
Qatar	US Dollar	369.63			369.63
United Arab Emirates	US Dollar	847.27			847.27
United States	US Dollar		10,668.04		10,668.04
Darin Thacker:					
Qatar	US Dollar	372.05			372.05
United Arab Emirates	US Dollar	849.69			849.69
United States	US Dollar		24,646.91		24,646.91
Delegation Expenses: **					
Qatar	Qatari Rial			439.00	439.00
United Arab Emirates	UAE Dirham			671.37	671.37
Total		2,438.64	35,314.95	1,110.37	38,863.96

*Note: All values are United States Dollar Equivalent.
**Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR MIKE LEE,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, Dec. 18, 2025.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FINANCE FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem: U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Transportation: U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Miscellaneous: U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Total: U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Senator Peter Welch:					
Canada	Canadian Dollar	776.00			776.00
Philip Mcdaniel:					
Canada	Canadian Dollar	724.28			724.28
Delegation Expenses: **					
Canada	Canadian Dollar			1,419.40	1,419.40
Total		1,500.28		1,419.40	2,919.68

*Note: All values are United States Dollar Equivalent.
**Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR MICHAEL CRAPO,
Chairman, Committee on Finance, Jan. 7, 2026.

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2025

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem: U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Transportation: U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Miscellaneous: U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	Total: U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Roy Awabdeh:					
Israel	US Dollar	1,640.00			1,640.00
United States	US Dollar		8,933.41		8,933.41
Delegation Expenses: **					
Israel	New Israeli Sheqel			2,014.63	2,014.63
Senator John Barrasso:					
Germany	US Dollar	528.98			528.98
United States	US Dollar		7,655.50		7,655.50
Charles Ziegler:					
Germany	US Dollar	530.96			530.96
United States	US Dollar		13,255.53		13,255.53
Delegation Expenses: **					
Germany	Euro			3,398.92	3,398.92
Brian Cullen:					
Thailand	US Dollar	1,651.24			1,651.24
United States	US Dollar		9,888.63		9,888.63
Leonidas Kehagias:					
Thailand	US Dollar	1,651.24			1,651.24
United States	US Dollar		11,705.03		11,705.03
Delegation Expenses: **					
Thailand	Baht			234.04	234.04
Senator Steve Daines:					
Bahrain	US Dollar	451.34			451.34
United States	US Dollar		23,107.03		23,107.03
Darin Thacker:					
Bahrain	US Dollar	451.34			451.34
United States	US Dollar		20,933.33		20,933.33
Delegation Expenses: **					
Bahrain	Bahraini Dinar			592.86	592.86
United Arab Emirates	UAE Dirham			643.96	643.96
Naz Durakoglu:					
Colombia	Colombian Peso	1,850.41			1,850.41
Ecuador	US Dollar	560.50			560.50
United States	US Dollar		4,600.54		4,600.54
Guy Mentel:					
Colombia	US Dollar	1,861.22			1,861.22
Ecuador	US Dollar	560.50			560.50
United States	US Dollar		4,525.59		4,525.59
Delegation Expenses: **					
Colombia	Colombian Peso			6,861.82	6,861.82
Ecuador	US Dollar			2,078.16	2,078.16
Senator Christopher Coons:					
Canada	US Dollar	773.50			773.50
Brendan Duff:					
Canada	US Dollar	682.50			682.50
Amy English:					
Canada	US Dollar	757.50			757.50

CONSOLIDATED REPORT OF EXPENDITURE OF FUNDS FOR FOREIGN TRAVEL BY MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. SENATE UNDER AUTHORITY OF SEC. 22, P.L. 95–384—22 U.S.C. 1754(b), COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS FOR TRAVEL FROM OCT. 1 TO DEC. 31, 2025—Continued

Name and country	Name of currency	Per diem	Transportation	Miscellaneous	Total
		U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency
Margaret Flynn Sapia:					
Canada	US Dollar	682.50			682.50
Guy Mentel:					
Canada	US Dollar	796.03			796.03
Christopher Socha:					
Canada	US Dollar	915.50			915.50
Delegation Expenses: **					
Canada	Canadian Dollar			4,372.74	4,372.74
Total		16,345.26	104,604.59	20,197.13	141,146.98

* Note: All values are United States Dollar Equivalent.
** Delegation expenses include payments and reimbursements to the Department of State under authority of Sec. 502(b) of the Mutual Security Act of 1954, as amended by Section 22 of P.L. 95–384, and S. Res. 179 agreed to May 25, 1977.

SENATOR JAMES E. RISCH,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, Jan. 22, 2026.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions, which are at the desk: S. Res. 592, S. Res. 593, S. Res. 594.

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

Mr. THUNE. 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 resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 11 a.m., Friday, January 30; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 302, H.R. 7148.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 11:18 p.m., adjourned until Friday, January 30, 2026, at 11 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

BRETT DOYLE, OF CONNECTICUT, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 16, 2030, VICE RHONDA K. SCHMIDTLEIN, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

TROY EDGAR, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF EL SALVADOR.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

DAVID FOLEY, JR., OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 16, 2032, VICE AMY KARPEL, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

FRANK GARCIA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (AFRICAN AFFAIRS), VICE MARY CATHERINE PHEE.

AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION

FRANK GARCIA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 22, 2031, VICE MORGAN W. DAVIS, TERM EXPIRED.

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

ARTHUR GRAHAM, OF FLORIDA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2031. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MELISSA HOLYOAK, OF UTAH, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF UTAH FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE TRINA A. HIGGINS.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

DAVID LACERTE, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2031. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COLIN MCDONALD, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, VICE TODD SUNHWAE KIM.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MICHAEL VANCE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH), VICE BRETT M. HOLMGREN, RESIGNED.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

DOUGLAS WEAVER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION FOR THE TERM OF FIVE YEARS EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2031. (REAPPOINTMENT)

THE JUDICIARY

ANDREW B. DAVIS, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, VICE EARL LEROY YEAKEL III, RETIRED.

SHARON E. GOODIE, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE ANTHONY C. EPSTEIN, RETIRED.

JOHN THOMAS SHEPHERD, OF ARKANSAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS, VICE SUSAN OWENS HICKEY, RETIRING.

ANNA ST. JOHN, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA, VICE SARAH S. VANCE, RETIRED.

CHRISTOPHER R. WOLFE, OF TEXAS, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS, VICE DAVID CAMPOS GUADERRAMA, RETIRED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MICHELLE L. WAGNER

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be major

JESSICA A. ADLER
JENEKWA S. AGAPE
SAUNGHUN J. ANN
ONITSED A. ARREGUI
JOSHUA A. BAKER
SIMON A. BARTA
PHILIP R. BEDFORD
SARA E. BENNETT
GISELE S. BIGRAS
MATTHEW S. BOSAKOWSKI
MELISSA R. BOX
HAYLEY J. BOYD
LEYLA Z. BRAMMER
MICHAEL B. BRINKLEY
JOSHUA D. BRITE
JAKOB R. BROOKS
MATTHEW W. BROWN
PHILLIP M. BROWN
JOHN A. BRUNNER–BROWN
AMBER L. BUNCH
PARKER M. BUSH
NICHOLAS R. CALE
ANTIONETTE C. CARRADINE
KATE E. COLLINS
MARK A. CORNMAN
PETER J. COUTO
ELI M. CREIGHTON
RUDOLPH P. DAMBECK
JAMES R. DANIELL III
SANA H. DANIELL
SHELBY L. DECKERT
DIANA H. DEQUATTRO
BRYAN E. DOLIN
CONNOR A. DOYLE
THOMAS D. EVANS
ERIC A. FENTON
SHANNON J. FIELDS
ABIGAIL V. GILL
JORDAN A. GREEN
STUART A. HAMM, JR.
ANDY H. HARVEY
JESSICA K. HAYASHIDA
JUSTIN B. HAYES
KENNETH L. HENLEY
BRENT K. HIGGINS
MEGAN C. HOLT
JON C. HOPE
KRYSTIN E. HUSZ
JESSICA J. JACKSON
JORI A. JASPER
ANDRES R. JIMENEZ
NOAH D. JOHNSON
RENEE S. JUST
DAVID J. KIM
JAISY KIM
CONNOR B. KOHLSCHEEN
JOHNATHAN A. LARKIN
ZACHARY R. LARSON
ERIN N. LECLAIRSTEPANEK
LEIGH A. LEDUC
EMILY J. LESSIN
BRENDA LIN
CAITLIN T. LINCOLN
MATTHEW N. LONG
SAMANTHA M. LUBIN
GABRIELLE R. LUCERO
MATTHEW D. MANGRU
JOHN R. MCMAHON
AARON C. MEYER
ANDREW W. MOORE
MICHAEL W. MOORE, JR.
BRIANNA K. MORLOCK
AMANDA D. NARANJO
BRANDY F. NELSON
JACOB C. NELSON
BRANDEN R. NETHKEN
AVERY L. ORY
JOSHUA J. PALDINO
BRENNA N. PARISH

DOUGLAS H. PARTRIDGE
AMANDA L. PERRY
BREANNE K. PHAN
JASON B. REEVES
JOSEPH A. ROMAN
RACHEL M. ROSE
SEAN P. ROWLAND
HOPE L. SALVUCCI
JAGUAR H. SASMITO
NICHOLAS A. SCHAFFER
CONNOR J. SCHARFF
JOHN P. SCHELLMAN
NICHOLAS R. SCHIELDS
ROBERT M. SCHRACK
DARREN SINGH
ROBERT H. SMITH
LOUIS S. STEINER
JOSEPH N. STRZEMPKO
ASIA J. THIGPEN
MAURICE Q. THURMAN
PHILIP J. TONSETH
THOMAS C. TURNER
YVETTE C. TYSON
ALEXANDER P. VANSCOY
KENNETH E. VOET
CODY J. WAAGNER
HEATHER L. WAAGNER
JACOB K. WATTS
ANTHONY R. WILLIAMSON
JOSHIAH A. WILSON
CORINA M. WYNN
EVAN W. ZALENSKI
JACOB R. ZENT
0003671139

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY NURSE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 7064:

To be major

DERIEK D. FRANCE

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14 U.S.C., SECTION 2121(E), INCLUDING THOSE RESERVE OFFICERS WHO ARE TO BE APPOINTED AS PERMANENT COMMISSIONED OFFICERS PURSUANT TO TITLE 14 U.S.C., SECTION 2101:

To be lieutenant commander

EDWARD J. ABMA
KIRA R. ADAMS
DAVID P. AHMADIAN
DAVIS T. ALEXANDER
ANTHONY W. ALGER
VICTOR M. ALMA
KENT H. ALTOBELLI
GAY L. AMORES
MATTHEW J. ANDREOLI
ALIZA B. ANGUS
ABNER Y. AYALA
PHILLIP J. AZZARI
LIAM V. BACON
CODY T. BAIR
JUSTIN W. BAKER
ROBERT M. BAKER
JACOB G. BALCHIKONIS
DANIEL C. BANKE
COLLIN A. BATCHELOR
KATHERINE M. BEINE
AARON D. BENSON
AMANDA G. BENSON
ANDREW J. BICHLMEIER
RONALD Z. BLEWETT
MAGEN G. BLOCH
BRANDON W. BOOKS
GLEB V. BOROVOK
MICHAEL A. BOSCH
JASON L. BOUCHER
CAMERON C. BOX
JAKOBI G. BRADFORD
HEATH A. BREWER
VICTOR L. BROSKEY
BLAKE D. BROSTROM
CASEY L. BRUTUS
JONATHAN E. BULLOCK
MARCUS J. CALKINS
CRAIG J. CAMPBELL
DAVID M. CAMPBELL
HANNAH CANNON–MCCRAE
TIMOTHY J. CARDENAS
TYLER S. CARLSGAARD
KYLE P. CAROSOTTO
RYAN J. CARPENTER
CHELSEA W. CARR
GERALD M. CARR
JAMES M. CARZOLI
BRETT A. CASTELLAT
PETER S. CHAMBERS
KEITH J. CHARTERS
HAYDEN E. CHERRY
AUSTIN J. CLARK
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Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S357–S399

Measures Introduced: Thirty-two bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3721–3752, S.J. Res. 104, and S. Res. 592–594.
Pages S376–78

Measures Passed:

International Year of the Woman Farmer: Senate agreed to S. Res. 592, supporting the designation of 2026 as the "International Year of the Woman Farmer" to recognize and honor the critical role of women in agriculture. **Page S397**

2025 Potomac River Mid-Air Collision Victims: Senate agreed to S. Res. 593, honoring the victims of the 2025 Potomac River mid-air collision.
Page S397

National Catholic Schools Week: Senate agreed to S. Res. 594, supporting the contributions of Catholic schools in the United States and celebrating the 52nd annual National Catholic Schools Week.
Page S397

Measures Considered:

Consolidated Appropriations Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 7148, making further consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026. **Pages S357–73**

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

By 45 yeas to 55 nays (Vote No. 13), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S361**

Subsequently, Senator Thune entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S361**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 11 a.m., on Friday, January 30, 2026. **Page S397**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Brett Doyle, of Connecticut, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission for a term expiring December 16, 2030.

Andrew B. Davis, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

Troy Edgar, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of El Salvador.

Sharon E. Goodie, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

David Foley, Jr., of Virginia, to be a Member of the United States International Trade Commission for a term expiring June 16, 2032.

John Thomas Shepherd, of Arkansas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Arkansas.

Frank Garcia, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (African Affairs).

Anna St. John, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Frank Garcia, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the African Development Foundation for a term expiring September 22, 2031.

Christopher R. Wolfe, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

Arthur Graham, of Florida, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Valley Authority for a term expiring May 18, 2031.

Melissa Holyoak, of Utah, to be United States Attorney for the District of Utah for the term of four years.

David LaCerte, of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2031.

Colin McDonald, of California, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Michael Vance, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Intelligence and Research).

Douglas Weaver, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2031.

1 Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Army, and Coast Guard. **Pages S397–99**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S375–76**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S378–79**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S379–82**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S382–92**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S392**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—13) **Page S361**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10:30 a.m. and adjourned at 11:18 p.m., until 11 a.m. on Friday, January 30, 2026. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S397.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill entitled, "Digital Commodity Intermediaries Act".

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported 432 military nominations in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Space Force.

COAST GUARD FORCE LAYDOWN

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Coast Guard, Maritime, and Fisheries concluded a hearing to examine assessing Coast Guard force laydown on the heels of historic investment, after receiving testimony from Admiral Kevin E. Lunday, Commandant, United States Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

H.R. 260, to require a strategy to oppose financial or material support by foreign countries and nongovernmental organizations to the Taliban, with amendments;

S. 2904, to impose sanctions with respect to the shadow fleet of the Russian Federation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2722, to promote the energy security of Taiwan, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3496, to establish and implement a multi-year Legal Gold and Mining Partnership Strategy to reduce the negative environmental and social impacts of illicit gold mining in the Western Hemisphere, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2222, to enhance the security, resilience, and protection of undersea communication cables vital to Taiwan's national security, economic stability, and defense, particularly in countering gray zone tactics employed by the People's Republic of China, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3249, to enhance United States Government strategic coordination of the security, installation, maintenance, and repair of international subsea fiber-optic cables, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 3360, to require a report on internet freedom in Iran, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1216, to support Taiwan's international space, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 1369, to support the execution of bilateral agreements concerning illicit transnational maritime activity and to authorize the President to impose sanctions with respect to illegal, unreported, or unregulated fishing and the sale, supply, purchase, or transfer of endangered species, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 2236, to establish a comprehensive United States Government initiative to build the capacity of young leaders and entrepreneurs in Africa; and

The nominations of Frank Weiland, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs), Jennifer Wicks McNamara, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Eric Meyer, of California, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, Gregory LoGerfo, of Massachusetts, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large, all of the Department of State.

NOMINATION

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Lieutenant General Joshua M. Rudd, USA, to be Director of the National Security Agency, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

DRUG LABELING

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine truth in drug labeling, after receiving testimony from John V. Gray, The Ohio State University Fisher College of Business, Columbus; Michael Ganio, American Society of Health-System Pharmacists, Bethesda, Maryland; Stephen W. Schondelmeyer, University of Minnesota College of Pharmacy PRIME Institute Center for Infectious

Disease Research and Policy, Minneapolis; and Stephen Colvill, Duke-Margolis Institute for Health Policy, Washington, D.C.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

The House was not in session today. The House will meet in Pro Forma session at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, January 30, 2026.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 2026

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

11 a.m., Friday, January 30

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 7148, Consolidated Appropriations Act.

Roll call votes are possible during Friday's session of the Senate.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10:30 a.m., Friday, January 30

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 10:30 a.m.

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