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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, February 21, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.

Senate

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

The Senate met at 10 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.

Almighty God, You are our hope for the years to come. Today, bless our Senators. Give them wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties. Help them to possess the faith and courage to seek Your plans. Use them to bring peace where discord reigns and to inspire the nations of the world.

Lord, lead them through the obstacles they will face to the fulfillment of Your loving providence. Infuse them with reverential awe for You. Make and keep their inner lives pure and kind and just. May their highest motive be not to win over one another but to win with one another.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

SETTING FORTH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025 AND SETTING FORTH THE APPROPRIATE BUDGETARY LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2026 THROUGH 2034

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. Con Res. 7, which the clerk will report.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 7) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

OVERSIGHT

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I take Congress's constitutional oversight mandate very seriously. What you learn in eighth grade civics, oversight responsibility is checks and balances of government.

In the 118th Congress, as ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee, I established the committee's very first Oversight and Investigative Unit. Its oversight touched on 97 percent of government taxpayer-funded

Agencies, sending over 600 oversight letters to Federal, State, and private sector entities.

Last year, my team sent over one letter per day, on average. That oversight unit launched the committee's first subpoena since 1991, and I obtained records uncovering brandnew information about Credit Suisse's servicing of Nazi accounts. I thank then-Chairman WHITEHOUSE for issuing that subpoena.

I hosted, also, oversight roundtables where whistleblowers exposed the Biden administration's failure at the southern border to collect DNA and protect unaccompanied children. My investigation resulted in a referral to law enforcement to find and protect unaccompanied children who were brought here in violation of our laws. But the Federal Government had a responsibility to make sure that they were protected.

My oversight team made records public and performed interviews to ensure accountability following the assassination attempt of President Trump in Pennsylvania. I published data for an EPA grant program showing most taxpayers' money wasn't spent like the law required.

My oversight also uncovered abuses by the FBI's Foreign Influence Task Force; FBI political bias in the Hunter Biden investigation and prosecution; the Obama-Biden State Department obstruction of law enforcement efforts against Iran; wasted money on misclassified ATF employees; private equity investments exploiting healthcare and damaging hospitals, even in Ottumwa, IA; Department of

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



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