



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, MONDAY, JULY 21, 2025

No. 124

Senate

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

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, we are grateful for Your mercies renewed each day and for Your faithfulness every night. As the dew refreshes the Earth morning by morning, let Your spirit restore the faith and energy of our lawmakers.

Lord, give them the discernment to understand the challenges of our times and the wisdom to devise ways to meet them. Keep them open and alert to Your providential leading as You guide them to a destination that will bring glory to Your Name.

May the collective talents of our Senators be mobilized in the awesome task of building a better Nation and world. Make their hands ready to lift burdens and their hearts eager to respond in service to humanity.

We pray in your great 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. CURTIS). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

The Senator from Iowa.

HEALTH SAVINGS ACCOUNTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I want to tell my colleagues and the public about a part of the Big Beautiful Bill that passed 2 weeks ago that isn't getting much attention.

I have been a longtime supporter of health savings accounts. They encourage responsible utilization of healthcare services by offering lower cost insurance and greater flexibility of care.

I am proud to have led the charge in the early 2000s to make health savings accounts accessible and a stronger option for Americans.

Today—would you believe it—over 30 million Americans have a health savings account with an average balance of more than \$3,000.

Senate Republicans, through the One Big Beautiful Bill, went a step further, strengthening health savings accounts. First, the bill allowed health savings accounts to work with direct primary care service arrangements.

Direct primary care is a membership-based model of care that lets patients choose a primary care provider of their choice and gain access to a suite of care options without needing to go through an insurance company's red-tape.

Doctors and providers, under this way, also benefit since they can spend more time with the patient rather than completing unnecessary paperwork. When patients have access to timely and high-quality primary care, they have better health outcomes and live longer.

Prior to the law change, there were rules preventing consumers from contributing to and using health savings accounts for direct primary care. Direct primary care will also improve rural healthcare by expanding access to physicians and other healthcare providers and also expanding access to

telehealth to reach patients in a more timely fashion.

We also allow individuals who have purchased a catastrophic or bronze health plan on the Federal marketplace to now contribute to and use a health savings account.

In addition, this will improve access and competition on the Federal marketplace, and that, we all know, is sorely needed.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, yesterday marked 6 months since President Trump took office, and today is the 200th day of the Republican majority here in the U.S. Senate.

In that time, the Trump administration and Senate Republicans have been hard at work executing the mandate we received from the American people last November. We already have a number of accomplishments on the list.

We got started by sending the Laken Riley Act to President Trump's desk during his first week in office to keep criminal illegal immigrants off our streets.

President Trump signed the HALT Fentanyl Act last Wednesday, which permanently classifies fentanyl analogs as the deadly drugs they are.

On Friday, he signed the GENIUS Act, the landmark bill to bring digital

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S4493

assets into the mainstream and secure U.S. leadership in financial innovation. And the first rescissions package in three decades is headed to the President for signature.

We have passed measures to end 16 burdensome Biden-era regulations. We passed the TAKE IT DOWN Act to combat nonconsensual explicit images being shared online.

And, of course, 2 weeks ago on the Fourth of July, the President signed into law the Big Beautiful Bill to deliver permanent tax relief to the American people to make our country safer, stronger, and more prosperous.

We have additional bills coming down the pike. The Armed Services Committee under Chairman WICKER recently reported the National Defense Authorization Act of fiscal year 2026, and the Appropriations Committee under Chair COLLINS has reported out four bipartisan bills, which we will begin considering this week.

I said last year that I was committed to bringing appropriations bills to the floor through regular order, and we are in the process of doing exactly that.

Of course, any regular order consideration of appropriations bills is going to require cooperation from Democrats. This week, we will get a glimpse of where Democrats are on this issue.

It was deeply disappointing the Democrat leader threatened to shut down the government if Republicans dared to pass legislation to trim just one-tenth of 1 percent of the Federal budget, but I am hopeful that is not the position of the Democratic Party.

Time will tell.

The Senate also has important work to do to confirm the President's nominees. We started out this year by confirming 21 of the President's Cabinet nominees at the fastest pace in more than two decades, and we have kept up our focus on getting President Trump's team into place.

We have now confirmed 96 civilian nominees, far outpacing where the Senate was at this point in the first Trump administration. And the only reason, frankly, that we are not moving faster is because of Democrats' historic—that is right historic—level of obstruction.

Democrats have been forcing cloture votes for every civilian nominee. Something that is without precedent. President Trump is the first President on record not to have a single civilian nominee go by unanimous consent or voice vote at this point in his Presidency. The first President on record. Think about that.

And Democrats are using this strategy even on noncontroversial nominees. Almost a quarter of the nominees whose confirmation process Democrats have dragged out actually got more than 60 votes here on the Senate floor.

The American people gave President Trump a mandate, and he deserves to have his team in place to execute that mandate for the American people. Democrats can continue to drag this process out, but Republicans are going to get these nominees confirmed.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

BUDGET

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, today, we got the news that the Congressional Budget Office, the CBO, confirms Donald Trump's "Big Ugly Betrayal" is going to kick at least 10 million Americans off their health insurance and spike our national debt by another \$3.4 trillion. In truth, the number of people who will lose health insurance could be much higher—as many as 16 million when you account for the cuts to ACA and other forms of insurance.

This finalized, independent analysis from the CBO confirms it: Republicans' signature bill is the ultimate—the ultimate—betrayal of the American people. It betrays every single family who will lose health insurance. It betrays our financial future. It is betraying our children and grandchildren, who will pay for these billionaire tax breaks as the debt rises and rises. It betrays every family worried about paying for groceries, the mortgage, the rent, prescription drugs. All are going up because of Donald Trump and his administration. Every price is going up. It betrays every rural community from the benefits of good-paying energy jobs. Republicans' supposed signature bill betrays everyone outside of the billionaire class and the special interests.

Now, Republicans are going to spin the mother of all propaganda jobs to sell this ugly bill to the American people. But today's report reminds us of something: Facts are stubborn, and the facts are clear. The "Big Ugly Betrayal" is a loser for the country and a loser for the Republicans.

The Republicans can yak, yak, yak when they go back home. But when people lose their jobs, when people's bills go up, when they are paying more, when they are losing their health insurance, that is reality; and no amount of propaganda, no amount of going home and telling people how great this is will undo the actual damage that will be done to the American people. And we know—we know—that they will realize the Republicans have betrayed them.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. This week, the Senate is expected to take up the first set

of appropriation bills for fiscal year 2026.

On the substance, a number of the bills negotiated in committee make significant reversals of DOGE's horrible cuts. Of particular importance are the reversals these bills make to DOGE's cuts to veterans programs, which were so vicious and so mean and hurt so many veterans. And it also makes reversals on other important Democratic priorities.

We will see how Republican leaders plan to move forward with these bills and other bipartisan bills on the floor.

Yet, yesterday, the Republican leader gave an interview where he said he would like to see more bipartisanship when it comes to appropriations. He said, rightly, that it takes cooperation from both sides to move things through the Senate, in the appropriations bills.

But, frankly, the Republican leader is talking a bit out of both sides of his mouth. On the one hand, he talks about bipartisanship and wanting to see both parties come up with an appropriations process. On the other, he is putting on the floor rescission packages with cuts demanded by Donald Trump and Russell Vought that retract many of the bipartisan agreements, with the promise by Russell Vought of more to come.

When Donald Trump and Russell Vought insist on rescissions, and an obedient Republican Congress goes along—even though many of them know how wrong it is—it makes the spending process totally partisan.

The leader's words and his actions are a complete contradiction. He can't have it both ways.

Again, not 1 week ago, Republicans jammed a rescissions package through this Chamber, axing billions in bipartisan funding to public broadcasting and foreign aid, purely on a party-line vote. Less than a day later, Russell Vought comes out and says the appropriations process should be "less bipartisan."

Frankly, I don't want to hear Republicans grouse about Democrats if they are going to give people like Russell Vought a free pass to trash the good work that takes place in this Chamber.

And now, of course, there are reports that Donald Trump and Russell Vought want Congress to agree on another rescissions package in the near future.

Then, there is Donald Trump's "Big Ugly Betrayal"—a purely party-line vote, a partisan giveaway to billionaires and special interests—paid for with the biggest cuts to healthcare, food funding, and good-paying energy jobs we have seen in our lifetimes.

Leader THUNE says he wants to see bipartisanship. That is all well and good. But Leader THUNE can't have it both ways. If Leader THUNE wants to talk about bipartisanship, he should focus on keeping his side of the street clean first, because Donald Trump and Russell Vought have made clear they want to continue launching partisan broadsides that will inflict deep harm on the American people, raising costs,

unleashing chaos, inviting even deeper corruption across the Federal Government.

NOMINATION OF EMIL J. BOVE III

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, on Mr. Bove—Emil Bove—last week, Senate Republicans on the Judiciary reported out one of Donald Trump's worst judicial nominees yet, Emil Bove; and that is saying a lot, since there are so many bad ones. Judiciary Republicans were so afraid to talk about Mr. Bove's nomination, in fact, that the Republican chair cut off debate time and refused to let all Democrats speak. And rather than being part of this farce, Judiciary Democrats, led by my friend the ranking member, Senator DURBIN, rightly walked out of the hearing.

I commend my Democratic colleagues for standing up for the integrity of our courts and refusing to participate in a compromised committee process with a deeply compromised nominee.

It is obvious why the Republicans were so eager to cut off debate. They know the arguments against Mr. Bove are telling and so unworthy of anyone nominated to a court of appeals or any judicial position in this government.

Mr. Bove is the perfect example of the type of person Donald Trump wants on the bench: political, aggressive, unprofessional, abusive, and ready and willing to put the Trump agenda over the rule of law. We all know what Donald Trump wants from judges: complete obeisance of whatever he wants, regardless of the rule of law, regardless of precedent, regardless of the Constitution.

Mr. Bove has a long history of defending Donald Trump when he was his personal attorney. He defended the President when the President was accused of inciting the January 6 insurrection, mishandling classified documents, falsifying business records, and more.

So what should that do when someone defends a President who is accused of very serious crimes? It should disqualify them from the bench. But the opposite occurs in the Trump administration. His defense of Trump's indefensible actions earned him a top spot at the DOJ, where he used his power to fire prosecutors who were working on criminal cases for the January 6 insurrectionists.

That is right. Mr. Bove helped the rioters who assaulted law enforcement officers on January 6 get off without any charges.

What is happening to this country? What is happening?

And if that is not enough to disqualify him, one whistleblower testified Mr. Bove repeatedly told DOJ lawyers to ignore court orders and even deliberately mislead judges. Mr. Bove encouraged officials not to tell judges the truth, the same sort of judges he is now nominated to serve alongside.

How can someone who has such disregard for our judges and our courts be

trusted on the bench? Mr. Bove's nomination previews the dark, ominous plan Donald Trump and Republicans have for the Federal Judiciary. They want to fill our courts with partisan operatives who will protect and serve Donald Trump, not protect the rule of law.

Experience doesn't matter. Judicial independence doesn't matter. Understanding the law and applying it without fear or favor doesn't matter at all. In fact, there is fear of Donald Trump among so many of the Republican nominees for judges and so many of our Republican Senators. For Donald Trump, the only thing that matters, when it comes to judges, is unyielding fealty to himself.

We have never seen—never—such a disastrous mandate for our Federal courts in all of American history, and if the Republicans proceed, the damage to our Judiciary will be irreversible.

Mr. Bove's nomination is an insult to every single qualified, independent judge who has ever sat on the Federal courts. He should never have been nominated. He should never have been reported out of committee, and he should never, ever be confirmed by the Senate to such an important job.

NVIDIA

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, on Nvidia and China, Donald Trump's trade war has created a mess for U.S. businesses. Now, he is rushing to clean up that mess, and he is getting played by Beijing.

Last week, the Trump administration handed President Xi and the Chinese Government a major win, approving chipmaker Nvidia to resume selling American H20 chips, used to develop AI, to China.

When these chips were blocked, Americans breathed a sigh of relief. China would not get the basic tool to catch up and even surpass us on AI and so many other important technological advances. Not 4 months ago, for that reason, the administration blocked the sale of these chips.

Now, typical of Donald Trump—there is no consistency, just what he feels is good for himself at the moment—they are making a costly, troubling U-turn. Flip-flops like this show weakness to the Chinese Government, and that is the last thing we can afford.

What is more, the chips are vital in the race to dominate AI. These H20 chips are among the best on the market and were critical for China's development of DeepSeek.

We all wondered: How did China catch up with DeepSeek? Well, by using these chips.

Now, Donald Trump is green-lighting the sale of even more of these chips. If you are worried about allowing China to dominate in AI, with all of the troubling prospects of that domination, then this reversal from the administration is a huge step toward enabling that Chinese dominance. Every chip

Donald Trump allows Nvidia to sell to Chinese competitors is one more boost to Beijing in the race for AI dominance.

The administration's capitulation keeps going. As part of trade talks with Beijing, they are also undermining export controls of U.S. technologies deemed to be critical for our national security. This sends an unmistakable message to adversaries around the world: America's national security is open to negotiation under Donald Trump's government.

The administration should revert to its original decision, in April, to block the sale of these chips to the Chinese Government. Donald Trump should stop giving the Chinese Government leverage in the race for technologies of the future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

RESCISSIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week, both the House and the Senate voted to pass what is known as a rescissions bill. That is a term which a lot of people aren't familiar with. What it basically means is that Congress appropriates money, the President signs that appropriations request into law, and it is the policy which is supposed to guide, under the Constitution, the President of the United States and the activity of the executive branch. This is the ordinary course of events.

However, there may come a time when a President decides that we don't need this expenditure, even though it has been approved and it is the law. He then goes through the rescinding of his decision to spend the money. It is called a rescissions bill. In this case, the Trump administration came to Congress and said: The \$9 billion that you appropriated and directed me to spend, I don't want to spend. I want your permission not to spend it—\$9 billion.

That is what we voted on and the House voted on last week. What was in this bill were primarily two major elements. One element was foreign aid, humanitarian assistance around the world paid for by the United States. The other element was public broadcasting—National Public Radio, for example. So \$8 billion was taken out of foreign aid, and \$1 billion was taken away from public broadcasting.

It was a close vote in the Senate. Two Republicans joined the Democrats in opposing it, but there were enough Republicans to support it. It barely passed the Senate and was sent back to the House. After some turmoil in the House, the decision was made also to pass the rescissions bill.

I thought this was a particularly important bill. As a Member of the Senate—I am honored to represent the State of Illinois—I have cast over 9,000 votes. The Presiding Officer from Utah is new to the Senate. It will take him

a few years to catch me, and I am sure he will. But of the 9,000 votes in that period of time, how many do you actually remember? A handful. This vote last week was one of those votes.

Why will I remember this? Because nongovernmental organizations, charities, and humanitarian aid groups around the world have told us that taking \$8 billion out of foreign aid and humanitarian assistance is going to cost us in terms of lives. It will deny people food, clean water to drink, medicine, and the basics of life. In the poorest places on Earth, it will cost us lives.

The original bill eliminated a program called PEPFAR. PEPFAR was created by Republican President George W. Bush. He rallied our government—Democrats and Republicans—to lead a national and international effort to stop HIV/AIDS. For example, if a mother is pregnant again and had HIV, the transmission of that disease to the baby was, unfortunately, very common. We started finding ways to stop it from happening. It has been many years since George W. Bush was President, but we estimate that we have saved 25 million lives with this PEPFAR Program. I am a loyal Democrat and proud of it but was happy to vote with the Republicans and George W. Bush on that program. That program was going to be eliminated by this bill that was considered. It was taken out at the last minute. That is the type of thing that was at stake in that vote.

That decision by the Senate and the House, signed by President Trump over the weekend, is going to cost human lives in the poorest places on Earth. I think that is a tragedy. I have been to some of those places. I have made a point of going to see it and to see our programs.

I remember a dusty village in India where the children were gathered around for what they called lunch. American kids would not have touched what they were being given to eat. They were basically dough bowls. They were grains from the United States that were blended together. They ate these dough bowls gleefully, happily, anxiously. But before they took the first bite, they stopped and said a prayer, and I asked the local people who were leading this effort: What did they say in prayer? They said that they said thank to you the United States of America for the food that they were going to eat that day. They knew that was the case because it was printed on the bags as a gift to their people from America. Those programs are going to be eliminated now because of the vote last week.

But there was another part of it, too, that struck me as really painful. That was the decision to eliminate the Federal support for public broadcasting—National Public Radio and public television. I am a fan. I have been a fan for a long time so I will confess my prejudice.

But I am also from Downstate Illinois. That is the part of the State out-

side Chicago where the small towns and the rural areas are located. I know what public broadcasting means to those areas. I heard firsthand an example of what it means.

A lady named Heather Norman, who is with the public broadcasting coalition in Illinois, joined me at a press conference, on Friday, in front of the public radio station in the city of Chicago. I asked her to tell me and the press who had gathered an example of why public radio was different than the other radio stations and why it was important. She gave me a very classic example.

She works at the public radio station in Macomb, IL. Macomb is a Downstate community on the western side of our State—a more sparsely populated area than people visualize when they say Chicago, IL. Western Macomb, IL, has Western Illinois University. Thousands of students from all around the State and the area attend college there. A year ago, there was an active shooter in the community. They learned about it through the police notifying the radio station, and they started broadcasting to the people of Macomb to stay in their homes, to shelter in place. Don't go outside until we control the situation. Wait for the police's signal.

Well, there was a lot at stake. We have seen on a lot of our campuses and universities where deranged people take a gun and kill innocent students right and left, and we didn't want that to happen again. So the public broadcasting station, the NPR station, kept the broadcast going all day long to notify the people of Macomb and the McDonough County area of the danger, and they warned them to stay home.

You say: I will bet the other radio station did too. They didn't. Why didn't they do it? Because the four other radio stations are recordings. There is no live person at those radio stations—just equipment. So they are playing their music and whatever programs they wish, but they couldn't send out local news because there was no one there to send it. It was the public broadcasting station—the public radio station—that kept the people of Macomb and McDonough County safe. So, to say that you can eliminate that station, and it won't make any difference whether the warning is about an active shooter or about a tornado or a flood or a flash fire, public broadcasting is there on the scene, doing their job, day in and day out.

Now, what is going to happen with this decision by the Trump administration to eliminate Federal support for these stations? I don't know. I asked Heather. She said there are probably two stations in our State—at least two—that will go out of business. They depend so much on the help from Washington. That is a loss.

Whether you are conservative or liberal, MAGA or progressive—whatever you want to call yourself—how could you want an America with less information and with fewer choices as the sources of that information?

The strength of our democracy is the fact that the American people have access to good, credible information and can make up their own minds. They don't want to be told. They make up their own minds. That is the key to the core of democracy, and we attacked it last week when we eliminated support for public broadcasting.

I don't know what is going to happen next. A lot of people have to think about this. I said to the people who govern public broadcasting and public television and public radio: You will have to think of a plan B because this President wants to put you out of business. You can't do what some law firms have done that he got mad at. He got mad at the law firms and threatened to cut off their Federal business. What did they do? They sued for peace immediately. They said: What can we do? Can we give you thousands and, maybe, hundreds of thousands of free legal services?

When that intimidation is in place, some of them turn to that as an alternative, but a public broadcasting station cannot do that and maintain its credibility. It can't go hat in hand and bent knee to this administration or to any administration and maintain its credibility when it comes to news.

So they have a terrible challenge that they face. I want to help them find a solution. I think America would be poorer and less free, and there would be less information available to people in our country if we allowed this to go forward.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on a separate issue, I want to say a word about some nominations that are pending before the Senate this week.

As the ranking Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, I pay closer attention than some when it comes to the nominees who are suggested for Federal positions on the courts. These are positions that are lifetime positions. You take a person and state: We trust you with this responsibility and authority for as long as you live—for as long as you live. So it isn't a question of 2 years or 4 years and replacing someone if they aren't up to the job. We have got to look for people whom we can trust for the long haul.

The Senate will soon vote on the confirmations of Joshua Divine to serve as a judge for the Eastern and Western Districts of Missouri and Judge Cristian Stevens to serve for the Eastern District. I am concerned about these two nominees.

Mr. Divine is 34 years old. He received his law degree only 9 years ago. In addition to a lack of experience, Mr. Divine has taken some extreme positions on issues that are important to people across the United States, such as reproductive rights and ballot access.

Mr. Divine—if you can believe this, in this day and age, 2025—has argued in

favor of literacy tests at the ballot box. Let me say that again. He has argued in favor of literacy tests at the ballot box.

He states:

Individuals who aren't informed about issues and platforms . . . have no business voting.

The fact that we are even considering his nomination under the circumstances is shocking.

Literacy tests have been tried in America. They are a racist relic from the Jim Crow era that we used to prevent immigrants and minorities from voting. It should not be controversial to say that no one who has argued for reviving racist Jim Crow laws belongs on the Federal bench, let alone for a lifetime.

Mr. Divine also referred to himself as a "zealot" for the anti-choice movement. Now, whether you are pro-choice or pro-life, you would think that someone who is that blatant and open in declaring himself a zealot on the issue would trouble you. This has been on full display in his role as Missouri solicitor general.

Mr. Divine has challenged women's ability to access the abortion drug mifepristone and has undermined the decision of Missouri voters to codify abortion access in their State constitution.

Previously, Mr. Divine wrote:

Because we know a genetically unique human comes into existence at fertilization, abortion should not be ethically permitted.

I know that is the position of some voters whom I represent and even of some members of my family. I disagree.

Taken at face value, this statement suggests that Mr. Divine opposes access to in vitro fertilization, IVF. Well, I have some beautiful grandkids who were the product of these IVF procedures. It was the only way that they could come to this Earth, and thank God they did. To think that this man who is seeking this lifetime appointment to the bench would not even answer the question on IVF is troubling.

Joshua Divine is too inexperienced to serve as a district court judge, and his radical views, I think, disqualify him.

I am also troubled by the nomination of Cristian Stevens. Following his confirmation hearing, I asked Judge Stevens whether he denounced the January 6 insurrection on the Capitol.

For those who don't remember, that was a time when a mob forced Congress to shut down the procedure of counting the electoral votes in the 2020 election. As a result of that decision, they stormed the Capitol; came into this Chamber; videotaped themselves vaping while sitting in the chair of the Presiding Officer, going through the desks of Senators, tearing up the place, and, unfortunately, attacking a lot of innocent people.

I asked Cristian Stevens about the January 6 insurrection. He said the use of the word "insurrection" was a legal conclusion—a legal conclusion—and

that it would be inappropriate for him to comment on it because it was a highly contested political issue.

Here is the cold, hard truth: The violent mob that ransacked the Capitol Complex in an attempted insurrection to stop the counting of the votes of that election led to the deaths of 5 police officers and injuries to more than 140 others. It triggered the largest prosecution in the history of the Department of Justice. Over 1,000 individuals were convicted and prosecuted for their activity that day.

The fact that this nominee couldn't acknowledge what happened that day and denounce the violence perpetrated against law enforcement is troubling. If you can't stand up for the men and women who keep us safe at this very moment in this building—who risk their lives for the Members, their staffs, and the visitors in the Capitol—you have no place in a lifetime position as a Federal judge.

I am also concerned about a law review article Judge Cristian Stevens wrote in defending the infamous 100-to-1 sentencing disparity between crack cocaine and powder cocaine.

I voted for it in the House of Representatives. Why? The idea was that crack cocaine was such a deadly and threatening narcotic that we were going to pass a sentencing provision that was really tough. Well, this was tough. It said, if you were convicted of possessing powder cocaine or an exact same amount of cocaine in crack form—in crystal form—you would be receiving a sentence for the crack cocaine that would be 100 times that of powder cocaine.

What happened as a result of it?

The result, I am sorry to say, didn't work. You would think, with that kind of sentencing hanging over you, people would think twice. It didn't work. As a result, more people were using crack cocaine after we passed the law, and the price on the street was going down instead of up. We filled the Federal prisons primarily with African Americans who had lengthy sentences—some of them over 20 years—for the simple sale of crack cocaine.

We decided that was wrong. I led the effort here on the Senate side. I am proud that I did. I was joined by CHUCK GRASSLEY, a Republican of Iowa, and MIKE LEE, a Republican of Utah. We passed a bill called the FIRST STEP Act, and it was sent to President Trump, who signed it into law in his first term.

Now comes Cristian Stevens, Judge Stevens, wanting a seat on the Federal bench. I am concerned about a law review article he wrote that defended the 100-to-1 disparity between crack cocaine and powder cocaine.

He wrote:

There may be evidence to suggest that these kinds of sentencing provisions are beneficial to black communities hardest hit by the crack epidemic.

I am disappointed that Judge Stevens continues to stand by an article that

defends crack-powder cocaine sentencing disparity—it was wrong then; it is wrong now—and he is certainly doing no one a favor by supporting that kind of penalty.

My Republican colleagues will likely vote for both of these nominees I have described—Mr. Divine and Judge Stevens on the Federal bench—without hesitation, but the American people deserve judges who will protect their basic fundamental rights, demonstrate independence and integrity, and remain faithful to the Constitution and the rule of law. Neither of these nominees has proven that they embody these attributes.

I will vote against both of these nominees. I urge my colleagues to do the same.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I know I am not the only one who feels like time flies, but it is hard for me to imagine that it has only been 6 months since President Trump was sworn into office—6 months.

When you look at what we have been able to accomplish together—the Republican majority in the House and the Senate and President Trump—it has been nothing short of amazing.

We passed President Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill and avoided a multitrillion-dollar tax increase on the American people, we codified DOGE cuts through the rescissions package just last week, and we have continued to confirm President Trump's qualified nominees to the executive branch.

These confirmation votes, of course, will continue apace, but as we are turning to the latter half of this first year in his second term of office, it is also time to focus on other work we need to do, like paying the bills, which is one of the most fundamental responsibilities of the Congress, and authorizing legislation to keep our country strong—passing legislation like the National Defense Authorization Act.

I have talked many times about my dad, who was a B-17 pilot in the Army Air Corps, World War II. He was a very young man when he flew 26 bombing missions over Nazi Germany. Unfortunately, he flew one too many because he was shot down and captured as a POW on his 26th. He was a POW—a prisoner of war—for about the last 4 months of World War II.

But I know my dad, whom Tom Brokaw called part of the "greatest generation"—the people who fought and won a world war in World War II—they believed and they hoped and they prayed that would be one of the last real threats of world war ever in our lifetime, but we are now living in what I consider to be the most dangerous time since World War II.

In many ways, Vladimir Putin and his Russia have already declared war

on the West, which is now raging in Ukraine. We know that Iran has been moving very deliberately toward a nuclear weapon. Thanks to President Trump's decisiveness, that has now been set back for an undetermined period of time. North Korea, which is developing ballistic missiles and threatening its neighbors in the east, in Asia, is now volunteering soldiers to fight with the Russians in Ukraine. And then there is China, which is determined to dominate the world stage economically and militarily.

But our Defense authorization bill, I believe, is one of the most important things we do here because this is what allows all of the other freedoms that we enjoy in this country to flow from—a strong America; peace through strength, as Ronald Reagan called it, and something that President Trump has embraced as well, peace through strength—because we know that weakness is a provocation; it is an enticement; it is an invitation to the world's authoritarians, bullies, and tyrants, who are more than happy to fill the gap when America is not strong. So we need to take this matter very seriously, reauthorizing the National Defense Authorization bill—something we have done for 63 consecutive years.

But one of the things that I am going to be focusing on as part of this Defense authorization bill is to finally address outbound investment in China.

As we speak, U.S. companies are spending billions of dollars in China, investing in Chinese companies, particularly those involved in critical technologies like quantum computing and artificial intelligence.

Because of China's military-civil fusion strategy, there is no such thing as a private sector and a public sector. Everything in China works toward the advancement not only of their economy but of their military as well. We know these investments are not simply enriching China's economy and fueling advances in consumer technology; they are directly bolstering China's military strength.

I have been raising alarm bells for a number of years now and working toward a solution to this critical strategic concern for a long time, and I have something to announce to my colleagues here: I am not going to give up. We are going to stay after this until we get it done right.

Two years ago, during the debate on the Defense authorization bill, the Senate voted 91 to 6—this is a bipartisan concern, 91 to 6—to include my amendment which contained provisions on outbound investment transparency. Even in the face of such overwhelming, nearly unanimous consensus—again, on a bipartisan basis in the Senate—to address outbound investment, this provision was stripped from the final bill, presumably at the service of the powerful special interests who want to continue to profit while putting our national security interests at risk.

Last year, provisions of outbound investment transparency were included

in the initial text to the end-of-year funding package. Unfortunately, in the midst of negotiations, that provision once again ended up stripped from the bill. But, again, I want to make it clear: I am not willing to take no for an answer on something that is so critical to our national security. I will not quit.

But the reality is, our time is running out. President Xi, the dictator who runs China and the Chinese Communist Party, has instructed his army, the People's Liberation Army, to be ready by 2027 to "reincorporate" Taiwan—not 2 years from now.

There are many voices emphasizing the importance of increasing our defense spending, which I certainly agree with, to prepare for a China contingency, as it is sometimes called. I don't disagree with those sentiments because, again, deterrence is the goal. We don't want to fight any wars we don't have to. We want to prevent war by American strength. But what good does it do to continue to increase our defense spending if American investors are simultaneously making investments in China in what amounts to the arsenal of our No. 1 strategic adversary?

As of 2023, the United States was investing close to \$2 billion in Chinese critical technology sectors, including semiconductors, quantum computing, and artificial intelligence. These are American companies investing in China, helping them to advance these critical technologies, which we are competing with here in America.

A report from the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission pointed out that "the United States is the most important foreign source of investment to semiconductors, quantum computing, and [artificial intelligence] in China"—the most important.

There is a lot of talk right now about maintaining our strategic edge in the artificial intelligence race, but the first step in any competition is to make sure you are not helping your competition, your opponent, your adversary. Every dollar—every U.S. dollar—invested in China's AI sector is a dollar that is directly undermining the goal of U.S. dominance when it comes to this critical technology.

Once again, we have to keep in mind that in China, there is no neatly divided private and government sector division. All of this is in service of the Chinese Communist Party and their military. Chinese companies are required to work hand in glove with the Chinese Communist Party, which means that private sector technology advances and military advances are one and the same.

The time has come to stop dawdling when it comes to the Chinese Communist Party. Our national security is far more important than American companies chasing riches in the Chinese market.

I am very grateful to President Trump for focusing our attention more

acutely on China during his first term and now in his second term, especially with regard to both inbound—that is foreign direct investment in the United States—as well as outbound investment, which I am addressing right now.

Back in February of this year, the White House announced an America first investment policy, which builds on the work that we partnered with President Trump on during his first term to modernize the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States—something known as CFIUS, by its initials. The purpose was to ensure that we are not opening up ourselves and America to risks through inbound foreign direct investment. But that inbound foreign direct investment is only part of the story. We also have to address the lack of transparency in outbound investment by American companies in China that is fueling the rise of China's technological advances.

I am very grateful to Secretary Bessent of the Department of the Treasury for his willingness to work with my office and colleagues here in the Senate on this topic. Earlier this year, I introduced the Foreign Investment Guardrails to Help Thwart China Act, or the FIGHT China Act, as it is called. This builds on earlier iterations of my legislative efforts to address outbound investment transparency. Secretary Bessent and his colleagues at the Treasury Department have been great allies and great partners, providing us with technical assistance on this legislation.

But time is a-wasting. Time is of the essence. Now is the time to recommit ourselves to treating this issue with the urgency that it deserves. The ugly truth is that without restricting outbound investment, we are funding the development of technologies and weapons that could one day be used to kill American soldiers.

Our bill, after all, is mainly about understanding the nature of what those investments are. It is mainly about transparency because we are flying blind as policymakers, really not knowing exactly how that money is being invested and how it is being used within China itself. My outbound investment transparency bill would address that so we would be able to understand the nature of that threat and take actions that we deem appropriate in the national interest.

So I would urge both our House and Senate colleagues to ensure that this year's National Defense Authorization Act addresses this critical issue. It is time for Americans to stop investing in China's military.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). 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.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 259.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Zachary M. Bluestone, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant 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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 259, Zachary M. Bluestone, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.

John Thune, Lindsey Graham, Katie Boyd Britt, Eric Schmitt, Tommy Tuberville, Marsha Blackburn, Mike Crapo, John Barrasso, Rick Scott of Florida, Chuck Grassley, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Cornyn, Kevin Cramer, Ron Johnson, Ashley B. Moody, Mike Lee, Josh Hawley.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 50.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Aaron Szabo, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant 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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 50, Aaron Szabo, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

John Thune, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Mike Crapo, Lindsey Graham, Tim Sheehy, John Kennedy, John Barrasso, Markwayne Mullin, Roger Marshall, Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Rounds, Tommy Tuberville, Steve Daines, Bernie Moreno, Eric Schmitt, Chuck Grassley, Jon A. Husted.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 131.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Matthew Lohmeier, of Arizona, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant 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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 131, of Matthew Lohmeier, of Arizona, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force.

John Thune, Ted Budd, Katie Boyd Britt, Todd Young, Roger Marshall, Tommy Tuberville, Deb Fischer, Shelley Moore Capito, John Barrasso, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Steve Daines, Marsha Blackburn, Eric Schmitt, Pete Ricketts, Mike Crapo, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Tim Sheehy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 87.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Richard Topping, of Ohio, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant 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 nomination of Executive Calendar No. 87, Richard Topping, of Ohio, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Veterans Affairs.

John Thune, Eric Schmitt, John R. Curtis, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Bill Cassidy, Jon Husted, Steve Daines, Marsha Blackburn, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Ron Johnson, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Mike Rounds, Bernie Moreno, Pete Ricketts, Jim Justice, Bill Hagerty.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to resume Calendar No. 171.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Terrance Cole, of Virginia, to be Administrator of Drug Enforcement.

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

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

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Cole nomination.

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

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we begin the previously scheduled rollcall vote immediately.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 171, Terrance Cole, of Virginia, to be Administrator of Drug Enforcement.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Pete Ricketts, Steve Daines, Bernie Moreno, Mike Rounds, Rick Scott of Florida, Eric Schmitt, Tommy Tuberville, Jim Banks, Thom Tillis, David McCormick, James Lankford, Jon Husted, Bill Hagerty.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Terrance Cole, of Virginia, to be Administrator of Drug Enforcement, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) would have voted "yea", the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "yea", and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 44, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 418 Ex.]

YEAS—44

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

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—13

Budd	Graham	Risch
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Tillis
Coons	Kennedy	Warnock
Cruz	Mullin	
Duckworth	Ossoff	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 44, the nays are 43, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

TRIBUTE TO ASPEN MONROE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Aspen for her hard work as an intern in my Sheridan office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Aspen is originally from Cody, WY. Aspen recently graduated from American University in Washington, DC, with a bachelor's degree in justice and law with a concentration in criminology. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Aspen for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

TRIBUTE TO FAITH RODEN

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Faith for her hard work as an intern in my Casper office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Faith was born and raised in Casper, WY. Faith attends Casper College,

where she is pursuing a degree in elementary education. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Faith for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her journey.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I was absent on Thursday, July 17, 2025, for rollcall vote No. 414. Had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 96, Aaron Lukas, of Arkansas, to be Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence.

Mr. President, I was absent on Thursday, July 17, 2025, for rollcall vote No. 415. Had I been present, I would have voted yea on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 108, Bradley Hansell, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security.

Mr. President, I was absent on Thursday, July 17, 2025, for rollcall vote No. 416. Had I been present, I would have voted nay on the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 91, Arielle Roth, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. GALLEGO. Mr. President, I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted yes on rollcall vote No. 306, motion to discharge S.J. Res. 53, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of Qatar of certain defense articles and services.

Mr. President, I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted yes on rollcall vote No. 307, motion to discharge S.J. Res. 54, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Government of the United Arab Emirates of certain defense articles and services.

H.R. 1

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, on July 1, 2025, the Senate passed H.R. 1, which is nothing more than one big, beautiful, betrayal for Americans across the country. This bill slashes healthcare for 17 million Americans by gutting Medicaid and dismantling the Affordable Care Act. It shuts down rural hospitals, it takes food away from more than 4 million hungry children, it makes college more expensive

for families, and it ends clean energy investments to fight climate chaos. All to make tax cuts permanent and help billionaires get richer.

And if that isn't bad enough, it destroys the architecture of fiscal discipline put in place 51 years ago and explodes the debt by \$3.3 trillion over 10 years and by more than \$30 trillion over 30 years—again, all in pursuit of making billionaires richer.

And if those eye-popping debt numbers aren't alarming enough, CBO projects that if interest rates go up by as little as 1 percent, the costs could double. This is the most fiscally irresponsible bill ever to come to the Senate floor and wasn't supposed to be possible after Congress passed the 1974 Budget Control and Impoundment Act.

In 1974, addressing the deficit was such a bipartisan priority that the Budget Act created a special filibuster-free fast-track process, known as reconciliation, for the sole purpose of reducing the deficit. That is right, the original purpose of reconciliation was to reduce the deficit.

The reconciliation process was built on three pillars. First, a reconciliation bill cannot create deficits in the first 10 years. Second, a reconciliation bill can't increase the deficit in any year after the first 10 years. And third, it should be measured using honest numbers from the independent, nonpartisan, scorekeepers.

So how did we go from every Senator voting for a special process for deficit reduction in 1974, to almost every Republican, the party who claims to support fiscal responsibility, supporting a 2025 reconciliation bill that adds tens of trillions to the debt?

It started in 1996, when the Republicans wanted to pass tax giveaways for the wealthy and didn't have the required 60 votes so they turned to the reconciliation process. Except they had one problem, reconciliation wasn't supposed to increase the deficit in the first 10 years. Instead of finding a compromise, the Republicans decided to change the rules and allow a reconciliation bill to increase the deficit in the first 10 years. That was the end of pillar one, and the reconciliation process has been abused in the same way ever since—for the 2001 Bush tax cuts, the 2003 Bush tax cuts, and the 2017 Trump cuts.

But pillar two and pillar three were still standing. That is, until now. In the Republican's never-ending quest to make billionaires richer, they once again changed the rules. This time in order to hide the true cost of this bill. In doing so, pillar two and pillar three collapsed and all remaining remnants of fiscal discipline with it.

During consideration of H.R. 1, Senate Republicans upended decades of law and precedent and allowed the Budget Committee chair to abuse the authority under section 312 of the Budget Act to determine violations of section 313 of the Budget Act, also known as the Byrd Rule.

I recognize that section 312 of the Budget Act gives the Budget chair scorekeeping duties. Read in isolation, or with no understanding of past precedent, section 312 could appear to be unlimited. But it is not. The authority in section 312 must be read in combination with other provisions of the Budget Act, with other budget laws, and with Senate precedent, particularly in relationship to the Byrd Rule as it always has been.

I do not dispute that when bills are considered under regular order, it is the Budget Committee chair's responsibility to determine what numeric budget points of order lie. However, the Budget Committee chair has never determined whether provisions of a reconciliation bill comply with the Byrd Rule, that has always been the responsibility of the Parliamentarian's office.

And why is the Byrd Rule so unique from other budget enforcement tools? It is unique where it applies—just in the Senate, and not the House; it is unique when it applies—only for reconciliation, a fast track process, not regular order; it is unique how it applies and is adjudicated—a formal litigation where the Parliamentarian's office issues guidance based on written and oral arguments and nonpartisan current law scoring estimates.

It is not normal budget enforcement. Why is that? Because reconciliation is a fast track process, and Senators, with eyes wide open, voted to impose these strict guardrails on this process.

The majority's assertion of 312 authority also runs counter to section 257 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act, which defines the current law baseline. The section 257 baseline, as it is called, has been the foundation for the nonpartisan cost estimates for the past 40 years, estimates produced by the independent scorekeepers: the Congressional Budget Office and the Joint Committee on Taxation. The Senate has never, before consideration of H.R. 1, used cost estimates based on something other than the section 257 baseline to assess reconciliation legislation for compliance with the Byrd Rule.

To reiterate: in developing their guidance under the Byrd Rule, the Parliamentarian's office has never—never—used cost estimates other than those based on the section 257 baseline. With the majority's actions on H.R.1, Republicans have dealt the remaining pillars of reconciliation a fatal blow.

While section 312 has never been used in reconciliation, I agree that it has been used in regular order. But I want to make clear that use of section 312 authority, up until now, has only been invoked when the issue at hand was narrow, technical, often bipartisan, involved relatively small amounts of money, and was done in regular order.

For example, during the bipartisan "side deal" between Leader SCHUMER and Speaker Johnson for the fiscal year 2024 appropriations process, Democratic Senate Budget Committee

Chair WHITEHOUSE and Republican House Budget Committee Chair ARRINGTON included a direction to CBO to use the Office of Management and Budget's estimate of housing receipts, which allowed for an extra \$2.8 billion in offsets for that package.

In 2023, when the Agriculture Committee wanted to extend a dairy provision, CBO's initial estimate counted the same spending twice. Again, Democratic Chair WHITEHOUSE and Republican Chair ARRINGTON used the section 312 authority in a bipartisan manner to instruct CBO to conform to the way it originally scored the program.

On a bipartisan basis during the fiscal years 2023–2025 appropriations cycles, Budget chairs have directed CBO to score appropriations language related to the Purchase Power and Wheeling activities of three Federal Power Marketing Administrations consistent with a 2000 bipartisan scorekeeping agreement that CBO had recently deviated from.

By far the most common use of section 312 authority over the past decade relates to directing CBO to follow legislative text commonly included in omnibus legislation to allocate the budgetary effects to the proper committee.

These examples all illustrate how section 312 allows the Budget chair to step in to address scoring issues and resolve ambiguities. In all cases, these efforts have been narrowly applied and concerned discrete policies with limited budgetary impacts.

And again, in none of these examples was the Senate considering a reconciliation bill.

During debate on H.R.1, the majority has also falsely claimed precedent exists for their actions. I will now explain why each instance the Republicans cite is clearly distinguishable from their current abuse of section 312 authority.

Senator GRAHAM, the current chair of the Budget Committee, claimed that former Budget Chair Kent Conrad "used a new baseline in the budget so he could get the farm bill in the budget." This is a mischaracterization. In 2008, during Farm Bill negotiations, Budget Chair Conrad chose not to apply an updated CBO baseline while the bill was in conference committee. Over the course of the prior year, both the House and Senate had passed a Farm Bill and having to change all the numbers during conference negotiations would have undone a year's worth of work. There is also longstanding precedent to not update for new baseline estimates at the last minute when a bill that has been carefully negotiated is nearing completion. Further, Chair Conrad used a current law baseline to measure the farm bill. This was not a scoring manipulation meant to skirt the guardrails of a fast-track process.

Second, the majority has repeatedly referred to the Obama administration's supposed use of a current policy baseline to score a tax bill in 2012 that extended most of the expiring Bush tax

cuts. At the time, the Obama administration's Office of Management and Budget produced a "current policy" score that they used when publicly talking about the benefits of the bill. It served a purely messaging purpose. Congress did not—I repeat, did not—use a current policy baseline for official budget enforcement purposes in the Senate. Congress used the current law score from CBO. This bill also passed under regular order, not reconciliation.

Another example cited by the majority party is former Budget Chair BERNIE SANDERS including a scoring rule for childcare and pre-kindergarten legislation in the fiscal year 2022 budget resolution. This scoring rule did not override current law; rather it forced CBO to conform to current law as laid out in section 257. This Head Start scoring rule was isolated to one program that affected \$18 billion over 10 years and was never ultimately used.

Before it was further amended on the Senate floor, the Senate reconciliation bill added \$3.3 trillion to the deficit over the 10-year budget window. By abusing the authority under section 312, the Republicans claim that H.R. 1 actually saves \$500 billion. The Finance Committee title alone adds \$3.5 trillion to the deficit over the 10-year budget window. But the Republican's claim, alleging section 312 authority, that the Finance title actually saves \$300 billion and thus meets its reconciliation instruction.

The blatant abuse of claiming section 312 authority to determine H.R. 1 complied with section 313 of the Budget Act is unprecedented, overrides current law, and will forever change the Senate. And it was all done to further an agenda of families lose, billionaires win.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PRATT & WHITNEY

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Pratt & Whitney, a pioneer and titan in the field of aviation.

The Pratt & Whitney Aircraft Company was founded in 1925 in Hartford, CT, by Frederick B. Rentschler and colleagues from his previous position at Wright Aeronautical, with funding and facility space from Pratt & Whitney Machine Tool.

Rentschler, along with George J. Mead and other colleagues, were designing and developing a new air-cooled radial engine design that would enable an unprecedented power-to-weight ratio. The company's first engine, the 425-horsepower R-1340 Wasp, was completed by the end of 1925. On its third test run in March 1926, the engine easily passed the U.S. Navy qualification test and proceeded to revolutionize military and commercial aviation through a combination of both performance and reliability.

In order to ramp up production, the company moved to East Hartford, where assembly lines, research and testing, and administrative offices are still located, along with an airfield, known as Rentschler Field.

Notably, the R-1340 powered the aircraft of many high-profile aviators of the day, including Wiley Post and Amelia Earhart. It also gave birth to an entire Wasp series, which are used in agricultural aircraft and other aviation applications around the world to this day.

Engine production soared during World War II, and in 1944, Pratt & Whitney—now independent of Pratt & Whitney Machine Tool and part of the United Aircraft Corporation—began its gas turbine and jet propulsion initiative. The company constructed a wind tunnel, laboratory, and engineering center to support the United States and its allies in World War II. By 1945, wartime production of these engines totaled more than 300,000 and were known by servicemembers to be extremely dependable. Indeed, the "Dependable Engines" has been one of the company's slogans—and its overriding goal—for decades.

After World War II, Pratt & Whitney continued designing and innovating aircraft engines that were more powerful, agile, and reliable. Today, they remain a world leader in the commercial and defense aerospace industry, with more than 85,000 engines in service, approximately 17,000 customers worldwide, and plants across the United States.

With roughly 11,000 employees between its headquarters in East Hartford and a facility in Middletown, Pratt & Whitney continues to be one of the greatest, most impactful commercial institutions in Connecticut. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring the 100th anniversary of Pratt & Whitney and the tremendous legacy it has left—and continues to forge—in the aerospace industry. •

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 Committee on Armed Services.

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

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF A PROCLAMATION PROVIDING EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN STATIONARY SOURCES FROM COMPLIANCE WITH THE FINAL RULE PUBLISHED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TITLED "NATIONAL EMISSION STANDARDS FOR HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS: TACONITE IRON ORE PROCESSING," 89 FR 16408 (TACONITE RULE), WHICH IMPOSES NEW EMISSIONS-CONTROL REQUIREMENTS ON TACONITE IRON ORE PROCESSING FACILITIES—PM 33

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with applicable law, including section 112(i)(4) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7412(i)(4), I hereby report that I have issued a proclamation providing exemption for certain stationary sources from compliance with the final rule published by the Environmental Protection Agency titled *National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Taconite Iron Ore Processing*, 89 FR 16408 (Taconite Rule), which imposes new emissions-control requirements on Taconite iron ore processing facilities.

As reflected in the proclamation of July 17, 2025 (Regulatory Relief for Certain Stationary Sources to Promote American Iron Ore Processing Security) (Proclamation), taconite iron ore processing is fundamental to the United States' steel production and manufacturing sectors. The facilities involved in the process supply essential raw materials used to make steel, which is used in national defense systems, critical infrastructure, and a broad range of industrial applications. Preserving and enhancing domestic taconite processing capabilities is vital to reducing reliance on foreign sources and ensuring resilience of American industrial supply chains.

In the Proclamation, I determined that the technology to implement the Taconite Rule is not available. Such technology does not exist in a commercially viable form sufficient to allow implementation of and compliance with the Taconite Rule by the compliance dates set forth in the Taconite Rule. I further determined in the Proclamation that it is in the national security interests of the United States to issue an exemption from the Taconite Rule to certain stationary sources subject to the Taconite Rule, as identified in Annex I of the Proclamation. This exemption applies to all compliance

deadlines established under the Tacomite Rule, with each such deadline extended by 2 years from the date originally required for such deadline.

I am enclosing a copy of the Proclamation I have issued and Annex I thereto.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 21, 2025.

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF A PROCLAMATION PROVIDING EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN STATIONARY SOURCES FROM COMPLIANCE WITH THE FINAL RULE PUBLISHED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TITLED "NATIONAL EMISSIONS STANDARDS FOR HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS: COAL- AND OIL-FIRED ELECTRIC UTILITY STEAM GENERATING UNITS REVIEW OF THE RESIDUAL RISK AND TECHNOLOGY REVIEW," 89 FR 38508 (RULE), WHICH AMENDED THE PREEXISTING MERCURY AND AIR TOXICS STANDARDS RULE TO MAKE IT MORE STRINGENT—PM 34

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with applicable law, including section 112(i)(4) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7412(i)(4), I hereby report that I have issued a proclamation providing exemption for certain stationary sources from compliance with the final rule published by the Environmental Protection Agency titled *National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units Review of the Residual Risk and Technology Review*, 89 FR 38508 (Rule), which amended the preexisting Mercury and Air Toxics Standards rule to make it more stringent.

As reflected in the proclamation of July 17, 2025 (Regulatory Relief for Certain Stationary Sources to Further Promote American Energy) (Proclamation), coal-fired electricity generation is essential to ensuring that our Nation's grid is reliable and that electricity is affordable to the American people, and to promoting our Nation's energy security. The Federal Government plays a pivotal role in ensuring that the Nation's power supply remains secure and reliable. Forcing energy producers to comply with unattainable emissions controls jeopardizes this mission.

In the Proclamation, I determined that the technology to implement the Rule is not available. Such technology does not exist in a commercially viable form sufficient to allow implementation of and compliance with the Rule by its compliance date of July 8, 2027.

I further determined in the Proclamation that it is in the national security interests of the United States to issue an exemption from the Rule to certain stationary sources subject to the Rule, as identified in Annex I of the Proclamation. The effect of this exemption is to extend the compliance date of the Rule for those stationary sources from July 8, 2027, to July 8, 2029.

I am enclosing a copy of the Proclamation I have issued and Annex I thereto.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 21, 2025.

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13882 OF JULY 26, 2019, WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN MALI—PM 35

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the situation in Mali declared in Executive Order 13882 of July 26, 2019, is to continue in effect beyond July 26, 2025.

The situation in Mali, including repeated violations of ceasefire arrangements made pursuant to the 2015 Agreement on Peace and Reconciliation in Mali; a coup d'etat resulting in the termination of that agreement; the expansion of terrorist activities into southern and central Mali; the intensification of drug trafficking and trafficking in persons, human rights abuses, and hostage-taking; a further coup d'etat; the presence of foreign mercenaries threatening peace, security, and stability; and the intensification of attacks against civilians, the Malian defense and security forces, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), and international security presences, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13882 with respect to the situation in Mali.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 21, 2025.

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13581 OF JULY 24, 2011, WITH RESPECT TO SIGNIFICANT TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS—PM 36

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmit to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to significant transnational criminal organizations declared in Executive Order 13581 of July 24, 2011, under which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13863 of March 15, 2019, is to continue in effect beyond July 24, 2025.

The activities of significant transnational criminal organizations have reached such scope and gravity that they threaten the stability of international political and economic systems. Such organizations are becoming increasingly sophisticated and dangerous to the United States; they are increasingly entrenched in the operations of foreign governments and the international financial system, thereby weakening democratic institutions, degrading the rule of law, and undermining economic markets. These organizations facilitate and aggravate violent civil conflicts and increasingly facilitate the activities of other dangerous persons.

Significant transnational criminal organizations continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to significant transnational criminal organizations declared in Executive Order 13581.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 21, 2025.

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF A PROCLAMATION PROVIDING EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN STATIONARY SOURCES FROM COMPLIANCE WITH THE FINAL RULE PUBLISHED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TITLED "NATIONAL EMISSION STANDARDS FOR HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS: ETHYLENE OXIDE EMISSIONS STANDARDS FOR STERILIZATION FACILITIES RESIDUAL RISK AND TECHNOLOGY REVIEW," 89 FR 24090 (ETO RULE), WHICH IMPOSES NEW EMISSIONS-CONTROL REQUIREMENTS ON COMMERCIAL STERILIZATION FACILITIES—PM 37

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with applicable law, including section 112(i)(4) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7412(i)(4), I hereby report that I have issued a proclamation providing exemption for certain stationary sources from compliance with the final rule published by the Environmental Protection Agency titled *National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Ethylene Oxide Emissions Standards for Sterilization Facilities Residual Risk and Technology Review*, 89 FR 24090 (EtO Rule), which imposes new emissions-control requirements on commercial sterilization facilities.

As reflected in the proclamation of July 17, 2025 (Regulatory Relief for Certain Stationary Sources to Promote American Security with Respect to Sterile Medical Equipment) (Proclamation), the use of ethylene oxide is critical for the sterilization of medical equipment, which protects patients against infection and the transmission of disease. The continued utilization of ethylene oxide by commercial sterilization facilities is essential to ensuring that our Nation provides its sick and injured with the best outcomes possible—an objective that is at the forefront of the Federal Government's responsibility to the American people.

In the Proclamation, I determined that the technology to implement the EtO Rule is not available. Such technology does not exist in a commercially viable form sufficient to allow implementation of and compliance with the EtO Rule by the compliance dates set forth in the EtO Rule. I further determined in the Proclamation that it is in the national security interests of the United States to issue an exemption from the EtO Rule to certain stationary sources subject to the EtO Rule, as identified in Annex I of the Proclamation. This exemption applies to all compliance deadlines established under the EtO Rule, with each such deadline extended by 2 years from

the date originally required for such deadline.

I am enclosing a copy of the Proclamation I have issued and Annex I thereto.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 21, 2025.

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE ISSUANCE OF A PROCLAMATION PROVIDING EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN STATIONARY SOURCES FROM COMPLIANCE WITH THE FINAL RULE PUBLISHED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY TITLED "NEW SOURCE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR THE SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY AND NATIONAL EMISSION STANDARDS FOR HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS FOR THE SYNTHETIC ORGANIC CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY AND GROUP I & II POLYMERS AND RESINS INDUSTRY," 89 FR 42932 (HON RULE), WHICH IMPOSES NEW EMISSIONS-CONTROL REQUIREMENTS ON CERTAIN CHEMICAL MANUFACTURING FACILITIES—PM 38

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with applicable law, including section 112(i)(4) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7412(i)(4), I hereby report that I have issued a proclamation providing exemption for certain stationary sources from compliance with the final rule published by the Environmental Protection Agency titled *New Source Performance Standards for the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturing Industry and National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturing Industry and Group I & II Polymers and Resins Industry*, 89 FR 42932 (HON Rule), which imposes new emissions-control requirements on certain chemical manufacturing facilities.

As reflected in the proclamation of July 17, 2025 (Regulatory Relief for Certain Stationary Sources to Promote American Chemical Manufacturing Security) (Proclamation), the United States relies on a strong chemical manufacturing sector to support industries like energy, national defense, agriculture, and health care. These facilities produce essential inputs for critical infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, medical sterilization, semiconductors, and national defense systems. Maintaining a robust domestic chemical industry is vital to safeguarding the supply chains that underpin our economy and to reducing the Nation's dependence on foreign control over materials critical to national re-

silience. As adversaries expand influence over key inputs, continued domestic production is essential not only to economic resilience but also to military readiness, public health, and national preparedness.

In the Proclamation, I determined that the technology to implement the HON Rule is not available. Such technology does not exist in a commercially viable form sufficient to allow implementation of and compliance with the HON Rule by the compliance dates set forth in the HON Rule. I further determined in the Proclamation that it is in the national security interests of the United States to issue an exemption from the HON Rule to certain stationary sources subject to the HON Rule, as identified in Annex I of the Proclamation. This exemption applies to all compliance deadlines established under the HON Rule, with each such deadline extended by 2 years from the date originally required for such deadline.

I am enclosing a copy of the Proclamation I have issued and Annex I thereto.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 21, 2025.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2025, the Secretary of the Senate, on July 18, 2025, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 4. An act to rescind certain budget authority proposed to be rescinded in special messages transmitted to the Congress by the President on June 3, 2025, in accordance with section 1012(a) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2025, the enrolled bill was signed on July 18, 2025, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. LANKFORD).

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4) to rescind certain budget authority proposed to be rescinded in special messages transmitted to the Congress by the President on June 3, 2025, in accordance with section 1012(a) of the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974.

At 4:50 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 201. An act to provide for a study by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on the prevalence and

mortality of cancer among individuals who served as active duty aircrew in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 423. An act to protect regular order for budgeting for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on July 17, 2025, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bills:

S. 1582. An act to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes.

S. 1596. An act to rename the Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge located in the State of Texas as the "Jocelyn Nungaray National Wildlife Refuge".

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. BOOZMAN for the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

*Dudley Hoskins, of the District of Columbia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

*Scott Hutchins, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. RISCH):

S. 2358. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the procedural rules for penalties; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MORENO:

S. 2359. A bill to require certification of employment eligibility compliance in annual reporting of certain securities issuers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 2360. A bill to amend title 25, United States Code, to provide for the appointment of additional Federal circuit judges, to divide the Ninth Judicial Circuit of the United States into two judicial circuits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER (for herself and Mr. MORENO):

S. 2361. A bill to provide grants to units of general local government related to pre-reviewed designs for mixed-income housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BUDD, Ms. ERNST, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. LEE, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr.

TILLIS, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 2362. A bill to oppose the provision of assistance to the People's Republic of China by the multilateral development banks; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. BANKS):

S. 2363. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to include affordable housing incentives in certain capital investment grants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 2364. A bill to direct the United States Postal Service to designate single, unique ZIP Codes for certain communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 2365. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the credit for small employer pension plan startup costs and the retirement auto-enrollment credit available to tax-exempt eligible small employers; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SHEEHY:

S. 2366. A bill to direct the Attorney General to identify and publish a list of anarchist jurisdictions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 2367. A bill to establish a Federal tort relating to the appropriation, use, collection, processing, sale, or other exploitation of individuals' data without express, prior consent; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAGERTY (for himself, Mr. KAINE, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, and Mr. BUDD):

S. 2368. A bill to take measures with respect to certain property that is nationalized or expropriated by foreign governments, to amend section 301 of the Trade Act of 1974 to include expropriation of the assets of United States Persons in acts, policies, and practices of foreign countries that are unreasonable or discriminatory, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. Res. 327. A resolution condemning the persecution of Christians in Muslim-majority countries and encouraging the President to prioritize the protection of persecuted Christians in United States foreign policy; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. Res. 328. A resolution congratulating Louisiana State University in Shreveport for the first undefeated season in collegiate baseball history and for winning the 2025 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics Baseball World Series; considered and agreed to.

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

S. Res. 329. A resolution congratulating Louisiana State University on their victory in the 2025 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I College World Series; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. Res. 330. A resolution designating June 23, 2025, as "Social Media Harms Victim Remembrance Day"; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 46

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 46, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand eligibility for the refundable credit for coverage under a qualified health plan.

S. 162

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 162, a bill to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve foster and adoptive parent recruitment and retention, and for other purposes.

S. 237

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) were added as cosponsors of S. 237, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide public safety officer benefits for exposure-related cancers, and for other purposes.

S. 522

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 522, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 539

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 539, a bill to reauthorize the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2008, and for other purposes.

S. 611

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 611, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 727

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 727, a bill to correct the inequitable denial of enhanced retirement and annuity benefits to certain U.S. Customs and Border Protection Officers.

S. 847

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 847, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the employer-provided child care credit and the dependent care assistance exclusion.

S. 1027

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. JUSTICE) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1027, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit.

S. 1137

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1137, a bill to provide that the Federal Communications Commission may not prevent a State or Federal correctional facility from utilizing jamming equipment, and for other purposes.

S. 1316

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1316, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that COPS grant funds may be used for local law enforcement recruits to attend schools or academies if the recruits agree to serve in precincts of law enforcement agencies in their communities.

S. 1318

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) were added as cosponsors of S. 1318, a bill to direct the American Battle Monuments Commission to establish a program to identify American-Jewish servicemembers buried in United States military cemeteries overseas under markers that incorrectly represent their religion and heritage, and for other purposes.

S. 1375

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1375, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reinstate the exception for de minimis payments by third party settlement organizations with respect to returns relating to payments made in settlement of payment card and third party network transactions, as in effect prior to the enactment of the American Rescue Plan Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1532

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1532, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the railroad track maintenance credit.

S. 1692

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1692, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to modify data collection requirements for appropriate use criteria for applica-

ble imaging services, and for other purposes.

S. 1808

At the request of Mr. MCCORMICK, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) and the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) 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. 1816

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1816, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish requirements with respect to the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans.

S. 2051

At the request of Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. ALSOBROOKS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2051, a bill to authorize the Department of Housing and Urban Development to transform neighborhoods of extreme poverty into sustainable, mixed-income neighborhoods with access to economic opportunities, by revitalizing severely distressed housing, and investing and leveraging investments in well-functioning services, educational opportunities, public assets, public transportation, and improved access to jobs, and for other purposes.

S. 2113

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2113, a bill to amend the Federal Reserve Act to prohibit earnings on balances maintained at a Federal Reserve bank by or on behalf of a depository institution.

S. 2188

At the request of Mr. SCHIFF, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2188, a bill to require the publication of data sets regarding firearm trace data.

S. 2262

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2262, a bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to clarify the nature of public investment for purposes of certain rule-making, and for other purposes.

S. 2302

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 2302, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish certain duties for pharmacies to ensure provision of Food and Drug Administration-approved contraception and medication related to contraception, and for other purposes.

S. 2350

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr.

DURBIN), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 2350, a bill to provide for the confidentiality of information submitted in requests for deferred action under the deferred action for childhood arrivals program, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BUDD, Ms. ERNST, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. LEE, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MARSHALL, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 2362. A bill to oppose the provision of assistance to the People's Republic of China by the multilateral development banks; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

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

S. 2362

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 "Ending Lending to China Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. OPPOSITION TO PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE TO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA BY MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The People's Republic of China is the world's second largest economy and a major global lender.

(2) In April 2025, the foreign exchange reserves of the People's Republic of China totaled more than \$3,281,000,000,000.

(3) The World Bank classifies the People's Republic of China as a country with an upper-middle-income economy.

(4) On February 25, 2021, President Xi Jinping announced "complete victory" over extreme poverty in the People's Republic of China.

(5) The Government of the People's Republic of China utilizes state resources to create and promote the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, the New Development Bank, and the Belt and Road Initiative.

(6) The People's Republic of China is the world's largest official creditor.

(7) Through a multilateral development bank, countries are eligible to borrow until they can manage long-term development and access to capital markets without financial resources from the bank.

(8) The World Bank reviews the graduation of a country from eligibility to borrow from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development once the country reaches the graduation discussion income, which is equivalent to the gross national income. For fiscal year 2025, the graduation discussion income is a gross national income per capita exceeding \$7,895.

(9) Many of the other multilateral development banks, such as the Asian Development Bank, use the gross national income per capita benchmark used by the International

Bank for Reconstruction and Development to trigger the graduation process.

(10) The People's Republic of China exceeded the graduation discussion income threshold in 2016.

(11) Since fiscal year 2016, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development has approved project loans totaling \$12,938,000,000 to the People's Republic of China.

(12) In 2024, the Asian Development Bank approved loans and technical assistance to the People's Republic of China totaling more than \$901,000,000. The Bank also approved non-sovereign commitments in the People's Republic of China totaling more than \$483,000,000.

(13) The World Bank calculates the People's Republic of China's 2024 gross national income per capita as \$13,660.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to oppose any additional lending from the multilateral development banks, including the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Asian Development Bank, to the People's Republic of China as a result of the People's Republic of China's successful graduation from the eligibility requirements for assistance from those banks.

(c) OPPOSITION TO LENDING TO PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States Executive Director at each multilateral development bank to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States—

(1) to oppose any loan or extension of financial or technical assistance by the bank to the People's Republic of China; and

(2) to end lending and assistance to countries that exceed the graduation discussion income of the bank.

(d) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes—

(1) an assessment of the status of borrowing by the People's Republic of China from each multilateral development bank;

(2) a description of voting power, shares, and representation by the People's Republic of China at each such bank;

(3) a list of countries that have exceeded the graduation discussion income at each such bank;

(4) a list of countries that have graduated from eligibility for assistance from each such bank; and

(5) a full description of the efforts taken by the United States to graduate countries from such eligibility once they exceed the graduation discussion income at each such bank.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

(B) the Committee on Financial Services and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS.—The term “multilateral development banks” has the meaning given that term in section 1701(c) of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262r(c)).

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 2364. A bill to direct the United States Postal Service to designate single, unique ZIP Codes for certain communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

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

S. 2364

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

SECTION 1. SINGLE, UNIQUE ZIP CODES FOR CERTAIN COMMUNITIES.

Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the United States Postal Service shall designate a single, unique ZIP Code for each of the following communities:

- (1) Mills, Wyoming.
- (2) Star Valley Ranch, Wyoming.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 327—CONDEMNING THE PERSECUTION OF CHRISTIANS IN MUSLIM-MAJORITY COUNTRIES AND ENCOURAGING THE PRESIDENT TO PRIORITIZE THE PROTECTION OF PERSECUTED CHRISTIANS IN UNITED STATES FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. HAWLEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 327

Whereas Open Doors' World Watch List 2025 finds that more than 380,000,000 Christians worldwide suffer high levels of persecution and discrimination for their faith, with many of these Christians facing persecution in Muslim-majority countries;

Whereas, in Nigeria—

(1) thousands of Christians are targeted and killed for their faith every year, including—

(A) at least 50 Christians who were killed in an attack in Plateau State on Palm Sunday of 2025;

(B) more than 200 Christians who were killed in an attack by Fulani jihadists in the farming community of Yelewata, Benue State in June 2025; and

(2) the number of Christians killed in Nigeria is vastly more than the number of Christians killed in all other countries combined;

Whereas, in the Sahel region, which includes Burkina Faso, Chad, Niger, Mali, and other countries, there are more acts of terrorism than anywhere else in the world and Christians are often the targets of such terrorism;

Whereas, in Algeria, nearly all evangelical churches have been shut down for years and pastors are regularly arrested and charged for their evangelism;

Whereas, in Libya, the Islamist government regularly harasses the small Christian population and arrests both Libyan and foreign Christians accused of proselytizing;

Whereas, in Egypt—

(1) the Coptic minority faces difficulty in procuring adequate worship spaces;

(2) Christians are attacked and marginalized in the Upper Minya region;

(3) Christian girls are regularly kidnapped and forcefully converted with impunity; and

(4) government authorities routinely turn a blind eye to violence against Christians;

Whereas, in Sudan, the current civil war has pushed Christians into hiding and displacement;

Whereas, in Somalia, extremists push Christians into hiding because of rampant persecution;

Whereas, in Yemen, Houthis continue to harass, detain, and torture Christians, particularly those who converted from Islam;

Whereas, in Gaza, Christians live as an extreme minority with almost no rights under the Hamas-led government;

Whereas, in Turkey—

(1) Christians have difficulty procuring adequate worship spaces;

(2) missionaries are forced out of the country on false charges of national security concerns; and

(3) foreign national clergy face barriers to remaining in country;

Whereas, in Syria, the Christian minority continues to be at risk of disappearing by attacks from militants and terrorists;

Whereas, in Iran, Christians are regularly arrested and forced into Evin Prison, which is one of the worst prisons in the world;

Whereas, in Iraq—

(1) the dwindling Christian population faces threats from Iranian-backed Shiite militias and continues to be displaced from Mosul and the Nineveh Plains; and

(2) Christian mayors have been removed in places like Qaraqosh;

Whereas, in Saudi Arabia, Christians are not able to worship in or establish public churches;

Whereas, in Azerbaijan, Armenian Christians in Nagorno-Karabakh face ethnic cleansing and cultural destruction;

Whereas, in Turkmenistan, authorities continue to harass Christians, prevent Christians from obtaining registration to operate legally, raid homes and churches, confiscate Bibles, and detain and torture Christians;

Whereas, in Afghanistan, Christians are forced into extreme hiding due to widespread and systemic use of physical and sexual violence, arbitrary detention, torture, corporal punishment, and other egregious abuses;

Whereas, in Tajikistan—

(1) Christians face severe restrictions on public expression and the creation and dissemination of religious materials; and

(2) converts face physical violence, house arrest, sexual assault, or forced marriages;

Whereas, in Pakistan—

(1) Christians are regularly accused of blasphemy for which they are subject to mob violence and the death penalty;

(2) Christian girls are regularly kidnapped and forced into marriages and conversions; and

(3) Christian cemeteries and churches have been attacked; and

Whereas, in Indonesia, Christians face harassment from local mobs and churches are delayed in getting approvals for the construction and repair of church buildings; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Senate—

(1) condemns the persecution of Christians in Muslim-majority countries;

(2) encourages the President to prioritize the protection of persecuted Christians in United States foreign policy, including through—

(A) the President's diplomatic engagement with Muslim-majority countries; and

(B) efforts to stabilize the Middle East; and

(3) encourages the President to use all diplomatic tools available, including trade and national security discussions and negotiations, to advance the protection of persecuted Christians worldwide and within Muslim-majority countries.

SENATE RESOLUTION 328—CONGRATULATING LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY IN SHREVEPORT FOR THE FIRST UNDEFEATED SEASON IN COLLEGIATE BASEBALL HISTORY AND FOR WINNING THE 2025 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS BASEBALL WORLD SERIES

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

S. RES. 328

Whereas, on May 30, 2025, the Louisiana State University Shreveport (referred to in this preamble as “LSU Shreveport”) baseball team won the championship of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, held annually at Harris Field in Lewiston, Idaho, among the top 46 teams in the Association;

Whereas LSU Shreveport defeated South-eastern University, of Florida, in the championship game with a score of 13-7, capturing the first national title in program history in any sport;

Whereas the Pilots of LSU Shreveport celebrate a historic season with an undefeated record of 59 wins and 0 losses, becoming the first team in college baseball history to achieve a perfect season;

Whereas the Pilots broke the record for winning percentage in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics of .935, set in 1996 by Mount Vernon Nazarene University, of Ohio;

Whereas the success of the team was the result of outstanding contributions from the entire roster, including standout performances by the Most Valuable Player of the tournament, Isaac Rohde, with a 2.09 earned run average, .93 walks and hits per innings pitched, and 107 strikeouts;

Whereas pitcher Isaac Rohde was named the Most Valuable Player of the tournament;

Whereas outfielder Cooper Huspen was named the Hustle Award recipient for the tournament;

Whereas infielder Jose Sallorin was named the Golden Glove Award winner;

Whereas head coach Brad Neffendorf was named Perfect Game Coach of the Year of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics and is in his 6th season as head coach of the LSU Shreveport baseball team; and

Whereas the Pilots of LSU Shreveport demonstrated extraordinary skill, consistency, and resilience throughout the season, bringing great pride and recognition to—

(1) Louisiana State University Shreveport; (2) its students, faculty, alumni, and fans; and

(3) the entire State of Louisiana: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates Louisiana State University Shreveport and the Pilots baseball team, including the athletes and coaching staff, for completing an undefeated 59-0 season and winning the 2025 National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics World Series National Championship;

(2) recognizes Louisiana State University Shreveport for its continued commitment to academic and athletic excellence; and

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

(A) the Chancellor of Louisiana State University Shreveport, Dr. Robert Smith;

(B) the Director of Athletics, Lucas Morgan; and

(C) the Head Coach of the Pilots of Louisiana State University Shreveport baseball team, Brad Neffendorf.

SENATE RESOLUTION 329—CONGRATULATING LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY ON THEIR VICTORY IN THE 2025 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I COLLEGE WORLD SERIES

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

S. RES. 329

Whereas, on Sunday, June 22, 2025, the Louisiana State University (referred to in this preamble as “LSU”) Fighting Tigers baseball team won the 2025 National Collegiate Athletic Association (referred to in this preamble as the “NCAA”) Division I College World Series, defeating Coastal Carolina University by a score of 5 to 3;

Whereas the LSU Fighting Tigers were undefeated in the College World Series, played in Omaha, Nebraska;

Whereas the LSU Fighting Tigers scored 6 runs on 16 hits in the championship series;

Whereas the LSU Fighting Tigers won their eighth NCAA Division I Baseball Championship, the second-most baseball championship wins by one team in NCAA history;

Whereas head coach Jay Johnson won 2 national championships in 4 seasons, becoming the fastest coach to win multiple national titles at a school in NCAA history;

Whereas Kade Anderson was named the Most Outstanding Player of the College World Series, after pitching a complete game shutout in Game 1 of the championship series against Coastal Carolina University;

Whereas the 2025 LSU Fighting Tigers baseball team was comprised of some of the best players in the Southeastern Conference (referred to in this preamble as the “SEC”) with Kade Anderson and Zac Cowan named to the First Team All-SEC Team, Jared Jones, Daniel Dickinson, Derek Curiel, and Anthony Eyanson named to the Second Team All-SEC Team, and Derek Curiel and Casan Evans named to the Freshman All-SEC Baseball Team;

Whereas the 2025 LSU Fighting Tigers baseball team was comprised of some of the best players in the United States, with Kade Anderson named to the First Team All-American Baseball Team and Jared Jones, Derek Curiel, and Anthony Eyanson named to the Second Team All-American Baseball Team; and

Whereas the LSU Fighting Tigers finished the season with 53 wins and 15 losses: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) congratulates the Louisiana State University Fighting Tigers for winning the 2025 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I College World Series;

(2) recognizes the achievements, teamwork, and tenacity of the coaches, players, and staff of the Louisiana State University baseball team;

(3) recognizes the fans of Louisiana State University and the entire State of Louisiana for their dedication and support; and

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

(A) the head coach of the Louisiana State University baseball team, Jay Johnson;

(B) the Office of the President of Louisiana State University; and

(C) the athletic director of Louisiana State University, Scott Woodward.

SENATE RESOLUTION 330—DESIGNATING JUNE 23, 2025, AS “SOCIAL MEDIA HARMS VICTIM REMEMBRANCE DAY”

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mrs. BLACKBURN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 330

Whereas the internet has revolutionized the ability to exchange information, improved the accessibility of education, reduced the costs of healthcare through telehealth, and stimulated the national economy by providing millions of jobs and trillions of dollars in gross product each year;

Whereas social media has become central to modern communication, bringing together people from across the globe;

Whereas teenagers spend approximately 8 hours on screens per day, on average;

Whereas over 90 percent of teenagers use social media;

Whereas 51 percent of teenagers spend nearly 5 hours on social media each day;

Whereas nearly half of teens report being online almost constantly;

Whereas parents identify social media as the leading reason it is harder to be a teen today than in the past;

Whereas social media presents significant risks, especially to adolescents, including the perpetuation and promotion of harmful and dangerous behaviors and connections;

Whereas countless individuals and families have suffered harms, including death, because of experiences on social media platforms, including cyberbullying, harassment, exposure to sex trafficking, and exploitation;

Whereas social media has been linked to an increase in illicit drug poisoning and overdose related deaths;

Whereas social media use has been linked to self-harming behavior and suicidal ideation in youth;

Whereas suicide has become one of the leading causes of death in children aged 15 to 19;

Whereas it is vital to recognize and honor the experiences of those who have been harmed by social media, including the victims, survivors, and their families;

Whereas commemorating Social Media Harms Victim Remembrance Day provides an opportunity to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of social media and to advocate for measures to effectively mitigate these harms; and

Whereas establishing a designated day of remembrance fosters empathy, solidarity, and support for those who have endured social media-related trauma and encourages efforts to promote digital well-being and online safety: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 23, 2025, as “Social Media Harms Victim Remembrance Day” to honor the individuals who have lost their lives and have suffered harm because of social media;

(2) reaffirms its commitment to protecting individuals from harm in digital spaces and promoting a culture of respect, empathy, and responsibility online by acknowledging the significance of Social Media Harms Victim Remembrance Day;

(3) urges individuals, communities, organizations, and social media platforms to observe Social Media Harms Victim Remembrance Day through activities such as remembrance ceremonies, educational events, and advocacy efforts aimed at raising awareness about social media harms and supporting victims and survivors;

(4) calls upon relevant government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and stakeholders to collaborate in developing and implementing initiatives to address social media harms effectively, including enhancing digital literacy, promoting online safety measures, and supporting the rights of victims; and

(5) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit enrolled copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, and the Chair of the Federal Trade Commission to promote awareness of Social Media Harms Victim Remembrance Day and encourage actions to prevent social media-related harm.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 2957. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2958. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2959. Mr. WELCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2960. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2961. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 2962. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 2957. Mrs. MURRAY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title XXXI, insert the following:

SEC. 31. LIMITATION RELATING TO RECLASSIFICATION OF HIGH-LEVEL WASTE.

(a) LIMITATION.—Except as provided by subsection (b), none of the funds authorized to be appropriated by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2026 for the Department of Energy may be obligated or expended by the Secretary of Energy to apply the interpretation of high-level radioactive waste described in the notice published by the Secretary titled “Supplemental Notice Concerning U.S. Department of Energy Interpretation of High-Level Radioactive Waste” (84 Fed. Reg. 26835), or successor notice, with respect to such waste located in the State of Washington.

(b) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive the limitation under subsection (a) relating to

the reclassification of high-level radioactive waste if—

(1) the Secretary submits to the appropriate congressional committees a notice of the waiver that includes—

(A) a justification for such reclassification; and

(B) documentation from both the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Ecology of the State of Washington that indicates that such Agency and Department, respectively, concur with such reclassification, as required by the Hanford Federal Facility Agreement and Consent Order, signed on January 10, 2025; and

(2) a period of 60 days has elapsed following the submission of such notice.

(c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) The Committee on Armed Services and the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development of the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(2) The Committee on Armed Services and the Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development of the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

SA 2958. Mr. COONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

TITLE —DRIVING FOR OPPORTUNITY

SEC. 01. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Driving for Opportunity Act of 2025”.

SEC. 02. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Driving a vehicle is an essential aspect of the daily lives of most people in the United States.

(2) Driving is often required to access jobs and healthcare, take care of family, get groceries, and fulfill other basic responsibilities.

(3) In many small cities, towns, and rural areas that do not have public transportation and ridesharing alternatives, driving is often the only realistic means of transportation.

(4) In the United States, millions of Americans have had their driver’s licenses suspended for unpaid court fines and fees.

(5) A person whose driver’s license is suspended or revoked for unpaid fines and fees will often find it more difficult to earn a living and therefore pay the debt owed to the government.

(6) Drunk and dangerous driving are some of the leading causes of death and serious bodily injury in the United States, and promoting safety on the roads is a legitimate, necessary, and core governmental function. Suspending a license for unsafe driving conduct presents different considerations than suspending a license for unpaid fines and fees. Suspending a license for unsafe driving is an appropriate tool to protect public safety. Policymakers also may consider alternatives to suspension of a license for unsafe driving such as ignition interlock device programs.

(7) According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, every year on average, over 34,000 people are killed and

2,400,000 more people are injured in motor vehicle crashes. Some of the major causes of these crashes include speeding, impaired driving, and distracted driving. Nearly half of passenger vehicle occupants killed in crashes are unrestrained. The societal harm caused by motor vehicle crashes has been valued at \$836,000,000,000 annually. The enactment of, enforcement of, and education regarding traffic laws are key to addressing unsafe behavior and promoting public safety.

(8) However, most driver’s license suspensions are not based on the need to protect public safety.

(9) Between 2010 and 2017, all but 3 States increased the amount of fines and fees for civil and criminal violations.

(10) In the United States, 40 percent of all driver’s license suspensions are issued for conduct that was unrelated to driving.

(11) One in three people in the United States are affected by fines and fees debt.

(12) Arresting and prosecuting individuals for driving on a suspended license consumes a significant amount of law enforcement and prosecutorial resources. Driving on a suspended license is one of the most common criminal charges in jurisdictions across the country.

(13) Seventy-five percent of those with suspended licenses report continuing to drive.

(14) It is more likely that those people are also driving without insurance due to the costs and restrictions associated with obtaining auto insurance on a suspended license, thereby placing a greater financial burden on other drivers when a driver with a suspended license causes an accident.

(15) The American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators has concluded the following: “Drivers who have been suspended for social non-conformance-related offenses are often trapped within the system. Some cannot afford to pay the original fines, and may lose their ability to legally get to and from work as a result of the suspension. Many make the decision to drive while suspended. The suspension results in increased financial obligations through new requirements such as reinstatement fees, court costs, and other penalties. While there is a clear societal interest in keeping those who are unfit to drive off the roads, broadly restricting licenses for violations unrelated to an individual’s ability to drive safely may do more harm than good. This is especially true in areas of the country that lack alternative means of transportation. For those individuals, a valid driver’s license can be a means to survive. Local communities, employers, and employees all experience negative consequences as a result of social non-conformity suspensions, including unemployment, lower wages, fewer employment opportunities and hiring choices, and increased insurance costs.”

(16) A report by the Harvard Law School Criminal Justice Policy Program concluded the following: “The suspension of a driver’s or professional license is one of the most pervasive poverty traps for poor people assessed a fine that they cannot afford to pay. The practice is widespread. Nearly 40 percent of license suspensions nationwide stem from unpaid fines, missed child support payments, and drug offenses—not from unsafe or intoxicated driving or failing to obtain automotive insurance. Suspension of a driver’s or professional licenses is hugely counterproductive; it punishes non-payment by taking away a person’s means for making a living. License suspension programs are also expensive for States to run and they distract law enforcement efforts from priorities related to public safety. License suspensions may also be unconstitutional if the license was suspended before the judge determined the defendant

had the ability to pay the criminal justice debt.”.

SEC. 1003. GRANTS FOR DRIVER'S LICENSES REINSTATEMENT PROGRAMS.

Subpart 1 of part E of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10151 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 501(a) (34 U.S.C. 10152(a)), by adding at the end the following:

“(3) GRANTS FOR DRIVER'S LICENSE REINSTATEMENT PROGRAMS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In addition to grants made under paragraph (1), the Attorney General may make grants to States described in subparagraph (B) to cover costs incurred by the State to reinstate or renew driver's licenses or motor vehicle registrations previously suspended, revoked, or failed to be renewed for unpaid civil or criminal fines or fees.

“(B) STATES DESCRIBED.—A State described in this subparagraph is a State that—

“(i) does not have in effect any State or local law that permits—

“(I) the suspension or revocation of, or refusal to renew, a driver's license of an individual based on the individual's failure to pay a civil or criminal fine or fee; or

“(II) the refusal to renew the registration of a motor vehicle based on the owner's failure to pay a civil or criminal fine or fee; and

“(ii) during the 3-year period ending on the date on which the State applies for or receives a grant under this paragraph, has repealed a State or local law that permitted the suspension or revocation of, or refusal to renew, driver's licenses or the registration of a motor vehicle based on the failure to pay civil or criminal fines or fees.

“(C) CRITERIA.—The Attorney General shall award grants under this paragraph to States described in subparagraph (B) that submit a plan to reinstate or renew driver's licenses or motor vehicle registrations previously suspended, revoked, or failed to be renewed for unpaid civil or criminal fines or fees—

“(i) to maximize the number of individuals with suspended or revoked driver's licenses or motor vehicle registrations eligible to have driving privileges reinstated or regained;

“(ii) to provide assistance to individuals living in areas where public transportation options are limited; and

“(iii) to ease the burden on States where the State or local law described in subparagraph (B)(ii) was in effect during the 3-year period ending on the date on which a State applies for a grant under this paragraph in accordance with section 502.

“(D) AMOUNT.—Each grant awarded under this paragraph shall be not greater than 5 percent of the amount allocated to the State in accordance with the formula established under section 505.

“(E) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which a grant is made to a State under this paragraph, the State shall submit to the Attorney General a report that describes the actions of the State to carry out activities described in subparagraph (A), including with respect to—

“(i) the population served by the program;

“(ii) the number of driver's licenses and motor vehicle registrations reinstated or renewed under the program; and

“(iii) all costs to the State of the program, including how the grants under this paragraph were spent to defray such costs.

“(F) ADDITIONAL ANALYSIS.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which a grant is made to a State under this paragraph, the State shall submit to the Attorney General an analysis of the impact of the program on the collections of civil or criminal fines or fees.”; and

(2) in section 508—

(A) by striking “There” and inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—There”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) DRIVER'S LICENSE REINSTATEMENT PROGRAMS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 501(a)(3) \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.”.

SEC. 1004. GAO STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the implementation of the grant program in paragraph (3) of section 501(a) of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10152(a)), as added by section 1003(a) of this Act, that—

(1) includes what is known about the effect of repealing State laws, in selected States, that had permitted the suspension or revocation of, or refusal to renew, driver's licenses or the registration of a motor vehicle based on the failure to pay civil or criminal fines or fees, including such factors, to the extent information is available, as—

(A) the collection of fines and fees;

(B) the usage of law enforcement resources;

(C) economic mobility and unemployment;

(D) rates of enforcement of traffic safety laws through the tracking of number of summonses and violations issued (including those related to automated enforcement technologies);

(E) the use of suspensions for public safety-related reasons (including reckless driving, speeding, and driving under the influence);

(F) safety-critical traffic events (including in localities with automated enforcement programs);

(G) the rates of license suspensions and proportion of unlicensed drivers;

(H) racial and geographic disparities; and

(I) administrative costs (including costs associated with the collection of fines and fees and with the reinstatement of driver's licenses); and

(2) includes what is known about—

(A) existing alternatives to driver's license suspension as methods of enforcement and collection of unpaid fines and fees; and

(B) existing alternatives to traditional driver's license suspension for certain kinds of unsafe driving, including models that allow drivers to continue to drive legally while pursuing driver improvement opportunities.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report on the study required under subsection (a).

SA 2959. Mr. WELCH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. SUPPLEMENTATION OF HEALTH RECORDS OF DECEASED VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly take actions necessary to ensure that the health records of the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs may be updated with observed health conditions and other

relevant health information of a deceased enrollee by—

(1) an individual designated by such deceased enrollee; or

(2) if no such individual is designated, an immediate family member of such deceased enrollee.

(b) DESIGNATION.—The Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly provide for a process by which an individual may make a designation for purposes of subsection (a)(1).

(c) NO MODIFICATION OF HEALTH INFORMATION.—Any update under subsection (a) shall supplement information contained in the health records of a deceased enrollee and shall not modify information contained in such records.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) IMMEDIATE FAMILY MEMBER.—The term “immediate family member”, with respect to a deceased enrollee, means—

(A) the spouse, parent, brother, sister, or adult child of the individual; or

(B) an adult person to whom the individual stands in loco parentis.

(2) DECEASED ENROLLEE.—The term “deceased enrollee” means any individual who, at the time of his or her death—

(A) was enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs established and operated under section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code; or

(B) was entitled to care under the TRICARE program, as defined in section 1072 of title 10, United States Code.

SA 2960. Mr. SCHATZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title XII, insert the following:

SEC. 1001. REPORT ON STAFFING AND FACILITIES OF THE UNITED STATES MISSION TO AUSTRALIA.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) Australia is one of the closest allies of the United States and is integral to the national security interests of the United States in the Indo-Pacific;

(2) the United States-Australia alliance has seen tremendous growth, including through the AUKUS partnership, as part of which the United States plans to rotate up to four Virginia-class attack submarines out of the Australian port of Perth by 2027; and

(3) staffing and facilities across the United States Mission to Australia do not seem adequately resourced to support an expanding mission set and are no longer commensurate with strategic developments, as the United States will need to station many more Americans, civilians and military, in western Australia to support the maintenance and supply of those submarines.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on staffing and facility requirements for the United States Mission to Australia.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report required by paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of how many Americans, including United States Government personnel (including members of the United States Armed Forces) and their family members and dependents, the Department of State expects in the Perth area and across Australia during the two-year period beginning on the date on which the report is submitted.

(B) An assessment of requirements for those Americans, including with respect to housing, schooling, and office space.

(C) A description of how many staff are employed at the United States Consulate in Perth and the roles of such staff.

(D) Information regarding any discussions or decisions at the Department of State about transferring staff from elsewhere within the United States Mission to Australia to increase staffing in Perth and the tradeoffs of such personnel transfers.

(E) A status update on the interagency process that began in 2024 to assess the needs of the United States Mission to Australia.

(F) An assessment of the impact the Department of State reorganization and workforce reduction is having on the staffing contemplated by that process.

(G) An estimate of—

(i) the total cost of expanding staffing in Perth to sufficiently serve the increased presence of United States citizens in the area and to achieve any other foreign policy objectives of the United States;

(ii) the costs of such expansion that are expected to be covered by the Department of State; and

(iii) the costs of such expansion that are expected to be covered by the United States Indo-Pacific Command or any other United States Government department or agency.

SA 2961. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. PRESUMPTION OF EXPOSURE TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS AND FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Members and former members of the Armed Forces who are or have been stationed at a covered location shall be presumed to have been exposed to toxic substances.

(b) **COVERED LOCATION DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “covered location” means—

(1) any facility on the most recent list of facilities covered under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 7384 et seq.) published in the Federal Register by the Department of Energy; or

(2) any location that is data masked or classified by the Department of Defense and where there is or was potential exposure to toxic substances, including from the use of burn pits to dispose of waste.

SA 2962. Ms. ROSEN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2296, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2026 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the De-

partment of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle F of title X, add the following:

SEC. 1067. PRESUMPTION OF EXPOSURE TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES FOR CERTAIN MEMBERS AND FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES STATIONED IN NEVADA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Members and former members of the Armed Forces who are or have been stationed at a covered location in Nevada shall be presumed to have been exposed to toxic substances.

(b) **COVERED LOCATION DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “covered location” means—

(1) any facility on the most recent list of facilities covered under the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 7384 et seq.) published in the Federal Register by the Department of Energy; or

(2) any location that is data masked or classified by the Department of Defense and where there is or was potential exposure to toxic substances, including from the use of burn pits to dispose of waste.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

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

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

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, July 21, 2025, at 5:30 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

WOMEN VETERANS APPRECIATION DAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 276.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 276) designating June 12, 2025, as “Women Veterans Appreciation Day”.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 276) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of June 12, 2025, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions, which are at the desk: S. Res. 328, S. Res. 329, and S. Res. 330.

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

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

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the postcloture time with respect to the Cole nomination be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the Cole nomination at 11 a.m., Tuesday, July 22; further, that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

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

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 22, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 22; 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. 121, H.R. 3944; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the vote on the cloture motion with respect to the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 121, H.R. 3944, occur at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader.

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, for the information of the Senate, we will have three votes starting at 11 a.m. tomorrow: confirmation of the Cole, Divine, and Stevens nominations.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 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 6:39 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, July 22, 2025, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

IN THE NAVY

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

To be rear admiral (lower half)

CAPT. BRIAN J. ANDERSON

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

ALLEN E. ELSHIRE

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

To be lieutenant colonel

THEODORE A. ORNELAS

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

To be major

JOHN D. ROSSI

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE REGULAR ARMY MEDICAL CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 7064:

To be major

JEFFREY A. PAUL

IN THE NAVY

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

To be lieutenant commander

CAROLINE T. CAHILL
ALEX M. HENDON

IN THE SPACE FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

MICHAEL D. ALBERT
TRENT M. ALSID
SEUNG HWAN AN
CHRISTIAN M. ARNOLD
FORREST W. BABBITT
JOHN W. BAILLY, JR.
JULIAN C. BARRIGA
CHEYENNE N. BIERSCHBACH
MICHAEL J. BITTLE
CHRISTOPHER J. BLOCH
KYLE T. BODILY
ADAM J. BORDEAU
DANIEL M. BYSTRY WELLS
CHARLES M. CARLE
CHRISTIAN M. CHAVEZ
SAMANTHA CHERNIN
CAMERON C. CHINN
HANNA G. CHOMITZ
DAVE CLEMENT
NICHOLAS J. DAVID
NOAH A. DAVIS
MAURO NOEL V. DE LEON
DANIEL F. DEMELLO
MARK T. DEMEUSE, JR.
RYAN P. DIETZBUS
ANDREW J. DITTRICH
ASHAE M. EBERLE
KENNETH M. EHRENBURG
ANDREW N. ERMITANO
ANTHONY N. ERMITANO
TABLOR A. EYRE
AARON A. FITTS
JAMES H. FOUNDS
BRIAN N. FREW
BRYAN J. GANTT
JORDAN B. GINGRICH
RYAN P. GOR
TAYLOR P. HAGAN

DANIEL C. HELFRICH
ZACHARY R. HENDERSON
CRISTIAN J. HERNANDEZ RIVERA
ZACKARY R. HEWITT
RHIANNA R. HILL
KOREY A. HUMBERSTON
MADELINE H. JOHNSON
ZACHARY F. JOHNSON
NICHOLAS R. JORGENSEN
MATTHEW J. KROTT
RICHARD L. KRUTOP
MARK A. KURTZ
KWAN Y. LEE
BRYCE A. LEITER
GREGORY E. LERCH
CALLUM F. LONG
BENJAMIN W. LYON
MEGAN N. MAIKELL
DAVID A. MCWILLIAMS
MARK R. MERCIER
STEVEN M. MILLER
EDWIN A. MORA
BRANDON D. NGUYEN
PETER F. NORRIS
STEPHANIE A. PARLAMAS
NATHANIEL R. PECK
SAMANTHA J. PEREIRA
SCOTT C. PODLOGAR
JAMES D. PYLES
DANIEL J. RAMOS
DANIEL C. REYNOLDS
ANDRE C. ROBINSON
GARRET J. ROSE
FLETCHER T. RYAN
EARL LOUIS V. SANTOS
REED L. SCHAFER
JONATHAN D. SCHILLER
CALEB B. SCHMIDT
JOHN P. SCOTT
LUIS E. SEPULVEDA
BRAEDEN A. SHEETS
DEVAN P. SHIVERS
JACQUELINE H. SMITH
CALVIN V. SURATOS
LAURA D. TAKAKUWA
JOSHUA C. TARRANT
TALON A. TOWNLEY
LESTER L. TUCK IV
FRANCISCO A. VALDEZ
DYLAN M. VIVEROS
LUCAS A. VOWELL
ZOE M. WALTERS
DONALD T. WIEGNER III
BRYAN M. WINSTON
ZACHARY I. WIRFS
DANIEL Z. WOLCOTT
NATHANIEL T. WOODFORD
JOSEPHINE P. YEP
DAVID T. YOSHIMOTO
RICK H. YUAN

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major

ROSALINDA M. ALFARO
ERICK C. ALVAREZ
SERGIO L. BAEZ, JR.
BRENDON J. BAKER
JACK L. BROWN
JEFFREY M. BRYANT
WOLFGANG K. CELENTANO
JACOB CHAN
NATHANIEL B. CLARK
ALEXANDRIA C. CONNELLY
MATTHEW C. CONNELLY
ADAM S. COTTRELL
KIMBERLY A. DAVENPORT
ERIN L. DAVIS
INDIANA S. DAVIS
MICHAEL A. DAVIS
SARAH A. DAWDY
DEREK T. DEITER
BRADLEY H. DIAZ
JUSTIN C. DITTEB
JESSICA L. DOYLE
WELLENSDY V. EDOUARD
RICCI R. EMAHISER
JOSHUA R. EMBRY
MITCHELL J. FALLINGER
WILLIAM L. FARRAR
JUSTIN M. FAGANS
RAFAEL M. FERMIN
AUSTIN P. GARRISON
NICHOLAS E. GARRIVER, SR.
STEPHEN C. GERSHEY
DANIEL E. GETTY
WILLIAM J. GLEASON II
ANDREW V. GOJUANGCO
TANNER J. GROSHENS
ROBERT S. GRUTTCH
CHRISTOPHER B. HARRIS
KYLE R. HAYNES
NICHOLAS D. HERZER
JESSICA R. HOLDBROOK
MICHAEL E. HORVAT
GEORGE B. HUMM
CARL G. HUMPHREY
SHELTON B. HUMPHREY
NATHAN C. ISAACS
SIERRA N. JAN
ANDREW J. JANSSEN
WILLIAM J. JEFFERS
JOSEPH T. JEFFREY
JARRETT W. JORDAN
FREEMAN T. JUDD

JIMMY L. KOCHER
CODY W. LENEVE
PETER A. LENNARSON
TYLER J. LIERMANN
TERRY L. LINDSEY, JR.
CURTIS A. LINGENFELTER
ALEXANDER S. LORTRAKUL
BRENDAN T. MALLORY
RACHAEL T. MANDEL
CLAUDIA A. MARTINEZ
EVAN P. MCCARTHY
MATTHEW S. MCCLURE
JUSTIN E. MEDIGE
AARON P. MENG
IAN M. MESSIER
PEYTON C. MILLIGAN
KRISTIE M. MOELJANTO
MELANIE MOHSENMOTLAGH
ROBERTO MOLINA, JR.
JACOB A. NEUMANN
JOVAN A. NIEVES
CONNOR J. NORRIS
MICHAEL D. NYMAN
RENEASHA L. OLIVER
HANSON E. OXFORD
RAYMOND C. PATRICK
JOSHUA J. PERIUT
KYLE A. POSTLETHWAITE
DERRECK K. POTTER
JOSEPH T. PROSPER
JEFFREY M. PUHEK
LONDON D. RALSTON
EMILY G. REMETA
RIO M. ROBERTS
CHRISTIE R. ROGERS
KEVIN T. ROMEYAN
ALEC J. ROSKOWINSKI
JOSHUA D. ROTTENBACHER
DANIEL W. ROY
JOCELLE A. RUDICO
DAVID M. SANCHEZ
ROBERT J. SCOTT
NATHANIEL D. SHANNON
JOSEPH B. SHIVER
DAMIAN N. SIU
ERIC S. SKRLA
DILLON SMITH
AXL R. TATOY
JOSHUA N. TERRY
CHRISTINA THOMAS
STEVEN JANSEN L. TORRES
SETH-MITCHELL T. TRAMBULO
MATTHEW G. TRIPLETT
DAVID N. TRUSTY
ALEXANDER K. TYMCHENKO
DAVID F. ULMAN
RYAN A. VERVERS
JASON K. WADDY
IAN A. WHEELER
SEAN A. WILKINSON
SAMANTHA J. WORK
SHANE A. WORK
CHRISTOPHER L. WORSTER
WILLIE A. YOUNGBLOOD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be colonel

BRIAN G. ALLEN
BENJAMIN M. ANDERA
LAILA S. BARASHA
MATHEW J. BECK
JUSTIN L. BELTZ
CHRISTOPHER E. CARSON
NATHAN K. CHANG
CORY A. CILIA
ALEXANDER A. COURTNEY III
MATTHEW P. CROSSER
BRIAN A. DEA
STEVE J. DEOS
BRIAN D. ENO
JOSEPH M. FRITSCHEN
ETAN D. FUNCHES
ORLANDO T. GARCIA
PATRICK J. GAYNOR
GARY M. GOFF
BLAKE B. HAJOVSKY
MATTHEW J. HALE
BRENDON D. HERBECK
JARED A. HERWEG
CHRISTOPHER R. HILL
AMBER M. JOHNSON
DAVID E. JOHNSON
MATTHEW LINTPKER
AARON D. LYNCH
MICHAEL C. MARINER
KELLY MARTIN
JONATHAN MARTINEZ
PHILIP A. NIGHTINGALE
JONATHAN R. NOONAN
JACQUELINE A. NYBERG
JUSTIN M. OVERYMYER
JOHN H. PAEK
KENNETH PETERS
SHAUN D. PHIPPS
NICHOLAS M. PULIRE
DAVID O. SAMPAYAN
GARRETT A. SHANNON
JOSEPH E. SOLANO
NICHOLAS M. SOMERMAN
JARED J. SPEER
WILLIAM D. STEININGER-HOLMES
MICHAEL H. STOBIE
NATHAN C. TERRAZONE
GALEN M. THORP

BRADLEY T. THRUSH
MEAGAN L. THRUSH
TORI LEIGH N. TOUZIN
MARY R. TRAUTWEIN
ROBERTO A. TREJO
TIMOTHY W. TRIMAILLO
ALLEN J. VARGHESE
MARSHALRIA M. VAUGHANS
ALEXANDER M. VUKCEVIC
NATHAN J. ZAHN
CARRIE A. ZEDERKOF
DAVID C. ZESINGER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES
SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

DANIEL N. BANAKOS
RUSMIR BILALIC
CARSON C. CLEVELAND
MATTHEW J. COATES
SCHUYLER L. COLLIS
PATRICK B. CUNNINGHAM
BRENDAN K. DALY
BRENT L. DANNER
BENJAMIN W. DEMPSEY
MICHAEL J. DIMUZIO
JAMES C. DOSSETT
ALEXA C. EGGERT
GREGORY J. ESLINGER
ALEXANDER J. FIORE
SEAN M. FREDERICK
JONATHAN B. FULLENKAMP
JASON B. GABRIEL
JAMES D. HARRISON
TIMOTHY P. HAUNSTEIN
MICHAEL A. HOLLOWAY
KEITH A. HUDSON
CHRISTOPHER M. JARVIE
DEREK R. JELINEK
JIN K. KIM
MATTHEW W. KNUTSON
KYLE E. LAMBERTH
JEFFREY S. LEE
ADAM G. LEMMENES

JERRY J. LINDSEY
JOSHUA R. LOUDERMILK
REBECCA D. MANNING
SETH A. MARTIN
ORLANDO MARTINEZ, JR.
CHRISTOPHER A. MENINO
STEVEN J. MILICI
DANIEL G. MILLER
JAVIER A. NOBOA
RACHAEL L. NUTTING
SEAN P. O'NEILL
JOSEPH P. PASTROVICH
JONATHAN D. POOLE
EVAN M. PORTER
KIMBERLEE S. POTTINGER
ERIC R. PRINCE
ADAM T. RICH
DAVID A. RYAN
MUSTAFA N. SAKIB
JOSEPH E. SILVIO
ELIZABETH K. SIMKUS
JOHN M. SIMKUS
ALAIN R. SOTHIKHOUN
EMILY M. STANHOUSE
BRIAN D. STRESEMANN
NOLAN M. THOMAS
ISSAC J. THORNTON
ROMAN TILLMAN
QUAN B. TONTHAT
MARK J. TOPINO
WAYNE T. URUBIO
JULIUS A. WILLIAMS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES
SPACE FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

JOHN M. AGUIRRE
ADAM L. BECK
VICTOR E. BEITELMAN
CHRISTOPHER S. BILLUPS
AARON T. BLORE
RONALD J. BRACKIN III
JERRA L. BROWN
JOSHUA T. BRUNSON

GRACE A. BUTLER
KENNETH H. CARPENTER III
DYLAN L. CAUDILL
CHRISTOPHER P. CERULLO
MATTHEW J. CONNELLAN CHAPLESKI
ELYSE M. CRIMM
TORIUS N. DAVIS
RACHEL E. DONOHO
ELIZABETH A. DROBINA
BARBARA A. DYER
WILLIAM C. ELDER
ADAM C. FIX
ROBERT A. GHARRITY
BRIANNE E. GUNTHER
JUSTIN T. HARVELL
MICHAEL O. HAZLETT
MIN U. HUR
CARMILYA N. JONES
KELLY E. KROUPA
CHRISTOPHER M. LAMB
KACIE M. LAWLER
KIU H. LEE
REGINALD T. LUPER
BRIAN C. MCGILLIVRAY
ROBERTO C. MOLINEROS
CAITLIN A. MOREHART
BRITTANY L. MORTON
ROBERT A. NELSON
CELESTE D. OLIVER
JAMES C. OLSEN
MOISES RENDON
KELLY E. RICHARDS
KYLE N. RIMANDO
WADE M. SCRIBNER
ERICA G. SPARKMAN
AARON R. TAFT
DAVID P. TAVENNER
JUSTIN T. TONEY
ALLISON L. WARWICK
RYAN P. WATHEN
STEPHANIE J. WEBB
STEPHANIE L. WEXLER
NERCRESAINNE M. WHITE
BRET N. WITHAM
DEREK B. WORTH