

that. So I appreciate that very much. I encourage a “no” vote on this. We will separate the two, vote them up or down, go home and explain them, and be proud of what we are doing in the Senate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, colleagues, this bipartisan package is the biggest tax cut for working families and the biggest anti-poverty plan Congress has moved forward in decades, and it is the biggest bipartisan tax agreement in 15 years.

All together, 50 million Americans are going to benefit from the child tax credit and the expanded earned-income tax credit because they are made permanent. And on a permanent basis, students will be able to count on the American opportunity tax credit to cover up to \$10,000 of a 4-year college education. That is a lot of money they won't have to borrow.

This also includes a permanent tax break for research and development, which for the first time will be available on a widespread basis to help small businesses and startups pay wages—a booster shot for the innovation economy in America. There will be permanent small business expensing that is going to help our employers invest and grow.

To just wrap up, it will include permanent small business expensing to help many employers invest and grow and create new highways and high-skilled jobs for our people. I believe, finally, this clears the deck for us to move to comprehensive bipartisan tax reform because it provides the breathing room Congress needs to throw the broken Tax Code into the trash can and get bipartisan tax reform.

So I urge my colleagues to waive the budget point of order, give millions of families across this country the predictability and certainty they need on their taxes, and put this Congress on a path toward achieving bipartisan comprehensive tax reform in the days ahead.

I yield the floor.

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

The yeas and nays have been ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) is necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 73, nays 25, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 338 Leg.]

YEAS—73

Alexander	Barrasso	Blunt
Ayotte	Bennet	Booker
Baldwin	Blumenthal	Boozman

Brown	Heinrich	Perdue
Cantwell	Heitkamp	Peters
Capito	Heller	Reed
Cardin	Hirono	Reid
Casey	Hoeven	Roberts
Coats	Inhofe	Rounds
Cochran	Isakson	Schatz
Collins	Johnson	Schumer
Cooms	Kaine	Scott
Corker	Kirk	Shaheen
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Cotton	Leahy	Sullivan
Donnelly	Markey	Thune
Durbin	McCain	Tillis
Ernst	McConnell	Toomey
Feinstein	Merkley	Udall
Franken	Mikulski	Udall
Gardner	Moran	Vitter
Gillibrand	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Graham	Murphy	Wicker
Grassley	Murray	Wyden
Hatch	Nelson	

NAYS—25

Burr	King	Sanders
Carper	Lankford	Sasse
Cassidy	Lee	Sessions
Crapo	Manchin	Shelby
Cruz	McCaskill	Tester
Daines	Menendez	Warner
Enzi	Paul	Warren
Fischer	Portman	
Flake	Risch	

NOT VOTING—2

Boxer Rubio

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 73, the nays are 25.

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

MOTION TO CONCUR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on the motion to concur.

There is 2 minutes for debate equally divided.

The majority's time is yielded back.

The Senator from Maryland.

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, this is a bill that protects America. It rebuilds it and invests in the future. I think it is a great bill, as a result of bipartisan effort.

Let's vote for it, and may the force be with us.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to concur.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) would have voted “No.”

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) is necessarily absent.

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

The result was announced—yeas 65, nays 33, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 339 Leg.]

YEAS—65

Alexander	Feinstein	Mikulski
Ayotte	Franken	Murkowski
Baldwin	Gardner	Murphy
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Murray
Bennet	Graham	Nelson
Blumenthal	Hatch	Perdue
Blunt	Heinrich	Peters
Booker	Heitkamp	Reed
Brown	Heller	
Cantwell	Hirono	Roberts
Capito	Hoeven	Rounds
Cardin	Inhofe	Schatz
Carper	Isakson	Schumer
Casey	Johnson	Shaheen
Coats	Kaine	Stabenow
Cochran	King	Tillis
Collins	Kirk	Udall
Coons	Klobuchar	Warner
Corker	Lankford	Warren
Cornyn	Leahy	Whitehouse
Donnelly	McConnell	Wicker
Durbin	Menendez	

NAYS—33

Boozman	Grassley	Sanders
Burr	Lee	Sasse
Cassidy	Manchin	Scott
Cotton	Markey	Sessions
Crapo	McCain	Shelby
Cruz	McCaskill	Sullivan
Daines	Merkley	Tester
Enzi	Moran	Thune
Ernst	Paul	Toomey
Fischer	Portman	Vitter
Flake	Risch	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Boxer Rubio

The motion was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

PATIENT ACCESS AND MEDICARE PROTECTION ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. 2425.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2425) to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to improve payments for complex rehabilitation technology and certain radiation therapy services, to ensure flexibility in applying the hardship exception for meaningful use for the 2015 EHR reporting period for 2017 payment adjustments, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I know of no further debate on this measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 2425) was passed, as follows:

S. 2425

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